

# eye on CSI

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND • SPRING 2014



The Rosemary  
O'Halloran  
Scholarship:  
Creating the Next  
Generation of  
Women Chemists

Working from Home  
Dolphin Cove RAs Discuss  
Their Experiences, So Far

CSI Researchers Collaborate  
Conquering Cancer with Curcumin

ALUMNI  
PROFILE

Laurie  
O'Byrne '88

# Six reasons why alumni giving to the CSI Annual Fund really matters:

- 1 Provides crucial support for the greatest needs of the College not covered by diminished public funding
- 2 With a record 60,000 alumni, the potential to make a difference and transform CSI is greater than ever!
- 3 Enhances cutting-edge technology for students and faculty in classrooms and research labs
- 4 Support for students with great potential and not always great advantages
- 5 Creates more options for CSI students to compete in a challenging world
- 6 Updates crucial library resources

*Every alumni gift can make a difference – including yours.*

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**Your help is needed to reach CSI's goal to increase alumni participation in the Annual Fund to our highest level yet. With a record 60,000 alumni, the potential to make a difference and transform CSI is greater than ever!**

Public funding to support higher education has diminished over the years, creating challenges in providing necessary academic resources to more than 14,000 students. Support from our alumni and friends to the Annual Fund enables CSI to offer a world-class learning environment.

We are counting on our alumni who know the value of a CSI education to grow a tradition of giving to the Annual Fund each year. Stand up and be counted! It will make a difference.

**For your convenience, there is a donation form on the back cover of this issue.**

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# eye on CSI

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*Richard Krysztoforski, Senior Career Specialist, and Cheryl Barzey, CUNY Service Corps Manager, staff the check-in table at the CUNY Service Corps Matching Fair held at John Jay College in August, 2013.*

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

At the College of Staten Island, we strive to provide access to excellence in higher education, having a positive impact on thousands of our students' lives. Service to our students is a critical component of that process. Our commitment to that principle doesn't stop there, however. We also dedicate a large part of our efforts to serving our Island, our city, our state, and our world, and we instill the importance of that service in our students who use what they have learned here to improve lives. In the pages of this issue of *Eye on CSI*, you will read a number of articles that focus on different pathways to helping others.

First, there is the story of groundbreaking chemist Rosemary O'Halloran, who is helping a new generation of women chemists

to forge their own paths in the field. The new Rosemary O'Halloran Scholarship was established this academic year and is allowing talented students to earn their degrees.

You will also learn of the efforts of scientists on the CSI faculty who, in tandem with researchers from Staten Island University Hospital, are making great strides in the battle against various forms of cancer with curcumin, a spice component of the herb turmeric.

Our story on the CUNY Service Corps demonstrates how the program connects students with local organizations so that they can learn valuable leadership skills while making a positive impact in our community.

In addition, you will get to know some of the Resident Assistants at the College's new Dolphin Cove student living facility, as they discuss why they are committed to CSI students who have chosen to live on campus.

These are but a few examples of service that make the College of Staten Island an exemplary institution of higher education and a valuable leader in our community. Through the dedication of our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters, we hope to inspire others to give of themselves and make a difference in our world.

There is one final example of service and commitment that I would like to discuss. Dr. Christine Cea has served this College in a number of capacities for many years, the latest being as President of the CSI Foundation. As her tenure as President comes to an end, I wish to thank her for her tireless and effective work to advance our College and our students.

Best wishes,

William J. Fritz, PhD  
*Interim President*

# eye on CSI

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# WORKING FROM HOME:

## Dolphin Cove Resident Assistants Discuss Their Experiences, So Far



[L-R:] *Jesus Valdes, Nyoka Newell, Seanice Clarke, and Deena D'Amato*

Many people who commute to work every day dream of the opportunity to work from home, usually when they are stuck in a horrendous traffic jam. The new Resident Assistants (RAs) at CSI Dolphin Cove have that convenience, but they are also on call 24/7 to ensure that all is well with our campus's student-residents. *Eye on CSI* had the opportunity to talk to some of Dolphin

Cove's RAs to get more insight into why they took this rewarding yet demanding job, how they feel about it, and what they are taking away from the experience.

### **Becoming an RA**

When asked why they decided to become RAs, the two main reasons were to become more involved in College life and to gain

leadership skills. Deena D'Amato, a junior majoring in Marketing with a minor in Management, noted that she initially didn't know what an RA did, but "after reading the job description and wanting to get more involved in my school, I couldn't think of a better way." Nyoka Newell, a sophomore English Literature major who will soon branch off into Education, said "I wanted to

gain more leadership skills in addition to working with young folks my age. I believe that it is a great way to meet new people and to create long-lasting friendships.” Leadership also played a role in sophomore Business Administration major Seanice Clarke’s reasons for signing on. “Having completed two AmeriCorps terms, I was also interested in an opportunity that incorporated community building and leadership in a residential setting.” Jesus Valdes, who is pursuing a Master’s of Science in Adolescent Education for grades 7 through 12, felt that the job fit his career plans. “I decided to become an RA because my life has consistently revolved around students. I’ve always wanted to teach since I was in high school. I knew that I wanted to work with students for the rest of my life so it was an obvious choice for me.”

### **The Up Side**

As one would expect, the role of RA has many benefits and rewards. For D’Amato, human interaction is important. “What I like most about this job has to be the people I have met in the process. This has been an awesome way to meet and interact with people that I wouldn’t normally and to hear

day is different. One day, I’d get a knock on my door from residents with cupcakes and another day would be filled with resolving roommate conflicts.”

### **The Challenges**

Of course, the job can also have its difficulties. Valdes pointed to the full-time nature of the job. “Being on-call is challenging especially when something comes up at 4am. It’s tough. Trying to get an adequate amount of sleep is difficult. The job is a 24/7 kind of job where there is no ‘off’ button. As soon as you walk out the door, you are working whether you want to or not. That can be difficult, particularly at times when you just want to be alone and invisible.” On a similar note, Clarke mentioned the balancing act involved in being a student and an RA. “The greatest challenge that I’ve encountered thus far is balancing being both a student and a Resident Assistant. Having a strong work ethic is a moving force for me. I tend to put work before my personal, social, and educational needs.” There are also the interpersonal challenges. D’Amato said that “The hardest thing about this job, in my opinion, is having to put aside my personal relationships with residents and dealing with the incident at hand. No one ever

do as you do,” D’Amato said. Newell pointed to the versatility required for the role. “I have learned to deal with various types of personalities in addition to being a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, and a friend when needed.” Clarke highlighted the skills-building nature of the position. “It takes the skills you originally possess and improves them. Before you know it, you’re able to handle situations you weren’t sure you were capable of.” Finally, Valdes underscores the impact that RAs have in residents’ lives. “You are constantly responsible for the many aspects of the students’ lives whether it is personal or academic development. You are always looked to as the person who has the answers and to some of these students, whatever advice you give them could steer them in the right or wrong direction.”

When these RAs graduate and leave CSI and Dolphin Cove, the complex experience of being an RA will add an interpersonal and leadership dimension to those who step up to the task, providing valuable skills and giving them a competitive edge as they apply for graduate school and launch careers.

their stories. I also love the relationship I have with my co-workers and my boss. I have made some amazing friendships and I know I am a better person because of them.” Newell and Valdes enjoy being role models. Newell said, “When you take on the role as a Resident Assistant, you are now seen as a role model and a positive influence for the residents. I’ve noticed that the residents watch everything you do and if positive, mirror your actions.” Valdes agrees, “I like that the students look to me for advice about things in their life and academics. I like to be a resource.” For her part, Clarke values the interaction with others, but also the variety. “I like the interactions with the residents, the platform for creativity, and the staff. Every

wants to be the bad guy, but with this job, it is inevitable and at the end of the day, it is our responsibility as Resident Assistants to do the right thing.” Newell added “I would say that the most challenging aspect of my job would be standing out among the residents. Some of the residents are our pupils and our friends. Although it is not easy for some to accept my leadership role, the job must get done.”

### **Becoming a Leader**

Although the RAs who have spoken with *Eye on CSI* have different opinions on the ups and downs of the job, one thing upon which they all agree is that they are gaining valuable leadership skills. “This job is a true test of how good of a leader you actually are. At Dolphin Cove, you lead by example and the residents





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# THE ROSEMARY O'HALLORAN SCHOLARSHIP:

## Creating the Next Generation of Women Chemists

[top] *Ilona Stoyko and Maryna Brukker work in one of the chemistry labs on the CSI campus.*

Women chemistry majors at the College of Staten Island will now have an opportunity to receive critical financial assistance as they pursue their degrees, thanks to the Rosemary O'Halloran Scholarship to Support Women in Chemistry.

### **A Pioneer in Her Field**

Ms. O'Halloran, who is currently 92 years old, was a trailblazer for women in the field of chemistry, having taken a job with the company that became Exxon during World War II, when there was a shortage of men in the U.S. workforce. Although many women were forced out of positions in chemistry when men returned from the war, Ms. O'Halloran not only remained at the company, but excelled in the petrochemical industry into the late 1980s, developing and

testing engine lubricants. Although the exact number of patents for which she is credited or has contributed is unknown, the estimate is between 42 and 155. Dr. Fred Naider, CSI Interim Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, summed up the importance of Ms. O'Halloran's work by noting that "she goes back to the early years of developing better oils and greases, which, of course, have had a tremendous impact on an industrialized society. You can't run machines without having good oils."

Ms. O'Halloran worked for many years to increase the number of women in the field of chemistry by providing financial assistance to promising women high school graduates who intended to pursue degrees



*Rosemary O'Halloran*



in chemistry, research, and other scientific fields. This scholarship for CSI students builds upon this proud tradition.

### **The Scholarship: Eligibility and Significance**

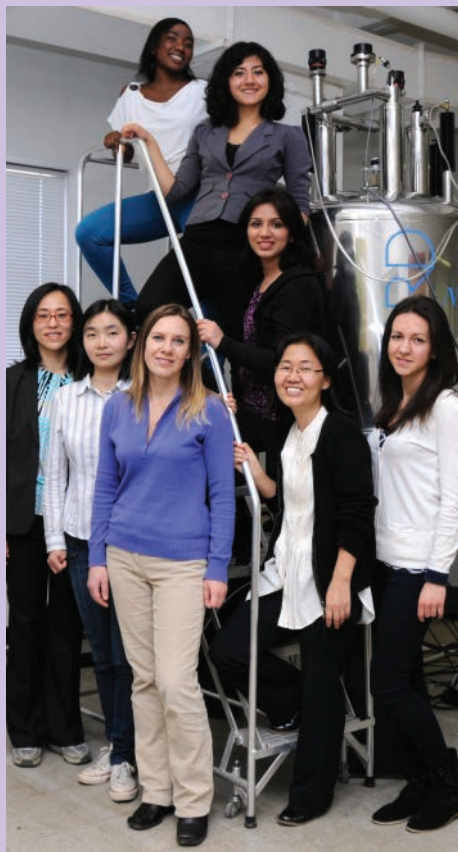
The scholarship is awarded to full-time undergraduate (junior or senior) and/or graduate female students in chemistry, biochemistry, or neuroscience. The award is based on academic merit (minimum GPA 3.5) and financial need and can be used to defray the cost of tuition, residential housing, and all other related costs, such as academic research expenses for travel and presentation of supervised research.

Discussing the impact that this scholarship will have on CSI students, Dr. Naider said that “the scholarship will have multiple benefits for CSI, our students, and the faculty. Students who pursue degrees in chemistry at CSI are undertaking a very challenging course of study that is highly rigorous. This requires them to devote considerable time to study and ideally to independent study. At the same time, many of our students must hold down part-time or even full-time jobs to contribute to the expense of going to college. The O'Halloran Scholarship provides direct relief to these students, enabling them to concentrate on their studies. In addition, the O'Halloran Scholarship focuses on women in science, specifically in chemistry. There is a national need to increase the participation of women in the sciences as they are underrepresented, and this constitutes the underutilization of a tremendous resource as manifested by the successes of Ms. O'Halloran and her impact on the petrochemical industry.”

### **Making a Difference in Our Students' Lives**

At present, there are 11 women who are benefiting from the O'Halloran Scholarship and they realize the importance of this crucial support. Juliet Baidoo, a junior in The Verrazano School Honors Program and a Chemistry major with a minor in Psychology, says that “Even though chemistry is not an easy subject to study, being awarded an O'Halloran Scholarship as a woman chemistry student helps me feel

## **The scholarship is awarded to full-time undergraduate (junior or senior) and/or graduate female students in chemistry, biochemistry, or neuroscience.**



[In the background, L-R:] *Juliet Baidoo, BiBi Ghafari, and Kamia Punia*  
[Front row, L-R:] *Ying Yu, Jiahui Yu, Maryna Brukker, Mangnang Zhu, and Ilona Stoyko*

that someone understands what it means and this motivates me to keep learning and striving for the best.”

Jiahui Yu, a junior Chemistry major, echoes Juliet's sentiments. “I am very excited to receive the scholarship from Ms. O'Halloran, which is not only an honor for me but also an encouragement for me to keep learning in the chemistry field. With this scholarship, I am very proud that I chose the right track.”

Ilona Stoyko, a senior who is working

toward admission to a medical university in the Northeast, focused on the Scholarship's positive effects on students. “The O'Halloran Scholarship is an amazing contribution, enabling me and many of my peers to achieve their best academic success, and contribute to many scholarly endeavors, like my passion for research in the field of nanostructured materials.”

Tiffany Man, a graduate student at CSI since 2009, studying polymer chemistry, pointed to its importance for women in the field, and the world in general. Noting that men outnumber women in the major, she commented that “the O'Halloran Scholarship is a recognition and encouragement to women who are interested in the field of chemistry, but may be intimidated by the subject itself or the job outlook in this field of study. In fact, chemistry is pretty much everything that surrounds us. Research and development help improve our everyday life in many different aspects, as well as advancing into a better and more environmentally friendly world.”

It is with that eye to the future that the O'Halloran Scholarship to Support Women in Chemistry will continue to change our society, and our world, for the better.

FACULTY FOCUS:

# CSI RESEARCHERS COLLABORATE TO CONQUER CANCER WITH CURCUMIN

Researchers at the College of Staten Island and Staten Island University Hospital are conducting groundbreaking research with curcumin, a spice component of the herb turmeric, in the fight against cervical, brain, skin, and breast cancer. The team, which is called Biomedical Laboratories for Integrative Cancer Research (BLICaRr), consists of CSI researchers Drs. Probal Banerjee, Jimmie Fata, and Raja Krishnaswami, and SIUH researchers Drs. Mario Castellanos and Anita Szerszen.

Unlike toxic chemotherapy approaches to targeting and destroying cancer cells, the current research employs nontoxic curcumin and other food-derived compounds with the hope of treating cancer without the attendant side effects of other therapies.

Although the medical benefits of curcumin in the treatment of cancer have been known for some time, Dr. Banerjee reports that its tendency to quickly degrade when administered to the body posed a problem. In an attempt to solve this dilemma, in treating cancer of the cervix that results from various strains of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the BLICaRr team developed a curcumin-based vaginal cream called Vacurin. In their trials, the researchers were able to effectively destroy the HPV (+) cancer cells without affecting the surrounding non-cancerous cells. The team published their results in the journal *Gynecologic Oncology* in 2012 and also filed for a patent for Vacurin in the same year.

Moving further toward a remedy for various HPV-linked cancers, the team has used curcumin and two other food-derived components, resveratrol and epicatechin, to



[L to R:] Drs. Jimmie Fata, Mario Castellanos, (former team member) Priya Ranjan Debata, Anita Szerszen, and Probal Banerjee.

prepare a formulation (Vacurin ER), which is at least five times more potent in eliminating such cancer cells than curcumin alone. Preliminary tests of Vacurin ER at the Ohio State Hospital have reconfirmed its remarkable efficacy in eliminating human oral cancer cells. Based on such breakthroughs in 2012 and 2013, BLICaRr has recently filed a provisional patent through the CUNY Patent Office. In parallel, the team has been preparing an application to obtain FDA approval for Phase I/II clinical trials in human subjects with a range of oral and cervical lesions of a neoplastic nature.

Recognizing the wide-ranging anticancer activity of curcumin and other food-derived cancer agents, BLICaRr researchers have

turned their attention to curcumin's ability to destroy cancers of the brain. Using mice, they examined the spice's effect by chemically linking it to an antibody that selectively binds to the glioblastoma brain tumors and were successful in bringing about complete rescue in about ten to 20 percent of the subject mice. These results were recently published in the *International Journal of Cancer*.

"Subsequently," Dr. Banerjee adds, "we have expanded our activity to include a spontaneously developing mouse model of the deadly pediatric brain tumor 'medulloblastoma'. This is closer to human brain cancers that also develop spontaneously. Medulloblastoma cells are also eliminated by curcumin."



**Recognizing the wide-ranging anticancer activity of curcumin and other food-derived cancer agents, BLICaRr researchers have turned their attention to curcumin's ability to destroy cancers of the brain.**

In this phase of the research, Dr. Banerjee notes that the scientists have developed a standardized noninvasive delivery system for the curcumin to the brain, “which involves intranasal delivery that is used in the clinic to deliver insulin into the brain to treat Alzheimer's disease. Using our improved delivery strategy and post-adduct systemic treatment with a recently tested (by us) lipid-complexed and stabilized form of curcumin, we expect to move toward completing our preclinical studies in about a year.”

Similar activities from Drs. Raja and Fata's laboratories have recently led to the development of novel curcumin derivatives that are soluble in water and effective in killing a number of human breast cancer cell lines in culture. This study and a similar analysis of the efficacy of curcumin to kill renal cancer cells have been recently published in two articles in a special issue of the journal *Anticancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry*.

The team's groundbreaking work, according to Dr. Banerjee, “has drawn the attention of a large number of scientists around the world.” However, he says that there are still obstacles to overcome. “Within the U.S., due to multiple reasons, an atmosphere of skepticism still exists against such food-derived natural anticancer agents. The pharmaceutical companies generally avoid

venturing into the realm of the non-patentable natural products. Furthermore, CSI is not a hospital-affiliated organization that dons a track record of many clinical trials. We have been receiving more attention from many cancer patients who do not want to readily surrender themselves to the only available options, painful surgeries, or in more grim situations, palliative care.”

Another challenge, as the research moves into the future, is a dearth of funding. Dr. Banerjee states that “I have been submitting National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant applications twice a year just for this project. This year, I will also submit such applications to state agencies.”

Looking ahead, Dr. Banerjee is hopeful. “Although the small trickle of funding from internal CUNY grants has kept this research alive, I am optimistic that we are close to winning some larger extramural funding, most likely from the NIH. Higher levels of funding will enable us to move faster toward the completion of our preclinical studies and preparation of humanized targeting antibodies, which will be used in clinical trials. We are certain that our research will eventually lead to a viable treatment for brain tumors as well as HPV-evoked cancers, but the current question is ‘When?’ Mainly a higher level of funding could, at this stage, shorten the travel time to reach our goal.”

# STUDENTS SHINE IN CUNY SERVICE CORPS

[top] Toni Arcamoni from Staten Island University Hospital meets with Corps participants at the annual Matching Fair that pairs program partners with students.

[bottom] Corps participants Islam Allan and Aziz Kabulniyazov [standing, center and right] at the YMCA's New Americans Welcome Center with a citizenship class.



Students at the College of Staten Island and a number of other colleges of The City University of New York (CUNY) are learning how to be tomorrow's leaders in the CUNY Service Corps, while they make valuable contributions to our community.

The Corps, which strives to strengthen civic, environmental, and economic aspects of New York City on a short- and long-term basis, gives students an opportunity to provide assistance in a variety of civic and non-profit organizations over two semesters at 12 hours per week. CUNY faculty and staff members may also participate in the program.

According to Cheryl Barzey, CUNY Service Corps Manager at CSI, "There are currently 71 Service Corps members in the CSI Service Corps cohort, and Corps members are placed at 28 community organizations around New York City. University-wide, we launched the program with approximately 700 Corps members placed at 96 organizations."

Explaining the benefits of the Corps, Barzey states that "The program provides an opportunity for students to make a meaningful difference in the New York City community through service while gaining valuable real-world work experience and earning a wage. In addition, our community partners have repeatedly told us that Corps members are engaging in "real work," and

that they are building meaningful capacity for their organizations. Several partner organizations have said that they would not be able to maintain some of their programs without the Corps members' help."

That impact is being felt throughout the community, Barzey reports. "For example, at Lifestyles for the Disabled, Corps members work with disabled adults and help improve the social skills of the adults through activities such as horticulture and the arts. At the Small Business Development Center, Corps members work closely with the SBDC's business advisors in marketing and conducting research on potential clients. Corps members are also working directly with various vice presidents at Staten Island University Hospital, ranging from the human resources department to the emergency services department."

The program also focuses on developing critical leadership skills in participants. Barzey explains that "Service Corps members are required to participate in a pre-service training, which takes place prior to the start of fall semester classes, as well as an ongoing support program during the academic year. During these training and support sessions, students learn various workplace readiness skills as well as delve into discussions about social issues facing

New York City. We are also currently in the process of developing a leadership and alumni program for Corps members who complete the program, and would love the opportunity to place program alumni in leadership positions within the program.”

Students in the Corps seem to be enjoying the program, Barzey says. CSI student John Cosentino, who is pursuing a BS in Psychology and hopes to graduate this summer, was placed at the Staten Island Jewish Community Center. He notes that “The CUNY Service Corps gives students the opportunity to take the initiative that more people should take. The students in the Service Corps are really doing something with their colleges. I enjoy my fellow members — there’s a community feel with these students that I greatly appreciate.”

Senior Engineering Science student Halim Duoud, another participant, who was placed at the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, comments that he has “been working on helping the small businesses that have been affected by Hurricane Sandy. I went to events where NYC helped new businesses open up. The Chamber is working on a project to rebuild Midland Avenue and I am extremely excited for funding to be approved and that all of the paper process and procedures pass and work quickly, because that means we would start rebuilding houses that have been either destroyed or affected by Sandy. And as an Engineering major, working with engineers will be great for me on a professional level and helping others would be great on a personal level, because it’s a great thing to do and gives you a fantastic feeling of joy and satisfaction.”

Liliana Cruz Lopez, a senior pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in both Mathematics and Computer Science, worked at Enterprise Community Partners, a non-profit organization for affordable housing. She states that “Being part of the CUNY Service Corps has been an extraordinary experience. Just to know that I am helping my community not only [with providing access to] affordable housing but by creating a cleaner environment makes me feel phenomenal. Since I started working at my site, I have been learning a lot of new

things and facing a lot of challenges to reach the goals needed.”

Abeer Husein, a History major in the Education program in her third year at CSI, discusses her experience at the Staten Island Museum. “The main thing that I would take away from this experience is the advice and lessons I have learned from my site

Evers, City Tech, and Queens), be enrolled full time, have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5, have earned at least 24 college credits, and have addressed any remedial education needs.” In addition, she adds, “The program is looking for certain distinct qualities in Service Corps members, including a demonstrated interest in serving New York



*The CUNY Service Corps gives students the opportunity to gain real-world experience while making a difference in our community.*

supervisors. Since they know full well that I am a student and possibly pursuing a career in museum management, they have given me tips, exposed me to different programs at schools, and even recommended me as an intern for an avid collector on Staten Island who is looking to make his collection public in 2014-2015 at Snug Harbor.”

Students must meet a number of criteria before they can be selected, Barzey says. They “must be working toward a degree at one of eight participating colleges (CSI, BMCC, John Jay, KBCC, Lehman, Medgar

City, strong communication and leadership skills, and the ability to balance program priorities with academics and other co-curricular commitments. Service Corps members are representing CSI and The University at their placement sites, and it is our priority to select students who will serve as true ambassadors for both CSI and CUNY.”

Students who are interested in participating in the program should contact Cheryl Barzey at [cheryl.barzey@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:cheryl.barzey@csi.cuny.edu) or visit the CUNY Service Corps Website at [www.cuny.edu/site/servicecorps.html](http://www.cuny.edu/site/servicecorps.html).

**The Corps, which strives to strengthen civic, environmental, and economic aspects of New York City on a short- and long-term basis, gives students an opportunity to provide assistance in a variety of civic and non-profit organizations over two semesters at 12 hours per week.**

## AROUND CAMPUS

### President Clinton Joined by School of Business Prof in China



The Global Summit of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Leaders, held in Guangzhou, China last fall, was attended by over 300 SME executives worldwide, along with global political leaders, international organizations, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representatives, and scholars from academia.

Professor J. George Wang of the School of Business at CSI attended the conference as one of the keynote speakers and as the moderator for Bill Clinton (42nd President of the United States of America). As the first program on the conference agenda, President Clinton spoke for 30 minutes, addressing the issues of SME development worldwide.

Following his speech, Professor Wang conducted a 15-minute face-to-face dialogue with President Clinton, covering the issues related to the recovery of

the U.S. and global economy; the sustainability of the economic growth in emerging countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS); U.S.-China trade relationships, the potential roles of the U.S. dollar, Euro, and RMB in international financial markets in the future; and what China's SMEs can learn from U.S. SMEs. Both President Clinton's speech and the following dialogue were very well received by the audience.

At a later session of the conference, Professor Wang presented a preliminary report of a research project that was conducted by a team led by Professor Wang, regarding the development of the global SMEs. In his presentation, Professor Wang discussed the status of global SME development by looking at data collected from 14 representative countries across five continents, citing 12 indicators.

### CSI Launches Master's of Social Work



Staten Island has a large and diverse population of people with disabilities, and in order to prepare students to meet this growing demand, the College of Staten Island will launch a new Master's of Social Work (MSW) degree program for the fall 2014 semester.

The purpose of the MSW program is to educate students for advanced, urban social work practice in the community, region, and worldwide, with an emphasis on meeting the needs of people with disabilities.

Admission into this program is highly competitive, with only 18 full-time students being accepted for the first year of the two-year, 60-credit program. Applicants who have already earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education can apply as a one-year (30-credit) Advanced Standing student.

Applicants to the MSW program, offered by the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, will need a BA or BS degree with at least one course in statistics, a minimum grade point average of 3.0, three letters of recommendation, and a personal statement.

The program will concentrate on working with people with disabilities, broadly defined to include developmental, intellectual, physical, sensory, and psychiatric disabilities. The curriculum consists of courses that, among many others, focus on social work values and ethics, diversity, social justice, and at-risk populations, and will include up to four internship courses.

To learn more about the requirements or to apply, contact the Office of Recruitment and Admissions at 718.982.2019 or at [masterit@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:masterit@csi.cuny.edu).

## Dr. Fritz Discusses CSI's Long, but not Necessarily Strange, Trip at Convocation



Last October, the Center for the Arts Williamson Theatre hosted the College of Staten Island's Annual Convocation. However, the almost-capacity crowd was treated to a more rock-and-roll evaluation of the past year than they expected by Interim College President Dr. William J. Fritz.

After introductory remarks by Interim College Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider, Dr. Fritz took the stage as the music video from the Grateful Dead's "Touch of Grey" played on the onstage screen.

Early in his comments, Dr. Fritz mentioned the recent book by Barry Barnes, *Everything I Know about Business, I Learned from the Grateful Dead*, which is a metaphor on building a successful organization. Strongly stating that he does not necessarily subscribe to a business model for academia, Dr. Fritz, a longtime Dead fan, did say that some of Barnes's points about the Dead's business model could serve as valuable lessons for the College. One point was "Strategic improvisation – the ability to plan, act, and make adjustments in real time – is the key to running a great organization," noting the College community's efforts to adjust to the new CUNYfirst initiative, as well as the mobilization to open the new residence halls on time.

Another point was "Embrace strong values and socially conscious practices because it's the right thing to do" where Dr. Fritz compared the Dead's strong sense of community to that of CSI in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, as well as the vastly increased focus on community connections in the College's latest Strategic Plan, *Many Voices, One Vision*.

In discussing "Be kind to your customers – by offering high-quality products and services and being responsive to their concerns – and they'll be kind to you by becoming lifelong customers," Dr. Fritz noted CSI's commitment to its students' needs and opinions, emphasizing that this dedicated approach has resulted in our institution being named a "Best-Bang-for-Your-Buck College" by *Washington Monthly*, and one of the Best Colleges in the North by *U.S. News & World Report*. Underscoring this point, Dr. Fritz listed a number of improvements such as the hiring of 25 new faculty last fall, the creation of new schools of Business and Education, the College now having the capacity to grant Doctorates in Physical Therapy, and infrastructural innovations, such as the renovation of Building 2M and new lighting on campus.

The final point that Dr. Fritz covered, "In

creative businesses, familiarity – rather than scarcity – creates value. Share your intellectual property . . ." he pointed to the College's tireless efforts to impart knowledge and information, not only to its students, but to the community. Last year's Superstorm Sandy forum was just one example where faculty from the College joined with experts from NYC to help residents make sense of what happened, and prepare for future severe weather events.

Dr. Fritz concluded his speech with information about CSI's first-ever Comprehensive Campaign, an effort to raise \$20 million by 2016 to provide for the needs of students and faculty, as well as for capital improvements and endowment growth.

Convocation wrapped up, as usual, with Vice President for Enrollment Management Mary Beth Reilly recognizing full-time faculty and staff members who were celebrating service anniversaries in five-year increments. This portion of the event brought a light-hearted conclusion to Convocation, as Reilly read historical facts from each year preceded by time-appropriate video clips.

## Verizon Augments Women's Center Support with \$10K Grant

The Bertha Harris Women's Center at the College of Staten Island, which strives to improve women's quality of life by providing resources to students, has recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation. Dr. Ellen Goldner, CSI Professor and Director of the Center, is pleased to receive this first major corporate grant to fund extended services and hours of operation.

Since the Verizon Foundation supports programs with services that provide education, prevention, care for victims, and empowerment resources for domestic violence prevention, the mission of the Bertha Harris Women's Center closely aligns with the Verizon Foundation's efforts. In recognizing the commonality of those goals, a partnership with Verizon has allowed the Center to progress into the next phase of its plan to include extended support for all members of the College community when they experience any form of gender-based violence.

In regard to domestic violence, the Center seeks to provide a more hands-on approach to walking the victims through the process of reporting and reaching out to medical agencies, shelters, and food banks in order to foster more productive relationships and results.

In the past, the Women's Center has been available for direct support four hours per day and technical assistance for eight hours per day.

The \$10,000 funding from the Verizon Foundation will allow for more hours of direct support and facilitate additional trust from the students when they approach Center workers and advocates.

For more information on the Bertha Harris Women's Center services for CSI students, contact Lori Uccio at 718.982.2871 or [lori.uccio@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:lori.uccio@csi.cuny.edu).



*Lori Uccio and Dr. Ellen Goldner of the CSI Women's Center in front of the Ninth Annual Domestic Violence Clothesline in the Center for the Arts Atrium*

## Walkathon Supports Breast Cancer Research and Outreach



*[L-R] Barbara Proscia, Adrienne Belman, Sophia Patti, and Jacalyn Collie from the Naked Sheep Yarn Shop with Dr. Donna Gerstle.*

The fourth annual Walkathon to benefit the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI) raised more than \$15,000 last October. More than 400 Walkathon participants were welcomed to campus with pink water in the College's fountains, located along Alumni Walk and in front of the Center for the Arts.



The event attracted generous support from many sponsors, including Con Edison, UPS, the CSI Alumni Association, Kohl's, Mary Kay, WickedStitchesGifts.com, The Pampered Chef, and TD Bank.

Local vendors, such as the Naked Sheep Yarn Shop, which donated proceeds from hand-knitted items, also participated in the event, and this year, walkers were treated to free Zumba and yoga classes on the Great Lawn.

For the last four years, the Walkathon has brought together the students, alumni, staff, friends, and families of the CSI community, as well as the entire borough of Staten Island, to raise awareness and funds for the 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 to spread awareness and eradicate this life-altering disease.





## CSI Grad Accepted at Brown University



The College of Staten Island's Kanika Khanna '13, has gained acceptance to Brown University's Taubman Center for Public Policy.

"I'm very excited about going to Brown," said the Brooklyn-born Political Science major, recently selected to participate in Harvard University's Latino Leadership Initiative at the Kennedy School of Government, and a guiding force behind mentoring Latino students at John Jay College. Fueled by her interest in journalism, Khanna also started the *Macaulay Messenger*, a prize-winning electronic newsletter and Website that took second place in the 2012 National Collegiate Honors Council's contest for best student-run e-newsletter.

Khanna began problem solving while still an undergrad, working to provide supportive housing to the homeless through A. Larovere Consulting, where she's been

employed for the last two years. In addition to a roof over one's head, the group arranges job training, education, counseling, health care, and other services. "Mentally ill adults need help making the transition to leading a stable life," she remarks. "And the places where we build housing need services. There are neighborhoods that don't even have a supermarket to go to, and they don't have effective small businesses." The group delivers an assortment of resources, including education. "Education is so transformative," notes Khanna, who has witnessed how homeless people's lives improve when they gain access to classes and teachers. "If you have it in places that are overlooked, it would be so much better." Increasing access to education in underserved areas is a passion, and residents of New York are already benefiting from Khanna's remarkable dedication.

"From exploring the Renaissance in Florence to immersing myself in the realm of public policy, my experience as a Macaulay Honors student has offered me more opportunities than I could have imagined," added Khanna. "Before Macaulay, I didn't know I would find a community of students and faculty that fostered my personal growth and success so close to home."

## Accounting Club Accounts for Students' Future Careers

Accounting majors at the College of Staten Island can take advantage of the vast amount of professional support offered by the College's Accounting Club. Club President Diane Saadeh, a junior Accounting major with a minor in Mathematics, explains that "The purpose of the Accounting Club is to get the students together, not only to socialize with their peers of the same major, but to realize their full potential. We do this by trying to aid students now with their academics by offering accounting tutoring and helping them later on by bringing in speakers who have graduated from the College of Staten Island and have continued on successfully. Also, we bring in reps from CPA review companies to present details about the test and also provide scholarships to their review courses and other helpful materials. I try to encourage students to come and get involved, fill up their résumés, and have something to talk about on future interviews."

The Club has also hosted speakers who have addressed issues such as money laundering and what to do to avoid getting ensnared in illegal accounting practices.



This year, for the first time, CSI made the list of the Best Colleges in the North in *U.S. News & World Report*.

## New BS Electrifies CSI's Degree Offerings



The College of Staten Island has launched the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering as a new degree offering by the Department of Engineering Science and Physics as of the spring 2014 semester.

CSI is the only school on Staten Island to offer this degree, the second institution within The City University of New York (CUNY), and one of only a handful in the greater metropolitan area.

Students who earn their Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering are likely to earn excellent job placements in careers that are growing even though the national economy continues to struggle.

Xhevair Maskuli, an Engineering graduate from CSI in 2010, credits much of his success to CSI's ability to get him "prepared to take my place in

the industry I was interested in."

Maskuli, who is currently an Associate for Booz Allen Hamilton, contracted to the Defense Intelligence Agency, said that "the CSI courses were focused on preparing me for the career and pushed us to get internships and get us ready to move to the job market as soon as we graduated."

He and hundreds of other CSI success stories are the reason that CSI's Engineering program has garnered the reputation for preparing its students for careers beyond the classroom.

This is "one of the classic and perhaps most prestigious of all engineering degrees," said CSI Professor of Engineering Science and Physics, and Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Syed Rivzi. He added that "the high-tech field of Electrical Engineering has historically

exhibited steady growth and has been the breeding ground for modern advances in telecommunications, automation, and networking, among other technologies."

The opportunities for jobs that require a BS in Electrical Engineering include positions with Con Edison, the Mass Transit Authority, National Grid, PSE&G, Verizon, IBM, General Electric, and the entire telecommunications industry.

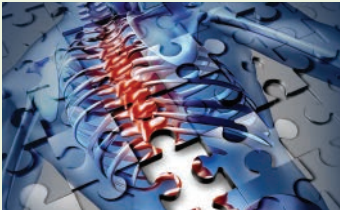
The BS in Electrical Engineering also opens up a great path for CSI students planning on applying to graduate school.

Approximately 100 of CSI's current Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science students have joined the new BS in Electrical Engineering program. Many of those students will be able to graduate this June 2014

with a double major of Engineering Science and Electrical Engineering due to the fact that the College's BS in Engineering Science with a specialization in Electrical Engineering was commensurate with Electrical Engineering degrees at other colleges and universities. The move to provide CSI students with this degree is part of a multi-year plan to help streamline the post-graduation phase for its engineering students.

The BS in Electrical Engineering is the first of what CSI Professor and Chair of the Department of Engineering and Physics Alfred Levine calls "spin off" degrees from the BS in Engineering Science. The next planned degree for the Department of Engineering and Physics will be that of BS in Mechanical Engineering.

## New Doctorate of Physical Therapy



Just last year, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo authorized the College of Staten Island to offer a clinical Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree in the fall of 2014, and CSI has seen an impressive increase in the number of students applying to the program this year.

CSI has received 220 applications to the program, an increase of nearly 50 percent.

The significance of CSI offering a clinical Doctorate of Physical Therapy on campus has been stated by many members of the

College's faculty and staff who have been instrumental in ushering in this new era for CSI.

Maureen Becker, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, calls the announcement a "historic event for CSI," stressing that having a doctoral program offered at CSI is a major milestone for the College, adding that "CSI will also be one of the very few universities that will offer programs for students from high school to career." The College will now offer remedial, associate's, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees to its students, a feat that will allow CSI to "nurture long-lasting relationships with our students that last them their entire college careers."

"CSI's reputation as a state-of-the-art, career-oriented institution

has increased over the past several years," Department Chair Dr. Jeffery Rothman states. He also cites the addition of dormitories on campus, as well as the fact "the physical therapy field itself has grown, especially on Staten Island, which has a fast-growing community that is in need of healthcare professionals on the Island. Further, the contributions and clinical expertise of the graduates from our program over the years since the program began have played a significant role to promote the reputation of the College and the Physical Therapy Department."

Currently in the process of interviewing potential DPT students, Dr. Rothman has been impressed with the large crop of applicants he has vetted. CSI's

previous cohorts of CUNY Graduate School DPT students have a high graduation rate, with approximately 90 percent of the students receiving licensure over the past three years and 100 percent of those gaining employment in their chosen fields.

The Doctorate of Physical Therapy is a clinical program that prepares graduates to become clinician-scientists who can competently apply research to clinical practice, perform all aspects of physical therapy practice, and perform clinical research. Students who have graduated with their DPT degrees have gone on to work in many of the area's hospitals and health facilities, senior settings, sports rehabilitation centers, and pediatric facilities, and have even opened their own practices.

## DPT Student Takes Women's Health Issues into Her Own Hands



Ann Mackey, a Doctoral student in the College of Staten Island's Department of Physical Therapy program, was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors as one of two Northeast Regional Representatives of the Section on Women's Health (SoWH) Student Special Interest Group.

Mackey, a 2012 graduate from The Verrazano School Honors Program at CSI, who recently attended the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association

in her first official capacity as a board member, believes that not enough people are aware that women's health issues are being addressed within the physical therapy field.

"A lot of women have serious issues and don't know how to treat them," notes Mackey, and as a physical therapist and SoWH board member, she wants to change that misconception.

"We really want to start strengthening our networking power," she says. To that end, Mackey is in the process of updating the information for all other schools in the northeast, as well as building awareness for other students who may be interested in women's health issues.

Mackey, who is graduating next spring and plans on taking board exams in July 2015, wants to make an impact as a physical therapist immediately and plans on

incorporating her women's health specialty into her methodology.

"I am going to go out there and start working," she said of her plans after school and she intends on incorporating yoga and Pilates into physical therapy sessions.

Dr. Jeffery Rothman, Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at CSI, emphasized what Ann's board membership means for the CSI DPT program as a whole.

"Ann's leadership position on the Board of Directors in a national office will provide national exposure of the College of Staten Island, CUNY, and the College's Department of Physical Therapy," says Rothman. "She will be an outstanding contact person for students and practicing clinicians interested in the important area of women's health."

# ALUMNI NEWS

## Hall of Fame

Several members of the CSI faculty, staff, and their friends and families were in attendance as the College of Staten Island Alumni Association (CSIAA) honored three of its members at the annual Alumni Hall of Fame Luncheon on Saturday, October 5.

After CSIAA President Dr. Arthur Merola '84, '85 welcomed all of the attendees, CSI Interim President Dr. William J. Fritz offered several remarks about the 30-year existence of the CSIAA and its important role in the College community.

The CSIAA has represented more than 60,000 alumni from Staten Island Community College, Richmond College, and CSI, and Dr. Fritz noted, "the dynamic life-changing experience the College was for these students." The CSIAA Hall of Fame was established in the early 1980s to honor alumni for their outstanding achievements to CSI and the community.

The 2013 CSIAA Hall of Fame honorees are:

**Dr. Donna Gerstle '84**, Director of the Center for Environmental Science, a 1986 Hall of Fame inductee who was honored with the 2013 Outstanding Alumni Service Award for her contribution to CSI and the community through her work with the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI).

**Manuel Gonzalez '05**, Coordinator of Special Events, was honored for his tireless dedication, commitment, and contribution to CSI. He is known for his exceptional ability to pull together disparate elements to create and conduct events that make the College proud.



*Dr. Donna Gerstle '84*



*Manny Gonzalez '05 and Elena Solitario '83*

**Elena Solitario '83**, an Italian native who, while working toward a degree in economics, opened "Pilo Arts," a full-service salon and day spa in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

According to Gerstle, who, earlier in the day, coordinated the Fourth Annual CSI Breast Cancer Walkathon, the SIBCRI is examining breast cancer on three fronts: "The first is an epidemiological case-control study, which looks at female mortality due to breast cancer on Staten Island from 1980 to 2006. Researchers will examine lifestyle and risk factors. The second is to evaluate how environmental factors actually influence breast tissue development. Mammary tissue will be exposed to a set of known environmental carcinogens that exist in the Staten Island air. Finally, we are doing a community-based outreach breast cancer educational program that will work with healthcare providers, community-based organizations, elected officials, and schools."

Regarding her business, Solitario stated that her desire is to bring harmony and love to her colleagues and staff. Achieving this has enabled her to have satisfied clients and a successful staff, which she believes are the building blocks for continuous growth.



## Alumni Association Meets CSI's New Student-Residents at Pizza Night

The CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA) hosted its first Pizza Night for the new residents of Dolphin

Cove, last October, giving the more than 70 attendees an opportunity to learn more about what the Alumni Association has to offer.

Alumni Association Board members were in attendance to answer students' questions about the CSIAA. The Association also provided a Nook HD, which was raffled off to a lucky student.

Commenting on her experience at Pizza Night, Board member Jennifer Rodriguez '12 said, "I thought it was a fun night and a great way for the Alumni Board to get to know the students." Board member James McBratney '05 of Jimmy Max restaurants generously donated pizza for the event.

## 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](mailto:alumni@csi.cuny.edu).

## Murder at the Masquerade was "A Night to Die For"



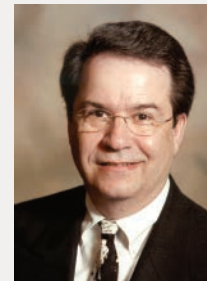
Mystery was in the air last November at the CSI Campus Center as the CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA) hosted its first-ever "Murder at the Masquerade" event.

More than 160 alumni and community members attended the fun-filled event, with entertainment provided by The Murder Mystery Company.

The night provided an added dimension for attendees, as they were all given identities so that they could become a part of the show. Some were suspects and others were detectives. Keeping with the masquerade theme, many guests also wore masks and costumes.

The CSIAA even rewarded those participants with the best costumes and the best and worst detective abilities with awards.

## Remembering Alumni Fellow Jerod Loeb '71



The College of Staten Island's first-ever Alumni Fellow, Jerod Michael Loeb, PhD passed away on October 9, 2013 at age 63 after a courageous fight against prostate cancer.

Dr. Loeb, an alumnus of Richmond College, 1971, visited the campus last year to meet with students in the Nursing Department, College faculty and administrators, and CSI Alumni Association President Dr. Arthur Merola, DPM '84, '85. He also presented his keynote address, "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly," which opened with fond and comical remembrances of his days at Richmond College before turning to its main focus, which was the current state of healthcare in the nation.

Dr. Loeb earned his doctoral degree at The State University of New York–Downstate Medical Center in 1976. He received the National Quality Forum and The Joint Commission's John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

Dr. Loeb was the Executive Vice President for Healthcare Quality Evaluation at The Joint Commission for more than 19 years. He is survived by his wife of 27 years, Sherri, and his two daughters, Jennifer Michelle and Rebecca Elyse.

Dr. Loeb was a great man, a great friend, and a great Alumni Fellow.



## Come Back to Campus for Our Annual Commencement Reunion!

CSI proudly traces its heritage back to 1956. We look forward to the opportunity each year to gather our fellow alumni to celebrate Commencement and welcome a new class of graduates to the Alumni Association. This year, Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 29 and we will pay special tribute to alumni from years that end in 4 or 9, as alumni from these and all graduation years are invited to join the Class of 2014 in the academic procession. A luncheon, hosted by the CSI Alumni Association, will follow the ceremony. For more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290.

# KEEPING TABS

**Diana Churovich '13** Made it back home in Illinois with my Bachelor's degree in Studio Art! Trying to build a life here, pay off debt, and move on to my Master's program at Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

**Peter Jared DeCrescenzo '09** Peter wrote: "One-year anniversary with the Posse Foundation as a Career Program Manager for the Washington, DC office, woot woot!"

**Edward Joseph Gugliucci, Jr. '79** has worked in public service since 1983 as an educator, health scientist, and IT project manager around the U.S., including Chief of Operations in NYC. His current position is in management in a federal agency that investigates the health status of former workers in the atomic and nuclear weapons programs.

**Zanade Mann '12** Zanade wrote: "I'm developing and teaching STEM classes for the YWCA of New York high schools' after-school program and accepted a teaching position at Barnard College.

**Melissa Murphy '08** I was married on June 29, 2013. I have been the Assistant Director of CSI Liberty Partnerships Program for three years plus.

**Christine Modica-Szeluga '07 (BA History) and '13 (MSEd)** now heads the Brooklyn Connections program at the Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) as Project Manager. Brooklyn Connections is a school outreach initiative based out of the Brooklyn Collection, BPL's local history archive. The signature partnership program offers students in its classes rare

access to original archival materials while completing a customized, standards-based project. In addition, Brooklyn Connections supports all NYC educators and students through professional development workshops, school visits, and online resources.

**Jessica Ng '11** Jessica wrote: "Graduated with my Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from NYU in January!!!"

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Arthur and Mary Alice Simonson '91** celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

**Angela and Benidetto Stazzone '84** celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

## IN MEMORIAM

### ALUMNI

**GERALD BELLAMY '93**  
**ROSEMARY DALTON '90**  
**ROBIN GUMBS '93**  
**KATHLEEN LIONE '89**  
**JEROD LOEB '71**  
**BARBARA MARTIN-KEELEY '77**  
**GLEN MYERS '79**  
**HELEN NELSON '81**  
**FAITH RATNER '88**  
**CATHERINE RIST '75**  
**THERESA SCHUSTER '87**  
**THERESA TOBIAS '91**  
**NANCY WALSH '84**  
**RHONDA WHITFIELD '84**  
**MIRIAM WIGGINS '87**

### FACULTY AND STAFF

**SALVATORE FERLITO**, of Bay Terrace, a retired CSI Peace Officer who served for 20 years. In 2003, he received a CUNY Public Safety Meritorious Service Award.

**JOHN MOELLER**, a senior College Laboratory Technician in the Business Department who retired in 1996.

**FRANCES LEANDRO MULLIGAN**, Lead Teacher of the preschool/UPK group, in the Children's Center.

**PHYLLIS POWDER**, Professor of the Nursing Department, who retired in 1986 after teaching psychiatric nursing for 20 years.

**EUGENE PRISCO**, who retired in 1999, but served as a teaching mentor at CSI and Pace University, Manhattan.

**MARY REDA**, Associate Professor of the English Department, who inspired many English majors through her teaching and mentoring.

**ELAINE SHIELDS**, Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Economics, in the School of Business. Elaine was an alumna of the College of Staten Island, having earned her undergraduate degree in Economics in 1979. She taught for more than 15 years in the Economics program, first in the PEP Department from 1998 and since the fall of 2013, in the Department of Economics of the School of Business. She taught at least two courses each semester and over the years, instructed almost 300 students. She was a popular instructor, and many students commented about what a sweet woman she was and how much she cared about her students learning.

**JASON TURETSKY '07**, Higher Education Assistant in the Office of Academic Support, who was an incredible source of guidance to scores of students.

**BARBARA USZACKI**, who had worked for ten years as an administrative assistant at the Macaulay Honors College at CSI until her untimely death.

**STAMOS ZADES**, retired Dean and mentor to legions of students, was a distinguished presence at the College of Staten Island and its predecessor institutions for many years. He was known for his great love of education, the College, and the many students he served. Hired by Staten Island Community College in 1959, tenured in 1966, Dr. Zades was promoted to Professor in 1994. During his years, he loyally served as Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Faculty, and Academic Ombudsman. He retired in 1997, reunited with his colleague Peter Spirodon to dedicate a tree in memory of Walter Willig, the first President of Staten Island Community College in 2003, and was honored by the CSI Alumni Association in 2011.



Photo credit: Marianne Weil

*Margaret Ricciardi with her painting, "Calitri."*

## CSI Alumna and Art student Margaret Ricciardi Turns 100!

In 1986, Margaret Ricciardi received her BS in Art at the age of 72.

If that wasn't remarkable enough, she has attended classes at the College for more than 30 consecutive years and continues to audit painting and sculpture classes at CSI. At age 100, she is the College's oldest continuing student and one of its oldest active alumni members. In celebration of her milestone birthday this past March, a retrospective exhibition of her paintings and sculptures was held at the Gregg Gallery at the National Arts Club in Manhattan. Marianne Weil, Assistant Professor of Sculpture at CSI/CUNY, curated the exhibition.

Beyond her longstanding tenure as a student at CSI, Margaret also supports CSI students through the Margaret and Frank Ricciardi Scholarship, which allows financially disadvantaged students who are taking Italian language classes to study in Italy. Additionally, Margaret provides an annual award to a graduating Studio Art major.

## Meet Goodnews Nkama: Putting Children First

*New York City Councilmember Debi Rose and Goodnews Nkama*

Children are an important part of CSI Biology major Goodnews "Lucy" Nkama's life and she strives to help them. She has tutored fellow students when she was in high school, and she has also volunteered to teach math and science to kids at a summer camp. Looking ahead to her professional life, she eventually hopes to become a pediatrician.

Discussing why she chose this career path, Lucy recalls visiting the three-year-old daughter of a friend in the hospital. The girl was in pain and was terrified of anyone who was wearing white. All

Lucy could do was try to comfort her. "There and then," she says, "I knew I wanted to be a pediatrician; I wanted to be professionally equipped to help children who are helpless and have to deal with so much pain. My recent volunteer work at the emergency department at Lenox Hill Hospital has made me consider emergency pediatrics, so that I can be able to offer children immediate medical attention when they need it."

Lucy also feels that CSI helped her toward her goal. "My experience at CSI has been a total package. I have gotten the academics and the extracurricular activities that make a college experience whole and complete. CSI has provided me the opportunity to take the necessary classes that serve as prerequisites for application to medical school. The Pre-Med Club and its advisor have also been helpful. Through CSI, specifically Ms. Joanne Hollan from the Career and Scholarship Center and Ms. Debra Evans from the CSTEP program, I have gotten internship opportunities in health-related fields and the experiences I gained have reassured me of my career choice as a pediatrician."

After she receives her bachelor's degree in the spring of 2014 from CSI, Lucy plans to apply to medical school over the summer for the 2015 class year.

## EVENTS



### Flags of the Fallen

*Last November, the College of Staten Island honored U.S. military personnel who have died in the line of duty since the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. with “Flags of the Fallen” on the College’s Great Lawn. One flag for every soldier who was lost flew on the Great Lawn for two days and a ceremony was held in remembrance of those who were lost.*



### New Buses Come to Campus

*Last August, the College of Staten Island placed five new buses into service, three as a part of the Ferry Shuttle route and two for the Loop Road route. The new 40-foot buses, wearing CSI’s new branding and colors, have a higher rider capacity than the campus’s old buses and feature front ends that are lower to the ground for easier access and a smoother ride.*



# SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

## Faculty/Staff Publications and Honors

**JAY ROSEN** (Mathematics) was named as a Distinguished Professor by the CUNY Board of Trustees, as it approved his appointment at its meeting of Monday, Jan. 27, 2014.

Dr. Rosen earned a BA in Mathematics from Harvard University and a PhD in Mathematics from Princeton University. He has published more than 100 refereed articles, a monograph published by the American Mathematics Society, and a co-authored book published by Cambridge University Press. His refereed works have appeared in the top-rated journals of his field such as *Annals of Probability*, *Annales Institute Henri Poincare*, *Stochastic Processes and Their Applications*, and *Annals of Mathematics*.

Dr. Rosen has earned an international reputation in the field of probability theory.

In addition to his scholarship, Dr. Rosen has been an outstanding teacher and a mentor to many other professors of mathematics.

**EMILY RICE** (Engineering Science and Physics) shared her thoughts on the Gaia satellite launch and why it is important to "push the edges of our knowledge" of space on a broadcast of the BBC program *World Have Your Say*. (January 17, 2014)

**RICHARD FLANAGAN** (Political Science and Global Affairs) was published in *The London School for Economics and Political Science*. The article was entitled "New York City Mayor-elect Bill de Blasio's Plans for the City Show that He Is Much More Clintonista than Sandinista." (January 3, 2014)

**MARK WHITE** (Philosophy) was cited in *The New York Times* article "Britain's Ministry of Nudges" in the section entitled "Libertarian Paternalism." (December 9, 2013)

**JONATHAN PETERS** (Accounting and Finance) was featured in the article "How New York's Toll System Got Completely Busted," discussing how his "calculations show just how outrageous tolling in New York City has become." (December 4, 2013)

Interim President **WILLIAM J. FRITZ** who has been repeatedly interviewed on the topic, was the featured expert for the *ABC Eyewitness News* special "Superstorm Sandy: What We Learned," with ABC TV's Bill Ritter and Diana Williams, and *Newark Star-Ledger* columnist and reporter Mark Di Iorio. (October 30, 2013)

**ALAN ZIMMERMAN** (Marketing), who closely tracks the impact of counterfeit goods on the economy and on companies, was a featured expert in a recent post by *PlasticsNews*. (October 28, 2013)

**MING XIA** (Political Science and Global Affairs) was quoted in an article in *Asia Times*, "Free-trade Shanghai Keeps on Internet Gag," which noted that he "said the notion of limited Internet freedom was 'comical'." (October 1, 2013)

**CHARLES LIU** (Engineering Science and Physics) was recognized by the National Science Teachers Association, which has put his book, *The Handy Astronomy Answer Book, Third Edition* (Visible Ink Press, 2013), on their "recommended" list. (September 27, 2013)

Dean **KENNETH GOLD** (School of Education) was a featured expert in the *Cadillac News* article entitled "The Agrarian School Calendar Myth." The article was in response to a *Detroit Free Press* editorial "Making the Case for Year-round Schools." (September 9, 2013)

**YING ZHU** (Media Culture) was referenced in *The New York Times* article entitled "A Film-fueled Culture Clash over Values in China: In 'Tiny Times' Movies, Material Girls Have a Nation Tsing" for her recent OpEd review of *Tiny Times*. (September 4, 2013)

**DEBORAH POPPER** (Political Science and Global Affairs), along with co-author Frank Popper, wrote "Turning Economics Inside-Out" for the *The Hill's Congress Blog*. (August 20, 2013)

**TEMA STAUFFER** (Performing and Creative Arts) was featured on *facetoface*, a blog from the National Portrait Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution for her photograph entitled *Cathy, Market Street, Paterson, NJ*, which was part of the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition (OBPC). (August 17, 2013)

**FRANK BURBRINK** (Biology) was noted for his collaboration on the first comprehensive phylogeny of the "spiny-rayed fish," recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. (July 17, 2013)

**ALAN LYONS** (Chemistry) was featured on the American Chemical Society's Website for his work with Richard A. Gross of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in an article entitled "Etching Patterns on Polymers with Enzyme Inks." (July 12, 2013)

**CHENG-XIN GONG** (Biology) co-authored "Inhibition of Protein Synthesis Alters Protein Degradation through Activation of Protein Kinase B (AKT)," published on *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* Website. This marks his third consecutive summer of publication with JBC. (July 10, 2013)

**KRISTEN GILLESPIE-LYNCH** (Psychology) co-authored "A Cross-species Study of Gesture and Its Role in Symbolic Development: Implications for the Gestural Theory of Language Evolution," which was published on the *Frontiers in Comparative Psychology* Website. (July 6, 2013)

**PATRICIA SMITH** (English) was interviewed on "The Writing Life" by Cynthia Dagnal-Myron, an award-winning former reporter for both the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Arizona Daily Star*. (June 25, 2013)

**BARBARA GAIL MONTERO** (Philosophy) wrote for "The Opinion Pages" of *The New York Times*. Her piece, entitled "The Myth of 'Just Do It,'" explored athletics and sports, philosophy, psychology, and psychologists. (June 9, 2013)

# FOUNDATION NOTES

## “Above” Event Raises Funds for CSI’s Greatest Needs



[L to R:] Drs. Sylvia Kahan and Thomas Tellefsen '77

CSI faculty, staff, and students attended the College of Staten Island’s “An Evening Above and Beyond with CSI” gala event held on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the Above Rooftop at the Hilton Garden Inn, where CSI Interim President Dr. William J. Fritz presented two of the College’s distinguished faculty with the President’s Medal for their tireless commitment to CSI’s students and faculty.

The recipients of the President’s Medal included Dr. Sylvia Kahan, Professor of Music, Department of Performing and Creative Arts at CSI and The Graduate Center, CUNY; and Dr. Thomas Tellefsen '77, Professor of Marketing and Chair of the Department of Marketing in the School of Business.

Dr. Kahan teaches historical musicology, piano, and a wide variety of theory, literature, and performance-related courses. As a pianist, she has performed throughout North America and Europe as concert soloist, recitalist, and collaborative musician. A sought-after speaker, Dr. Kahan has presented her research at scholarly

conferences and in pre-concert lectures throughout the world.

Dr. Tellefsen has pursued his interest in business for the past 35 years as a manager, researcher, and teacher. His research interests include business-to-business marketing, sales management, and international marketing. Dr. Tellefsen’s research has appeared in a variety of journals throughout the world and he has presented his work at numerous academic conferences and served as a reviewer for several journals. Dr. Tellefsen currently serves as a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Business-to-Business Marketing*. In 2011, he received the CSI Dolphin Award for Outstanding Service by a member of the full-time faculty.

The goal of “An Evening Above and Beyond,” an event organized by the CSI Foundation, was to raise much-needed funds to benefit all aspects of the College—from student and faculty support through infrastructure and everyday needs. Although CSI is publicly funded, the need for private support has never been greater.

During the event, Dr. Fritz noted that “The funds raised this evening will be used to address the College’s greatest needs, and augment the shrinking support that the College receives from the public sector. Your generosity will fuel the academic studies and future careers of our students, drive the cutting-edge research that our faculty members are conducting, help to expand our already state-of-the-art campus to offer more opportunities to more people, and perpetuate our stellar track record of success and achievement.”

Dr. Fritz also highlighted “some of our more recent successes including the opening of Dolphin Cove, our first-ever student residence halls, which provides not only convenience and comfort for its residents, but also transforms the campus into an even more vibrant community with students from as close as Staten Island and as far away as Australia.”

In addition, Dr. Fritz looked to the future and announced plans to “transform the academic landscape at CSI” with the inauguration of the new schools of Business and Education, which will “better prepare students to make positive contributions to our nation’s economy and the nation’s classrooms. We have also received doctoral-granting status from CUNY, beginning with the Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy.”



[L to R:] Macaulay Honors College students Zachary Crespi, Tom Rodberg, and Jenna Jankowski

## New Scholarship Remembers Jason Turetsky '07



A scholarship has been established in memory of CSI alumnus and former Assistant Director of Academic Support Jason Turetsky '07, who passed away in May 2013.

Remembering Jason's vast contributions to the College, Linda Sharib, Director of Academic Support at CSI, said "Jason was in charge of support initiatives and managed the Center for Academic Student Assistance, supplemental instruction, and the pre-test preparation initiative. A wonderful mentor to students, Jason was amazingly generous to them with his time, care, and attention. No matter what challenges students faced, they always left Jason feeling uplifted."

Donations to the Jason Turetsky Memorial Scholarship fund can be made by contacting the Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs at 718.982.2365 or online at the CSI Foundation Website, [www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation).



## Scholarship Established in Memory of Mary Reda

The family of Mary Reda, the Professor of English at CSI who passed away last August, has established an endowed scholarship in her memory.

A significant voice in her field, Mary published *Between Speaking and Silence: A Study of Quiet Students* (SUNY Press) in 2009, a book that explores the question of student silence from students' perspectives and challenges the conventional wisdom about silent students, as well as contributing to her field a multitude of articles and a variety of conference presentations over her too short but productive career. As Mary excelled at working with students who faced particular challenges but who were able to overcome those challenges to persist in pursuing their degrees, her family wants this scholarship to be awarded to a student who would not ordinarily be awarded this type of opportunity, someone who has typically not been recognized through customary means but who nonetheless is as talented as students who have achieved a high grade point average early in their collegiate careers.

For more information on how to make a contribution to the Mary Reda Memorial Scholarship Fund, call the CSI Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs at 718.982.2365 or go online at the CSI Foundation Website, [www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation).

5th Annual

# SAVOR the flavors

CSI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

# SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



## CSI MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY MAKES HISTORY WITH FIRST-EVER CHAMPIONSHIP

The weekend before Halloween provided the CSI Men's Cross-Country team with plenty of treats. CSI made history by racing to a first-place finish in the 2013 CUNYAC/Army ROTC Men's Cross-Country Championship at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Senior captain Andrew Pate scored a first-place finish for the Dolphins, who had all five scoring runners place in the top 15 at the meet. For the Dolphins, it was the school's first cross-country championship since the school adopted the varsity sport in 2007 and the first championship for head coach Robert Russo.

"Our men were focused on proving that they could be a championship team," said Russo. "I am so proud to see this result in a victory after a long season of training and racing well. This was truly much-deserved."

Days after the conclusion of the CUNYAC Championship, CSI's Pate earned the Conference's Player of the Year honor while Russo came away with Coach of the Year honors.



*Demi-Jean Martorano*

## MARTORANO NAMED MVP IN WOMEN'S SOCCER

It was quite the season for the College of Staten Island Women's Soccer squad, and the Dolphins capped their very productive season with five postseason citations from The City University of New York Athletic Conference. Headlining the honors was senior striker Demi-Jean Martorano, who earned her second CUNYAC Most Valuable Player honor after an impeccable closing campaign. Teammates Samantha Wysokowski, Melissa Gelardi, and Amanda Percaccio took home first team all-star honors while outside back Nicole Molinell earned a second team all-star nod.

Martorano finished her illustrious

career with perhaps her finest season ever in 2013. The senior tallied 26 goals, tying CSI's all-time single-season record and the sixth highest total in the nation this season. The 26 tallies included CSI's only two postseason goals, and improved her career total to 85, by far the highest in CSI and CUNYAC women's soccer history. Martorano added five assists, finishing second all-time with 27 career helpers, and her 57 total points this season gave her 202 for her career, 63 more than any other Dolphin. Martorano also holds records for shots with 377 and game-winning goals with 25.

## DOLPHINS CAP AMAZING 2013-2014 WITH ECAC CHAMPIONSHIP

In a season that many would say was the finest ever at the College of Staten Island, the Men's Basketball program ended it in style, scoring a come-from-behind, 74-71, win over Kean University at the Sports and Recreation Center last March, clinching the 2014 ECAC Metro NY/NJ Postseason Basketball Championship. For the Dolphins, it caps a tremendous 28-3 season, and marks the

College's first ECAC title since 1986 and it's second of all-time. The most memorable night of the season also marked a bit of history along the way. Senior guard Bloochy Magloire eclipsed the school's all-time career scoring record, and Head Coach Tony Petosa scored his 400th career win.

"Everyone wants to win their last game and it feels good," said Petosa after the game. "I think we proved something to a lot of people this year, and I think we proved a lot to ourselves. We're good. We are a very good basketball team, and it's a nice feeling to win."

The win was hardly easy. Down by as many as 11 points in the second half, the Dolphins worked in a feverish comeback to take a late lead, then held on after a frenzied last-minute rally from the visitors, making for what was a great final at CSI.

The Dolphins rejoiced in the victory, but Petosa noted that the team was a bit subdued in its post-game celebration, still feeling the stings of not being selected to the NCAA Division III Tournament, which also started this weekend.

"It's a bit of an empty feeling inside," said Petosa. "Everyone is very happy but we are all a little



hungry for more. The NCAA did the wrong thing by us and it's unfortunate because we deserved to be there. I think our kids were very emotional after the win for a variety of reasons, and that was certainly one of them."

Still, history hasn't been kind to the Dolphins in the ECAC Tournament. This win marks only the second Championship for the Dolphins in 17 trips to the tournament, and is the first for the Dolphins in Petosa's 24 years of coaching. It made for a special 400th for the coach.

Magloire was named the Tournament's Most Valuable Player, scoring 15 points in the Dolphins' balanced attack. Jonathan Chadwick-Myers finished with a team-high 16 points, with Javon Cox adding 13 and a team-high seven rebounds. Kevin King and Will Fonseca also finished in double-digits, with 11 and ten points, respectively. Xavier Fuller led all scorers for Kean with 18 points, while Michael Burton added 12. Kyle Latorre finished with seven points and a team-high nine rebounds.

For the Dolphins, Petosa contends that the ECAC Championship is a gratifying finish, but the season will always have the backdrop of what could have been.

## BROOKLYN HANDS CSI ECAC SEMIFINAL LOSS, 61-56

The College of Staten Island Women's Basketball team had plenty of fight last March, but in the end, the team fell to Brooklyn College, 61-56, as part of the ECAC Metro NY/NJ Postseason Tournament Semifinals at the



*Victoria Gallinaro*

Sports and Recreation Center. For the Dolphins, their season ended at 21-8.

Down most of the way, CSI came back to grab a lead midway through the second stanza, but the Bulldogs weathered the storm, staying the course and holding strong at the end to seize the win. CSI connected on just 26.6% of their shots, one of their season's worst marks, aided by BC's poor shooting of 28.1%. The Dolphins were just 7-24 from three-point range and were out-rebounded, 54-41. BC was led by Megan Campbell's 18 points and 11 rebounds. CSI was helped by Victoria Gallinaro's 22 markers, while Nikki Fabozzi led all with 15 rebounds.

## CSI MEN TAKE HOME CUNYAC SWIMMING AND DIVING CHAMPIONSHIP, WOMEN PLACE THIRD

The College of Staten Island Men's Swimming and Diving team won their first CUNYAC Postseason Championship in

nearly a decade last February, taking home the conference's championship final on the final day of competition at Lehman College. CSI scored 971 points, 79.5 more than second-place Lehman College, for the championship victory.

Winning the postseason championship meet has proven difficult for the Dolphins in the past, despite winning four regular-season titles and appearing in six NCAA Division III National Championships since their last postseason title, but the Dolphins made good in February, and led wire-to-wire at this year's championship.

It was a fitting end for the Dolphins, as true to form, they took home every first-place finish.

CSI Head Coach Michael Ackalitis, who took over the squad midway through the 2011-2012 season, was awestruck by his team's performance, and was incredibly proud of his team after the meet.

"We knew it would be a close race going in, but our goal was on consistency and hard work," he said. "We knew we could do something special and do something that this program

hasn't done in some time. We did exactly what we needed to do and it's a testament to the hard work and determination of our guys. They didn't just deserve it, but they earned it out there."

CSI posted 971 total points. Lehman took the silver, scoring 891.5 points, while Baruch finished third with 711 points. Brooklyn College finished fourth at 549 points, followed by York College with 293.5 markers.

For the Dolphins, the Championship win is their fifth in program history but their first since 2005, back when they won four Championships in a row.

Over on the women's side, they placed third, scoring 607 points. Baruch College won the event outright with a total of 973 points. Hunter College took second place with 881 points, followed by CSI (607), Brooklyn (452), John Jay (356), Lehman (269), and York (14).



## RISING STARS



HAMID ARDOLIC '14

*Major:* Double major in Biochemistry and Chemistry  
A Macaulay Honors College and Dean's List student, he has been actively involved in research at a polymer chemistry lab studying and designing novel fluorescent conjugated polymers for practical applications, such as photovoltaic cells.

*A favorite aspect of CSI:* "I am very grateful for my CSI experience and for those who have guided me, both in Macaulay and in the College itself."

*Future plans:* After he receives his bachelor's degree, he intends to pursue his PhD in Chemistry at graduate school and continue his research in polymer chemistry.

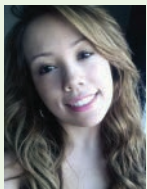


SAMANTHA HAIMOWITZ '14

*Major:* Mathematics  
A Teacher Education Honors Academy and Dean's List student, and a Noyce Scholar for the last two years.

*A favorite aspect of CSI:* "My experience at CSI has been wonderful. I have had the opportunity to meet great people, learn from intelligent professors, and network through my experiences at host school observations. The Teacher Education Honors Academy has been a major part of this great experience."

*Future plans:* After she receives her bachelor's degree, she plans to pursue a Master's degree and teach high school mathematics.



KAREN RAMIREZ '14

*Major:* Psychology.  
A SEEK student, who is a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honors Society.  
*A favorite aspect of CSI:* "Through CSI, I was able to apply for the Strategies for Success program and I was able to be a mentor to special education

children. I was also able to get the position as a summer counselor at The Staten Island Mental Health Society to help children cope with the trauma from Hurricane Sandy. Currently, I am interning at The Grace Foundation in a program for children with autism."

*Future plans:* After she receives her bachelor's degree, she will attend graduate school to get her Master's in Social Work.



VICTORIA WONG '16

*Major:* Early Childhood Education  
A Verrazano School and Dean's List student, she also assisted in establishing the Habitat for Humanity Club on campus, and is a member of the CSI Women's Volleyball team.

*A favorite aspect of CSI:* "I feel very comfortable at CSI. The Verrazano School is a very good honors program because it creates a tight community and there is advisement assistance whenever needed. I always know who I need to talk to when I need help."

*Future plans:* After receiving her bachelor's degree, she intends to get her master's degree, become certified in special education, and work at a nursery school.

## CSI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ✓ **Alumni Online Community, [www.csialumniatlarge.org](http://www.csialumniatlarge.org)**  
Create your profile, post on the message board, submit a class note, register for events, and learn what's new with fellow alumni and your alma mater! For first-time log-on information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290 or [alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu).
- ✓ **Educational, cultural, social, and athletic programs and events throughout the year.**
- ✓ **Home base for alumni connections** Connect with professional associates, faculty, classmates, and friends.
- ✓ **Library privileges** Present your CSIAA permanent alumni photo ID membership card at the College Library for access and borrowing privileges.
- ✓ **Visitor pass for parking** Present your CSIAA permanent alumni photo ID to the security guard at the entrance for your pass.
- ✓ **Career Center** Continued service and access for alumni presenting permanent CSIAA photo ID. Résumés, career counseling, interview skills, and job databank. Call 718.982.2300.  
Introducing *Optimal Resume*, an online career services tool that allows you to quickly and effortlessly create essential professional documents such as résumés and cover letters as well as investigate crucial job-related skills such as the practice interview or skills assessment. Free for all alumni. Contact the Career and Scholarship Center for the code so you can register at [www.csi.cuny.edu/career/](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/career/).
- ✓ **25% tuition discount for courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development**  
For course information and to register, call 718.982.2182.
- ✓ **CSI Sports and Recreation Center alumni discount membership**  
Present your permanent alumni photo ID for discount. For more information, contact the membership desk, 718.982.3161.
- ✓ **CSI Center for the Arts ticket discount**  
Receive a \$2 alumni discount for CFA performances (limit two per ID per performance). For information about upcoming shows, contact the box office at 718.982.ARTS/2787.
- ✓ **Barnes & Noble CSI College Bookstore 10% alumni discount**  
Present your permanent alumni photo ID for applicable items (excludes textbooks).
- ✓ **Bank of America MasterCard/Visa**  
Call 800.847.7378 and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island for applicable credit card offer.  
Telephone Priority Code: FABHR4
- ✓ **Auto and homeowner insurance program** through Liberty Mutual Savings Plus/American Insurance Administrators. Call 800.524.9400, follow the prompts, and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island.
- ✓ **Group Term Life Insurance and Health Insurance** through NEATrust/American Insurance Administrators. Call 800.922.1245 and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island. For a complete listing of programs and availability in your state, visit [www.alumniinsuranceprogram.com/csi](http://www.alumniinsuranceprogram.com/csi).  
Note: Short-term health insurance coverage is not available for residents of NY, NJ, MA, and VT. Major medical insurance is not available in NY, NJ, RI, WA, and AZ.

# Laurie O'Byrne '88



LAURIE O'BYRNE, '88 has had a career path that has included some powerful positions at a number of high-powered companies, since she graduated cum laude from CSI with a BS in Accounting and a minor in Economics, and having received the Burton Player Award for Excellence in Accounting. She has been a senior associate at PriceWaterhouseCoopers; she played a critical role in accounting, budgeting, and forecasting at Johnson & Johnson; and she advanced to the role of senior executive-level business leader at Toys 'R' Us, touching nearly every function of the business.

Looking back to her beginnings in business, Laurie states that she came to CSI from Boston College, where she declared a science major. "But not unlike many first-year students," Laurie recalls, "I learned that science wasn't the best fit for my natural aptitudes. (Besides, it's hard to be a physician when you can't bear the sight of blood.) So, I transferred to CSI as an affordable way to figure out my true career calling. I tried a business class and it resonated with me. So I took another. The professors whet my interest in business and I excelled in this area. It was a perfect fit! I decided to major in Accounting because it provided the backbone for understanding business in totality and offered the greatest flexibility to take my career down different paths."

As she moved into the professional world, Laurie adds, "that each step along my career journey was a deliberate plan to build and hone my business and leadership skill sets. In college, I had a vision of the "ultimate" position I would hold and I used that image to drive me to build the skills necessary to be successful. Of course, as I grew professionally, this vision evolved, but my approach did not. I was still focused on developing and building valuable skill sets that would support my aspirations."

Laurie has since left the business world to become involved with a number of non-profit organizations. "I felt that something was missing. I wanted to make a greater impact to the broader community (versus a single corporate entity)... I am currently involved with three non-profit organizations and serve on two boards, including the Business Advisory Board for the CSI School of Business.

"Many of these organizations operate with small budgets and they cannot afford the level of expertise available to very large corporations," Laurie explains. "And some just need limited access to selected expertise for a specific project. As a senior-level executive with significant experience in all aspects of strategy, finance, business development, and project leadership, I have something valuable to offer these organizations."

Beyond her contributions to the College's School of Business, Laurie also returned to CSI last year to share her business expertise with some of our students. "I was honored to speak and share some insights with students that might be helpful as they embark on their careers. And I was grateful that I could pay homage to the University, in some small way, as appreciation for my success," she says.

Laurie also notes that she has one further tie to her alma mater, as her niece started at CSI last fall. "My hope for her and all CSI students is that we all continue to make the College even stronger and better than it is today. As its legacy continues to strengthen, so does the value of our individual degrees. We all need to pay it forward."

## Make a Difference!

For more information on the importance of Alumni Support, see to the ad on the inside of the front cover.

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| <input type="radio"/> CSI Athletic Fund         | <input type="radio"/> Other _____             |

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 College of Staten Island Foundation, Inc.  
 Building 1A, Room 401, 2800 Victory Blvd.  
 Staten Island, New York 10314-9876

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### COMMENCEMENT AND CLASS REUNIONS

May 29, 2014  
 Honoring alumni class years ending in 4s and 9s (1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009)

### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

June 16, 2014  
 7:00pm  
 RSVP by June 12 at 718.982.2290

### SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE

WTC Memorial  
 September 11, 2014

### BREAST CANCER WALKATHON

CSI Campus  
 October 11, 2014

### SCOTCH AND WINE-TESTING EVENT

October Event  
 TBA

### MURDER MYSTERY

November Event  
 TBA

### CELESTIAL BALL

December 6, 2014  
 Richmond County Country Club

*If you would like to receive email announcements of upcoming events, please send your email to [alumni@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:alumni@csi.cuny.edu).*



For information on upcoming performances at the CSI Center for the Arts, go to [www.cfashows.com](http://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](http://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.