

eye on CSI

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND • SPRING 2015



CELEBRATING OUR PROUD LEGACY

CSI's Legacy
President Fritz Embraces
Our Rich Past

Geraldo Rivera Creates Fund
for Social Work and
Disability Studies

REMEMBERING
Phyllis Morris,
AA, BA, MS
(1938-2011)

eye on CSI

Volume 6, Number 1
Spring 2015



Geraldo Rivera keynotes the College of Staten Island's Bachelor of Science in Social Work departmental exercise, May 2014.

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Eye on CSI.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends:

As the seventh President of the College of Staten Island, I welcome you to the latest issue of *Eye on CSI* where you will learn about my recent efforts to embrace the continuum of this College's rich legacy, which began with the opening of Staten Island Community College in 1956, through the inaugural class at Richmond College in 1967, the formation of CSI in 1976, and all that we have accomplished together throughout those many years. Although the colleges had a number of locations, the goal was always the same, to provide a quality and affordable higher education, and serve and enlighten.

Last spring, Geraldo Rivera returned to CSI to speak at the Bachelor of Science in Social Work commencement ceremony. Mr. Rivera played a crucial role in our institution's past through his illuminating news reports that led to the closure of the Willowbrook State School, which occupied the land where our campus currently resides. I am pleased to report that he was so impressed at the progress that this College has made in its efforts to serve people with disabilities that he established The Geraldo Rivera Fund for Social Work and Disability Studies to provide support for the dissemination of information and the stimulation of dialogue to influence public policy and empower people with disabilities. You will read more about this generous initiative in this issue.

In addition, *Eye on CSI* will highlight the groundbreaking work that is being conducted by faculty at the College's Center for Developmental Neuroscience. These investigations are improving lives and nurturing a new generation of researchers in the field of neuroscience.

Our College has a proud legacy, which spans almost 60 years. As we move into the future, which promises significant changes for our College and campus, such as the construction of a new facility for the CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center, we will remain firmly committed to imparting knowledge and making our world a better place for all.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "WJ Fritz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

William J. Fritz, PhD
President

eye on CSI

William J. Fritz, PhD
President

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If you have any comments, suggestions, or information for "Keeping Tabs," please contact the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290, alumni@csi.cuny.edu, or 2800 Victory Boulevard, Building 1A, Room 110, Staten Island, NY 10314.

President Fritz Embraces CSI's Rich Legacy



The College of Staten Island's Sunnyside Campus in its early years.

As many of us know, the College of Staten Island was founded in 1976 through the union of Staten Island Community College (SICC), which granted associate's degrees, and Richmond College, a two-year institution for students who had completed their first two years of baccalaureate work at another institution. Little light, however, has ever been shed on the history of those two predecessor schools until now.

CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz began a much-needed and earnest effort to recognize SICC and Richmond College two years ago when he initiated the Hall of Presidents, which is adjacent to his office on the fourth floor of Building 1A, and at last year's Commencement when he informed graduates and their supporters that the College was celebrating its *65th* Commencement, a culmination of every

graduation ceremony ever celebrated at SICC, Richmond College, and CSI.

To underscore the significance of the histories of SICC, Richmond College, and CSI, and the contributions and achievements of their students, faculty, and staff, President Fritz made what he called "our very proud but, at times, forgotten CSI legacy" the focal point of his annual

Convocation speech, last November. After explaining the unique theme of this year's Convocation, President Fritz underscored the importance of looking back. "The College of Staten Island, like all longstanding institutions, is a continuum. Consider that a continuum is a trilogy consisting not only of a present and a future, but also a past. Without our past, without our legacy, there would have been no foundation to build upon—there would be no today, there would be no tomorrow. This afternoon, we embrace our legacy as we celebrate our continuum."

President Fritz also unveiled a video at Commencement that features images of past Presidents, faculty and staff members, students, and the buildings where they studied, researched, worked, and unwound. The historical montage also looks ahead, as it features a 3D artist's rendition of the new CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center. This state-of-the-art facility, which is scheduled for a 2017

groundbreaking, will be the first new academic space on the Willowbrook campus since it opened in 1993.

The video also gives viewers a chance to hear portions of the student speech at the very-first SICC Commencement, which was held in 1958. President Fritz discussed the speaker, Charlotte Montalbano, who later became Charlotte Eldred, and her extraordinary and impactful life. After receiving a Master's degree from Teachers College of Columbia University, "Charlotte taught Spanish, English, and Creative Writing at Maine-Endwell Junior and Senior High School in Endwell, NY, where she inspired students for over 20 years before retiring in the 1990s. In 1985, she received a Teacher of Excellence Award from the NY State English Council. In addition, Charlotte was a poet and a writer, who published her own poetry collection called *Black Dress*, and a book of stories about her family's immigration from Sicily to America entitled, *The Rising Village of Their Ancestors Was*

Always in Their Hearts." President Fritz noted that "she was indeed the perfect representative for a group of true pioneers—the first graduating class of the first public institution of higher education on Staten Island." Sadly, Charlotte passed away in 2013 at the age of 75, but members of her family were in the audience.

President Fritz's commitment to CSI's legacy will continue with what he refers to as "a living archive project that will involve the recording of interviews with faculty, staff, and alumni to preserve their stories forever." The project is currently looking for volunteers who would like to share their memories of SICC, Richmond College, or CSI. The project also includes an appeal for old yearbooks and photos to fill the gaps in the College's historical archives.

If you are interested in participating in the living archive project, please contact Donna Garambone in the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290.

Without our past, without our legacy, there would have been no foundation to build upon—there would be no today, there would be no tomorrow.



DR. WALTER L. WILLIG
President
Staten Island
Community College
1955 - 1968



DR. HERBERT SCHUELER
President
Richmond College
1966 - 1973

STATEN ISLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



DR. WILLIAM M. BIRENBAUM

President
Staten Island Community
College
1968 - 1976

DR. EDMUND L. VOLPE

President
College of Staten Island
1976 - 1994

President
Richmond Community
College
1974 - 1976

DR. MARLENE SPRINGER

President
College of Staten Island
1994 - 2007

DR. TOMÁS D. MORALES

President
College of Staten Island
2007 - 2012

DR. WILLIAM J. FRITZ

President
College of Staten Island
2012 - Present

FACULTY FOCUS:

THE CSI CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL NEUROSCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: Advancing Knowledge, Improving Lives

In 1987, a dark chapter in this country's history of mental health treatment came to an end as the Willowbrook State School closed. Located on what is now the campus of the College of Staten Island, the institution had become a warehouse for people with mental illness and disabilities. A journalistic exposé of the horrors and neglect at the facility started a public discussion among lawmakers, professionals, and the public to rethink the classification of these pathologies and the treatments of these patients.

This episode prompted the creation of the Center for Developmental Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities (CDN), with the goal of applying the newest concepts of neurobiology in order to understand and find early diagnoses and treatments to mitigate the effects of mental disease, developmental disabilities, and other brain disorders on the population.

Presently, the Center is still among the few institutions in the country dedicated to the study of intellectual and physical disabilities, as well as mental disease, using a multidisciplinary team of faculty from the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science,



Students benefit from state-of-the-art technology at the CDN.

Physical Therapy, and Psychology.

A Record of Excellence in Neuroscience Research

Since its creation, investigators at the CDN have been at the forefront of neuroscience research, accomplishing remarkable discoveries in basic research areas as well as developing novel clinical treatments for patients.

These core faculty members of the CDN are outstanding world-renowned scientists who utilize the most innovative methods to understand mental and neurological diseases

that have a profound impact on public health. Dr. Alejandra Alonso, the Director of the Center, has created a genetically modified animal model that recapitulated the progression of Alzheimer's disease in humans. Dr. Dan McCloskey works with an animal colony that exhibits human social-like behavior in order to understand the genetic basis of human conduct. Dr. Zaghloul Ahmed has restored the mobility of patients with paralysis using magnetic stimulation. Dr. Probal

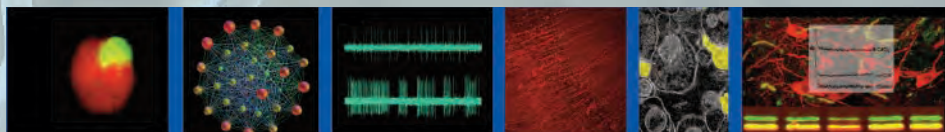
Banerjee has uncovered anticancer properties in food components, while Dr. Sebastien Poget is harvesting spider venom in an effort to develop new drugs to treat epilepsy.

This groundbreaking research has resulted in many publications and several patents, and collectively, Center faculty members have attracted significant funding. Most importantly,

program is the amount of scientific research that students conduct under mentor supervision and the numerous laboratory skills that they acquire—skills that easily transfer into any other research setting.

In addition, the CDN actively participates with The Graduate Center, CUNY and the Institute for Basic Research to offer a combined PhD

foundations and institutions. Recent sizable changes in funding jeopardize the chances of students to complete their education and aspire to better job opportunities. Reduced funding can also negatively impact the groundbreaking research done at the CDN and at the same time deplete educational resources what will affect not only Staten Island and



The goal of the CDN is to apply the newest concepts of neurobiology in order to understand and find early diagnoses and treatments to mitigate the effects of mental disease, developmental disabilities, and other brain disorders on the population.

they have also contributed to public awareness by organizing international scientific meetings and participating as invited speakers at meetings around the world.

Creating the Next Generation of Mental Health Professionals

Besides its strong commitment to research, the CDN also strives to provide exemplary education to local Staten Island and neighboring students in the fields of neuroscience, disabilities, and diseases, using a multidisciplinary education approach and considerable hands-on research experience.

In 2002, the CDN established the Master's Program in Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities at CSI to provide education, training, mentoring, and financial support to students interested in master's-level studies.

This master's program is one of the few in the country dedicated to training students in the neurological aspects of disease. Another of the crucial aspects of the master's

program in Biology and Psychology with a subspecialty in Neuroscience.

Part of the success of this program comes from the participation of the students in their professors' research projects. Professors and students also take their expertise into the community through public education workshops that are held onsite and at locations throughout Staten Island and other boroughs of New York City. Currently, the CDN is establishing collaborations with the SI Children's Museum, local public schools, and institutions that treat individuals with disabilities.

Funding and the Future

As the CDN strives to improve minds and lives through education and research, it is also facing a critical need for funding to support education costs for students with financial need. The money that fuels student education comes mostly from grants awarded to the CDN faculty and funds from local



Researchers at the CDN continue to improve public health by increasing their understanding of mental and neurological diseases.

New York Metropolitan-area students, but anyone who might one day benefit from the research being done at the CDN. As a result, the CDN is reaching out to several organizations and other private donors in order to secure financial support to help its master's and doctoral students cover part of their tuition costs.

For more information about the CDN and how to support its remarkable students or groundbreaking research, go to www.csi.cuny.edu/cdn/support.php.



GERALDO RIVERA CREATES FUND FOR SOCIAL WORK AND DISABILITY STUDIES

Geraldo Rivera keynotes the College of Staten Island's Bachelor of Science in Social Work departmental commencement ceremony, May 2014.

Geraldo Rivera returned to the Willowbrook neighborhood of Staten Island to be the speaker at the College of Staten Island's Bachelor of Science in Social Work commencement ceremony in May 2014.



Gerald Rivera reports on conditions at Willowbrook.

The graduates from this newly accredited program were so impressive, their chosen profession so vital, that Rivera was inspired to establish The Geraldo Rivera Fund for Social Work and Disability Studies at the College, which was announced in January of this year.

The Fund will provide support for public conferences, symposia, lectures, and new publications that will inform the public and continue the legacy of empowering people with disabilities, and influencing public policy.

“This generous investment in our students, faculty, and College will benefit the academic discourse and rigor on campus, and will allow us to take a leadership position regionally, nationally, and internationally as we promote

research, advocacy, and dialogues around this important issue in our society,” commented College President Dr. William J. Fritz.

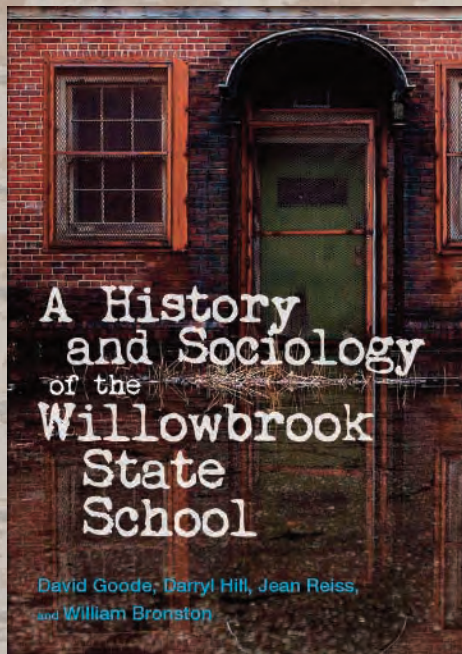
“This important Fund will empower the College to develop in-depth public programming that explores the fields of social work and disability studies by presenting an interdisciplinary array of global scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and thought leaders,” added Dr. Nan Sussman, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences.



The Willowbrook Mile is scheduled for a phase-one opening this summer.

Rivera has a long history with the location of the current CSI campus, which was previously the site of the Willowbrook State School. He earned a Peabody Award in 1972 for his

CSI faculty have researched Willowbrook’s legacy.



exposé on the inhumane conditions at Willowbrook and sparked a revolution in the way that people with disabilities receive care and services. When CSI moved to the Willowbrook site in 1993, the identity of the College became forever intertwined with the Willowbrook State School.

“Aside from being enormously gratifying, to be involved with CSI is to come full circle,” said Rivera. “Encouraging the next generation of young social workers to fight for equal rights for people with disabilities is the ultimate follow-up, ensuring that the horrors of Willowbrook never return.”

The Willowbrook Archive is housed in the Special Collections of the Library, and the College

hosts an annual Willowbrook Lecture that marks the anniversary of the Willowbrook Consent Decree, which eventually was responsible for closing the Willowbrook State School. In addition, The Willowbrook Mile, a walking tour comprised of landmarks on the present-day CSI campus and the grounds of the neighboring Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities, is scheduled for a phase-one opening in summer 2015.

“CSI has developed a strong orientation to the interests of people with disabilities in academic programs and more generally in campus life,” Dean Sussman notes. “Additionally, CSI recently launched a Master’s of Social Work program with a

focus on meeting the needs of people with disabilities, including those on the autism spectrum, and hired social work faculty who conduct research on disabilities and publish and present their work nationally and internationally.”

An example of ongoing research includes Professors Dr. David Goode and Dr. Darryl Hill, who recently co-authored *A History and Sociology of the Willowbrook State School* with Jean Reiss and Dr. William Bronston, a nurse and doctor, respectively, at Willowbrook, whose meticulous notes served as a key resource for the publication.

This focus is critical as CSI, a senior college of The City University of New York (CUNY), has the highest percentage of students with disabilities among the University’s senior colleges, and operates a variety of services designed to assist these students and ensure their success.

“You’re going to be doing noble work,” Rivera said, praising the recent graduates from CSI’s Social Work program. “You will make a difference in the lives of the people you are working with and for. The people that need you, their lives will be materially enhanced, in a way that you will be a walking angel. For every person that you

help, that you guide, that you assist, that you make their lives richer and better, your life will be similarly enhanced by it, your soul will be fed... you will be the next generation of the people who will make this world a better place.”

“We are very grateful for the establishment of The Geraldo Rivera Fund for Social Work and Disability Studies at the CSI,” Dr. Fritz noted. “Mr. Rivera’s vision so eloquently

aligns with the College’s Mission, and we are proud that together we memorialize a tragic past as we strive to make a significant contribution to our understanding and empowerment of people with disabilities.”

An inaugural event for the Fund will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 in Williamson Theatre. For more information, call the Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs at 718.982.2365.

INAUGURAL GERALDO RIVERA LECTURE
IN SOCIAL WORK AND DISABILITY STUDIES

**CURTAINS UP:
HERE WE ARE!**
DISABILITY JUSTICE
THROUGH INCLUSIVE RESEARCH

Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 4:30pm-6:30pm
Center for the Arts, Williamson Theatre

SPEAKERS

Dr. Val Williams, the Norah Fry Research Center, Bristol, UK
Beth Richards, the Misfits Theatre Company, Bristol, UK

PARTICIPANTS WHO NEED SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Barbra Teater, the College of Staten Island, Department of Social Work.
Please call 718.982.2166, or email barbra.teater@csi.cuny.edu.

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

 **College of Staten Island**
The City University of New York
Department of Social Work

IN MEMORIAM

Dean Alexander Chigogidze



Dr. Alexander Chigogidze, the College of Staten Island's Dean of Science and Technology, passed away last December. College President Dr. William Fritz said, "Dean Alex will be remembered as a vibrant leader at the College. Our lives and our community have greatly benefited from having known him. I extend my deepest condolences to members of his family, to members of the College community, as well as to all those whose lives were touched by his kindness, humor, and intellect."

CSI Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider noted that "Distinguished Professor Chigogidze came to CSI in September of 2011. During the three-plus years he served as Dean of Science and Technology, he left an indelible impression on our College. A man of grace, intellect, integrity, humor, and passion, he ably led his Division to higher and higher accomplishments. His time as Dean was marked by two of his faculty receiving NSF CAREER awards, by the development of campus-based Doctoral programs in Nursing and Physical Therapy, by the promotion of Professor Jay Rosen to Distinguished CUNY Professor of Mathematics, and by the recent reaccreditation of our Bachelor of Engineering Sciences program by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). He was a voice of reason and many campus stakeholders sought his advice and wisdom. Alex stood at the pinnacle of his field. He was a world-renowned topologist who earned his doctorate from Moscow State University, the premier institution of higher learning in mathematics in the former Soviet Union. He emigrated first to Canada and then to the United States, where he was a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics and Department Head at UNC Greensboro. He published more than 100 articles in the best mathematics journals and was Editor in Chief of the *Journal of Topology*. His passing is a blow to our community."

Professor Kathryn Talarico



Professor Kathryn Talarico passed away at the end of the summer after a long and valiant battle with cancer. Kathy came to CSI in 1991. CSI Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider remembered her with the following words: "She received her Doctorate in Medieval French Scholarship with distinction, receiving the James Healy Award for the Outstanding PhD in the Graduate School of Arts and Science, New York University. She quickly became a force in her department, leading it for nearly 20 years and building a rigorous French curriculum. She was known for her commitment to high standards, to excellence in all academic pursuits, and for her devotion to a liberal education. In addition to the seminal contributions Kathy made to the Department of World Languages and Literatures where she was instrumental in recruiting, hiring, and mentoring a cadre of outstanding young faculty members, she was a campus leader and a member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Known for her determination and perseverance, Kathy was instrumental in developing a strong general education curriculum at CSI and had major reservations about Pathways. Despite these reservations, I found her willing to dialogue and to work with the administration to develop the best CSI Pathways framework possible within the CUNY Pathways guidelines. Unfortunately, Kathy's illness prevented her from participating in campus discussions from Fall 2012 forward. At the campus remembrance, numerous colleagues eloquently recounted Kathy's contributions to CSI and it was clear to all that we were left a richer and higher-level institution through Kathy's tenure among us."

Stanley M. Jay



Photo courtesy of Eric Jay.

Stanley M. Jay, a former guitar instructor in the Performing and Creative Arts department at Staten Island Community College, passed away last October.

Jay was also co-founder of the Mandolin Brothers music shop on Staten Island, which attracted famous musicians such as George Harrison and Joni Mitchell, who even referenced the store in one of her songs.

Christina Volante, the ex-wife of the other Mandolin Brother, Hap Kuffner, recalls that Jay “was the very kindest, very supportive gentle soul. Every memory is a fond memory with him. When the Mandolin Brothers split up, he couldn’t have been any kinder during that time. There was no animosity and no bitterness. He was very supportive of my ex-husband’s decision to go into another area of the music industry. They parted ways in a very respectful manner.”

Volante also mentioned an interesting exchange between Jay and George Harrison regarding ukuleles. “When George Harrison came to Mandolin Brothers, Stanley did not know that he was an avid ukulele collector and player.

Stan was also a lover and collector of the ukulele. They instantly bonded over their mutual love for this instrument, which at that time had not yet started to emerge back into the spotlight. They shared knowledge over the history of the instrument and playfully tested each other over little-known facts. They each parted with great admiration and respect for each other, in a new light which either did not anticipate. They had a great visit that day!”

Volante also has fond memories of performing with Jay and Kuffner at Lincoln Center in the mid- to late 1970s.

Jay received a Bachelor's degree in both Education and English from Penn State University and a Master's degree in those disciplines from Wagner College. He also completed two years of postgraduate work at Columbia University’s Teachers College, where he was only a dissertation away from earning his PhD.

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 28 and we will pay special tribute to alumni from years that end in 0 or 5, as alumni from these and all graduation years are invited to join the Class of 2015 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.

AROUND CAMPUS



Holak Named School of Business Dean

Following a national search and consultation with a faculty-led search committee and many segments of the CSI community, CSI Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider has selected Dr. Susan L. Holak for recommendation to the

CUNY Board of Trustees for appointment as Dean of the School of Business. The Board of Trustees approved this appointment at their Monday, January 26 meeting.

Dean Holak will continue a career at CSI that has been characterized by strong leadership in a variety of branding and identity-building efforts.

Dean Holak directed the William E. Macaulay Honors College of CUNY at the College of Staten Island (2005-2007), led a successful effort to establish a Master's program in Business, and recently championed a Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics of Large-Scale Data. She also served as Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, providing leadership in accreditation, academic program review, and assessment, as well as overseeing the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. Dean Holak also directed the decennial Middle States reaccreditation process, was responsible for coordinating and composing the College's annual Performance Management Process reports for CUNY, and served as the campus Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Middle States Commission. As Interim Founding Dean of the School of Business, she provided leadership through the College's restructuring process, planned and executed the launch of the School of Business, and initiated branding and identity-building efforts.

As Professor of Marketing, her research interests include new product development, consumer behavior, and cross-cultural marketing. Dean Holak has published research on consumer response to innovations, advertising-sales relationships, and the impact of nostalgia on consumer behavior. She serves as President of the College of Staten Island chapter of Sigma Beta Delta, an international business honor society that she worked to establish on campus.

Beyond the campus, Dean Holak was a member of the 2011-2012 Leadership Program Cohort, co-sponsored by the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AACSCU).

Dean Holak graduated magna cum laude with a BS in Economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, where she was named to Beta Gamma Sigma, the business honorary society. She received her MPhil and PhD degrees in Business from Columbia University, where she was the recipient of an AACSB Fellowship and a Richard D. Irwin Fellowship for her doctoral studies.

Maureen Becker Named Interim Founding Dean of the School of Health Sciences



Dr. Maureen Becker has been appointed the Interim Founding Dean of the College of Staten Island School of Health Sciences. She will lead the Nursing and Physical Therapy Departments and organize the School so that these departments function cohesively and complement one another.

Interim Dean Becker holds a Doctorate in Health Sciences from the Institute of Physical Therapy, a Master's degree in Exercise Physiology, and a Bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. She was the Director of Clinical Education and Deputy Chair at the College of Staten Island for 22 years. She has also been one of two full-time faculty members who have been members of the combined Bachelor's/Master's of Physical Therapy program since its inception.

She has served as the Director of Clinical Education (DCE), securing 227 physical therapy education contracts, which equates to more than 500 actual clinical sites nationwide, and was instrumental in the College's transition to a Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program. Additionally,

she has been an integral part of CSI's Physical Therapy program, entering into agreement with Shaoxing University to develop a high-quality physical therapy educational program in China that would meet North American standards of accreditation.

Interim Dean Becker moved to Staten Island from Brooklyn as a teenager, and was part of the first coed class to graduate from St. Joseph by the Sea High School in 1977. She is the co-founder of a not-for-profit organization, the Staten Island Slim Down, which has helped more than 5,000 Staten Islanders lose weight and has promoted better health/wellness through healthier lifestyle choices for the last five years.

Interim Dean Becker has received numerous awards and professional honors in her field including the Staten Island Community Health Hero Award, The Richmond University Medical Center "Commitment to Excellence Award," and the New York Physical Therapy Association Appreciation Award. As Interim Dean of the School of Health Sciences, she will administer a School with two doctoral programs at the College, the Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) degree program and the new Doctorate of Nursing Practice, Adult-Gerontological Health Nursing (DNP) program, which will admit its first students this fall.

Levine Will Continue as Interim Dean of Science and Technology



In the wake of the passing of CSI Dean of Science and Technology Dr. Alexander Chigogidze, Dr. Alfred Levine has agreed to continue to serve as Interim Dean of the Division of Science and Technology until a

search is launched and completed to fill the position. Dr. Levine assumed the position as Acting Dean in October when Dean Chigogidze took a medical leave.

Interim Dean Levine has a long and distinguished career, most of which was spent at the College of Staten Island. He has been a Professor of Engineering Science at the College since 1970.

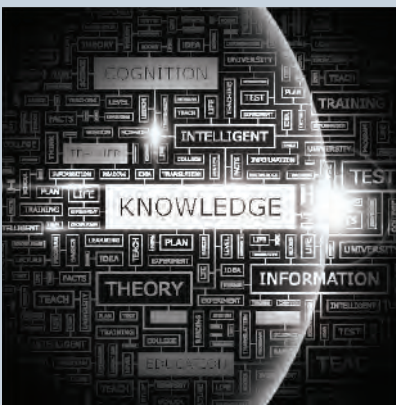
He received his Bachelor's of Electrical Engineering from Cooper Union, and his Master's and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University.

In addition to his tenure as Professor, Interim Dean Levine has served the Engineering Science Department as Coordinator of the MS program in Environmental Science and as a member of the CUNY Doctoral Faculty of Physics and Engineering for more than 40 years. He also served the College as Interim Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, and as a Chair or member of a wide selection of bodies and committees, such as the CSI College Council; the University Faculty Senate; the Research Foundation, CUNY; the CSI Long-Range Planning Committee; and more.

Interim Dean Levine has also made a significant contribution to academia with a long list of refereed publications, and he has received a number of awards, including two CSI Dolphin Awards, and various research awards from PSC-CUNY, the U.S./Israel Science Research Foundation, and a Fulbright Fellowship.

CSI Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider noted, "We are fortunate to have a person of Alfred's experience, talent, and vision to lead us forward in response to the loss of Dean Chigogidze."

School of Education Focuses on Professional Development

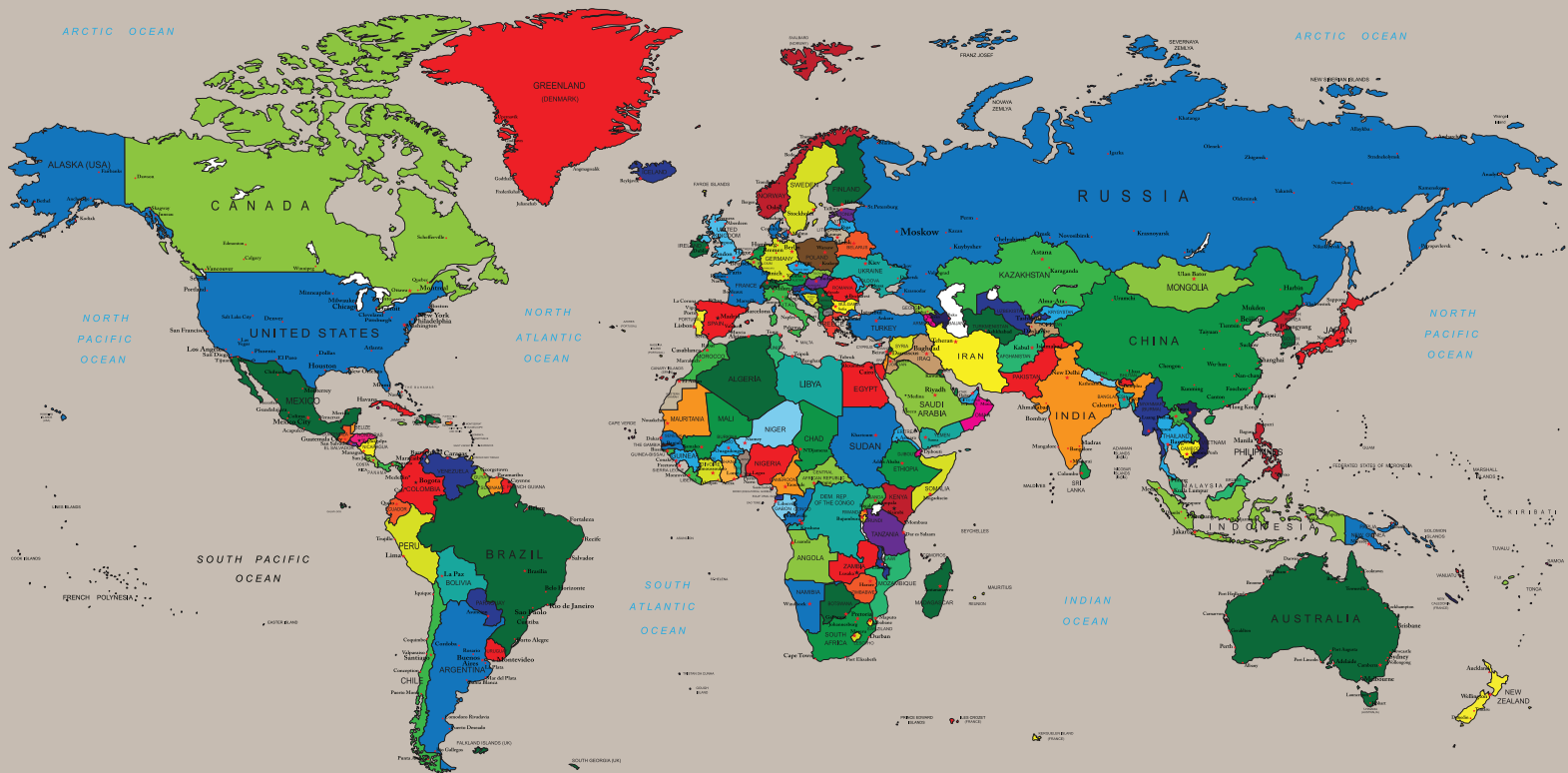


The School of Education at the College of Staten Island (CSISOE) is working with local schools to develop professional development sites in an effort to address a new trend in the field of teacher education that focuses on a more collaborative, clinically based approach to preparing tomorrow's teachers for work in the classroom and school administration. New standards from the field's accrediting body, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, have emphasized strong partnerships between the colleges who prepare teachers and the schools in which they practice. Ken Gold, Interim Dean of the School of Education, explains: "Teacher education programs are increasingly expected to contribute directly to K-12 student outcomes. To have this impact requires that the traditional boundaries between institutions of higher education and public schools become much more permeable than they have been in the past. Both entities must be willing to engage in the work of the other, and be willing to have the other weigh in on their work. These can potentially be challenging conversations to have, but the CSI School of Education already has strong relationships with many current school administrations that will nurture this initiative."

In the first rollout, CSISOE will pilot the model with PS 45, PS 48, Curtis HS, and New Dorp HS, with others from Staten Island and Brooklyn to be added in the future.

With the establishment of these new sites, School of Education faculty will work more closely with school-based teachers and administrators, participating in joint professional development, research, teaching, and other professional activities. One aspect of this collaboration, according to Deirdre Armitage, School of Education Director of Fieldwork, will result in the design of pre-student teaching field experiences. "We are being creative in the ways that our students develop relationships with a particular school earlier in their programs. By the time they student teach, they already know the kids, the teachers, the school, and the families. The schools will know what to expect in terms of skill level when they enter and exit, mainly because they will have helped to set these goals," Armitage says.

This project will better enable today's, and better prepare tomorrow's, educators to make a positive impact. Its ultimate goal is to strengthen the learning experience and outcomes for all students in our communities, regardless of race, class, gender, ethnic origin, language, and special needs.



New BA in Geography Charts Course for Student Careers

As the College of Staten Island continues its efforts to expand to meet the needs of its students, the Department of Political Science and Global Affairs has launched a new Bachelor of Arts program in Geography.

The creation of the new major is a significant development, as no other college on Staten Island, and only a limited number of universities in the NY/NJ/CT area, offers the opportunity for students to major in Geography. The 120-credit liberal arts degree will offer students the ability to develop an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of the Earth's physical and cultural environments, as well as the interrelationships between peoples and their environments on a variety of scales.

Associate Professor of Geography, Peter Kabachnik noted, "This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about population debates, human migration, climate change, and political conflicts, to name just a few themes that geographers explore. Students majoring in Geography will develop their curiosity about the planet into critical thinking skills, an appreciation of connections between people and places throughout the world, and an understanding of

the key global issues that will shape the 21st century. Not only does this solidify CSI's position in producing global citizens and leaders for the community, but also hones skills that employers want."

In addition, students will also gain training in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), an important skill in today's highly competitive job market, as GIS experience offers one of the fastest-growing and lucrative employment opportunities in the current job market.

Regarding GIS, Kabachnik said, "Not only are GIS skills in high demand, but a wide range of industries and businesses rely on GIS, from marketing, transportation, environmental issues, and law enforcement."

This new academic option resulted from a self-study, conducted in spring 2010, in which both reviewers strongly recommended the development of a Geography major. In addition, student feedback also provided strong support for its establishment.

KEEPING TABS

ANNIVERSARIES:

RONNIE GLICKLIN '61 and Arthur Glicklin celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

MARY STOFFO '76 and Carmine Stoffo celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

CYNTHIA BONAMO '01
TIFFANY DICKERSON-JULIA '07
GAIL HAMM '04
JOHN HOGAN '94
KAREN LIEDY '76
COURTNEY MARMION '12
MICHAEL MURPHY '92
SHIRLEY POINDEXTER '90
MICHAEL WALSH '89

FACULTY/ALUMNA

ELAINE SHIELDS '79 - Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Economics, in the School of Business. Professor Shields was an alumna of the College of Staten Island, having earned her undergraduate degree in Economics. She taught for more than 15 years in the Economics program, first in the PEP Dept. from approximately 1998 to spring 2013, 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 3,000 students. She was a popular instructor, and many students commented over the years about what a sweet woman she was and how much she cared about the education of her students.

CLASS NOTES:

RONALD GOLDFARB '71 will be retiring in June 2015 after 27 years at Middlesex County College in Edison, NJ. That will be almost

exactly 50 years after beginning his higher education at Staten Island Community College. He has served as both an adjunct and full-time professor of law, Vice President for Legal and External Affairs, and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. He is the Accreditation Liaison Officer to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and serves on several Commission on Higher Education committees. He earned his private pilot certificate just before his 60th birthday.

JOSEPH PALMIERI '73 retired from the City of New York Department of Housing Preservation and Development as a Real Property Manager.

NICHOLAS LONGO '78 retired from the New York City Department of Sanitation after 30 years in Bayridge, Brooklyn. He was captain of the CSI Tennis team in 1981.

MARIA GARCIA '79 has written *Cinematic Quests for Identity: The Hero's Encounter with the Beast*, which was published by Rowman & Littlefield, in hardcover and e-book, in April.

DOREEN MARTINI '90 is the Manager of Human Resources and Administrative Services at McKinsey & Company.

TOM DIRIWACHTER'S ('91) play, *Great Kills*, starring Joe Pantoliano (*The Sopranos*, *The Matrix*, *Memento*) opened at Theater for the New City in Manhattan on March 26, 2015. Set on Staten Island, *Great Kills* is a darkly comic story, a get-rich-quick scheme that goes awry.

AHSAN SHEIKH '93 is currently working as Vice President, Manager of IT Security at ING Financial Services.

LOUIS VALENTINO '94 is currently a Vice President for Fidelity Capital Markets on the Special Equities Desk. He is also the Staten Island County Chair for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation's Greater New York chapter.

JACQUELINE DOWE, '97, who graduated with her degree in Nuclear Medicine in 1998, has worked all over the United States as an independent government contractor. She made the list of "Who's Who among American Colleges and Universities" in 1997. Currently, she is living in the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. She reports that "life has been really good to me since graduation. I was even working for two years at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. I was offered a position there; however, I had family obligations back home. My husband Leonardo E. Bianco, who also attended the College of Staten Island, passed away in September 2006. I am doing well and enjoying the life that God has given me. I am now back into writing and playing my own music again. I have been thinking of my College life quite a bit lately as I am thinking of returning to teaching at SUNY."

JONATHAN WEISSMAN '97, Adjunct Professor, Information and Sciences Technology Department, B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences, received the 2013-2014 Outstanding Teaching Award for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty.

XIOMARA BERNARD '02 has been working as a Resource Manager at New York University and is currently completing a

Master's degree in English Education at New York University.

JOSE DIAZ '02 currently serves as the Marching Band Director for Wagner College.

PETER JARED DECRESCENZO '09 is currently transitioning from his job at the Posse Foundation as the Career Manager to work for the University of Maryland, College Park as an Advisor for Retention Initiatives in the Student Success Office, Undergraduate Studies.

TONIANN LIGAMARI '10 works for Abacus and Associates, which is a 100-year-old family wealth management office in Midtown, NYC, as the Executive Assistant to the Chairman. She met her husband in Professor Gagliardi's Marketing 100 class and they were married in 2011. She eventually bought an old 1920s colonial home in Annadale and has renovated and restored it to its original glory.

SARA LIM '10 is a prekindergarten teacher with the NYCDOE at PS 347, the American Sign Language and English Lower School. She became engaged to a fellow alumnus in May and they are planning a November 2015 wedding.

JENNIFER GUINTA '11 received his MEd in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from St. John's University in January 2014. She returned to CSI in the fall of 2014 to teach PSY 100 as an Adjunct Lecturer.

JESSICA NG '11 is working as an Occupational Therapist on Staten Island and attending a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy program at Thomas Jefferson University. These were two of the dreams for which she had worked during her

undergraduate studies at CSI.

KARMEN LAI '12 recently opened a business, V-Promise Insurance Broker Inc., which provides insurance services.

ALISA SERIO '14 is in graduate school at The University of Scranton in Scranton, PA, studying to be a clinical mental health counselor. She reports that undergraduate classes in psychology and sociology have prepared her for the courses that she is taking now. She is currently volunteering at the psychiatric hospital in town.

JARRED SUTTON '14 is currently the Director of Technology for a local corporation, running five branches with 70 people, along with assisting in implementing a new very large enterprise software system. In addition, she teaches for a local non-profit that assists as a business incubator in the community.

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.



CSI Physical Therapy Graduates Reunion

More than 70 alumni, faculty, and staff members attended the Department of Physical Therapy's Alumni Reunion, last March, at The Staaten. This first-ever event for the CSI Physical Therapy Alumni chapter celebrated the 20th anniversary of the PT program and honored all generations of CSI physical therapists.

Ann Mackey, a DPT candidate for 2015 and the event's coordinator, says, "It was highly rewarding and inspirational to stand in the reception hall and feel the excitement in the room as the Department of Physical Therapy's faculty, alumni, and current students interacted with each other."

Key speakers included Dr. Maureen Becker, Interim Founding Dean of the School of Health Sciences; Dr. Jeffrey Rothman, Chair, Physical Therapy Department; Ann Mackey; Dr. Michael Mattia, President, New York Physical Therapy Association (NYPTA); Dr. Michael Masaracchio, NYPTA Chapter Director, Brooklyn/Staten Island; and Dr. John Lugo, '03, Director of Clinical Education at CSI.

CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz also offered some remarks to the attendees.

"This reunion will lay the foundation for the creation of a Physical Therapy Alumni Club," Mackey adds, "the main goal of which is to provide a vast array of volunteer, mentorship, clinical affiliation, and employment opportunities to current students and past graduates."

She also notes that "The further development of the Physical Therapy Alumni Club will allow the program to move toward national recognition.

Funds raised from this alumni event, as well as future fundraising, will provide our current students with the opportunities to attend both local and national physical therapy conferences, better preparing them for their future leadership skills as alumni members and skilled physical therapists."

The event was sponsored by the CSI Alumni Association.

Physical Therapy graduates gathered for the first-ever alumni reunion.



ALUMNI NEWS

Murder Mystery Transports Attendees into the 1980s



The College of Staten Island Alumni Association hosted “Totally ‘80s, Totally Murder,” last November, at the Old Bermuda Inn.

More than 100 alumni and friends attended the event, and had the opportunity to participate as suspects and detectives under assumed identities. To put a more interesting spin on the evening, most of the participants wore 1980s-inspired fashions.

Awards were given for the best costume, and best and worst detective, and the entertainment for “Totally ‘80s, Totally Murder” was provided by The Murder Mystery Company.



Magic Mike

Michael Sherman aka Mike Lane (author name) aka Magic Mike '83 has been a professional magician for many years. In late

2011, his first book, *Magic Mike's Miraculous Magic Tricks*, was published. It was one of the top-selling books in 2012 for Arcturus publishers in the UK.

In 2012, Feiwel & Friends (an imprint of Macmillan) gave him a deal for *The Magic Shop*, a fictional series for children. He was teamed up with Kate Egan, editor of *The Hunger Games* book series. *The Vanishing Coin* and *The Incredible Twisting Arm*, the first two books in the series, were released together in April 2014. Within two months

of its release, *The Vanishing Coin* was awarded the designation, “A Junior Library Guild Selection.”

In June 2014, *The Huffington Post* published an article titled “24 Books That Will Captivate Your Kids This Summer.” *The Vanishing Coin* was one of those 24 books.

Amazon's prestigious “Best Books of the Year So Far” list, released in June 2014, placed *The Vanishing Coin* in the top ten in its age group. *The Great Escape*, the third book in the series, was released in October 2014, and the fourth book, *The Disappearing Magician*, will be released in May 2015. *The Vanishing Coin* is now part of Scholastic's book fairs and catalogs. On October 24, 2014, *The Vanishing Coin* became one of the 20 finalists in the Texas Bluebonnet reading program for the 2015-2016 season, one of the largest reading programs in the country.



Savor the Flavors Will Offer Some of the Island's Best Cuisine

The CSI Alumni Association will hold the Sixth Annual Savor the Flavors on Sunday, April 19 in the Center for the Arts Atrium in an effort to raise critical funds for student scholarships. Over the years, the event has raised enough money to fund 32 scholarships for students in need.

Beyond having the unique opportunity to sample some of the Borough's best food, attendees will also enjoy wine, beer, and vodka tastings, and awards for best dish, dessert, and décor, determined by celebrity judges Rob Burmeister, Eddie Canlon, and John Sierp from The Food Network's *Chopped*.

Savor the Flavors is sponsored by Liberty Mutual and Kohls, with music provided by Feel the Beat Productions.

James McBratney '05, Alumni Advisory Board member, President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association, and a past recipient of the CSI President's Medal for service to the College and community, will, once again, serve as Event Chair.

For more information, call the CSI Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290.

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

Faculty/Staff Publications and Honors

Mirella Jona Affron, PhD (Former CSI Provost and Professor Emerita) coauthored *Grand Opera: The Story of the Met*. The book, coauthored by Charles Affron, was published worldwide in September 2014 by University of California Press.

John Arena (Sociology and Anthropology) was named co-winner of the Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award by the American Sociological Association for his book *Driven from New Orleans: How Nonprofits Betray Public Housing and Promote Privatization*. The award recognizes sociologically related books that make a distinguished and significant contribution to the eradication of racism.

Kenneth T. Bach (Director of Communications) was appointed to the Staten Island Historical Society/Historic Richmond Town Board of Directors, and was later appointed as Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee.

Matt Brim (English) celebrated the release of his new book, *James Baldwin and the Queer Imagination* (University of Michigan Press, 2014) at a launch event hosted by the main branch of the New York Public Library.

Rev. Dr. Kathleen M. Cumiskey (Psychology) was honored as an LGBTQ Changemaker by New York City Comptroller Scott M. Stringer at a ceremony at Macy's Herald Square.

Stephen Ferst (Executive Director of the Center for International Services) attended a ceremony for the "100,000 Strong in America" partnership at the Department of State. During the remarks, Secretary of State John Kerry thanked Ferst by name for his contributions in pulling the program together.

William J. Fritz (President of the College of Staten Island) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC), as recognized at the organization's Feb. 5,

2015 meeting. The SIEDC's mission is "to enhance Staten Island's economy by promoting public and private investment, and encouraging responsible and sustainable development, all of which improve the quality of life and provide broad and diverse employment opportunities in the borough."

In addition, President Fritz received the Effective Leadership Award on behalf of CSI at the 22nd Annual Golden Age Awards Banquet held by the Latino Center on Aging (LCA).

President Fritz was also named a Geological Society of America (GSA) Fellow for 2014. Society Fellowship is an honor bestowed on the best of the profession, in recognition of their distinguished contributions to the geosciences, by election at the spring GSA Council meeting.

Dr. Calvin Holder (History) received the Education Award at The New York Urban League's 49th Annual Mills G. Skinner Awards Gala. The awards were created to honor the Rev. Mills G. Skinner for his long and dedicated service, constructive leadership, and unwavering spiritual guidance to the Staten Island community.

Michael Mandiberg (Media Culture) was named to *Foreign Policy* magazine's 100 Leading Global Thinkers list for his work on *Art+Feminism*, an initiative focused on bolstering a more balanced presentation of art, feminism, gender studies, and LGBTQ issues on Wikipedia.

Cate Marvin's (English) poem, "Memory in Plain English," was featured in the *New England Review*, Volume 34, Numbers 3-4, 2014.

In addition, her poem "An Etiquette for Eyes," was chosen for inclusion in *The Best American Poetry, 2014*, published September 9, 2014 by Scribner.

Louis Petingi (Computer Science) was the invited editor of a special issue of the journal *WSEAS Transactions on Mathematics*, titled "Network Reliability and Vulnerability Models and Their Applications." Petingi co-

edited this special edition with his thesis advisor at Stevens Institute of Technology, Charles Suffel.

Professor Petingi (Principal Investigator) and **Xiaowen Zhang** (Computer Science, co-Principal Investigator) received a \$356,134 National Science Foundation grant to support a three-year REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduates) Site at the College of Staten Island with technical support from CUNY's Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center. The award is also sponsored by the Department of Defense.

The REU Site recruits eight undergraduate students for a ten-week summer experience, who undertake challenging problems with their mentors in different research subfields of computer science (e.g., graph theory, network reliability, cryptography, network security, wireless ad-hoc, sensor networks, and complex systems modeling and simulation) that require parallel processing programming techniques to be solved. Selected students develop competency in scientific research, and improve oral presentation and writing skills. The program is aimed to help students produce significant research results that are written in a format acceptable for publication in either a conference or journal.

Krishnaswami S. Raja (Chemistry) was the guest editor for "Green Anti-Cancer Agents and Ayur-Biotechnology: A Smart Approach towards Improving R&D Productivity," a thematic issue of the journal *Anti-Cancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry*.

Patricia Smith (English) won the Robert L. Fish Award from the Mystery Writers of America for short story writing.

Mark White (Philosophy) was elected President of the Association for Social Economics.

Ming Xia (Political Science and Global Affairs) was named among the top 100 Chinese Public Intellectuals by *Foreign Policy* magazine.

FOUNDATION NOTES

Fifth Annual Celestial Ball Rallies Community in Support of CSI



Standing L to R: *Dr. William J. Fritz, Prof. Irving Robbins, James McBratney, and Dr. Fred Naider*
Sitting L to R: *Dr. Bonnie Fritz, Linda M. Baran, Jean G. Roland, and Anita Naider*

The College of Staten Island held its Fifth Annual Celestial Ball at the Richmond County Country Club, last December, to raise support for the College's greatest needs. The event attracted approximately 200 enthusiastic attendees from all walks of life, including students, faculty members, College staff, CUNY dignitaries, Ball honorees and their guests, business and community leaders, and other Borough residents.

College President Dr. William J. Fritz treated attendees to a video, which premiered at last November's Convocation, that celebrates the proud history and heritage of CSI, following the continuum from the opening of Staten

Island Community College in 1956 through the opening of Richmond College in 1967 to the establishment of CSI in 1976 to today's achievements and plans for the future.

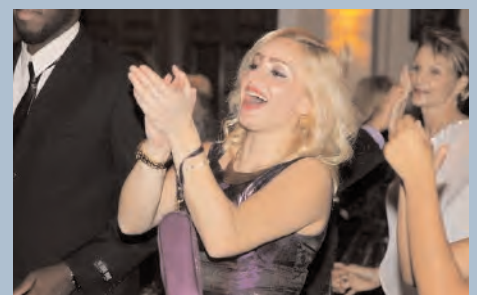
Later in the evening, Dr. Fritz and Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider honored four outstanding members of the CSI and Staten Island communities for their exceptional contributions. The honorees included Linda M. Baran, President and CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce; James McBratney, owner of Jimmy Max Restaurant and President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association; Prof. Irving K. Robbins, Associate Professor of Engineering and Physics at the College of Staten Island, and Director of CSI's Astrophysical Observatory; and Jean G. Roland, writer and community supporter.

Other speakers included Janine Scaff, Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs; Samir Farag, President of the CSI Foundation; and Student Government President Taiwo Adenkan, who explained that his choice to

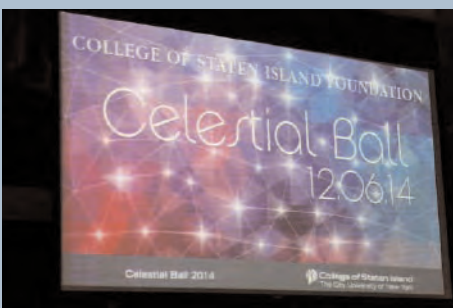
attend CSI was a good decision, based on the many advances that the College has made during his time on campus.

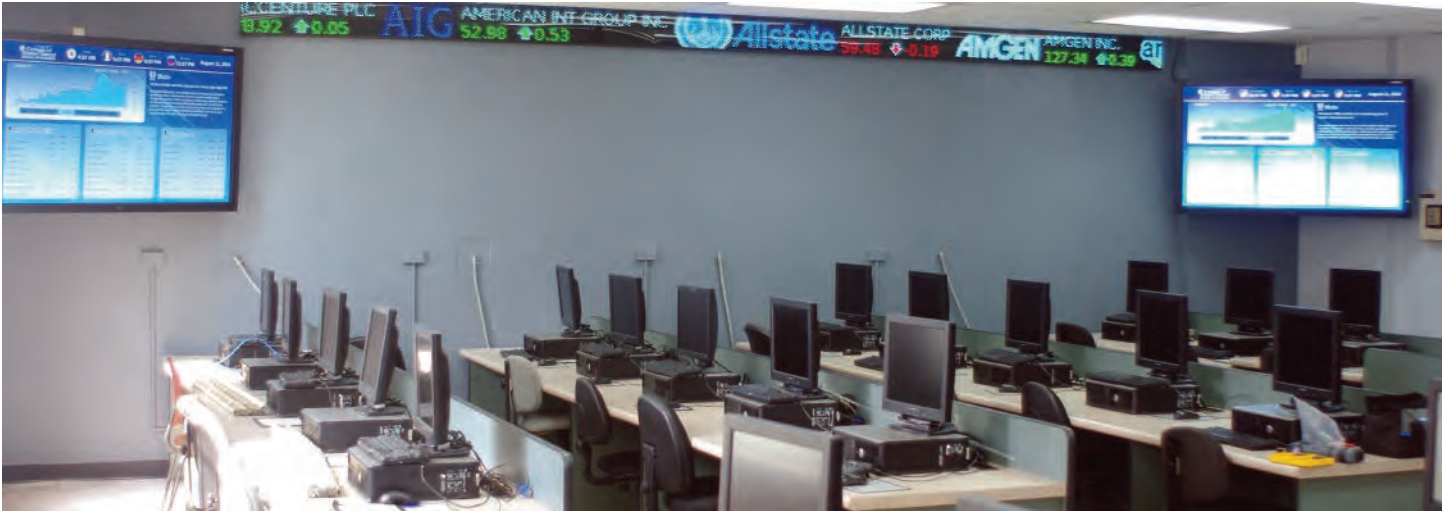
Although the event's attendees had a wonderful time, the College was the greatest beneficiary of the evening, as critical funds were raised to support students, faculty, improvements to the campus's infrastructure, and other general needs. The College does receive State funds, but private support is essential in the face of declining governmental funding.

This year's Celestial Ball was chaired, once again, by Marilyn Caselli, Senior Vice President for Customer Operations, Consolidated Edison, Inc., and a member of the CSI Foundation Board of Directors.



A great time was had by attendees at the 2014 Celestial Ball.





Con Ed Gift Puts Students on the Trading Room Floor

In late September 2014, Con Edison of New York announced a generous contribution to CSI's new School of Business with an innovative trading room that has been established in Con Edison's name. The highly anticipated gift allows students to experience real-time involvement with an authentic LED ticker from 24 work stations within a renovated space located in Building 3N, Room 107 on the CSI campus.

Con Edison has been a key donor to the College since 1994 through major contributions to numerous initiatives such as the Hands-On Estuarine Water Quality Workshops, the Eibs Pond Project, and the Con Edison Endowed Scholarship for Aspiring Engineers. In addition, they have served as Gold Sponsors for annual events like the Celestial Ball and the Breast Cancer Walkathon. Based upon their long history of giving to CSI, it is no surprise that Con Edison is building on this important partnership by naming the trading room.

Con Edison's Senior Vice President for Customer Operations, Marilyn Caselli, has enthusiastically served on the CSI Foundation's Board of Directors for many years. Caselli, along with Frances Resheske, Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, and Mark Irving, Director of Public Affairs for Staten Island, visited the new School of Business in 2014. The contagious enthusiasm of Founding Dean Dr. Susan L. Holak sparked their interest and they fully embraced her vision for the "Con Edison Trading Room."

The students are very excited about the new state-of-the-art trading room, as they see the long-term advantages for their future careers in a competitive workplace. The School of Business faculty and staff are equally enthusiastic and expect a piqued interest in all major fields of study related to the new trading room.

Samir Farag Becomes CSI Foundation President



Samir A. Farag was elected as President of the CSI Foundation at its annual meeting in June 2014.

Farag was born in Cairo, Egypt. He lived in Lebanon before moving to Staten Island in 1969. Farag is the

founder and President/CEO of Worldwide Electronics Corporation of Staten Island, which he began in 1976. The company specializes

in communications, navigation, and commercial electronics, serving a wide variety of clients, including the shipping industry, hospitals, the U.S. Navy, and a number of city, state, and non-profit organizations.

Farag is strongly dedicated to community service and is a board member of many organizations, such as the Museum of Maritime Navigation and Communication (where he is also the founder), the Staten Island SCORE Chapter Counselors to America's Small Business (where he also serves as Chair), and the Staten Island YMCA and Rotary Club, among others. He has been a past board member of a long list

of organizations, including the Staten Island Chapter of the American Red Cross (past Chair), the Staten Island Botanical Garden (past Chair), and the Staten Island Good Scout Committee (past Chair), and much more.

He has also received a number of awards, including the New York Urban League, Staten Island Branch, Rev. Mills G. Skinner Community Service Award; the YMCA Distinguished Community Service Award; and more.

Farag and his wife Lisette are the proud parents of Shelly Cashdan.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Coach Guagliardo Retires

After 11 seasons at the helm, Women's Soccer Head Coach John Guagliardo announced his retirement in December. The long-time coach has been the only coach in the team's history, collecting a sparkling record of 116-76-9, complete with ten CUNYAC regular-season Championships, six CUNYAC Postseason Championships, and five ECAC Metro NY/NJ Postseason appearances.



Volleyball Debut

The College of Staten Island made athletics history in 2015, as Men's Volleyball made its official varsity debut in late January under first-year Head Coach Juan Lopez. CSI sponsored a club men's volleyball team in the two years leading up to the grand debut, and the Dolphins hit the ground running, scoring their first win in school history on February 7 against The City College of New York.



photo: Jean Beale

Mark Palencia and Danil Kukovitskiy make their CSI debuts in 2015.



Photo: Dennis Granger

Men Are CUNYAC Swim Champs

For the second consecutive year, the College of Staten Island Men's Swimming team exercised their dominance in the pool, securing the CUNYAC Championship, winning the event by more than 100 points. It was the first time that the Dolphins repeated as champions since 2005. For his efforts, sophomore Tim Sweeney was named Performer of the Meet, breaking two CUNYAC records during the incredible three-day event.



Photo: April Sinclair

Athletics Hall of Fame

CSI celebrated the latest installment of its Athletics Hall of Fame on Thursday, November 13, 2014. The College inaugurated seven inductees to their Class of 2014 selection. The rousing celebration was held at the Grand Oaks Country Club on Staten Island. Athletics Hall of Fame inductees, front row, left to right: Nicole Estrada; (sitting in for the late William Hodge) John Hodge, Catherine Christman, Russ Hodge and Fred Hodge; and Fiosa Begai. Back row, left to right, Danny the Dolphin; CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz; Fran Hirschy; Rob Roesch; Kevin Crombie; Bruce Knittle; CSI Athletic Director Charles Gomes; and CSI Associate Athletic Director David Pizzuto. (Photo: April Sinclair)

Women's Tennis Wins CUNYAC Title

In dramatic fashion, the CSI Women's Tennis team secured its second-straight CUNYAC title in November. It took the match almost six hours to complete between rain delays and the switch-over in venues from the National Tennis Center to Queens College. Down in the match, CSI roared back to secure the win, capped by a dramatic come-from-behind third-set win by Michelle Kushmir. CSI will advance to the NCAA Division III Championship in May of 2015.



Photo: Denis Gostev



Photo: Denis Gostev

Cross-Country's First-Ever Title

The CSI Men's Cross-Country team made history in 2013 with their first-ever CUNYAC Championship, and in 2014, the harriers repeated the effort, scoring first overall in the yearly meet. Two weeks later, the squad represented at the NCAA Division III Regional Championship, the first CSI squad to do so during the 2014-2015 season.

RISING STARS



ANDREA GONZALEZ '17

Major: Double major in Engineering Science and Mathematics

A Verrazano School and Dean's List student, she worked as an intern researcher at the American Museum of Natural History under the supervision of Dr. Charles Liu, focusing on morphological

classifications of E + A Galaxies.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "There are a lot of helpful people, and the campus is beautiful. Also, the College has a lot of resources that I can take advantage of."

Future plans: After she receives her bachelor's degree, she intends to attend graduate school and will start working on creating a robotics company.



NEWTON BROOKS '17

Major: Business Management

A Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK program and Verrazano School student, who is also part of the Black Male Initiative. He recently finished a mentorship program at the New York Stock Exchange called "Streetwise Partners."

A favorite aspect of CSI: "My experience, thus far, at CSI has been outstanding. The SEEK Program has given me numerous opportunities."

Future plans: After he receives her bachelor's degree, he hopes to work in the financial sector with the goal of becoming a CEO. He adds that he is aiming for happiness and not wealth.



JASMINE CALLE '16

Major: Biochemistry with a minor in Mathematics
A Macaulay Honors College student conducting research with Dr. Cesar Arenas-Mena on developmental biology. She also enjoyed participating in the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Program at the Wadsworth Center, the NYS

Department of Health's public health laboratory, by working for Dr. Samuel S. Bowser, Dr. Ellen Braun-Howland, and Melissa Prusinski. She also studied abroad in Quito, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "The College is an interesting mix of people from all ages and backgrounds. More than anything, the professors at this school impress me."

Future plans: After her bachelor's degree, she plans to become a veterinarian and get her PhD to become an animal researcher.



MICHELLE VANN '16

Major: Mathematics

A Teacher Education Honors Academy and Dean's List student who is majoring in Mathematics with a concentration in Adolescence Education. She was nominated for the National Science Foundation Noyce Scholarship for the Fall 2014 semester.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "My experience at CSI has been very rewarding. I have done well in my academics with the help of my dedicated professors and friends. Hard work leads to great results and I have CSI to thank for that."

Future plans: After receiving her bachelor's degree, she hopes to find a job in an NYC high school teaching any level of math. She also plans to attend graduate school for a Master's degree in Mathematics Adolescence Education.

CSI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- ✓ **Library privileges:** Present your alumni photo ID at the CSI Library for access and borrowing privileges.
- ✓ **Use of the CSI Computer Center:** Contact Information Technology, 718.982.3695.
- ✓ **Parking Pass:** Alumni can park in lot 6 only up to three times throughout a semester and must display a completed visitor's pass obtained from the security guard at the entrance of the campus. Any alumni parking on campus more than three times throughout a semester are required to purchase a CSI parking decal. Parking permits and any additional information may be obtained directly from the Office of Parking and DolphinCard Services, 718.982.2294.
- ✓ **The Career and Scholarship Center** offers assistance with résumés through Symplicity – a Web-based career management program designed to deliver career-related services to current students and alumni. Call 718.982.2300 for more information.
- ✓ **15% tuition discount** for select courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development. For course information and to register, call 718.982.2182.
- ✓ **Alumni Travel Program:** Specialized Group Tours for alumni, family, and friends. Contact the office for information on upcoming trips.
- ✓ **Barnes & Noble CSI College Bookstore 10% alumni discount:** Present alumni photo ID for applicable items, excluding textbooks.
- ✓ **CSI Sports and Recreation Center alumni discount membership:** Present your alumni photo ID for discount. Contact the membership desk, 718.982.3160.
- ✓ **CSI Center for the Arts Ticket Discount:** Receive \$2 alumni discount off CFA performances (limit two per ID per performance). For more information about upcoming shows, call the box office at 718.982.ARTS (2787).
- ✓ **Auto and Homeowner Insurance Program 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 or visit www.libertymutual.com/lm/csi.
- ✓ **Group Term Life Insurance and Health Insurance NEA Trust/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, www.alumniinsuranceprogram.com/csi.*
- ✓ **New Insurance Programs:** Alumni Pet Health, Alumni IID Recovery, Alumni Long-Term Care, Alumni Travel. New offers and expanded benefits are continually added, so check out the latest benefits. Visit us at www.csi.cuny.edu/alumni.

* 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.

CORRECTION:

In the photograph in the Spring 2014 issue of *Eye on CSI* on page 7, **MYUNGSHIM KANG** was incorrectly identified as Mangmang Zhu.

Phyllis Morris, AA, BA, MS (1938-2011)

A LIFE WELL LIVED



Phyllis Morris was a proud CSI graduate.

Editor's Note: SICC and College of Staten Island alumna Phyllis Morris bequeathed a generous donation to the College of Staten Island. Her daughters, Wendy Jackelow and Jamie Apollonio, share the story of this extraordinary woman's journey from a typical housewife to a successful professional who dedicated her life to helping others, thanks to her impactful education at Staten Island Community College and the College of Staten Island.

When we were in grade school in the early 1970s, our mother enrolled in Staten Island Community College in order to get a better job. She wanted to work, but she did not have a decent skill set or a college degree to get anything useful or well paying. At the time, City University was free and offered a two-year Medical Technology course that seemed like a good solution. As a returning student, our mother was an anomaly— a suburban housewife with two children, surrounded by hippies, radicals, Vietnam veterans, and students half her age. She never thought of herself as college material since she was on the business track in high school during the 1950s. Like many women of her generation, it was understood that she would just work for a few years as a secretary or receptionist, marry, and never have to work again.

As anxious as our mother was about going back to college, she was invigorated by the atmosphere of the school and liberated by all the new things she was exposed to, both in the classroom and on campus. The Med Tech major was short-lived due to her aversion to blood and her extreme math anxiety. Instead, she discovered psychology and sociology and pursued those areas, not as a means to get a job, but for the love of learning and personal growth. She realized that she was a student after all, and a rather accomplished one. The two-year, Associate's degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1975 led to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Sociology with Highest Honors from the College of Staten Island in 1977. She then went on to earn her Master of Science degree in Education and Guidance Counseling from CSI in 1979. She met students and professors who changed her life in big and small ways, including Professor Irene Deitch who taught a revolutionary new psychology course at the time called "Death and Dying." This course, above all others, profoundly affected our mother and her understanding of what makes a good counselor. It made

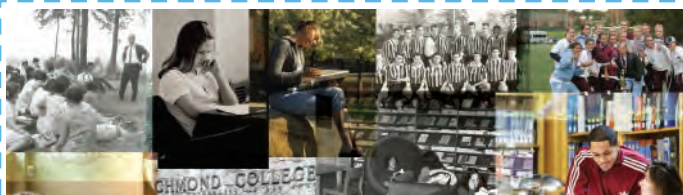
her more aware and sympathetic to others and for the rest of her life, she would refer back to this course.

As a student, our mother's world opened up to all of the possibilities that were available and not all the limitations. Her self-doubt and feelings of inferiority gradually turned into a sense of accomplishment and self-fulfillment. College gave her a new confidence and it empowered her. It gave her a voice—one that she never had. For the first time in her life, she no longer felt incompetent. She had the courage to change her major as well as make changes in her personal life. She was strong and determined and she no longer felt like her opinion didn't count. She was also smart, kind, hardworking, and now educated and equipped to find not just a job, but to pursue a profession. She spent the rest of her career at Kean University as a counselor in the Exceptional Educational Opportunities Program helping students as doubtful about their abilities as she was when entering college stay on track and earn a college degree. Each year, she helped organize the marshals at graduation and proudly watched as class after class of her students received their diplomas.

Our mother never forgot what the College gave her in terms of her personal and professional life. She took a chance that paid off in ways she could have never imagined. Her world was transformed by the opportunities the College of Staten Island presented to her and in return her last wish was to give back to the school that she loved. Her donation brings her college career full circle. We hope our mother serves as an inspiration to all of those who want to better themselves through higher education, but are too afraid to take that first step.

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



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UPCOMING EVENTS

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

April 25, 2015

CSI ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING

May 18, 2015

For information, call
718.982.3151

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING

May 18, 2015

7:00pm

1A-406

COMMENCEMENT

May 28, 2014

CLASS REUNIONS

Honoring alumni class years ending in 0s and 5s (1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

June 15, 2015

7:00pm

1A-406

SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF DR. FRED NAIDER

June 18, 2015

For information, go to
www.csi.cuny.edu/symposium

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER

November 13, 2015

TBA

CELESTIAL BALL

December 12, 2015

Richmond County Country Club



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

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

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