

eye on CSI

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

nationally ranked **Money** – Best College for Your Money *nationally ranked* **G.I. Jobs** – Top Military-Friendly School (Sixth year in a row) *nationally ranked* **U.S. News & World Report** – Regional Top College *nationally ranked* **Forbes** – America's Top Colleges *nationally ranked*



nationally ranked **Number 6 on CollegeNet's Social Mobility Index** *nationally ranked* **Washington Monthly** – Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges *nationally ranked* **PayScale's 2015-2016 College Salary Report** – Top 15% Nationwide Median Alumni Salaries

30,000 Degrees Initiative
Seeks to Build Happier,
More Prosperous Borough

Sean Thatcher
Named 2015 Barry M.
Goldwater Scholar

ALUMNI
PROFILE

CSI Lecturer,
Engineering
Science and Physics

**Alan I.
Benimoff, '67**



Irma K. Cruz Velez is making a difference and contributing to the greater good...

“My number-one priority has been getting an education and contributing to my community any way I can.”

The Aramis Gonzalo Rios Memorial Scholarship, funded by a generous donor, helps to make it possible for first-generation immigrants and community service-oriented students like Irma K. Cruz Velez '16 to attend the College of Staten Island and create a world of opportunity.

Some of her contributions include:

- interning for social service programs aimed at tackling violence, substance abuse, and immigrant and gender rights
- volunteering to translate for the New York City Municipal ID program

- teaching early childhood Spanish language acquisition at a Staten Island Montessori school
- organizing and leading a Summer Youth Leadership Summit for teens
- assisting families impacted by Superstorm Sandy, providing referrals for essential services

Irma is an outstanding student who plans to be an English as a Second Language, Spanish, and Special Education teacher. “I feel strongly that I will be an incalculable asset to our city as an energetic leader who guides young minds of the next generation.” She is certainly an asset to CSI.

...Will you?

www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation/



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eye on CSI

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Winter 2015



CSI Geology major and Goldwater Scholar Sean Thatcher, left, conducts research in the field with classmates.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Winter 2015 edition of *Eye on CSI*, which will bring you up to date on the latest advances of our institution, our students, our faculty and staff, and our alumni.

In recent issues, we have told you about the continued expansion of our academic programs in an effort to better serve our students and our community. I am happy to report that those achievements are now garnering national attention with the College receiving accolades and inclusion on “Best of” lists from publications such as *U.S. News & World Report*, *Money*,

and *Forbes*. Our outstanding programs and faculty, as well as our beautiful 204-acre campus, are quickly making CSI a destination campus for students, not only from around New York City, but around the world.

Much of this recognition focuses on the exceptional value of a CSI education, but we also realize the importance of a higher education degree, regardless of the granting institution. In this edition, you will learn about CSI’s participation, along with Wagner College and St. John’s University, in the 30,000 Degrees initiative, which seeks to drastically increase the number of Staten Island residents who hold a baccalaureate or higher degree. The goal of the initiative is to raise the level of civil prosperity in the Borough, as a more educated community will attract businesses and better jobs to the Island, as well as increase the level of civic engagement.

In addition, you will have the opportunity to meet one of CSI’s rising stars, Sean Thatcher. Sean has overcome great personal adversity to excel in his studies as a Verrazano School student and received a coveted Goldwater Scholarship.

These are only a few of the College’s many achievements. I look forward to sharing with you other successes in future issues of *Eye on CSI*, as the College continues to attract the attention of excellent students, world-renowned faculty, and national media.

Best wishes,

William J. Fritz, PhD
President

eye on CSI

William J. Fritz, PhD
President

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30,000 Degrees Initiative Seeks to Build Happier, More Prosperous Borough



According to the *2012 United States Department of Commerce, United States Census Bureau Report*, Staten Island has the second-lowest percentage of residents in NYC who hold a baccalaureate degree or higher. In an effort to improve this number, and increase the level of civic prosperity and economic development on the Island, the College of Staten Island has become a

foundling anchor higher education institution of the Staten Island Educational Partnership (SIEP), along with St. John's University and Wagner College. The SIEP has launched 30,000 Degrees, a campus community-based initiative, which is modeled after a very successful program in Louisville, KY called 55,000 Degrees, to address these issues.

Dr. Michael Kress, CSI Vice President for Information Technology and Economic Development, states that, "Increasing the number of Staten Islanders with Bachelor's degrees or higher will improve the quality of life on Staten Island. Businesses will locate on Staten Island to take advantage of a high-quality work force; residents will be healthier and more civically engaged. The greatest



benefit to Staten Island is to increase civic prosperity on a short and long time scale.” Dr. Kress adds that the relocation of businesses in the Borough will “mitigate the trend for residents with a baccalaureate or higher degree from migrating off Island.”

The SIEP has selected the target number of 30,000 new degrees based upon the U.S. Census data. “We believe that increasing Staten Island degree holders by 30,000 in the next ten years will result in more than 35% of Staten Islanders as degree holders, making Staten Island second, behind only Manhattan, of the boroughs of NYC,” Dr. Kress explains.

Noting that the low percentage for Staten Islanders might be attributed to a number of factors, such as residents often seeking careers in sectors such as the civil service and construction, where a college degree is not a necessity, Dr. Kress also points out that many Islanders find a college degree economically out of reach.

With those aspects in mind, Dr. Kress says that the “SIEP is taking a multi-faceted approach, working on many levels from

early childhood through K-12 and higher education. Programs will focus on college awareness and affordability, college readiness, college completion, and business collaborations including internships, job placement, and networking. The initiative will build collaborations with educational institutions, community organizations, faith-based organizations, and not-for-profits, as well as businesses to coordinate and foster successful programs.”

Dr. Kress states that CSI can make a unique contribution to the initiative because the College “brings the perspective of a large (14,000 students) public institution with a complete range of college degree opportunities from associate’s degrees to PhDs. It provides many opportunities for academic college readiness programs for high school graduates who need it, including immersion, CUNY Start, and ASAP— Accelerated Study in Associate Programs.”

Some programs already in place include partnerships with New Dorp High School and Staten Island Technical High School (SITech) and their respective feeder schools

to develop college awareness, college readiness, and financial aid programs to prepare students for College. In addition, thanks to generous funding from the Northfield Foundation, SIEP is able to focus on two special projects this year: the 30,000 Passport for College Success and the 30,000 High School Mentorship programs, which place college students in high schools to provide support for college awareness and readiness programs. Also, CSI will leverage its many existing initiatives in the high schools such as the Liberty Partnership, College Now, Teachers Honors Academy, and high school mentoring and articulation programs, among others.

As it proceeds toward fulfillment of its goal to bolster civic and economic well-being on Staten Island, the SIEP is also conducting outreach to spread the word about the value of a college degree. Early efforts have included a 30,000 Degrees information event in July; an informational video (produced with students from SITech), geared toward high school students, on the value of baccalaureate degree, common concerns, and costs of a degree; and a

“Increasing the number of Staten Islanders with Bachelor’s degrees or higher will improve the quality of life on Staten Island.”

DR. MICHAEL KRESS

partnership with the Staten Island Economic Development Center to support the initiative.

In the future, Dr. Kress says that plans include broadening SIEP’s reach into feeder schools and other community-based agencies. The 30,000 Degrees initiative aligns perfectly with the Mission of The City University of New York “to provide access and excellence to our increasingly diverse population to better prepare our students to compete in the new global society,” he says.

Dr. Kress acknowledges the valuable contributions of the 30,000 Degrees team, comprised of representatives from the three SIEP anchor institutions, including CSI members Dr. Kenneth Gold, Interim Founding Dean of the CSI School of Education; Sandra Sanchez, Director of Economic Development and Civic Prosperity; and Crystal Montalvo, the 30,000 Degrees Project Manager.



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CSI Continues to Receive National Recognition for Excellence and Affordability

In recent years, the College of Staten Island has been turning heads among members of the national media, receiving much-deserved recognition for the quality, yet accessible, education that it provides its students. Speaking of these achievements, and the College’s future course, CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz says, “Bolstered by our increased national recognition and our uniqueness as a 204-acre suburban campus in New York City, our goal is to define CSI as the destination campus for some of the best students within the borough, in the State, throughout the nation, and across the globe to achieve academic success. Many of these rankings attest to the great value of a CSI degree. Our students receive an exceptional, yet very affordable, education that enables them to find personal fulfillment and affect positive change.”

We are proud to share some of our most recent accolades with you.

CSI Tops Money Magazine’s “Best Colleges” List for 2015-2016

The College of Staten Island has been selected for *Money* magazine’s list of the “Best Colleges” for 2015-2016, identifying 736 schools, out of approximately 1,500 nationwide, that provide the best value per tuition dollar. Criteria included educational quality, affordability, and alumni earnings, as well as a “special value measure,” which “considered how well students at each school did versus what would be expected given their economic and academic backgrounds, and the institution’s mix of majors.” With a “Value Added Grade” of A-, the College is ranked third for public institutions in New York State behind CUNY Baruch and SUNY Maritime, and eighth among public institutions in the Mideast region. This is the second year of growth for CSI in the rankings.

G.I. Jobs Magazine Names CSI a “Military-Friendly School” for the Sixth Year in a Row

The College again received recognition of its exemplary programs for its student-veterans, as *G.I. Jobs* magazine named CSI a “Top Military-Friendly School” in the country. This ranking is based upon the College’s commitment to serving the needs of students with military experience and its wide array of services designed for student-veterans. This is the sixth year in a row in which CSI was ranked in this list of military-friendly colleges, universities, and trade schools in the nation.

U.S. News & World Report Includes CSI in Its “Best Colleges” List

For the third consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report’s* “Best Colleges” list for Regional Universities (North) has highlighted the College of Staten Island. According to the publication, the ranking model offers “reliable and

consistent data on nearly 1,800 schools to allow [parents and students] to compare them.”

Forbes Names CSI One of “America’s Top Colleges”

The “America’s Top Colleges” list by *Forbes*, which includes the College of Staten Island, showcases colleges that offer a high return-on-investment education with a focus on just one measurement: outcomes. Ranking criteria include low student debt and high graduation rates, as well as student satisfaction and career success.

CSI Named One of the Nation’s Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges by *Washington Monthly*

Washington Monthly has named the College of Staten Island (CSI) one of “America’s Best-Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges” for 2015. Based on the rankings published in their book *The Other College Guide: A Roadmap for the*

Right School for You, the rankings highlight schools in the Northeast that offer a best value-based on “net” (not sticker) price, how well the institution performed in graduating the students that they admit, and whether those students go on to earn at least enough to pay off their loans.

CSI Ranks in Top 15% Nationwide for Alumni Salary Potential

It is not only important for students to succeed during their academic careers, but in their professional ones, as well. In recognition of the career achievements of CSI alumni, PayScale’s 2015-2016 *College Salary Report* has placed the College of Staten Island in the top 15%, nationwide, in its rankings of more than 1,000 colleges and universities by the median salaries of their alumni. The report ranks the best universities and colleges by salary potential.

CSI Ranked Sixth on Collegenet’s “Social Mobility Index”

In another reflection of the value and impact of a CSI education, the College was ranked sixth in the nation on the Social Mobility Index (SMI), published by Collegenet, a Portland, Oregon-based, privately held company whose rankings focus directly and broadly on the issue of economic mobility. CSI also ranked third in New York State on the SMI, topped by only Baruch and City colleges. The SMI differs from most other rankings in that it determines to what extent a college or university educates more economically disadvantaged people (family incomes below the national median) at lower tuition so that they graduate into good-paying jobs. The SMI is computed from five variables: published tuition, percent of student body whose families are below the U.S. median income, graduation rate, reported median salary zero to five years after graduation, and endowment.

These accolades would not have been possible without the many achievements of the members of our College community. Below are but a few examples of people who are making a difference at CSI.



TOP ROW (l to r) **Rose Zrake '15** Earned a college degree at age 87 | **Calvin Holder** Professor of the CSI Department of History and African American Studies program | **Andrew Simontacchi '15** Creative Writing Major Who Earned an AP Award | **Emily Rice** Assistant Professor in the Engineering Science and Physics Department who was awarded the Henry Wasser Award for Outstanding Scholarship | **Nabila Zubair** Awarded the 2015 Peter Jennings Scholarship Laurel Award at The Graduate Center, CUNY | **Cate Marvin** Recently awarded a 2015 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Poetry | **Alan Benimoff** A leading CSI researcher of the impact of superstorms on Staten Island | **Lucinda Zawadzki '15** CSI Salutatorian and graduate from the Macaulay Honors College: University Scholars Program at CSI BOTTOM ROW (l to r) **Kawsar Ibrahim '15** CSI Valedictorian, a student with the Macaulay Honors College at CSI, who graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and minors in Biochemistry, Chemistry, and Studio Art | **Stephen Hongach '15** This year's Co-Class Speaker for The Verrazano School's Sixth Annual Convocation | **Charles Liu** Director of The Verrazano School Honors Program and the Macaulay Honors College at CSI who appeared on the *StarTalk* radio show, starring Neil deGrasse Tyson, along with *Star Trek's* George Takei | **Sean Thatcher '17** A 2015 Goldwater Scholarship winner who is majoring in Biology with a minor in Geology in The Verrazano School Honors Program | **Irma K. Cruz Velez** Recipient of the Aramis Gonzalo Rios Memorial Scholarship | **Naomi Edwards** A Macaulay Honors College scholar, Duane Morris LLP Summer scholar, Macaulay junior mentor, Legal Studies Institute at CSI participant, and Project Hospitality community volunteer | **Zaghoul Ahmed** A CSI faculty member who earned four major grants for his work in treating mobility complications due to serious spinal cord injuries | **Joshua Mehigan** A doctoral student at The Graduate Center, CUNY and teaching fellow at CSI who was named a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow in Poetry.



SEAN THATCHER NAMED 2015 GOLDWATER SCHOLAR

Sean Thatcher, a senior with The Verrazano School Honors Program at the College of Staten Island (CSI) was recently named a 2015 Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, one of only 300 students nationwide to earn this prestigious distinction.

A Biology major with a Geology minor, Sean has been working with Dr. Jane Alexander in examining the Palisades Sill in North Bergen, NJ, as well as with the Greenbelt Conservancy as a Development Associate.

Sean was introduced to the Goldwater Scholarship program when he attended a workshop led by the Career and Scholarship Center's Michele Galati. She eventually nominated Sean for the Scholarship due to his impressive GPA, excellence in the STEM fields, and ambition for research, which was validated by his project proposal for a Coastal Management Strategy in an effort to help

prevent against coastal flooding on Staten Island as a result of storms and future sea level rise.

What makes Sean Thatcher's accomplishments all the more impressive is that in 2009 he had an accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury that has left him almost completely paralyzed from the neck down.

Just after completing his freshman year at SUNY Oneonta in upstate New York, Sean went swimming in a lake with his family and was badly injured after diving underwater and hitting his head, breaking three vertebra. After two years of therapy, Sean, a Staten Island native, decided that it was time to return to school so he enrolled at CSI for the convenience but soon realized that the College had given him the tools to do exactly what he wanted to do.

During his second semester at CSI, Sean attended one of Dr. Alexander's Historical

Geology classes and was instantly hooked. He realized, however, that being a quadriplegic would make fieldwork for a potential geologist challenging.

"There was a steep learning curve," said Sean, of studying from his wheelchair. "It took a lot of practice, but I was lucky in that I had very accommodating professors that also didn't let me off the hook because of my condition." This was made the most apparent during Dr. Alexander's classes' field trips to the Palisades Sill where Sean was given "different types of work to accomplish, but never easier."

Sean became an efficient manager of data that the other students collected. He collected the notes and collated them making them simpler and easier to understand.

Sean has presented research on the Palisades Sill at the Geological Society of America

(GSA) Conference in 2014 and 2015.

The research team, in which he is currently participating, is investigating a mineral discovered in the metamorphosed rocks, called smoky quartz, which may have broad-reaching implications on the understanding of how the Sill altered the chemistry of the preexisting rocks millions of years ago. The presentation of the results for the smoky quartz research took place on April 30 at CSI's Annual Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance.

Along with his work with the Palisades Sill, Sean is also working with the Greenbelt Conservancy, a not-for-profit whose mission is to "promote, sustain and enhance Staten Island's 2,800-acre Greenbelt through education, recreation, conservation and research."

Sean wants to use the Goldwater Scholarship to help him continue his research and seek a PhD in Environmental Sciences.

While he is passionate about his research, Sean also enjoys teaching. "I really enjoy helping students with their studies and conveying my passion for research," he says of wanting to teach at the college level. "I find it to be a very rewarding experience."

Sean spent last summer working on a CUNY Pipeline Fellowship along with Dr. Alexander. The purpose of the Fellowship, according to Sean, is to "encourage underrepresented students who intend to earn PhDs and teach in their fields at the university level."

When asked what advice he would give to students who are struggling to find their passion, he answered, "Try everything. It's the easiest way to discover what you like."

The Goldwater Scholarship was established by the United States Congress in 1986 and is the premiere federally funded undergraduate award of its type. It is designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers and PhDs in the sciences, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and related fields.

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FACULTY FOCUS

Cate Marvin Wins Guggenheim on Heels of Recent Book



IMAGE COURTESY OF CUNY PHOTO



Cate Marvin was recently awarded a 2015 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship in Poetry.

Professor Marvin, who conducts poetry workshops and teaches creative writing and literature classes with the English Department at CSI, notes that this year was not the first year that she applied for the Fellowship. She says that makes the award even more “rewarding” since she understands the effort that goes into the application process as well as what the award means for an artist’s career. “The Guggenheim Fellowship is not for emerging writers,” said Prof. Marvin, adding, “The biggest honor of the award is that it is not only recognition for the work you have done but a vote of confidence for the work you will do in the future.” The Guggenheim Fellowship is doubly meaningful since it is awarded to members of different disciplines; it places

one’s work among the pantheon of artists, scholars, and scientists, and gives each award equal importance.

The award comes just on the heels of the publication of her latest book of poems, *Oracle Poems*: which Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky called “a witty and elegiac new collection from the author of ‘exhilarating, fierce [and] powerful’ verse,” and *Vanity Fair* asserts “channels the colorful voices of Staten Island.”

The poems contained within *Oracle* all concern women in contemporary culture who speak to power and control. In her discussions of the book, Prof. Marvin calls *Oracle* “a book of elegies” and notes that it is “definitely haunted.”

Prof. Marvin states that by the age of 11, she was “pretty into poetry” and credits her parents for never pressuring her “to do something with your life,” which she fears many other parents do to their children.

“I knew I wanted to be a poet by the time I was 17,” she says of discovering her unique talents. “I remember writing a poem and feeling like the poem was being written through me.” She “figured out this is great; I love this,” during a creative writing class in high school.

Her passion for writing extends to the classroom where she encourages her creative writing students to “lose their self-consciousness” and to start getting rid of what she calls “that inner censor.” She admits that writing is hard but something that is worth all of the work. Although it is not glamorous, this effort is something that is not only part of writing, it is something that she actually enjoys, and she tries to share that passion for writing and evolving as an artist with her students.

Along with her work as a writer and a teacher, she co-founded VIDA: Women in Literary Arts

in 2009 with several other writers to encourage more women to get involved in critical discourse. She believes that collaboration can be seriously beneficial to writers since they can be “pretty solitary—it’s just the nature of the work.” According to VIDA’s Website, the organization’s mission is to “increase critical attention to contemporary women’s writing as well as further transparency around gender equality issues in contemporary literary culture.”

As Prof. Marvin celebrates her Fellowship award, she is also looking ahead to her next work, a proposed book of poems about Willowbrook, and the suffering that occurred where CSI’s campus now stands.

Since 1925, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has annually offered Fellowships to artists, scholars, and scientists in all fields. Often characterized as a “midcareer” award that is intended for men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts, the Foundation receives between 3,500 and 4,000 applications each year. This year, after considering the recommendations of panels and juries consisting of hundreds of distinguished artists, scholars, and scientists, the Board of Trustees has granted 175 Fellowships across more than 50 disciplines.

AROUND CAMPUS

66th Commencement Spotlights Accomplishments and Progress

The cloudy skies over the 66th Commencement at the College of Staten Island on the morning of May 28 did not darken the joyous mood of the 2,631 graduates, their families and friends, and College faculty and staff as they gathered on the Great Lawn of CSI's Willowbrook campus.

After opening remarks by then Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Fred Naider, President William J. Fritz came to the lectern. He began his remarks by emphasizing CSI's great legacy, which was built upon the impressive achievements of the students, faculty, and staff at CSI's predecessor institutions, Staten Island Community College (SICC) and Richmond College. Then, after an audio clip of Charlotte Eldred (née Montalbano, who passed away in 2013 at the age of 75), one of the first graduates from SICC, speaking at that institution's first Commencement in 1958, he went on to outline Charlotte's remarkable journey through life as a dedicated, accomplished, and award-winning teacher, as well as a published writer.

"Charlotte's life shows us that the noble mission of The City University of New York and the College of Staten Island has endured for almost six decades, a mission that promises full access to quality higher

education, the pursuit of academic excellence, and the opportunity to give back," Dr. Fritz said.

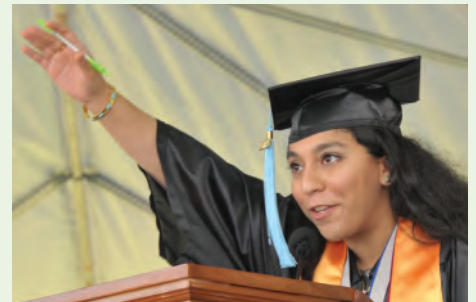
Dr. Fritz noted that the mission lives on in students like Kawsar Ibrahim, 2015 Valedictorian with the Macaulay Honors College at CSI, who started medical school last fall, and who "is already making this world a better place, having served abroad in Panama with the Global Medical Brigades to bring medical and dental healthcare and education to people in need."

Another example of the continuing mission is junior Sean Thatcher, who, in 2009, became quadriplegic from an accident that injured his spinal cord. "Through it all, through all of the challenges and obstacles before him, Sean is here today," Dr. Fritz commented. "And just recently, Sean was awarded the Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's premiere academic award for undergraduates majoring in math, science, and engineering."

The President listed institutions of higher education that have accepted CSI graduates, such as Yale University School of Medicine, Brown University, Harvard University, and Cornell Law School, and recent national accolades from publications including *TIME* magazine and *U.S. News & World Report*.

This year's ceremony also bestowed the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters on Sally W. Williams, a community activist, founding and current member of the College of Staten Island Foundation (past President), and daughter of Dr. Arleigh B. Williamson, one of the founders of SICC and Richmond College.

This year's valedictorian, Kawsar Ibrahim, told the story of how her doctor tried to discourage her from following in his footsteps because she was a woman of



Valedictorian Kawsar Ibrahim

Middle Eastern descent, and how that advice only strengthened her determination to become a doctor and help others. After mentioning the many research, volunteer, and mentoring opportunities that CSI offered her, and discussing her time as a medical volunteer in Panama, she proudly told the audience, "Now that I will be starting medical school at The New York College of Podiatric Medicine this fall, it seems that the door my doctor tried to close had something stuck in its way: me."

Before closing by thanking CSI faculty and staff, her family, and her classmates, Ibrahim urged her fellow grads to always follow their dreams and persevere in the face of obstacles.

Also in attendance to honor the College's newest alumni and extend their support were U.S. Senator Charles Schumer; CUNY Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matthew Sapienza; and CUNY Trustee Joseph K. Awadjie.



CSI Receives 2015 LGBT Community Enrichment Award



The Staten Island LGBT Community Center honored the College of Staten Island with its 2015 Community Enrichment Award. The award is in recognition of the College's continued dedication and contributions to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and /or Queer) community under the leadership of Presidents Tomás Morales and William Fritz, and in acknowledgment of their commitment to providing a welcoming atmosphere for LGBTQ faculty, staff, and students on campus.

CSI has a very active Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) that supports many social programs on campus. A recognized student group, the GSA provides the opportunity for students to gain valuable leadership skills and the ability to plan events, work with a budget, and organize programs. The GSA has a long history of collaborative work with the Staten Island LGBT Community Center, which includes various workshops, programs, and special events.

In 2011, CSI reopened its LGBTQ Resource Center, as part of the Office of Student Life, which is used by dozens of LGBTQ and ally students. Under the leadership of staff members Jeremiah Jurkiewicz and Carol Brower, the walk-in center includes a library and has been expanding its programming to include Safe Space training, an LGBTQ Convocation, and a Pride Camp.

In addition, CSI has hired many leading faculty members to teach Queer Studies. Over the last several years, the Women's Studies program was renamed Women, Gender, and Sexuality (WGS) Studies, which is an interdisciplinary program that includes LGBTQ Studies. Students are able to earn a Bachelor's degree in WGS Studies.

In 2013, LGBTQ faculty members Matt Brim and David Gerstner, spearheaded and hosted the inaugural CUNY-wide "Queer-CUNY Symposium" that led to many new initiatives that are now supported by the

University Chancellor and the University Dean of Recruitment and Diversity.

Next year, CSI will be conducting an all-campus climate assessment that will look at various dimensions of the learning, working, and learning environment, which will include LGBTQ issues.

Also, CSI students, faculty, and staff participate in the annual Pride Parade hosted by the Center as well as volunteer at the Center and Center-sponsored events. Additionally, the Staten Island LGBT Community Center is a placement site for students within the Master's in Social Work degree program and Master's-degree Mental Health interns, and is also a location for students in the CUNY Service Corps.

CSI was also proud to host the fourth annual Lavender Graduation Reception in 2015 with a program that celebrated the successes of LGBTQ students, and allowed faculty, staff, allies, and alumni to recognize their achievement in attaining a degree at CSI.

The Staten Island LGBT Community Center's Community Enrichment Award was given to the College of Staten Island on Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Historic Old Bermuda Inn at its annual One Island One Pride Dinner Dance.

Past recipients of the Community Enrichment Award include the Unitarian Church of Staten Island and Staten Island University Hospital.

The Staten Island LGBT Community Center is a project of Community Health Action of Staten Island (CHASI), which is in the process of spinning off as the Pride Center of Staten Island, an independent non-profit that is a New York State and federally recognized 501(c)3 organization.

Gary Reichard Named Provost and Senior VP for Academic Affairs



Dr. Gary W. Reichard has been named Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at the College of Staten Island.

Dr. Reichard has a career in higher education spanning more than 40 years. He began his academic career at The Ohio State University, where he taught for 11 years and served as Chair of the History Department. Subsequently, he held faculty and academic administrative positions at the University of Delaware; the University of Maryland, College Park; and Florida Atlantic University.

From 1994 to 2009, Dr. Reichard held various academic leadership positions in the California State University (CSU) system.

After retiring from the CSU system office in 2009, Dr. Reichard held a succession of interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs positions through the Registry for College and University Presidents, including most recently at CSU, Dominguez Hills, and the CSU

Maritime Academy. He assumed his duties at CSI on July 1, 2015.

Dr. Reichard holds a BA from the College of Wooster, an MA from Vanderbilt University, and a PhD in History from Cornell University. He has published numerous scholarly books, articles, book chapters, and reviews in the field of recent United States political history, in addition to giving many professional presentations on both U.S. history topics, as well as higher education.

Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna Named VP for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs



Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna has been named Vice President for Institutional Advancement and

External Affairs at the College of Staten Island. She began her tenure at CSI on August 17, 2015.

With more than 20 years of experience in higher education, Ms. Osseiran-Hanna has expertise in non-profit management, fundraising, marketing and communications, advocacy, and alumni and community relations. She has served as the Director of Advancement, North America,

for the University of Queensland, Australia since 2012. Prior to her role at the University of Queensland, she served in various leadership positions including Vice President for University Advancement at New Jersey City University for four years, and Assistant Vice President of Planned Giving and Senior Major Gift Officer at the New Jersey Institute of Technology for seven years.

She has also worked for Fairleigh Dickinson University and The American University of Beirut.

Ms. Osseiran-Hanna holds a BA in International Affairs from George Washington University, a Certificate in Planned Giving from the College of William and Mary, and has pursued a graduate degree in Islamic Studies and Economics from McGill University.

Chris Giordano Named AVP for Student Affairs/Dean of Students



Dr. Christopher M. Giordano has been named Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs/

Dean of Students at the College of Staten Island. He began his tenure at CSI on July 1, 2015.

Dr. Giordano has a 20-year career of progressive leadership in all aspects of higher education student affairs. Prior to joining the College of Staten Island, Dr. Giordano served as the Dean of Student Life at Owens Community College in Toledo, OH. For six years, he managed a

staff of 40, and was responsible for all non-academic and co-curricular aspects of the student experience that engaged and advanced student development, learning, retention, and success.

Prior to Owens, Dr. Giordano served in leadership roles at the University of Toledo, Suffolk University, the University of Connecticut, and Long Island University/C.W. Post.

An accomplished teacher and national presenter with numerous professional certificates, Dr. Giordano holds a BA from Rowan University, an MS from Upsala College, a Graduate Certificate from Suffolk University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Higher Education from the University of Toledo.

Dr. Elena McCoy

Dr. Elena McCoy, Associate Professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island, passed away last May. Her academic interests included program development in the areas of science education and the allied health sciences. Professor McCoy served as the Biology representative to the Teacher Education Honors Academy, was a member of the Environmental Science Center, and directed the Medical Technology Undergraduate Program in the Biology Department. Her research interests concerned the metabolism and biological activity of environmental agents.

Dr. McCoy was the lead author of an article reporting the discovery of a new class of environmental toxins that made the cover of *Science* magazine. She also published these findings in the July 2014 issue of *Taurine* at the age of 78.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Dr. McCoy advised graduate, undergraduate, and high school students with interests in laboratory research.

Department of Biology Chairperson Dr. Abdeslem El Idrissi commented on the significant impact that Dr. McCoy had at the College. "To know Dr. McCoy was to love her. She has touched the heart of so many."

Dr. McCoy received a BS in Medical Technology from Quinnipiac College, and an MS in Microbiology and a PhD in Microbiology from the University of Connecticut.

The Elena C. McCoy Memorial Commencement Award in Biology has been established to create an ongoing remembrance of what was important in Dr. McCoy's professional life. The award will recognize the achievement of an exceptional student who demonstrates outstanding performance in microbiology as a Biology major enrolled at the College of Staten Island.

Nabila Zubair Earns Peter Jennings Award



From L to R: Dr. William J. Fritz, Nabila Zubair, and Kayce Freed Jennings.

Nabila Zubair was awarded the 2015 Peter Jennings Scholarship Laurel Award at The Graduate Center of The City University of New York (CUNY).

The Peter Jennings Scholarship Laurel Award program provides scholarships to adults who have recently completed their coursework with great success, achieved their High School Equivalency (HSE) diplomas through CUNY's Adult Learning Centers (ALC), and who will continue their education at a CUNY College. The scholarships, in the amount of \$1,000 each, were awarded to ten individuals at the June 18 event with the support of his widow Kayce Freed Jennings.

Growing up in Kuwait, Nabila Zubair was a serious student in school and particularly did well in science and biology classes. When Nabila married at 17 years old, her hopes for further education were no longer a possibility. In her culture, a married woman was required to put aside her hopes and concentrate her time and energy toward caring for her family.

"Nabila's secret wish was to have the opportunity to go to college and continue studying topics in biology and science and become a nurse," explains Donna Grant, Director of the ALC, English as a Second Language (ESOL) Programs, and CUNY Start at CSI. "It is amazing to me that she has persevered through so many obstacles."

Nabila was a young newlywed with an infant child when Iraq invaded Kuwait, resulting in the Persian Gulf War. It was during that time that Nabila's husband's

business was burned to the ground.

The family fled Kuwait, and for the next eight years they were unsettled, living in three different countries.

With her four children and husband, she arrived in the United States in 1999, where Nabila's first priority toward achieving a college degree was to improve her English language skills.

When she enrolled in the ALC in 2010, she was not quite at a third grade reading level. At the end of that semester, her assessment test score had moved her into a Pre-GED-level class, demonstrating literacy skills at the middle school level. After Nabila's first semester, family responsibilities again became the only priority, putting her goal on hold again. Then, in 2012, Superstorm Sandy devastated Nabila's Staten Island neighborhood and her husband's small business. Postponing her studies for a time to rebuild her family business, Nabila eventually returned to the ALC, continued to make literacy gains, and took the high school equivalency (HSE) exam in the summer of 2014. She successfully passed the HSE exam that summer, and transitioned to the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP), where she is completing the advanced class.

"It is really our privilege to serve Nabila and the students of the ALC," says Christopher Cruz Cullari, Executive Director of Continuing Education and Professional Development. "There are many students in our programs who share similar stories of success despite facing enormous obstacles, and I am deeply impressed with the commitment and resiliency of our students."

The Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development supervises programs in pre-college remediation such as CUNY Start, as well as programs for Workforce Development, Community Development, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and the 1199 Union Student Support Program for Working Adults.

Four Major Grants Strengthen Spinal Cord Injury Research



Dr. Zaghoul Ahmed

The past academic year has been exceptionally rewarding for Dr. Zaghoul Ahmed, an Associate Professor with the Department of Physical Therapy (DPT) of the School of Health Sciences at the College of Staten Island, who has earned four major grants for his work in treating mobility complications due to serious spinal cord injuries.

The grants, two awarded by the New York State Department of Health, one by PSC CUNY, and one by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), total nearly \$850,000 toward Dr. Ahmed and his collaborator's spinal cord injury research.

Dr. Ahmed's research on spinal cord injuries focuses on using Trans-Spinal Direct Current Stimulation to alter the muscle tone in mice suffering from spasticity due to this type of anomaly. According to Dr. Ahmed, the spasticity causes stiffness of the muscles affected by the nerve damage caused by spinal injuries. This stiffness can cause patients suffering from these ailments to

have difficulty moving and going about their daily lives.

Dr. Ahmed's project aims to discover what types of treatment can lead to long-term relief in people who have suffered from spinal cord damage or even from strokes.

The experiment tasks the researchers to run a very weak direct current through a mouse's spinal cord suffering from spasticity in order to stimulate the corresponding nerve. What they have found is that depending on several factors such as current duration, intensity, direction, and location, there is a significant decrease in muscle tone abnormality, which results in increased motor movement.

Dr. Ahmed commented "I am very happy and grateful that the government has given us this grant. We can now expand our work and get ready for the next application."

The next step in the research, Dr. Ahmed hopes, will move the work from mice to clinical trials in humans although there are still a few factors that need to be clarified.

"We still need to investigate how long the treatment will be effective, what dosage, and how much current exactly we need to pass through," said Dr. Ahmed on the work that

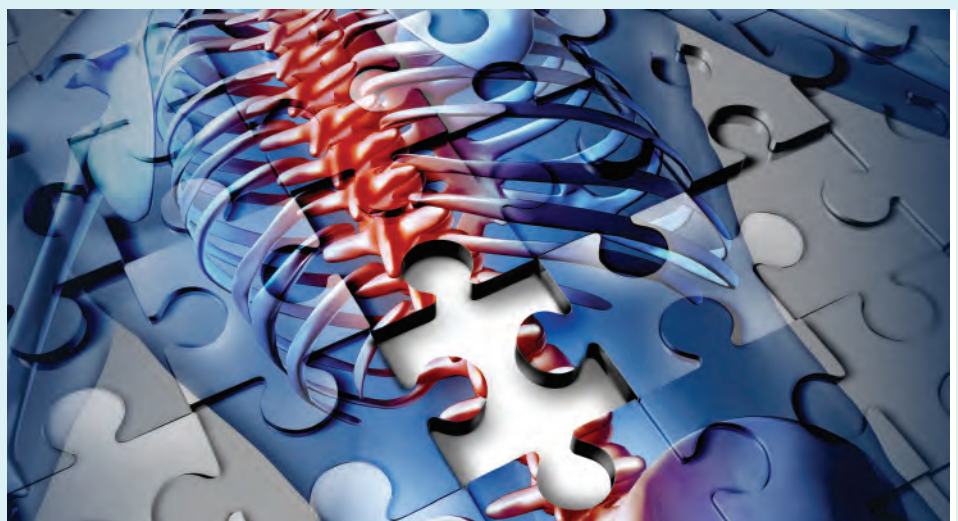
his lab is conducting.

"We always have one or two groups working on different levels of this project," commented Dr. Ahmed on the fluidity of the program, adding that the Physical Therapy Department currently has a system where each of the faculty gets a small group of students to work on their clinical research. There is currently one cohort of students working on mice and another group working on the human element of the project, studying reflexes, which will one day apply to Dr. Ahmed's project once it enters human clinical trials.

"Our physical therapy students [at CSI] are working very hard," noted Dr. Ahmed, adding that he has also engaged a group of high school students to work on the behavioral aspects of the project.

These grants awarded for Dr. Ahmed's project, along with his research team's dedication and hard work, will one day benefit those who have suffered from spinal cord injuries and help them to once again lead normal lives.

Dr. Zaghoul Ahmed also received the 2011 NYC BioAccelerate Prize for a Neural Stimulation System.



SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

MAJOR PUBLICATIONS

Mobile Media Practices, Presence and Politics: The Challenge of Being Seamlessly Mobile, by **Kathleen M. Cumiskey** and Larissa Hjorth, Routledge, 2015.

WSQ: Child, WSQ Volume 43, Numbers 1&2, by Anna Mae Duane and Sarah Chinn, and edited by **Cynthia Chris** and **Matt Brim**, The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2015.

Sexuality and Politics: Regional Dialogues from the Global South, Volume I and II, edited by **Rafael de la Dehesa**, Sexuality Policy Watch (ABIA), 2015.

A Moral Defense of Recreational Drug Use, by **Rob Lovering**, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

The Handy Astronomy Answer Book, 3rd Edition, by **Charles Liu**, Visible Ink Press, 2015.

Oracle: Poems, by **Cate Marvin**, W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2015.

Teaching and Learning Signed Languages: International Perspectives and Practices, by David McKee, Rachel McKee, and edited by **Russell S. Rosen**, Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Christina Tortora published a book with Oxford University Press entitled *A Comparative Grammar of Borgomanerese*.

PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

Dr. **Zaghloul Ahmed**, has earned four major grants for his research on treating spinal cord injuries.

CSI Associate Professor of English **Ava Chin**, author of *Eating Wildly* (Simon & Schuster, 2014), was recently featured on the PBS TV program *Victory Garden* discussing urban foraging.

Valkiria Duran-Narucki penned "The Changing Role of the Professor" for "The Opinion Pages" of *The New York Times* in response to "What's the Point of a Professor?"

Richard Flanagan was featured in *The Wall Street Journal* article "Largest Police

Union Backs Democrat in DA Race: Ex-congressman Leads in Fundraising on Staten Island; Republican Says She Isn't Concerned."

He also offered expert commentary in *The Wall Street Journal* article "Staten Island Race Features Star Power versus Grit."

Ken Gold, Interim Dean of the School of Education, was a featured expert on CNN's *Back to School: Why August Is the New September*.

Li Ge's research, "Light-Powered Gyroscope Is World's Smallest: Promises a Powerful Spin on Navigation Technologies," was published in *Optica*.

Patti Gross was appointed to the Mayor's Panel on Mental Health.

Tyehimba Jess was one of 25 scholars from across the country who converged on the Kansas Union for a two-week summer intensive institute entitled "Black Poetry."

Giancarlo Lombardi was chosen as the new Executive Officer of the PhD program in Comparative Literature at The Graduate Center, CUNY, for a three-year term.

Rob Lovering appeared on *HuffPost Live* as part of a panel on "Deep Dive: Drugs, Religion & Western Morality."

A new talk show starring Neil deGrasse Tyson included **Charles Liu**, Director of The Verrazano School Honors Program and the Macaulay Honors College at CSI.

Michael Mandiberg's exhibit *From Aaaaa! To ZZZap!* based on his larger project *Print Wikipedia*, opened at the Denny Gallery and was featured in *The NY Times*.

Joshua Mehigan has been named a 2015 Guggenheim Fellow in Poetry.

A symposium in honor of the scientific contributions of **Dr. Fred Naidor** was held at CSI's Center for the Arts.

Emily Rice received the Board of the CUNY Academy of the Humanities and Sciences' Henry Wasser Award for Outstanding Scholarship.

Lauren Rogers-Sirin and her husband, Selcuk Sirin, a psychologist at NYU, were featured in the *New York Daily News* "Medical Daily."

Marianne Weil was featured in a YouTube video of her recent gallery exhibit in St. Petersburg.

In the *Audubon* article, "New York's Fresh Kills Landfill Gets an Epic Facelift," the author profiles the work of Mark Hauber from Hunter College and **Richard Veit** and **Seth Wollney** from the College of Staten Island.

Ying Zhu was a featured expert on National Public Radio's "How China's Censors Influence Hollywood," by Frank Langfitt.

He also published "China's Spring Festival Gala: Political Theater Made to Party Orders," on the ChinaRealTime blog of *The Wall Street Journal*.

Sarah Schulman, Distinguished Professor of English, gave a series of lectures in Europe in fall 2015. She spoke at Stadelschule, an Arts University in Frankfurt, Germany. She also spoke in London at the Soho Theater, and in Belfast as part of the Irish Queer Arts Festival.

Ismael García-Colón was selected as one of the distinguished panelists at the symposium *One-Hundred Years of the Jones Act & Puerto Rican U.S. Citizenship*, examining the history and legacy of the naturalization of Puerto Ricans as United States citizens.

Nan Sussman's research was featured in an article by Chantal Panozzo in his *Wall Street Journal* article "The Eternal Expatriate: Why Many Repatriates Feel The Desire to Go Back Abroad."

ALUMNI NEWS

Savor the Flavors Offers Culinary Delights While Helping Students



Second place winners Port Richmond High School Culinary Arts Program are presented with a plaque by Judges Eddie Canlon and Rob Burmeister, and event Chair James McBratney '05.

The Center for the Arts Atrium transformed into the home of some of the Island's best cuisine, last spring, as the CSI Alumni Association hosted the Sixth Annual Savor the Flavors event. All food and services were generously supplied by restaurants and vendors so that all proceeds could go to the Alumni Legacy

Scholarship fund. Savor the Flavors has raised enough money in the event's first five years to fund 32 scholarships for deserving students.

CSI Alumni Affairs Coordinator Donna Garambone commented, "We are very proud to work with such generous restaurants

and vendors to bring this event to the community another year and that our students will continue to benefit from the funds raised."

As in past years, a highlight of the event was the judging of the dishes by Eddie Canlon, the Food Network's *Chopped* Champion in 2012, and Rob Burmeister, who has appeared on the Food Network's *Chopped* and *Cut Throat Kitchen*. This year's award winners included:

- Best Decor: Moe's Southwest Grill
- Best Dessert: Cake Chef (First Place) and Delish Dish (Second Place)
- Best Dish: Ho'Brah Taco Joint (First Place), Port Richmond High School Culinary Arts Program (Second Place), and Liberty Tavern (Third Place)

Savor the Flavors was sponsored by Liberty Mutual, Kohl's Cares, UPS, and Sweet Brook Nursery,

with music provided by Feel the Beat Productions, and photography by Paul Caminiti.

Once again, James McBratney, '05, current Alumni Advisory Board member and President, Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association, served as Event Chair.

Participating restaurants and vendors included: Afternoone's, Beans and Leaves, Bocelli Restaurant, Bridge Tavern, Cake Chef, Canlon's Restaurant, Cookie Jar, Delish Dishes, Ho'Brah Taco Joint, Jimmy Max (Westerleigh & Great Kills), Killmeyer's Old Bavaria Inn, Liberty Tavern, Manor Restaurant, Miller's Ale House, Moe's, Mother Moose, Nucci's South, Park Café, Piece A Cake Bakery, Port Richmond High School Culinary Arts Program, Punzone Organic Vodka, R. Ippolito Distributing, Randall Manor Tavern, The Beer Garden, The Stone House, and Vino Divino.

Class Reunions at the Sixty-sixth Commencement



CSI Alumni marking graduation years ending in 0 or 5 assembled to march in this year's Commencement procession.



SAVE THE DATE

SAVOR THE FLAVORS

Sunday, April 3, 2016
Center for the Arts (1P)
Atrium
2:00pm to 4:00pm

Participating
Restaurants TBA

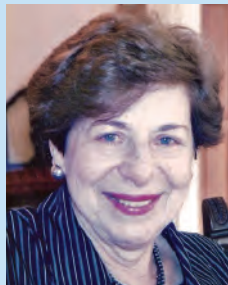
James McBratney '05,
Event Chair

New Alumni Association Board Members



The CSI Alumni Association elected a new Executive Committee on June 15, 2015. [L-R:] Krystian Gargas '06, Treasurer; Jacqueline Armani '06, Secretary; Carole Gervasi '02, President; and Jennifer Rodriguez '06, '12, Vice President. Outgoing Executive Committee Members [not pictured] were Dr. Arthur Merola '84, '85, President; Theresa Marro '85, '89, Vice President; Phyllis Minacapilli '86, '91, Treasurer; Linda Dianto '69, '71, '74, Assistant Treasurer; Marietta DeLuca '74, '85, Recording Secretary; and James Raggi '68, '70, Corresponding Secretary

Rose Zrake, Age 87, Earns College Degree



The adage “it’s never too late” is proven again.

Rose Zrake, age 87, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature during Commencement at

the College of Staten Island on May 28. She has now realized a dream that began decades ago.

Zrake married in her 20s, raised five children and then, in her 40s, began her college career. Taking just one or two classes a semester, the road to a degree

seemed daunting and she stopped for a long while. But her love of learning and her love of the arts brought her back to the classroom a few years ago.

Taking classes with students who were the same age as her granddaughters did not phase this Brooklyn native. “The classroom discussions were engaging and energizing,” Zrake gushed, adding that all the other students and faculty were very welcoming of the unique perspective that she brought to the classroom.

Everyone who meets her – or hears her story – agrees that it is an inspiration to know that it’s never too late to realize a dream... and that learning never has to end.

KEEPING TABS

RONNIE GLICKLIN '61 and her husband Arthur celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on August 1.

ROY WELLS '63 graduated from Staten Island Community College (50 Bay St., SI) in June 1963 with an AAS diploma in Electrical Technology. At that time, he was living in Brooklyn and traveled across the Narrows on the 69th Street ferry, when the Verrazano Bridge construction was just beginning. An employment rep from AT&T had given a recruitment talk to his class and he signed up with them as his first job after graduation and worked in the microwave radio section of AT&T Long Lines, atop their building at 32 Avenue of the Americas, Manhattan. After a stint in the Army, he drove up the Alaska Highway to work at various radar and radio communication sites in Alaska, living in Anchorage, Nome, the Aleutian Islands, and Granite Mountain. Looking for a change in scenery and weather, he moved to southern New Mexico and is currently living atop the Sacramento Mountains in Cloudcroft, where he narrates and produces audiobooks as a partner with Amazon.

BRENDA GOLDMAN '65 attended Hunter College's BA program – Biology/Educational Sociology Majors, and their Master's program in Communications Sciences. She worked as a teacher of speech improvement with the Board of Ed and as a paralegal in personal injury. She is an advocate for animal rights and welfare, as well as the environment. Brenda

enjoys life on the upper east side of Manhattan and all of the excitement that it has to offer.

DENNIS DEVOTI '70 has a career as an electrical engineer (BEE from Manhattan College 1972). He is married and has three children and five grandchildren (so far). Dennis's past jobs have been in the defense industry and he is currently a design manager in NYC Transit (MTA). He is a New York State professional engineer, a New York State-Licensed home inspector, and a New York State-Certified home inspection certificate course instructor (at Molloy College).

MARY SIMONE (DIPAOLI) '70 is married with children and four grandchildren. She started an expediting business for all municipal agencies, an architectural and homeowner service for construction and violation removals.

JANE NICHOLS '72 is a retired teacher of 30 years.

NANCY MILLER '73 has worked as a registered nurse at Staten Island University Hospital for the last 34 years.

DONALD SILVERMAN '73 is a graduate of Richmond College. He dedicated most of his career to producing/directing TV spots and corporate communications via his own company (Silverman Productions). About two years ago, he picked up a paint brush. Recently, his work was exhibited in two juried shows. www.theothersilverman.com.

JOE HEREDIA '75 retired on June 1, 2015 from Montifiore Hospital after 14 years of service. He worked in the

information technology field, and also worked at Bellevue Hospital and Beth Israel for a combined ten years. He is transitioning to having his own business, doing hands-on work such as woodworking.

SAMIRA MUHAMMAD-MELVILLE '75 worked at various hospitals in NYC, in the divisions of pathology, after she left CSI. She also has a counseling practice in Tobago, West Indies, working with adolescents and families. Samira lives in Harlem with her husband and has two grown sons, nine grandchildren, and one great granddaughter, too. She enjoys dancing, swimming, tai-chi, yoga, and traveling. She spent a lot of time in Trinidad and Tobago enjoying retirement.

VICTOR ROSARIO '75 performs volunteer work for human and civil rights, and teaches biology and Spanish literature for church teens with homework and projects. He also volunteers at the Veterans Hospital to help pre-diabetics and diabetics lose weight to avoid becoming or remaining diabetic.

CLAUDETTE HOLTON '80 is working at Eger Nursing Home and is presently attending Bible College. She is working on her BA in Religious Study and performs substance abuse counseling.

CARMINE TERMINI '80 works for the Department of Labor in New Jersey, serving the general public. He encourages everyone who sees him to further their education.

DAVID RODRIGUEZ '82 is a sales associate at Sarasota Trust Realty Co.

SAUNDRA FITZGERALD '85 has retired, made possible by her time at CSI. Thank you, thank you!

TOM QUAADMAN '87 is currently Vice President of the U.S. Chamber Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness. He previously served as Chief of Staff for Congressman Vito John Fossella, Jr. from 1997 to 2008.

BARBARA SCHWARTZ-BECHET '89, EdD has been named Associate Dean for the Salus University College of Education and Rehabilitation (CER).

PAULA HUGHES '90 returned to Staten Island in June 2009, from Jacksonville, where she moved in 1991. She became a grandmother in 1992 to a grandson who is now 22 and is presently a student at CSI. Paula is also a great-grandmother to a three-year-old girl.

MICHAEL A. STILLITANO '90 CPA and Adjunct Professor of Accounting at the College of Staten Island, School of Business, has been elected President of the Monmouth/Ocean Chapter of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA) for a one-year term beginning June 1, 2015.

CONSTANCE D. EVELYN '91 became the superintendent of the four-elementary-school district in Valley Stream, LI.

DONNA ELLIS-GLEMAUD '95 says that her life has changed tremendously since graduating from CSI. She has the best memories from the Nursing Department. Since graduating she got married, had children, and has been working as an RN

at SI University Hospital for 20 years. Donna obtained her BSN in 2008 and has found a career that she loves—taking care of the sick.

JACQUELINE RUDDY '95 has worked in the Staten Island community at SI University Hospital North since graduating in 1995. She has been an RN for 20 years, and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Nursing online.

THERESA STILLO '95 graduated in 2014 with her Master's of Science in Nursing Education. Her daughter, Victoria Stillo, graduated from CSI in 2007 with an ASN in Nursing. Theresa is currently practicing in the VA as a Clinical Care Manager in a primary clinic in Tinton Falls, NJ.

DENISE VANTASSELL '95 graduated from CSI in nursing in 1995, and has spent the last 20 years dedicating her time to the senior population. She specializes in Alzheimer's disease awareness and is the COO and president of ALCOEUR Gardens. Denise builds and operates small communities for people suffering from all forms of dementia. She thanks CSI for lovely memories and her opportunity to achieve her dreams. www.alcoeurgardens.com.

PUI YEE PANG '98 is a Special Agent with the IRS in Criminal Investigation.

CHRISTOPHER HELLSTROM '99 became the Executive Director of Staten Island Arts, last summer.

GEORGE CARLETTI '00 swims, bikes, and scuba dives. He saw his daughter get married on May 17. He also helps his aged mother. George is looking to

start a new truck-driving job soon. He goes to the city to eat at Katz's Deli and goes to the REI camping store to just walk around.

TAMMY SINGH '00 has worked, since graduating in 2000, in mutual funds accounting for 11 years, as a substitute teacher for two years, and has recently started a new job at a CPA firm, about which she is "super excited!"

EMMANUEL OLAWALE '02 recently published his first book titled, *The Flavor of Favor: Quest for the American Dream. A Memoir*. The book tells his story as a child, born in Nigeria in an economically unstable family, who had to learn to fend for himself at an early age. It details how he immigrated to the United States at the age of 20 in 1997 and how he worked his way through college, working two full-time jobs while concurrently attending college full-time and still managing to graduate at the top of his class. The story traces his journey from the narrow streets of Lagos, to the winding streets of Staten Island and Manhattan, and to the bucolic neighborhoods of Ohio, describing his experiences at CSI and Capital University Law School, where he eventually obtained his law degree in 2005. Nine years later, he was nominated as a candidate for judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Delaware County, OH. The nomination was historical as it was the first time in the history of the county that a minority, a first-generation immigrant, would be nominated by a major party for such position.

JIM MCBRATNEY '05 has a wife with three CSI degrees and a daughter with a CSI bachelor's degree. Both are teachers and are earning a good living with no debt, thanks to CSI. Jim's degree enabled him to pursue a delayed, but lifelong, dream of being a financial advisor. His, and his wife's and daughter's financial wellbeing directly result from the education that they received at CSI.

JENNIFER SETTEDUCATO '05 is currently an Online Editor at Lebhar-Friedman (2007-present) and was Fitness Writer/Editor for HellaWella.com (2011-2015). She gave birth to her daughter in October 2014 and is looking for new career opportunities.

JEFF VILKOV '05 graduated from CSI with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management and since then has started his own DJ entertainment company, Feel the Beat Productions, which became one of the largest well-known companies on Staten Island. He is proud to say that he is now the official DJ of the Alumni Association. He thanks CSI for teaching him the managerial skills needed to keep his successful company growing.

ARIC BALAHADIA '06 is an Army Reserve Emergency Department Nurse in the Emergency Department at the VA New York Harbor Medical Center, Manhattan Campus.

RAISA SIGALOVA '07 recently accepted a position as a physical therapist at Crest Physical Therapy, West Long Branch, NJ.

ANGELIQUE MEISSNER '08 is currently a practicing Doctor of Chiropractic, having graduated

from New York Chiropractic College in fall 2012. She is also the owner of Meissner Chiropractic PLLC in Staten Island.

SAADYAH AVERICK '09 earned a 2014 DSM Science & Technology Award with his PhD research titled "The Preparation of Functional Bioconjugates Using Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization," which he conducted under the supervision of Dr. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski at Carnegie Mellon University.

MARILYN BLEMMAN '09 is currently a College Assistant, here at CSI, in the Circulations Office in the Library. Her goal is to work toward a Master's degree either in Social Work, Liberal Studies, or Library Studies. The problem is that she cannot decide which one. She is also looking forward to becoming a director with Mary Kay Cosmetics.

FRANCISCO COLLADO '09 was appointed to the post of CSI Foundation Manager of Operations in October 2014.

DANIELLE HERNANDEZ '10 has experienced many exciting opportunities, since graduating with her Bachelor's degree in Dramatic Arts, and has since worked with students aged seven to 12 on improv, performed in more than a dozen shows and stage managed for Staten Island Sundog Productions. In 2012, she traveled to Egypt and in 2014 to Ireland. She thanks the College for the empowerment.

BONITRA HUMPHREY '10 currently works with the Department of Education as a teacher assistant at PS 31. She

did production stage work in the summer of 2013 for a musical called *Sasquatched! The Musical*. She also worked on an independent film in the summer of 2015, and received her BA from CWE City College on May 29, 2015.

CHRISTOPHER WESLEY '10 was given an opportunity for employment at more than \$17 an hour, thanks to his BSC in Business from CUNY/CSI. Right after college, he was employed by the Lutheran and Refugee Services in 2010. He later joined the New York City Housing Authority where he has worked as a Housing Assistant since 2012. Christopher anticipates pursuing an MSC degree but hasn't decided on the college.

NATALIE BIRKIN '11 finished the first two years (Basic Sciences) at American University of Antigua and is currently studying for USMLE, Step 1.

CHRISTINA LOVE '11 currently works in the Accounting Office at CSI as a Financial Accountant Assistant. She is now a graduate student at the Keller Online Graduate School of Management of DeVry University studying for her Master's degree in Accounting and Financial Management with CPA concentrations.

JENNY PISANI '12 is in Cambodia, serving as an education volunteer with the Peace Corps.

LARRY SANTEE '13 has two young boys, and when he's not playing and spending time with them, he runs an antique limousine company doing weddings, events, and entertainment (movies, TV,

commercials, etc.) He went back to college at 34 and finished with a minor in Spanish and Bachelor's in International Relations.

LOK YUNG '13 was hired by a small CPA firm after her many years of experience and a newly acquired degree in accounting. She has since worked for a different corporation and has worked for CSI as an accountant with the CSI Foundation.

ALISA A. SERIO '14 is in her second year of graduate school at The University of Scranton in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program. She has started practicum, last fall, which means that she will be counseling students in the student counselor's training clinic. She is very excited to be taking this next step in her education and getting hands-on experience in counseling.

Jarred Sutton '14 is currently the Director of Technology for a local corporation running five branches with 70 people along with assisting in the implementation of a new very large enterprise software system. In addition, he teaches for Makerspace.nyc a local non-profit STEAM education and community innovation center offering individuals and groups low-cost access to tools, equipment, and resources with the goal of encouraging productivity, and serving as a business incubator in the community. *[Editor's Note: This is the corrected version of an entry that originally appeared in the Spring 2015 issue of Eye on CSI.]*

WEDDINGS:

ROBERT ADAMS '09 AND NORMA MARGIOTTA

JOSEPH FRISCIA '06 AND KRISTIN CIPOLETTI

FRANK FRUSTACI '13 AND MICHELLE NEVI '12

JESSICA PARCO '11 AND FRANK FLORIDIA

MARYLOU SCIORTINO '13 AND DENNY CARLIN

LINDSAY THAISZ '13 AND VINCENT FEA

ENGAGEMENTS

CAROLLYNN AVOLIO '14 AND GREGORY CREAMER

MARISA DESISTO '14 AND VITO GALATI

BRITTANY MURACA '14 AND LOUIS CONKLIN

IN MEMORIAM

JASON OCASIO - Custodial Senior Supervisor in the Office of Buildings and Grounds. He was the brother-in-law of Angela Caliendo, College Assistant in the SEEK Office, and son-in-law to June Caliendo, retired Administrative Assistant.

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.

SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



CSI Men's Team Offers Youth Soccer Clinic

The CSI Men's Soccer team kicked off its community service tour recently with a trip to Staten Island PS 21 in Port Richmond, offering a free soccer clinic to the school's fifth grade class. The clinic kicks off what promises to be a very charitable year on which Men's Soccer hopes to embark. The team did more sports-themed clinics in the fall, and this winter will join with Project Hospitality to raise canned goods and work the organization's food pantry. This spring, the squad will also lend itself to the Notre Dame Club of Staten Island's Bread for Life campaign, aimed at collecting food donations for senior citizens, single parents, and victims of domestic violence.

Student-Athlete Awards Gala

The College of Staten Island honored more than 50 deserving student-athletes at its annual awards gala this past May. Among the award winners were All-America Men's Basketball star Will Fonseca and swimmer Dakota Dawkins, who broke six school records a year ago, as CSI's Male and Female Athletes of the Year.



(L-R:) Will Fonseca, Dakota Dawkins, and Charles Gomes, Athletic Director



First-Ever Alumni Soccer Game

The College of Staten Island's new head coach Giuseppe Pennetti welcomed back alumni and friends for CSI Women's Soccer's first-ever Alumni Game played in late October. The game pit CSI's current team against alumni and recent grads in a modified 60-minute game. CSI alumni were up to the challenge, scoring a 2-0 win over the 2015 unit. The game was a chance to welcome back alumni, who in turn offered the current squad motivating words and good tidings for the year. "It was a great chance for us to reconnect," said Pennetti. "We hope to grow the event each year and make it a highlighted event for our program and the College."

Grant for Track and Field Facility

Assemblyman Michael Cusick showed his support to the College of Staten Island and its Athletic Program by offering a \$1M grant to refurbish and make ready the College's track and field facility. Not only will the funds be used to replace and repair the existing track surfacing, but will also create facilities for field events such as the long jump, hammer throw, etc. The announcement came with the school's promise to add Men's and Women's Track and Field to its varsity lineup of intercollegiate sports offerings.



Golf Outing

CSI rang in its Second Annual Athletics Golf Outing at the prestigious Richmond County Country Club. The event generated more than \$35K, with all proceeds helping to support CSI Athletics. The outing was attended by more than 100 golfers, and featured a full dinner with raffle prizes from Major League Baseball, Nike Golf, and Major League Soccer, to name a few.



Flashback Friday

Last summer CSI Athletics ran its inaugural "Flashback Friday" feature on csidolphins.com. The weekly segment chronicled the College's top sports moments from the 2014-2015 school year over the summer leading up to the season. The Men's Basketball ECAC Championship double-overtime thriller was the third highest vote getter while CSI Softball's NCAA Tournament shocker over William Paterson came in No. 2. Nothing, however, topped CSI Baseball's miraculous win over Baruch College in the CUNYAC Final, a game that featured a game-tying grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning, and a four-run rally in the bottom of the 12th to win it.

Photo: Dennis Costello

FOUNDATION NOTES



Sixth Annual Celestial Ball

The College of Staten Island Foundation hosted its Sixth Annual Celestial Ball on Saturday, December 12 at the Richmond County Country Club. Highlights of the event will appear in the next issue.

In light of shrinking state funding for higher education in New York State, the Celestial Ball seeks to raise critical funding to ensure the academic success of CSI's students, support the research projects of the College's faculty, and improve and maintain the institution's 204-acre campus and facilities. As CSI continues to garner recognition in national rankings in its continued quest for excellence, private support plays an increasingly significant role in continuing CSI's service to its students and the community.

This year's President's Medal honorees include Edward Burke, Staten Island Deputy Borough President; Dr. Christine D. Cea '88, Member of the New York State Board of Regents and Research Scientist at the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR); Cesar J. Claro, President and CEO of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation (SIEDC) and Executive Director of the Richmond County Savings Foundation; and Dr. Wilma L. Jones, Associate Dean and Chief Librarian at the College of Staten Island (CSI).

Save the date for the 2016 Celestial Ball on December, 10, 2016. For more information on attending next year's Ball or supporting the event through a contribution or ad in the Ball's journal, call 718.982.2365.

Endowment Establishes Lorraine and Gordon DiPaolo Board Room



Since the Willowbrook Campus opened in 1976, the conference room in Building 1A, Room 406 has been home to thousands of meetings, conferences, and events. It has hosted world-renowned academics and public figures. Now, thanks to the generosity of Lorraine and Gordon DiPaolo, PhD, a popular Associate Professor of Management who has taught at the College of Staten Island since 1971 (starting at Staten Island Community College), the room will receive much-needed renovations and a new name, The Lorraine and Gordon DiPaolo Board Room.

The new fund will provide for upgrades to the microphone system for large meetings, replace aging furniture, and update the kitchen.

Once the renovations are completed, the remaining funds will go to the Lorraine and Gordon DiPaolo Endowment for the School of Business.

The DiPaolos have been major financial supporters of the College and its students for years, having established a number of scholarships and funds for the School of Business; disabled students; the College, in general; and other critical initiatives. For their generosity and support, they were honored in 2009 at the First Annual Celestial Ball with President's Medals. Dr. DiPaolo also received a Dolphin Award this year for Outstanding Service and Contribution to the College by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty.



Photo by Helena Odinzow

CSI's Dolphin Cove residence halls on a beautiful fall day.

CSI Receives an Additional \$110K to Fund Watson Fellowship

The College of Staten Island, a selected participating institution in the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship since the program's inception in 1999, has received a gift of \$110,000 to create a new endowment for the program. The Watson Foundation allotted the money in an effort to promote and strengthen the fellowship's presence and impact, as well as benefit the endeavors of its fellows and alumni.

Michele Galati, Fellowship and Scholarship Advisor at CSI's Career and Scholarship Center, notes that, "The Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship is a prestigious opportunity that provides students with paid summer internships at prestigious organizations, as well as a multitude of mentoring, professional development, and cultural events over a period of three years. It is a highly selective program that places great value on students' ability to step outside of their comfort zone,

with the last internship occurring overseas."

A total of 12 New York City colleges, mainly the senior campuses of CUNY, nominate candidates each year for consideration for the Watson Fellowship. Students complete a rigorous application and interview process before being inducted as Fellows, and then work with the Watson Foundation's mentors to develop their career paths and create positive social change in the community.



New Kurt and Marjorie Lehmann Scholarship Will Support Students in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Select graduate students in the humanities and social sciences at the College of Staten Island will benefit from the recently established Kurt and Marjorie Lehmann Scholarship.

CSI Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences Dr. Nan Sussman commented on the importance of the scholarship for the College and its students. "The Division of Humanities and Social Sciences offers six

master's programs that include discipline-based and interdisciplinary curriculum. They provide intellectual vibrancy, personal growth, and career enhancement. Two of them are professional programs preparing students for licensure — the Master's of Social Work and the Master's of Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The other four programs (Liberal Studies, English, History, and

Cinema and Media Studies) are part-time in that students enroll in one or two courses a semester. These students generally hold part-time jobs. Nevertheless, all of them have considerable tuition payments. The Lehmann Scholarships, which emanate from an endowment gift of \$415,000, will provide much-needed tuition relief to these graduate students. It is rare for a

philanthropic donation to address the needs of graduate students in the humanities or social sciences and I am most grateful to the trustees of the Lehmann estate for their visionary gift. I encourage others to follow in their footsteps and support our graduate programs."

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

The College of Staten Island Foundation was established in 1992 to promote charitable giving that sustains mission-critical programs and initiatives of the College of Staten Island. Our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, corporations, and foundations contribute to a number of programs ranging from scholarships to student and faculty research initiatives as well as general support for the College through the Annual Fund.

We are grateful to all of our donors, regardless of the level of commitment, and look forward to their continued support. Among other ways of acknowledging giving, each and every one of our contributors is listed in the *Annual Report*, which highlights the people and events that have made a significant impact on the Foundation.

Every effort has been made to be inclusive of all donors at the appropriate levels of giving. The cumulative donations reflect all gifts made between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. If you find an error, please contact Advancement Services at 718.982.2365 or foundation@csi.cuny.edu

\$250,000 +
Estate of Kurt Lehmann Jr.*
Geraldo Rivera

\$100,000 TO \$249,999
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and Nana Smith
The New York Community
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Northfield Bank
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NYSTAR
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Queens College
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Dolores Morris
Avi Naider and the Naider
Family
New Start Development, LLC
New York Community
Bank
Joseph Niciforo

Basilio Allen

- Sharib Family Scholarship
- Jennine & Donato Ferrara Scholarship
- Giacomo Scano Scholarship
- CSI Student Government Scholarship
- Clara & Arleigh B. Williamson Scholarship
- Academy of Retired Professional (ARP) Scholarship

Laurie A. O'Byrne '88 and
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O'Donnell
Yvonne Payne '82 and
Edward Spitzer
Mary Beth Reilly
Henry A. Salmon
Peter J. Salvatore
Miriam '79 and William M.
Schreiber
Linda Sharib '02
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Staten Island Chamber of
Commerce
Stephen Siller Tunnel To
Towers Foundation
Randi and Jack Stern
Stop & Stor
Nan M. Sussman and Jerald
Rosenbloom
Joyce Taylor
Christina Tortora and John
Shean
Loretta M. Ucelli
Marla R. Ucelli-Kashyap
and Arun Kashyap
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UPS Foundation
Verizon
Lisa R. Volpe and Paul Fisher
Waldman Development of
NY LLC
Weiqing Wang and Shifeng
Liu
Camille and Hugh White, Sr.
Chu-Biao Xue
York College
Phyllis and Melvin Zachter
Shuiqin Zhou and Zujun Lu

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Alejandra D. Alonso

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Anderson
Maria B. Montes and
Neophytos Antoniadis
Jacqueline Armani, OD '06
AT&T United Way
AVT Enterprises Engineer
& Consultants
Bruce G. Behrins, Esq.
Susan Bender
Judith I. '85 and Joel J. Berger
Hope Berte
Olga and Michael Breslav
Brighton Heights
Reformed Church
Guy Caldwell
Ronald Carroccio
Classic Recycling New
York, Corp.
Jane Purcell Coffee and
John C. Coffee
Margaret K. '65 and
Richard Currie
Marietta M. DeLuca '85
Portia and Harold E.
Diamond
Barbara B. '92 and
Matthew Edwards
Donal Farley
Arlene T. Farren
Razel '80 and Seymour
Fertig
Edward Finkelstein
Kathryn Finnegan
Kathryn Friedman
Marguerite '09 and
Andrew Fuller
Kathleen E. '87 and Arnold
E. Galvez



Jane E. and Romaine L.
Gardner
Eileen and Thomas Gigliotti
Anna E. Domenech and
Charles D. Gomes
Thomas Granello

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Harris
Nick Harris
Val and Philip Harris
William Higgins
Francis and Chris Hirschy
Russell Hodge
Hopper Diving
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Imberman '89
Karen and Lawrence J.
Karam
Kingsborough Community
College
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Lillian and Rory V. McGinn
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Mendy Mirocznik
Alan and Molly Naider
North Shore-LIJ Health
System
Laura Nowak
Oakwood Fitness, Inc.
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Virginia '94 and Gene A.
Ozgar
Deanna and Ted Parnese
Karen and Mitchell Parver
Theodore Perednia
Diane Peruggia

Fallon Hynes

- Joanne D'Amato, RN & Frank D'Amato Memorial Nursing Scholarship
- Switzer Foundation Scholarship

Linda A. '81 and Robert
Peters
Josephine and Kenneth R.
Pierce '67
The Rotary Club of Staten
Island NY, Inc.



Ramy Zakir

- JPMorgan Chase Bank Scholarship
- Clara and Arleigh B. Williamson Scholarship
- The Professional Tax Alliance Inc. Scholarship
- Alumni Legacy Scholarship

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Savino for New York
Janine Scaff
Scarano Oil Service Co., Inc.
William Serrao '10
Timothy W. Shanahan
Ponniiah Shenbagamurthi
Barnett Shepherd
Chelsey and Peter
Soloway, MD
Staten Island Museum
Ira H. Sweet
Sweetbrook Nursery &
Garden Center
Robert T. Taranto
Thomas P. Tellefsen '77
Temple Israel Reform
Congregation of SI
Barbara and Alan Tepper
Chaya Trenk
Barbara and Ralph Tufano
Vanguard
Manuel P. Vara '73
Wagner College
Kenneth Warner '02
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Roberta and Allan
Weissglass Foundation
Miriam and Alfred Yarkony
Judith Zakarin-Averick and
Rauvan Averick
Alan Zimmerman
Anonymous

\$250 TO \$499

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A+ Towel & Linen Supply
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ACC SC Management LLC -
Dolphin Cove
Amalgamated Transit
Union - Division No. 726
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Margaret Berci
Holly Block
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A. Ramona Brown
Rosita '89 and Carlos Cam-
Chung
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Estate, Inc.
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Nancy Correira '00
Jennifer A. Coughlan
Eunice and Roy Crombie
Margaret J. Crooks '69
Margaret K. '65 and
Richard Currie
Lisa Daino



Sonny Baialardo

- CSI Foundation Scholarship

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Stacey and Tony
D'Alessandro '02
Delphi Plumbing and
Heating
Melissa DelPrete '05
Joanne and Daniel M.
Destefano '63
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Mary Ellen Dito-Evensen
'83 and Martin Evensen

Anthony Mellina
Catherine and Holt Meyer
Muhamet Mjeshtri '09
Modell's II, Inc.
Walter J. O'Brien '74
Judith and Thomas Oleary
Dibyendu S. Pandey '00
Michael Patalano
Paul A. Mezzo & Co. PC
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Vincent Puccio
Joseph M. Scandaglia '65
Leba and Rivie Schwebel
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Reize and Howard Spizner
Elizabeth A. Sisti '69
Lana and Lev Slootsky
Lorraine C. Smith '70 and
Joseph M. Tenga
Richard E. Smith
Snug Harbor Cultural Center
Carol A. '71 and Richard E.
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Helen and Abe Sultanik
Subramanyam Tantry
John Tardy
Ellen and Paul Tharp
Todres & Company LLP
Vinay Vaishampayan
Petros Vlitas
Anna Williams
Thomasina '82 and
Charles Williams

\$100 TO \$249

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Michael Ackalitis
Zaghoul Ahmed
Morris O. Ailey '77
Champ Albano
Karmen Alejandro-White
Diane P. Amodeo '91
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Anthony Avena '01
Kimberly A. '90 and Victor
P. Avis, DDS
Jaclyn A. Badagliacco '04
Judith Baron
Raffaella L. Bartone
Marlene and Irwin Bash
Jack Battaglia
Iris D. Baum '86
Anonymous
Maureen Becker '97
Abdulla Begai
Brenda L. Bell '71
Terence E. Bellow, Jr. '92
Valeria Belmonti '05
Alan I. Benimoff '67

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Benjamin '90
Diane and Thomas O.
Bergendale '85
Debra and Alfred Berkovits
Veronica Bianchi
Teris W. and Frederick M.
Binder
Jason Bishop
Constance and Willie F.
Black III '83
Dorothy and Paul Blyskal
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Lisa Bonet
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Shirley '74 and Herman
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Bumblebees S12 LLC
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Call It A Wrap
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Alisa and John M. Carbone
'89
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Lorayne and Thomas
Castiglione
Celeste Cerneria
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Christine Ducey and
Michael Chiacchiero '90
Karen K. Choi Wong '86
Blaise Chow
Enrica Chretien
Catherine and Kenneth
Christman
Derek G. Chung, MD '79
Church & Dwight Co., Inc.
Michael J. Clark
Carol '86 and James M.
Cline '74

Tracy Grunfeld and Brian
Coakley
Sandy and John Codd '85
Cohen's Fashion Optical
Marie H. Cole
Mary A. Cole '81
Phyllis B. Collins '72
Linda '87 and Richard
Collyer
Commissary Account
Engine 330 Ladder 172
Salvatore J. Conforti '87
Sandra and Andrew* Conti,
MD '69
Salvatore Conti '61 and
Susan Dudley
Dana Corallo
Linda L. Coull '81
Diane and Wilfredo Court
Laura '80 and Edward H.
Craig
Maryanna P. '94 and David
G. Crawford
John C. Criso '80
Dina and Brian Crombie
Crown Trophy
Catherine M. Curatolo '01
Joan K. Curran '83
Annamarie and Matthew
Cutronco '95
Rozalia Czaban



CSI President Dr. William J. Fritz (back row, fourth from the left) and National Grid Corporate Citizenship Manager Mauri Myers-Solages (to his right) at a gathering to celebrate the National Grid Scholarship.

Richard Dammer '67
Danielle and Christopher
D'Antuono, Esq. '96
Alfred D'Auge '80
Renee R. David '74
Theresa C. and Anthony J.
DeFazio
Anne Demarzo '06
Susan and Louis DeMuth
Irene J. and Frank DeNave
Mary E. DeRosa '77
Linda C. '74 and Nicholas
L. Dianto '01
Marie and Salvatore
DiDato
Rhea K. and Stephen G.
Dignam '76



Aileen A. Dito-Gallinaro
and Frank T. Gallinaro
Dena and Kevin Galvin
Donna L. Garambone and
Kevin Whorton, PE
Joel Garbow
Maria Garcia Bulkley and
Peter Bulkley
Beth A. Gargiulo '95 and
Josh Kanner
Garibaldi-Meucci Museum
Anne '75 and Edward
Garvey
Eudelia D. Gassaway-Price
'83
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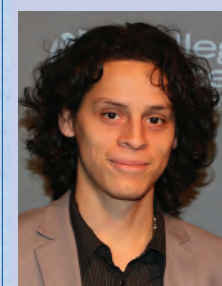
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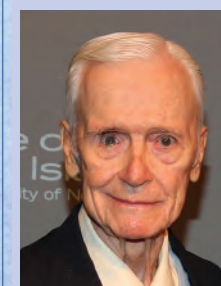
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*Deceased
BOLD - CSI Foundation Board member

RISING STARS



STEVE ARRIAGA '17

Major: English with a concentration in Linguistics, minoring in French and Spanish Language. A Verrazano and Dean's List student, and a recipient of 13 scholarships, he completed a year as a study abroad peer advisor, and graduated from the Emerging Leaders Program and the CUNY Service Corps

where he interned at Lifestyles for the Disabled. He is also interning at Port Richmond HS through the CSI Liberty Partnerships Program. *A favorite aspect of CSI:* "My time at CSI has been outstanding. The professors that I've had have inspired me in one way or another to always love what I learn and what I'll teach one day."

Future plans: After graduation, he plans to apply for a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship to teach abroad in South America. Afterward, he will pursue a PhD in Linguistics.



NAOMI GAGGI '17

Major: Psychology with a concentration in Neuroscience and Autism Spectrum Disorders. A Macaulay Honors College and Dean's List student, who is currently working in three labs, a member of two honors societies, a peer tutor, and a record-setting and award-winning member of the

CSI Swimming and Diving team. A Meyer and National Collegiate scholar, she is working on a study concerning social media and how people communicate/don't communicate with others.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "To me, CSI is a hidden gem on Staten Island. I have access to a high-quality education, helpful and knowledgeable professors, valuable internships and volunteer experiences, and lifelong friends."

Future plans: She is planning on obtaining her PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology and either become a professor or a clinical neuropsychologist, focusing on autism spectrum disorders.



RONAK PATEL '17

Major: Nursing. A SEEK student, he works in the SEEK Office, assisting with workshops, and he volunteers at a local hospital. He is currently researching the views of different world cultures on medicine.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "Everyone here encourages you to succeed; they support you in all your success. They are here to pull you up and make you reach your true potential. I love CSI and I hope everyone who comes to this College does too."

Future plans: He plans to complete the two-year Nursing Program, earn his Bachelor's degree, and then continue on to receive his Master's in Nursing. He hopes to eventually become a Nurse Practitioner.



BREE SILVERMAN '16

Major: Mathematics with a concentration in Secondary Education. A Teacher Education Honors Academy and Dean's List student, she is also a NOYCE scholar and an Alfred Harcourt recipient.

A favorite aspect of CSI: "I am having a wonderful experience at CSI and I attribute that to the Teacher Education Honors Academy. Through this program, I received mentoring, a great education, and built wonderful friendships."

Future plans: After she receives her bachelor's degree, she plans to pursue her Master's in Math 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.
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* 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.

Alan I. Benimoff, '67

LOOKING BACK

Alan I. Benimoff

*Lecturer-Doctoral Schedule,
Engineering Science and Physics
Member, Alumni Association Board
of Directors*

Much has changed since Alan Benimoff '67 attended Staten Island Community College (SICC) from 1964 to 1967 at the St. George campus, but commuting was still a difficult task. "When I started at SICC in the fall of 1964," he recalls, "the Verrazano Bridge had not yet opened. I commuted to and from SICC from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn by taking three busses and then the Brooklyn Ferry." When the bridge finally opened two months later, his commute was still a three-part endeavor going from "the Brighton Beach Line to Whitehall Street and taking the Staten Island Ferry." Nonetheless, Benimoff persevered to earn his AS in Engineering Science at SICC and lay the foundation for a successful and impactful academic career in geology at CSI.

Thinking back on the best aspect of his SICC education, Benimoff points to the excellent level of instruction. "The education I received was high quality. It prepared me for the future. The mentoring by faculty was outstanding." When asked for a fondest memory, he states that he enjoyed "the whole SICC experience."

He does, however, remember some of his favorite places at SICC. One was the student lounge at 50 Bay Street, which "allowed us a place where we were able to meet other students." In addition, he adds "we ate lunch in the St. George Clipper restaurant." Another spot was "Dolphin House, which was located on Avenue J in Brooklyn. We had many parties there and I recall a beach party where we transported beach sand and deposited it on the floor of that building."

Benimoff also recalls some of his favorite professors who were at the heart of his quality education, remembering "Dr.

Arthur Minerof, who taught me English Literature (I really got into this); Dr. Larry Schwartz who taught Western Civilization (I remember writing a term paper on 'Four Philosophers and the French Revolution'); Drs. Herman Erlichson and Reuben Benumof who taught me Physics; and Maurice Richter who taught me Analytic Geometry and Calculus II (I remember proving the area of circle was equal to πr^2 .) They all made the classes interesting.

Benimoff initially pursued a career in electrical engineering. He was still a student when he started his first job as a Technical Assistant in the Physics Laboratory on June 15, 1967, the day that SICC moved to the Sunnyside campus. However, he soon discovered that geology was his true passion.

"The next summer," Benimoff says, "I had to serve as a Technical Assistant for a geology laboratory. I had never taken a geology course. The instructor was Albert Mazza, a high school teacher at new Dorp High School who was an adjunct at SICC in the summer. We took the class on a field trip to upstate New York and I really connected with this course through the field trip experience and decided to change my major to Geology. I had originally planned to continue in Engineering Science at Richmond College. Instead, I continued my education, part-time in the evening, at Brooklyn College in Geology. I earned my BS and MA in Geology at Brooklyn College and my PhD in Geology at Lehigh University.

Now that he is a longstanding and respected member of the CSI faculty, Benimoff says that he loves the entire experience. "As a full-time faculty member I teach, do research, serve on many College committees, and enjoy every aspect of academia. I enjoy the research. Here at CSI, I do research in the petrogenesis of Igneous and Metamorphic rocks. Also, when new technology comes out, I embrace it. A case in point is GIS,

which stands for Geographic Information Systems. I learned this technology by myself and have been able to use it as a tool to do research. Working with CSI President William Fritz (a geologist) and Vice President Michael Kress, we have been able to use GIS as a tool to study the effects of hurricane storm surges."

Benimoff underscores his enthusiasm for his job by quoting U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer: "If you can't wait to get to work on Monday morning and they have to pull you out of there on Friday afternoon, you have a great job" He adds, "Such is the case with me for I am truly blessed!"



Alan Benimoff as an SICC graduate, and today.



Irma K. Cruz Velez '16

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UPCOMING EVENTS

CELESTIAL BALL

December 12, 2015, 6:30pm
Richmond County Country Club

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

January 11, 2016
7:00pm
1A-406

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

March 21, 2016
7:00pm
1A-406

SAVOR THE FLAVORS

April 3, 2016
2:00pm
Center for the Arts Atrium

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

May 9, 2016, 7:00pm
1A-406

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Class Reunions
Honoring alumni class years ending in 1s and 6s (1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011)

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

June 20, 2016,
7:00pm
Green Dolphin Lounge

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



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

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

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