CSI at 60
A Legacy of Excellence with All Eyes on the Future

Faculty Fulbrights
Dr. Ava Chin and Dr. Ying Zhu
Received 2016-2017 Fulbright Awards

Dr. Michael Kress, ’69, ’75
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COVER STORY
Celebrating 60 Years
Page 3

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FEATURED ARTICLES
Celebrating 60 Years of Excellence with All Eyes on the Future
Page 3

CSI Grads Attending Cornell and Columbia
Page 6

FACULTY FOCUS
Two CSI Professors Receive Fulbright Awards
Page 8

DEPARTMENTs
Around Campus
Page 10
Scholarly Achievements
Page 16
Alumni News
Page 17
Keeping Tabs
Page 21
Sports Highlights
Page 22
Foundation Notes
Page 24
Rising Stars
Page 32

ALUMNI PROFILE
Dr. Michael Kress:
Looking Back
Page 33

Mitchell Harris poses with Danny the Dolphin after winning Best Overall and Most Likes in the “Where’s Danny?” photo contest (story on page 15).
Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this issue of Eye on CSI, which features our College’s 60th Anniversary.

Although many things have changed since Staten Island Community College (SICC) opened its doors in 1956, there is a continuum of excellence that has remained ever-present throughout our long and proud history. SICC’s first Commencement speaker, Charlotte Mantalbano, commented in 1958 that many of those graduating on that day would not have their degrees if it weren’t for that institution. Today, CSI has become a destination campus, affording that same opportunity for excellence. Many of our graduates are also first-generation college students who use the skills that they learned at CSI to find fulfilling and meaningful careers, and better lives.

As we celebrate our 60th year, we continue to garner recognition from national and local publications and organizations, which recognize the myriad opportunities that we afford our students. Those successes become even more tangible when we see our recent alumni moving on to graduate programs at prestigious schools such as Cornell and Columbia.

As we move into the future, that commitment to excellence will remain a bedrock of our Mission. The immediate future will include the opening of CSI St. George, which will give an additional 18,000 college-ready residents of the Island the chance to earn a college education. It will also offer courses to professionals who have already earned degrees to enhance their job skills and marketability.

We have so much to celebrate, in our past and present, as well as our vast potential in the years to come.

Best wishes,

William J. Fritz, PhD
President
It all started with the opening of Staten Island Community College (SICC) in 1956. Although much has happened since then, such as the opening of Richmond College in 1967, the unification of these two predecessor institutions into the College of Staten Island in 1976, and the inauguration of our present-day Willowbrook campus in 1993, there is a constant that has run throughout the continuum of our history—the opportunity for excellence. Close to 60,000 students have received their degrees from CSI over this 60-year period, many of whom would not have had the chance to earn a college degree, were the first in their families to graduate from college, and have gone into the workforce and improved not only their own lives, but the lives of others as a result of the knowledge and expertise that they gained here. We are proud of our past, but we also celebrate today’s CSI, and its vast future potential as a catalyst to make this world a better place.

Thanks to College President William J. Fritz, many of us have learned so much about the academic history of CSI, and the Willowbrook campus’s legacy of place from farmland to a key military hospital to a tragic warehouse for people with
developmental disabilities. CSI is now a place of light where people can grow and flourish, and there is so much to celebrate today, and to look forward to in the future.

CSI Merrill
The College of Staten Island’s Office of Continuing Education and Professional Studies has recently established a satellite facility, located at 130 Merrill Avenue on the West Shore of Staten Island. The location provides CSI continuing education students with access to eight dedicated classrooms wired with Smart Board technology as well as a computer lab.

The CSI Continuing Education Program is transforming lives by offering professional development in emerging careers in fields such as healthcare, technology, and business. In addition, there are programs and courses that can prepare local residents for college, including remediation and English language development courses, as well as many other community-based programs that are available to meet the diverse needs of the Staten Island community.

For more information about the CSI Continuing Education Program, call 718.982.2182.

CSI St. George
This fall, the College of Staten Island will return to its roots with the establishment of its new 16,000-sq.-ft. location in St. George at 120 Stuyvesant Place. CSI St. George can be traced to an effort to better serve Staten Island residents who rely on mass transit to come to CSI. A demand study determined that there were more than 18,000 college-ready students between the ages of 18 and 25 in this area who are not attending any CUNY campus. Beyond the academic opportunities that CSI St. George will afford these students, its convenient location will save them almost an hour a day in commuting time, as opposed to attending classes in Willowbrook.

The Staten Island Ferry’s close proximity to the area will also enable Staten Islanders with bachelor’s degrees who work in Manhattan, and former CSI students who left the College to take jobs in Manhattan’s improving job market, to take classes and improve their marketability.

Technology Incubator
In addition to CSI St. George, CSI has developed the CSI Technology Incubator at 60 Bay Street, with funding from the City Council and support from the Staten Island delegation, to provide an opportunity for Staten Islanders to be entrepreneurs and to develop businesses related to technology. This new facility will connect budding entrepreneurs with the vast expertise of College faculty in an effort to bolster the growth of the technology sector on the Island. In 2015, CSI received a $500,000 grant for the CSI Technology Incubator Center in St. George, which will be the only START-UP NY “Tax-free Zone” in the Borough, enlisting eligible tech companies and other start-up businesses.

High-Performance Computing Center
CSI’s efforts to strengthen the technological prowess of our Borough will also move ahead with the establishment of the new CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center.
The 18th Annual SIEDC Business Conference featured awards to the Top 31 Most Influential People and Institutions in Economic Development on Staten Island, and CSI received fifth-place honors.

When the U.S. Department of Education released its latest findings on top salaries for college graduates after studying 58 colleges in New York City, CSI came in at number 27 with an average salary for graduates at $40,600. SUNY Downstate Medical Center topped that list, but CSI was on par with Columbia University, New York University, and Fordham University.

CSI graduates have gone on to graduate programs at prestigious institutions such as Harvard, Columbia, Cornell, University College of London, University of Edinburgh, McGill, Fordham, Rutgers, NYU, Imperial College London, SUNY Buffalo, Brooklyn Law School, and The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Computing Center, to be located on the College of Staten Island campus. This state-of-the-art facility will house our supercomputers and also provide lecture halls, classrooms, offices, and research space. When it is completed, it will be one of the most powerful supercomputer sites in the region, serving CSI and CUNY faculty and students, as well as other researchers and businesses.

Building 2M
Building 2M on the Willowbrook Campus will find new use, thanks to a significant renovation. The 75,000-cubic-ft. building will serve as the new home of classrooms and lecture halls, and faculty offices for the School of Business, and the CUNY Center for Big Data Analytics. The Center, funded by a CUNY 2020 Challenge Grant, will employ the College’s dynamic leadership and expertise in big data research and analysis, as well as the growing strength in technological innovation in New York City, to establish programs in data analytics in collaboration with The Graduate Center and several other CUNY colleges. The facility will also have a beautiful new atrium, thanks to a $250,000 grant from the Richmond County Savings Foundation.

30,000 Degrees
A 2012 U.S. Department of Commerce, United States Census Bureau Report found that Staten Island has the second-lowest percentage of residents who hold a baccalaureate degree or higher. The goal of this initiative is to add 30,000 more Borough residents with Bachelor’s degrees or higher over the next ten years. CSI is a founding anchor higher education institution of the Staten Island Educational Partnership (SIEP), along with St. John’s University and Wagner College, in this initiative, which is modeled after a very successful program in Louisville, KY called 55,000 Degrees. It is hoped that an increased number of residents with bachelor’s degrees will attract businesses to the Island, drastically increasing the number of job opportunities, in turn stimulating the local economy. Added benefits will be a healthier and more civically engaged community.

In order to reach its goal, SIEP is employing a multi-faceted approach, working on a number of 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 also build collaborations with educational institutions, community organizations, faith-based organizations, and not-for-profits, as well as businesses to coordinate and foster successful programs.

Summing up the last 60 years and the bright future in store for the College, Dr. Fritz said, “Our past has positively affected so many lives as we continue to grow as a public institution of higher learning on Staten Island. The next 60 years and beyond will be even more powerful, improving our students’ lives, growing our local economy, and making the world a better place.”
CSI GRADS ATTENDING CORNELL AND COLUMBIA

Jasmine Calle ’16
“Keep yourself busy, but remember to enjoy the ride.”

This is the advice from CSI alumna Jasmine Calle ‘16 who redefines the term “busy.” The Macaulay Honors College (MHC) graduate, who spent her college years feverishly conducting research, participating in student activities, and volunteering in the community, has been accepted to Cornell University. Calle began at the University last fall, pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine.

At CSI, Calle majored in Biochemistry and Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics with multiple scholarships under her belt. She noted how CSI lived up to its world-class reputation:

“Whenever I hear others extolling the benefits of the College, the term that most frequently comes up is ‘world-class’ faculty. That phrase is easy enough to overlook, but I began to fully realize the weight it held as I attended school here. Truly, the faculty is amazing, both as teachers and innovators in their own field,” said Calle, thanking, in particular, MHC staff members Lisa French and Anita Romano.

A Dean’s List student, Calle was a member of the Emerging Leaders Program and the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, the Class of 2016 CSI representative for the Macaulay Scholars Council, a Macaulay Scholars Council (MSC) member, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs on MSC’s first-ever Executive Board. She was a Resource Assisted Initiatives in Science Empowerment for Women Scholar and a The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority participant. She is also a Revson Scholar, a Young Latinas Leadership Institute Scholar, and a recipient of the Valedictorian/Salutatorian Scholarship.

In Fall 2013, she participated in the lab of Professor Shaibal Mitra, where she studied the changing spring arrival dates of certain migrant land birds in New York State. Calle also assisted in the Arenas-Mena Lab, studying gene regulatory networks in sea urchins and polychaetes for the better part of her undergraduate career.

In addition, she participated in a ten-week NSF-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates at the New York State Department of Health where she assisted in basic and public health research.

She has the following words of inspiration for students who are following in her wake at CSI: “You are the most important part of your academic career. Push yourself forward without knocking yourself down.”
The College of Staten Island has been garnering a lot of attention, lately, in recognition of the value and quality of the education experiences that it provides, but also the achievements of its graduates (see pp. 4-5). Eye on CSI is proud to present the stories of two of our recent alumni: Jasmine Calle ’16, who is attending Cornell, and Erica Golin ’15, who is pursuing her degree at Columbia.

Erica Golin ’15
“What can I do today that will make me proud in the future?”

Erica Golin, who was a Psychology major and Sociology and Anthropology minor, ponders that question daily, a mantra that has certainly served her well as the Verrazano School alumna has been accepted to the Columbia School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. She began to pursue a Master’s of Public Administration last summer.

While she was a student at CSI, she was involved in a wide variety of activities and organizations on campus, many that eventually allowed her to realize her career goals.

“It was at CSI that I found my passion for environmental issues. While I always cared about the environment, I thought I wanted to be a psychologist or psychology professor,” noted Golin, adding that her Cultural Anthropology class with City College Professor Lindsay Parme “started me on the path of ‘waking up,’ so to speak.”

Several other courses, a relevant documentary, and her membership with the CUNY Service Corps all solidified her passion about the issues facing the environment.

Golin was on the CSI Student Government, Campus Activities Board, and in the Emerging Leaders Program. She also enjoyed assisting at CSI New Student Orientation and giving campus tours as a CSI Ambassador.

She is thankful to “the entire staff of Student Life, The Verrazano School, Career and Scholarship, and Recruitment and Admissions who were enormously helpful in validating my potential and encouraging me to pursue my goals.”

“I could not have had these opportunities if it weren’t for CSI!” she exclaimed.

Golin is the recipient of a CSI Scholarship, a Departmental Scholarship in Psychology, and a Dolphin Award for Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Currently Enrolled Student (2015).

She states that her “ultimate goal is to start an institute where people can learn about resource-based economy, which offers solutions to problems such as climate change.”
In recognition of their distinguished work in higher education and beyond, Dr. Ava Chin and Dr. Ying Zhu have both received 2016-2017 Fulbright Awards.

Dr. Chin, Associate Professor in the Department of English at the College of Staten Island, is based at China’s prestigious Fudan University, in the School of Journalism. “I’m teaching a master’s course in Western News Writing derived from classes I have perfected at CSI,” said Chin, adding that the other purpose of the trip is to research her next book project, a memoir about American immigration laws and her family roots in China, which will be published by Penguin Press. The experienced author and mentor also looks forward to working with young writers and connecting with colleagues across the country.

Chin won the Provost Research Award (2015-2017), which has supported her research, as well as an Advanced Research Collaborative fellowship at The Graduate Center (Fall 2016).

“As a Fulbright U.S. Scholar, I have met some amazing colleagues in eco-criticism, creative writing, and modern languages,” says Chin. “But it is also that combination of connecting with students and my own filial roots and villages that has made the journey so worthwhile.”

She is living in Shanghai with her husband and her daughter.

Dr. Chin, a Queens native, is the author of the award-winning Eating Wildly: Foraging for Life, Love, and the Perfect Meal and the former Urban Forager columnist for The New York Times (2009-2013). She has written for the Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine, Saveur, Marie Claire, The Village Voice, Martha Stewart, and SPIN, among others. A New York Institute for Humanities fellow at New York University, she is an Associate Professor of Creative Nonfiction and Journalism. The Huffington Post named her one of “9 Contemporary Authors You Should Be Reading.”

Chin also represents CUNY mentors in several CUNY advertisements appearing in CUNY Matters and on the New York City subway.

Dr. Zhu, who has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Research Fellowship, will also be conducting research in China, primarily based in the Shanghai Film Academy, which is affiliated with Shanghai University, a long-term partner of CSI. Dr. Zhu’s award project is a book called China, Soft Power, and The Great Narrator: A History of China’s Engagement with Hollywood. The work, to be published by The New Press, examines two...
periods during which Hollywood dominated the Chinese market: one during China’s Republican era and one since 1994 when Hollywood reentered the Chinese market after decades of absence. Dr. Zhu will trace Hollywood’s historical engagement with Chinese audiences, the film industry, and state regulatory agencies while simultaneously sketching out the evolution of Chinese cinema from its infancy under the shadow of imports to its current global economic and cultural ambition.

“Treating Sino-Hollywood engagement as a case of political, cultural, and economic rivalry and cooptation, the project examines how economic interest intersects with political posturing and cultural propagation,” Dr. Zhu explained. She considers the Shanghai Film Academy, which is headed by the world-renowned Chinese filmmaker Chen Kaige (Farewell My Concubine, 1993) a perfect institution for her to work on this historical book project.

Dr. Zhu, a Cinema Studies Professor in the Department of Media Culture at CSI, has published eight books, including Two Billion Eyes: The Story of China Central Television and Chinese Cinema during the Era of Reform: The Ingenuity of the System. A leading scholar on Chinese cinema and media studies, her writings have appeared in major academic journals, books, and publications such as The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal. Her works have been translated into Chinese, Dutch, French, Italian, and Spanish.

Dr. Zhu is a recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship (2006) and an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (2008). Her 2003 research monograph, Chinese Cinema during the Era of Reform: The Ingenuity of the System, is considered by critics as a groundbreaking book that initiated the study of Chinese cinema within the framework of political economy. Her 2008 research monograph, Television in Post-Reform China: Serial Drama, Confucian Leadership and the Global Television Market, together with two book volumes in which her work featured prominently—TV China (2009) and TV Drama in China (2008)—pioneered the subfield of Chinese TV drama studies.

Dr. Zhu’s daughter, Frances Hisgen, will also travel to China during the Fulbright tenure. Frances will join Maliya Obama to be part of the Harvard Class of 2021 upon return from China.

The Fulbright Program aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries, and it is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government.
CSI’s Announces Its New Administrative Appointments

In an effort to ensure the efficient day-to-day functioning of the College and to help President William J. Fritz to chart its future, the CSI Administration has added some new dynamic members.

Kenichi (Ken) Iwama has been named CSI’s Vice President for Economic Development, Continuing Studies, and Government Relations, effective October 27, 2016.

Mr. Iwama has served as Deputy to the President and Chief of Staff with the College of Staten Island since 2010. In this role, on behalf of the President, he has supervised the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development, Government Relations, the Office of Human Resources, CSI Athletics, the Office of Diversity and Compliance, and the Office of the President. He also supervised all of the College’s Economic Development initiatives during the current period of divisional transition. From 2009 to 2010, Mr. Iwama served as the College’s Director of the Office of Diversity and Compliance.

From 1997 to 2009, he served in various senior executive positions with the state-operated School District of Jersey City, the second largest school district in New Jersey. Prior to serving in senior administrative positions for educational institutions, Mr. Iwama practiced law in the State of New Jersey, concentrating in education law, and labor and employment law. He also served in judicial clerkships with the State of New Jersey Office of Administrative Law and the New Jersey Superior Court.

He received his BA from the University of New Hampshire, an MA from Rutgers University School of Management and Labor Relations, and his Juris Doctor from Seton Hall Law School.

Dr. Vivian Incera has been appointed the College’s Dean of the Division of Science and Technology. She will also hold an appointment as a tenured Professor in the Department of Engineering Science and Physics. Dr. Incera comes to CSI from the University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP), where she was a tenured Professor of Physics, having served as Chair of the Physics Department from 2009 through 2013.

An accomplished theoretical physicist, Dr. Incera has an extensive record of publications and grant support, including several awards from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. Her research interests have included the interface of high-energy physics, nuclear physics, astrophysics, and condensed matter, as well as more formal quantum field theory problems.

She received her BS in Physics from Havana University and her PhD in Physics from the P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute in Moscow.

Dr. Kenneth Gold has been named the College’s Dean of the School of Education. Dean Gold came to the College of Staten Island in 1995 as an adjunct lecturer, was appointed Assistant Professor two years later and promoted to Associate Professor in 2003. He served as Chair of the former Department of Education in 2004 and again from 2007 to 2010. Prior to his arrival at CSI, Dr. Gold was a teacher at both John Dewey High School and Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn.

Dr. Gold had been serving as Interim Dean of the School since its founding in fall 2013. An accomplished theoretical physicist, Dr. Incera has an extensive record of publications and grant support, including several awards from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. Her research interests have included the interface of high-energy physics, nuclear physics, astrophysics, and condensed matter, as well as more formal quantum field theory problems.

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Dr. Gold had been serving as Interim Dean of the School since its founding in fall 2013. Since that time, the School has deepened the College’s relationship with K-12 schools and Education alumni on Staten Island through program grants, principals’ networks, memoranda of understanding, and CSI’s participation in the 30,000 Degrees Initiative; launched new programs in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages); instituted mechanisms to support student preparation for the EdTPA and the other new state certification exams; and established the Teachers Society for students. The School is currently developing a proposal for a new EdD in Community-based Leadership.

Dr. Gold holds a PhD in History and a Master’s in History, both from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and a Bachelor’s in History, cum laude, from Princeton University.

Dr. Ralf M. Peetz has been appointed Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Student Success.

Dr. Peetz has been a member of the Chemistry Department faculty at CSI since 2003, and is also a long-time member of The Graduate Center Doctoral Faculty in Chemistry. His areas of academic specialization include functional materials and macromolecular engineering, future energy needs, and science in education.
Dr. Peetz will provide oversight and strategic leadership for the Center for Advising and Academic Success (CAAS); the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) initiative; several student academic support offices including the Office of Academic Support, the Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Program, C-STEP and Liberty Partnership programs; three CSI honors programs; Learning Communities; and the Bertha Harris Women’s Center. He will also serve as a member of the Deans’ Council and the Provost’s Council.

Dr. Peetz received his Vordiplom in Chemistry from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), and his MS and PhD in Chemistry from the University of Hamburg.

He has served in many faculty leadership roles at CSI, mentoring more than 20 undergraduate researchers, as well as five doctoral students, and also has an extensive record of community service.

Dr. Pipe will work with deans, department chairs, and other academic leaders at CSI and partner institutions to develop and maintain strong graduate programs, provide strategic leadership for the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research, work with the Office of Academic Assessment and other units to assure a strong “culture of assessment” in the College, and oversee the organization and implementation of the annual Undergraduate Research Conference.

Dr. Pipe holds her BA in English and PhD in Psychology from the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and completed postdoctoral work in Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington (also New Zealand).

Dr. Margaret-Ellen (Mel) Pipe has been named Associate Provost for Graduate Studies, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness at the College of Staten Island.

The College of Staten Island (CSI) is proud to announce that in 2016 all 20 Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) graduates passed the Physical Therapy license exam on their first attempt. This marks the first time in the history of the program, which is just under three decades old, that graduates have celebrated a 100% success rate.

Dr. Pipe is formerly Acting Assistant Provost for Planning and Special Projects at Brooklyn College, where she previously served for six years as Chair of the Department of Psychology. Prior to moving to Brooklyn College in 2006, she served for five years as Staff Scientist at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (National Institutes of Health). Most of her prior academic career was spent at the University of Otago (1985–2001) in Dunedin, New Zealand, where she rose to a rank equivalent to Full Professor. Dr. Pipe’s research and publications have been concentrated in the areas of memory development and child abuse and neglect.

Dr. Pipe will work with deans, department chairs, and other academic leaders at CSI and the provost’s council.

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The graduates mean scale score was more than 35 points above the mean national scale score (717 to 683) and the passing rate was seven percentage points above the national percentage. The exam was administered nationally last summer and the official results were reported by the Federation for State Board Physical Therapy Examiners.

The Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) program prepares students to become clinician-scientists who can competently apply research to clinical practice, perform all aspects of physical therapy practice, and perform clinical research. It will prepare graduates to examine, evaluate, diagnose, and intervene in the management of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities of the cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular, and integumentary systems.

The program meets the changing national standards as well as community needs for physical therapists working in a multitude of settings. The DPT program is in accordance with the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) recommendation that physical therapists be doctorally credentialed. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Graduates will be eligible for the National Physical Therapy Examination.
Professor Thomas F. Bond Jr.

It is with sorrow that we announce to the College community the passing of Professor Thomas F. Bond, Jr., Chairperson Emeritus of Biology (November 30, 1929 – April 12, 2016). He served the College for almost 25 years.

Prof. Bond came to Staten Island Community College in 1970 as an Appointed Adjunct lecturer in the Biology Department. By 1972, he rose to the rank of Appointed Assistant Professor, and received tenure in 1977. In 1978, he became Designated Interim Department Chair from February to June 1978. He achieved the rank of Associated Professor in 1980, and retired in 1995.

He held a BS in Biology from North Carolina College, Durham, NC; an MS in Education from Wagner College; and another MS (Bacteriology) from Wagner College, where his area of study was the action of preservatives in the control of microbes in products to which the consumer is exposed.

Prof. Bond was a Medical Laboratory Technologist at St. Vincent’s Medical Center from August 1956 to 1972, eventually becoming the Laboratory Coordinator in 1968. He kept this position until 1972 when he resigned to accept the full-time position at the College.

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Memorial donations may be made to the Professor Thomas F. Bond Scholarship, CSI Foundation, Building 1A, Room 401, College of Staten Island/CUNY, 2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314.

CSI Partners with NYC ACS in Support Initiative for Foster Care Youth

The NYC Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) and The City University of New York (CUNY) announced a joint initiative that supported 50 foster care youth attending CUNY colleges last fall with academic and financial support. The new program, which is part of the Fostering College Success initiative, began last summer with New York Foundling providing tutoring and other supportive services to 40 foster care youth. The youth were enrolled in academic programs at ten CUNY colleges across the city and lived on campus in the Queens College dormitory. An additional 11 students enrolled at CSI and resided on campus.

Dr. Michael Kress Honored at Symposium

The College of Staten Island hosted a symposium that celebrated the career of Dr. Michael Kress, Vice President for Technology and Economic Development, and Executive Director of the CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center, who retired in the spring of 2016. The event took place in the Center for the Arts with a program of accomplished researchers, colleagues, and professionals discussing a vast array of projects. The evening culminated in a dinner at the Vanderbilt at South Beach that drew a crowd of more than 130 guests who were eager to share in the honoring of and farewell to Dr. Kress.

To further celebrate Dr. Kress’s distinguished career and years of outstanding service to CSI and Staten Island, a scholarship fund has been established in his honor. The Michael Kress Scholarship Fund in Interdisciplinary Computer Science will be a merit-based scholarship, supporting outstanding students in interdisciplinary fields as they relate to computational study. For more information on how you can support the Scholarship, please call 718.982.2365.

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Convocation Celebrates CSI’s Legacy of Mission

Dr. William J. Fritz

An enthusiastic, near-capacity crowd filled the Center for the Arts Williamson Theatre, last December, for the 2016 Convocation.

After introductory remarks from CSI Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Khatemh Osseiran-Hanna, College President Dr. William J. Fritz discussed the College’s Legacy of Mission on its 60th Anniversary. After first mentioning CSI’s two new facilities, CSI Merrill and the soon-to-open CSI St. George, Dr. Fritz examined remarks made by some of the dignitaries at the first Commencement of Staten Island Community College (SICC) in 1958: then SICC President Walter Willig, who discussed the opportunity for students to raise themselves through academic excellence; Staten Island Borough President Albert V. Maniscalco, who underscored the importance of the opportunity to lift community; and College founder Arleigh B. Williamson, whose daughter Sally was in attendance at Convocation, who spoke on the opportunity to advance society.

After presenting these ideas from 60 years ago, Dr. Fritz went on to demonstrate that those principles are still very much alive at today’s CSI. After mentioning the continued national and regional recognition that the College has received for its excellence and value, he concluded his comments by stating, “From our first student speaker at the 1958 Commencement, Charlotte Montalbano, who would go on from SICC to receive her bachelor’s and master’s degrees and devote her career to inspiring countless students as a junior high and high school teacher, to our 2016 student Commencement speaker RinZhi Go Larocque, who started in our Office of Continuing Studies CUNY Language Immersion Program, traveled the world as a humanitarian volunteer, became our Valedictorian; and now attends the Doctor of Dental Surgery program at the University at Buffalo, this is the true legacy of our Mission for 60 years and beyond.”

Dr. Fritz then introduced a brief video that presented many personal views on the Colleges exemplary legacy.

Following the video, as in past years, members of the CSI faculty and staff who were celebrating service anniversaries in five-year increments were honored in a light-hearted ceremony that was emceed by Patricia Khan, Assistant Vice President Chief Information Officer for Information Technology Services and the CUNY High-Performance Computing Center. Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Gary Reichard presented honorees with service pins.

The event was followed by the President’s Annual Holiday Celebration in the Center for the Arts Atrium.

Dr. Henry Wasser, Former Dean of Faculties at Richmond College

It is with sorrow that we announce to the College community the passing of Dr. Henry Wasser, former Dean of Faculties at Richmond College, on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016. Dr. Wasser served as Dean from the time Richmond College was founded in 1966 until 1973. A prominent educator, he spent most of his career with The City University of New York, starting in 1946. He taught for many years at CCNY before becoming Dean of Faculties at Richmond College, which later merged with the two-year college, Staten Island Community College (SICC), to form the College of Staten Island/CUNY. Dr. Wasser then served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Cal State Sacramento before returning to NYC and The City University. He was Chair of the CUNY University Faculty Senate from 1980 to 1986 and became a member and subsequently an emeritus member of The City University Board of Trustees. He was also a member of the Department of Sociology at The Graduate Center of The City University as well as the Department of English at the College of Staten Island.

In the words of his son, Professor Frederick Wasser of Brooklyn College, Dr. Wasser “came to public higher education through progressive politics. He was committed to it. He grew up in Akron, OH and was very committed to working-class culture and he sought out his position at City College after getting his PhD at Columbia. That’s what always motivated him in terms of doing things on Staten Island and at The City University.”

In addition, Fulbright awards to Greece, Norway, and Portugal led to his interest in comparative higher education and his strong advocacy of faculty governance. He was a strong voice for the CUNY mission of providing an academic education for everyone. His academic writings focused on literature, American Studies, and the sociology of higher education.
It is with sorrow that we announce to the College community the passing of David S. Seeley. Dr. Seeley served the Education Department at the College of Staten Island from 1987 until 2005. He retired in 2003, but stayed on as a Resident Professor until 2005. A champion of school desegregation during the 1950s and 1960s under the Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson administrations, Dr. Seeley played a major role in the case involving the Prince Edward County (Virginia) schools. Following the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation ruling, Prince Edward County opted to close its public schools rather than allow them to be desegregated. Dr. Seeley was instrumental in hiring a team of 100 teachers from around the nation to establish the Prince Edward Free Schools in 1963. The Free Schools ran until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors had to re-open the public schools.

In addition, he was an advocate of equal opportunity and community involvement to maximize the effectiveness of education. Ruth Powers Silverberg, EdD, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Studies of the CSI School of Education, who was a colleague of Dr. Seeley’s, recalls that the “primary point of his classes was to advocate for the ‘paradigm change’ he wrote about in his book Educating through Partnership: Mediating Structures and Education. His mantra was ‘schools can't do it alone’—meaning educate all children to the highest levels— without the full engagement of parents and communities. He also made frequent use of the Discussion Board online forum between classes, about which many students complained because he required them to post frequent thoughtful entries in response to his questions, which challenged their ideas and beliefs.”

Ken Gold, PhD, Founding Dean of the CSI School of Education, called Dr. Seeley “a brilliant visionary. His powerful argument that voice, choice, and loyalty were key ingredients for successful schooling presaged several key developments in education over the past 30 years—most notably the community schools movement. At the College, he helped prepare a generation of school leaders on Staten Island, including the current superintendent of District 31, Anthony Lodico.”

Beyond his significant impact on the educational landscape of the U.S. and the College of Staten Island, Dr. Seeley was also a generous benefactor of the CSI Foundation in support of Doctoral studies in Education.

Willowbrook Mile Groundbreaking

Diane Buglioli, Michael Kress, Bernard Carabello, Geraldo Rivera, Michael Casick, and William J. Fritz participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Willowbrook Mile. The project was initiated by the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Council. Working collaboratively with the College of Staten Island, the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities, and the Elizabeth Connelly Resource Center/Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, the project will eventually lead to a walking trail through the three distinct campuses that were created from the original 383 pastoral acres that was once Willowbrook State School.

Tournees Film Festival Concludes with Student Film

During the months of October and November 2016, the Department of Media Culture and the College of Staten Island presented the annual Tournées Film Festival. With funding from the French-American Cultural Exchange in Education and the Arts (FACE) organization and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the United States, students and Staten Island residents were given the opportunity to view recent and important films from France.

Gathering in the Center for the Arts (from left to right) President William Fritz and the Head of Film, TV, and New Media at the French Embassy, Mathieu Fournet, and CSI students.
Danny the Dolphin traveled the globe last summer as his photographer fans toted the pocket-sized sea mammal across cities, countries, and continents. Now, for those who participated in the "Where's Danny?" Photo Contest, the results are in.

The winners of the contest (three winners in four categories and two honorable mentions) are as follows:

Mitchell Harris '16 won for Best Overall and Most Likes. He received an iPad mini 2 and a $50 Amazon Gift Card. Harris graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Social Work and is currently in the Master's in Social Work program at Fordham University.

Rachael Torres '16 won for Best Picture and received a GoPro Hero Session. Torres graduated from The Verrazano School Honors Program with degrees in Accounting and Economics.

Samantha Scali won for Best Caption and received a $75 Amazon Gift Card.

Aidan Jimenez '20 received an honorable mention. Jimenez is a Business Management major.

Alecia Janeiro also received an honorable mention.

View all #csidannythedolphin entries on Instagram.

Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Electrical Engineering, Receive Accreditation

Continuing in the tradition of programmatic excellence, quality teaching, and high standards, two programs at the College of Staten Island (CSI) have received accreditation beginning last fall.

The Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program at CSI has received an accreditation from the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC) through 2021. The program, which leads to licensure in mental health counseling, was cited by MPCAC site visitors for such highlights as being an “exemplar of the mission of the school.” Research, advisement, faculty collaboration, strong connections with the community, and recent scholarship and grant opportunities were also noted. The Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program celebrates its place as the first such program in CUNY to receive this accreditation.

The Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BS EE), which has been offered since Spring 2014 by the Department of Engineering Science and Physics is also now accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, Inc. (ABET). The accreditation action extends retroactively from October 2013 and therefore covers students who have already graduated. CSI is the second institution within The City University of New York (CUNY) and one of only a few in the greater NY/NJ metropolitan area offering an ABET-accredited Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering.

CSI Provost Leads Political Panel Discussion at Friends Literary Brunch

The Friends of CSI celebrated 40 years of service to the College and its students, last fall, with a discussion of the latest book by CSI Provost/ Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Gary Reichard, titled Deadlock and Disillusionment: American Politics since 1968. The event took place in the Campus Center Green Dolphin Lounge. In addition to Dr. Reichard’s talk, there was a panel discussion, moderated by Professor Rich Flanagan, which included Tom Wrobleski from the Staten Island Advance and Francis Barry from Bloomberg View, that attempted to bring members of the campus community together to have an open dialogue about politics and the many issues surrounding it.
SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

PULITZER PRIZE

Tyehimba Jess won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for his book Olio. Our creative writing faculty has three Guggenheim fellows, a Fulbright fellow, and, now, a Pulitzer winner.

PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

Zaghoul Ahmed, PhD, and his patented spinal stimulation technology were featured in an article on Science & Enterprise online.

Comfort B. Asanbe, PhD, has been selected to serve as a Department of Public Information (DPI) Representative at the United Nations for the American Psychological Association (APA).

Rashidul Bari recently wrote an article that was published in multiple news sources, including The Times of Israel.com. His piece “The Trial of Hillary Clinton” discusses his views on the Presidential candidates.

Dean Maureen Becker and student Kirill Antonovis were honored by the Staten Island Not-for-Profit Association.

Matt Brim, PhD, Associate Professor of Queer Studies, and Amin Ghaziani (University of British Columbia) announced the publication of Queer Methods, a special double issue of WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly.

Frank Burbrink weighed in on the contributions of researchers from the College of Staten Island to Ice Age vertebrate studies in an article on American Museum of Natural History online.

Kathleen M. Cumiskey was honored by Council Member Debi Rose at a ceremony to celebrate Women’s History Month.

Ashley Dawson, PhD and Ava Chin, PhD have received Distinguished Professor Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC) awards from The City University of New York.

Dawn Fairlie, PhD, was featured on EurekAlert!: The Global Source for Science News.

Richard Flanagan was quoted in an article in the New York Post online “De Blasio nabs key endorsement from service workers union” by Michael Garland. Dr. Flanagan was also Interviewed on MTV News.com.

Regina Gonzalez-Lama, RN, BSN, MSN, participated in The Edmond J. Safra Visiting Nurse Faculty Program at the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation.

Sarang Gopalakrishnan, was recently quoted in a article titled, “5 Coolest Things on Earth this Week” on GE Reports.com.

Tyehimba Jess, was recently named a Lannan Literary Award recipient for 2016.

Charles Liu, PhD, and William Shatner co-hosted Star Talk TV with Neil deGrasse Tyson on National Geographic.com.

Nuria Morgado, PhD, Associate Professor of Spanish, was inducted into the American Academy of the Spanish Language (ANLE).

Fred Naider, PhD, CSI Distinguished Professor, co-wrote an article in The Times of Israel.

Michael Paris, PhD, was selected as a CUNY Fellow in the Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC) for 2017-2018.

Ralf Peetz, PhD was appointed to the Greenbelt Conservancy Board of Directors.

Louis Petingi, PhD, received the 2016 International Conference on Computational Biology Best Paper Award.

Emily Rice, PhD, was featured in an article on Astronomy Magazine online. The piece, “Astronomy on Tap Lights up the Nights” by Liz Kruesi. She was also interviewed on what to expect in space in 2017 on The Takeaway. Rice was interviewed on amNewYork.com in an article titled “Supermoon: What to know and when to see the celestial event.”

Irving Robbins commented on the probability of the Earth getting hit with a galactic event in The Alternative Daily article “These 7 Threats From Outer Space Could Destroy Humanity” by Scott O’Reily.


“Is Shunning Ever Useful? An interview with the writer, theorist, and activist Sarah Schulman,” by Kaitlyn Greenidge was featured in an interview on Lenny online. She was quoted in “Palestine and Anti-Semitism in the Age of Trump,” an article in The Villager online by Bill Weinberg. Dr. Schulman was interviewed in the Vancouver Sun online. She was also interviewed on Truthout Online by Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore.

Richard Schwartz was featured in The Jerusalem Post online in “Aliya Stories: Making social activism spiritual.”

Ruth Powers Silverberg, EdD, was featured on NBC, NY1, and AP News for her work with the Above Ground Railroad. Professor Silverberg was also interviewed on NY1 for asking politicians to focus on human rights issues facing Staten Island.

Susan Smith-Peter was quoted on MSN News.com and The NY Times.com as she weighed in on the 150th anniversary of Russia’s sale of Alaska to the United States.

Dick Veit, PhD, was quoted in “The Wild Comeback of New York’s Legendary Landfill” by Laura Bliss, an article about the new Freshkills Park.

Ming Xia weighed in on the situation involving the possibility of the U.S. moving to block Chinese access to artificial islands in disputed areas of the South China Sea on Radio Free Asia.
Alumni Association Hosts Murder Mystery with ’50s Spin

It wasn’t your average night at the sock hop, last November, as the CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA) hosted its Fourth Annual Murder Mystery at The Old Bermuda Inn. The 1950s-themed event attracted 126 alumni and friends, all eager to solve the evening’s caper.

The event featured a raffle, with prizes donated by the CSIAA, as well as Jimmy Max, Pet Oasis, and Pizzeria Giove.

In addition, besides discovering “who done it,” another highlight of the event was the presentation of awards at the end of the evening:

• School Spirit – Wolf Pack
• King and Queen – Neil and Angie Seff
• Best Dressed – Mike and Catherine Annunziata
• Best Actress – Liz Mangano
• Best Actor – Chris Scarpaci
• Best Detectives – PTA – ADD

Alumni Affairs Coordinator Donna Garambone noted that the event, once again, was a success. “Not only did we have a good turnout for the event, but, most importantly, the attendees had a great time and had the opportunity to catch up with old friends, and make some new ones.”

Fun and ’50s set the tone for the CSIAA Murder Mystery.
Nursing Alumni Gather to Reminisce and Reconnect

More than 70 Nursing alumni and faculty gathered, last October, at Li Greci’s Staaten for a reunion.

Alumni Affairs Coordinator Donna Garambone said that the well-attended reunion “gave the Nursing alumni a chance to reconnect, and forge some new relationships.”

The event was sponsored by the CSI Alumni Association.

Greetings and words of welcome were offered by Vice President Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna; Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nursing Arlene Farren, RN, PhD, AOCN, CTN-A, CNE; and Interim Founding Dean of the School of Health Sciences Maureen Becker, Becker PT, DHSc.

The event, which gave alumni the opportunity to share their memories with those in attendance, also featured Melissa Lanza ’92, ’02, who spoke about her book *Experience God’s Presence*. After her remarks, Lanza held a book signing for interested participants.

Garambone added, “It’s always great to see the amount of energy that these events can generate.”
Jennifer Rodriguez has been a member of the Alumni Board for the last four years. She graduated from CSI in 2006 with an Associate’s degree in Liberal Arts and then received a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 2012. She is currently an Outreach Senior Specialist at Con Edison.

During a good part of that time, she was trying to balance work and school. Jennifer explains, “I started working in the utility industry in 2004. At the time, I was registered full time at CSI but had to drop my classes to start my career as a Customer Service Representative. In my first year on the job, I was promoted to a management position in Public Relations. It was then that I realized if I didn’t go back to school, I would never end up going back. So along with the challenge of taking on a full-time management position, I enrolled in CSI night classes, taking a class or two a semester. (It was a long road ahead.)

“My time at CSI helped me to realize my full potential, personally and professionally. I would work a full day in Manhattan, come back to Staten Island, grab a coffee, and head straight to class from 6:30 to 10:00pm. As challenging as it was, I enjoyed my time with the professors and students, learning and making lifetime friends along the way. It was truly a journey.” Jennifer adds that her favorite aspect of the College was the faculty, who “were beyond friendly and helpful.”

Those positive experiences eventually influenced Jennifer’s decision to join the Alumni Association Board. “I got involved with the CSI Alumni Association,” she says, “because I felt the College had provided me with so much that I wanted to be a part of its future. In my four years serving on the Alumni Board, I’ve held a few positions including Chair of the nominating committee and Vice President of the Board. I feel I’ve been able to partner with other board members to enhance and strengthen the relationship between the College and fellow alumni.”

Jennifer also encourages other alumni to get involved with the CSI Alumni Association, commenting that “We all graduate and move on with our lives not realizing how far we’ve come and how much we’ve grown. It’s a great way to give back.”

The newest members on the CSI Alumni Association Board of Directors include Crystal Deosaran ’02, BS International Business/Marketing, Program Coordinator, Calpulli Youth Dance; Sophia Kushinir Khanis ‘08 B. Accounting, U.S. Finance Assistant, Ashurst LLP and President/Baker, I Cake You; and Brian Spiccicat ’99 Associate’s Degree, Business Management and Marketing, Founder/Chief Operating Officer, Hospitality 10 Card Inc.

Meet Alumni Board Member Jennifer Rodriguez

Meet Our New Alumni Board Members

CSI proudly traces its heritage back to 1956. We look forward to the opportunity each year to gather our fellow alumni to celebrate Commencement and welcome a new class of graduates to the Alumni Association. This year, Commencement will be held on Tuesday, May 30 and we will pay special tribute to alumni from years that end in 2 and 7, as alumni from these and all graduation years are invited to join the Class of 2017 in academic procession. A luncheon, hosted by the CSI Alumni Association, will follow the ceremony. For more information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290.
Keegan Fernandes: Putting His Passion to Work to Help Others

Keegan Fernandes, '15, '16, '17

It's been a long journey for Keegan Fernandes, '15, '16, '17 a CSI veteran-student who is pursuing his second Master's degree and a recent recipient of a prestigious Jonas E. Salk Scholarship.

He was born in Kuwait City, Kuwait in 1987, but his family emigrated to the U.S. during the first Gulf War in 1991 in an effort to find a better life. However, in 2001, tragedy struck as Keegan's father died in the World Trade Center attacks. Feeling lost and wanting to do something in memory of his dad, Keegan joined the U.S. Army in 2007 as a combat medic.

After training in the U.S., he spent 15 months in Iraq, and after a year stateside, he was deployed in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. During both tours of duty, he assisted his fellow soldiers, as well as local residents. As he experienced more, including saving the life of his friend (and fellow soldier) in Afghanistan, who was severely injured by an improvised explosive device, his resolve to become a doctor grew stronger.

“These deployments affirmed my passion to become a doctor,” Keegan explained. “It allowed me to see how people in other countries not only lack an education but also many other benefits that an everyday American adolescent takes for granted, such as medicine, clothing, a good home, and a warm meal. I felt like I had to do something in my power to change that, to allow for poor and underprivileged people to have the same medical benefits that most of us take for granted.”

Although he attended classes at CSI prior to joining the Army, he decided to return to CSI after he left the military, receiving Bachelor's degrees in both Biology and Psychology with honors in 2015. Then, just recently, Keegan earned his Master's in Biology-Biotechnology, also from CSI. He is currently continuing his education at the College, pursuing another Master's in Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities under the mentorship of Dr. Dan McCloskey.

Keegan credits his work with Dr. McCloskey, as well as his collaboration with Dr. William L’Amoreaux, Dr. Abdeslem El-Idrissi, and others for fueling his academic success and his drive to become a doctor. He also credits CSI Veterans Support Services, and in particular, Laura Scuzzafava, for easing the transition from military to student life. “Due to her passion,” he said, “she has made it possible for me to graduate on time and transition from an undergraduate career to a graduate career.”

Keegan will begin classes at Campbell School of Osteopathic Medicine in North Carolina, this summer. When he wraps up his studies and becomes a doctor, Keegan hopes to “join the United States Navy or a Doctors without Borders program so I can help people who don’t have the resources to help themselves.”
KEEPING TABS

Elyse Nass '73 recently had her one-act play, The Cat Connection, performed in Japan, and a second one-act play, Chance, performed in Canada. The plays are part of Ms. Nass’s trilogy in her book titled Three One-Act Plays about the Elderly, which was published by Samuel French.

Damian Begley ’76 became a film editor in the 1990s after more college education. He is currently a film archivist for NBC. His favorite memory of SICC is from his Transfer Seminar class, which took a trip to Broadway to see the play Equus. Somehow, the instructor, Elinor Azenberg, got the students seats on the stage. It was the night Damian became addicted to theater.

Claudette Holton ’80 is currently going to Bible College working on her Bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies.

Dr. Theresa Vaughan Gregg ’82, ’84 has worked on and achieved four Doctorate/PhDs in Psychology and Counseling, Education, and Art. She has two sons, one is a Fireman/EMS in the Air Force, the other is a base worker at Fort Hamilton.

Denise Reyes ’86 worked as a futures accountant at Citicorp Futures. She also worked as a finance manager at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, and is currently working as a grant accountant. She was married in 1989 and has three children: a son who obtained a Master’s degree in Taxation, and is currently working; a daughter who is pursuing a nursing degree; and another daughter who is undecided in her major.

Eleanor Wu Clifford ’91 received a BA from City College in 2013 with a Liberal Arts concentration in Labor Studies, Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

Milagros Colon ’95 is working on an art project with dolls, and might return to CSI for medical courses. Milagros remembers the sense of belonging and acceptance that she found at CSI and says that she is still in contact with many fellow classmates.

Donna Hernandez ’96 has been a high school teacher for the last 20 years and has been a DOE employee for more than 26 years. She has also been an Adjunct Business instructor at Kingsborough Community College for 12 years. In addition, she has been a realtor in Richmond, Kings, Duchess, Greene, and New York counties. She is a stage-4 ovarian cancer survivor (2015/2016) During her time at CSI, she was a double major and enjoyed her relationships with her professors, who encouraged her to pursue two more undergraduate degrees to teach, and two Master’s in Education including Administration and Special Education. She says that these professors guided her teaching career.

Dave Mitchell ’96 has worked for Arthur Anderson and became the CFO of the Secaucus Society for Children and Families in 2006. His tax business is David Mitchell Consulting LLC. He fondly remembers going to the Planetarium on the CSI Campus with Prof. Robbins to look at the planets.

Joyce Adorno ’06 currently works as a Recruitment and Admissions Advisor at CSI. She notes that she has attended classes at the St. George, Sunnyside, and Willowbrook campuses and has experienced being at the College through every President from Dr. Volpe on.

Rose S. Froscia ’06 retired from the Social Security Administration and is working part-time in sales, and providing childcare for her granddaughter. She has also joined Toastmasters (New Dorp group), is taking private piano lessons, and watercolor classes at the JCC. She has three sons and four daughters.

Frandre Menelas ’06 has been working as a special education math teacher at John Adams High School since graduating. Frandre has achieved another milestone by graduating with a Master’s in Math/Education from LIU in Brooklyn.

Lina Rodriguez ’06 says that it took her a year to get a job, but she firmly believes that without the degree it would not have been possible to get it. She is also helping her daughter to graduate from the School of Architecture at City College, expecting that she will finish in two to three years without a loan. She remembers being enrolled as a middle-aged transfer student from the Spanish Caribbean, realizing that she was the oldest person in the classroom, including the professor.

Fantasia Brown ’11 entered the world of book publishing after leaving the College of Staten Island, working for the Hachette Book Group in its sales analytics department. After a lot of soul searching and inspiration after attending the 2016 Commencement, she reports that she has finally decided on a major and where to attend graduate school. Her favorite memories are of the Astrophysical Observatory and Commencement.

Okon Okon ’11 is currently employed at Verizon Wireless, thanks to a CSI bachelor’s degree. Okon continues to be an integral and contributing member of a not-for-profit organization that focuses on providing scholarships to underprivileged students, both locally and abroad.
Women’s Softball Team at NCAA Nationals

The College of Staten Island Women’s Softball team earned their fourth-straight trip to the NCAA National Championship, thanks to a convincing 8-0 win over Hunter College in the CUNYAC Final. CUNYAC Tournament MVP Jacqueline Cautela tossed two no-hitters in the postseason run, which culminated with a victory at the NCAA Regionals, as well. At the conclusion of the year, CSI senior Christina Tufano took home Player of the Year honors while head coach Dr. Stella Porto earned Coach of the Year honors.

Awards Dinner

The College of Staten Island Athletics Program honored major award winners at its annual awards dinner held at The Vanderbilt at South Beach in Staten Island in late May 2016. Among the major winners were Men’s Swimming and Diving standout Timothy Sweeney, who earned Player of the Year and Championship Most Valuable Player honors, and Women’s Softball Star Jacqueline Cautela, who spearheaded the Dolphins’ fourth-straight title run in her junior campaign. Among other notable winners were Christina Tufano, who won Scholar-Athlete of the Year, Christopher Pinto for Men’s Swimming and Tennis for the Bill Cali John Scirecami Sportsmanship Award, and Samantha Wysokowski, who took home the Sports Medicine Award.

CUNYAC Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year

CSI senior Softball star Christina Tufano took home the CUNYAC’s highest honor, the conference’s Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. Tufano was a four-year standout for the Women’s Softball team who broke a handful of career records en route to winning Player of the Year honors for the second time in her playing career. The standout who never missed a college start at third base was also a dynamo in the classroom, where she sported a 3.841 GPA as a Psychology major. Alongside her studies and her play, Tufano also served as a physical therapy aide with the Rehabilitation Physical Therapy Association of Staten Island.
CSI Baseball Captures 17th CUNYAC Title

The College of Staten Island Baseball squad scored a comeback for the ages, down by five runs in the final inning to score a win in the semifinals, then cruised to a 13-5 win over Baruch College to capture its 17th CUNYAC title in early May 2016. Glenn Glennerster was named Tournament Most Valuable Player. At the conclusion of the season, CSI senior Nick Delprete was named Player of the Year while head coach Michael Mauro won his seventh Coach of the Year citation.

Men’s Alumni Soccer Game

The College of Staten Island conducted an Alumni Game, last fall, for Men’s Soccer for the first time to huge success, and in early October, the College welcomed back alumni from both Baseball and Softball teams to compete in a co-ed softball game played at the CSI Baseball Complex. More than 60 alumni came out to support the events, which featured games and a full catered lunch after the games.

Six Individuals Will Be Inducted into the CSI Hall of Fame

The College of Staten Island named six individuals to its Hall of Fame Class last summer. The College inaugurated the group in a celebration on Thursday, October 27, at The Vanderbilt at South Beach on Staten Island. Among the honorees were Staten Island Community College Men’s Basketball star Ken Lam (1968-1970), who averaged more than 20 points and rebounds per game during his career at the College, and Softball ace Christina D’Arpa (2004-2007) who is the only athlete ever to record three CUNYAC Player of the Year honors during their career. Other honorees are James Donlan (1964-1996), who pioneered Men’s Soccer through four different tours of duty, and Women’s Basketball point guard Tara Gagliardo (1996-2000) and Men’s Basketball forward David Paul (1998-2002), who both bookended their careers with titles, as well as power-hitting Baseball slugger Jason Anarumo, who still holds the CSI career home run record.
READY Program Provides STEM Training to North Shore Youth

In a society where education serves as the catalyst to financial success, socioeconomic advancement, and an improved quality of life, the need for higher education on the North Shore is unquestionable. In this community, 23% of young adults ages 18 to 24 are out of school and out of work. Per capita income and literacy rates are the lowest in the Borough and among the lowest in the City, and unemployment rates are the highest on Staten Island and 28% of residents live below the federal poverty line.

Now, thanks to a $132,000 grant from the Staten Island Foundation and the Petrie Foundation, the College of Staten Island’s Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development (CEPD) seeks to address these disparities with the Restorative Educational Access and Development for Youth (READY) Program, a comprehensive initiative that provides workforce-development opportunities and access to college.

READY will target out-of-school, out-of-work youth, ages 18 to 24, who reside on Staten Island’s North Shore. Anchored by a proposed Workforce and Educational Opportunity Center at CSI’s new St. George location, the initiative will educate 100 students in its pilot year, providing recruitment, wrap-around services, and job assistance in collaboration with community-based organizations and employers. READY will feature cutting-edge curriculum, offering integrated instruction and proactive, embedded advisement and student support. Additionally, the Workforce and Educational Opportunity Center will become a centralized workforce-development and access-to-college infrastructure for all North Shore residents, extending the promise of higher education to communities that have been long overlooked and underserved.

It is hoped that students, many of whom may possess a high school diploma, but are lacking in not only financial resources for tuition, but also the academic or social preparation to succeed in college or workforce-development programs, will gain the training, experience, and connections to successfully land jobs in the growing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields and launch productive college educations.

The Program provides participants with three workforce-content tracks: two Healthcare Program Tracks (Patient Care Technician and Pharmacy Technician) and a Technology Program track, which will prepare students to work in technology companies, as well as other public and private organizations, as technology professionals.

This training will be in tandem with vigorous wrap-around services, which will include a dedicated program advisor for each cohort who will work with students from program recruitment to completion and beyond.

The workforce-development programs of CEPD have furnished young adults with the skills and experiences needed to enter the workforce, enabling them to quickly attain sustainable, in-demand jobs. Similarly, CEPD’s pre-college programs have equipped aspiring college students with the academic knowledge and college readiness skills needed to meet the College’s enrollment criteria and to succeed in credit-bearing courses. READY will join the two efforts seamlessly, meeting the immediate economic and workforce development needs of students who are living at or near poverty, while transitioning students to CUNY Start, a nationally recognized pre-college program that provides intensive preparation in academic reading, writing, math, and pre-college advisement for students entering college with significant remedial needs based on the results of the College’s entrance exams.

Lehmann Scholarship Receives Additional Funding

The College of Staten Island Foundation has reported that it has received an additional $35,000 for the Kurt and Marjorie Lehmann Scholarship. The new funds are intended to address the immediate needs of select graduate students in the humanities and social sciences at the College of Staten Island who will benefit from the Scholarship. These funds will augment the original endowment of $415,000 with the goal of providing critical tuition assistance to graduate students in these areas of study. Beyond need, academic performance is also a consideration in the award process.

Khatmah Osseiran-Hanna, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, and Executive Director of the CSI Foundation, stated that “we are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of the executors of the Lehmann estate. These funds will provide crucial assistance to many of our students, allowing them to concentrate on their studies without the need to find employment to pay for college. Once they graduate, these students will give back to society in careers in a vast assortment of fields, from communications to mental health.”

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.
The College of Staten Island is now a part of the First Star CSI Academy, an ambitious new program, funded by the College of Staten Island (CSI) Foundation, that will directly support youth in foster care. CSI has been chosen by First Star, Inc. as the first institution in CUNY and New York State to house the breakthrough program.

CSI’s involvement began last October when approximately 30 high school students from Brooklyn and Staten Island visited our campus one Saturday each month to participate in academic and life skills development programs. The first year of the four-year-long program will culminate this July when the group experiences college life for an entire month while living in Dolphin Cove, the College’s apartment-style luxury residence halls, deepening their involvement in the academic and life skills programs.

“We are exceptionally proud of our partnership with the Administration for Children’s Services and the College of Staten Island,” said Paige Chan, National Director of First Star Academies and a native Staten Islander. “Approximately 50% of foster children nationwide graduate from high school by the age of 18, and less than 10% go on to achieve their baccalaureate. With this partnership, we will improve those outcomes here at home.”

The Director of the First Star CSI Academy, Senemeht Olatunji, has joined the College’s Division of Student and Enrollment Services. She previously worked with Child and Family Services in Washington, DC, where she worked in the social service field with a variety of populations, including youth in foster care, homeless women and families, and domestic violence and sexual assault survivors. In this role, she provided group and individual therapeutic and psycho-education interventions. Additionally, Olatunji spent six years as an English language arts teacher and instructional coach, having received her Master’s degree in Social Work from Howard University and a bachelor’s degree from Marymount Manhattan College.

“The First Star CSI Academy is in a unique position to ensure that college and career pathways are created for youth in foster care in New York... The First Star CSI Academy will serve as a critical and innovative step in addressing the educational needs of the youth involved in a holistic way,” said Olatunji.

“We are proud that First Star has chosen the College of Staten Island to be the first college in New York State to launch this vital project,” noted Khatmeh Osseiran-Hanna, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs and Executive Director of the CSI Foundation. “We are fully committed to further earn their trust by developing a program that will continue First Star’s national track record of success.”
**New Scholarship Initiative to Bolster Social Work and Mental Health Counseling**

Social work and mental health counseling initiatives at the College of Staten Island will gain critical support as a result of a new partnership between the Staten Island Performing Provider System (PPS) and the CSI Foundation. The new $200,000 CSI-SI Performing Provider System Mental Health Workforce Scholarship Initiative 2016-2017 will support efforts to improve curriculum development; fund student scholarships to improve student retention and graduation rates, and enhance licensure preparation; and enhance and increase possible clinical affiliation sites and partners to better meet the needs of the Staten Island community in the areas of behavioral and mental health issues.

**Warren G. Simmons Memorial Endowment Established**

The CSI Foundation has announced the creation of the Warren G. Simmons Memorial Endowment, which will provide assistance to deserving Computer Science or Information Systems students.

The endowment honors Warren G. Simmons, who, from 1953 until as late as 1999, continued to develop and standardize a business programming language for computers. The fund intends to support students who share the same passion for computers and technology as Mr. Simmons did.

Scholarships will be awarded to full- or part-time undergraduate Computer Science or Information Systems majors, based on academic merit and financial need. Recipients must complete the appropriate College requirements each year to demonstrate their eligibility for financial aid, and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA. Preference will be given to student-veterans.

The scholarship awards can be renewed for up to three additional years, providing that recipients maintain eligibility.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2017 Celestial Ball**

CELEBRATING OUR 60th ANNIVERSARY

December 2, 2017, Richmond County CC!

You can support the event through a contribution or ad in the Ball's journal. Contact the Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs at 718.982.2365.
National Grid Fuels the Future of CSI Engineering Students with Three-year Scholarship Investment

National Grid has a longstanding partnership with CSI, providing scholarships to support students interested in advancing in engineering, and in general math- and science-related careers, and supporting workshops to engage high school students in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) curriculum.

The company has provided a grant, which has been allotted to the College over a three-year period, to support STEM scholarships and National Grid’s Engineering Workshop Series with local high schools. Scholarship recipients are selected by the College of Staten Island’s Scholarship Selection Committee, organized by the Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs. Any number of scholarship awards in any amount may be made each year, up to the fund balance available for spending.

Qualified students must submit the appropriate College-approved financial aid form each year to be eligible for an award. This year, there were 11 scholarship recipients.

“National Grid — and the energy industry as a whole — needs to get young people on board with sustainability and inspire a new generation of STEM professionals,” said Frank Lombardo, Director, Revenue Requirements, National Grid. “The company is committed to focusing our community investment on building a qualified and skilled workforce for the future and our partnership with CSI helps support students who are interested in developing productive math- and science-related careers.”

“National Grid has been extremely generous and supportive of our high school student outreach as well as the college student scholarship programs for the last seven years. Their passion for STEM starts from their top management and trickles down to their technical staff as is evident by recent visits to CSI by their executives, as well as their amazing engineers and management teams. Their support of our programs has resulted in spectacular increases in student enrollment in STEM at CSI and, in particular, in Engineering where we have experienced a student enrollment growth of over 150% over the last three years and the emergence of several new programs,” said Prof. Neo Antoniades, PhD, Chairman of the Department of Engineering Science and Physics and National Grid Inc. Workshop Principal Investigator.

#CSITUESDAY – A Day to Give Back to CSI Students

November 29, 2016 marked the fifth annual day of a global philanthropic movement, known as #GivingTuesday. The College of Staten Island participated with #CSITUESDAY, as part of #CUNYTUESDAY’s initiative to raise a total of $1 million to benefit students at 22 CUNY colleges.

#GivingTuesday, held annually the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, started in 2012 as a response to commercialization and consumerism in the post-Thanksgiving season. This global day of giving is uniquely fueled by the power of social media and collaboration.

In that spirit, CSI students, alumni, faculty, and staff donated, tweeted, and shared the word on social media to support CSI student scholarships in a first-ever, all-out CUNY effort.

CSI’s day included coverage by NY1 News, and an afternoon event in the Campus Center where students and staff were invited to create posters to photograph and post to their social media accounts with our unique #CSITUESDAY hashtag to encourage the importance of participation and donations. The day culminated at the Women’s and Men’s doubleheader basketball games, where mascot Danny the Dolphin and student-athletes did their part to help spread the word.

Because of alumni and other supporters of CUNY, a total of $776,488 was raised across the colleges of CUNY on November 29, 2016.
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 your continued support.

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, 2015 and June 30, 2016. If you find an error, please contact Advancement Services at 718.982.2365 or foundation@csi.cuny.edu.
SAFIYA VERA ’18
Major: Sociology/Anthropology, Psychology minor
She has been accepted in Nice (France) for the fall semester of 2017 in IPAG University to finish her Business minor requirements. Teaching at CSI is a possibility after she receives her graduate degree.
Future plans: She plans to apply for an RN position and gain some field work experience. She then plans on enlisting in the U.S. Navy to become a Nurse Navy Corps Officer.
A favorite aspect of CSI: The Teacher Education Honors Academy (TEHA) and Dean’s List student, she has received a full Presidential Scholarship for all four years of her college education, and is an Alfred Harcourt Scholar and a Robert Noyce Scholar. She has also received the Mathematics Department Scholarship Award.
A favorite aspect of CSI: TEHA has been such a significant part of my experience at CSI. I have observed in a number of schools for the Teacher Academy’s host school assignments and I have had the pleasure to learn from such great, relatable professors.
Future plans: She plans to find a job on Staten Island as a high school mathematics teacher.

FABIENNE GEARA ’17
Major: Psychology, Business minor
She is also a recipient of a University Senate Scholarship.
A favorite aspect of CSI: “CSI offers so many opportunities and programs to keep you busy throughout your college life and get an experience in life outside the classroom settings.”
Future plans: She has been accepted in Nice (France) for the fall semester of 2017 in IPAG University to finish her Business minor requirements. Teaching at CSI is a possibility after she receives her graduate degree.

ALEC KLEYER ’17
Major: Computer Science-Mathematics
A Macaulay Honors College student who is working with Professor Kevin O’Bryant on his honors thesis on the topic of combinatorial game theory. He is also the Scholarship Chair at his fraternity, Kappa Sigma.
A favorite aspect of CSI: I have been in classes taught by nationally recognized researchers, who bring real-life knowledge based on experience.
Future plans: After interning at JPMorganChase, he received an offer for full-time employment in their Technology Analyst Program, which he accepted. In addition, he hopes to continue working on his research in combinatorial game theory and eventually publish a fully functional AI (artificial intelligence).

SARAH SIETZ ’17
Major: Mathematics
A Teacher Education Honors Academy (TEHA) and Dean’s List student, she has received a full Presidential Scholarship for all four years of her college education, and is an Alfred Harcourt Scholar and a Robert Noyce Scholar. She has also received the Mathematics Department Scholarship Award.
A favorite aspect of CSI: TEHA has been such a significant part of my experience at CSI. I have observed in a number of schools for the Teacher Academy’s host school assignments and I have had the pleasure to learn from such great, relatable professors.
Future plans: She plans to find a job on Staten Island as a high school mathematics teacher.

CSI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Library privileges**: Present your alumni photo ID at the CSI Library for access and borrowing privileges.
- **Use of the CSI Computer Center**: Contact Information Technology, 718.982.3695.
- **Parking Pass**: Alumni can park in lot 6 only up to three times throughout a semester and must display a completed visitor’s pass obtained from the security guard at the entrance of the campus. Any alumni parking on campus more than three times throughout a semester are required to purchase a CSI parking decal. Parking permits and any additional information may be obtained directly from the Office of Parking and DolphinCard Services, 718.982.2294.
- **The Career Center** offers assistance with résumés through Symplicity – a Web-based career management program designed to deliver career-related services to current students and alumni. Call 718.982.2300 for more information.
- **15% tuition discount** for select courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development. For course information and to register, call 718.982.2182.
- **Alumni Travel Program**: Specialized Group Tours for alumni, family, and friends. Contact the office for information on upcoming trips.
- **Barnes & Noble CSI College Bookstore 10% alumni discount**: Present alumni photo ID for applicable items, excluding textbooks.
- **CSI Sports and Recreation Center alumni discount membership**: Present your alumni photo ID for discount. Contact the membership desk, 718.982.3160.
- **CSI Center for the Arts Ticket Discount**: Receive $2 alumni discount off CFA performances (limit two per ID per performance). For more information about upcoming shows, call the box office at 718.982.ARTS (2787).
- **Auto and Homeowner Insurance Program Liberty Mutual Savings Plus/American Insurance Administrators**: Call 800.524.9400, follow the prompts, and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island or visit www.libertymutual.com/lm/csi.
- **Group Term Life Insurance and Health Insurance NEA Trust/American Insurance Administrators**: Call 800.922.1245 and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island. For complete listing of programs and availability in your state, www.aluminiinsurancprogram.com/csi.
- **New Insurance Programs**: Alumni Pet Health, Alumni ID Recovery, Alumni Long-Term Care, Alumni Travel. New offers and expanded benefits are continually added, so check out the latest benefits. Visit us at www.csi.cuny.edu/alumni.

*Note: Short-term health insurance coverage is not available for residents of NY, NJ, MA, and VT. Major Medical insurance is not available in NY, NJ, RI, WA, and AZ.*
LOOKING BACK

A lot has changed since Dr. Michael Kress ’69, ’75 oversaw the implementation of Richmond College’s first computer as a young research assistant. The 12-foot-long IBM 1130 received data through punch cards and had only 16 kilobytes of memory.

By the time he retired his posts as Vice President for Information Technology and Economic Development at CSI, and Executive Director of the CUNY Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center (IHPCC), in spring 2016, Dr. Kress presided over some of the most powerful research computers in the region. For example, one of the IHPCC’s Cray computers is 78 times more expensive than that original IBM unit, and it has 352 million times the amount of memory, and 130 million times the amount of disk space.

For Dr. Kress, his impactful 50-year career at CSI began by attending classes both at Staten Island Community College, where he earned an AS degree, and Richmond College, where he received his BS and MA. (He later received his PhD from New York University.) He studied Mathematics as an undergraduate and Environmental Science as a Master’s student.

Dr. Kress recalls that the most important aspect of his CSI education was that “Our classes were small and we worked very closely with our professors on research projects.” Those close relationships with faculty members had quite an effect on his career path, he notes, adding that “Dr. William Grossmann and Dr. Martin Egger taught me how to do research, which used partial differential equations and numerical analysis, and CSI provided a scientific computer for solving the models. Dr. Alfred Levine set the goals and pace of our environmental research in challenging directions and facilitated solving important environmental problems on Staten Island.”

Looking back on his time as a student, Dr. Kress fondly remembers his favorite places, both on and off campus. One of his preferred academic spaces was “the computer center because we were working on new scientific research and worked hard with one another to debug numerical models. Scientific computing was a new and exciting research tool.” The IBM 1130 was the only scientific computer in CUNY at the time.

Off campus, he liked to unwind at The Oak Room, a bar and restaurant on Stuyvesant Place. “Thursday afternoon was our time to go down there to have something to eat and a drink, because we didn’t have a campus back then like we do now. It was quite different.” Dr. Kress also enjoyed the annual Winter Weekend, an annual College-sponsored ski weekend in the Catskills.

So, what was the best part of his career throughout the years? Dr. Kress points to “the new and exciting aspects of computer technology and the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and fellow students to solve real-world problems in computational physics and environmental science.”

Although he retired from some of his posts, Dr. Kress continues to make a major contribution to the academic life of the College, and the quality of life on Staten Island. He reports that “I’m a full Professor of Computer Science and, right now, I’m on fellowship leave, working on a number of research projects including a big data analysis of the naked mole rat with Professor Dan McCloskey and Professor Edward Meehan, as well as a research project regarding “Go to High Ground,” the evacuation of Staten Island in the case of a hurricane.”

Contact
Eye on CSI:
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
Alumni Relations Office
2800 Victory Boulevard
Building 1A, Room 110
Staten Island, NY 10314
Telephone: 718.982.2290
Email: alumni@csi.cuny.edu

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

COMMENCEMENT CLASS REUNIONS
May 30, 2017

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
June 19, 2017, 7:00pm

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
October 14, 2017
CSI Campus

MURDER MYSTERY
November 2017
Location TBA

CELESTIAL BALL
December 2, 2017, 6:30pm
Richmond County Country Club

SAVOR THE FLAVORS
April 8, 2018
2:00pm
Center for the Arts Atrium

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

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

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

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

Where’s Danny?
csi.cuny.edu/wheresdanny

Friends of CSI Literary Brunch
Coming Soon

Fundraiser for Student Scholarships

More information to come