



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

# *“IN THE NEWS”*

JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2017

Prepared by  
The Office of Public and Media Relations  
SUNY College at Old Westbury

# Race 101: What Young People Think About Race Relations

February 20, 2017 12:01 AM

Filed Under: Black History Month, Larry Mullins, Race 101, race relations

Hosted by 1010 WINS' Larry Mullins Produced for 1010 WINS by Sharon Barnes-Waters



For the final week of Black History Month, we bring you a one-hour special called Race 101: What Young People Think About Race Relations.

Larry Mullins hosts and moderates a panel made up of students from area universities and colleges, along with Reverend Calvin Butts.

Dr. Butts is a native New Yorker and pastor at the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. He's also the President of the State University college at Old Westbury and is a lifelong civil rights leader.

Combined, they contributed to a substantive and energized discussion on this important topic.

January 3, 2017 | by Catherine Morris

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo unveiled a plan to offer free tuition to low and middle income college students attending public colleges and universities in the state. Cuomo spoke at LaGuardia Community College on Tuesday morning, accompanied by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who made a similar free college tuition proposal one of the cornerstones of his recent presidential campaign.

Under the proposal, any college student who has been accepted to one of New York's two- or four-year colleges or universities will be eligible for free tuition, provided that they or their family earn \$125,000 or less annually. The plan would be called the Excelsior Scholarship. If implemented, the scholarship would be the first of its kind in the nation.

In his address, Cuomo made issues of college affordability one of his key points, arguing that tuition prices and average student debt have grown too high for lower income families and individuals to afford. He said that college today is as necessary as a high school degree was in decades past, making college affordability one of the most important issues for New York and the nation alike to address.

"The rule of the game was everybody has a fair shot at success, that is America. And when you take that away, you take away the spirit and the values that made this country this country," Cuomo said. "The truth is if you want to offer everybody a fair shot, then you have to get up to date and you have to say what high school was 75 years ago, college is today. College is a mandatory step if you really want to be a success."

The plan requires state legislative approval but, under Cuomo's vision, would start to be rolled out next fall and fully implemented by 2019, according to The New York Times, which first reported the plan. Currently, in-state tuition at State University of New York (SUNY) schools costs \$6,470, and \$4,350 in New York's community college system. When fully implemented, it would be expected to cost \$163 million. No details are available yet on how the plan would be paid for.

Sanders threw his support behind the proposal, expressing hope that the state legislature would act on the proposal and that the rest of the nation would follow New York's lead. Over the course of his presidential campaign, Sanders put forward a proposal to make college tuition free at all public colleges and universities and to reform current federal student loan programs.

"If we are going to do justice to the working families of this country, to low income families, if we are going to have an economy that creates the kinds of jobs that we need for our people, we must have the best educated workforce in the world," Sanders said.

The announcement also met with support from Education Secretary John King, who likened the plan to proposed federal legislation that would make community college free to qualified students. "While Congress hasn't acted on legislation that has been introduced in both chambers, states like New York and various cities are taking important steps to make this a reality for students and families," King said in a statement on Tuesday.

In a statement emailed to Diverse on Tuesday afternoon, SUNY College at Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts expressed support for the concept of tuition assistance but indicated that further information was needed before he could comment more fully on its potential impact.

"The idea of free tuition is an interesting one. No educator wants to see his or her student saddled with debt," he wrote. "Learning the details of the proposal will be critical to know exactly how it may benefit our students."

According to the College Scorecard, just over half of SUNY Old Westbury students have a family income of less than \$40,000 and receive federal Pell grants, suggesting that students attending the institution could potentially benefit from Cuomo's proposal, if it were to be implemented.

Cuomo's appearance at LaGuardia Community College was the first of six regional speeches that he has planned across the state and that are intended to take the place of the traditional annual State of the State address.

Staff writer Catherine Morris can be reached at [cmorris@diverseeducation.com](mailto:cmorris@diverseeducation.com).



*New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo*



HI 54° LO 47°  
MOSTLY CLOUDY

SPORTS FINAL

# Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

newsday.com  
\$2.00 | LI EDITION  
Friday  
Feb. 24, 2017

# SUNY chancellor backs Excelsior plan

BY CANDICE FERRETTE  
candice.ferrette@newsday.com

State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher yesterday endorsed Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo's "Excelsior Scholarship," addressing criticism of the tuition-aid plan and calling it "an immense opportunity in our state's history."

In a lengthy statement, Zimpher applauded the program's requirement of full-time enrollment while dispelling popular speculation that the SUNY campuses would not be able to handle a subsequent rise in enrollment.

"Are we reaching too high, too fast? I don't think so, and neither do the presidents of the SUNY colleges and universities who stand ready to implement Excelsior in its final form," she wrote.

Cuomo first announced his Excelsior Scholarship plan as a pathway to free college tuition on Jan. 3 at LaGuardia Community College in Queens, with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders at his side. The plan he pitched would provide a supplemental tuition payment to eligible students from households earning an adjusted gross income of less than \$125,000 by 2019.

Students would have to attend a two-year or four-year SUNY or City University of New York school, take 15 course credits and maintain passing grades to get the benefit. The plan would pay for the "last dollar" of those students' tuition after all other forms of financial aid were exhausted, including other scholarships and grants. SUNY's resident tuition is \$6,470 at four-year colleges and \$4,350 at two-year community colleges. The plan would cost \$163 million per year.

Zimpher, chancellor of the 64-campus public university system since 2009, announced last May she would step down on June 30 of this year.

She acknowledged the Excelsior Scholarship, as proposed, excludes part-time students who are unable to attend college full-time because of home or work commitments. But she said there was overwhelming evidence that students who attend full-time are more likely to graduate.

The governor's office has projected the aid plan would bring a



SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher on Jan. 11, 2016, in Albany

AP / MIKE GROLL

10 percent increase in enrollment and estimates about 940,000 families statewide would be eligible for the scholarship. Zimpher said the community colleges have more capacity to handle any rise in enrollment.

Asked about Zimpher's statement, officials at Long Island's SUNY campuses said yesterday they support the plan, although it remains unclear how many students might be eligible.

Stony Brook University President Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr. said the program "is a good deal for family pocketbooks, and an affirmative recognition of the academic excellence in New York public higher education."

He said the predictive tuition plan proposed in the executive budget, which would allow SUNY campuses to raise tuition by \$250 annually, is critical to maintaining quality while increasing access.

"The tandem tuition component proposed by Governor Cuomo is particularly important for schools like Stony Brook University, whose academic and research excellence, acknowl-

edged by membership in the AAU [Association of American Universities], costs more to provide, and is critical for both the quality and reputation of higher education in New York," he said.

At Farmingdale State College, financial aid officials estimate that some 4,000 of its 8,600 students are from families making less than \$125,000. About half of those students already receive some form of federal and/or state financial aid.

"We welcome the governor's focus on college affordability," President John S. Nader said. "For working families, few issues are more important."

SUNY Old Westbury spokesman Michael Kinane said the school already is fielding questions about the Excelsior Scholarship and seeing more applications now than at this time last year. In fall 2016, the college had 4,465 enrolled students. "There's likely some growth we can achieve, but Excelsior Scholarship coupled with some of the other things SUNY has asked for in the budget would be the real home run," Kinane said.

newsday.com

NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017

# Historic Activist Tells Students: 'Power To The People Is What It's Still About'

02/16/2017 | Press release | Distributed by Public on 02/16/2017 17:53

The power of organized activism and need for young people to build on the efforts of their predecessors were the central themes on Thursday, February 16, 2017 when Bobby Seale, famous as the co-founder of the historic Black Panther Party, addressed an audience of nearly 400 students, faculty and staff at SUNY Old Westbury.

For nearly 90 minutes, Seale recounted his life from his upbringing in Northern California, to his professional career in community development, and his work as a leader in the creation of the Black Panther Party, the revolutionary activist organization seeking equal rights, support and opportunities for African-Americans from its founding in 1966 until 1982.

In recounting his work to create the party with fellow co-founder Huey Newton, Seale focused emphatically on their intent to raise interest and understanding of the rights, needs, and contributions of African-Americans both across the nation's history and in contemporary society. Further, he said, the goal was to activate African-Americans to realize the need for more members of their community to run for political office and support those who did.

He discussed the earliest public tactics the party used to raise its profile, most notably their monitoring of police officer activity in and around Oakland, California. 'The goal was to capture the imagination of the people,' Seale told the audience. 'If you can capture the imagination of the people, then you can organize them.'

Seale noted that detractors of the Black Panther Party at the time and throughout history have decried the arming of some party members with rifles and handguns and wrongfully portrayed the party as a violent organization. He noted that he and his colleagues were always well-versed in their rights and the law, including those related to firearm possession and use. 'We didn't want to be violent, but we wanted people to know that, if you attack me, I'm going to hit back.'

The lecture also included discussion of other activities of what he described as the Black Panther Party's 'human liberation movement,' including the development of free breakfast programs for underprivileged children, free health clinics, and among the earliest sickle cell anemia testing programs for African-Americans in the United States. 'We realized we needed other programs along with our voter registration drives,' Seale said.

Along with discussing his history of activism across the past 50 years, Seale looked to the future, noting his intent to create a not-for-profit organization focused on what he described as an 'environmental renovation and youth jobs program.'

In closing, Seale referenced the famous call of the Black Panther Party while imploring the students in attendance to be organized and active. 'You must get your education, and make sure your ideas, beliefs, and actions always correspond to reality,' he said. 'Power to the people is still what it's all about,'

## Women of Power: Honoring Trailblazing Legacies

*Shedding light on the legacies of those that paved the way*

by Safon Floyd | Posted: January 22, 2017

Each year at the Black Enterprise Women of Power Summit, we honor the legacies of those history-making, trailblazing, prominent black women who have paved the way, in their respective lanes, for us to eagerly follow. This year is no different.

This year at the 2017 Women of Power Summit, we honor those who have made extraordinary names for themselves in media, entertainment, and business. We honor these women below:



**Marcia Ann Gillespie, Former Editor-in-Chief, Ms. Magazine, Essence; Gender/Race Activist**

A media pioneer, Gillespie is a true trailblazer in the magazine industry having formerly served as editor-in-chief of two groundbreaking magazines, *Essence* and *Ms.*, and president of Liberty Media for Women.

Much of Gillespie's work focuses on black women and the African American community. Several of her articles are considered required reading. She is also the co-author of *Maya Angelou: A Glorious Celebration*.

A few of her many accolades include the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri School of Journalism; Lifetime Achievement Awards from the New York chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and New York Women in Communications, and a Doctor of Letters by her alma mater, Lake Forest College.

Gillespie is a visiting professor at SUNY Old Westbury College where she teaches writing for media and African Americans and the Mass Media.

Register NOW to celebrate these trailblazers at the 2017 Women of Power Summit, March 9–12, Arizona Grand Resort & Spa, Phoenix.

To learn more about the Women of Power Summit, visit [blackenterprise.com/events/women-of-power-summit](http://blackenterprise.com/events/women-of-power-summit).



IN THESE TIMES

## About this Blog

"Working In These Times" is dedicated to providing independent and incisive coverage of the labor movement and the struggles of workers to obtain safe, healthy and just workplaces. [MORE »](#)

Retail is the nation's largest employer. Since 1980, the number of jobs in retail has reportedly grown nearly 50 percent, from 10.2 to 15.1 million. At the same time, real wages for retail workers have fallen by 11 percent while on-call scheduling, involuntary part-time work and "clopening"—where workers are required to lock up the store late at night and reopen the next morning—have wreaked havoc with workers' lives. Not surprisingly, the retail sector also has one of the lowest rates of unionization in the economy—around the 5 percent mark under which unions have virtually no influence.

It didn't used to be this way.

Retail had 15 percent union density in the 1970s, according to sociologist Peter Ikeler, with the density rate in grocery stores surpassing 31 percent at its peak in 1983. But, as with the rest of the labor movement, retail unionism has taken a steep fall since the early 1980s.

How did it go so wrong?

"There are a lot of parts to that puzzle," says Ikeler, a sociologist at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury and author of the book, *Hard Sell: Work and Resistance in Retail Chains*.

Ikeler cites the general trend towards de-unionization of the U.S. workforce and the hollowing out of the National Labor Relations Act system through case law and employer challenges. But the most important factor in the fall of retail unionism, Ikeler argues, has been employer hostility.

"The climate for labor organizing in retail is pretty explicitly negative," Ikeler says.

In a case Ikeler describes in his book, the public was able to get a glimpse of Target's anti-union strategies—including mandatory film screenings and employees threatened with dismissal for talking about the union—during a highly publicized 2011 campaign to keep the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) from organizing one of its stores on Long Island. And across the retail industry, Target is far from unique.

The drumbeat of anti-unionism typically begins as soon as new employees begin their training. New worker orientations at Walmart, the nation's leading retailer, used to include a video that featured lines like: "The truth is unions are businesses, multimillion-dollar businesses that make their money by convincing people like you and me to give them a part of our paychecks." According to The Atlantic, labor experts who had examined the entire video after it was leaked to the press found that it contained "blatant untruths in many of the video's pro-company and anti-union statements."

Even smaller, regional chains invest in anti-union propaganda for new hires. According to internal documents provided to In These Times by an employee of Big Y, the Massachusetts-based grocer warns new hires about signing a union authorization card since the company's "continued success" would be "jeopardized through third party involvement."

To research his book, Ikeler interviewed workers at Macy's and Target stores in the New York City area. Many reported knowing that managers disapproved of unions. Several Target workers told Ikeler they were sure their jobs would be in jeopardy if they advocated for unions and reported that they knew people who'd been fired for union activity.

When contacted for comment, a Target spokeswoman said that the company "believes in solving issues and concerns with the help and input of our team."

"At Target we have a longstanding commitment to our team that we will work together to create an environment of mutual trust between Target and our team members," wrote Molly Snyder.

### Unions' strategic missteps

While employer resistance played the biggest role in the decline of retail unionism, Ikeler believes that unions also share part of the blame. Specifically, he thinks that unions have done a lousy job of keeping workers engaged.



Ikeler points out that surveys indicate that around 13 percent of grocery store workers in the New York City area say they belong to a union. This is in contrast to the unions themselves, which say they represent a much larger share of such workers in the Big Apple.

"What I think this huge disparity demonstrates," Ikeler tells In These Times, "is that there are a fair number of workers who aren't aware they're in a union—it's just something that comes out of their check every month. Sure, they might be organized in some bureaucratic sense—just not in any meaningful fighting capacity."

In Ikeler's view, labor unions need to step up their organizing and "get back to what unions were in their early New Deal days: more worker-based rather than these large staff-run, top-heavy entities that give lots of money to Democratic candidates every few years with relatively little payback."

### A construct that can be challenged

Ikeler also sees a lot of potential in the worker center model. Worker centers like the Retail Action Project, which Ikeler has studied extensively, give workers a place to go to form communities, talk about work conditions and plan campaigns. Another clear benefit is that worker centers help cultivate a sense of occupational identity in a sector of the economy known for deskilling workers in order to make them more easily replaceable.

"A strong occupational identity—where workers are very committed to a craft, to an occupation—this has often been a source of collective identity and resistance," Ikeler says. "If workers see themselves as part of an occupational community they may be more likely to form organizations together and put up collective resistance."

Worker centers can't replace unions, but the two types of organizations can work together.

"To see success," Ikeler says, "to see large-scale organizing and an advance for the low-wage service sector, we're going to have to see greater synergy than we've previously seen between worker centers and national unions that are actually willing to take risks and use some of their treasury by going on strike."

When asked if he saw any bright spots on the retail scene today, Ikeler pointed to a recent victory by Stop & Shop workers in New England. After threatening to strike in February, the UFCW negotiated a favorable contract for its 35,000 members in the region, including a quicker route to a \$15 hourly wage and a promise from the company to add 480 new full time jobs over the next three years.

The victory calls to mind an uplifting passage from *Hard Sell*, where Ikeler writes that "bad" service jobs are "not an unalterable fact of life but a social construct that can be challenged."

# Social information from friends, experts could help reduce uncertainty in crowdfunding

February 22, 2017

Social information gathered from friends and experts, depending on the complexity of the product, can decrease uncertainty in crowdfunding campaigns, according to research from Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Popular crowdfunding sites host many projects that are initiated by first-time entrepreneurs for a variety of creative products. In these projects, funders face a unique uncertainty: seller competence uncertainty. Unlike traditional e-commerce, where products are already finished and ready for shipment, in crowdfunded projects the product still needs to be produced. The seller competence uncertainty captures the uncertainty related to the project initiator's ability to finish the product.

When people on crowdfunding sites are presented with an information overload and face ambiguity regarding a project, they tend to follow the decisions of others to differentiate the projects they find legitimate from those that they find illegitimate. Current literature postulates that funders make decisions by following the decisions of the crowd, and this herd behavior leads to less than optimal decisions. Having a mechanism that aids decision-making would be beneficial for the long-term success of crowdfunding sites.

The researchers write that crowdfunding sites can integrate social information from experts and friends to assist decision-making.

"The crowdfunding website can extract information from Facebook, and then your Facebook friends will be notified that you have funded a project," said Surinder Singh Kahai, associate professor in Binghamton University's School of Management, suggesting possible ways that this information could be leveraged. "Information can also be extracted from sources such as LinkedIn. That way, if you are an engineer funding a computer- or hardware-related project, the crowdfunding platform can give you expertise level."

Binghamton University researchers Kahai and Ali Alper Yayla, along with Yu Lei from SUNY College at Old Westbury, recruited subjects through Amazon Mechanical Turk, a crowdsourcing internet marketplace, to examine the influence of different reference groups (experts, friends and family, the crowd) at different product complexities. The researchers conducted a controlled lab experiment, designing several webpages to mimic a crowdfunding environment and incorporate the influence of different reference groups. By proposing both implicit and explicit social information, they were able to identify which type of information each reference group provided during the decision-making process. The researchers found that under low product complexity, funders needed more implicit information, and they followed friends over experts and crowd to make pledging decisions. On the other hand, under high product complexity, people needed more explicit information, and they rationalized their pledging behaviors by following experts over crowd and friends.

"We have to look at external sources, specifically reference groups, which include our friends and family, or experts who have expertise in a certain area and the general population," said Yayla.

"When I have to make a decision about which mechanic to bring my car to, I should probably listen to the experts, but instead I listen to my friends or I use a website such as Yelp to read reviews."

The paper, "Guiding the Herd: The Effect of Reference Groups in Crowdfunding Decision Making," was presented at the 50th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences.



RiverheadLOCAL

Go as low as  
**\$24.75**  
car and driver

BOOK NOW &gt;

HOME NEWS ▾ OBITUARIES POLICE ▾ COMMUNITY ▾ SCHOOLS ▾ BUSINESS ▾ LIVING ▾ OPINION REAL ESTATE

*Suffolk Closeup*

# Tuition-free public colleges give working and middle class a much-needed leg up

by Karl Grossman Jan 13, 2017, 5:00 am

Suffolk Closeup



Karl Grossman

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo's proposal last week for free tuition at SUNY and CUNY schools has roots going back nearly two centuries in this region — to 1847 and the founding of the Free Academy of the City of New York, which became City College and was also later dubbed “the poor man's Harvard.”

It was a highly attractive centerpiece of the presidential campaign last year of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders who was with Cuomo when he announced his plan.

And it's as important and as relevant in Kalamazoo as it is on Long Island and in New York State. Indeed, the New York Times magazine ran an extensive article in September on the success of a program that began in 2005 in that Michigan city through which unnamed donors pay tuition to Michigan's public schools of higher education “for every student who graduated from the [Kalamazoo] district's high schools. All of a sudden, students who had little hope of higher education saw college in their future. Called the Kalamazoo Promise, the program...would be the most inclusive, most generous scholarship program in America.”

The vision is brilliant. And it's so American — integral to the ideal here that public education should be widely provided, not be an exclusive benefit of a privileged few.

I've been so fortunate for many decades to be a professor at one of the four-year public colleges on Long Island, SUNY/College at Old Westbury, and I've also taught as a part-time adjunct at two-year Suffolk County Community College. I've seen first-hand, again and again, students gaining from the life-changing opportunities that education can provide. And it's not just they who benefit. We all gain.

Last year, SUNY/Old Westbury celebrated its 50th anniversary at an event at which 50 graduates were honored—women and men deeply involved in enhancing this island, this state, this nation. So many had the title doctor in front of their names and are prominent in fields from science to music to business to government to education to media to health and on and on.

Students who are first-in-their-families to go to college are highly represented at both Old Westbury and Suffolk Community. It's difficult going to graduation at SUNY/Old Westbury and holding back tears when one sees students—last year, for example, a woman, a refugee from war-torn Aleppo in Syria who studied journalism with me — going onto the platform at a commencement that truly commences their entry as valuable citizens of our society.

The Free Academy was founded, notes the CUNY website, “to provide children of immigrants and the poor access to free higher education based on academic merit alone.” Its first president, Dr. Horace Webster, described it as “the experiment” as to “whether the children of the people, the children of the whole people, can be educated; and whether an institution of the highest grade, can be successfully controlled by the popular will, not by the privileged few.”

“City College,” it continues, “thus became one of the nation's great democratic experiments, and it remains today one of its great democratic achievements. Even in its early years, the Free Academy showed tolerance for diversity, especially in comparison to the private universities in New York City.” It tells of its many graduates who have won Nobel Prizes and, “Like City students today, they were the children of immigrants and the working class, and often the first of their families to go to College.”

In announcing his plan last week to cover the tuition of students accepted at a state or city college or university in the state—provided their families earn no more than \$100,000 a year in 2017, \$110,000 in 2018 and \$125,000 in 2019 — Cuomo said: “This is a message that is going to provide hope and optimism for working-class families all across the state.”

The governor continued: “This society should say, ‘We're going to college because you need college to be successful.’”

Sanders added: “Today what Governor Cuomo is proposing is a revolutionary

idea for higher education. And it's an idea that is going to reverberate not only throughout the state of New York but throughout this country.”

When I graduated high school in 1959, my local public college, Queens College, was free. But now, like the rest of CUNY and SUNY, there's tuition — that has risen and risen through the years. The budgets of CUNY and SUNY have been shifting with tuition increasingly rising and government support decreasing. For SUNY's four-year schools, tuition has gone up every year for the past five years. Many of my students work not one but two and some even three jobs to get through school.

The Cuomo plan will need the support of the New York State Legislature to become reality—as it should.

State Senator Kenneth LaValle of Port Jefferson, long-time chairman of the Senate Higher Education Committee, comments that he and his colleagues will “thoroughly” consider it “to ensure this measure truly helps to offset the extraordinary debt brought on by undergraduate college costs for middle-class families in New York.” He received his master's degree in education from SUNY at New Paltz.

Cuomo made his announcement at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, founded in 1968.

**Karl Grossman is a veteran investigative reporter and columnist, the winner of numerous awards for his work and a member of the L.I. Journalism Hall of Fame. He is a professor of journalism at SUNY/College at Old Westbury and the author of six books. Grossman and his wife Janet live in Sag Harbor.**

## Can We Talk?: West Indian Americans and Black History Month

Posted on February 3, 2017 BY AUBREY W. BONNETT, Ph.D.

We are in the midst of a period devoted to the commemoration and celebration of Black History Month, a time recognized since 1976 as one in which to reflect and ponder the accomplishments of African Americans, despite historically overwhelming odds. Carter G. Woodson, a noted African American historian, who is often hailed as the father of black history, initiated this period.

But Black History Month is more than a recitation of contributions—it is also a description of the odyssey of struggle, protest and resistance by a dispossessed group of Americans in an effort to force states—this nation—to live up to its promise of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness—ideals so prominent in the American creed. African Americans and West Indian Americans have a common bond in the quest to attain the promise of this creed.

Many West Indian immigrants and their descendants have historically played important roles in this fight for emancipation and liberation. Early immigrants such as Pan-Africanists Edward Blyden, George Padmore and Marcus Garvey and poet activist Claude McKay were among the first West Indians to become well known and well respected in the African American's struggle for racial equality.

It should also be noted that the struggle for civil rights for African Americans, culminating in what is known as the Civil Rights Movement, also overlapped with the struggle in the West Indian colonies to bring about decolonization, independence and nationhood for West Indians of all races. Many of the populist leaders in the movement for nationhood—Norman Manley, Eric Williams, Cheddi Jagan, Linden Forbes Burnham, Eric Gairy, Alexander Bustamante and Errol Barrow, for example—were influenced by the audacious attempts of charismatic leaders, such as Martin Luther King Jr. and others, who were not afraid to challenge the American monolith, even at the point of threats to their own personal safety. These actions inspired our own leaders in the Caribbean who were often in mutual interaction with their African American counterparts in universities, churches or through the labor movement.

But interaction among these groups has not been without conflict. At the beginning of the 20th century, West Indian Americans and African Americans held negative stereotypes of each other and rarely interacted socially. In the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s the children of some West Indian immigrants downplayed their ethnicity and attempted to integrate into the African American community, but both groups' images of each other changed slowly. Secretary Powell, in his autobiography, "My American Journey" (1995), recalls his African American father-in-law's reaction when he proposed marriage to his daughter Alma: "All my life I've tried to stay from those damn West Indians and now my daughter is going to marry one!"

The late 1960s, with its emphasis on racial solidarity and group identity, eroded much of the conflict between African Americans and West Indian Americans and supplanted it with Black Nationalist sentiments and identity. Since the 1990s, many West Indian Americans, who actually come from many racial/ethnic lineages—African, Chinese, East Indian, Portuguese, Amerindian for example—present multiple identity formations such as: West Indian, with a strong ethnic orientation; African American, with a focus on their racial identity; and West Indian American, with a more hybrid cultural identity as hyphenated Americans.



Aubrey W. Bonnett

Surely, this community is not monolithic and class divisions and pressures influence roles in its identity resolution as well as influence responses to racism and other societal challenges. Disproportionately, lower and working class West Indian Americans have strong affiliations with their ethnicity and its cultural symbols. They use the ethnic community as a "structural shield" in their coping repertoire in contemporary America.

In today's America, with the recent election of President Donald Trump and what many perceive to be a great racial and ethnic divide in the nation, what is undisputed is the coming together of the African American and West Indian groups at important junctures. They coalesce to oppose racial and ethnic discrimination by the dominant white majority and agencies of the state at federal, local or county levels and to protest for the poor and disenfranchised among their midst.

It is in this contextual framework that Black History Month should be viewed—not simply to recall the successes of yesteryear, but to plan and strategize for the challenges that still have to be overcome by both groups in their quest for full and complete inclusion in the American nation and to minimize and neutralize divisive attempts to fragment their unity in this regard.

Aubrey W. Bonnett, PhD teaches several courses at SUNY Old Westbury including Africa in the Americas, African-American Social & Political Thought and Contemporary American Society. He has published several works related to the black and Caribbean experience internationally including in the United Kingdom and Canada.

All month long the Press of Southeast Queens will run a special Black History Month section, leading up to our "Honoring Ambassadors for Change" event set for Feb. 28 at the Greater Allen Cathedral.



## The End of White Respectability

BY NICHOLAS POWERS

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

ISSUE #222

"Flava Flav should run for president," I told my friends. "Donald Trump? Really? We've got better celebrities." They laughed bitterly. Whether at a party or riding the train, we all felt thrust into a strange limbo. The rules we'd been taught our whole lives were suddenly being rendered meaningless.

After the election, we seesawed between anger, fear and sheer wonder. It was the wonder that tells us the most about our times. How could a man who is so ignorant and vulgar, win the presidency? We had witnessed, without knowing it, the end of white respectability politics.

White America had been split by class but fused together by the reality and mythology of upward mobility. Each generation moved up, and each lower class policed itself to fit the norms set by the one above it.

It worked for decades like an escalator, until capitalism broke down and America became too diverse for them. Now those left behind acted out a desperate revenge. They elected a cretin to the highest office in the land. Whether they know it or not, they bankrupted whiteness for whites. Its elites are shamed and visionless. Its poor are panicked. The future is elsewhere.

### Respectability Politics 101

"For Black people to reach the Promised Land, Flava Flav has to be shot." Chris Rock paced the stage. "We have a Black man running for president. We don't need a nigger running around with a Viking hat on his head."

We howled in laughter at this bit from Rock's 2004 comedy special *Never Scared*. It spoke to a truth we had lived our whole lives: We had to keep ourselves clean-cut, arrive on time, talk proper and be twice as good. In short, we had to be respectable.

For most of American history, ethnic minorities practiced respectability politics. We policed ourselves to embody white middle-class beauty aesthetics, mannerisms, styles and culture. Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham in her 1993 book, *Righteous Discontent: The Women's Movement in the Black Baptist Church*, wrote how Black women, "felt certain that respectable behavior in public would earn their people a measure of esteem from white America, and hence they strove to win the black lower class's psychological allegiance to temperance, industriousness, thrift, refined manners and Victorian sexual mores."

For most American minorities, respectability politics is bound to "double consciousness": We know of the warping lens of caricature by which the majority sees us. So we blend in or turn the mirror back around at it. Malcolm X practiced it. Marian Anderson practiced it. Dr. Martin Luther King practiced it. Barack Obama practiced it.

A countercurrent pulsed in the street. In smoky juke joints and jazz clubs. In the jails. In the alleyways where men rolled dice. In the blues. It was just a countercurrent until the Black Power movement of the late 1960s and 1970s, when Black became beautiful and handsome by rebelling against white middle-class norms. The Black Power aesthetic was commercialized, and remade our culture. We have been living in a Black anti-respectability culture for nearly four decades. White America is just catching up.

### Welcome to the Machine

"Meet George Jetson!" The cartoon showed Mr. Jetson, zipping in a space car, dropping his family off in a gleaming, futuristic suburbia. I was transfixed. Growing up, I was engulfed by whiteness. "Leave it to Beaver." "Gilligan's Island." "Laverne and Shirley." "Happy Days." You name it, I saw it or read it or heard it.

But I knew the stark contrast between media whiteness and the real, living breathing people who were supposed to be white. They did not have laugh tracks turning their pain into humor; their poverty did not end after 30 minutes with credits. They were friends, and they welcomed me into run-down homes, fed me and yes, sometimes hurt me.

We don't think of white America as having respectability politics. Whiteness seemed to be a background setting. Yet the split between media whiteness and real people creates a class-based double consciousness, a way that poor and working-class whites see themselves through an ideal whiteness.

It began with colonial whiteness, the fusing of ragged European immigrants into an imaginary race. After the interracial 1676 Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia, a terrified colonial elite made whiteness into a set of magnetic privileges, to divide the restive European working class from African slaves and indigenous peoples.

Whiteness was a generational escalator. It moved new ethnic groups up, up, up into a bright new future. Irish, Jewish, Italian, Greek, Eastern European — people became "respectable" to the degree that they dissolved their cultures in the blandness of the postwar GI Bill-subsidized suburbs. The '50s were a white golden age. Wives with pearls vacuuming. Men with gleaming new cars. The American president was the final authority in this world, and his decorum, behavior, speech and mannerisms were the embodiment of the ideal.

American whiteness worked as long as the escalator kept moving people across the class divide. But the inner dynamics of capitalism act like a suction tube drawing wealth from the many to the few at the top. Politics strained to bridge the gap.

Presidents overcompensated with populist gestures; Bill Clinton brandished his sax and flaunted a baby-boomer sexuality, George W. Bush had a folksy twang and barroom swagger. But neither their theatrics nor their policies could stop the class divide from getting wider until the aura of white respectability snapped. The elites of both parties had been coasting on a social contract that had been defaulted on. Then along came a man called Trump.

### The Village Idiot

The president doesn't read. The president hangs up the phone on other world leaders. The president speaks like a middle-school kid bully. The president sends angry 3 a.m. tweets at his TV critics. He held the hand of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a long time, petting it like the head of dog.

Every day, we get more evidence that President Trump is embarrassing himself and the country. And yet it is exactly his vulgar, crude and ignorant ways that endeared him to some white voters who found themselves living at the end of whiteness. Their racial privilege is more visible at the same time that their class privileges have stalled or been revoked. And their psychological allegiance to the white ruling class has broken enough for them not to care about respectability. They are no longer looking down at themselves from the position of the elites, but are looking at the elites as frauds. In a fury, they have thrown off white respectability politics.

But in a telling gesture, they, in voting for Trump, threw away their dignity. Respectability politics, whatever race, is implicitly a transactional act. I pay for entry into the club with good taste and good behavior. It is performative, meant for the appraisal of others, one that Jean-Paul Sartre would call "bad faith" or psychologist D. W. Winnicott would call life as a "false self." It is a mask.

In voting for Trump, a man who laughed at the disabled, gleefully dumped slurs on whole peoples and is too entitled to bother to think, white voters did not free themselves from their elites. Respectability politics can only be seen as a trap if it was first seen as a source of freedom, but it never was.

Dignity is. Dignity comes from a deeper place. Dignity is the source of true revolutions. It's the realization that you, no matter how poor or tattered, are the embodiment of an immeasurable worth that cannot be defined by status or property.

When you feel that power within, you feel it with everyone, because it is our universal truth. When Trump tried to enact his Muslim ban, tens of thousands of immigrants and native-born allies showed up at airports to protest. It was a deeply loving act of dignity, to reach out in the name of shared humanity to those being scapegoated. It was the birth pangs of a New America, where everyone is welcome, including Flava Flav. Yeah Boyeeeeeeee!

Nicholas Powers is a Professor of African-American Literature at SUNY Old Westbury and author of *The Ground Below Zero* (UpSet Press, 2013).

The Trump administration loves 'alternative facts' and hates a free press. Your backing keeps us strong. Become a subscriber or a monthly sustainer today and show your support for independent media.

Suffolk LONG ISLAND

# Hundreds rally in Huntington to support Affordable Care Act

Updated February 25, 2017 7:57 PM

By David Olson david.olson@newsday.com

Reprints   

Hundreds of people packed a Huntington church Saturday afternoon to oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and push for a state bill that would provide health care coverage for all New Yorkers.

The rally was one of a number scheduled nationwide after Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-New York) and Bernie Sanders (I-Vermont) issued a call for events defending the ACA, also known as Obamacare. President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans have vowed to repeal it.

It also was one of many large demonstrations and town hall meetings against the president's proposals in the five weeks since Trump's inauguration.

"We want to thank Donald J. Trump for awakening a sleeping giant and filling these auditoriums," Assemb. Charles Lavine (D-Glen Cove) told a crowd that spilled from the large meeting space of Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington into hallways and other rooms in the church. Participants booed at the mention of Trump's name.

For rally attendee Marion Hochberg, 62, of Lynbrook, the ACA is more than the political football it has become. She believes she'd probably either be dead or bankrupt without it.

Hochberg was diagnosed with tongue cancer in November 2013, when she did not have health insurance. Her doctor recommended surgery the next month, but Hochberg had to wait until January 2014, when her ACA coverage began.

She said surgery and related costs would have been \$125,000, which the massage therapist would not have been able to pay.

Hochberg said she thinks of others with serious medical issues who have no health insurance and those who could lose their ACA coverage.

"It would be an act of outright cruelty to completely repeal the Affordable Care Act without something to replace it" that provides the same or better coverage at an affordable price, Hochberg said.

Republicans say the ACA has increased premiums for many Americans and that its requirement that all Americans buy health insurance or face a penalty is unfair. Trump has said he favors "insurance for everybody" but has declined to reveal specifics of how he would accomplish that.

Rally participants said that although the ACA has helped millions of Americans, it doesn't go far enough. What is needed, said Dr. Martha Livingston, a professor of public health at SUNY Old Westbury, is a system that covers all medical problems and everyone.

"We want to build on the wildly successful and inexpensively administered Medicare program," Livingston, Metro New York vice president of Physicians for a National Health Program, said to cheers.

After the speeches, the crowd broke up into groups by State Senate district.

The goal is to build Senate support for a bill establishing a single-payer, state-run, universal health care system, said Ron Widelec, a member of the steering committee of LI Activists, which hosted Saturday's event. The group will work to defeat senators who don't support the bill, he said. The bill twice passed the Democratic Assembly but has been blocked by the GOP-controlled Senate.

U.S.

## Michael Novak, Catholic Scholar Who Championed Capitalism, Dies at 83

By WILLIAM GRIMES

FEB. 19, 2017



Michael Novak at the American Enterprise Institute in 2003. Evan Vucci/Associated Press

Michael Novak, a Roman Catholic social philosopher who abandoned the liberal politics he espoused in the 1960s to make the theological and moral case for capitalism in a series of widely discussed books, died on Friday at his home in Washington. He was 83.

The cause was colon cancer, said Elise Italiano, a spokeswoman for the Catholic University of America, where he was a professor.

Mr. Novak, a former seminarian, emerged in the early 1960s as one of Catholicism's brightest liberal lights. His journalistic essays, collected in "A New Generation: American and Catholic" (1964), and his reporting from the Second Vatican Council, in "The Open Church: Vatican II, Act II" (1964), reflected his reform-minded view of the church

and his eagerness to see it address young Catholics like himself with a faith that was, as he put it, "empirical, pragmatic, realistic and Christian."

While teaching at Stanford University, he became a vocal opponent of the Vietnam War and argued for "a revolution in the quality of life."

In "A Theology for Radical Politics" (1969), he set forth a series of propositions designed to "rearrange the power bases of American democracy, both democratically and politically, so that changes can come rapidly and effectively."

By the mid-1970s, like many of the former liberals who formed the core of the neoconservative movement, he had become disillusioned with campus politics. He was unhappy with the continuing changes generated by the Second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II. He was gripped, he said in a talk at the University of Notre Dame in 1998, by "a powerful intellectual conviction that the left was wrong about virtually every big issue of our time: the Soviet Union, the North Vietnamese regime, economics, welfare, race, and moral questions such as abortion, amnesty, acid and the sexual revolution."

In "The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism" (1982) he mounted a defense of capitalism as a morally superior system based on liberty, individual worth and Judeo-Christian principles. It was, he insisted, the only economic system capable of lifting the poor from misery and of encouraging moral growth. Samuel McCracken, in *Commentary* magazine, called the book "a stunning achievement" and "perhaps the first serious attempt to construct a theology of capitalism."

Mr. Novak elaborated and extended this argument in several books, notably "The Catholic Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" (1993). It argued that capitalism's most powerful underlying forces were not self-denial and discipline, as Max Weber had maintained in his classic 1905 work "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism," but the "social dimensions of the free economy" and the free play of creativity — both rooted, as Mr. Novak saw it, in Catholic ethics.

"Capitalism forms morally better people than socialism does," Mr. Novak said in a 2007 interview with *Crisis*, a magazine he and the scholar Ralph McInerney founded in 1982. "Capitalism teaches people to show initiative and imagination, to work cooperatively in teams, to love and to cherish the law; what is more, it forces persons not only to rely on themselves and their own moral qualities, but also to recognize those moral qualities in others and to cooperate with others freely."

His ideas found a receptive ear among free-market devotees and conservative politicians around the world, as well as Eastern European leaders emerging from the former Soviet empire, like Lech Walesa in Poland and Vaclav Havel in Czechoslovakia.

Among his most fervent admirers was Margaret Thatcher, former British prime minister. Mr. Novak, she wrote in "The Downing Street Years," "put into new and striking language what I had always believed about individuals and communities." His description of capitalism as a moral and social system as well as an economic one, she wrote, "provided the intellectual basis for my approach to those great questions brought together in political parlance as 'the quality of life.'"

Michael John Novak Jr. was born on Sept. 9, 1933, in Johnstown, Pa., the grandson of Slovak immigrants and the oldest of five children. His father was an insurance

salesman. His mother, the former Irene Sakmar, was a stenographer before becoming a homemaker after marriage.

He grew up in Indiana, Pa., and McKeesport before entering the preparatory seminary at the University of Notre Dame at 14. He pursued his path to the priesthood at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass., graduating with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and English literature in 1956, and at Gregorian University in Rome, where he earned a bachelor's degree in theology in 1958. While in Rome, he began writing for the liberal Catholic magazine *Commonweal* and the Jesuit weekly *America*.

It was not long before he entertained doubts about entering the priesthood. His superiors urged him to return to the United States before making any decision, and he studied for a time at Catholic University in Washington. "After 18 months of great darkness but also inner peace, I became certain that I should not be a priest," he told the audience at Notre Dame in 1998.

He moved to Manhattan and wrote a novel, "The Tiber Was Silver" (1961), about a seminarian in Rome afflicted by religious doubts, and he then accepted a graduate fellowship at Harvard, earning a master's degree in philosophy in 1966.

While there he married Karen Laub, a painter and printmaker, who died in 2009. Survivors include their children, Richard, Tanya and Jana; and four grandchildren.

In 1965 he accepted an assistant professorship in the humanities at Stanford. In "Belief and Unbelief: A Philosophy of Self-Knowledge" (1965), the essay collection "A Time to Build" (1967) and "A Theology for Radical Politics," he tried to make a place for Catholicism in a post-religious age.

"I was convinced that a good Christian, even a good humanist, had to be on the left and probably couldn't be a friend of business," he told *Crisis* in 2010. "Business was merely buying and selling, mere hucksterism, after all."

After becoming an associate professor of philosophy and religious studies at the State University of New York at Old Westbury, an experimental school, he began writing on broader social and political issues. He plunged into electoral politics, writing speeches and position papers for Eugene McCarthy, Robert F. Kennedy and George McGovern.

While traveling across the country in 1970 with Sargent Shriver, who was trying to drum up support for Democratic candidates, Mr. Novak tuned into the concerns of traditionally Democratic working-class voters who were becoming alienated from elites. His observations led to "The Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics: Politics and Culture in the Seventies" (1972), an attack on the assimilationist model of American society, which he saw as hostile to working-class Catholics like himself.

He examined American politics as a civic religion in "Choosing Our King: Powerful Symbols in Presidential Politics" (1974) and found a spiritual dimension in athletic competition in "The Joy of Sports: End Zones, Bases, Baskets, Balls, and the Consecration of the American Spirit" (1976).

His rightward drift, chronicled in "Confession of a Catholic" (1983) and, more temperately, in "Writing From Left to Right: My Journey From Liberal to Conservative" (2013), led him to the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank that became his base of operations after 1978. While a scholar at the institute, he continued to generate a seemingly endless stream of articles and books.

As the Conference of Catholic Bishops prepared an episcopal letter on nuclear policy in the early 1980s, he argued for the importance of maintaining a credible deterrent threat in "Moral Clarity in the Nuclear Age."

"Will It Liberate?: Questions About Liberation Theology" (1986) countered a leftist interpretation of Catholicism popular in Latin America, and "No One Sees God: The Dark Night of Atheists and Believers" (2008) took aim at outspoken atheists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.

In 1994, he received the million-dollar Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion for "insights into the spiritual foundations of economic and political systems." In his acceptance speech, he paid tribute to the modern thinkers who discovered the practical principles of a free society: "Free in its polity, free in its economy, and free in the realm of conscience and inquiry."

## Clemency for Judith Clark

---

JAN. 4, 2017

---

To the Editor:

Re “She Faced Cuomo and Got Clemency. He Got ‘a Sense of Her Soul,’ ” by Jim Dwyer (About New York column, front page, Jan. 4):

I first visited Judith Clark at the Bedford Hills women’s prison in 1985 while doing research on women and political violence. What began as an academic endeavor evolved into a relationship in which Judy began to confront her commitment to radical politics that led to the murder of two police officers and a Brink’s guard in 1981.

Although Judy did not shoot anyone, she was no innocent: defiant, lawless and politically delusional.

For 30 years I watched her reassemble an identity through education and service to her fellow inmates. I watched her struggle with self-doubt, overwhelming guilt and trepidation about asking for mercy. I watched her repent and express remorse.

Judith Clark might soon be released from prison, but she will never be free, and she knows it. She will wake up every morning acknowledging what befell the lives of the Brink’s guard Peter Paige, Sgt. Edward O’Grady, Officer Waverly Brown and their families and traumatized the entire Rockland County police force and community.

She will work to help others heal and evolve in their own lives. She will connect to family and friends who sacrificed and supported her during decades of incarceration.

Please affirm what Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo recognized in Judy: Genuine rehabilitation is possible.

GILDA ZWERMAN

Bayville, N.Y.

The writer is a professor of sociology and criminology at SUNY Old Westbury.

**LI People  
ON THE MOVE**

**EDUCATION**



**Kuldeep Puppala** of Jericho has been hired as assistant vice president for institutional research and assessment at **SUNY Old Westbury**. He had a similar position at Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.

**CONSTRUCTION**

**EW Howell Construction Group** in Plainview has made five promotions.



**Paul O'Rourke**, left, of Ocean-side was previously executive vice president. He is now executive vice president/chief operating officer.

**Daniel Williams** of North Babylon was previously controller. He is now chief financial officer.



**Michael Johnes** of Jericho previously was vice president. He is now executive vice president.

**Denise Orlando** of Deer Park previously was marketing coordinator. She is now marketing director.



**Michelle Pressley** of North Babylon previously was project assistant. She is now office manager.

— DIANE DANIELS

**READ MORE**

See who else has a new position  
[newsday.com/onthemove](http://newsday.com/onthemove)

**Newsday**  
THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER  
SPORTS FINAL





# SMITHTOWN MATTERS

WHERE ALL NEWS IS LOCAL

*Michael Kinane Elected First V.P. Of Business Networking Organization*

## Smithtown Resident Elected Officer of Leading Long Island Business Networking Organization

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AT 5:17PM



Michael Kinane

Michael Kinane, assistant to the president for advancement at the State University of New York at Old Westbury and a resident of Smithtown, New York, has been elected to a two-year term as first vice president of Advancement for Commerce, Industry & Technology, a business networking organization with a more than 50-year history of service to Long Island.

As first vice president, Kinane will work as part of the organization's Board of Directors as they seek to develop informative, educational and entertaining events and programs to help create and build relationships among local business executives across a variety of industries. The current membership of ACIT includes companies operating in such industries as construction and development, finance, banking, commercial real estate, law, accounting, environmental engineering, higher education, hospitality and not-for-profits.

Founded in 1963, ACIT continues today to be one of the leading networking organizations on Long Island, supporting the growth and development of the Long Island business community and the professionals who comprise it. Through its informative, educational and entertaining events and programs, ACIT seeks to contribute to the ongoing evolution of a thriving business community for all Long Islanders.

## 31 Long Island Events ENTERTAINMENT

[Click here to read or post comments](#)Mon  
6

# Embrace or Rebel? Traditional Asian Art Techniques in Contemporary Practice

Old Westbury, NY 516-876-2709

[Event overview](#)

When:

Weekly: Mon. Noon-4 p.m.; Tue. Noon-7 p.m.; Wed. Noon-7 p.m.; Thu. Noon-7 p.m.; Fri. Noon-4 p.m.; Sat. Noon-4 p.m. Through Thu. 3/9.

Where:

Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, SUNY College at Old Westbury

Route 107

Old Westbury, NY 11568

Description:

Works in various media by seven contemporary East Asian artists who interpret traditional methods in innovative ways: Hyegyung Kim, Jong-Il Ma, Enrico Isamu Oyama, Yooah Park, Young Chul Ri, Xin Song, and Hongtu Zhang, with curator Hyewon Yi; reception 4-7 p.m. Feb. 1

Website:

<http://oldwestbury.edu>

# Long Island Business NEWS

FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 2, 2017 | OUR 64<sup>TH</sup> YEAR | NO. 8 | \$2.00 | LIBN.COM

## WHO'S WHO in Banking and Finance

Providing a wide-range of financial services to customers is the cornerstone of banks and credit unions. However, working to ensure these services are fulfilling customers' needs is a top priority for financial institutions, according to Financial Brand, which reported that more than 70% of financial institutions globally place "improving the customer experience" as one of their top three strategic priorities in 2017.

In this *Who's Who in Banking and Finance* section, many of Long Island's financial leaders are doing to create higher customer this year.

— Written by Lisa Morris Josefak

**ROBERT G. ALLEN**  
Teachers Federal  
Credit Union



Robert G. Allen is president/CEO of Teachers Federal Credit Union (TFCU). Allen has held this position since 1988 and has a total of 45 years working in credit unions. TFCU is a full service financial cooperative, founded in 1952 by a small group of Teachers; it has grown to over \$5 billion in total assets; has 25 branch locations; and over 650 employees.

Ensuring a top-of-the-line member-experience is a fundamental principle at TFCU, Allen said.

"As the number of products and services that TFCU provides for its members continues to expand and the ways in which our members do business with us constantly evolves, our job is to make sure that our members receive the best service possible no matter what the point of contact is. We continue to make investments in technology to help us do this. One of these exciting improvements include a new, industry-leading online banking interface that will allow our members to be not only more connected to their credit union on the go, but also allows for enhanced functionality."

"As an institution, we've also begun to look inward to ensure our staffing and internal policies are geared towards the cultivation of a positive member experience," Allen noted. "With enhanced resources and training programs for TFCU staff, we are working to give our members a consistently excellent experience across all touch points of our business. We strongly believe that cultivating a positive workplace culture permeates throughout the experience our membership has with our brand and banking services."

Allen shares his expertise within the community. He is President of Advancement for Commerce, Industry & Technology (ACIT); a Trustee of the State University of New York Old Westbury Foundation, Inc.; Member of the Staller Center for the Arts Advisory Council at Stony Brook University; and Member PFP - The Family Security Plan Foundation.

Allen earned a bachelor's degree in finance from SUNY Old Westbury and an associate's degree from Queensborough Community College.

Teachers Federal Credit Union has full-service branches throughout Long Island including Amityville, Bay Shore, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Central Islip, Commack, East Northport, Farmingville, Hauppauge, Holbrook, Huntington, Manorville, Merrick, Nesconset, North Babylon, North Massapequa, Oakdale, Patchogue, Port Jefferson Station, Riverhead, Rocky Point, Selden, Shirley, Smithtown, South Setauket, and Wading River. Members also have access to services at more than 5,000 shared service centers and 55,000 Allpoint ATMs located across the country. TFCU offers financial services to all people and businesses located in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

**ED BLASKEY**  
TD Bank



Ed Blaskey is TD Bank's commercial market president for suburban New York and Long Island. Blaskey is responsible for commercial lending activities in Long Island, Westchester and the lower Hudson Valley. His responsibilities and partnerships include the expansion of the wealth, retail, consumer and government banking business lines.

Blaskey has more than 30 years of banking experience. He joined TD Bank (formerly Commerce Bank) in 2001 as regional vice president to help launch the Long Island market for the bank. He was instrumental in expanding TD Bank Long Island's retail franchise and commercial lending business lines. Blaskey contributed to establishing the brand, model and culture of what has become "America's Most Convenient Bank."

Always improving its services is an essential part of TD Bank's mission, Blaskey said.

"Increasing customer satisfaction is an integral part of our business for both TD Bank as a whole, and specifically within our commercial banking business," Blaskey said. "Throughout commercial banking, we strive to ensure that all bank partners are working cohesively and delivering upon our 'one bank' promise — which is to provide top-tier customer service and a seamless experience at every touch point. By leveraging a dedicated team of local bankers who hold a broad array of roles within our market, customers can access the products and services of a large institution while enjoying local, convenient access, face-to-face meetings and our hands-on approach. These factors are critical to the customer experience and are what makes a large bank like TD feel like a local bank."

"At TD Bank, we've also continued to place a strong emphasis on revolutionizing the customer experience by taking a more human approach to customer service," Blaskey noted. "With the multitude of banking options available in the marketplace, it is important for us to ensure our customers' interactions with our products and people is personal and positive. When customers come into our stores, we want to make them feel special by remembering their name, offering a dog treat to their pet, or a lollipop to their child. When they utilize our online platforms, we want to match this experience by providing streamlined applications and necessary support."

"Today, our customer experience must exceed customer needs on all fronts — in person, online or mobile, and through our phone channel," Blaskey said.

Prior to joining TD, Blaskey spent 10 years at EAB in numerous commercial lending capacities, the most recent as group vice president of the Long Island community lending group. Prior to that, he spent 10 years at Chase

## WHO'S WHO in Banking and Finance

(legacy Chemical Bank) in numerous lending roles on Long Island and in NYC.

Blaskey earned a bachelor's degree in banking and finance from Adelphi University.

He is a member of the board of trustees of SUNY Old Westbury College Foundation and a member of the board of trustees for the DNA Dolan Learning Center, an operating unit of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Blaskey served as chairman of the American Heart Association's 2014 Heart Walk and is a past president of Advancement for Commerce, Industry & Technology, one of Long Island's most prominent networking organizations.

TD Bank is one of the largest banks in the U.S., providing more than 8.9 million customers with a full range of retail, small business and commercial banking products and services at approximately 1,300 convenient locations throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Metro D.C., the Carolinas and Florida. TD Bank has 260 locations, including 61 on Long Island and consistently ranks high in New York with \$27 billion in deposits; and in the five boroughs of New York City with \$8.4 billion in deposits.

In addition, TD Bank and its subsidiaries offer customized private banking and wealth management services through TD Wealth®, and vehicle financing and dealer commercial services through TD Auto Finance. TD

Bank is headquartered in Cherry Hill, N.J.

## INDEX

- 43 ROBERT G. ALLEN Teachers Federal Credit Union
- 43 ED BLASKEY TD Bank
- 44 AGNES CASTELLI New York Community Bank
- 44 CATHY DEPASQUALE Flushing Bank
- 46 WAYNE N. GROSSÉ Bethpage Federal Credit Union
- 48 STEVEN LEVI Valley National Bank
- 48 JAMES J. MANSEAU Bridgehampton National Bank/BNB
- 49 MARK MELCHIONE People's United Bank
- 50 KEITH MILLER Suffolk Federal
- 50 EILEEN NOLAN NEFCU
- 50 MONTE N. REDMAN Astoria Financial Corporation/Astoria Bank
- 51 ANGELA REESE Suffolk County National Bank
- 51 JOHN C. TSUNIS, ESQ Gold Coast Bank
- 52 JANET VERNEUILLE Empire National Bank

## LI BUSINESS

A37

### LI People ON THE MOVE

#### ACCOUNTING

**Cerini & Associates** in Bohemia has made two new hires and a promotion.



**James Laino** of North Babylon has been hired as a staff I accountant. He is a recent accounting graduate from Hofstra University in Hempstead.

**Chris Maher** of Brentwood, below left, was hired as staff I accountant. He is still attending SUNY Old Westbury.

**Kayla Vigorito** of Port Jefferson Station, below right, a staff I accountant, has been promoted to staff II.



**Joel Schleifer** of Commack has joined **Craig, Fitzsimmons & Michaels** in Smithtown as a principal of the firm. He was managing partner at Perlman, Schleifer & Perrone in North Babylon.

#### TRANSPORTATION



**Sean Schnipper** of Commack has been hired as a marketing and social media manager for Transervice Logistics Inc. in Lake Success. He was a marketing communications specialist at ADI Global Distribution, a division of Honeywell in Melville.

— DIANE DANIELS

# Long Island Business NEWS

FEBRUARY 10-16, 2017 | OUR 64<sup>TH</sup> YEAR | NO. 6 | \$2.00 | LIBN.COM

20 | LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS | February 10-16, 2017 | LIBN.COM

## MOVERS & SHAKERS

### ► SPOTLIGHT

## NEW LEADER TO COUNT ON

### CRAIG SAVELL

CO-MANAGING PARTNER  
MARGOLIN, WINER & EVENS

Craig Savell moved up to co-managing partner at Margolin, Winer & Evens. In sharing leadership responsibilities at the Garden City-based accounting firm, Savell is preparing to take over as sole leader in 2018.

Savell, an accounting and audit partner, has been a member of the Margolin, Winer & Evens partnership since 1996. He is a longtime member of the firm's executive board and chairman of its manufacturing and distribution group.

Over the next year, Savell will work closely with Teddy Selinger, the firm's managing partner for the last two decades, who took on the role of CEO and managing partner for 2017 as part of the planned tran-

sition. Savell becomes only the fourth managing partner in the firm's 71-year history.

"I am looking forward to stepping into my new role," Savell said in a statement. "It is a tremendous honor and responsibility to take on this challenge, and in the coming months, I will look to Teddy for his advice and counsel to ensure the transition is seamless for our clients and our staff."

■ BSTARZEE@LIBN.COM



### ► ACCOUNTING



**Sean Wilkinson**  
Bohemia-based Cerini & Associates promoted Wilkinson from audit supervisor to manager. Wilkinson, who provides audit and consulting services, joined the firm seven years ago.



**Peter Raimondi**  
Cerini & Associates promoted Raimondi to a staff III accountant within its nonprofit audit practice area.



**Eric Gonzalez**  
Gonzalez also moved up in the nonprofit audit practice area at Cerini & Associates. His title is now staff II accountant.



**Jeffrey Scott**  
Within Cerini & Associates' education audit and consulting department, Scott moved up the ranks to the position of senior accountant.



**Nicholle Mezier**  
Mezier was promoted to internal audit senior accountant in the education audit and consulting department at Cerini & Associates.



**Lindsey Johansen**  
Cerini & Associates promoted Johansen to the staff level in its education audit and consulting department.

### ► ACCOUNTING



**Andrew Marafino**  
Marafino moved up to the title of staff I accountant in the education audit and consulting department at Cerini & Associates.



**Danielle Skura**  
Cerini & Associates also promoted Skura to the staff I accountant level.



**Christopher Maher**  
Maher is new to the education audit and consulting department at Cerini & Associates. Maher, a staff I accountant, expects to graduate with an accounting degree from SUNY College at Old Westbury in May.



**James Laino**  
Laino also joined Cerini & Associates as a staff I accountant. He recently graduated from Hofstra University with a degree in accounting.



**Kayla Vigorito**  
Cerini & Associates also announced a promotion in its business and tax advisory department, elevating Vigorito to staff II accountant.

### ► CONSTRUCTION



**Kevin McKenna**  
EW Howell announced the promotion of McKenna to president of its construction division. McKenna is a project executive at Plainview construction firm in 1998.

# Sweet Dreams to an American Nightmare: Laura Lemus

beth ann clyde | FEBRUARY 17, 2017



Laura Lemus graduated SUNY Old Westbury

Laura Lemus came to the United States with her parents when she was six months old.

I've spent most of my life here. My parents have been here about 25 years... [When] I was born... [my father] realized he...really appreciated the American values of education as the opportunity to be whomever you wanted. He really wanted that for me.

My mom was on a visitor's visa. The only way to come to the United States is a work visa, a visitor's visa or if you're petitioned by a family member. [My parents] had no one here. They had no connections with any employers. After the visas expire, there's no pathway to citizenship or permanent residency. That just doesn't exist—which really goes into why the system is so broken. [My mother] applied for another visa but it was denied [by Mexico]. They overstayed visas and we became undocumented.

I've always grown up aware of my status. I understand there are safety issues and conversations about how it's going to increase illegal immigration but in all honesty if people are trying to escape their country, it's for a reason. You don't leave your language, home, family and everything you've known just because you feel like it.

Lemus had no access to financial aid in New York State because of her status, but she and her parents paid out of pocket for her to attend SUNY Old Westbury. Shortly before she graduated, President Obama started the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy in June 2012. The policy allowed certain undocumented immigrants who entered the US before their 16th birthdays to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit. About 750,000 signed up, including Lemus.

I was able to work legally and able to continue my career aspirations which led me to a non-profit. I started to realize that having a voice and a story can be used as a tool to change hearts and minds...the first time I came out and told my story [at a United Way Dream conference her junior year in college]. The reaction was great and later I had to do it with the people who are anti-immigrant and it was the same reaction. People came up to me and said, "Wow, I had no idea. I never thought you were undocumented because you don't have an accent and you go to college."

Lemus will have to break down those myths while wondering what the future holds for her because Trump is threatening to repeal DACA.

The scary part [is] not knowing. Not knowing when the new administration is going to remove [DACA].

I feel pride, a sense of attachment, to the American flag, to the Pledge of Allegiance, to the red, white and blue. I'm proud of everything about America, the values, the freedom. There's a lot of freedom here. I don't see myself anywhere else.

When I hear New York or Long Island or my little hometown of Sag Harbor, I feel proud of it and possessive of it just like anyone else. Especially lately, I feel very proud to be a New Yorker and see New Yorkers resisting against these executive orders. These are my neighbors, the people who surround me and keep me safe.

I would tell Trump that I am as much of a New Yorker as he is. They say that immigrants love this country more than people who were born here because we choose to be here every day. For young Dreamers who didn't have the choice to come here initially but fight every day to stay here and to fulfill our American dream, that may say more than someone who was just born here and growing up here. I'm fighting every day to stay in my home.

This administration has flipped everything completely around. I'm in this work day in and day out. It's frustrating and overwhelming. Even though we are talking about creating a wall and we have this executive order that's luckily currently blocked and people are still fighting to come here. I think that says a lot about what America represents. And there are so many people who are saying, 'No ban, no wall, this is not my America.' They are really standing up for American values. People from the outside see this.

We see the support and solidarity. I don't think that image will change but...this will be a difficult administration. Even though people are scared about what is going to happen, I have seen a sense of unity. When something awful happens, you really see the great side of people. We saw marches all over the world the day after Trump was inaugurated. It wasn't just America, it was all over the world.

It took this damaging administration to wake up a lot of people [about the racism, sexism, homophobia and xenophobia in the United States]. Is this scary? Yes. What we could have done is a great question...but now we are where we are and I think the question should be, 'What are we going to do about it?' A lot of resistance. We've seen it. We've felt the power of it [in court votes blocking the ban]. It won't be the last executive order. I'm expecting a lot from our elected officials. I'm expecting them to resist as well. We have to keep putting pressure on them. There's a lot of organizing being done to really target and set up talks with the most conservative of our elected officials on Long Island...If there's one thing that elected officials care about it's votes and we're coming out in numbers to show that our votes will depend on how they act.

I'm not going anywhere. Mexico is a beautiful country with beautiful people, my beautiful family is still there but this is where I want to be. I have three US citizen siblings. My parents have fought their whole lives to keep the family together. They gave up so much, I'm not going to throw in the towel. This is my home. I'm here to stay.

Donald Trump's divisive first 100 days has left people wondering if the American dream is still alive. Pulse asked recent immigrants and community members with differing viewpoints to share their thoughts on immigration. Tomorrow, web editor Anna Halkidis will look at how, despite having a positive impact on the economy, immigrants have many reasons to leave. Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.



Dave Rogers' love for art and the community runs deep.

Not only is he a local artist, volunteer, mentor and leader, but he is also a veteran. Rogers, 47, grew up in Manhattan, left home as a young boy, put himself through high school, began studying **criminology at Old Westbury College**, then decided to enlist in the United States Army at 21 years old.

"I left home at 15 and lived on the streets; I had no money for college and joining the Army was my only option," he said. "I knew if I couldn't finish college I would end up back on the streets."

For 14 years he traveled the world in the military and served as a sergeant in the first Gulf War, Bosnia and was a first responder at the World Trade Center during 9/11. His service during 9/11 left him a disabled veteran with a broken neck, back and lung issues, walking with canes. Thankfully, due to surgeries he now walks freely.

Roger's volunteerism began early. In high school he recalled being involved in many activities and sitting on a board of future leaders under the guidance of the former New York City Mayor David Dinkins. In the Army, he raised money for orphanages (including \$20,000 for a Korean orphanage), coached the Special Olympics and helped rebuild church pews overseas. "I've always seemed to be someone who wants to be a part of helping the community," he said.

Upon returning home and after receiving a degree in business in the Army, he went **back to Old Westbury for visual arts**, then moved on to the University of Arts in San Francisco and Long Island University for his master's degree in fine arts. Though he originally looked to college for criminology, Rogers knew art was his real passion.

"I have always been into art from a very young age ... and that was a conflict with my parents," he said of his mother, a secretary, and father, a NYC policeman.

After his life in the military and in school, Rogers moved to China for a job as an art professor for seven years. Due to health issues and homesickness, he came to Long Island to finish his degree in art. Then, about three years ago, he moved into Artspace in Patchogue, where he continued to thrive as an active member of the community.

"Artspace wasn't the only thing that drew me to Patchogue, it was the support that the community has for artists," he said. "And because of that, I have done a lot since moving here."

Mary Ann Augusta, a friend, nominated Rogers for the Man of the Year award after knowing him for five years and becoming a fan of his artwork. She said as a consultant for a grant writing organization she was introduced to him and soon commissioned him to create a piece of art in honor of her late husband.

"I fell in love with his work. He was so easy to work with and soon we became friends," she said. "He has developed so much as an artist and since moving to Patchogue has become so active. He is an enlightened, broad-minded supporter and promoter of the arts and veteran affairs, always thinking without a box to limit or inhibit him."

Around town Rogers is known not only for his creativity and friendship but also for his works of public art. In the past three years he has created the sculpture in the Patchogue Garden Club garden next to Artspace, contributed to the mural in the Roe Walkway and was the creator of the designer Main Street crosswalk.

Despite his noticeably active community engagement, he says none of it would have been possible without the support of the trustees, mayor and Legis. Rob Calarco (D-Patchogue).

"Dave is a great guy who has done some really terrific things for our community as a veteran and artist," said Calarco. "Last year he helped with the first Arts on Terry event, which was a great success, with a lot of opportunity for our local artists and from other parts of the county, state and country. It really just shows as a testament to what Dave has been able to accomplish."

"Normally, if you think of Artspace you think of the artist; in the case of Dave Rogers there is much more to him than his exceptional art. Yet, he is an exceptional artist, he is also an Army veteran," added Mayor Paul Pontieri. "He has used his art to better the community and his energy help the veterans in Patchogue and it is for these and many other things that the honor is given and greatly deserved."

As a full-time Neo-pop and Neo-Surrealist sculptor and painter, Rogers supports local art. He calls his art modernism with some eastern styles influenced by artists such as Andy Warhol.

"I've been very lucky with my art and have showed in Hong Kong, Korea, China, Germany, England, Spain, France ... all over the world and the United States," he said.

Recently, he was asked to be a part of a show in Taipei, Taiwan, and is currently showing at a gallery in New Orleans. Each year he creates between 60 to 100 pieces of art and other than spending most of his time in the studio and promoting his work, Rogers finds the time to mentor other artists. Locally, he bounces ideas with Artspace artists, curates exhibits, helps organize artists during Alive After Five® and mentors college students. Abroad, he helps a friend in Switzerland who has no arms or legs and paints with a brush in her mouth. He said he represents her here in New York by booking shows.

"I am constantly looking to promote other artists ... because that's how it works," he said with no hesitation.

Much of his work in the arts is volunteer, including the very popular breakfast crawl in Patchogue. As the creator of the event, it has been done three times all in support of the arts. So far, he said, about \$10,000 was raised and put towards local art events such as the first Arts on Terry event and Patchogue Arts Council festival.

"I wanted to do something different," he said. "It's nice to have people donate but I wanted the community to be involved and get something in return."

Augusta also noted that he has facilitated workshops at the Art League of Long Island, St. Joseph's College, and the Islip Art Museum and keeps current in his field and by belonging to several professional organizations such as The Guild of American Paper Cutters, the Art and Oil Painting Associations of Jiangmen China, the Huntington and Patchogue arts councils, and Studio Montclair.

From 2013 to the present he has curated exhibits in Artspace Gallery Patchogue, Cradle of Aviation, The Creative Art Studio, and an exchange exhibit with LIU Post and Artspace Patchogue. He completed and installed the sculpture "Reflections in Growth" at the Patchogue Garden Club garden on Terry St., Patchogue, and a sculpture installation "Random Acts of Art, Terra Cottas" on display at St. Joseph's College. He also participated in the Roy Stabb Environmental project at LIU Post, "Destroyed by Hurricane Sandy," and installed an interactive exhibit, "The New American Dream," at LIU Post Sculpture Gallery. Dave also presented a POP-Up 911 Vet Exhibit at Briarcliffe College, and a Solo Exhibit/Artist Residency called "Expressions in Colors" Neo-Surrealism exhibit, at St. Joseph's College. He also presented "Beards and Bards," a Sparkboom exhibit at Walt Whitman Birthplace, July-Aug 2014 and "Art in the Hall," presented by the Islip Art Museum at Islip Town Hall, May 2014.

He has also received numerous awards and grants such as the Artist in Residence award, St. Joseph's College, October 2014, the O'Malley Grant for Fine Art from Long Island University, 2013, and awarded first place, National Veterans Creative Arts Competition at the Local Level, VA Hospital, and Northport, March 2013.

"Thanks to Rogers, all of the above exciting things are happening on the local front. His philosophy and outlook on life has enabled him to link the Artspace community with the surrounding community," said Augusta.

And still, for Rogers it's not enough. He is also a member of the VFW Post 2913 and a volunteer art director for Project9Line. For the past two years he has been an active member of the VFW, who attends all the parades and events and even helps fundraise for a local veterans home. At Project9Line he donates his time to veterans by putting together art shows and workshops.

"I love being involved with an organization that is artistic with veterans because as an artist-veteran, I understand how art can be therapeutic," he said.

As a Patchogue vet in the VFW, he plans to help organize the mayor's idea of a "lights on veterans" program that will allow community members to dedicate a light post from Main Street to Village Hall in the name of a vet. In the future, he said he aspires to become a commander at the VFW, continue to raise money for the arts, create public art and possibly become an adjunct art professor at a local college. He also has plans to purchase his own home in the village.

"I am always in the village, it reminds me of growing up in the city," he said of his habit to visit Main Street. "I am asking for the support of my community and how can I ask for that if I am not supporting them? So, I shop and eat locally."

A few of his favorites are Reese's 1900, Bobbique, Village Idiot Pub, PeraBell Food Bar, and Toast. It's not uncommon to spot Rogers in town during a visit ... everyone knows his name. Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.

In 1994, he received the million-dollar Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion for "insights into the spiritual foundations of economic and political systems." In his acceptance speech, he paid tribute to the modern thinkers who discovered the practical principles of a free society: "Free in its polity, free in its economy, and free in the realm of conscience and inquiry."

## A Lesson On Salvadoran Cuisine

By Lyn Dobrin - February 10, 2017



*The Quintanillas with Senei Posada. Senei is holding yucca, Sasha is holding empanadas and Pedro is holding Lucas.*

It was during that time that 13-year-old Pedro came to the United States settling on Long Island with his family. He attended local schools, eventually studying for a business administration degree at [SUNY Old Westbury](#). There he met Sasha, born in the U.S. to a mother from El Salvador and father from Ecuador, who was also a business major. They married and in 1990 moved to Westbury where they are raising their two children Olivia and Lucas.

Pedro and Sasha have been involved in the Spanish-speaking community, primarily through St. Brigid's Church. For nearly three years they mentored a young adult Spanish group, helping with religious studies and social and educational programs. "However they needed us, we were there," said Sasha. "It was a family of young adults and we are friends for life." Pedro has chaired the Hispanic Committee at St. Brigid's, coordinating activities for the Spanish community of the parish. He serves on LAC, the Latino Advisory Council of the Village of Westbury and is a member of the Westbury School Board, the first Hispanic to be elected to that position. "I have always had a desire to serve the community and make a difference," he said "From service, you make relationships and grow personally and socially."

Acknowledging that the preparation of pupusa requires an expert hand, the Quintanillas brought in a family friend, Senei Posada, to do the cooking. Senei prepared the pupusas in the typical manner, on a smooth flat griddle, not fried, with three different fillings: cheese and refried beans; chicharrón (finely shredded and cooked seasoned pork that is combined with onions, peppers and tomatoes); and cheese with loroco (a vine flower bud).

The pupusas were served with the side dish of lightly fermented cabbage slaw with red chilies and vinegar called curtido. Also on the table was fried yucca with a tomato sauce, tamales and Salvadoran style empanadas de platano. These sugar-coated empanadas made with plantains are a Salvadoran staple. In the version at the Quintanilla home, mashed plantains were turned into a delicious outer dough and stuffed the pockets with refried beans for a savory/sweet version.

In 2004, during the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement negotiations, Honduras gave up its claim to be the sole exporter of pupusas, ceding victory to El Salvador, and the next year the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly declared pupusas as the nation dish. Every second Sunday of November pupusas are celebrated with fairs throughout the country. Perhaps as a school board member Pedro can bring National Pupusa Day to Westbury.

Traditional foods can bring us an understanding of history and geography. Take pupusas, a popular Salvadoran dish we enjoyed at lunch at the home of Pedro and Sasha Quintanilla recently.

These thick, handmade corn tortillas have a pedigree that dates back thousands of years. The Pipil tribes, who inhabited the area that is now known as El Salvador, are said to be the originators of the dish, although Hondurans have argued that pupusas began with the Nahuans. At Joya de Ceren in El Salvador, a UNESCO World Heritage archeological site, often referred to as the Pompeii of the Americas, cooking implements for the preparation of pupusas were found at the site of a native village that was buried in volcanic ashes around AD 600.

Pupusas remained a localized dish in several towns and cities in El Salvador but as the population began moving to other areas in the 1960s, pupusa stands cropped up throughout El Salvador and then in other countries. With the migration of Salvadorans during their Civil War in the 1980s, pupusas came to the United States with the refugees.



## Port Jeff Middle Math Scholars Honored

Teppei Fukuto and William Wu were among 86 students selected for the honor.

By Ryan Bonner (Patch National Staff) - January 19, 2017 3:54 pm ET



The Institute of Create Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury has named two Port Jefferson Middle School students as Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics.

Teppei Fukuto and William Wu were among 86 students selected for the honor out of a field of 600 top ranking students nominated from school districts across Long Island.

As part of the honor, the students will participate in 60 hours of classes at SUNY Old Westbury, ranging in mathematical topics from algebra, geometry, discrete math and number theory.

The pair were recognized for their accomplishment with certificates from the Port Jefferson Board of Education during their regular meeting on Jan. 10.

“We are enormously proud of these two young men,” said Dr. Robert Neidig, middle school principal.

Photos courtesy of the Port Jefferson School District: Port Jefferson Middle School students William Wu and Teppei Fukuto were honored by the Port Jefferson Board of Education on Jan. 10 for being named as Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics. They are pictured with (l-r) middle school Principal Dr. Robert Neidig, board member Ellen Boehm and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Casciano.

College SPORTS

# SUNY-Old Westbury baseball team has all the tools to make a run

Updated February 17, 2017 7:34 PM

In Rod Stephan's six years as baseball coach, SUNY-Old Westbury has made the Skyline Conference finals five times. The one time the Panthers missed was last year.

"It was a little disappointing," Stephan said.

The Panthers still went 26-15 overall and 12-4 in conference, and they project even better this year. Six returners batted higher than .335 in 2016, led by Jesse Russo's .399, and they will be augmented by speedy Nassau CC transfer David Hawley and power-hitting Dutchess CC transfer Gianni Carbone.

On the mound, two-time Diamond Award winner and Hofstra transfer Adam Heidenfelder will be the ace, followed by an undetermined order of Ryan Mordecai, Trey Pizzutello and Daniel Aguilo.

Heidenfelder struggled at Hofstra, but the early returns from the preseason are promising.

"He's throwing the ball outstanding and has already gotten questionnaires from Major League Baseball so he's back to where he was," Stephan said. "He's a very hardworking kid. He's going to be outstanding in that conference."

Skyline foe Farmingdale (20-17, 12-4) returns Nick Attardi, who posted a .420/.514/.487 slash line and won ECAC Metro/Upstate Rookie of the Year in 2016. Christopher Reilly hit .282 with a .441 on-base percentage. He is the only returning Ram who started a game on the mound last year.

St. Joseph's (25-13, 11-5) brings back just two players who hit better than .260 in at least 25 at-bats during a run to the NCAA Mideast Regional: Anthony Bonilla (.281 with 25 RBIs) and Daniel Campanelli (.280). Ryan Aloise (8-2, 2.03 ERA) will anchor an inexperienced pitching staff.

In the ECC, coaches tabbed Molloy second and LIU Post fourth in the preseason poll.

Molloy's Angelo Navetta, who hit .372 with three home runs and 34 RBIs, is the preseason player of the year. Ronald Bauer is the preseason pitcher of the year after going 7-3 with a 2.26 ERA last year for the Lions, who went 31-23, 13-11 and appeared in the NCAA Division III East Regional.

LIU Post returns a significant amount of its 2016 production. The Pioneers, who went 23-20 overall and 13-11 in the ECC, bring back seven players who hit .275 or better and four pitchers who made five or more starts.

Rob Andreoli hit a team-best .337 with a .399 on-base percentage, 27 RBIs and 20 stolen bases. Jake DeCarli (4-4, 3.08 ERA) and Dan Jagiello (7-3, 3.64 ERA) headline the pitching staff.

NE-10 coaches picked Adelphi (25-22, 13-11) to win the Southwest Division. The Panthers return seven of their top eight hitters and boast a deep pitching staff, led by T.J. Santiago, Matthew O'Connor and Ed Baram.

"They can go out and win every single game for us," said Robert Vani, who hit .325 with four homers and 23 RBIs last year. "I have all the confidence in those guys to pitch six, seven strong innings to give us a chance to win. It just comes down to giving those guys runs."

For USMMA (11-24, 6-15 Landmark), all four pitchers who started at least five games are back. Patrick Morgan (4-3, 4.15 ERA) and Andrew Spinnenweber (3-5, 4.59 ERA) headline the staff. Steve Lucy (.344), Matthew Thomson (.337) and Bryson Campbell (.273) are the three returnees with an average above .260.

Robert Sciarotta went 5-1 with a 1.80 ERA, 57 strikeouts and 21 walks in 45 innings last year, helping Suffolk CC (26-8, 22-1 Region XV) reach the third round of the NJCAA Division III World Series. Three Sharks who hit better than .315 over more than 50 at-bats also return.

Nassau CC returns All-Region XV players Nick Marino and Justin Grimes.

College SPORTS

# Local college softball teams on top of East Coast Conference

Updated February 18, 2017 4:26 PM

By Kenny DeJohn [kenny.dejohn@newsday.com](mailto:kenny.dejohn@newsday.com)Reprints   

Local teams reign supreme in the East Coast Conference.

Three Division II softball powers — LIU Post, Molloy and NYIT — are projected to finish Nos. 1 through 3 in the conference, respectively, according to a preseason coaches poll.

The Pioneers earned six of seven first-place votes after a 37-15-1 campaign that culminated in a loss to Molloy in the East 2 Sub-Regional. They return both the ECC Preseason Pitcher of the Year, sophomore Hannah Olshevski, and the Preseason Player of the Year, sophomore Julia Seader.

Coach Jamie Apicella said the team that inevitably wins the conference will be the one that plays a well-rounded offensive game. “The pitching’s going to be there, there’s no question about it,” he said. “Whoever has a balanced lineup with speed and power and can put pressure on opposing defenses and score runs is a team that’s going to be able to win the conference.”

NYIT’s offense paved the way to 36-13 overall record last season. The Bears mashed 61 home runs and slugged .555. Seven seniors graduated from the powerhouse, but coach Steve Christianson expects his lineup to be more balanced despite the losses. “We’re a new type of team at NYIT that’s designed a little different than the power side of it,” he said. “They look upon themselves as a more athletic team.”

Slick-fielding infielder Tiffany McCracken is coming off a seven-homer season, and the senior thinks the offense still has some pop left in it. “I think we have the potential to have a power offense like last year,” she said. “We’re a lot different in the sense that we’re a lot deeper than last year.”

Fueled by First-Team All-Conference pitcher Laura McLaughlin, the Bears’ pitching could support the potentially potent offense.

Sandwiched between Post and NYIT in the preseason poll is Molloy, which lost to Adelphi in the East 2 Sub-Regional last season. The Lions seek their second straight ECC crown and return 15 of the 18 players from last year’s 35-24 squad.

Senior ace Chelsea Hawks returns after striking out 180 batters in 190<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings and holding opponents to a .231 batting average. Milan Botte, a graduate student, hit a team-leading .398 last season with seven homers and 36 RBIs and could pace the lineup again.

## Northeast-10 Conference

Having won its second straight regional title last season, the Adelphi Panthers open as the No. 7 team in the country, according to the National Fastpitch Coaches’ Association’s Division II Top 25 Preseason Coaches Poll.

Returning Northeast-10 Player of the Year Brenna Martini, a junior, was selected to the watch list for the NFCA/Schutt Sports Division II National Player of the Year Award after leading the Panthers in nearly all major offensive categories.

She hit .400/.537/.807 with 13 doubles, 14 home runs and 61 RBIs.

## Skyline Conference

Farmingdale State featured little power last season, only hitting 12 home runs as a team. But the Rams managed to hit .295 and get on base at a .374 clip, so the offense was far from anemic.

Breanna Susa (Bay Shore), Christina Rayfield (Commack) and Lori Michalowski (Lindenhurst) are the only returning players to clear the fences last season, and they’ll be relied upon to drive runs home.

Sophomore Jaxie Collard (Deer Park) led the team from the circle, tossing 173 of the team’s 2122<sup>3</sup> frames and compiling a 15-13 record.

The Rams defeated St. Joseph’s (LI) in the Skyline Conference First Round, but the Golden Eagles boast pitching depth this season in juniors Lauren Buturla (Hauppauge) and Sandra Foster (East Meadow).

Offensively, senior Gabrielle Cinquemani (West Islip) is one of the conference’s best bats. She hit .355/.425/.729 with eight home runs and 30 RBIs as a junior.

SUNY-Old Westbury went 0-4 against the Rams and Eagles last season. Sophomore Samantha Scharff (Seaford) and senior Gabriella Valdes were both named to the All-Skyline second team as anchors of the lineup.

## Region XV

Suffolk CCC dominated the conference last season, posting a 20-0 mark in conference. The Sharks won the NJCAA District H Championship.

Sophomore Courtney Lawrence (Rocky Point) was named Region XV Championship Tournament MVP, and she returns to the circle as one of the Sharks’ top players.

The Sharks bested Nassau CC in the title game, though Nassau’s Valerie Fischer (Williston Park), Caitlin McGuggart (Bethpage), Nicole Lang (Roslyn) and Jacqueline Perno were named to the All-Tournament team.

All four players return in 2017.