

eye on CSI

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND • FALL 2012

**UNDER
CONSTRUCTION**

**CSI'S NEW
RESIDENCE
HALLS**

Homecoming '12
Schedule of Events

Grads' Road to Success
Moving on to prestigious
grad programs.

ALUMNI
PROFILE
Pres. and CEO,
Landair

Leith ter Meulen
'76

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS: THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Supporters of the College of Staten Island may well provide a full annual scholarship to students in need with a \$100,000 endowed gift. Depending on market conditions, the annual return on that investment will come close to the cost of a full-year's tuition.

Class of 2012 graduate and valedictorian Irvin Ibarguen benefited from an endowed gift, the Aramis Gonzalo Rios Memorial Scholarship. Commenting on the importance of the scholarship, Irvin said, "I'm very grateful to CSI for making a scholarship available to me, and Mr. [Edgar] Rios, who is the person who founded this particular scholarship. Usually, I had to pay for my books, my transportation, so it's a great help for me and also my parents, who help support me."

There are many other deserving students like Irvin who can realize their goals and dreams with the help of an endowed scholarship.

For more information, call Dr. Kenneth Boyden, Esq. in the Office of College Advancement at 718.982.2365 or email kenneth.boyden@csi.cuny.edu.

The next generation of CSI students depends on your support.



The College of Staten Island is accelerating its efforts to protect the environment and develop sustainable and responsible patterns of development in accordance with CUNY Chancellor Dr. Matthew Goldstein's University Sustainability Council, which is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all campus buildings by 30 percent over the next decade. If you would prefer to receive an electronic version of this publication or future editions via email instead of a hard copy, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@csi.cuny.edu.

eye on CSI

Volume 3, Number 2
Fall 2012



Rendering of the new residence halls looking west.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to share with you that the tradition of *Access and Excellence* is thriving at the College of Staten Island/CUNY. This has been an absolutely stellar year for the College, and I am delighted to share our success stories with you. We have a great deal of which to be proud.

In this issue of *Eye on CSI*, a common thread is destinations. You will read about our new 454-bed state-of-the-art residence halls for tomorrow's students, CSI grads moving into prestigious master's and doctoral programs, current students who are on the road to success, an international student who came to CSI and honed her career skills, an alumna who is transforming the city, the successful season of our Men's Basketball team that made it to the NCAA Sweet 16 finals, and our second annual Homecoming Festival, a chance for all alumni to return to their alma mater.

We also mark the departure of our third President, Dr. Tomás D. Morales, who, after five successful and innovative years at CSI, is moving on to California State University, San Bernadino. In addition, I would like to welcome our new Interim Provost, Dr. Fred Naider, as I assume the role of Interim President of the College.

As members of our College community move ahead and achieve, so does the College of Staten Island. We have made great strides in academics, including a successful Middle States reaccreditation process that garnered 14 commendations in 12 of 14 standards, and I thank everyone who worked diligently toward that goal. I am also proud of CSI's contributions to the community and the world. The College of Staten Island has a very bright future and is increasingly becoming a top asset to Staten Island, to CUNY, and to the entire City. I look forward to continuing our shared legacy of academic excellence and community service. With the continued support of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, I will strive to build upon those successes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WJ Fritz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font and is followed by a long horizontal line that tapers off to the right.

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Interim President

William J. Fritz, PhD
Interim President
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If you have any comments, suggestions, or information for "Keeping Tabs," please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 718.982.2290, alumni@csi.cuny.edu, or 2800 Victory Boulevard, Building 1A, Room 111, Staten Island, NY 10314.

GRADS WHO ARE GOING PLACES

The members of the College of Staten Island's Class of 2012 have quite a bit to celebrate as they move on to graduate school and meaningful careers. In this article, you will meet some CSI grads who made their mark at the College, while honing their skills to such an exceptional level that they will be attending graduate school at some very prestigious institutions in the fall.

Mark Barahman has been accepted into the Albert Einstein College of Medicine MD-PhD program

Mark Barahman, a Macaulay Honors College (MHC) graduate who received his BS in Biochemistry, has been accepted into the Albert Einstein College of Medicine MD-PhD program. During his time at CSI and MHC, Barahman received a number of prestigious honors, including a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, a first in the history of CSI, and a Phi Beta Kappa Associates Award. He worked in two laboratories at the College—the neuroscience lab of Professor Abdeslem El Idrissi and the chemistry lab of Professor Alan Lyons, performing research related to super-hydrophobic surfaces. One of Barahman's most notable accomplishments under Dr. Lyons was the construction and programming of a robotic printer that prints in three dimensions (3D) on a microscopic scale.

Barahman grew up in Israel, working as a teenager as a first responder for MDA (Magen David Adom, or Red Star of David), an emergency medical organization, which is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. He

immigrated to Brooklyn in August 2006. During the summer of 2010, Barahman participated in NYU/Bellevue Hospital's prestigious Project HealthCare summer program, in which he was able to work in the emergency room and operating room, where he interacted closely with patients and the hospital staff, as well as assisted with clinical research projects and work on the annual Bellevue health fair.

Looking back on his experiences at CSI and MHC, he said, "My time with the Honors College has been the most self-constructive in my life. I have learned, experienced, traveled, presented my work to experts, won awards, and most importantly – enjoyed the company of a terrific group of individuals. Every facet of my experience with the Macaulay Honors College at CSI has helped me shape my career aspirations – especially my research at CSI and clinical experience at Bellevue Hospital. Both of these were facilitated by the Macaulay Honors College and CSI staff dedicated to orienting students in their



careers. Other accomplishments, such as winning the Goldwater Scholarship and gaining acceptance to one of the most prestigious graduate programs in the country, came from the breadth of opportunities provided by the amazing experience Macaulay is responsible for and the guidance of dedicated staff and faculty."

Although he said that he can't predict his exact career path after Albert Einstein, Barahman noted that he is "interested in working in the field of biomedical engineering – especially tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. I am hoping to work both as a scientist, making discoveries and contributing significantly in these fields, and also practicing medicine in a capacity that allows me to utilize my findings – effectively translating basic research into true clinical impact.



Irvin Ibarguen, College of Staten Island Valedictorian for 2012, is the first CSI undergraduate to be admitted into Harvard University's prestigious PhD History program. He received a Bachelor's in History with The Verrazano School honors program.

Ibarguen has earned several scholarships including an IME Research Fellowship, a full-tuition scholarship awarded to Mexican

Americans; the prestigious Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship; and the Aramis Gonzalo Rios Memorial Scholarship.

Ibarguen maintained a 4.0 GPA and is quick to credit his CSI professors, namely, Drs. Calvin Holder and Richard Lufrano of

seminar, in which he completed a paper about Mexican immigrants in New York City, that he was able to "embrace the beauty of [his] Mexican background."

In addition, Ibarguen underscores the value of his Verrazano experience. "If I could make

Irvin Ibarguen is the first CSI undergraduate to be admitted into Harvard University's prestigious PhD History program.

the History department, for establishing "my love for reading and writing about History." He especially recognizes his family's support throughout his scholastic life. His parents moved here in 1990 while his mother was still pregnant with him.

Ibarguen also credits his background for motivating him to pursue a History PhD. "The scorn directed at illegal aliens often found its way down to me," he said. It was not until he enrolled in an advanced

an analogy, during my freshman year I felt like I had 'friends' in CSI's faculty/staff, but when I joined The Verrazano School [as a sophomore] I felt I had...a 'family'. More importantly, [it] is where I learned how to be an academic."

At Harvard, Ibarguen hopes to continue to write about undocumented immigration and establish himself in a tenure-track professor of American History.

College of Staten Island Salutatorian Daniel Feldman plans to begin studying astronomy at Boston University as a PhD student in the

(C-SURP) and the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) Program at Northern Arizona University.

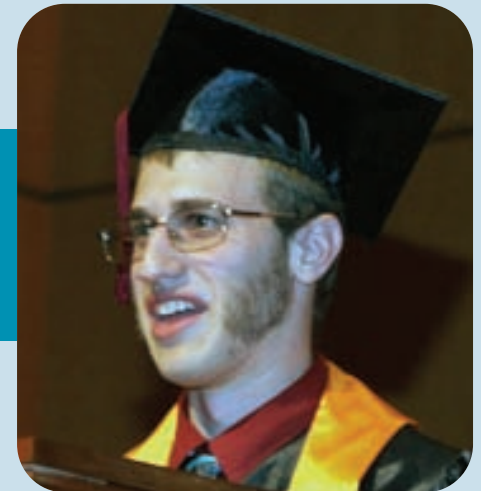
Daniel Feldman plans to begin studying Astronomy at Boston University as a PhD student.

fall. He received a BS in Physics as part of the Macaulay Honors College (MHC).

During his undergraduate studies, Feldman has taken part in numerous research projects covering a number of areas, such as asteroid tracking, studying youth indicators in M dwarf stars, examining objects in the Kuiper Belt, using high-resolution near-infrared spectroscopy techniques to help determine the physical properties of brown dwarfs, and even building a radio antenna to track solar flares.

He was selected to participate in the CUNY Summer Undergraduate Research Program

Commenting on the opportunities that his CSI education afforded him, he says, "CSI played an integral role in introducing me to the field of astronomy as an undergraduate. As soon as my freshman year, I began talking to and working with CSI Professor Charles Liu at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)—this initial experience introduced me to the field I would come to love, and put me in a spot to secure future research projects. Through CSI Professor Irving Robbins's mentorship, I gained research and teaching skills (and a job as an adjunct lab tech for CSI), which will be important in graduate school and beyond. My work with



CSI Professor Emily Rice, Hunter Professor Kelle Cruz, and the entire [Brown Dwarf] research group at the AMNH taught me about collaborative science and has placed me in a solid position for future success in astronomy."

After he completes his degree at Boston University, Feldman has aspirations of becoming a professor at a research institution.

SEEK student Tiffany Pham received a BA in SLS-Early Childhood Education and a BS in Mathematics. She will now pursue a Master of Arts degree in Adolescent Mathematics Education at Brooklyn College.



During her five years at CSI, Pham not only worked diligently on her studies, she also made a huge contribution to the College and the community. She served as a math tutor, a

mentor/tutor in the Strategies for Success program, and a secretary of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. In addition, she volunteered her time to the Emerging Leaders Program, Project Hospitality, and HOPE 2012 with other faculty and students at CSI.

She also had plenty of opportunities to study abroad, commenting that “Almost every continent of the world where I landed has

Pham thanks her family, her professors, and the staff members of the SEEK program and the Center for International Service for helping her to achieve her goals.

Reflecting on her time at CSI with an eye to the future as a high school mathematics teacher, Pham states, “All of the unique learning experiences while pursuing my undergraduate degree and tutoring for the

Tiffany Pham will pursue a Master of Arts degree in Adolescent Mathematics Education at Brooklyn College.

given me unforgettable memories. Moreover, I not only excelled academically in my study abroad courses, I definitely had many chances of perceiving the world in different perspectives.” As a result of her vast international experience, Pham was inducted into the Eta Lambda Chapter of the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society of International Scholars in May 2012.

SEEK Learning Center and Academic Support at CSI have taught me many different ways of making my teaching interesting and enjoyable for students.

Katherine Stone graduated Summa Cum Laude from the Teacher Education Honors Academy (TEHA) with a BA in Mathematics. While at CSI, she racked up an impressive list of accomplishments, including the Sherry Blackman Award for Mathematics, she was a Noyce Scholar and a Harcourt Fellow, and she was a finalist for 2012 Valedictorian.

research through her Harcourt Fellowship; and, last Winter Session, putting the teaching skills that she acquired through the TEHA to the test in the Galapagos Islands, in a K-through-12 bilingual school.

Stone also appreciates her time in the TEHA. “I could not have asked for a better experience here at CSI. The Teacher

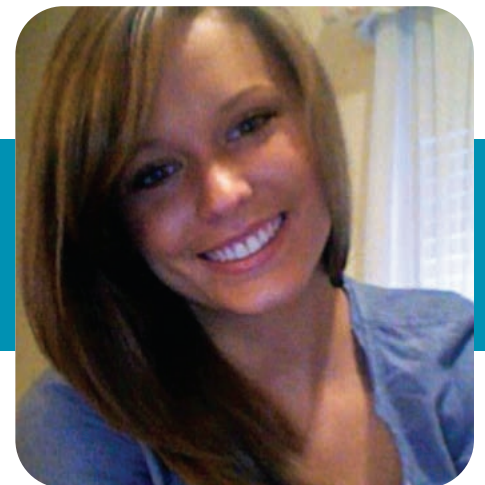
fully prepared to walk into a classroom and enrich the minds of young people.

Currently, Stone is enrolled in the Adolescent Education Mathematics Graduate Program

Katherine Stone plans to enroll in the CUNY Graduate Center to pursue a PhD in Mathematics, specifically Number Theory.

Stone also had the chance to experience a number of exciting educational opportunities, such as serving as an intern in six different public schools on Staten Island, as a result of the TEHA; student teaching at the CSI High School for International Studies; performing research on election fraud in various countries; assisting various Mathematics faculty members in their

Academy not only allowed me to concentrate solely on my studies, since I have now left the undergraduate program debt free, but it has also provided me with all of the essential skills needed to start teaching in September. Through the internships, classes, and guidance of Dr. Jane Coffee and Mrs. Marianne Orla [the Director and Advisor to the TEHA, respectively], I feel



at CSI. After she finishes the Program, she plans to enroll in the CUNY Graduate Center to pursue a PhD in Mathematics.

FACULTY FOCUS:

Dr. Christina Tortora, Professor of Linguistics

UNLOCKING NEW INSIGHTS ON LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Dr. **CHRISTINA TORTORA** is currently working on a labor-intensive project entitled, *A Syntactically Annotated Corpus of Appalachian English*, which she describes as “an extremely large tool for linguists.”

She has been collaborating on the project with Michael Montgomery, Professor Emeritus at the University of South Carolina, who has been collecting recordings of Appalachian speech from East Tennessee State University, Appalachian State University, Alice Lloyd College, and many other colleges in Appalachia, as well as Dr. Beatrice Santorini, Senior Fellow at the Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania.

“The goal,” said Tortora, “is to provide linguists with a tool that they can use to do research, which will further our understanding of language variation and change.” As Professor Montgomery collects the recordings, many from people who were born before the Civil War, Tortora has been digitizing them; then, using a text-to-speech alignment system engineered at the University of Pennsylvania, she is aligning the digitized speech with the transcripts of the recordings. Using a program called “PRAAT,” which helps perfect the transcripts, she is thus creating a perfect textual replica of the digitized speech; the purpose is so researchers can study the phonetics of Appalachian speech by typing a search into a database and being able to instantly hear what it sounds like.



The database itself will be extensive, with over a million words of transcribed recordings of Appalachian speech, which will also be syntactically annotated. “The process of syntactic annotation—also known as “parsing”—gives syntactic structure to the text so that researchers can search not just for words, but for syntactic structures of any type. “The idea is to give researchers access to the linguistic significance of the recordings,” said Tortora.

Understanding the structure of Appalachian English is “very important to our understanding of the development and

history of the English language,” said Tortora. “This understanding will then put us in a better position to develop more sophisticated theories of language structure, linguistic variation, and language change.”

The project has garnered attention in prestigious places, as she was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for the project, as well as a 3.5-year \$283,215 National Science Foundation grant (with Dr. Santorini), and a 14-month \$44,169 NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant.

“The goal is to provide linguists with a tool that they can use to do research, which will further our understanding of language variation and change.”

DR. CHRISTINA TORTORA

The project, which Tortora describes as “an enormous undertaking,” does, as expected, present some significant challenges. “The greatest challenge,” Dr. Tortora notes, “lies in the fact that no one has ever done this exact type of work, namely, create a corpus of speech...Putting the world of phonetics/phonology together with the world of syntax in this way is new territory, and forces you to face novel corpus-creation problems (computational in nature) that just have to be solved. This can be very frustrating, because just when you think you've solved your last problem, you're faced with a new one.”

However, the project is also a labor of love for Dr. Tortora. “I love working on it, because it brings in a lot of research assistants who are learning a lot from it, because it represents a major contribution to the discipline, and because I'll be able to do real research with it once it's built.”

Beyond the corpus, which Dr. Tortora hopes to complete in the next few years, she is also busy working on other projects to advance the knowledge and understanding of language, such as completing her book entitled *A Comparative Grammar of*

Borgomanerese, which has been accepted for publication by Oxford University Press (due spring 2013), various article-sized projects on language and syntax, and she is crafting a book proposal for Wiley-Blackwell based on the Modern English Grammar course (ENL 423) that she has been teaching to undergraduates at CSI for about ten years now.



Xuejun You '95:

BRINGING INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE TO THE CLASSROOM

"I think studying and living in another country is a very helpful and beneficial experience. We not only learn to understand the different cultures and different peoples, but we can understand and learn more about ourselves from different angles and perspectives."

XUEJUN YOU '95

The College of Staten Island offers a world of knowledge to its students, as many take advantage of study-abroad opportunities every year. The College also hosts students from other countries, who want to benefit from a high-caliber CSI education, while learning about the U.S. first hand.

One example of a student in the latter category is English instructor Xuejun You, who came to CSI from China. She was able to draw from her American experience to add a new, dynamic aspect to her classes back home.

Xuejun initially attended Hebei Teachers College in China. After graduation, she remained at Hebei, teaching English. Things took a dramatic turn for her life and career in 1994, when she had the opportunity to attend CSI, where she received her MA in 1995. Since then, she has been teaching English to non-English-major students (both graduates and undergraduates) at Hebei Normal University.

Xuejun believes that her time at CSI and in New York City was her “best achievement. Although I learned English and taught it for some time, I could only teach the students some English words and some grammar. I knew little about American culture. Of course, I read some books about it but that is different from the first-hand experiences. As a result, my class was always dull and the students were tired of learning.” So, in an effort to gain admission to CSI, she “worked diligently, passed the TOEFL exam, and followed the admissions procedure.”

When she went back to China after her time at CSI, things were much improved for Xuejun’s career, thanks to what she learned here. “With the help of my [CSI] professors, I made progress in English. After returning I felt more confident in my teaching, integrating my experiences and American culture, customs, and habits into my classes.

I told stories about the professors and classmates I got to know. I showed movies I brought from the States and I told them about the parties I went to and the food I enjoyed.” Now, she reports that her students enjoy her classes.

Noting that studying abroad is much easier for students today, Xuejun does note that there are some ups and downs, but, in the end, it’s worth the effort. “Leaving home to study in another country sounds fascinating. You can explore and discover something new and enjoy the feeling of freedom. In spite of many advantages, there are many challenges. You are going to encounter different values, different beliefs, different customs and habits. When the initial excitement is gone, you feel distressed and tired and you will be homesick. Looking back on my first days in New York, I missed

home so much that I cried many times. It takes a long time to adjust to the new environment. However, I think studying and living in another country is a very helpful and beneficial experience. We not only learn to understand the different cultures and different peoples, but we can understand and learn more about ourselves from different angles and perspectives.”

Looking ahead, although it has been many years since she studied at CSI, Xuejun hopes to return again some day, in an effort to experience more of life in the U.S., and augment her classes in China with more fascinating stories.





CONSTRUCTION COMMENCES ON NEW RESIDENCE HALLS AT THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND, RESIDENCY FALL 2013



Last March, officials from the College of Staten Island joined with New York legislators and construction team leaders, shovels in hand, to break ground on the highly anticipated residence halls on the northwest corner of the College's North Academic Quadrangle near the Campus Center.



The housing project is the first major construction of new facilities since 1993. The residence halls will transform CSI into a destination for national and international students, as well as Islanders looking for a residential college experience, according to College officials.

"The housing project is an institutional milestone," said Dr. Tomás D. Morales, then President of CSI. "It is an integral

component of the College's *Master Plan*, which was developed through a highly interactive and collaborative process with all members of our College community. The occupancy of these buildings will be transformational for the College, as well as our faculty, staff, and students."

In keeping with Dr. Morales's vision and the institutional philosophy of protecting the environment and developing sustainable and responsible patterns of development, the buildings are designed to achieve LEED Silver Certification.

The two buildings will house 454 residents in 133 fully furnished apartments. The four- and five-story buildings will feature single- and double-occupancy units, nine Resident Assistant units, and one Resident Director

unit. All private and semi-private units for students will feature kitchens with a four-burner range top, oven, refrigerator, and garbage disposal, as well as dedicated bathrooms.

The buildings are designed to pamper their residents with high-end amenities that foster a sense of community. Residents will enjoy lounges, a cardio-focused fitness center, meeting and multipurpose spaces, private study rooms, a mailroom, a business center, vending areas, and laundry facilities. A fully staffed onsite management office will keep things running smoothly.

The buildings are at the heart of a seven-acre site that will be transformed with new pathways, landscaping, and lighting. Nearby recreational areas will include two new basketball courts and four new handball courts.

“Our new residential project is a significant component of the College’s recently adopted five-year *Strategic Plan*,” said Ira S. Persky, Vice President for Finance and Administration at CSI. “The project will enable the College to attract students from a wider geographical area, provide more educational opportunities, and help to foster an on-campus environment that will benefit the entire College community.”

The construction phase of the project will create nearly 277 construction-related jobs and will take approximately 17 months. The units are anticipated to be ready for occupancy in fall 2013. Site work will continue for five months, building exteriors will be completed in early 2013, and the remaining construction, including interiors and site restoration, is anticipated to be completed in August 2013.

The housing complex is a collaboration between Austin, TX-based American Campus Communities (ACC) and CSI Student Housing LLC with The City University of New York (CUNY). The New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC) Board of Directors approved the \$67.5 million in tax-exempt Residential Revenue Bonds, 2012 Series A, as well as the \$2.5 million Residential

Revenue Bonds, 2012 Series B Bonds, to fund the construction and equip the buildings. The General Contractor is T.G. Nickel & Associates, the same firm that recently developed the student housing facility at CUNY’s Queens College, which was also financed by the HDC.

The buildings are designed to pamper their residents with high-end amenities that foster a sense of community. Residents will enjoy lounges, a cardio-focused fitness center, meeting and multipurpose spaces, private study rooms, a mailroom, a business center, vending areas, and laundry facilities.



*(L-R)
Borough President James Molinaro,
City Councilman James Oddo,
and Dr. Morales.*



AROUND CAMPUS

Interim Provost/Senior VP for Academic Affairs



The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York (CUNY) has named Distinguished Professor Dr. Fred Naider as Interim Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the College of Staten Island.

Dr. Naider holds a BChE and an MS in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University and a PhD in Polymer Chemistry

from the Polytechnic Institute. After a two-year postdoctoral experience at the Weizmann Institute of Science, he began a long and distinguished career at CSI when he joined the faculty of the Chemistry Department of Richmond College in 1973. Today, Dr. Naider's laboratory continues to be an active research site with undergraduates, PhD students, and postdoctoral

fellows working side by side.

Dr. Naider quickly established an international reputation in the area of cell-cell communication, applying the tools of organic chemical synthesis, biophysical chemistry, and molecular biology in a highly complementary and synergistic fashion. His experiments have yielded fundamental insight into the transport of peptides through cell membranes and practical guidance in the design of antifungal drugs for human medicine. During his career, Dr. Naider has interacted with both academic and industrial scientists. One of these interactions resulted in a patented class of molecules that was used to make an antiviral agent more effective.

Dr. Naider has received many grants in support of his research, and his grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has been continually supported for more than 35 years, placing him in the top five percent of productive investigators nationwide.

During his time at CSI, he has served as Chair of the Chemistry Department, Acting Dean of Science and Technology, and on numerous College and University committees.

He is a committed teacher and was named the Leonard and Esther Kurtz Term Professor, awarded the Dolphin Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Member of the Faculty, and was presented with the President's Medal.

Dr. Naider has published approximately 250 peer-reviewed articles in national and international journals. He has been invited to speak at universities and symposia on a national and international level and has given invited lectures throughout the United States and in Czechoslovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Israel, and Italy.

Dr. Naider has lived on Staten Island since 1973, and has been married to the former Anita Joy Serle for 44 years. Together they are the proud parents of four children and 16 grandchildren.

Students and Faculty Share the Spotlight at Undergrad Conference

Student/faculty collaboration was the focal point of the 11th Annual Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance, which was held last spring in the Center for the Arts at CSI. The Conference gives the College's students the opportunity to present their work, which was guided by CSI's world-class faculty, in the form of research posters and papers, performance pieces, and works of visual art.

This year's Conference was the largest ever, with 121 research abstracts on display, as well as 96 performers and 68 art students, who

demonstrated their finely honed skills. Abstracts from the winner of the statewide CSTEP competition and students who presented their research at the International Taurine Conference in Morocco were also included.

The Conference opened at 11:00am with a musical and dance performance in a packed Williamson Theatre. There was also a presentation of papers to the COR 100 class. Another new feature was a Plenary Session, at which then President Dr. Tomás D. Morales noted that "The incredible number and level of achievements on

display here today truly embody the cornerstone of the College's mission in advancing student success and academic excellence through faculty support, guidance, and mentorship."

CSI Undergraduate Research Awards supported 16 of the research projects at the Conference. The event was sponsored by the CSI Division of Academic Affairs, with funding from the CSI Foundation, CSI Student Government, and the CSI Alumni Association.



President Morales Named President at CSU, San Bernadino

After almost five years as President of the College of Staten Island, Dr. Tomás D. Morales has accepted a position as President of California State University, San Bernadino.

In his announcement to the College community last spring, Dr. Morales said, “For nearly five years, Evy and I have been blessed with the opportunity to work with each of you. After working at numerous universities across the country and visiting countless campuses, I can honestly tell you that we have been privileged to serve the College of Staten Island community and work with an exceptional faculty, a dedicated staff, and a committed student body.”

During his tenure as President, Dr. Morales has amassed a long list of accomplishments, including the formulation of a new *Strategic Plan* for the College, a successful visit from the Middle States Evaluation team last semester, the groundbreaking for CSI’s new residence halls, the initiation of the design process for the new Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center, an enrollment increase of nearly 20 percent with a higher number of students from the Island’s premiere high schools, the establishment of 20 new academic programs, a 12-percent increase in new faculty, and a 110-percent increase in students studying abroad, to name just a few.

The College community thanks Dr. Morales for everything that he has done for our institution, and wishes him the best in his future endeavors.

Prominent Geologist Dr. William Fritz Named Interim President

The City University of New York has named William J. Fritz, an experienced and dedicated administrator as well as a prominent geologist, professor, and expert on Yellowstone geology, as Interim President of the College of Staten Island.

The appointment of Dr. Fritz, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at CSI, follows the resignation of Dr. Tomás D. Morales, who has been appointed President of California State University, San Bernardino after heading CSI for five years through a period of growth and innovation.

“Provost Fritz has played an integral role in the great successes at CSI, and will continue to guide the College and its administration in the right direction,” Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said. “He has extensive administrative and academic experience, is a champion of students, and has a deep commitment to the people of Staten Island, where he resides and is very much engaged in the community.”

“He will serve as Interim President for a period of up to two years to ensure necessary stability and continuity as the College of Staten Island moves to complete the important academic and administrative initiatives that have been commenced under the leadership of President Morales and Provost Fritz,” Chancellor Goldstein said.

As Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs since 2008, Dr. Fritz has served as Chief Operating Officer and as a key administrator at CSI. Reporting directly to the President, his duties have included direct oversight of the Division of Academic Affairs, with a \$60 million budget and 60 percent of CSI’s personnel in academic programs; Enrollment Management (Registrar, Admissions, Financial Aid, Advisement, Testing); Institutional Research; Sponsored



Programs; the Library; the Center for International Service; Continuing Education; the Women’s Center; and the Small Business Development Center.

“As a faculty member and as an administrator, I have always put students first and believe that students deserve an education that is rewarding, relevant, rigorous, and affordable,” Dr. Fritz said. “Our students increasingly come from the top high schools on Staten Island, are participating in study abroad, are graduating in record numbers, and are going on to prestigious graduate and professional schools. A focus on students is a key to top-quality higher education and one that I look for and support in all programs,” he added.

Dr. Fritz earned his Bachelor of Science at Walla Walla (WA) University in 1975, his Master’s of Science in Biology at Walla Walla in 1977, and his PhD in Geology at the University of Montana, Missoula, in 1980.

He is a Professor of Geology at CSI; a member of the Earth and Environmental Sciences Doctoral faculty at The Graduate Center, CUNY; and Professor Emeritus of Geology at Georgia State University.

HOMECOMING

Homecoming Festival* Saturday, October 6, 2012

9:00am	Great Lawn	Registration for Homecoming and CSI Breast Cancer Walkathon Breakfast
10:00am	Great Lawn Sports and Recreation	CSI Breast Cancer Walkathon begins Alumni Baseball Game
Noon	Great Lawn Athletic Field	Lunch Women's Soccer Game vs. John Jay
2:00pm	Athletic Field	Men's Soccer Game vs. Hunter

Highlights of the Day Include:

Music provided by Feel the Beat Productions
Costume Parades (11:30am and 1:30pm)
Geological Display with Dr. Alan Benimoff—Location to be determined
Sports Clinics for Children: Softball and Soccer
Inflatable Attractions
Magic Mike '83, magician
Obstacle Course
Pumpkin Patch
Face Painting Sponsored by Con Ed
Backpack Decorating Sponsored by Con Ed
Topical Discussions Led by Experts and Faculty
Vendors
Many More Family Activities
Attention Alumni: Stop by the CSIAA tent for a free gift!

**Suggested donation: \$5 per person; \$10 per family*

See our Website for more information: <http://csitoday.com/homecoming>

Thursday, October 11

Staten Island Hilton Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner

Friday, October 12

Sports and Recreation Volleyball Game vs. Cooper Union
Hall of Fame Plaque Unveiling

FESTIVAL 2012



CSI Breast Cancer Walkathon 2012

The first weekend of October marks a time of celebration and unity on campus. This year is no different. On Saturday, October 6, the CSI campus community will host the second annual CSI Breast Cancer Walkathon.

Bringing together the students, alumni, staff, friends, and families of the CSI community, as well members of the Staten Island community, the 2012 CSI Breast Cancer Walkathon is a fundraising event to raise awareness and funds for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI). Directed by Dr. Donna B. Gerstle, Professor and Director of CSI's Center for Environmental Science, the SIBCRI is a multidisciplinary approach aimed at making a positive impact on breast cancer incidence and mortality on Staten Island and beyond. Since its inception, the Walkathon has been symbolic for SIBCRI supporters, as it provides them with a setting to gather with family and friends, and unite under the mission of spreading awareness and eradicating this life-altering disease.

Starting at 10:00am at the fountain by the Center for the Arts, the two-kilometer Walkathon route will meander through CSI's verdant 204-acre campus, and will highlight the SIBCRI's "Live Green, Embrace Pink" slogan. To participate in the Walkathon, registration is required with a requested donation of \$25. Each registered walker will receive a SIBCRI t-shirt and a reusable water bottle and tote. All contributions are tax deductible. **For more information and to register, please call 718.982.2365.**

New Super-Computer Building at CSI Moves into Design Phase

The City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees approved a design consultant agreement for a new Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing building at CSI last semester.

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 Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing building, the first new academic building constructed on the campus since it opened in 1993, will house the CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center (IHPCC) and serve as a University-wide resource for the computer-based modeling and simulation that are a requisite for performing advanced multidisciplinary research and the development of advanced technology systems.

The new building, a recommended cornerstone of the CSI *Master Plan*, was approved for implementation in 2010 and has a significant mixed-use academic and research program to help address the 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.



CUNY High-Performance Computing Workshop Comes to CSI

The College of Staten Island hosted the CUNY HPCC Workshop on Accelerators in High-Performance Computing last June, giving computer scientists the opportunity to learn about the newest trends in high-performance computing architectures and programming techniques, and providing valuable information to domain scientists in the biosciences, computational chemistry, finance, the mathematical and physical sciences, and multimedia applications. Presenters at the Workshop included Dr. Steven Scott, Chief Technology Officer, Tesla-NVIDIA; Richard Lethin, Directing Engineer, Reservoir Labs; and John Michalakes, Scientist, Scientific Computing Group, National Renewable Energy Laboratory.



Dr. Morales Honored at Farewell Event

Former College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomás D. Morales, who recently became the President of California State University, San Bernardino, was honored last July at a gathering in the Campus Center.

After remarking on Dr. Morales's vast contributions to the College over his nearly five-year tenure as President to the large crowd of supporters who were on hand for the event, then incoming Interim President Dr. William Fritz announced that the CUNY Board of Trustees approved a

resolution to name the CSI Baseball Complex the President Tomás D. Morales, PhD Baseball Complex. Throughout his time at CSI, Dr. Morales has been a staunch supporter of athletics at the College, and student-athletes in particular. In addition, Dr. Fritz, also unveiled a rendering of an engraved bench in the President's honor that will be placed on Alumni Walk.

Ronald J. Mazzucco, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Staten Island University Hospital, and other

Hospital representatives, also presented a plaque to Dr. Morales, in recognition of his service on the Hospital's Board of Trustees.

Dr. Morales closed the event with words of gratitude for the College and Staten Island communities. Reiterating one of his key strategies as President, "It's all about the students," he said that he could not have succeeded in moving the College ahead if it were not for the support of the College's faculty and staff, as well as his wife Evy, who was also in attendance.

Accomplishments Spotlighted at 36th Annual Commencement



After days of rain and then extreme heat, a beautiful blue sky and cooler temperatures greeted the 2,527 graduates and their family members, as well as faculty and staff, at the 36th Annual Commencement at CSI last May.

In his remarks, then President Tomás D. Morales highlighted the many recent accomplishments at the College. Crediting the entire College community for these achievements, he noted that enrollment is growing and the College is attracting quality students, CSI's exemplary academic programs are constantly improving, and the campus is undergoing a transformation with the addition

of new residence halls and a new Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center.

He also mentioned that the strides that the College has made have received strong positive validation during the recent Middle States Commission on Higher Education review.

This year's valedictorian was Irvin Ibarguen, who graduated summa cum laude from The Verrazano School at CSI with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He has been accepted into the prestigious Harvard University Doctoral program in History.

Ibarguen is a recipient of numerous

scholarships and fellowships, including the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, an Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME) Research Fellowship, a CSI Auxiliary Service Corporation Award, a Phi Beta Kappa Associates Award, and he was the first recipient of the Aramis Gonzalo Rios Memorial Scholarship. He is a Dean's List student and he was featured in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

He urged the other graduates to value their alma mater. "...I beg that today, you stop to value everything CSI gave you and everything you gave CSI; that you realize how proud you should feel; and that you never let anyone, not even yourself, make you feel less about your achievements, because we, my fellow graduates, were truly privileged to study at the College of Staten Island."

Also in attendance were U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Secretary of the Board of Trustees Jay Hershenson, and CUNY Trustee Kay Pesile, who offered the graduates words of encouragement.

ALUMNI NEWS



“Savor the Flavors” Provides Crucial Support for Students While Stimulating Palates

More than 200 attendees were treated to some of Staten Island’s best cuisine last spring at the third annual “Savor the Flavors: Celebrate Our Island’s Diverse Cuisine” in the Center for the Arts. The event, presented by the CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA), with the support of Presenting Sponsor Liberty Mutual, provides much-needed funding for student scholarships. In its first two years, Savor the Flavors has helped to establish 14 new scholarships for CSI students.

CSIAA President Dr. Arthur Merola ’84, ’85 commented on the importance of the event, “Savor the Flavors is one event of the CSIAA that not only promotes interaction between the community and the College, it directly helps raise awareness and funds needed to inspire and support students to continue academic studies.”

The event was chaired by CSI Alumni Board Member and President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association James McBratney ’05. Michele Karpeles ’08, ’10 served as Co-Chair. Alumni Board members and students volunteered to help with set up, assisting restaurant staff, and photography.

Those in attendance not only enjoyed the signature dishes of local eateries, and learned how they are prepared, but also witnessed the annual competition among the restaurants that graciously

donated food and beverages for the event, judged by Rob Burmeister from Food Network’s *Chopped* and John Sierp, winner of the Iron Skillet Cook-Off, 2005. Winners included: First Place, Best Dish: Joe Mozz Gourmet Shop; Second Place, Best Dish: The Lake Club; Third Place, Best Dish: Canlon’s Restaurant; First Place, Dessert: Cookie Jar; Second Place, Dessert: Canlon’s Restaurant; People’s Choice: The Lake Club; and Best Table Decor: Pepperjack Grill.

Other eateries that participated included Afternoone’s, Alfonso’s Bakery, Angelina’s Ristorante, Beso, The Beer Garden, Cake Chef, Celebrate at Snug Harbor, Da Noi, Dosa Garden, Jimmy Max (Westerleigh & Great Kills), Killmeyer’s Old Bavaria Inn, La Candela Espanola, Manor Restaurant, Mother Mousse, Nucci’s South, Paesano’s Pizzeria, Pasticceria Bruno, Port Richmond High School Culinary Arts Program, Oriental Plaza, Park Café, R. Ippolito Distributing, San Rasa Sri Lankan Cuisine, and Vino Divino.

Raffles were also held, thanks to the generosity of NuWorld Beauty, Jimmy Max, and the CSI Alumni Association.

Cola-Cola Bottlers of New York provided soda and water for the event, and music was supplied by Phil Fonesca of Jimmy Max, Great Kills.





Alumni Association Holds Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the CSI Alumni Association Board of Directors was held on Monday, June 18, 2012 in the Campus Center Green Dolphin Lounge. The meeting provided an opportunity to welcome current and former Board members, members of the CSI Administration, and old friends, and gave a glimpse into the future as 2012 grads were also present.

After CSI Alumni Board President Arthur Merola, DPM '84, '85 called the meeting to order, he followed the tradition of highlighting the initiatives and accomplishments of the past year and recognizing all board members who helped make the year successful.

Next, Dr. William Fritz, then Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave greetings. He shared some of his experiences at CSI and expressed to all present his hope to work with the Alumni

Board as his role changes to Interim President.

Following Dr. Fritz, Acting Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Dr. Kenneth Boyden gave remarks on behalf of then CSI President Tomás D. Morales. Dr. Boyden shared highlights of the past academic year and thanked the Alumni Board members for their dedication to the College.

Alumni Affairs Coordinator Donna Garambone then presented the CSIAA Student Leadership Award winners, Francesca Navarro '12, Jeremiah Jurkewicz '12, and Annalisa Susca '12 to the Alumni Board. This award is given annually to students who demonstrate leadership qualities, have a record of service to the College or community, and have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

After the awards presentation, two outgoing Board members,

Patricia Carroll and Audrey Tesora, were thanked for their dedication and service and presented with gifts. Dr. Morales was also recognized and thanked, and Dr. Fritz accepted the gift on his behalf.

The meeting concluded with the election of new Board members. Michele Karpeles '08, '10, '12; Stephen Kaufer '77; Sumi Raj '90; and Robert Shullich '76, '85, '88 were reelected and Lee Covino '74, '77; Jayme Olivari '84; Jennifer Rodriguez '06; Michael Tronccone '83, '86; and George Vega '10 were elected to their first three-year terms.

The Alumni Association congratulates all of the Board members and is looking forward to another successful year.



Meet Phonathon Caller Noura Abdel

CSI Phonathon Caller Noura Abdel is a sophomore Nursing major at the College. Noura heard about the Phonathon from her SEEK advisor Miriam Perez and decided to participate because "I love to talk and love talking to others." She adds, "The best part of this job was that I was able to talk to alumni who have graduated from the College who have majored in all different types of subjects, and I was able to ask about their experiences here at the College." Noura states that she really appreciated it when she spoke to someone who graduated with a Nursing degree because, "I was able to relate to them, and since we had so much in common, I was able to...connect with them. They have given me the best advice on how to excel here at the College."

If Noura or one of her Phonathon colleagues calls on behalf of the Annual Fund Phonathon, won't you pick up the phone and give as generously as you can?

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS



IRV ROBBINS featured in *POV's "The City Dark"* on PBS, The program shows that the "The advance of electric light has sent nighttime into retreat, with astonishing effects on humans and wildlife." *July 04, 2012*

CHARLES LIU appears on **AOL Video**

Astrophysicist Charles Liu of the American Museum of Natural History and the College of Staten Island explains what the summer solstice is and why we celebrate the longest day of the year. *June 21, 2012*

RUTH SILVERBERG cited in *The Washington Post* for ten ways to oppose high-stakes standardized tests

Valerie Strauss with *The Washington Post* has published a list of ten things that people can do to counter the damaging effects of high-stakes standardized testing. *June 14, 2012*

JASON SIMON'S exhibit reviewed in *The New Yorker* and by renowned critic J. Hoberman

Callicoon Fine Arts hosted a show by Jason Simon that audaciously took on the mighty Museum of Modern Art. Simon showed his photographs of neoclassical bank buildings that have been repurposed by high-end retail companies, and a series of books he created commemorating the demise of the much-loved Film Stills Archive department that MOMA ran for decades. The exhibit encapsulated what New York's Lower East Side was and continues to be: a vital alternative to Big Art and Big Business. *June 08, 2012*

CHARLES THOMAS honored by **DanceAfrica** Professor Charles Thomas was honored with the

Chuck Davis Dancers as one of the members of the company that launched DanceAfrica 35 years ago at the renowned Brooklyn Academy of Music, (BAM) by DanceAfrica, during an annual festival held there and around the world supported by Time Warner, Con Edison, Target, The Harkness Foundation for Dance, and The SHS Foundation. *May 23, 2012*

MING XIA featured on **Radio Free Asia**

Professor Xia Ming was cited in Radio Free Asia's recent story "Lawsuit over Canceled Statue." The statue is named "The Goddess of Democracy." *April 26, 2012*

JONATHAN PETERS featured in *The Washington Post*

Jonathan Peters, a Professor of Finance at the College of State Island, is quoted in *The Washington Post* article entitled "More States Privatizing Their Infrastructure. Are They Making a Mistake?" by Brad Plumer. *April 01, 2012*

CYNTHIA CHRIS cited in *The NY Times*, presents at 92Y Tribeca

Cynthia Chris, author of *Watching Wildlife* (2006), studies evolving ideas about human and animal behavior. She is cited in the March 30, 2012 *New York Times* article "Birds Do It, Bees Do It (Fill Screens)" by Dennis Lim. *March 30, 2012*

DAN MCCLOSKEY recently awarded NSF Awards CAREER Grant for Study of How Multiple Brains Work Together

The NSF CAREER grant is the Foundation's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. *March 13, 2012*

Averick Family

Judy Averick has quite a bit of experience when it comes to the College of Staten Island, even though she has never attended classes herself. However, four of her children and her daughter-in-law have either graduated from or are still attending CSI.

The lengthy list includes Judy's daughter-in-law, Alina Dorfman-Averick, a Macaulay Honors College grad in English Literature who later went to Touro and University of Pittsburgh; her husband and Judy's son Saadyah, who received a BS in Biochemistry with a Biology minor and is now attending Carnegie Mellon; Chaim Averick, a Psychology major; Amram Averick, who is majoring in Biochemistry with minors in Biology and Music; Nechama Averick, who just started in the Macaulay Honors College; and Aderet Averick, who is a College Now! student who will be attending CSI full-time next year.

When asked her opinion of CSI in regard to the experiences that her children have had, Judy replies, "It gave them every opportunity. The professors work with the students more, I think, than most other universities. If you have a bright, willing, and able student, they will work with you."

Judy also adds that it is important for parents to support the College, first of all, because CUNY is currently coping with a significant reduction in state funds. She also noted that providing financial support to CSI gives donors more of a sense of belonging and "a sense of pride" in the institution.



(Above L-R:) Judy Averick and her family strike a pose at Saadyah's wedding.



(Left) Alina Dorfman Averick and Saadyah Averick with their daughter Miriam.

KEEPING TABS

1960s

NICK ASARO '63 Business Management....retired.

1970s

DONALD SILVERMAN '74 I earned my BA in Sociology at Richmond College/CUNY. I also took several filmmaking classes with John Hancock (Director, *Bang the Drum Slowly, Let's Scare Jessica to Death*, etc.) For the past 30+ years I've been a director of TV spots and marketing films. And, I own a stock footage company.

LEITH TER MEULEN '76 founder and CEO of Landair Inc. (see inside back cover for full alumni profile), organized a panel of experienced entrepreneurs to present a discussion on April 25, 2012 to the CSI Student Innovation Society on what it takes to be an entrepreneur.

JERRY NOIA '78 Economics... taking OPTIONS courses at CSI. Great program.

1980s

JOHN VIEIRA '80 visited campus for the first-ever Homecoming in October 2011. That led to an invitation to speak to Prof. Laura Nowak's Finance class, Money and Capital Markets, last semester. Vieira earned his Bachelor's degree in Economics and is currently First Vice President - Investments, at Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, based in Warren, NJ.

CAROL AIKENS '83 Economics BS... I am nearing my retirement age, and am happy to be still alive. Presently, I am looking for employment.

STEVEN PIZZO '83 In late 2011, I retired from the Department of Defense after 25 years and accepted a position as Vice President and Chief Engineer for Aspen Consulting Group, Manasquan NJ.

LAURIE O'BYRNE '88 a CPA and senior-level executive with significant experience in all aspects of strategy, finance, business development, and project leadership, presented a talk to the CSI Student Accounting Society on March 29, 2012 entitled "From CSI Classroom to the Executive Suite." In her presentation, Laurie related to students her experiences and insights from a career that spanned public accounting, private industry, and consulting. She offered many tips beneficial to launching a rewarding accounting career.

1990s

THOMAS D'AURIA '90 Finance Major...co-founded an investment management boutique in 2011 that serves high-net-worth individuals.

ANGELA CHUPPE '91 Business Management....Recently worked part-time in the CSI Alumni Office. Served three years on the CSI Alumni Board. She is married with a 13-year-old daughter.

DR. NEVILLE MARTIN '93 Business Management/ Marketing. Dr. Martin is CITI certified to conduct research involving human subjects. He authored and co-authored several research papers specializing in knowledge management, information technology, and institutional performance.

2000s

KAREN COCCHI '03 Management major... I volunteer, tutoring reading to first graders who are in jeopardy of being left back and love it so much that I want to get my Master's in Education so I can be even better at it and influence more children to love to read.

NICOLE FLANAGAN '09 Management major... still seeking job!

SAGI ALKOBI '10 Business Marketing...Operational Manager for an LLC that owns apartment complexes, managing over 140 units.

MICHAEL LEVINE '11 Business Management major...still looking for a job

LINDA LAROCCA '11 Business major...In the last semester of my Master's in Education degree!

ENGAGEMENTS

Keith Bergin '04 and Kelly Castriotta
Daniel Brennan '01
Lauren Grispo
Doug Convissar '08 and Katalina Ariza
Jacqueline Fortini '07 and Patrick DeFanzo
Michael Galletta '11 and Shannon Cabassa
Renee Goldstone '07 and Thomas Gasparino '06
Megan Massimo '06
Anthony Perrini
Courtney Mitchell '09
Michael Venafro
Catherine Morelli '07
Jeffrey Cumming
Kristen Punzone '09
Joseph Benedict '08

Maryanne Randazzo '07 and Anthony Lenza
Jayson Ruiz '05 and Jennilee Rodriguez
Elaina Vivaldi '06 and Joseph Portobello

WEDDINGS

Audrey Tesora '02, '06 and Vincent Colonna, March 2012.

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Alice Burke '74 and John Burke
Kathleen Roche DeMeo '59, '70 and Donald DeMeo
Joanna Pizzolo '77 and Natale Pizzolo

BIRTHS

Vullnet Kolari, Esq. '98 and his wife Kaltrina are proud to welcome their second child, a baby boy named Besnik Amza Kolari, to the world. Besnik, named after Vullnet's father, was born on Mother's Day, May 13, 2012 at 8 pounds, 6 ounces, and 20.5 inches tall. His older sister, Ava Medina, is very happy and willing to offer a helping hand.

IN MEMORIAM

Lucia Myers '93
Joseph Piscicolo '84
Karen Silva '79
Dorothy Toye '74
Adeline Walsh '80
Anne Watkins '76

EVENTS



The Early Years Reunion

The annual Early Years Reunion took place last June at the Campus Center Green Dolphin Lounge. (L-R) Dr. Lina Merlino, Dr. William Fritz, Mrs. Rose Vólpe, Dr. Ann Merlino, Dr. Bonnie Fritz, and Dr. Arthur Merola, '84, '85, CSIAA Board President.



New York Philharmonic Brass

The New York Philharmonic Brass Ensemble performed the annual free Philharmonic concert on July 15, 2012 in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. The well-attended event was presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer.

Boston/Harvard Club

CSI alumni recently attended a gathering in Boston. (L-R) Rosalín Acosta, Ferdinand Alvaro, Jr., Esq. '75, Monir Saji '91, Ana Gonzalez '01, Olga Pitel, Dianne Baroz, and Robert J. Baroz '88.



Alumni Celebrate Commencement

Alumni who are celebrating graduation anniversaries in increments of five years, beginning in 1962 (50 years) returned to campus to march in last May's Commencement.

CLUB NEWS



Dr. William Fritz delivers remarks at the Center's opening event.

LGBTQ Resource Center Opens

A new Resource Center for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning students (LGBTQ) opened on the CSI campus last semester.

Recalling the events that led to the Center, Director of Student Life Carol Brower says that “over ten years ago there was a LGBT Alliance office in the Campus Center, but after several years it was closed due

to lack of funding. In recent years the Gay-Straight Alliance student club has grown and strengthened. Two years ago, they requested that a LGBT Center be created on campus. Through the efforts of the club, as well as the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Office of Student Life, that request

became a reality. Space was provided in the Campus Center, money was found to hire a part-time graduate assistant to staff the office, and the Center was opened in May.

According to Brower, “The Center is dedicated to improving the educational environment for LGBTQ students, faculty, and staff by providing a safe space for LGBTQ people and allies as well as advancing LGBTQ scholarly activities at CSI. The Center embraces the diversity of the CSI community and provides resources and programs for campus members who want to learn more about and advocate for LGBTQ issues.”

Brower reports that the Center “has been received well, so far, with many students utilizing its services and space.”

Student Government Tackles Two Key Issues

Over the past academic year, the CSI Student Government (SG) was busy working on issues of importance to the College's students—the Student Bill of Rights and an effort to relocate the termination point of two bus routes to a more convenient location.

“The story behind the Student Bill of Rights,” last year's SG President Kevin Storberg explains, “begins with [then] Student Government President Jolanta Smulski presenting it to the College Council of CSI in May 2011. The bill did not pass. However, the hard work and loss on the Council floor was not in

vain. Last year's SG carried the bill forward and championed it across CSI, presenting it to the Council another three times. Although it has still not come to fruition, it has been gaining support steadily and will likely be passed by next year. The groundwork set by dedicated Senators such as Jesse Rodriguez, Meagan Derbyshire, and Gabriella Leone in promoting the bill has paved the way for student civic engagement in coming years.”

Storberg says that “these are just two issues that the SG so valiantly tackled last year and will continue to fight for until they

come to fruition. A variety of other issues saw the SG on the front lines representing student interests as well. Again, it's hard to properly sum up the hard work that went into addressing these issues and so many more...I personally thank these dedicated and inspiring student leaders and I look forward to working with them in my post-collegiate career.”



eye on CSI

What's New with You?

“Keeping Tabs” is always happy to hear the latest news from our alumni! Do you have a new job or did you receive a promotion? Are wedding bells in your future? Are you expecting or have you just had a baby? Have you received any recent honors? Have you moved or retired?

Let us know and we'll tell your fellow alumni.

Email your latest information to alumni@csi.cuny.edu.

HOMECOMING FESTIVAL 2012

Saturday, October 6

- Breast Cancer Walkathon
- Alumni Baseball Game
- Women's Soccer Game
- Men's Soccer Game

Highlights of the Day Include

- Costume Parades
- Geological Display with Dr. Alan Benimoff —
- Sports Clinics for Children
- Inflatable Attractions
- Magic Mike '83, magician
- Obstacle Course
- Pumpkin Patch
- Face Painting
- Sponsored by Con Ed
- Backpack Decorating
- Sponsored by Con Ed
- Topical Discussions Led by Experts and Faculty
- Many More Family Activities

<http://csitoday.com/homecoming>

HOMECOMING FESTIVAL 2012

FOUNDATION NOTES



(L-R) Laura Lund, her son John, and her daughter Lara

Pennies from Heaven

Pennies from Heaven Scholarship Honors Loved Ones, Provides Tuition to Future Nurses

Last December, donors who wish to remain anonymous exemplified the adage that “it is better to give than to receive” with a year-end leadership gift to the CSI Foundation to endow a full-tuition scholarship to support either a full- or part-time CSI student pursuing a degree in Nursing.

Inspired by the *Raising Scholarships, Transforming Lives* video that debuted at last December’s Celestial Ball, the donors established the scholarship endowment, entitled “Pennies from Heaven,” to honor the memories of loved ones and provide an exceptional Nursing education to a well-

deserving student each year. The restricted scholarship will help a single parent with fulfilling his or her dream of entering into the health care profession and bettering society.

When the donor learned that it would take a year for sufficient interest to accrue in order to award the inaugural scholarship reward, another generous gift of \$5,000 was offered to benefit a student immediately.

The first recipient of the scholarship was Laura Lund, who is pursuing an Associate’s degree in Nursing and hopes to graduate this December.

“Last semester, I found myself at a crossroads,” Lund recalls. “As a single mom trying to make ends meet, I was struggling to pay for classes. It

looked like I would have to drop out of school to work full-time. What made this particularly heartbreaking to me was that I only had two more semesters to complete until I could take my boards and become an RN. Coming so close to achieving my dream and being prevented by lack of funds was devastating to me and also to my children who rely on me for their sole support.”

Lund notes that her “desire to become a nurse has many causes. I spent a lot of time in hospitals when I was a child and had received wonderful care... My daughter also has received phenomenal care from many nurses. She had many serious epileptic seizures that would put her in the hospital for many days at a time. By becoming a

nurse, I can ‘pay it forward’ and take care of people in need, just as people in my past have taken care of me and the ones I love. Last semester, however, becoming a nurse seemed almost impossible.”

Fortunately, Lund had a conversation with Nursing Professor June Como, who, through the assistance of the Office of Institutional Advancement, helped to recommend her for the Pennies from Heaven Scholarship. As a result, Lund reports that she “received a scholarship that I didn’t even know existed.”

Beyond the critical monetary support, she also says that “receiving this scholarship has given me more confidence and has reminded me that there are wonderful people who will give someone a helping hand. It has restored my faith and given me the motivation to achieve all that I can.”

Now that her academic plans are back on track, Lund hopes to go on to receive a Nursing Master’s and become a nurse.

Reflecting on the scholarship, Lund states, “I wish I could thank the donor of the scholarship in person. Unfortunately for me, the scholarship was given anonymously and I do not know who they are. I can only hope that they know the amount of good they have done. So, instead of offering my inadequate thanks to the donor, in the future, I will help someone else and hope that they, too, pay it forward.”



Scholarship Supports Tomorrow's Health Professionals

The Staten Island Community Medical and Dental Scholarship, an award started in the early years of the College, is currently soliciting support. With a tax-deductible gift of \$100 or more, the College can bring this scholarship to a 21st-century level to allow CSI students, who may not otherwise be able to afford college tuition, the opportunity to pursue their aspirations as a medical, dental, or health professional.

The drive for support, headed by Andrew Conti, MD, '69 and Dean (ret.) Dr. Ann Merlino, is seeking donations from alumni who hold degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, Osteopathy, Podiatry, Chiropractic, and Veterinary Science.

In a joint statement to health professionals who are alumni, Drs. Conti and Merlino stated that, "We are proud to be associated with the College of Staten Island as it continues to educate a new generation of health professionals who will undoubtedly enhance our community. We invite you to join CSI's prominent alumni who will join us in launching professional careers from our College. We believe that, with your help, we can ultimately endow the futures of our most deserving students."

For more information, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 718.982.2365.

Gabriela Bass Exemplifies Ways to Give to CSI

The College of Staten Island has many friends, but one of its staunchest supporters is Gabriela Bass, who stands as a shining example of philanthropy, and a personal demonstration of the various ways to give to the College.

Mrs. Bass has opted to make a number of different gifts to the College to benefit the Nursing Department, in memory of her late husband Sam, a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge and career executive with National Grid. She made an outright gift supporting a single, full Nursing scholarship in 2011, the Sam Bass Memorial Scholarship in Nursing; she contributed via a 2012 Planned Gift called a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), wherein Mrs. Bass elected to contribute \$50,000 to establish this annuity that will annually pay out an amount that may be contributed back to the College each year to support the single, full Sam Bass Memorial Nursing Scholarships; and she has arranged for a bequest, wherein she has named CSI as a testamentary beneficiary in her estate plans (her will) to support an endowment fund to provide the Sam Bass Memorial Scholarships in Nursing far into the future.

Dr. Ken Boyden, Esq. Acting Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, summed up the significance of these contributions. "Mrs. Bass's generous support of the College of Staten Island, in loving memory of her husband, Mr. Sam Bass, will provide for nursing scholarships in perpetuity for CSI Nursing students who will in turn provide future generations the very best in healthcare."

For information on how you can support students at CSI, contact Dr. Boyden at 718.982.2365.



SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



(L-R) Asst. AD for Student Athlete Services Katie Arcure, Male Athlete of the Year Jordan Young, Female Athlete of the Year Danielle Ponsiglione, and AD Vernon Mummert.

CSI HONORS STUDENT-ATHLETES WITH END-OF-YEAR AWARDS GALA

The College of Staten Island honored a host of its student-athletes, coaches, and distinguished staff members on May 18, with its annual Athletics Awards Banquet. More than 80 award winners were highlighted as part of the gala, among them members of CSI's 14 teams in 2011-2012.

Awards were given for each sport in chronological order beginning with teams last fall, and ending with Women's Softball, which was the last team to finalize its season.

Major awards were presented to Female Athlete of the Year **DANIELLE PONSIGLIONE**, a senior on both the Women's Volleyball and Softball teams. The lone senior in volleyball, she led CSI in games played, finishing in the CSI top five in kills, assists, service aces, and digs. On the softball field, she

led CSI in every major pitching category, where she also broke five career and single-season records en route to her second straight CUNYAC Pitcher of the Year honor. Men's Basketball sensation **JORDAN YOUNG** was named Male Athlete of the Year. The four-time CUNYAC All-Star and nationally ranked forward in field-goal percentage, Young led the Basketball program through its magical run to the NCAA Division III Sweet Sixteen, ending his career as the school's second all-time leading scorer.

CSI Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors were given to Men's Swimming star and senior **VLADISLAV ROMANOV**. A four-time CUNYAC All-Star and back-to-back recipient of the CUNYAC Performer of the Year Award, Romanov won 90 first-place regular-season finishes in his four-year career, and closed this season with three CUNYAC records and a silver medal in the 200-yard backstroke at the NCAA Division III National Championship. He holds a 3.67

GPA majoring in Business Management and was also named the CUNYAC Men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

KAITLYN FLYNN, a senior in Women's Softball, was awarded the Seventh Annual Bill Cali/John Scrivani Sportsmanship Award, named after CSI's baseball skippers who earned similar honors from the *Staten Island Advance* in 2005. Flynn, a third-team all-region selection from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association, capped an unbelievable season en route to CUNYAC Player of the Year honors, exhibiting the finest sportsmanship on the field of play alongside her on-the-field accolades.

ACCOLADES POUR IN FOR CSI BASKETBALL STARS AFTER STELLAR SEASON

CSI's Men's Basketball team continued to make headlines even after falling in the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament's Round of 16 in early March. The Dolphins got three All-District citations from the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which included a Co-Coach of the Year award for **TONY PETOSA**, and second-team Atlantic Region honors for both seniors **T.J. TIBBS** and **JORDAN YOUNG**. Young and Tibbs doubled the effort with a selection to All-Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association All-Star teams, while Young specifically was asked to participate in the NABC All-Star

Game in Salem, VA during Final Four weekend, the first CSI cager to ever appear in the game.

Recognizing the best men's collegiate basketball student-athletes and coaches in the division, honorees from eight regions were selected by



Jordan Young

member coaches of the NABC. The three total citations tied five other schools around the nation for the most by any one campus. Just days prior, the Dolphins capped off their finest year in program history, en route to a 26-5 overall record (11-0 CUNYAC), a 12th CUNYAC Postseason Championship, and a pair of thrilling NCAA DIII Tournament wins.

A four-year senior who made 105 career starts, Young placed second on the squad with 16.6 points per game, adding 7.5 rebounds and a total of 81 assists this season. The first-team CUNYAC All-Star led the conference and finished 27th nationally, shooting 58.6% from the field. He finalized his career



Drs. Morales and Fritz [center] were on hand to honor CSI's scholar-athletes.

CSI SET TO UNVEIL HALL OF FAME IN OCTOBER 2012

Years in the making, the College of Staten Island will be unveiling its inaugural Hall of Fame class in 2012 with a rousing event scheduled for October 11 at the Staten Island Hilton Garden Inn. CSI Associate Athletic Director **DAVID PIZZUTO**, who serves as the Hall of Fame committee

chairperson, will serve as Master of Ceremonies of the event, which will take place from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. Tickets to the event can be purchased for \$100 by calling 718.982.3169. The ceremony includes a full three-course dinner with open bar, and will feature video highlights of CSI sports programs, and presentations and words from the inductees and distinguished guests.

with 1,764 points, good for second all-time, with his 792 career rebounds placing sixth.

A second-year star for the Dolphins, T.J. Tibbs emerged for CSI a year ago and made a total of 58 starts for the Dolphins. This year, he led the squad with 183 assists, the second-highest mark in CSI single-season history, and his 15.8 points per game placed third on the squad. Adding 3.5 rebounds per game, Tibbs also placed second on the squad in three-point percentage (43.6%) and free-throw percentage (80.4%). His 5.9 assists per game rank him 13th nationally, while his 319 career helpers place him 11th all-time in CSI career history.

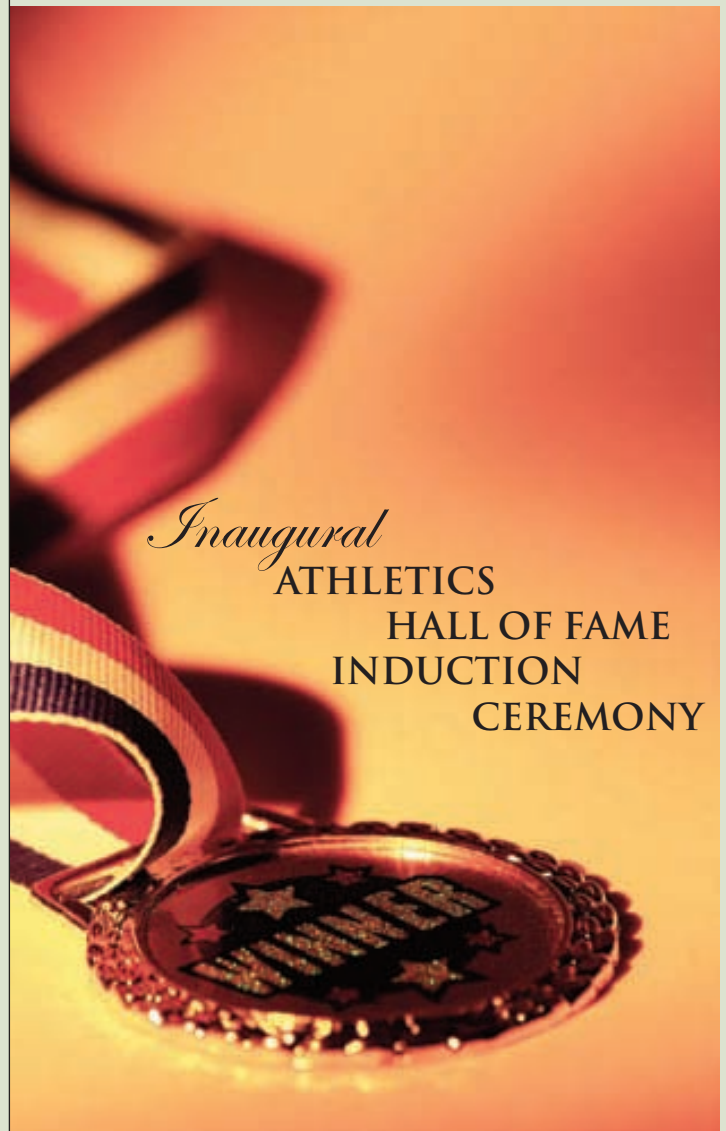
SCHOLAR-ATHLETES CELEBRATED ON ANNUAL STUDENT - ATHLETE DAY

Sponsored by the National Consortium of Academics and Sports, the CSI Office of Intercollegiate Athletics held its second Annual Student-Athlete

Day on April 5, honoring its collection of scholar-athletes. The short ceremony honored 89 CSI scholar-athletes who held a 3.0 GPA or higher, as of the fall 2011 semester, representing nearly 44 percent of the student-athlete body.

The scholar-athlete citations correspond with CSI's Athletic Director Honor Roll, released for the first time in the Fall 2010 semester, sponsored by the CSI Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

National Student-Athlete Day is celebrated nationwide, commending scholastic achievement by student-athletes. Since 1987, the National Consortium of Academics and Sports has been on NCAA campuses to promote the accolades of its finest student-athletes, its scholar-athletes, who take their headstrong discipline and passion for what they do on the field of play and transfer it to the classroom.



RISING STARS

KRISTINA LAM '15



Major: Biology

Verrazano School and STEAM student, currently working with PhD candidate Allison Mass Fitzgerald (under Dr. William Wallace) studying the effects of heavy metals on the physiology of oysters in various locations within the five boroughs.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "I really feel welcomed whenever I'm in the lab. Allison and the other Master's students are always there to help me with anything, from the samples I'm prepping to how I'm doing in biology class."

Future plans: Undecided

TROY WEEKES '15



Major: Dramatic Arts with Music minor

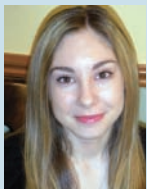
SEEK student who is a 2012 Jeannette K. Watson Fellow, and a recipient of a STEAM scholarship.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "I feel honored to be a student at CSI. I feel as if this College can definitely make your dreams a reality if you apply yourself. In just one year, I have been able to

accomplish so much, and I am looking forward to the next few years of continued success and making CSI known to the world!

Future plans: "I plan on getting involved with Teach for America or Teaching Fellows... while getting my master's degree. These programs allow for you to teach in inner city schools, much like where I went to school."

KAITLIN KELLY '13



Major: Biology with Psychology minor

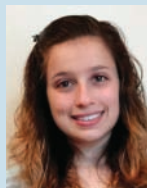
Macaulay Honors College student researching the causes of breast cancer under Dr. Jimmy Fata, and participated in a cervical cancer study with the Biomedical Laboratories for Integrative Cancer Research, a joint venture between Dr. Fata's lab at the College of Staten Island and

Staten Island University Hospital.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "I feel that I made the right choice coming to the Macaulay Honors College at CSI. CSI, particularly the research lab, has become my home away from home...Dr. Fata, his PhD students, and the entire research lab have been great mentors."

Future plans: To pursue graduate studies toward a career in the health sciences.

STEPHANIE PALUMBO '13



Major: Biology

Teacher Education Honors Academy student preparing to obtain her initial certification as a high school biology teacher.

A favorite aspect of CSI: The faculty members are attentive and helpful in explaining materials in class, as well as during their office hours...The

administration is also knowledgeable and makes processes such as registration and advisement incredibly less stressful than they can be...I know I would be lost without my advisor, Mrs. Orla, who is always available to help me decide which classes would be best, and which scholarship opportunities I may be eligible for.

Future plans: To pursue a Master's degree in Education or Counseling.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE...

- Residence Hall Update
- CSI's Homecoming Festival
- Alumni Profile: Thomas M. Terracino '80, '81, Global Safety Director for Mars, Inc.

Reaching for the Stars!



CSI CELESTIAL BALL

to support scholarships and academic programs

at the

College of Staten Island

Saturday evening, December 1, 2012

Richmond County Country Club

Staten Island, NY

Contact **Eye on CSI:**

COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
Alumni Relations Office
2800 Victory Boulevard
Building 1A, Room 111
Staten Island, NY 10314

Telephone: 718.982.2290
Email: alumni@csi.cuny.edu

Leith ter Meulen '76



LEITH TER MEULEN, who received a BA magna cum laude in Economics with a second major in Women's Studies from Richmond College in 1976, is the President and CEO of Landair, Inc., a company that she founded in 1992. She describes the company as providing "an array of project development and management consulting services. We help clients make strategic decisions about their real estate needs, their business aspirations, and their capacity to undergo change. Then we help them implement their decisions with a suite of management tools and expert advice. Our core customer base has historically revolved around clients who provide public or community services like non-profits and government agencies; however we are now expanding more deeply into the private sector."

Landair has consulted on a number of high-profile projects, and ter Meulen explains, "One of the firm's first projects was the redevelopment of Times Square. As a native New Yorker, I remember how crummy Times Square was and to walk through now and see what a great success story it has become is exciting. A much smaller project we consulted on was the restoration of the historic Hunterfly Road Houses of the Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn. In the 1840s, Weeksville was one of the first free African American communities in New York City. Without a doubt, the most satisfying project of all was serving as the project administrator for the World Trade Memorial Design Competition. It was a very healing experience after 9/11."

When asked what she likes the most about her job, ter Meulen replies, "We are problem solvers, first and foremost, and I love problem solving. I also enjoy the interaction with other creative, thinking people, being strategic and tactical and

making breakthrough choices, and being a catalyst for change. And yes, I love being an entrepreneur and being my own boss."

As she looks back on her experience at SICC and Richmond College, ter Meulen recalls that it changed her life. In regard to SICC, she says, "I was a teenager in the pre-Women's Movement 1960s, and it was far from automatic, as girls, that we would go to college. I also left high school before graduating to become a mother. At the time it was SICC that gave me the opportunity to enter into the college stream with a GED and a strong desire to study and improve my son's and my life. I'm very proud now that my son Richard Zerilli is a Lieutenant in the FDNY."

Ter Meulen waxes nostalgic when she remembers the days prior to her graduation from Richmond College. "I don't know where many of us would be had it not been for the Women's Movement, and Richmond College at that time was the hotbed of radical thinking in the CUNY system. We had some wonderfully strong women professors like Dr. Mirella Affron and Louise Fishman, and guest lecturers like Jill Johnstone. The professor who by far had the greatest effect on me was Bertha Harris.

In comparison to its two predecessor institutions, ter Meulen adds that she is very impressed with the present-day College of Staten Island. "I remember as a child living in Rosebank and SICC was located in a small office building on Bay Street. Richmond College didn't even exist yet. And to visit CSI now and see how it has transformed into a truly special place with such great resources and gifted talent and a beautiful campus. Well, I think the students attending today are very, very lucky."

LANDAIR



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Staten Island, NY 10314

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UPCOMING EVENTS

HILLEL AT CSI HOMECOMING SABBATH DINNER

October 5, 2012, 6:30pm

Everyone is welcome!

\$10 per person

RSVP to Amy Posner, Hillel
Director, at 718.982.3006 or
amy.posner@csi.cuny.edu

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2012, 7:00pm

Location TBA

HOMECOMING

October 6, 2012, 9:00am

CSI Campus

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

November 26, 2012, 7:00pm

Location TBA

FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR

Fall 2012

TBA

CSI CELESTIAL BALL

December 1, 2012

Richmond County Country Club

HOLIDAY PARTY

December 2012

Location TBA

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

January 28, 2013, 7:00pm

Location TBA

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

March 18, 2013, 7:00pm

Location TBA

SAVOR THE FLAVORS

April 7, 2013

CFA Atrium

*If you would like to receive
email announcements of
upcoming events, please
send your email to
alumni@csi.cuny.edu.*

For information on upcoming performances at the CSI Center for the Arts, go to www.cfashows.com or call 718.982.ARTS. Receive a \$2 alumni discount off performances. Limit two discounts per performance.

Keep up with the latest CSI Athletics news at www.csidolphins.com.

Present your Alumni Photo ID for a membership discount at the CSI Sports and Recreation Center. Call 718.982.3161 for more information.

A CSI/CUNY CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY IS...

Great for you! Great for the College of Staten Island!*

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a simple contract between you and the College of Staten Island that offers a tax-advantaged way to provide for income during retirement. In the future, your gift provides support for the College's Mission.

You can begin to receive income right away, or at a predetermined future date. You can also decide when the income payments begin within a future time frame, determined upon when you make your gift. In any case, your income is taxed at a favorable blended rate.

SINGLE LIFE

Age	Yearly rate
60	4.4%
70	5.1%
80	6.8%
90	9.0%

TWO LIVES

Age	Yearly rate
70/70	5.5%
80/80	7.5%

You Receive Income for Life

through the CSI/CUNY Gift Annuity Program. With a charitable donation of \$10,000 or more to the College of Staten Island, you will receive high, fixed annuity payments that are unaffected by economic downturns.

Your charitable donation is eligible for certain tax benefits and a portion of your annuity payments may be tax free. In addition, you will receive a lifetime subscription to *Eye on CSI*.

For more information about the CSI Gift Annuity Program, contact Ken Boyden, Esq., College of Staten Island, Office of Institutional Advancement, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314; email kenneth.boyden@csi.cuny.edu; or fax to 718.982.2365.

*Ask us about
additional rates and
deferred annuities.*

*This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of his/her gift.