CSI in the News

August 2012

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Dean L. Balsamini, Director
Arts & Events
STATEN ISLAND, NY -- Veteran Island cellist Madeline Casparie was the hard-working center this past Sunday of "Summer Strings," a concert staffed by string musicians affiliated with the Staten Island Philharmonic.

She had "a lot of work to do," an amusing understatement by double bass Bliss Michelson, who had to trade his instrument at one point for castanets.

Conversely, guitarist Edward Brown had the least to do — he was in just one piece — the Quintet in D Major, the Fandango of Luigi Boccherini. In his contribution of lovely Spanish figures, the guitar becomes the leading dancer of the music.

The piece, well played throughout, with cool, supple playing by the cellist, formed the exciting finale of the afternoon concert, presented in the nicely-chilled "hyphen" of the Noble Maritime Collection on the grounds of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden.

Acoustically, the space is kind to a small all-string group (but less kind to larger ensembles as some past presentations have indicated).
The program opened with unusual items, the Divertimento Opus 3 of Johan Kvandal, the underexposed Norwegian composer who deserves more playing time than he seems to get in this country.

Written in 1941 — not a happy year in northern Europe — the music must have been an escape hatch in its day — melodic, ethnic (a little) and complex without complications. All five “Summer Strings” musicians (Casparie, violinists Susan Olsen Maren and Annelie Fahlstedt, violist Lucy Corwin and double bass Bliss Michaelson played.

Like Kvandal, Dvorak doesn’t have musicians scrambling over his chamber catalogue, so it was good to hear his well-built Terzetto for Violins and Viola. The musicians produced a somewhat ramshackle sound that Dvorak, who liked informality, would have applauded.

The Duetto for Cello and Double Bass of Gioacchino Rossini, a far more polished challenge opened the second half, nicely handled by Michaelson and Casparie. The piece is conversation between two entities who have known each other a long time, so well perhaps that they finish each other’s sentences.

Some in the standing-room-only audience may have noticed that core group five musicians were the longtime string detachment of the much-missed Staten Island Chamber Music Players (SICMP).

SICMP, an umbrella ensemble consisting of four separate ensembles, retired several years ago after a long run in Island venues. The unannounced reunion was welcome, and bittersweet.

The Staten Island Philharmonic will open the new season Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. at the College of Staten Island.

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Faculty & Staff
SAN BERNARDINO -- It was a bittersweet day in Albert Karnig's paneled office.

Thursday was the Cal State San Bernardino president's last official day on campus, retiring after a 15-year tenure.

Karnig was packing to leave.

Pens and paper clips, note pads, bookends.

Books, ethnic art pieces, and his speeches he is donating to the university's Pfau Library.

"When you have departures, you always have bittersweet sensations," he said. "For me, there has been remarkable satisfaction in this position and it's a great thing to have somebody as prepared as the new president will be - to come in, pick up the ball and run with it."

Karnig added that "for 15 years, I worked in this office and it's been a good place, where you could really make a difference."

The university has made a great deal of difference for students, Karnig said.

"Whenever you leave something that's permanent, there's the bitter part," he said, "but the sweet part is I'll have much better control over my own watch."

Earlier in the day, students, staff and faculty had organized an impromptu parade around campus to honor the retiring campus president.

The parade and a subsequent rally were compliments of the university's Summer Languages Intensive Program.

For the last few months, there have been dinners, receptions, award ceremonies and meetings in Karnig's honor, said university spokesman Sid Robinson.

"People have been taking time out to acknowledge him and celebrate his time here," Robinson said.

Next week, during Karnig's first few days of retirement, he has plans to attend some Common Core Curriculum meetings in Chicago.

In his retirement, Karnig will do some consulting work and will even have an office on campus to be of help to the next president if necessary.
He and his wife, Marilyn, will continue to live in San Bernardino.

Old habits die hard.

"I'm not going to do Hometown Buffet, Disneyland or cartwheels," Karnig said, laughing.

"At risk of being saccharine, I've always been deeply indebted to the community because I have the feeling the people here gave me their respect and trust even before I earned it. They gave me the opportunity to be successful."

Tomas Morales, Karnig's successor, will arrive on campus Aug. 15.
Rowan University names administration for new School of Biomedical Sciences
Thursday, August 02, 2012, 1:06 PM

By Jessica Bautista/Gloucester County Times

GLASSBORO — A current dean and two seasoned professors will serve as the administrative backbone of Rowan University’s new School of Biomedical Sciences, the university announced recently.

The school was just founded this summer.

Founding Dean Dr. Parviz Ansari, who is also dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, will be tasked with overseeing the school.

In 2009, Ansari joined the university’s administration as dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. This summer, that college was divided into two colleges, the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Ansari will be leading the team building program, which will operate in conjunction with and include faculty from Rowan’s College of Science and Mathematics and College of Engineering, according to Rowan University spokeswoman Patricia Quigley.

The School of Biomedical Sciences will address growing needs in the region for programs to prepare students for careers in health care-related fields from pharmacy to biomedical engineering and for medical school and graduate studies in pharmacy, physical therapy and occupational therapy, among other fields.

“This School of Biomedical Sciences is very mission-oriented,” Ansari said in a release. “There are a great deal of employment opportunities for students in the areas of biomedical sciences and engineering. Our program will provide interdisciplinary experiences offered at the graduate level at most other colleges and universities, experiences that will well equip them for tomorrow’s work world.”

Faculty members from the College of Sciences and Mathematics and College of Engineering are helping to develop the curriculum, and the administration is working to build partnerships with related industries in the region which are expected to provide research and internship opportunities for Rowan students.
Ansari’s professional experience includes having served as associate dean for Academic Affairs and Planning and associate dean for Administration and Outreach in the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall University.

In 2005, Ansari was named an American Council on Education Fellow and spent his yearlong fellowship at The George Washington University. Prior to his associate dean positions, he was chair of the Physics Department at Seton Hall for 12 years.

Ansari performed research at the Cornell University High Energy laboratory and Brookhaven National Laboratory for more than two decades. He was a visiting scientist at the Center for Ceramic Research and Bellcore. He has published several articles and has regularly presented at both national and international conferences.

Ansari has earned a Ph.D. and M.S. in physics from Tufts University and a B.S. in physics from Pahlavi (Shiraz) University in Iran.

Dr. Ieva Zake, associate dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Science and Mathematics, will hold the same post for the School of Biomedical Sciences.

She was an assistant and later associate professor in the Rowan Department of Sociology from 2004 to 2009. She has also served as program coordinator for Rowan’s Honors Concentration and Women’s and Gender Studies Concentration.

Zake was previously an adjunct professor and teaching assistant at Eastern Connecticut State University, the University of Massachusetts and The Ohio State University. Zake earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; an M.A. in Women’s Studies from The Ohio State University; and a B.A. in philosophy from the University of Latvia.

Dr. Eddie Guerra, of Glassboro, is serving as assistant dean for Biomedical Planning. Guerra most recently served as acting chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, where he was hired as an assistant professor in 1998 and has been an associate professor since 2003.

Guerra was interim coordinator of the Edelman Planetarium during its inception at Rowan. He was a visiting research fellow at Princeton University and at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, and he also held posts at the College of Staten Island and was a post-doctoral associate at Princeton. Guerra earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in physics from Princeton University and a B.S. in engineering physics from the University of California at Berkeley, according to Quigley.

The first undergraduate degree programs in the School of Biomedical Sciences are expected to begin in 2013. For more information, contact the dean’s office at (856) 256-4850.
Why Dianne Harrison Struck It Rich at CSUN

$324,000 may be just the beginning

By Richard Rushfield

August 02, 2012

PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUN

CSUN president Dianne Harrison had a surprisingly enriching year.

You couldn't hope for a worse PR combination than the one the California State University system handed its foes in July, when in one meeting at CSU headquarters in Long Beach the board of trustees planned for a 5 percent tuition hike, discussed Draconian cuts if voters reject Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to increase both income taxes on upper earners and sales tax on everyone, then awarded raises to incoming presidents Tomas Morales at Cal State San Bernardino, Leslie Wong at Cal State San Francisco and Dianne Harrison at Cal State Northridge.

In the case of the largely untested Harrison, who arrived at the huge CSUN, with 36,208 students, from her presidency at tiny, 4,340-student Monterey and has never helmed a large university, they pushed her already sizable $295,000 CSUN pay to $324,000 — in addition to her free house and the generous benefits package that CSUN's chief gets.

Students who had already been hunger striking called it "appalling." For once there was an issue that united students, conservative deficit hawks and even the public employees unions. Kim Geron, of the California Faculty Association, called the decision "ludicrous" and complained of raises at the top while faculty salaries have remained frozen for a fifth year as of Aug. 31.

"It is tone-deaf beyond belief," she told assembled reporters in Long Beach.

But shocking as the presidential pay disparity was to many critics, it could be a harbinger of what's to come — even as the state government's fiscal struggles deepen.

The raises, as trustees attempted to note amid the howls of rage, came not from the California general fund fed by California taxpayers but from "private sources" — in this case, from charitable auxiliary foundations of the Cal State University system.
And that represents a trend that will only grow, according to John Mockler, a former California secretary of education under Gov. Gray Davis, who lectures, writes and consults on state education issues.

As California retreats in its funding of the state system, the schools will dig deeper into the private sector and forage for funds to sustain themselves. "I don't like it, but I don't see the choice," Mockler says. "There are only three ways to fund a school: one, public funds; two, student fees; and three, private donations."

The state is increasingly chopping away at the first, and student fees are being pushed higher and higher. As they become more dependent on the private sector, the state universities will come under intense pressure to play by the standards of the private sector, with its vast income disparities between the executives — the college presidents and their aides — and everyone else.

That will be jarring for those who believe California's state school system should remain a public entity, subject to the standards of public life.

"I'm an old-fashioned guy, but it seems to me that Cal State is moving toward a private model," Mockler says.

One example he gives of the disparities that will result as the campuses become more dependent upon private fundraising is that vast differences will evolve in the resources available to the schools like Northridge and San Francisco, located in commercial hubs, compared with rural schools like Humboldt or Chico, "where there's not a lot of business to turn to."

This, he warns, "is in a system where all campuses and students were meant to be equal."

The road to this month's raises, paradoxically, began with the CSU trustees' decision last year to place a cap on presidential salaries. The move came after a general outcry over the board's decision to award a jaw-dropping $400,000 annual paycheck to the incoming president of San Diego State University, Elliot Hirshman.

In making that decision, the 25 trustees, most appointed by the governor or previous governors to eight-year terms, carved out a loophole that could bring drastic change. The loophole allows private sources, whose funds are funneled through individual universities' foundations, to contribute to presidents' salaries — up to 10 percent of the total salary annually, when the position turns over. In effect, the state is telling colleges that if they can find the money, have at it.

That's a possibly unprecedented move in the state system, Mockler says. "The foundations were created to do things the system could not do — they have now changed that," he says. He finds it "a bizarre policy choice that they would be using their funds to cover administrative salaries instead of addressing things like class size."

But the Cal State Chancellor's Office argues that the role of university president has fundamentally changed in higher education, justifying the dramatic shift.
Mike Uhlenkamp, a Chancellor's Office spokesman, says presidents are becoming big-time fundraisers. "We've lost a billion in state funds in the last five years. ... Their ability to fundraise is critical to their being able to fulfill the mission."

The public probably doesn't view state university presidents as hustlers of private donors, but it may have to get used to it.

"It's not the most important thing they do, but it's an important part of their job," Uhlenkamp says.

Into this breach stepped the foundations.

CSUN, for example, is supported by the California State University Northridge Foundation, a public 501(c)(3) charity overseen by a board of directors composed largely of alumni who are now in the business community. The foundation raises private money and distributes it to campus activities.

According to Vance Peterson, the foundation's president, during the search process for a new CSUN president, "there was a conversation among the executive committee, who wanted to know what we could do to be helpful. The chair contacted the chancellor and said, 'Let us know if we can be helpful.'"

Ultimately, the CSUN Foundation agreed to add to the future presidents' salary the 10 percent allowed by the CSU Trustees' new loophole, believing it might draw in a higher-quality leader.

Peterson emphasizes that the offer was made before Dianne Harrison, then the university president in Monterey, was chosen to lead CSUN.

Using private funds to bolster schools' critical positions, however, could blur the hazy line between public and private partnerships. Right now, the CSUN Foundation covers less than 5 percent of the school's budget, Peterson says. That portion could grow. And as the outside donors become woven into the infrastructure, the tensions could become greater between a campus scrambling to meet its basic needs and a foundation operating in its name that behaves more like a private-sector organization than an arm of the teetering state of California.

For example, with $99 million in assets, the CSUN Foundation spends what looks, from a distance, like eye-catching amounts on overhead and fundraising.

In 2011, while it spent $890,236 on student scholarships, the CSUN Foundation paid $462,000 to the Northern Trust company to administer its assets.

Another $728,098 of CSUN Foundation's expenditures were for "hospitality."

Peterson defends the foundation's hospitality expenses, which he says were used largely for alumni events that act as "investments in future revenues from private sources." The payment to Northern Trust, which he says provided the foundation a 21.9 percent return on its investment, was "very well spent."
Carl Robinette, a graduating senior who was editor of the Northridge student paper, the *Daily Sundial*, says that at CSUN, with classes being slashed due to state budget cuts, some students must wait years to graduate because they can't get the credits they need.

"Graduations are delayed, financial aid is being lost because there's requirements of how much you have to be taking. International students have lost residency status because they can't get enough units to fulfill residency requirements," he says.

Robinette personally supports the raise for Harrison, saying it's a "big job" and saying he recognizes the need for a "nationally competitive salary."

Nonetheless, he says, the trustees' argument that huge presidential salaries were required to hire or retain Harrison and the other presidents is seen at CSUN as "a fallacious argument."

Ultimately, "People see this raise as a fight against students," Robinette adds.

But to his way of thinking, "the main thing attacking students is state funding — and the board's budget decisions."
Staten Islander aims to restore celebration of ancient Jewish holiday

Friday, August 03, 2012, 11:15 AM

By Maura Grunlund

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Dr. Richard Schwartz of Meiers Corners is actively involved in an international coalition trying to restore celebration of the ancient Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashana La B’heimot (New Year's Day for Livestock Animals), which begins on Aug. 18, as a time devoted to considering humans' treatment of animals.

The holiday occurs on the first day of the month of Elul and historically involved counting domesticated animals for sacrificial offerings. This year’s dates are sundown Aug. 18 to sunset Aug. 19, said Dr. Schwartz, president of Jewish Vegetarians of North America and a professor emeritus at the College of Staten Island.

Dr. Schwartz, a member of Young Israel of Staten Island since 1968, will be leading a Seder at the Caravan of Dreams in Manhattan on that Sunday at 6 p.m. For information about the Seder, e-mail Dr. Schwartz at president@jewishveg.com.

"It is important that Rosh Hashanah La B' heimot (New Year for Animals) becomes a day devoted to increasing awareness of Judaism's powerful teachings on the proper treatment of animals and to a Tikkun (healing) for the horrible ways that animals are treated today on factory farms and in other settings," Dr. Schwartz said.

"There is much evidence that the world is rapidly approaching a climate catastrophe and severe food, water and energy scarcities, and other environmental disasters, but the Jewish and other religious communities, and most people in general, are in denial, in effect 'rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic while we head toward a giant iceberg,'" said Dr. Schwartz, director of the Veg Climate Alliance.
"My proposal aims to break through the apathy, denial and ignorance regarding the threats," he said.

Dr. Schwartz, co-founder and coordinator of the Society of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians (SERV), is the author of "Judaism and Vegetarianism" and other books, and more than 150 articles. He has posted 25 podcasts at JewishVeg.com/schwartz. He is associate producer of the 2007 documentary "A Sacred Duty: Applying Jewish Values to Help Heal the World."

His latest project involves working to restore an ancient Jewish holiday.

Among the groups supporting the new holiday are: Shamayim V'Aretz Institute; International Jewish Vegetarian Society; Jews For Animal Rights; Concern for Helping Animals in Israel; Hakol Chai; Green Zionist Alliance; Adamah at the Isabella Freedom Jewish Retreat Center; Tree of Life Rejuvenation Center; The Interfaith Council for the Protection of Animals and Nature; Neohasid; L'Olam: Committee on Judaism and Ecology; Jewish Environmental Network; Institute for Jewish Activism.

AHAVATH ISRAEL

Hebrew school registration for the coming year will be held on Aug. 19 and Sept. 5 at Congregation Ahavath Israel in Tottenville.

Registration will be held in the synagogue social hall on Aug. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon and on Sept. 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. Free High Holiday tickets to members in good standing will be distributed during the time of registration. The deadline for publishing messages/greetings in the New Year's journal is Aug. 16. For information, call Gladys Goldsmith at 718-356-3079. Ahavath Israel holds Sabbath services every Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Services, led by Joel Russo, are followed by an Oneg or Kiddush. The synagogue is located at 7630 Amboy Rd.

STATEN ISLAND JEWISH WAR VETS

Charlie Greinsky, commander of the Staten Island Jewish War Veterans, Post 80, in Fort Wadsworth, announced that the group's annual membership drive has begun. All Jewish veterans are welcome to join the post, and meet at the Fort Wadsworth Chapel on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. for prayers and membership. For information, call Murray Birnbaum at 718-761-6969.

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Passion for Butterflies Becomes A Study in Climate Change Impact

Ayesha Monga Kravetz, National Science Foundation
Date: 03 August 2012

Art Shapiro examines the cabbage white butterfly (Pieris rapae), the first of 2012 in the three-county area of Sacramento, Yolo and Solano. He netted it in West Sacramento, Yolo County to win his annual beer-for-a-butterfly contest.
CREDIT: Kathy Keatley Garvey

This Behind the Scenes article was provided to LiveScience in partnership with the National Science Foundation.

Arthur Shapiro has been collecting butterfly data for more than 40 years, and despite the high altitudes, rigorous walks and often uncooperative weather, he’s still going strong, exploring mountains across central California, pen and notebook in hand.

A distinguished professor and scientist, his interest in nature and butterflies was sparked in his childhood.

Due to an unpleasant family environment, as a child, Shapiro often escaped to the woods and fields close to his home in Philadelphia. There, he developed a passion for phenology—the study of periodic animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by variations in the fauna.

Shapiro excelled in school and received a scholarship to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated with a B.A. in Biology. Soon after completing his Ph.D. in Entomology from Cornell University, Shapiro taught ecology and field biology at Richmond College of the City University of New York.
In 1971, Shapiro began teaching in the Department of Evolution and Ecology at the University of California-Davis. Since then, he has been teaching and collecting data on butterflies.

Shapiro established 11 sampling sites that comprised of a variety of habitats, stretching from the Suisun Marsh to Donner Pass to the Sierra Valley.

The work within the sites began as a five-year study that focused on short-term weather impacts. Soon, however, the study became an open-ended, long-term project that incorporated the impact of climate change.

“It became evident with time, that there were effects occurring on different time scales: short, medium, and long,” said Shapiro.

In the more than 40 years since the sampling sites were established, Shapiro has completed more than 6,300 trips to the 11 sites. He has entered about 130,000 individual records of 160 butterfly species and subspecies.

Through an NSF Biological Databases and Informatics grant, Shapiro and his team created a digital database covering more than 35 years of field records.

With the digital database and using statistical tools to separate short-term effects from long-term effects, Shapiro and his team have found significant long-term trends by studying the changes in the geographic and altitudinal distribution of butterflies.

At low-elevation sites, near sea level, increasing urbanization and landscape changes have heavily impacted butterfly populations. Butterflies have decreased in abundance and distribution due to fragmentation of their habitats.
With climate warming, butterflies at the highest-elevation site are appearing with increasing frequency. Those that normally breed at 7,000 feet now breed at 9,000 feet. The site is gaining diversity because the butterflies are moving uphill. This upslope movement can cause a time-lag problem because plants move more slowly than the butterflies. If butterflies do not have the plant resources they need, they cannot breed at those higher elevations.

Shapiro has also carried out fieldwork on the High Andes in Argentina and adjacent countries in South America. His work there has a different focus. Whereas in California, he frequently revisits specific sites, in the Andes and Patagonia he travels to different places to map butterfly distributions, because distributional records are relatively scarce.

“Right now, the two people who are most active in doing this are an Israeli, Dubi Benyamini, and me,” said Shapiro

However, Shapiro is not only a field researcher. He has been using genetic markers to trace historic movement of species and populations as the climate and the topography change.

Through phylogeography, Shapiro is trying to reconstruct the history of the high-mountain butterfly faunas both on the West coast of North America and in the southern parts of South America, such as Argentina and Chile. By reconstructing the history of these faunas, where they came from, how they moved and when, scientists and researchers can make predictions as to how the fauna will respond to climate change in the future.

“The past is the key to the future,” said Shapiro.

While Shapiro has invested his efforts in other areas and studies, being surrounded by nature is one of the most enjoyable things.

“I have always enjoyed being in the outdoors, and I still do,” said Shapiro. “I am not getting any younger. I am 66 years old, so it seems like mountains get higher every year because they are harder to climb, but I do it.

“I want to continue doing this until I am no longer physically capable of doing it,” said Shapiro.

*Editor's Note: The researchers depicted in Behind the Scenes articles have been supported by the National Science Foundation with funding basic research and education across all fields of science and engineering. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. See the Behind the Scenes Archive.*
Passend zum neuen Dark Night-Film verlosen wir fünf tolle Bücher zum Thema Batman. Also – fleißig mitmachen!


Bruce Wayne im Fledermauskostüm gehört wohl ohne Zweifel zu den komplexesten und ambivalentesten Charakteren der Comic-Welt. Seit dem gewaltigen Tod seiner Eltern schlüpft er regelmäßig in die Rolle des Dark Knight und verfolgt den Abschaum von Gotham City. Bleibt nur noch zu klären, ob er nun der Rächer der Gerechten oder lediglich der Rächer ist.

Welche ethische und moralische Verantwortung Bruce Wayne übernehmen muss, wenn er sich in sein Alterego verwandelt klären Mark D. White und Robert Arp in ihrem Buch. Dafür beschäftigen sich die Autoren mit bekannten Philosophen wie Plato, Aristoteles, Kant, Nietzsche und Kierkegaard.

Über die Autoren:
Mark D. White lehrte als Professor im Bereich Politikwissenschaften, Ökonomie und Philosophie am College von Staten Island/CUNY. Robert Arp ist promovierter wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter an der University von Buffalo.

Wiley-VCH Verlag, 234 Seiten, 14,95 Euro
Schumer visits Staten Island to tout Job Corps for veterans

Wednesday, August 08, 2012, 8:00 AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- "As our heroes return home, we need to put all hands on deck to make sure they can find a job," asserted Sen. Charles E. Schumer, who spoke Tuesday afternoon to Island veterans at the Labetti VFW Post in Rosebank.

Schumer (D-N.Y.) is a co-sponsor of the Veterans' Jobs Corps Act of 2012, which he says will combat high levels of unemployment among the veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by paying local governments to employ veterans.

"The numbers are harrowing," Schumer said, noting that of the 2.2 million veterans who enlisted after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, 240,000 are unemployed. On Staten Island, 532 veterans are unemployed, according to Schumer.

The three-term senator, who plans to introduce the legislation in the Senate in September, outlined the bill's central components, asserting their bipartisan support among elected officials in Washington.

Schumer said the bill would authorize the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to give grants to local governments to hire veterans for publicly funded jobs in fire and police departments, public infrastructure construction and other government-funded jobs.

"Veterans would make great firefighters and cops, and the federal government will pay the locality -- whether it's a big city like New York or a small town -- [the] first-year salary if they hire the vet," he said.
The senator also said the bill would alter the licensing application process for veterans with qualified military experience.

"Let's say you knew how to be an electrician overseas," Schumer posited. He said the bill "would let you translate that [experience] right away," saving about "a year or two" in duplicative training for qualified veterans.

ONLINE INFO CENTER

Schumer cited a final component, an online information center, which would allow veterans to find jobs as early as six months before their scheduled return home.

Schumer asked approximately 20 veterans who joined him to introduce themselves. One told the senator after his remarks, "You never let us down."

The veterans support director at the College of Staten Island Student Veterans' Center, Ann Little, who served in the Army for five years, thanked Schumer for championing the Post-9/11 GI-Bill in 2008.

"In the last four years, we've seen our numbers of student veterans more than double," she said. "A lot of that has to do with the new 9/11 GI-Bill, [which] made college more accessible for veterans."

Anthony Denatale, the commander of the Richmond County American Legion, who served from 1969 to 1972, called Schumer's presence "very important."

"The backgrounds of our veterans today," Denatale said, "they're very well-educated and they're in strategic areas with their units, and there's no reason why the medic can't come back and be an EMT in New York or the construction battalion can't come back and get a job with construction companies."

Another veteran, James Haynes, commander of the United Staten Island Veterans' Organization, said, "It's good that the government is involved."

"These guys have been serving their country all this time, and some of them lost their jobs."

Haynes, who served from 1971 to 1991, recalled a program for Vietnam veterans that helped him find a job after he left active duty.

"I got jobs with the government -- you know, lower-level -- and you worked your way up. I worked my way up," he said, later suggesting that Schumer's proposal could offer the same opportunity to young veterans.
The senator, who shared personal anecdotes with the crowd before speaking, called the borough "the most appropriate place" to introduce the bill.

"I think Staten Island has about the best veterans' organizations," he said.

Timothy Harrison is a news reporter for the Advance. He may be reached at tharrison@siadvance.com.

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Also posted on: ny1.com
Reminders of Death Can Sway Political Attitudes

15/08/2012

From one day to the next, approval ratings of political figures can plummet or soar. Psychological scientists have long been trying to identify the cognitive factors that might account for the vagaries of public opinion.

Why, for example, did the approval ratings of President George W. Bush— who was perceived as indecisive before September 11, 2001—soar over 90 percent after the terrorist attacks? Research suggests that it was because Americans were acutely aware of their own deaths.

The fear people felt after 9/11 was real, but it also made them ripe for psychological manipulation, experts say. “We all know that fear tactics have been used by politicians for years to sway votes,” says psychological scientist Florette Cohen of the City University of New York’s College of Staten Island. Now psychological research offers insight into the chillingly named ‘terror management.’

In an article published in the October 2011 issue of Current Directions in Psychological Science, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science, Cohen and Sheldon Solomon of Skidmore College review many studies from psychological science that examine the ways in which reminders of death can affect our political attitudes and behavior.

The researchers cite studies showing that awareness of mortality tends to make people feel more positive toward heroic, charismatic figures and more punitive toward wrongdoers. And even subliminal suggestions of mortality can have similar effects. Participants who saw the numbers 911 or the letters WTC had higher opinions of a Bush statement about the necessity of invading Iraq, regardless of whether they identified as politically liberal or conservative.

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

This wealth of research should make voters wary of emotional political appeals and even of their own emotions in response, Cohen says. “We encourage all citizens to vote with their heads rather than their hearts. Become an educated voter. Look at the candidate’s positions and platforms. Look at who you are voting for and what they stand for.”
New CSUSB president Morales begins work with 12-hour day

Beau Yarbrough, The (San Bernardino County) Sun
Posted: 08/15/2012

For his first day at his new job on Wednesday, Tomas D. Morales reported to work at 6:30 a.m. And he barely stopped moving all day.

"It's been a long 'hello,'" he said, shortly before 5 p.m. in his new office. "But, you know, it's a labor of love."

Morales, the new president of Cal State San Bernardino, started the morning touring residence halls on campus. The new school year begins Sept. 12.

Morales is bouncing back to Southern California after a stint in his home state of New York. Prior to being chosen as the fourth president of CSUSB earlier this year, he had served as president of the College of Staten Island in the City University of New York system since 2007. But before that, he served in multiple roles at Cal Poly Pomona between 2001 and 2007, including vice president for student affairs, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

"This is my adopted state. I really fell in love with California. I love the weather, the people, the diversity."

Morales said he returned to Southern California because of CSUSB's prominent role in the Inland Empire.
"It's an anchor institution," Morales said. "It plays a number of roles in the community."

Among those roles is the first university many families ever attend, with all of the potential for transforming them that implies: "The number of first-generation students, I think we're talking at least 70 percent, is really phenomenal."

Morales follows the 15-year presidency of Al Karnig, who retired this summer. The new president said he's not intimidated at stepping into the big boots left behind by the popular Karnig, whom Morales knew from his time at Cal Poly Pomona.

Describing himself as a "very self-assured person," the new president said he wouldn't be afraid to tap into his predecessor's expertise. "If I have a question for him, I'll pick up the phone."

Much of Morales' next few months will be spent educating the public about the consequences to the university if Prop. 30, Gov. Jerry Brown's tax increase plan fails.

"I believe the people of California will support public higher education," he said.

Although he's not allowed to campaign for the proposition, Morales believes frank talk about what the money - up to $9 billion for the state in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, according to some estimates - will be enough to get out the vote.

"We have to go out there and talk to Rotary clubs and non-profit organizations, put aside the partisan politics and talk about investing in education in California."

Tomas D. Morales began his role as Cal State University San Bernardino's new president this week. (Rachel Luna / Staff Photographer)

But a ballot proposition alone is unlikely to change the fortunes of the state, meaning Morales will likely be forced to make some tough decisions in the months to come.
"I will be at the helm at a time when we will be experiencing some continuing cuts," he said. However, "I'm betting we're going to see this downturn turn around (soon)."

He's also focused on preparing for the university's 50th upcoming anniversary: "That's around the corner. That's 2015. There's a lot to do."

Even after he's settled in, Morales said he's likely to continue with the 12-hour days.

"That's a typical day for me," he said. "There are many days it goes (even longer) into the evening for evening events."

But maybe not for a week or two.

"I do have boxes to unpack, so I probably won't stay that late."

Also posted on: pasadenastarnews.com
REGION: Welcome reception set for new CSUSB president
A coalition of Latino groups will welcome Tomas D. Morales at an event set for Thursday, Sept. 6

CAL STATE SAN BERNARDINO
Published: 15 August 2012

/FILE PHOTO
Tomas Morales, the incoming president of Cal State University San Bernardino, during an interview on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. The Coalition of Inland Empire Latino Organizations will welcome Morales, at a reception on Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012.

The Coalition of Inland Empire Latino Organizations will welcome Cal State San Bernardino’s new president, Tomás D. Morales, at a reception from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6 at the university’s Obershaw Dining Room.

The reception is free and open to the public; complimentary parking is available in Lot D. Morales was selected as the fourth president of Cal State San Bernardino this past May and will begin his new role in mid-August.

Since 2007, Morales has been president of the College of Staten Island, The City University of New York. From 2001-2007, he served in various capacities at Cal Poly Pomona, including provost and vice president for academic affairs, vice president for student affairs and professor of education.

“Upon receiving the news of Dr. Tomás Morales’ selection as president of CSUSB, many Inland Empire individuals and organizations expressed a desire to welcome him to our community,” said Eloise Gomez
Reyes, attorney and owner of the Law Offices of Eloise Gomez Reyes in Colton. “Many of us know him from (his tenure at) Cal Poly Pomona, and others have come to know him since his appointment.”

Chaired by Gomez Reyes, the coalition is comprised of a variety of Inland Empire organizations, including the Inland Empire Future Leaders Program, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, the office of Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter and Colton Mayor Sarah Zamora, as well as representatives from various San Bernardino County agencies, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, Cal State San Bernardino and independent Inland Empire entrepreneurs.

“CSUSB is an important educational institution and an integral part of our local community,” said Gomez Reyes. “We look forward to working with Dr. Morales in meeting the goals he sets.”

Various levels of sponsorship of the event are available. To become a sponsor, contact Lorraine O’Campo at (909) 910-2854 or by email at jlorraine_1@yahoo.com.

Ernie Garcia, professor emeritus and retired dean of CSUSB’s College of Education, will be the master of ceremonies at the reception.

“Since my retirement 22 years ago, I have observed the wonderful progress in recruiting Latino students and faculty to CSUSB,” Garcia said. “The designation of the university as a Hispanic-Serving Institution is now emphasized by the arrival of president Tomás Morales. The community is proud.”

For more information about the coalition’s welcoming reception, please visit the event website at www.ielatino.eventbrite.com or call (909) 475-7288 to RSVP.
Thomas D. Elias: CSU trustees, lawmakers don’t get it as they dole out pay raises
2012-08-20 22:19:10

It became clear early last spring that the trustees of the 23-campus California State University system just don’t get it. Shuffling administrators from school to school and bringing in the occasional outsider, they began giving new college presidents salaries far higher than what predecessors had received.

The rationale for this, as it often is in government, was that CSU had to match what other potential employers were willing to pay.

Over a period of weeks, the trustees voted to pay tens of thousands more to new presidents at five campuses than chiefs of those schools had ever before received.

Bleats of protest arose because the raises were coupled with tuition increases of just under 10 percent, bringing Cal State tuition to $7,017, a 37 percent increase from the $4,440 it was in November 2010, less than two years ago (for more details of historic Cal State tuitions, see this report: tinyurl.com/bs7cfq6.)

At about the same time, legislators demonstrated similar insensitivity to the public mood, granting $4.6 million worth of raises to more than 1,000 of their staffers while cutting pay to most state workers, people they don’t have to see every day.

The CSU trustees followed that with a four-year labor contract with professors providing them with no pay raises.
Then CSU followed that with a move opening graduate programs next spring on 10 campuses to qualified out-of-state students who pay high tuition while keeping them closed for in-staters who pay less. Is it any wonder Californians raise the question of just who the state's higher education system now exists to serve?

To many students, who face increasing difficulties getting into classes needed to complete their degrees, it made no sense to grant large raises to college presidents at the same time new enrollments are dropping, tuition is climbing and educational opportunities for Californians are diminishing. As for the issue of needing to match what other employers might pay, some students asked the logical question: In this economy, what other employers?

The trustees' response has been to limit raises for top administrators to no more than 10 percent per year, and to draw some funds for that from semi-independent campus foundations.

These actions spurred further howls and head-scratching.

One reader of this column, a professor at Cal Poly Pomona, reacted this way to the hiring of new CSU San Bernardino President Tomas Morales: "Given his circumstances (in his old job heading the College of Staten Island, NY), it probably wasn't necessary to raise the pay to obtain Morales' services."

The reader noted that Morales just months before his new hire received of a no-confidence vote from his former school's faculty senate. The resolution said Morales "failed to follow the spirit of shared school governance and (did not) provide leadership for... a 'Pathways to Degree Completion' program." The resolution passed with 31 votes out of 54 faculty senate members, but was overturned on a procedural issue.

Morales accepted his lucrative new job before another vote could occur.

The reader is probably right. Someone essentially ridden out of town on a rail probably doesn't need a raise to convince him to move, which did not deter the trustees. How many of their other hires were eagerly pursued by other suitors?

The famously dysfunctional Legislature's granting raises to its pet employees, many already paid well into six figures, also seemed deaf and blind to the public mood.

Here is a hint to legislators and Gov. Jerry Brown: It probably doesn't promote passage of Proposition 30, the governor's tax increase initiative on the ballot this fall, when you display obvious favoritism.

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Most of those unions have agreed to pay cuts to help preserve jobs while the state faces its seemingly perpetual budget crunch.
All of which demonstrates that once folks are in an office with a definite term, whether appointed or elected, it's easy for them to lose sight of financial realities.

So far, there are no signs that either the Cal State trustees or the legislative majority will pay any immediate political price for their insensitivity. But both groups can be sure there will be consequences down the line if they don't soon begin displaying far more sensitivity to the public mood and prevailing economic conditions.
Raffle prize comes at just the right time for one Staten Islander

Monday, August 20, 2012, 5:45 AM

By CHRISTINA BOMENGO

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- When Lila Salhany went shopping in the produce department of the Pathmark in Pleasant Plains, she never expected to become $250 richer a few weeks later.

The Oakwood resident was the winner of a recent Staten Island Advance raffle, with the top prize a $250 Visa gift card.

"This was perfect timing," said Mrs. Salhany.

She works in the Children’s Center at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, caring for children of CSI students, but has summers off.

"This will give me a nice little last hurrah before I head back to work next week," she said.

The latest raffle contest ran from May 16 to Aug. 15. Visitors at local Kmart, Met Food, Key Food, ShopRite and Pathmark stores simply filled out an entry form, with no purchases necessary.

"It was a lovely surprise," Mrs. Salhany added.
Congressional candidate Mark Murphy did not hold back in front of his campaign office in St. George on Monday. The Democratic said Congressman Michael Grimm should return hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of campaign funds an Israeli businessman helped him raise for his 2010 campaign.

On Friday, Ofer Biton was arrested on immigration fraud charges. Biton allegedly raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for Grimm, who is already under investigation on allegations he accepted illegal campaign contributions.

"Give the $500,000 of illegal campaign contributions that you extorted from Rabbi Pinto's congregation, give it back," Murphy said.

Grimm said Murphy's claims are outrageous.

"I had nothing to do with it, I knew nothing about it. It's an immigration matter that has to do with him and not me," the congressman said.

Murphy also criticized Grimm for jumping into the Sea of Galilee with several elected officials on a trip in Israel last year. One of them was nude.

Grimm said the story has been blown out of proportion.
"If this was a family vacation, most people would have gone for a swim and enjoyed what I consider to be a beautiful experience in a very beautiful, holy place other than this discretion which he apologized for," Grimm said.

College of Staten Island political science Professor Richard Flanagan said even in one of the most competitive congressional races in the state, the recent allegations have not penetrated voters yet.

"If the story sticks around, either escalates with an indictment or even if it's a constant story every week, I guess there might be a slow bleed for him," said Flanagan.

Grimm said Murphy's campaign has been based on mudslinging and not the issues that concern Staten Islanders. The Democrat fired back.

"We talk about the issues every day. we talk about giving middle class citizens a tax cut," Murphy said.
Thomas D. Elias: CSU trustees, lawmakers don't get it as they dole out pay raises
2012-08-24

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All of which demonstrates that once folks are in an office with a definite term, whether appointed or elected, it's easy for them to lose sight of financial realities.

So far, there are no signs that either the Cal State trustees or the legislative majority will pay any immediate political price for their insensitivity. But both groups can be sure there will be consequences down the line if they don't soon begin displaying far more sensitivity to the public mood and prevailing economic conditions.
Physical therapist Joy Masefield said it was her biology teacher -- Sister William Marie at St. Brendan's High School in Brooklyn -- and her mother's diagnosis of multiple sclerosis that made her believe "the hospital was where I was meant to be."

(Staten Island Advance/Marjorie Hack)
It was her biology teacher, Sister William Marie at St. Brendan's High School, and her mother's diagnosis of multiple sclerosis when Ms. Masefield was in her late teens, that made her believe "the hospital was where I was meant to be."

**FIRST, A NURSE**

A graduate of Long Island School of Nursing in 1974 who also later earned a bachelor of science degree in health sciences from St. Francis College in Brooklyn and a second bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Hunter College in Manhattan, Ms. Masefield initially worked as a registered nurse in a hospital.

"It was tough work, but very rewarding," she said.

Her former husband served as the director of physical therapy at Staten Island University Hospital for a time. He opened a part-time practice on Staten Island in 1981 and an office in Brooklyn in 1985.

Meantime, Ms. Masefield had given birth to twin girls in 1980 and when it became impossible to hold down 12-hour nursing shifts, she left to do "typical mom things" for awhile.

Heeding her former husband's advice, she eventually decided to pursue her own career in physical therapy. Returning to school, as required, for three years, she graduated from physical therapy school in 1993.

"The program is very, very intensive. I don't know what you don't learn," she said ticking off courses in subjects like anatomy, physiology, and experiences in cadaver laboratories. "You have to learn it in a different way than a medical student."

Take shoulder pain, for example. A quality physical therapist will perform a series of manual tests to determine what's causing the pain. "We address the mechanics of that pain and then come up with a course of treatment," she said.

**CHECK FOR LICENSE**

Ms. Masefield said that the biggest mistake the average person can make when it comes to physical therapy is not going to a licensed practitioner.

"Ask for the qualifications of the person," she advises. "Physical therapy is not about the electrical stimulation machine or a bicycle. It's not the things."

Accordind to Joy Masefield, the laws governing physical therapists in the state of New York changed in 2009. Now, physical therapists are covered under the "direct access law," under the state's Department of Education.

"You can come off the street and be treated for 30 days without a
If you're not being handled by a physical therapist, then that's not physical therapy, she said, adding that "anyone could be damaged" if the person administering the physical therapy doesn't know what they're doing.

Ms. Masefield said physical therapists are required to post a license, and advises people to look for it. She also cautions patients to ask for the qualifications of people employed by the physical therapist, to make sure they're certified to deliver treatment.

Ms. Masefield, who held many positions in the Brooklyn/Staten Island district of the New York Physical Therapy Association, eventually served the group as president. She's been a member of the American Physical Therapy Association since 1991, and is currently an adjunct professor teaching anatomy at the College of Staten Island, Hunter College and Long Island University.

COLORFUL

If she could add one other task to her already-busy schedule, Ms. Masefield said she would "like to do interior design."

In fact, she said she and her partner, Cavallaro, would love to have their own do-it-yourself design show. She's especially proud of the homey feel of the office on Staten Island, which actually occupies a former ranch-style residence.

"I didn't want it stark white," she said. This is a person who clearly likes to bring nuance and color back into the lives of her patients.

Masefield & Cavallaro Physical Therapy employs three licensed physical therapists and two licensed physical therapy assistants. The office handles a variety of cases, but specializes in cervical and TMJ (temperomandibular joint) dysfunction, vertigo, and orthopedic and neurological conditions.

The practice is located at 69 Guyon Ave. in Oakwood. The telephone number is 718-979-7013. In Brooklyn, the office is at 7608 15th Ave.; call 718-259-0900.
Cal State and Legislature Badly Need Sensitivity training

By Thomas D. Elias @ 10:00 AM August 30, 2012

It became clear early last spring that the trustees of the 23-campus California State University system just don’t get it. Shuffling administrators from school to school and bringing in the occasional outsider, they began giving new college presidents salaries far higher than what predecessors had received.

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Why, It’s Only Fair

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He Needed an Incentive?

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Nice Employee. Aw, Isn’t She Cute?

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Mr. Elias may be contacted at tdelias@aol.com. His book, "The Burzynski Breakthrough: The Most Promising Cancer Treatment and the Government’s Campaign to Squelch It," is now available in a soft cover fourth edition. For more Elias columns, see www.californiafocus.net
Sports
SPORTS BRIFES: Pa. teener tourney at Coleman’s, LVC hoops schedule set

Host team Lebanon City-County will conclude opening-day action Friday at 5:30 p.m.
08/01/2012

The VFW State Teener Baseball Tournament for 15- and 16-year-olds is headed to Lebanon this weekend.

The eight-team double-elimination event kicks off Friday at Coleman Memorial Park with quadrupleheader opening-round action.

The host team, Lebanon City-County, will conclude the first day of play by taking on Schuylkill East at 5:30 p.m. The rest of Friday's schedule includes: Suburban America vs. Schuylkill South, 9 a.m.; Clearfield vs. Bald Eagle, noon; and Altoona vs. Punxsutawney, 2:30 p.m.

Play will continue through the weekend, with the championship game set for Monday at 2 p.m. at Coleman Park.

LVC hoops releases schedule: The Lebanon Valley College men's basketball team released its 2012-13 schedule Wednesday, with opening night just a little over three months away.

The Flying Dutchmen will open the season Nov. 16 against College of Staten Island in the first round of the 21st annual Rinso Marquette Tournament, before beginning Commonwealth Conference play Nov. 20 at home against Elizabethtown.

Conference play will start earlier this season due to the addition to two schools, Hood and Stevenson, to the Commonwealth roster. In addition, the league's postseason format has changed, with the fourth- and fifth-place teams meeting in a play-in game and the winner advancing to the semifinals.

LVC will also head south to Miami on Dec. 20-21 for the Holiday Slam tournament. Other dates to remember for the upcoming season are: Hot
A week of ACES: Rangers trio, scouts set to attend workouts for locals
By POST HS STAFF
Posted: August 4, 2012

David Wright, Dustin Pedroia and Jorge Posada, Brandon Phillips and Nelson Cruz.

What do all these current or past Major League Baseball superstars have in common? Besides being clients of the Staten Island-based ACES Baseball Academy, they all began their baseball journey in the same fashion as many young players do today: on a ball field, in front of the right people.

That same opportunity will be afford to local players by ACES, a local training facility founded by agents Seth and Sam Levinson.

For an entire week in August, from the 13th to the 17th, Aces is offering that service at Mid-Island Babe Ruth, located at 1322 Travis Avenue on Staten Island. Professional scouts, including a scouting supervisor, college and highschool coaches will appear throughout the week to instruct and evaluate players.

There will be two groups separated by age. The 14-15 year olds will workout from 9-to-11:30 a.m. while the older group (16-and-above) will go from 12:30-to-3 p.m. Perhaps the most appealing facet of all is the cost. While most showcases range from $300-$600, a player can workout for the whole week for an affordable $150. On three separate days, players from the Texas Rangers will appear and greet the registered prospects. 2011 ALCS MVP Nelson Cruz, All-star pitcher Matt Harrison and reliever Mike Adams will all be in attendance.

“This is a tremendous chance for players throughout New York City to come down and workout in front of a high quality staff of baseball decision makers. supervisors, pro scouts,” said Kevin Hughes, an associate scout with the Washington Nationals and hitting coordinator at ACES. “The name Aces is synonymous with the pinnacle of Major League baseball, so what better place to learn and come show what you can do.”

Also in attendance for the workouts will be Philadelphia Phillies scouting supervisor and former New York Mets outfielde Eric Valen; associate scouts From the Kansas City Royals, Washington Nationals and Seattle Mariners; and coaches representing Wagner College, Southern Illinois, the College of Staten Island, St. John’s and LIU. Local college standouts John Ziznewski (LIU) and Kevin Krause (Stony Brook) will be on hand to discuss college baseball. Brooklyn Cyclones director of new business development Gary Perone will also be on hand.

ACES will be additionally holding a camp for little league players the same week at the same complex. Kids ages 6-13 can sign up for the “Meet the Pro’s” camp with the Texas Rangers players.
College of Staten Island reaches into deep pool for inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame class

Tuesday, August 21, 2012, 8:15 AM

Jim Waggoner

Evan Pickman has never been one to shy away from voicing his opinions, but the retired College of Staten Island basketball coach and physical education professor seemed almost tongue-tied when asked to comment on his upcoming induction into the school’s inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame class.

“It’s a tremendous honor,” said Pickman, taking a break from a hiking adventure with his wife, daughter and three grandchildren in Vermont. “The college was my life for 38 years and I’m probably proudest that my career was much more than winning basketball games.

“God knows over the last 50 years how many phenomenal athletes in all the sports came through the CSI doors and how many people had to be considered for induction.”

Pickman will be joined by retired coach, educator and administrator Ira Sweet; the late Sonny Grasso, who remains the only CUNY Conference coach to win titles in both baseball and softball; recently retired assistant softball coach Betty Zwingraf, who spent 42 years at both Staten Island Community College and CSI coaching just about every sport under the sun; and ex-cross country star and local road racing veteran Jeff Benjamin.

The seven-member Class of 2012 also includes two basketball standouts: John Cali, a two-time CUNY Tournament MVP who played point guard from 1994-99, and Jacclyn Rock, the women’s all-time leading scorer and rebounder during a record-setting 2001-05 run.
The inductees will be honored on Oct. 11 during a dinner from 7-11 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

“The Hall of Fame is a long overdue concept,” said CSI assistant athletic director Dave Pizzuto, who serves as the Hall of Fame committee chairperson. “We are all excited to be a part of this ground-breaking endeavor.”

A 19-person committee met regularly during the past school year and finalized its choices from a nominee pool in May. A two-thirds vote was required to move a candidate to the final phase of the selection process.

The initial Hall of Fame constitution was drafted by Vernon Mummert, the school’s athletic director, and ultimately approved by CSI administrators, including outgoing president Dr. Tomas Morales.

Understandably, the selection committee had a difficult chore in its first time out of the box.

“I’m very honored to be a part of this group and really appreciate to be among these people inducted,” said Cali, a 35-year-old police officer and father of three young children. “There are many people I feel who should be there before me. I’m thinking of the great basketball players that went to CSI before me and after me. I am truly humbled. There’s a long history of CSI basketball and to be chosen to the first class is a great, great honor.”

THE INDUCTEES

JEFF BENJAMIN

A mainstay on the school’s cross country team from 1983-87 and a Top 10 finisher at the CUNY Championships. Holds the freshman record for the five-mile run (27 minutes, 22 seconds). Has been a visible figure on the local road racing circuit and from 1989-95 served as president of the Staten Island Athletic Club. Coached track and field at New Dorp HS from 1995-2005 and for the last two decades has been a writer for publications such as American Track & Field Magazine.

JOHN CALI

Ranks eighth all-time in scoring with 1,517 career points, and third with 176 steals and 548 assists. All-time leader with 241 three-point field goals and ranks fourth with a career 77.5 percent free throw accuracy. His 187 assists during the 1998-99 seasons tops the single-season charts. He won a CUNY tourney MVP early in his career then bounced back from a season-ending back injury to win another MVP trophy as a fifth-year senior.

SONNY GRASSO
Coached baseball from 1978-81 and softball from 1995-97. Remains only coach in CUNY history to win championships in both sports. Was CSI’s first baseball coach and won titles in 1979 and 1980 and softball crown in 1996. The school’s first intramural coordinator and was inducted into the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. Also inducted into the CYO Hall of Fame. Died in Florida in December of 2007.

**Evan Pickman**

Posted a 127-42 overall record for a .751 winning percentage that is top-ranked for any coach in CSI history. His 1980 team was the only squad in school history to earn a No. 1 national ranking. In six seasons, his teams won 20 games four times and went 60-9 in CUNY action. Won four CUNY championships and his teams advanced to four NCAA Division III and two ECAC tournaments. He was a member of the Physical Education/Nursing faculty until 2009.

**Jacclyn Rock**

She scored 1,517 career points and pulled down 1,500 rebounds — both school records. Two-time CUNY regular-season MVP (2004 and 2005) and three-time All-CUNY first-team selection and all-tournament pick. Led all NCAA Division III rebounders with 15.1 per game in 2003-04 season. Led the way for the 2004-05 squad that went a school-record 26-3. Owns school records for single-season rebounds (450) and single-game rebounds (30).

**Ira Sweet**

Athletic department pioneer and icon who began working at the school in 1959 and retired in 2000. Wide-ranging resume includes men’s head basketball coach from 1962-1971 plus 15 years as an assistant. Also coached men’s soccer for three seasons. His teams advanced to two NJCAA National Tournaments and produced three All-Americans. Served as Staten Island Community College’s athletic trainer and facility director and also was chairperson of the Physical Education Department. Later served a one-year appointment as CSI’s athletic director. Was a primary figure in the building of the Sports and Recreation Center at the Willowbrook campus.

**Betty Zwingraf**

Coached women’s volleyball, tennis, basketball, softball and cheerleading during a 42-year career. Coached basketball from 1970-76, volleyball in 1987, cheerleading in 1970-71, tennis in 1982, softball in 1978-79 and again in 1983-84. She had been an assistant softball coach from 2006 until her recent retirement. Was a mentor to five CUNY MVP pitchers and won a total of eight conference championships. Also served as a personal coach to two-time USA Olympic pitching gold medal winner Michele Smith and was elected to the New Jersey Amateur Softball Association’s Hall of Fame in 2002.
The College of Staten Island men’s and women’s soccer programs begin their seasons Friday against Benedictine University of Springfield, Ill., as part of the Willowbrook school’s first Fall Classic.

The CSI women will play Benedictine at 10 a.m. with the men’s matchup at 4 p.m. On Saturday, CSI’s women (2 p.m.) and men (4 p.m.) take on Wisconsin-Platteville.

The CSI women are coming off a school-best 13-5-1 CUNY Conference championship season and an ECAC Tournament berth, but there’s more to focus on this season for John Guagliardo’s squad.

First, the CUNY has grown from the four-team entity it was a year ago when CSI won the championship to a seven-member unit now that Lehman and Brooklyn have added varsity teams and Medgar Evers revived its program after a one-year hiatus.

With seven teams, the conference champion will, for the first time, receive an automatic berth in the NCAA Division III tournament.

“The NCAA automatic qualifier is something we have been trying to get for a long time and we are excited about the opportunity,” Guagliardo said. “We have some formidable programs already in the conference that are only getting better and the new programs will certainly not be overlooked. The reality is we don’t care how we get in, but that is the focus and anything short of that would be a disappointment for us.”
Heading the list of 16 returning players, is CUNY Player of the Year Demi-Jean Martorano (18 goals and eight assists in 19 games in 2011).

Junior Natalie Tombasco punched in 10 goals a year ago while sophomore Samantha Wysokowski scored five in limited duty. Mix in soph Melissa Gelardi, who was among the nation’s leaders in assists (13), and CSI should still hover among the best offensive teams in the conference.

After a year’s absence due to injury, sophomore goalie Victoria Donegan returns after a sensational freshman campaign in 2010, and together with defensive stalwarts Alyssa Colasurdo, Amanda Percaccio, Christina Jacob, and with Natalie Tombasco thrown into the mix, the team figures to be as stingy as a year ago when it didn’t allow a conference goal.

**TARDY TAKES OVER**

New CSI men’s coach John Tardy takes over a team that went 3-11-1 a year ago, including an eight-game losing skid to end the season.

“We are all very excited,” Tardy said. “I think we all know we have a really good solid core coming back and a new class of kids who are looking to get out there and prove themselves. On the ball we look good and with a little organization and game experience, it hopes to be a promising year.”

The Dolphins return 16 players, including six of their top 10 scorers. CSI scored only 22 goals a year ago, and was shut out six times, including a 5-0 loss to Lehman College in the CUNY quarterfinals.

Sophomore Alfonso Castaneda is the top returning scorer (six goals, three assists). Returnees Lirim Begai, Michele Kissi and Mubaric Ibrahim should help, especially if they can stay healthy after missing a combined 17 games a year ago.

The new faces, however, are more the cause for optimism.

Nedgy Nazon, a Haitian native who last played at CSI in 1999, and is returning to the team after an incredible 13-year absence. The senior netted 15 goals in 15 games in 1999. Daniel Tsygankov and Charles Iwobi, a pair of freshmen, have also showed signs of progress.

Fifth-year senior goalie Ahmed El-Ghareib could return to his natural middle-defender position along with Giovanni Cortese. Together with Alfred Yeboah, who missed the final month and a half of the season last year due to injury, the defense should be improved.

“Talent-wise, we honestly feel we can make a run to the finals,” the coach stated. “But first, we are looking to put a good brand of soccer out on to the field, and compete from whistle to whistle.”
College of Staten Island ready to launch tennis season

Friday, August 31, 2012, 9:05 AM

By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The CSI women’s tennis team has been without a CUNY title since 1999, but the always optimistic head coach Paul Ricciardi feels this just may be the year his squad ends that long drought.

“I feel we have a roster, top-to-bottom, that can do incredible things,” said Ricciardi, whose club opens its season Saturday at home against St. Joseph’s of L.I. at 1 p.m.

The Dolphins feature five returning players, including CUNYAC All-Star Ilona Stoyko (10-5 in singles, 6-1 CUNY). Sophomore Sophia Varriano, the No. 2 flight player, has suffered an early-season injury and could miss a large amount of time.

But, with returnees Jean Baak, Demi-Jean Martorano, and Jacqueline Jamaleddine won’t be lacking in talent. Also in the mix is senior Nancy Almazo, who returns to the Dolphins after a year’s absence. In 2010, Almazo went undefeated in the No. 4 position.

Big things are also expected from Notre Dame Academy’s No. 1 singles ace Sabrina Bragerton-Nasert, Mediha Mulla, Susan Wagner’s No. 1 and Nataliya Zitser.

“Our first-year players will help us, mainly by giving us a fresh perspective and invigorating approach to the season,” said the sixth-year coach.

The Dolphins finished 7-11 a year ago and lost to Brooklyn College in the CUNY semis but clearly the coach wants more this time around.
"I think after a year of knowing what it takes to be at the top of our conference, and getting a chance to travel last spring, our players are ready to work that much harder of reaching our goals for a CUNY championship," said Ricciardi.

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Stories
The City University of New York Board of Trustees approved a design consultant agreement for a new Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing building at the College of Staten Island. The consulting firm of Hendrickson, Durham & Richardson was selected for professional design and construction-related services as required for the 175,000 gross square foot, $210 million academic computational science research building.

The new building, a recommended cornerstone of the College of Staten Island Master Plan, was approved for implementation in 2010 and has a significant mixed-use academic and research program to help address space needs at the College. The building will contain spaces dedicated to state-of-the-art scientific computing, laboratories for visualization, computer labs with flexible design to encourage collaborative faculty and student research, and high-tech instructional laboratories. Additionally, it will also include general-purpose classrooms, dedicated student work areas, lecture halls, a café, and other programmable spaces that will promote interdisciplinary collaboration and provide needed study space and student services.

College officials anticipate that the academic departments of Mathematics, Computer Science, and Engineering Science and Physics will be relocated to the new building.
Dreams of immigrant entrepreneurs are alive and well on Staten Island

Wednesday, August 01, 2012, 11:30 AM

By Sarah Buccellato/Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- With the second-highest percentage of foreign-born entrepreneurs in the five boroughs, Staten Island is giving immigrants the chance to live the American dream.

The Center for an Urban Future and Fund for Public Advocacy hosted a forum, "Bolstering Immigrant and Minority Entrepreneurs in Staten Island," on Tuesday at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, to acquaint officials, business leaders and policymakers with the potential of foreign-born owners of small businesses and how better to support them.

Paula Gavin, executive director of New York City's Fund for Public Advocacy, a nonprofit organization that fosters innovative ideas to tackle local and national challenges, presented a report of the fund's findings.

SECOND TO MANHATTAN

Of the Island's self-employed population, 11.9 percent is foreign-born. The borough trails only Manhattan, with 12.9 percent of small businesses owned by immigrants.

The report also revealed that 92 percent of New York City's foreign-owned small businesses did not benefit from public service programs designed to help entrepreneurs, either by choice or because they were unaware of available resources.

A discussion panel of foreign-born Staten Island business owners offered insight into and firsthand experiences of the challenges faced by immigrant entrepreneurs, such as acquiring capital and surmounting language barriers.
One of the panelists, Wayne Roye, a West Indies native and current CEO of Troi.net, a full-service IT company in Travis, believes that identifying mentors business owners can trust will help new entrepreneurs navigate the business world and make the most of public service programs.

"I did it the hard way, but you need to get a plan," he said.

Gonzalo Mercado, executive director of El Centro del Inmigrante, a storefront immigrant day work center in Port Richmond, said better credit and marketing resources would aid entrepreneurs in expanding beyond their communities to reach non-immigrant residents.

"The web and social media are tools to mainstream, but you need to start with the basics," he added.

City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore), who was on hand for the forum, praised the Island's diversity and immigrant-owned businesses for contributing to the borough's growth.

"With cultural diversity comes new flavor, flair, customs, culture and food," she said. "We can strengthen our economy by promoting all small businesses."

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STATEN ISLAND — The number of small businesses started by foreign born Staten Islanders has exceeded the amount owned by native born residents, according to the Center for an Urban Future.

In the borough, 11.9 percent of immigrants are self-employed, nearly double the 6.9 percent of native born Staten Islanders who are self-employed.

The island has the second highest rate of self employed immigrants citywide, with Manhattan at the top with nearly 13 percent, according to the Center for an Urban Future which held a panel discussion on the island Tuesday.

"This is a great opportunity for Staten Island," said Jonathan Bowles, executive director of the Manhattan based think-tank.

"We need to make sure that this is a part of the economy, strongly supported, and that it can grow."

To help continue the growth, the Center for an Urban Future and the Fund for Public Advocacy hosted a public forum at the College of Staten Island Willowbrook, on Tuesday to address some challenges immigrant and minority business owners face and ways to help them navigate through them.

"I think all small business owners on Staten Island face a lot of challenges," Bowles said. "It's not easy to operate a small business in the city, and a lot of minority and foreign born face some unique hurdles."

Foreign born residents now make up 20% of Staten Island's population, the Center for an Urban Future said.
Councilwoman Debi Rose, who spoke at the forum, said that with many of them creating their own jobs, there needs to be more ways to help their businesses get off the ground.

"This is going to be a part of the economic growth of our communities," Rose said. "We need to help foster that so that we all win in the long run."

For some small business owners, the language barrier becomes a large hurdle, Bowles said.

"I think sometimes the language barrier could be a big issue," he said.

"A lot of minority and immigrants don't go to seek the assistance from the small business assistance organizations that are out there."

Some may even accidentally break a specific regulation that they are unaware of because of the language, Bowles said.

Rose added that many feel there needs to be a mentoring program set up for successful entrepreneurs to teach new business owners.

"They get the technical knowledge but then you need someone who's experienced it to help you sort of guide you through," Rose said.

But for some during the panel discussion, one of the biggest problems was not enough people outside of the borough being aware of businesses here.

"We don't promote Staten Island well enough," said Wayne Roye, owner of Troi.net, an IT firm based in Staten Island for small and medium businesses.

"I always felt like it was the forgotten borough," Roye said.

Rose said she agreed that the Island could use more promotion and suggested more campaigns to raise awareness of the diversity of the borough and the businesses that are unique to the Island.

"People have no idea about the riches and the resources that we have here," she said. "We need market our diversity on Staten Island. It would help all of our businesses."

Rose added that the borough has the largest population of Sri Lankan and Liberian residents outside of those countries, and people are not aware of the great restaurants and businesses owned by them.

Tuesday's discussion was the last in a series of borough-wide forums hosted by the Center for An Urban Future and the Fund for Public Advocacy.

"I'm very pleased with the five borough forum series we had," Bowles said. "We just elevated this issue onto the radar of policy makers and economic development officials."

The Center for an Urban Future will publish a report about the findings they found through the forums in the Fall, Bowles said.
American Campus Communities Inc. Reports Operating Results (10-Q)
Aug 09, 2012

American Campus Communities Inc. (ACC) filed Quarterly Report for the period ended 2012-06-30.

American Campus Communities, Inc. has a market cap of $3.56 billion; its shares were traded at around $46 with a P/E ratio of 25.3 and P/S ratio of 9.1. The dividend yield of American Campus Communities, Inc. stocks is 2.8%. American Campus Communities, Inc. had an annual average earning growth of 3.7% over the past 5 years.

This is the annual revenues and earnings per share of ACC over the last 10 years. For detailed 10-year financial data and charts, go to 10-Year Financials of ACC.

Highlight of Business Operations:

In April and May 2011, the Company sold four unencumbered owned off-campus properties (Campus Club – Statesboro, River Club Apartments, River Walk Townhomes and Villas on Apache) for a total sales price of approximately $82.0 million resulting in combined net proceeds of approximately $80.0 million. The combined gain on these dispositions of approximately $14.6 million is included in discontinued operations on the accompanying consolidated statement of operations for the three and six months ended June 30, 2011.

Third-party development services revenue increased by approximately $3.1 million, from $0.8 million during the three months ended June 30, 2011 to $3.9 million for the three months ended June 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to the closing of bond financing and commencement of construction for the Southern Oregon University projects and the commencement of construction on the Lakeside Graduate Community at Princeton University during the three months ended June 30, 2012, which contributed an additional $2.6 million of revenue during that period. During the three months ended June 30, 2012, we had eight projects in progress with an average contractual fee of approximately $2.0 million, as compared to the three months ended June 30, 2011 in which we had four projects in progress with an average contractual fee of approximately $3.0 million.

Third-party management services revenue decreased by approximately $0.2 million, from $1.8 million for the three months ended June 30, 2011 to $1.6 million for the three months ended June 30, 2012.
This decrease was primarily a result of the discontinuation of a management contract in which we recognized a portion of a $0.3 million termination fee during the three months ended June 30, 2011. We anticipate third-party management services revenue to decrease slightly in 2012 primarily as a result of the discontinuation of three management contracts in early 2012 that contributed approximately $0.3 million of management services revenue during the year ended December 31, 2011.

Third-party development services revenue increase by approximately $1.4 million, from $4.6 million during the six months ended June 30, 2011 to $6.0 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012. This increase was primarily due to the closing of bond financing and commencement of construction for the Southern Oregon University and College of Staten Island projects and the commencement of construction on the Lakeside Graduate Community at Princeton University during the six months ended June 30, 2012, which contributed an additional $4.0 million of revenue during that period. This increase was offset by the closing of bond financing and commencement of construction for the Illinois State and Northern Illinois University projects during the six months ended June 30, 2011, which contributed an additional $2.4 million of revenue during that period. During the six months ended June 30, 2012, we had eight projects in progress with an average contractual fee of approximately $2.0 million, as compared to the six months ended June 30, 2011 in which we had four projects in progress with an average contractual fee of approximately $3.0 million.

Third-party management services revenue decreased by approximately $0.2 million, from $3.6 million for the six months ended June 30, 2011 to $3.4 million for the six months ended June 30, 2012. This decrease was primarily a result of the discontinuation of a management contract in which we recognized a portion of a $0.3 million termination fee during the six months ended June 30, 2011.
NYC Institutional Construction Starts Down 41 Percent in First Half of 2012
August 13, 2012

New York City’s public and private institutions initiated $704 million in construction projects during the first six months of 2012, down from $1.2 billion in the first half of 2011, according to a New York Building Congress analysis of McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge data. The 41 percent decrease in institutional construction starts was primarily a result of steep declines in new projects initiated at New York City’s public schools and institutions of higher learning.

The first half of 2012 represents an accelerating downward trend. The value of New York City institutional starts reached $2.4 billion for all of 2011, down from $2.9 billion in 2010 and $3.8 billion in 2009.

The data encompass all recorded project starts, including new construction as well as alterations and renovations to existing structures, and reflect the estimated value of each initiated project through the entire period of construction. The sectors examined include elementary and secondary schools, hospitals and health care, higher education, courts, libraries, cultural facilities and religious institutions.

**Sector Breakdown**
Over a four-year period from July 2008 through June 2012, educational facilities accounted for more than half of all construction starts (by value) among public and private institutions in New York City. Public elementary and secondary schools alone accounted for 37 percent of all construction starts, while public and private colleges and universities accounted for another 14 percent.

Public and private hospitals and healthcare facilities accounted for 26 percent of all institutional construction starts by value during the four-year period. Cultural facilities were responsible for another 12 percent of all initiated projects. Court facilities, private elementary and secondary schools, religious institutions and libraries each contributed less than 5 percent of all institutional construction starts by value.

Decreasing construction activity in the public schools sector is the primary cause for the overall decline in the institutional sector. Public elementary and secondary school construction starts reached $1.3 billion in 2009 and $1.2 billion in 2010, before dropping to $746 million in 2011. Construction starts have fallen even further in the first half of 2012 - to $169 million (a 62 percent drop compared to the first six months of 2011).

**In the other major sectors:**

- Construction starts by public and private colleges and universities reached $59 million in the first half of 2012. Construction starts in the first half of 2011 reached $257 million thanks to the initiation of three major projects by Columbia and Fordham Universities, as well as Vaughn College of Aeronautics.

- Hospitals and health care starts rose from $229 million in the first six months of 2011 to $273 million in the first half of 2012.
Cultural construction starts rose slightly - from $121 million in the first half of 2011 to $123 million during the same period in 2012.

Alterations and renovations to existing facilities have surpassed brand new construction in the institutional sector over the past 18 months. In 2009 and 2010, new, ground-up construction represented approximately 55 percent of all starts by value. In 2011, however, 55 percent of all construction starts were renovations. That number has jumped to 66 percent in the first six months of 2012.

“New York’s public and private institutions have continued to invest, but at least for the time-being, the general focus has been on upgrades to existing structures rather than brand new facilities,” noted New York Building Congress President Richard T. Anderson. “When we analyzed the list of top 10 projects from each sector over the past few years, we noticed that the majority occurred between 2008 and 2010.”

**Educational Outlook**

New York City is on the verge of a decades-long building boom in higher education. Chief among the projects moving forward are Columbia University’s Manhattanville expansion, New York University’s NYU 2031, and Cornell University’s CornellNYC Tech, on Roosevelt Island.

In addition, the City University of New York (CUNY) has plans for more than $2.1 billion worth of construction over the next five years, highlighted by new facilities for the College of Staten Island, Lehman College and Brooklyn College. Fordham University also is in the early stages of its Lincoln Center campus expansion.

“These are truly exciting times for New York’s colleges and universities,” said Anderson. “The determination of these bedrock City institutions to build for the future is critical to our industry and the region. In the short-run, these projects mean construction jobs and economic activity, which are especially needed right now. More importantly, these investments will ensure the universities’ and the City’s continued vitality and global competitiveness, while also preparing the next generation of New York’s leaders and innovators.”

The prospects are not as bright in the near-term for public elementary and secondary school construction spending. Under Mayor Bloomberg’s leadership, the City has made incredible progress adding capacity and modernizing existing facilities. From Fiscal Years 2005 through 2009, the City invested $13.1 billion in its network of schools throughout the five boroughs. But given the constraints brought on by the recent economic downturn, the City’s planned investments drop to $11.3 billion in the current five-year plan, which runs through Fiscal Year 2014.

According to its most recent amendment to the plan, the City plans to invest $2.0 billion in school construction for the coming fiscal year and $2.4 billion in the last year of the plan. This is down from the $2.9 billion in expenditures budgeted for the Fiscal Year that ended on June 30 of this year.
NOTE - Opportunity to partner with the National Park Service and the City of New York in the establishment of a top-tier center to promote the understanding of science and resilience in the urban ecosystem and adjacent communities of Jamaica Bay

Date: 8/15/2012

Summary
The purpose of this Special Notice is to provide questions and answers resulting from the Sources Sought - Request for Expressions of Interest under E450353332 posted on July 19, 2012.

1. Organizational structure:
Q: Are you looking for someone to set up logistics and coordinate others' research, or to initiate its own research?
A: We are looking for all of the above, and are open to a variety of organizational structures.

Q: How much analytical research is expected to be done entirely on site, or, conversely, to what extent could this Center function as a "field" station for an institution whose major labs and highly specialized technical equipment are located elsewhere?
A: We are open to any type of operational structure and invite creative proposals.

Q: Has a scientific advisory board or group been established? A: No scientific advisory board has been established. However, we would anticipate exploring the creation of a board with the new partner entity.

Q: Will existing research in the bay continue independently, or be integrated into the work of the new entity?
A: We make no assumptions as to existing research. While we do not anticipate that all organizations and individuals currently working in the bay will participate in the activities of the center, the goal of the center is to monitor, track and coordinate efforts to the greatest extent possible in order to maximize funding and leverage available opportunities.

Q: In the RFEI, what entities are considered 'public' and 'private' sector? Does 'public' refer to government (City, Federal) only? I work at a 'public' university. I'm thinking, given the examples for partnership structures that we would be considered part of the 'private' sector. (Scripps is connected to a public university, for example.)
A: The public sector refers to the public agencies involved in the creation of the institute. The "private partner" could be, among others, a private or public educational institution or a non-profit organization, as well as individuals, and private or public companies.

2. Financial:
Q: What is the budget/funding stream for the center?
A: Funding for the center will likely come from a variety of sources, including grants and philanthropic contributions. We have been approached by funders who are interested in potentially contributing to the establishment and ongoing support of the center, but who do not have the capacity to operate the institution. In addition to any resources provided by a private or non-profit partner, because most research being done today is grant-supported we assume that will continue; however we are exploring other public funding mechanisms. One premise of the center is its ability to better leverage the significant public and academic expenditures already being made in the basin today. In addition, the NPS is expecting to fund some staff and administrative support for educational activities and community outreach related to the research and science program.

Q: Is there a pre-determined/preferred business model? (long-term grant funding, public-private partnership, other?)
A: All business models will be considered.

Q: What is being spent on research, monitoring and restoration in Jamaica Bay now by all parties?
A: Since 2002, the Bloomberg Administration has invested over one billion dollars to improve water quality, enhance parklands, and restore natural areas in the Jamaica Bay area. In the next ten years, the City is poised to invest an additional half billion dollars to continue to improve the environmental quality of the Bay. In the last five years, the Army Corps of Engineers has managed and provided the majority of funding for a series of wetland restoration projects in Jamaica Bay at Gerritsen Creek in Marine Park and at the salt marsh islands of Elders East and West, Yellow Bar, Black Wall, and Rulers Bar. These projects, totaling nearly $60 million, have been conducted in collaboration with and utilizing funding from the City, NPS, the State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Port Authority. More specifically, in Jamaica Bay during 2012, about $20 million is being spent on restoration, $6 million is being spent on monitoring, and about $1 million is being spent on research. More than 99% of the restoration funding comes from government agencies. Monitoring is funded about 60% by government agencies, 30% by grants through universities, and 10% from volunteered time by amateurs and professionals. Research is funded about 30% by government agencies, 65% by grants through universities, and 5% by volunteer professionals.

Q: Will the existing Jamaica Bay Institute budget still be available to support this new center?
A: See the first response in 2 above; this reflects the current NPS Jamaica Bay Institute budget.

3. Project Logistics:
Q: What is the timeline expected for post-RFEI and the establishment of the organization?
A: Timing depends on the nature of responses and interest.

4. Science and research:
Q: What are the research projects currently underway in Jamaica Bay?
A: A wide range of scientists and academics are conducting research projects in Jamaica Bay. Examples of projects underway include: Sediment nitrogen cycling (Baruch College CUNY); sea level rise (NPS, the NYC Mayor’s Office, & Columbia University); eelgrass and oyster experimental restoration (NYCDEP, Cornell Cooperative Extension & NPS); bathymetry of Jamaica Bay (Stony Brook SUNY); and use of ribbed mussels for water quality enhancement, converting algae to biofuel, and building green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff and reduce combined sewer overflows (NYCDECP). Monitoring projects presently underway in Jamaica Bay include: Water circulation and retention
modeling (NYCDEP); salt marsh restoration monitoring (USACE & NPS); effects of contaminants on fishes and invertebrates (Stony Brook SUNY & College of Staten Island CUNY); triggers of phytoplankton blooms (Stony Brook SUNY); Horseshoe Crab nesting areas (NYSDEC, NPS, & Cornell University); Harbor Herons nest colonies (NYC Audubon & NPS); and Diamondback Terrapins (Hofstra University & NPS). Information about research projects by NPS, other government agencies, and academic institutions can be found at the Jamaica Bay Research and Management Information Network at: http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/jamaicabay/index.jsp. Additional background materials and presentations on ongoing studies are available at the website for the October 2011 State of the Bay symposium at: http://www.nps.gov/gate/naturescience/stateofthebaysymposium.htm In addition, descriptions of a broad variety of pilot project can be found in the New York City Department of Environmental Protection's Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Update at: http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/pdf/jamaica_bay/jbwpp_update_10012010.pdf.

Q: In particular what are the efforts pertaining to nitrogen reduction?
A: The City is seeking to reduce the nitrogen discharged into Jamaica Bay by nearly 50% over the next 10 years. In February 2010, the City reached an agreement with State DEC, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and other environmental groups to invest $100 million to install new nitrogen control technologies at certain wastewater treatment plants in Jamaica Bay and another $15 million for marshland restoration projects (some of which has already been invested in the Yellow Bar, Black Wall, and Rulers Bar restoration projects). These investments, made in concert with $95 million the City had already committed for nitrogen control upgrades in Jamaica Bay, will significantly improve the health of one of New York City's most valuable ecological areas.

Q: Is the whole basin a combined sewer area, and how big is the "sewer shed"?
A: The Jamaica Bay Watershed is 142 square miles, and includes parts of Kings, Queens, and Nassau Counties. The "sewer shed" is only several percent larger. More than two-thirds of the NPS Jamaica Bay Unit is estuarine water and saltmarshes; the other third is uplands. In the past three centuries, urbanization caused Jamaica Bay to lose more than 90% of its saltmarshes and more than 95% of its freshwater wetlands. Multiple CSO outfalls flow into Jamaica Bay from the combined sewer areas of Paerdegat Basin, Bergen and Thurston Basins, and Jamaica Bay & Tributaries. For CSO area maps, see PlaNYC (page 67 of http://bit.ly/eFy6Xf) and the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan (starting on page 65 of http://on.nyc.gov/9U82nY). The areas directly upland from the Bay, including most of the Rockaway Peninsula, are served by separate sewers or direct discharge stormwater infrastructure. For a map of the wastewater treatment plant drainage areas, see page 16 of the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan.

Q: Is the EPA involved in this effort?
A: Yes, EPA has been involved in several of the meetings leading up to the issuance of this RFEI.

Q: Will there be a citizen-scientist program?
A: We would actively encourage the formation of such a program.

Q: Is there an interest in supporting basic, process level studies?
A: Yes, but particularly if these studies contribute to the core research agenda defined for the center and also provide the basis for further applied science research and solutions.
Q: What are the expected proportions of: i. Original research ii. Monitoring of existing conditions iii. Outreach and education?
A: The institute’s initial emphasis is envisioned to be on research and monitoring in the Bay, with less emphasis on education and outreach. No proportions have been set and we invite creative proposals.

Please note that the September site visit has been rescheduled for the afternoon of September 20th. Additional questions can be submitted to JamaicaBayRFEI@HappoldConsulting.com until October 1, 2012. The next set of responses will be available September 10th.
STAN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Every little thread helps.

On Tuesday night, more than two dozen Staten Islanders filled the Naked Sheep yarn shop in Travis to knit articles of clothing that will be sold to raise funds for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI) at its second Breast Cancer Walkathon.

It takes place Saturday, Oct. 4 at the College of Staten Island (CSI) in Willowbrook.

While the event isn't for another month and a half, knitters started early by preparing fingerless gloves, scarves, headbands, soap savers and other woolly items that will be sold at the Walkathon. Most were prepared with a type of pink yarn.

"It's amazing and wonderful. These ladies are like sisters to me," said Dr. Donna Gerstle, director of the SIBCRI.

Almost daily, she and other frequent visitors to the Naked Sheep come and knit from yarn purchased at the Victory Boulevard store.

One employee, Jacalyn Collie, recommended folks knitting at the shop prepare items for a good cause.
"With the help of Janice and Tracy [Gliaos, the store's owner], we're getting together and knitting pink," she said, mentioning she's visited the store since it opened nearly two years ago.

Items made will be stored at the shop and put on sale during the Walkathon. All are encouraged to donate a handmade article of clothing.

"If people want to knit their own things, we're taking collections here," said Naked Sheep employee Janice Gram.

Not everything needs to be pink, Dr. Gerstle noted.

"We found that a lot of our men, as evolved as they are, do not want a pink scarf," she added before showing off a pair of blue fingerless gloves.

The Walkathon is the second of its type. The SIBCRI previously held a fall festival at CSI until last year.

Adrienne Belmar, who's visited the store for over a year, wore a pink outfit Tuesday night to the yarn shop.

"You get to meet a lot of people and everyone works on different projects here," the New Brighton woman said. "It's a nice place to hang out and talk. And everybody's making things. It's a donation that will help toward fighting breast cancer."

About 25 donations were made Tuesday night.

"Everybody has a good time helping other people," said Ms. Gram.

The Naked Sheep will host another gathering next Tuesday from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Refreshments, including pink lemonade and cupcakes, are included.

For more information, dial 718-477-YARN (9276). The Naked Sheep is located at 4038 Victory Boulevard.

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College of Staten Island makes national list of 'best-bang-for-the-buck' colleges

Monday, August 27, 2012, 4:30 PM

Jillian Jorgensen/Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The College of Staten Island landed on a list of "America's Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges" compiled by Washington Monthly and released Monday.

The list compiled schools "able to graduate the students who can be the most difficult to get across the finish line at a relatively low average net price," wrote its authors, Rachel Fishman and Robert Kelchen.

CSI -- and nearby Rutgers University in New Jersey -- both made the list, which focuses on schools combining low tuition with high graduation rates. It was part of a larger publication of the magazine's "The Best Colleges for Our Country."

With a net price of $6,675, the magazine cited CSI's actual graduation rate of 48 percent -- which tops its predicted graduation rate of 33 percent, showing it can graduate students who might falter elsewhere.

"With 48 percent of incoming students receiving Pell Grants, this institution has a substantial difference between its actual versus predicted graduation rate," the magazine's description of CSI reads.

The school attracts a diverse group of students, the magazine wrote, and because of the difficulty in retaining commuter students, offers many enrichment programs to help keep students on track.

"The SEEK program, offered through the City University of New York, helps under-prepared students by offering them academic support and financial assistance," the ranking reads.

The authors also cited CSI's three honors programs, including the Macaulay Honors College University
Scholars Program for full-time incoming freshmen.

"These scholars receive a full-tuition scholarship and participate in research projects," the authors wrote. "They are also provided an additional $7,500 fund as an incentive to study abroad and do in-depth research."

Washington Monthly's rankings are very different from some of the well-known "Best Of" college lists put out by other publications. The rankings focus on colleges that are best for the country by highlighting schools that encourage social mobility and promote public service.


"We are proud that our establishment of new national honor societies, construction of world-class residence halls, and the distinction of being ranked a top military-friendly college in the country can now be joined by Washington Monthly's national distinction that recognizes the value of the high-quality education offered at the College of Staten Island," said Dr. William J. Fritz, interim president of CSI. "The campus community is indeed proud of this tremendous honor."

"It comes as no surprise that the high quality academic programs and services available at CSI are widely perceived to be of great value, especially during these difficult economic times. Students and their families are very fortunate to have this jewel of a CUNY college in the crown of Staten Island," CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson said in a statement.

Also posted on: washingtonmonthly.com
CUNY College of Staten Island – Student Athletics Program Specialist, Aquatics

Filed in Administrative, Jobs on August 28, 2012

GENERAL DUTIES
Administers one or more aspects of a College athletics program.

- Coordinates development and implementation of information and marketing materials, such as web sites
- Coordinates recreation and intramural programs in support of wellness activities
- Organizes, coordinates, and manages intramural and varsity sports events
- Compiles and reports on statistics for NCAA and CUNY requirements; compiles reports on programs and activities
- Coordinates scheduling of facilities and programs
- Assists management with planning and oversight of various athletics activities
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Job Title Name: Student Athletics Program Specialist

CONTRACT TITLE
Higher Education Assistant

FLSA
Exempt

CAMPUS SPECIFIC INFORMATION
Reporting to the Director of Sports & Recreation, the Student Athletic Program Specialist for Aquatics will be responsible for the following:

- Coordinates and implements aquatics program to meet the needs of both campus and local community maximizing programming and revenue generating potential of the aquatic facility.
- Coordinates and manages a program of special events for the aquatics facility such as swimming competitions, rentals, etc.
- Organizes and coordinates a schedule for daily use of the aquatics facility.
- Coordinates and manages a comprehensive program of facility and water sanitation operations, equipment repair, and preventive maintenance.
- Orders all necessary training equipment and team uniforms.
- Selects, trains, and supervises the aquatics facility staff including lifeguards, aquatics instructors, and specialty staff.
- Serves as coach for the College’s intercollegiate swimming teams.
- Corresponds with local media regarding team highlights, scores, and pool events.
- Engages in professional development opportunities.
• Performs other related duties as assigned by the director of the facility of athletics.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS
Bachelor’s Degree and four years’ related experience required.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
• Knowledge of water filtration and sanitation
• Must possess CPR, First Aid, and Lifeguarding (Red Cross) certificates
• Must possess a NYC Board of Health Swimming Pool Operation Technology certificate
• Division Three swimming and/or coaching experience as well as aquatic site management experience preferred

COMPENSATION
$42,873 – $55,782

BENEFITS
CUNY offers a comprehensive benefits package to employees and eligible dependents based on job title and classification. Employees are also offered pension and Tax-Deferred Savings Plans. Part-time employees must meet a weekly or semester work hour criteria to be eligible for health benefits. Health benefits are also extended to retirees who meet the eligibility criteria.

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.

CLOSING DATE
September 20, 2012

JOB SEARCH CATEGORY
CUNY Job Posting: Managerial/Professional

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
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.
STATEN ISLAND, NY - Children living at Hospitality House got a boost for the start of the school year with a backpack and school supplies that were given to them Tuesday.

Spearheaded by Councilwoman Debi Rose's office, the distribution involving volunteers from several organizations provided more than 125 donated backpacks and classroom essentials to homeless youngsters residing in Project Hospitality's families with children shelter.

"Staten Islanders were generous again this year. I am happy the goal of providing a brand new backpack to every child in Hospitality House was achieved," said Ms. Rose. "This was a rewarding experience for those who made donations; and for the children, it does a lot for their self-esteem to be able to start their first day of class with brand new school supplies. It's a wonderful experience for all involved."

Supplies included marble notebooks, rulers and pencils accompanied by a letter from Councilwoman Rose, extending well wishes for a successful school year. In addition, Girl Scout Troop 5030 attached tags to their donated backpacks, wishing youngsters a "Great School Year."

The Universal Temple of the Arts donated brand new school clothing to youngsters and entertained them during the giveaway with arts and crafts.
Also attending were members of the city Department of Homeless Services, Project Hospitality, Local 726 of the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union; Salem Church/Utopia program, Christ Episcopal Church; Girl Scout Troop 5030, the Universal Temple of the Arts and the College of Staten Island.
Students & Alumni
Students
Staten Island Dream League is a slam-dunk

Wednesday, August 01, 2012, 8:28 AM

By

Staten Island Advance

By JOHN HOOD

ALL SHORES -- As kids, Dylan Fusco and Marco Boshnack played basketball in their neighborhoods. There was no need to go to the park; most of their friends had personal basketball hoops. But these blacktop pickup games were not played the normal way.

"When we played," Fusco said. "We lowered the rim to 8.5-feet, so we could dunk."

As the two grew older, they realized the dream of dunking on a regulation rim might never be achieved.

But little did the two Monsignor Farrell High School graduates know, that the childhood game they created would lead to a new idea — The Dream League. The Dream League is played with the same rules as any other men's basketball league except, that it is four-on-four and the rims are lowered to 8.5-feet.

"We play like this all the time," said Boshnack, the Dream League commissioner and a senior at the College of Staten Island. "Why not put it into action?"

In a society where social media trumps all, the two hoopsters utilized it to their advantage. After meeting up with Boshnack in early February, Fusco left a Facebook status to gauge interest in a league with a lowered rim.
"We got our first 12 teams in a day just from a Facebook status," said Fusco, the CEO of the Dream League and a senior at St. John’s University. "It’s great to see players interact with one another [online] and talk about the league."

The new-look league is now in its second season and has expanded quickly — to 32 teams. Along with high-flying dunks and a social atmosphere that encourages players to stay and watch other games, the Dream League has a fully functional website.

The site has everything from player’s statistics, standings, weekly highlight films, awards, and game recaps.

“If I play in any other league you never know the standings. You just know that’s the blue team or the yellow team.” Boshnack said. “We have the advantage because we have the website. People can go on at anytime they want and check it out.”

Many of the players in the league are Farrell graduates, and Boshnack couldn’t help but point out the camaraderie that has grown among them. "It’s just a bunch of guys hanging out all night, playing basketball, fooling around and reminiscing about the old times,” he said.

A group of former Staten Island varsity basketball players also take part, and according to Fusco, it has made the league one of the most competitive men’s leagues on Staten Island.

With the altered rim height, players can improve.

"A lot of kids come up to us and say that on a 10-foot rim, their friends don’t even let them play,” Boshnack said. “Now they are averaging 10 points a game in this league.”

The Dream League is heading into the final weeks of its second season and with the end near, possible expansion questions are being raised.

"We are planning to eventually expand to the five boroughs,” Fusco said. "But for right now, we are still learning.”

One thing is certain for this new dunk-oriented league — the popularity is immense and the league slogan, "Be a Pro," is gaining attention.

“A little kid walked up to me and started talking to me about the league,” Boshnack said. "He was in fourth-grade and was naming kids on different teams and their stats. It made me feel like I was in the NBA.”

The Dream League plays at St. Clare’s School gymnasium in Great Kills on Monday and Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 10:30. The website is sidreamleague.com and fall registration is now open.
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island has once again awarded $2,500 in nursing scholarships to three deserving students: Kristen Costello of the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing at Wagner College; Diana Macaulay of the College of Staten Island, and Carolyn L. Matthews of St. Paul's School of Nursing.

The scholarships are presented in memory of Lyman B. Frieze and Belle O'Bryan Frieze, who were benefactors and advocates of the Staten Island-based agency.

"The scholarships were established by the board of directors of VNASI in the year 2000, in thanksgiving for a bequest received from the Frieze Estate to help insure the continuation of VNASI's mission of providing Staten Islanders with high-quality home health care services," said James F. Mitchell, VNASI vice president for public relations and community affairs.

Her advisers say that Ms. Costello is a true humanitarian. She has traveled to Bangladesh, where she visited various hospitals and villages in order to learn about their hardships with malnutrition,
disease and pollution. The advisers say she has compassion for her patients and treats them and their families with dignity and respect. While working as a registrar in the ER at Staten Island University Hospital, she realized that nursing was the profession she wanted to pursue.

Kristen writes: "Nursing takes patience, hard work, and compassion. Nurses are the ones in whom patients can confide throughout their stay in the hospital. Nurses are the ones at the bedside, offering patients assistance and comfort while helping them to recover."

Ms. Macaulay’s faculty advisors describe her as highly motivated, committed to service and joyful about her future. She demonstrates caring, leadership and community service through her church, and is a founding member of FashPhenomenon, whereby she mentors young women to become intelligent, confident, fearless and inspirational role models.

Diana writes, "I want to create a positive change in the lives of others. There is no greater feeling than knowing that you have contributed to an individual's recovery and well-being. Having the knowledge and skills to relieve pain and suffering and being able to communicate and build trusting relationships with patients and their families, are the reasons why becoming a nurse is important to me. I want to believe that I am an influential asset to society."

According to her instructors, Ms. Matthews possesses excellent interpersonal skill, and interacts well with her patients, instructors and fellow students. She is a dedicated and focused individual who will provide comfort and understanding to her patients.

In her own words: "As a nurse I will dedicate myself to providing dignified care to people during their most vulnerable times. My goal for patients is to foster self-care and independence, while compassionately and respectfully acknowledging their limitations."

Congratulations to all.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthday greetings today go to Angela Susi, Theresa Consola, Ricky Taylor, Katie Sohmer, Peter Brady and Amanda Marenco.

Also posted on: topix.com
Bike maven Kate Freitag is ready to roll -- into transgender surgery to be reborn as a woman

Freitag, fleet operations manager for Bike and Roll, knew from childhood 'that my birth gender was not consistent with what I believe.'

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2012, 4:00 AM

Kate Freitag has been around bicycles since she was a kid growing up in Staten Island’s Port Richmond neighborhood.

She was blessed with uncles who were skilled carpenters, mechanics and motorcycle aficionados with tool shops to match. She also had a backyard conveniently full of hand-me-downs from other family members.

“We (Kate and her brother, David) never got new bicycles,” she said. “All my uncles were motorcycle enthusiasts. I was completely surrounded by mechanics who always had their tools available.

“I never had a time in my life where I was not surrounded by tools and I have never stopped acquiring them. We were never allowed to buy new bikes. We had to put bikes together with what we had in the backyard.”

Of such circumstances are careers made.

Bicycles remained a part of Freitag’s life at Port Richmond High School and while she was majoring in English and American Sign Language at the College of Staten Island. She was involved in one of the first pedi-cab ventures in the city, where she was also a mechanic.
“I can talk about bikes in sign language,” she said. “I’m glad to know sign. In just about every business I have worked in I was the de facto sign guy.”

Now, at 32 years old, Kate is Manager of Fleet Operations for Bike and Roll New York City, a bicycle rental and tour company with nine outlets across the city, including Central Park, Governor’s Island, and Brooklyn Bridge Park and Battery Park.

She builds bikes — including the four-wheeled, up to eight passenger “quad” bikes that are popular rentals on Governor’s Island — and repairs bikes and has sidesplitting tales of the early days of renting bikes in the city.

“I could tell you stories of chasing people trying to ride off with bikes, of having to go find bikes wherever people left them,” Freitag said. “Now we tell people not to chase anyone trying to steal a bike. There are other ways to recover them.”

Bike and Roll has some 2,000 bicycles on the road during summer months and some 100 employes, a figure that will drop to around ten during the winter, said company president Chris Wogas.

Meanwhile, Freitag keeps the bikes moving year round.

“I’m never thinking about one bike, I’m thinking about fifty bikes,” she said. “Whenever something goes wrong with one bike you can be sure it’s going to happen to another one. So I have to manage fixing many bikes, not just one bike.

“The good thing about Kate is you don’t have to worry about anything as far as the fleet goes,” Wogas said. “She also has such a diverse background that she is a great person to bounce things off when you’re trying to come to a decision.”

Freitag loves her job, and plans to return to it after a yet-to-be-determined date in the future when she will have the transgender surgery which will complete her rebirth as a woman.

“Biology is not a marker of gender,” she said. “I probably knew as young as eight years old that my birth gender was not consistent with what I believe, but I didn’t have the skill to verbalize that.

“At eight it really confused me, trying to figure out if I was identifying with this thing they call boy or girl.”

She “played the part,” as a boy, finding out along the way that her love for baseball had nothing to do with gender — she just loved the game and still plays.

She came out as gay at around 20 years old — though she did and still does date women — and found she was “definitely transgender. And I didn’t think I was in a bad place to come out; I am in New York, which is to say New York is a very supportive place to come out.”

Five years ago she had her name legally changed to Kate — she insisted her birth name not be used in this article — because she wanted people to know her “as who she is, not who she was.”
She’s started taking the hormones and counseling, and has no idea when she and doctors will deem her ready for the gender altering surgery that starts a new life.

“Normally you don’t come out with this openly, while you are going through the process,” Freitag said. “You find a few people you trust, and you look for support and you look to be stealthy about it. Then one day you’re a boy and the next day a girl.

“I didn’t want to follow that same path.”

Freitag has been keeping her co-workers and employees updated on her progress. She’s had intimate conversations with her colleagues, and found for the most part most feel it makes no difference.

“Kate is my mentor and my friend,” said Bike and Roll mechanic Jonathan Rocha. “I never even thought about her transition. I know Kate as Kate. I have a lot of respect for her.”

Kate will be catching for the SIP Pirates in the Alumni League championship series at South beach Field #4 in Staten Island at 9 a.m. Saturday.

She can be contacted through the Bike and Roll New York City website, www.bikenewyorkcity.com.
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- When she left Seoul, South Korea, on a student visa to attend the College of Staten Island, Jee Kim could not imagine that over the next 18 years, she would hold thousands of women’s hands in her own, massaging their palms with lotion and artfully applying color to their nail tips.

Like so many other immigrants from her country, she landed a job in one of the Korean-owned nail salons in the borough shortly after arriving. Part-time work soon turned full-time — that is, 10-plus hour days, seven days a week.

She and her sister saved and pooled their money, and 11 years ago, with help from their husbands and family members back home, they launched their own business, a small nail salon in Richmond.

They sold their first shop to set up Hanna Nails in Huguenot: An elegant spa, with warm, yellow walls, and plush pillows ornamenting the nine pedicure chairs. They have 13 employees who hail from Korea and Mexico.

“We started with no money; that’s why instead of hiring a lot of workers, all the owners have to put in their time,” said Ms. Kim, 34, a petite, soft-spoken woman wearing a fitted pink-and-black T-shirt, after she finished up a gel manicure on a customer.

“Once we got better, we hired a lot of other nationality people. Hopefully all the Asian-owned businesses get better and give opportunities ... we want to grow together with all my workers.”
Next month, the family will open their second salon, Viva, in Tottenville, she said. Opening smaller stores, one at a time, is a business strategy in the community, she said. It takes less of an initial investment and owners can be there working and monitoring the business at all times.

Since she arrived on Staten Island, Ms. Kim said she has noticed the numbers of Korean-run nail salons and other businesses grow multi-fold.

“There are a lot more Asian American businesses, definitely,” concurred her customer, Nancy D’Agosto of Huguenot. “It’s definitely changed.”

According to the 2010 Census, there are 3,207 people who identify as Korean living on Staten Island.

A 2007 U.S. Census Survey of Business Owners offered a snapshot of some ethnic businesses, estimating there were roughly 500 Korean-owned businesses on the Island.

“The Korean community, we own dry cleaning, fruit and vegetables, and nail salons,” said Lee Min Sik, president of the Korean Association in Staten Island. Putting in long hours at his New Jersey flower store and deli, he earned enough to put his children through school; one is a doctor, another a lawyer and the third a West Point graduate and U.S. Army captain.

“I am the first generation. I have to work hard. I have to teach my children and family work is important.”

**MAIN STORY: On Staten Island, an Asian wave comes ashore**

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island will sponsor its 29th annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 11:45 a.m. at LiGreci's Staaten. Tickets are $65. For additional information about VNASI or to make reservations for the luncheon, call 718-816-3510. This major fundraising event will provide the setting for the presentation of the 2012 Smith / Stanley Awards to:

Carol Ann Benanti, Staten Island Advance Inside Out columnist; Albert J. Esposito, executive director of University Physicians Group, a corporation of over 80 attending physicians serving the metropolitan area; Dr. Thomas J. Forlenza, director of oncology for Richmond University Medical Center; Dianne Gonzalez, senior management of Staten Island University Hospital overseeing the outpatient clinical sites and community operations; Kathleen C. Head, a registered nurse who serves as 2nd vice chairperson of the board of directors of VNA Health Care Services; Susan Lewis, a wholesale marketing specialist who serves as secretary of the board of directors of VNA Health Care Services, and Dr. Pankaj Patel, chairman of the department of psychiatry at Richmond University Medical Center.

The awards are given in recognition of the special contributions each of the honorees has made to promote community health and improve the quality of life for the people of Staten Island; and in recognition of the "gifts of time, talent and resources" which each of them has given to support the mission of Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island.

Special Recognition will also be given to the recipients of the VNA of Staten Island Scholarships given in memory of Lyman B. Frieze and Belle O'Bryan Frieze. They are Kristen Costello, Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing at Wagner College; Diana Macaulay, the College of Staten Island; and Carolyn L. Matthews, St. Paul's School of Nursing.

Special thanks and congratulations will be offered to Drs. Louis G. Gianvito, Judith A Hendricks and Dr. Joseph A. Suarez on the occasion of their retirement from the VNA Medical Advisory Committee, and the VNA Professional Advisory Committee.

The luncheon is being chaired by Connie Mauro, owner of Mauro Graphics, Sunnyside, and Terry Ventura, a retired underwriting manager for Aetna Life and Casualty Company.
Observing its 95th year of service to Staten Islanders, Visiting Nurse Association Health Care Services (VNA of Staten Island) is a not-for-profit, certified home health care agency and long-term home health-care provider. Proceeds from the luncheon will help to offset the cost of providing home health care to uninsured and underinsured Staten Islanders.

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New group family daycare center opens in Concord section of Staten Island

Sunday, August 26, 2012, 12:30 PM

By Marjorie Hack

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Melissa Paul is all grown up. She has a 15-year-old daughter and has recently opened her own business. She’s the first to admit, though, that she can’t get kids out of her system.

That’s why her new business, Munchkin Manor, is a group family daycare enterprise. Fully licensed and certified by the state of New York, Ms. Paul can handle up to 12 children in her Concord home — and there’s nothing that would make her happier than taking on the task.

“I’m the best influence on them. I wanted to be a teacher, but I got into daycare,” she said. “Teaching them the little things — that’s what really counts.”

Ms. Paul has worked in daycare for over 12 years — first at Bayley Seton Hospital in Clifton, then with a colleague in a private operation in Westerleigh. She said she’s learned a lot along the way.

“It’s just time to start my own thing,” she said, though she will be adding an assistant, as required by law, as her clientele grows.

Ms. Paul clearly recalls the day she realized she’d found her calling. Years ago, she had a 2½-year-old girl in her care, who was a bit behind in her speech. “I was away for two days, and when I came back, she gave me a big hug and said, ‘Hi, Miss Melissa.’ I saw the difference in her. It was a great feeling,” she said.
WHAT'S OFFERED

Munchkin Manor is already open and four families have already signed up for Ms. Paul’s services.

“I have a reputation already,” she explained.

She is licensed to accept infants as young as 6 weeks and youngsters as old as 12. Munchkin Manor opens to receive children as early as 7 a.m.; it closes at 5:30 p.m. Hours are tailored to meet the different needs of families, though each child must attend at least two days each week.

Children under 18 months of age are on their own schedule. “After that, we try to get them on our own schedule,” said Ms. Paul. “This is very structured and very consistent.”

Munchkin Manor boasts a sunny playroom, special rooms for 2-year-olds, toddlers and infants, and outdoor play space — all on one level. Ms. Paul is certified in CPR and first aid, and she operates under the aegis of the city’s Department of Health, which inspects the premises. She also offers a educational activities that dovetail, as much as possible, with the city’s Department of Education.

“I have a curriculum; it’s teacher-based. You need to know how to read in kindergarten now,” she said. To that end, she offers reading and writing activities when youngsters are old enough. “Little kids get shapes and letters. This is not just baby-sitting. We will do projects. And there is no TV.”

Even better for busy moms and dads, homemade breakfast and lunch are provided every day, as are snacks.

“I’m not buying anything frozen and am eliminating processed foods as much as possible,” said Ms. Paul.

She’s not looking to cut corners at the table either. Since the first week of school coincides with National Waffle Week, said Ms. Paul, she will be serving waffles to her young charges, but she said pancakes are also popular. Lunches will include selections like homemade chicken fingers, macaroni and cheese, and meatloaf and gravy, with plenty of fruits and vegetables and milk available.

“If a child needs special stuff, like if they’re allergic, parents have to provide that,” she said.

CLICKS WITH KIDS

Ms. Paul grew up in Rosebank, and attended PS 13 and Egbert Intermediate School. She graduated from New Dorp High School. She attended the College of Staten Island for a year, in order to earn the credits she needed to be a licensed daycare operator.
But perhaps her biggest credentials are her innate love for children and her calm demeanor. “I like watching them learning how to crawl, roll over, their smiles and how happy they are. They’re fun to play with.”

A crying child doesn’t faze her. If you’re qualified, she said, “you will eventually figure out what makes that little person happy.”

“So many kids are attached to me. Some don’t want to go home. They cry. Some call me ‘mommy,’¤” she admitted — even when they’re 8-years-old.

Parents like her too. “They love my honesty. If I don’t know something, I tell them that,” and then suggest places where they might find answers, she said.

“It gets personal,” Ms. Paul added. “And if I’m lucky, I get to keep in touch with the kids,” even after they’ve moved on.

As she described herself, she loves the idea of being a part of making families work. “I’m a big kid.”

Munchkin Manor is at 16 Hunter St. To inquire about rates and availability, or to arrange to meet with Ms. Paul, call 718-816-0639.

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A little Staten Island 'miracle' can bring hope to moms of preemies

Sunday, August 26, 2012, 3:07 PM

By Andrea Boyarsky/Staten Island Advance

One year ago, Monique Griffin was sitting in a hospital room in Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) in West Brighton unable to hold her newborn baby, who was born at around 26 weeks and weighed just 1 pound, 5 ounces.

On Sunday, the West Brighton resident and her family and friends applauded a “miracle” as Princeton Javier celebrated his first birthday. With a Winnie the Pooh theme, the party centered on a child whose first year was an emotional rollercoaster of ups and downs.

“Princeton is a true miracle and I want to be a hope for other mothers going through the same thing,” Ms. Griffin said.

The 20-year-old was attending classes at the College of Staten Island on Aug. 15 of last year when she began to experience pain. A family member took the first-time mom to the hospital, where it was discovered she was suffering from preeclampsia, a disorder characterized by high blood pressure during pregnancy that can be life-threatening for both mother and baby.

“At first they told me I should be going home the next day, but they couldn’t get my pressure down,” Ms. Griffin said, noting that soon, “my health was deteriorating and so was my baby’s health.”

After she’d spent 11 days in the hospital, her medical team deemed it best not to risk waiting any longer and delivered her son via emergency C-section. Princeton looked like a “doll” when he was born, Ms. Griffin recalled.
He remained in RUMC’s neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for the next five-and-a-half months, where he was cared for by Drs. Anthony Barone and Santosh Parab, as well as a host of physician assistants and nurses who became “like a family” to Ms. Griffin.

“The nurses there, they were awesome. They kept my spirits high, especially when I wondered how much more he [Princeton] could take,” she said.

Ms. Griffin added that she also had much support during this trying time from her mother, Louise Dunlock, Princeton’s father, Francisco Javier, and his mother, Lydia Munzo.

Even with respiratory issues, a hernia and other complications, Princeton persisted and Ms. Griffin was finally able to bring him home.

“It was the best feeling in the world,” she said. “It’s the most beautiful thing I will every experience.”

Dr. Barone, director of Neonatology at RUMC, noted that babies born prematurely as a result of preeclampsia are common, and frequently seen at RUMC.

“Once the environment inside the mother is deemed more hazardous than the child being out, it’s better to take the baby out,” the physician explained.

Sometimes, that decision isn’t easy, especially when the baby is barely viable outside the womb, he continued. Often, the mother’s life has to be put first, as she also is in danger of suffering complications.

Babies, like Princeton, who are born early as a result of preeclampsia may be even smaller than other preemies, Dr. Barone pointed out. In some cases, the placenta isn’t functioning properly and doesn’t deliver enough nutrients to the baby, causing his or her weight to lag.

Other common issues preemies may face include those affecting the lung and brain, as well as feeding problems and hernias. Even once past these obstacles, the babies must be monitored throughout their childhood for any potential problems, Dr. Barone said.

But there is still a lot of hope for these tiny miracles.

“When I first started my residency [in 1991], we worried about a 28-weeker surviving,” Dr. Barone said. “Now, they have a very good survival rate.”

Today, babies born at 23 weeks have around a 30 percent survival rate, while those born at 26 weeks like Princeton have around a 60 percent chance. Babies are sent home from the hospital at as small as 3 pounds, 12 ounces if doing well, and usually are discharged about four weeks before their due date, Dr. Barone said.
As for Ms. Griffin, she looks forward to spending many more milestones with her “miracle,” whom she initially thought might not make it to his first birthday. Today, thanks to physical and occupational therapies, Princeton is thriving and his mother is happy to report that he’s pushing further than anyone expected.

As for other parents going through a rough patch after a premature birth, Ms. Griffin advises, “If you stay in good spirits, pray and have support, things will get better.”

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Sabrina Bragerton-Nasert, a 2012 graduate of Notre Dame Academy, was recognized by the City Parks Foundation for her outstanding tennis play and academics on Tuesday at the U.S. Open Tournament.

The 17-year-old Bragerton-Nasert will attend the College of Staten Island this fall and compete on the tennis team. She was accompanied to the awards ceremony by her mother, Jennifer Bragerton, a nurse on Staten Island.

Sabrina was given her award at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center by three time U.S. Open champion Billie Jean King. The award was presented during the annual City Parks Tennis Foundation tennis benefit co-chaired by Billie Jean King and John McEnroe.

The annual event raises money for City Parks Tennis to support the free programs provided each year for more than 7,000 children in parks in the five boroughs.

Bud Mishkin, a sports anchor at Time Warner’s NY1, served as the Master of ceremonies.

Also honored at the gala was 22-time Grand Slam Champion and Tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver, who was awarded with the 2012 Vitas Gerulaitis Community Service Award.
City Parks Tennis is one of the largest municipal tennis programs in the nation, providing free tennis lessons and activities at 40 parks throughout New York City to youth ages 5-16.

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Bird Banding At Gar

2012-08-31 / Community

Birder, Mary Normandia holds two birds to be measured, banded & released.

Recently, the Garden City Bird Sanctuary/ Tanners Pond Environmental Center had a bird banding event for birders and the public. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) scientists, Seth Ausubel, Rich Puvogel and Rob Alvey contributed a day of service with the program. Assistants were College of Staten Island biology graduate student, AnnaTheodoropolas and her friend, Bill Mioculla who worked with Garden City Bird Sanctuary directors Liz Bailey and Alison Parks, former GCBS directors Joan Kane and Suzie Alvey, GCBS volunteers Annette Seltzer and Lillian Klupka, the Donahue and the Puvogel families. (The Puvogels were present in 2009 with the first bird banding program done by Coby Klein, PhD candidate.)

“I was glad we had an opportunity to have Professor Tom Brown from the College of Staten Island conduct the bird banding. The Garden City Bird Sanctuary is special, and this stormwater basin has been re-landscaped to attract wildlife, especially the many bird species in the northeast,” said founder, Robert Alvey.

Twenty birds were caught by nets set up in the early morning hours, with species ranging from song sparrows, to grackles, to eastern flycatchers, a house wren, a feisty cardinal and even yellowthroats. Hummingbirds were spotted, but did not fly into the nets. The birds were measured and given a unique identification band, which helps birders, colleges, the Audubon Society and government agencies track them. Bird banding is a universal and indispensable technique. The data is useful in both research and management projects. Individual identification of birds makes possible studies of dispersal and migration, behavior and social structure, life-span and survival rate, reproductive success and population growth.

In 1803 the first records of banding in North America are those of John James Audubon, the famous American naturalist and painter. In 1909 the American Bird Banding Association was formed, and since the 1920s, the United States Geologic Survey and the Canadian Wildlife Service have jointly coordinated their programs and data.

If you are interested in attending another bird banding session, please contact the Garden City Bird Sanctuary at gcbirds-sanctuary@gmail.com. Upcoming events include the Fourth Annual Benefit Yard Sale September 15th, the Halloween Fest in October and the “Nature in Photography Show” at the Garden City Public Library during the month of November.
Alumni
Boccio Joins Coldwell Banker Middletown Office

Written by Two River Times.

Published on August 24, 2012

MIDDLETOWN – Sales associate Theresa Boccio has joined the Middletown office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Boccio serves homebuyers and sellers throughout Monmouth and Ocean counties.

“She has an outstanding reputation in the community and she will serve our clients and customers well,” said Pamela Vallas, branch vice president and sales manager of the Middletown office.

“Because we have been able to attract talented individuals such as Theresa, we have remained a leader in our local industry,” Vallas said.

Boccio is a member of the Monmouth and Ocean County Association of Realtors, the New Jersey Association of Realtors, and the National Association of Realtors. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of New York, College of Staten Island.

For more information about buying or selling a home, contact Boccio at the Middletown office, 732-671-1000, or directly on her cell at 732-216-3391. The office is located at 864 Highway 35. Listings can be viewed at www.coldwellbankermoves.com/Middletown.
Youku (YOKU) Appoints Two New Board Members Following Tudou Merger

Youku Tudou Inc. (NYSE: YOKU), announced that, pursuant to the agreement and plan of merger, dated March 11, 2012, by and among the Company, Tudou Holdings Limited and Two Merger Sub Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, Mr. Gary Wei Wang and Mr. Jixun Foo were appointed to serve as directors on the Company's board of directors effective upon the completion of the merger (the "Merger") of Merger Sub and Tudou on August 23, 2012.

Following the appointments of Mr. Wang and Mr. Foo, the Company has a nine-member board of directors with five of the board members being independent directors.

Details:

Mr. Wang is the founder of Tudou, a leading Internet video company in China and which became a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company upon the completion of the Merger, and was the chairman and chief executive officer of Tudou prior to the completion of the Merger. Prior to founding Tudou, Mr. Wang served as the corporate development director of Bertelsmann Group, an international media company, and also served as the managing director of Bertelsmann Online China, a company operating the e-commerce businesses of Bertelsmann Group in China, from 2003 to 2005. From 1997 to 2001, Mr. Wang worked with Hughes Electronics, a provider of digital television entertainment and satellite and wireless systems and services. Mr. Wang received his MBA degree from INSEAD in 2002, his master's degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University in 1999, and his bachelor's degree in international business from the College of Staten Island in 1995.

Mr. Foo is a partner at GGV Capital, which was a pre-IPO investor in Tudou. Mr. Foo joined GGV Capital in 2006 and has more than 12 years experience in venture capital investing and working with Asian entrepreneurs. Mr. Foo serves on the board of directors of a number of GGV Capital portfolio companies. Mr. Foo's work experience prior to joining GGV Capital includes serving as a director of Draper Fisher Jurvetson ePlanet Ventures, heading up the Investment Group with the Finance & Investment Division, National Science & Technology Board of Singapore (NSTB), and being an R&D project group leader at Hewlett Packard. Mr. Foo graduated from the National University of Singapore with a First-Class Honors degree in engineering and received a master of science degree in management of technology from the University's Graduate School of Business.

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