



# SUNY OLD WESTBURY

## *“IN THE NEWS”*

JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2018

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

# SUNY Old Westbury to offer forensic accounting degree Fall

By Sean McCabe

Published February 14 2018, 12:26pm EST

More in Forensic accounting, Accounting education, Continuing education



The State University of New York at Old Westbury and its School of Business announced this week that it will launch a new graduate program in forensic accounting this upcoming fall semester.

The first program of its kind offered on Long Island, the Master of Science in Forensic Accounting degree will provide a 30-credit program for students looking to follow the career path of a forensic accountant or fraud examiner.

“We are very excited at being able to expand for Long Island our high-quality stable of graduate business programs,” stated president Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III. “An Old Westbury education in accounting has for decades prepared our graduates to excel when they sit for the state’s certified public accountancy exam. Now, by combining our existing undergraduate and graduate programs with our new program in forensic accounting, we are offering among the most comprehensive services in the preparation for the CPAs of tomorrow.”

The program will run as a three-semester arc over one calendar year, with graduates ultimately attaining the 150-credit hour requirement needed to qualify for CPA licensure in New York. The program will also help those studying for the Certified Fraud Examiner certification.

“Recent studies show that organizations globally lose an average five percent of annual revenues to instances of occupational fraud and abuse,” said Raj Devasagayam, dean of SUNY Old Westbury School of Business, per a statement. “Through this degree program, we will prepare professionals with the skills and preparation to identify fraud when it occurs, and to inform decision-making processes and develop procedures to protect against it.”

For more on the program, head to SUNY Old Westbury’s site [here](#).

## SUNY Old Westbury To Offer A Forensic-Accounting First

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

By GREGORY ZELLER

In a Long Island first – and a New York State rarity – SUNY Old Westbury will begin offering a Master of Science in Forensic Accounting program later this year.

The 12-month, 30-credit trek – offered in a three-semester arc – is for graduate students seeking a career as a forensic accountant or fraud examiner. The first forensic accounting master class is scheduled to kick off with SUNY Old Westbury's Fall 2018 semester.

Designed to satisfy the 150-credit hour requirements required of New York State CPA licensure, the program also “serves as a strong foundation for those seeking Certified Fraud Examiner certification,” according to the university, by weaving the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners' CFE Manual into the curriculum and providing “a comprehensive overview of materials covered in the CFE exam.”

Raj Devasagayam, dean of the SUNY Old Westbury School of Business, referenced ACFE studies showing that worldwide businesses lose nearly 5 percent of annual revenues – as much as \$3.5 trillion each year – to occupational fraud.

That's clear evidence, the dean added, of the need for skilled fraud examiners.

“We will prepare professionals with the skills and preparation to identify fraud when it occurs, and to inform decision-making processes and develop procedures to protect against it,” Devasagayam said in a statement.

Despite those heavy losses, finding a master-level program in forensic (meaning “suitable for use in a court of law”) accounting can be a daunting task. Buffalo's Canisius College, the SUNY College at Brockport and the SUNY Albany School of Business are the only other New York colleges or universities offering a specific forensic accounting master of science degree.

Other schools, including New York University and Stony Brook University, offer master of accounting degrees that include forensic-accounting studies, but not specific master of forensic accounting programs.

Manhattan's John Jay College of Criminal Justice offers an advanced certificate in forensic accounting, while Utica College offers an MBA in Economic Crime and Fraud Management and an MS in Financial Crime and Compliance Management, both loose equivalents to SUNY Old Westbury's new master's program.

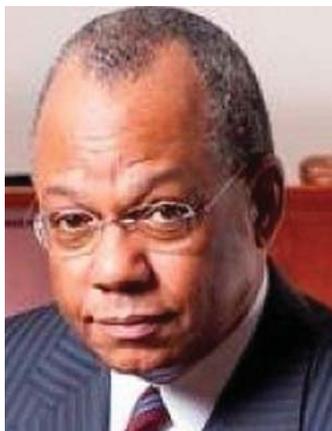
But insofar as straight-up forensic accounting master degree programs in New York State, the pickings are slim – though they'll soon grow to include SUNY Old Westbury.

SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin Butts III said the university was excited to expand its “high-quality stable of graduate business programs.”

“An Old Westbury education in accounting has for decades prepared our graduates to excel when they sit for the state's certified public accountancy exam,” Butts said Wednesday. “Now, by combining our existing undergraduate and graduate programs with our new program in forensic accounting, we are offering among the most comprehensive services in the preparation for the CPAs of tomorrow.”



*Line items: Starting this fall, SUNY Old Westbury will offer Long Island's first forensic accounting master-level degree program.*



*Calvin Butts III: Highly accountable.*

## SUNY Old Westbury adds graduate program

By: Nick Musumeci

February 14, 2018

There have been some major developments at SUNY Old Westbury.

Pun intended.

SUNY Old Westbury has announced the addition of a new Master of Science in forensic accounting major, the first of its kind on Long Island. The 30-credit graduate program is designed for students interested in going into the fields of forensic accounting or fraud examination.



*Rev. Calvin O. Butts III*

“An Old Westbury education in accounting has for decades prepared our graduates to excel when they sit for the state’s certified public accountancy exam. Now, by combining our existing undergraduate and graduate programs with our new program in forensic accounting, we are offering among the most comprehensive services in the preparation for the CPAs of tomorrow,” President Calvin O. Butts III said in a written statement. “We are very excited at being able to expand for Long Island our high-quality stable of graduate business programs.”

The new program will be offered over the course of three semesters, and allows eligible students to meet the 150 credit hours required to qualify for CPA licensure. The program will also help pose graduates for success on the fraud examination exam.

“Through this degree program, we will prepare professionals with the skills and preparation to identify fraud when it occurs, and to inform decision-making processes and develop procedures to protect against it,” Raj Devasagayam, dean of the SUNY Old Westbury School of Business, said in a statement. “Recent studies show that organizations globally lose an average 5 percent of annual revenues to instances of occupational fraud and abuse.”

There has been no word on whether other Long Island colleges plan to add this major to their course offerings.

# SUNY Old Westbury to offer master's degree in forensic accounting this fall

By The Island Now

February 16, 2018



*(Photo courtesy of SUNY Old Westbury)*

The State University of New York at Old Westbury School of Business will offer in Fall 2018 the first graduate program in forensic accounting available on New York's Long Island.

The SUNY Old Westbury Master of Science in forensic accounting is a 30-credit program for students seeking a career in this fast-growing arena as a forensic accountant or fraud examiner.

"We are very excited at being able to expand for Long Island our high-quality stable of graduate business programs," said President Dr. Calvin O. Butts III. "An Old Westbury education in accounting has for decades prepared our graduates to excel when they sit for the state's certified public accountancy exam. Now, by combining our existing undergraduate and graduate programs with our new program in forensic accounting, we are offering among the most comprehensive services in the preparation for the CPAs of tomorrow."

Offered over a three-semester arc in one calendar year, the program enables eligible students to meet the 150-credit hour requirement to qualify for CPA licensure in New York State. In addition, the program serves as a strong foundation for those seeking Certified Fraud Examiner certification.

In pursuit of the M.S. degree, students are required to obtain access to the Certified Fraud Examiner Manual whose content is integrated into courses across the curriculum, ensuring the program provides a comprehensive overview of materials covered in the Certified Fraud Examiner exam.

"Recent studies show that organizations globally lose an average five percent of annual revenues to instances of occupational fraud and abuse," said Raj Devasagayam, dean of the SUNY Old Westbury School of Business. "Through this degree program, we will prepare professionals with the skills and preparation to identify fraud when it occurs, and to inform decision-making processes and develop procedures to protect against it."

For more information on the M.S. in forensic accounting, visit [oldwestbury.edu/forensic](http://oldwestbury.edu/forensic).

## At SUNY Old Westbury And SBU, It's Up To Them

FEBRUARY 9, 2018



*Advanced economics: The federal budget, the national debt and other serious economic issues can have a big effect on college students' educational and professional choices, according to the organizers of the Up to Us competition.*

A national competition designed to educate collegians on important national economic issues has come to Long Island.

Specifically, to SUNY Old Westbury and Stony Brook University, which have been selected to participate in the 2017-2018 cohort of Up to Us, a national competition that encourages students to spread the word about fiscal policy matters like federal budgets and the national debt – big-ticket items that could have a significant effect on students' career and life choices.

The exclusive annual competition – launched in 2012 by the New York City-based Peter G. Peterson Foundation, California-based nonprofit Net Impact and the Clinton Global Initiative – is limited to 100 teams nationally. Stony Brook University and SUNY Old Westbury are the only Long Island colleges selected to participate in the 2017-2018 competition.

The goal of the Up to Us contest is twofold: to spread critical knowledge about topics like budgets and deficits, and to accumulate “participation points” through campus-based activities and awareness campaigns, with a shot at the competition's \$25,000 grand prize.

At SUNY Old Westbury, where a six-student team has received a \$1,000 stipend from contest organizers to sponsor what the school called “creative nonpartisan events,” team members have created a student survey and are encouraging fellow students to take the “Up to Us pledge” to rack up participation points.

The team – led by Politics, Economics and Law student Evan Rufrano and professors Thomas DelGiudice and Veronika Dolar – is planning other student-engagement efforts to roll out during the Spring 2018 semester, including sidewalk displays and social media outreach platforms.

Up to Us – which claims to have engaged more than 436 campus teams and collected more than 58,000 signed pledges since 2012 – bills itself as “the only nationwide, campus-based campaign focused on building a sustainable economic and fiscal future for America's next generation.”

# High Achievers

Jericho seniors finalists in prestigious science contest

A8 | VIDEO AT NEWSDAY.COM



A8

## TOP STORIES

# The pride of Jericho

■ 2 seniors win \$25,000 each as Regeneron finalists

■ Parkinson's focus of one project, nanotech the other

BY JOIE TYRRELL  
joie.tyrrell@newsday.com

Jericho High School seniors Andrew Fang and Leo Lo stood side by side Tuesday in front of a computer in the science research classroom where they have spent so many hours, scanning the list of national finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search.

"There it is — I almost had a mini-heart attack," Fang said as he spotted his name.

He and Lo broke into broad smiles.

The two are among 40 student scientists across the country to move to the prestigious contest's next level.

All finalists are awarded \$25,000 and a chance to compete in March in Washington for the top \$250,000 prize in the country's oldest high school science and math competition.

"I'm still speechless . . . but I am very happy and very honored," said Fang, 17.

Lo, 18, whose full name is Chiu Fan Bowen Lo, said becoming a national finalist is a dream come true.

"It's really satisfying. It has been my dream since 10th grade," said Lo, whose project focused on physics.

His passion for physics began when he was a young child and his parents took him to a science museum.

Fang's research focused on medicine and health, specifically on treatment of Parkinson's disease. He was mentored at SUNY Old Westbury's Neuroscience Research Institute.

"Andrew's focus, drive and intelligence produced an excellent research project," said Wei Zhu, senior research scientist at the institute. "His discovery of an anti-malaria drug's potential for positively impacting Parkinson's sufferers may open a new door for the treatment of Parkinson's disease."

Lo was mentored at Stony Brook University, as were two other national finalists. Lo



Jericho High School seniors Andrew Fang, left, and Leo Lo are seen Tuesday. ■ Video, more photos: newsday.com/education

## Their projects

### Andrew Fang, 17

**Title:** "Artemisinin as a potential Parkinson's disease treatment via alleviation of alpha-synuclein mediated neuronal damage and inflammation"

**Description:** Fang researched the potential of a compound called artemisinin, which is derived from a plant, to halt the progression of Parkinson's disease. When he conducted in vivo research on fruit flies, he found that the compound showed promise.

worked in the lab of Mengkun Liu, assistant professor of physics and astronomy in the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

"Leo is definitely a rising star as a young researcher, and he has shown great passion and many talents as a student," Liu said.

The national finalists were chosen from 300-plus Regeneron Scholars named earlier this month — 46 of whom were

### Chiu Fan Bowen "Leo" Lo, 18

**Title:** "Near-Field Nanoscopy Simulation by Incorporating Harmonic Demodulation and Cone-Shaped Probing Tip"

**Description:** Lo developed a simulation method that may enhance the design of scattering-type scanning near-field optical microscopes and improve the efficiency of custom nanoscale material design.

SOURCE: REGENERON SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH SOCIETY FOR SCIENCE & THE PUBLIC

Long Island students in public and private schools.

Jericho High School had a total of 11 scholars — the most in the district's recent history, the most of any district on the Island and the second-most in the state.

Serena McCalla, science research coordinator for the Jericho district, said in an email Tuesday that "Leo and Andrew embody the excellence needed to help our society excel in

mathematics and the sciences over the next decade."

The district's program and the Regeneron research competition "will continue to stimulate and encourage young adults to identify solutions for issues faced by our society today and in the near future," she wrote.

McCalla sent the statement from the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, where she attended the weekend premiere of the independent film "Science Fair," in which she is featured.

Last year, the 1,100-student high school had nine Regeneron Scholars. Three went on to be national finalists, with one — Archana Verma — earning fifth place nationally.

The national competition is scheduled March 8-14 in the nation's capital, with the top winners announced at a gala dinner and awards ceremony at the National Building Museum on March 13. Awards for the top 10 range from \$40,000 to the \$250,000 grand prize.

"This year's Regeneron Science Talent Search finalists are some of the best and brightest young scientists and

There it is — I almost had a mini-heart attack.'

— Andrew Fang, on spotting his name

mathematicians in our country," said Maya Ajmera, president and CEO of the nonprofit Society for Science & the Public, which sponsors the competition, and publisher of Science News.

This year's contest drew more than 1,800 entries, which are judged based on the originality and creativity of the students' scientific research, as well as their achievements and leadership both inside and outside of the classroom.

**2018 CONTEST**  
See all 46 LI Regeneron scholars' projects.  
newsday.com/data



# Gov. Cuomo eyes giving Dreamers free college tuition

Posted: Jan 25, 2018 12:11 PM EST  
Updated: Jan 25, 2018 5:00 PM EST



WOODBURY -

So-called 'Dreamers' on Long Island and across the state could soon be attending college for free.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has put a provision in his proposed \$168 billion plan – using \$27 million to extend free public college tuition to students who were brought in to the U.S. illegally as children.

Manuela Hurtado, an honor student at [SUNY Old Westbury](#), called the proposal “amazing.”

“We’d finally be given that chance – an equal right, an equal opportunity – to education that we all deserve,” said Hurtado.

Under Gov. Cuomo’s plan, Dreamers would be eligible for the Excelsior Program that covers tuition for students whose families make less than \$125,000 a year.

The only condition of the program is that students who receive the free tuition must live and work in the state once they graduate, or pay the money back.

Republicans in the state Senate say they are not on board with the proposal.

State Senate GOP spokesman Scott Reif said in a statement to News 12, “We don’t support giving free college tuition to people who are here illegally while middle-class New Yorkers scrimp and save, take out massive college loans and work two jobs in the hopes they can afford to send their own kids to college.”

State Sen. Tom Croci (R-3rd District) says he believes the \$27 million should be applied to the state’s Tuition Assistance Program, or TAP.

Dreamer Priscilia Ortega says free tuition would be wonderful, but she doesn’t want any special treatment.

“I don’t believe that anyone should have any other privileges than anyone else. We’re all equal and we deserve an equal opportunity to advance our knowledge,” said Ortega.

## Gov. Andrew Cuomo's budget: Key elements

The 2018-19 budget covers major issues of importance to Long Island, including transportation, the environment and higher education.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo proposed a \$168 billion budget Tuesday for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Following are key proposals affecting Nassau and Suffolk counties:

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Spending would rise by \$103 million to \$7.5 billion, up 1.4 percent. Public universities and colleges — including Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College and **SUNY Old Westbury** — would receive a total increase of \$11 million, or 0.4 percent.

The state would spend \$18 million less, or 2.4 percent, on two-year schools such as Nassau Community College and Suffolk County Community College.

The Higher Education Services Corporation, which runs the state's Excelsior Scholarship, Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and other financial aid programs, would get an increase of \$80 million — 7.3 percent — to \$1.18 billion.

The Excelsior Scholarship program, a supplemental financial aid program to pay the full tuition of eligible students, will raise the income eligibility ceiling to allow students from households making up to \$110,000 to apply.

Cuomo again is asking lawmakers to pass the Dream Act, to make students who are immigrants without documentation eligible for state financial aid.

Also, a new program called "No Student Goes Hungry Initiative" will require all SUNY and CUNY schools to open campus food pantries or to link students who need food with a social service provider or other assistance available on campus. About half of the state's public campuses currently have food pantries, including Stony Brook University.

Cuomo would discount financial assistance called Bundy Aid to private colleges and reinvest the funds in a new \$30 million competitive matching grant program for capital projects on private campuses. — Candice Ferrette

# SUNY Old Westbury partners with Cuban school

By: Claude Solnik

February 27, 2018

The State University of New York at Old Westbury and a university in Cuba are planning to partner on study abroad, teacher training, science research, community service and other programs.

SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, recently traveled to Cuba to sign a memorandum of understanding between Old Westbury and the Universidad de Matanzas in Cuba at the historic Hotel Palacio in Havana, Cuba.



*Rev. Calvin O. Butts III*

“Our students must learn of, and be exposed to, the history, culture and practices of nations around the world,” Butts said in a written statement. “I am proud to have Universidad de Matanzas as our partner as we seek to continue growing the varied international influences that impact our campus.”

The school said the agreement creates “a framework for the ongoing development of academic collaborations and study abroad programs in areas of teacher training, science research, community service, language and culture.”

Faculty from both schools will also will be able to “team teach” online and share research materials.

SUNY Old Westbury has signed similar agreements with schools in Austria, Belgium, China, England, France, Germany, Iran, Mexico, Norway, South Korea and Spain.

SUNY Board Chairman Carl McCall led the delegation that attended a week-long international education conference, sponsored by the Cuban Ministry of Education, with delegates from schools in more than 60 nations.

# **No. 285: A DNA Anniversary, An IPS Milestone And Connecting Old Westbury To Cuba**

*FEBRUARY 28, 2018*

## **BUT FIRST, THIS**

**Viva la Butts:** The State University of New York at Old Westbury and the Universidad de Matanzas in Cuba are collaborating in ways that would have been unimaginable just four years ago.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and its Communist Caribbean neighbor were officially restored in 2015, and despite President Donald Trump's attempts to roll back those Obama-era efforts, various educational and commercial factions in the two countries have actively sought new partnerships. A new memorandum of understanding between SUNY Old Westbury and Universidad de Matanzas provides for academic collaborations, study-abroad programs and other cultural exchanges, including online teaching programs and shared research.

SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts III, who traveled to the historic Hotel Palacio in Havana to sign the agreement, said he was proud to partner with Universidad de Matanzas as "our world continues to grow smaller every day, through the development of technology, communication, business and culture."

"To truly compete in the global community and marketplace, our students must learn of, and be exposed to, the history, culture and practices of nations around the world," Butts added.

LONG ISLAND

## Notable African-American Long Islanders in history

By Newsday staff

Updated February 23, 2018 12:05 PM

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From composer John Coltrane to former New York Gov. David Patterson, these African-American Long Islanders have made contributions in a variety of fields that in many cases resonated far beyond Nassau and Suffolk.

### Rev. Calvin O. Butts III



Photo Credit: Howard Schnapp

The Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, pastor of the Abyssian Baptist Church in Harlem, who grew up in Queens, went on to become president of SUNY Old Westbury. (Here, he officiates at Old Westbury's graduation ceremonies on May 18, 2008.)

# Babylon Village Patch

## Town of Babylon to Hold Annual Black History Month Celebration

*30th annual event is slated for February 27th*

By Dan Schaefer, Patch Contributor | Feb 20, 2018 11:58 am ET | Updated Feb 20, 2018 11:58 am ET

(February 20, 2018 – Lindenhurst, NY) - Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer has announced that the Town's Department of Human Services will be hosting its 30th Annual Black History Month Celebration on Tuesday, February 27th at Amityville Memorial High School. This year's event, titled "African Americans in Times of War," will begin at 6 P.M. and feature local honorees, live performances, and a vendor marketplace. Delivering the keynote address will be Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, the President of [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and the Pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church.

Live entertainment for the event will be provided by Renee Joshua Porter, the Amityville Memorial High School Jazz Band and Venettes Cultural Workshop, among others. News 12 reporter Averil Harper, the host of "Diverse Long Island," is the mistress of ceremonies for the event.

Amityville Memorial High School is located at 250 Merrick Road in Amityville. For more information, please call the Town of Babylon Department of Human Services at (631) 464-4340.

# WYANDOTTE DAILY

## King Day celebration to be Jan. 15 in KCK

Jan 2, 2018

“Continuing the Dream through Love and Peace in Times Like These” will be the theme of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday celebration Monday, Jan. 15, at the Reardon Center, 5th and Minnesota Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas.

Pre-service events start at 10:45 a.m. with the formal program beginning at 11 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III of New York, N.Y., is the featured speaker.

He is the pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. He and his church are active in civil rights, social justice and economic development.

Dr. Butts founded the Abyssinian Development Corporation (ADC) in 1989, an arm of the church that has contributed to community development of schools and commercial facilities, as well as housing.

Since 1999 he has served as president of the State University of New York at Old Westbury. Dr. Butts received his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, his Master of Divinity degree in church history from the Union Theological Seminary, New York, and a Doctor of Ministry in church and public policy degree from Drew University, Madison, N.J.

The event Jan. 15 will begin with a Motorcade for Hunger at 9 a.m. at Mount Zion Baptist Church parking lot, 4th and Richmond, leaving at 10 a.m. and arriving at the Reardon Center.

Persons and groups are encouraged to donate canned goods, which will be given to various food kitchens. The goal is to collect 5,000 cans of food.

Another goal at the King Day celebration is to have a 200-voice Mass Choir to provide music invoking memories of the civil rights era.

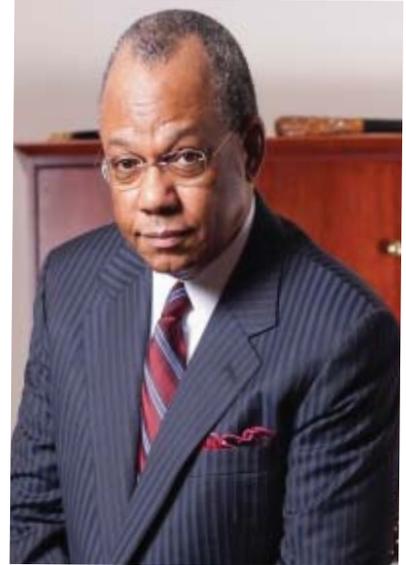
For information on choir rehearsals dates and times contact Alicia Saunders at [saundersong@aol.com](mailto:saundersong@aol.com).

Scholarships will be awarded at the event. Thirty-five graduating high school seniors who have exemplified by deeds their belief in Dr. King's dream will receive the Rev. C.E. Taylor-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarships.

More than \$1 million has been awarded to students since the start of the Kansas City, Kansas, Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration.

Clarence Small is the general coordinator of the King Day Holiday Celebration, with the Rev. Ricky Turner, treasurer, and the Rev. Tony Carter, general program chairman.

The community is invited to participate in the annual King Day celebration. Through this celebration, the committee hopes to reach all faiths, all classes of people to educate, foster and carry on Dr. King's philosophies on mankind, a committee spokesman stated





## Democracy Now! Events



### Past Event

Juan González at **SUNY Old Westbury**



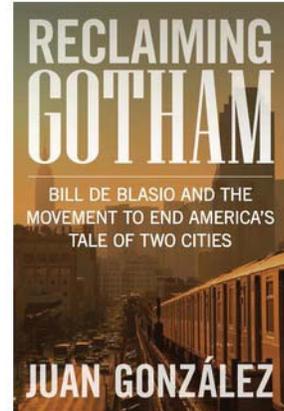
Old Westbury, NY

March 07, 2018 | Wednesday | 11:20 am

SUNY Old Westbury  
223 Store Hill Road  
Old Westbury, NY 11568 ( see map )

Join Juan González, co-host of Democracy Now! and author of *RECLAIMING GOTHAM: Bill de Blasio and the Movement to End America's Tale of Two Cities*, at **SUNY Old Westbury** for a talk about Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane María.

[Facebook](#) [Event Page](#)



Reclaiming Gotham  
by Juan González

[GET THE BOOK](#)

### Juan González

Juan González has been a professional journalist for more than 30 years and was a staff columnist at the New York Daily News from 1987 to 2016. He is a two-time recipient of the George Polk Award for commentary (1998 and 2010), and the first reporter in New York City to consistently expose the health effects arising from the September 11, 2001 attacks and the cover-up of these hazards by government officials. Juan was inducted into the Deadline Club's New York Journalism Hall of Fame in 2015. He is a Professor of Journalism and Media Studies at Rutgers University.



González is a founder and past president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and a member of NAHJ's Hall of Fame. During his term as NAHJ president, González created the Parity Project, an innovative program that creates partnerships between local communities and media organizations to improve coverage of the Latino community and recruit and retain more Hispanic journalists. He also spearheaded a movement among U.S. journalists to join other citizen groups in opposing the Federal Communications Commission's deregulation of media ownership restrictions.

A founding member of the Young Lords Party in the 1970s and of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights in 1980s, González has twice been named by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the country's most influential Hispanics and has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, the National Council of La Raza, and the National Puerto Rican Coalition.

González has written five books: *Fallout: The Environmental Consequences of the World Trade Center Collapse*, documents cover-ups by Environmental Protection Agency and government officials with regard to health hazards at Ground Zero in New York; *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America*; *Roll Down Your Window: Stories of a Forgotten America*; and *News for All the People: The Epic Story of Race and the American Media*, co-authored with Joseph Torres. His latest book, *Reclaiming Gotham: Bill de Blasio and the Movement to End America's Tale of Two Cities*, explores how a new generation of progressive municipal leaders offers valuable lessons for those seeking grassroots reform.

## Locals Honored For 'Black Excellence'

By Betsy Abraham - February 20, 2018

Westbury residents and businessowners were among those recognized during the Town of North Hempstead's recent Black History Month celebrations at the "Yes We Can" Community Center in Westbury.

Themed "Black Excellence," the event celebrated African-American entrepreneurs, with members of the town board choosing residents from their district to honor. Town Clerk Wayne Wink's honoree was Betty Hardy, who has owned and operated Betty Hardy's Daycare in Westbury for more than 50 years. Receiver of Taxes Charles Berman's pick was Bernard Hardy, a former NYPD detective who now owns Interstate Security & Investigations Inc., a private security and investigation firm located on Post Avenue in Westbury.

Also receiving honors was Westbury's Dr. Leon Mullen, a cardiologist with a practice in East Meadow, who was chosen for the recognition by Councilwoman Viviana Russell.

Supervisor Judi Bosworth's honoree was Leonard "Sparrow" Llewellyn, who has owned Ernie's Barbershop on Prospect Avenue in New Cassel since 1999.

"The countless young men that patronize his business, however, know he's much more than that," read the event's program. "Sparrow is more of a surrogate father and mentor to his clientele—those who visit him enjoy sharing their personal testimonies of how his encouragement, financial support and wise advice have inspired them to pursue college, trade schools, and/or professional careers."

The Feb. 8 event included refreshments from LL Dent, music and performances by Nori Rane, the "Yes We Can Community Band," LND Dance Company, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, SUNY Old Westbury's Step Tunes and children from the "Yes We Can" Community Center.

The Town of North Hempstead also partnered with Bethpage FCU and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Long Island Chapter to provide five scholarships to Hofstra University's Entrepreneurial Assistance Program.

"Black History Month is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to learn about and celebrate accomplishments of the culture," said Bosworth. "This year's theme of Black Excellence allows us to highlight and honor the influential entrepreneurs and business people in our community and recognize them for the major contributions they have made to our community and town."

Among the other town honorees were Rev. Monte Malik Chandler, Timothy Thurmond, Adrienne Vaultz, Kenneth Gray and Lynette Batts.

"This annual celebration of Black history is even more important this year as we reflect on Black Excellence and pay homage to Black Wall Street. Success and Black Excellence is an existing state of affairs yet often overlooked," said Russell. "This year's honorees are true examples of Black Excellence and their incredible contributions to our community make them very deserving honorees. Their success is our success."

# Long Island Business NEWS

FEBRUARY 2-8, 2018 | OUR 65<sup>TH</sup> YEAR | NO. 5 | \$2.00 | LIBN.COM

## THE DOLLAR DILEMMA

### How Long Island might benefit from a weakening dollar



41 LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS | February 2-8, 2018 | LIBN.COM

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### COVERSTORY

## THE DOLLAR DILEMMA

### How Long Island might benefit from a weakening dollar

By CLAUDE SOLNIK

The U.S. stock markets are soaring. Unemployment has fallen toward the 4 percent that economists consider full employment. Throw in a huge corporate tax cut and what's likely to be tax decreases for many individuals. The U.S. dollar should be stronger than ever.

Wrong. The buck has bucked this trend, getting weaker. One euro as of last Thursday was worth about \$1.25 compared to \$1.07 a year ago. The British pound sterling was worth \$1.43 compared to \$1.26 and the Canadian dollar was worth 81 cents, up from 77.

The U.S. dollar has even weakened against the Chinese yuan, worth nearly 16 cents up from a little more than 14 cents a year ago.

If the dropping dollar sounds like it might be worrisome (and some do worry), a debate is going on as to whether it may be good for some.

Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin threw a puzzle into the financial pool with global ripples a few days before the Davos meetings, suggesting the United States might favor weakening the dollar.

"The secretary of treasury says there are some good things about that. And there are. It's good for exports. It makes our goods cheaper to buy," said John Rizzo, chief economist for the Long Island Association in Melville. "If he wants a weak currency, he'll probably have some influence on that happening."

Just as the Trump administration seeks to stem immigration, a weak dollar hurts firms abroad seeking to export into the U.S. — making their products more expensive.

"A weaker dollar increases exports from the United States and the imports that other countries make of U.S. goods," said Herman Berliner, dean of Hofstra University's Frank G. Zarb School of Business. "The bad news is all the products that we import will be more expensive."

If you're an American company selling abroad, a weak dollar may be the cherry on the ice cream sundae of income tax cuts.

"A weak dollar makes it easier for U.S. producers to sell abroad and to compete with imports," said Laurence Krause, associate professor of economics at SUNY Old Westbury. "It lowers the price of U.S. goods with relation to foreign goods."

#### Working the weak dollar

Nobody wants to be or appear "weak." And the



JOHN RIZZO: A weak dollar could make some companies stronger.

United States government traditionally has favored a strong dollar as investors pay more for U.S. currency. "The initial sense was with the United States being the greatest economy, you expect the U.S. to be strongest in everything," Berliner said. "The reality is with a weak dollar, the opportunity to export more is beneficial to a significant number of industries."

In order to understand why the dollar weakened, one might need to begin looking abroad as other economies grew, fueling demand for those currencies.

"One factor is strong global growth, people buying their products," Rizzo said. "You have to get their currency to buy their products. That drives up the value of their products."

The Trump administration sought to boost U.S. sales abroad, which benefit from a weak dollar. Comments like those by Mnuchin can further depress the dollar, although Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross quickly reassured those eager for a powerful dollar.



LAWRENCE KRAUSE: A weak dollar could boost U.S. exports.

#### TALKING DOWN THE DOLLAR

While Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin recently said a weak dollar isn't all bad, this isn't the first time that a U.S. administration has talked up the benefits of a weak dollar.

President Jimmy Carter's administration sought to weaken the dollar, talking the currency down and otherwise seeking to lower its value against other currencies. But this is a delicate balancing act.

"It's like talking down a stock," Laurence Krause, associate professor of economics at SUNY Old Westbury, said. "Expectations; confidence. If you start talking down something, the markets could get nervous and start selling."

The Carter administration's actions led to an overreaction that sent the dollar tumbling, forcing the U.S. then to "rescue" the dollar, Krause said.

President Ronald Reagan, meanwhile, favored a strong dollar, which made it tough for U.S. firms to sell abroad and easy for foreign firms to export to the United States.

"There was a huge over valuation of the dollar in the '80s," Krause said. "You had huge trade deficits develop."

The Reagan administration finally sought to address this problem, helping stabilize or at least bring down the dollar.

Mnuchin's praise of the weak dollar could spook some currency speculators who buy dollars in the hope that they will go up in value.

"I imagine it makes the markets nervous," Krause said. "They don't know what to do. If you're a currency trader, you may hedge your bets, take another currency instead."

— CLAUDE SOLNIK

"If the dollar depreciates too fast, if they try to talk it down or intervene in the markets to make it weaker, they could have problems if speculators start selling dollars," Krause said. "Then you could have a collapse in the currency. That's probably not in the cards."

Krause said governments can raise interest rates to "induce capital inflows and strengthen the domestic currency" or lower rates to lower the dollar.

"If the U.S. government was serious about weakening the dollar, policy makers would sell dollars on currency markets and lower U.S. interest rates," Krause said, although interest rates are likely to rise.

#### The other wall

While there has been much talk about building a physical wall on the U.S. southern border to stem immigration, a weak dollar can have the same impact on products.

A weak dollar essentially builds a trade barrier for firms abroad seeking to sell into the United States — by making their product more costly.

A weak dollar is in line with tariffs imposed on foreign-made goods, in that it makes products from abroad costlier in the United States.

The Trump administration recently imposed a hefty tariff on washing machines and solar panels made abroad to boost U.S. production.

"What happened on the tariff on imported products may help put 'America' first in production, there's a question as to whether they will put Americans first."

While both the weak dollar and tariffs on imported products may help put "America" first in production, there's a question as to whether they will put Americans first.

The weaker dollar will impact the entire U.S. economy," Berliner said. "It will be an extra cost burden that all of us will end up paying. There's no way around that. It's the good and the bad of a weak dollar."

A weak dollar could be good news for multinational U.S.-based companies that do business abroad. On Long Island, firms like Henry Schein and Hain Celestial, with big sales abroad, could come out ahead.

"As Long Island is a tourism destination, local businesses could gain," said Timothy Spivak, partner in charge of EisnerAmper's personal wealth advisors group and chair of the firm's Asia practice. "Further, as Long Island is the home of companies that export goods, and are multinationals, these companies and their employees could do well."

As traveling becomes more expensive for Americans abroad, Long Island and the United States become cheaper for foreign tourists.

"Tourism is an important industry on Long Island," Rizzo said. "To the extent we have foreign visitors a weak dollar is good for that."

Citizens abroad might see this as a window to buy U.S. real estate and businesses, further increasing the foreign ownership of U.S. firms and real estate.

#### How we got here

The U.S. dollar hasn't been weak for long; it strengthened, even as the U.S. economy floundered. Although the U.S. economy's meltdown weakened the dollar, the dollar rebounded amid a global meltdown.

"If they didn't have dollars and there was a currency crisis, they were in trouble. The currencies collapsed," Krause said of other nations. "You needed a lot more reserves. You have to hold a lot of dollars."

The dollar strengthened as China sought to depress its currency, to boost global trade, and other nations grew their dollar reserves.

Currency crises in Mexico, Thailand, Iceland and Venezuela all attracted people to the U.S. dollar for security.

But if the dollar provided security, global economies started growing, the euro recovered and the dollar began to drop.

Even China, which controls some power the word "manipulate" its currency, put the brakes on devaluation.

"There was pressure on the government to revitalize the currency, make it stronger," Krause said of China. "It had all these trading positions."

While local companies could see sales abroad rise due to a weak dollar, Long Islanders could pay more for products here.

"All of us buy a significant number of imported products," Berliner said. "Those prices will go up."

If a trade war ensues following U.S. tariffs and a weakening dollar, China could retaliate and Europe could take steps. While that might not occur, many economists believe the rest of the world won't simply watch what happens.

"The net result will be impossible to predict," Berliner said of the worldwide impact of a weakening dollar and rising tariffs. "We have no clue yet as to the level of retaliation. We are fairly certain that other countries won't sit idly by as the dollar weakens or we institute more tariffs."

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#### WINNERS AND LOSERS WITH A WEAK DOLLAR

##### Winners

- Major exporters
- Large multinationals with significant overseas sales
- Companies in the commodities business. Commodities are priced in dollars, so when USD falls, prices go up.
- Companies that thrive when commodities thrive
- U.S. tourism attractions

##### Losers

- Importers
- Companies with large commodity and raw materials exposure. Auto manufacturers, for example, that may see rising raw material costs.
- Airlines and travel businesses with international exposure. A large part of these businesses' success relies on the cost of fuel, but fewer U.S. customers traveling abroad could hurt business, too.

Source: Timothy Spivak, partner in charge of EisnerAmper's Personal Wealth Advisory Group and chair of the firm's Asia practice

# INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS ORGANIZED ON LONG ISLAND

@theindpanorama -

Feb 9, 2018 - 5:05 am EDT



MINEOLA, NY (TIP): The Indian American Community from long Island organized the 69th Republic Day Celebrations on January 26, 2018

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Publisher and Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama was honored with India Republic Day Award by Nassau County Executive Laura Curran on the occasion of India's 69th Republic Day celebration in the Nassau County legislature building on January 26 evening. Prof Saluja, who is President of INDO-US Foundation Inc., is also famous as a Writer, Speaker, Actor, and Television Host and well known in the Media and Community for his contributions and support to society. Along with Prof Saluja Laura Curran also presented India Republic Day Awards to:

**Dr Bhupendra R Patel**, Doctor of Medicine in appreciation for his good work. He is also former chief of Medicine of the department of medicine at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Queens. Dr Patel also known as Bhupi is an Icon and pillar of our society.

**Dr Anila Midha** is the founder of South Asian American Womens Alliance a nonprofit organization that promotes the education of STEM subjects along South Asian American Women and give scholarships to deserving female students in High School.

**Dr Himanshu Pandya** is currently the Vice President of AAPIQLI. Dr Pandya has published several articles in Health Journals. He is Founder of SPARK Club of New York. Dr Pandya is the Co-owner of Social Day Care Center in Long island

**Dr Runi Mukherji Ratnam** is the Chair of the Psychology Department at [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#) and also served as the Director of General Education program for the college. She serves as consultant to the center for immigrant Health and Center for the study of Global Health at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

**Deborah Misir Esq.** is the Founding Partner of Lally & Misir LLP.

Indu Jaiswal Chairperson of Indian American Forum welcomed and greeted all the guests. Keynote Speaker Dr Parveen Chopra highlighted the significance of India's Republic Day. Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and Presiding Officer Mr Richard Nicollelo also graced the event.

Republic Day was also celebrated in Hempstead Town Hall on January 26 morning and February 1 evening. Hempstead Town Supervisor Laura Gillen and Board members of Indian American Forum, Hempstead Town Clerk Silvia Cabana, Councilwoman Erin King Sweeney, Councilman Mr Dennis Dunn, Dr Urmilesh Arya, President National AIA, Indu Jaiswal Chairperson of Indian American Forum, Members of Indian Veterans Association, Varinder and Ratna Bhalla and several community leaders graced the flag-hoisting event.

On February 1, The Board of trustees and, members of Indian American Forum organized India Republic Day Celebration at Nathan L.H, Bennett Pavilion, and Hempstead Town Hall. Dr Swadesh Rana, first ever woman to become the chief of Conventional Arms Branch in the Department of Disarmament Affairs at the United Nations, was the keynote speaker.

During the event India Republic Day Awards were presented to Dr Sunita Saini, Founder and Director of South Shore Psychological Services of Long Island and Dr Inderpal Chhabra, clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Hofstra North Shore School of Medicine.

# Forty Years as a Professor of Journalism

Karl Grossman, Contributor  
Investigative Reporter

01/03/2018 07:22 am ET Updated Jan 05, 2018

This year 2018 marks my 40th year as a professor of journalism. I started teaching in 1978 at the State University of New York/College at Old Westbury on Long Island. Each year I've had a couple of hundred students which, times 40, comes to a total of thousands of students.

We happily recall our teachers, and the opposite is true, too: I fondly recall students—and relish in their successes. As a teacher you get to know your students well. Your lives intertwine.

Larry Lawson is now director of news and coordinating producer at the New England Sports Network. After I began to teach classes at SUNY/Old Westbury, I started an internship program placing students in media all over the New York Metro Area. I feel internships are vitally important—it's how I was inspired to go into journalism, an internship as an Antioch College student at the Cleveland Press.

I helped Larry, keenly intelligent and personable, get an internship at WCBS-TV in New York. He did well and then, as he told the story on a visit back to Old Westbury a while back, he was offered a job—but working in the mail room at the CBS network. He spoke of not wanting this, of seeking to be a producer, and calling his old professor and asking me—I remember the conversation well—what to do. I advised him to take the job as a “foot in the door.” He said that even though but a mail clerk, he was noticed—and taken under the wings of 60 Minutes' Ed Bradley and Andy Rooney. And in short order, this young man “from the projects in Brooklyn,” he noted, was a producer at CBS, then moving on to CNN, Black Entertainment Television and ESPN, and is now at the helm of an important sports network.

There was Sid McCain, daughter of U.S. Senator John McCain. She was my student at Southampton College where, in addition to teaching at SUNY/Old Westbury, I taught for 25 years part-time as an adjunct professor until, sadly, it was shut down.

Sid has courage and sharpness like her dad. She took my Investigative Reporting course and, being an animal-lover, decided to do a hard-hitting expose in the college newspaper on the treatment of test animals in the psychobiology program at the college. The professor who ran the program was furious and went after Sid and me, as advisor to the paper. I recall the times sitting with Sid waiting for a set of tense meetings to begin. In the end, Sid and a free press won. She's now promotions director at WMSE radio in Milwaukee.

A few weeks ago I received an email from Old Westbury graduate Michael Schuch: “Mr. Grossman, This is atypical of me to contact one of my professors—or dare I even say mentors. I want to thank you. A long time ago—about 30 years—you suggested that I intern at Cablevision. I don't know why. It was a surprise to me. Your recommendation gave me the start to a productive career. I finished the internship and realized I had a love for the technical side of the industry. Since then I've started a company that is respected as one of the best in the world at what we do. I often reflect and appreciate that without your suggestion—whatever you saw in me—it may have not been possible. I thank you.”

It doesn't get any better than that for a professor! Turns out Michael has a company, CMS Audio/Visual, with offices in New York and London and numerous and major global clients.

My former student Michelle Imperato is an anchorwoman at WESH-TV in Orlando, Florida; Ed Easton, Jr. is at WINS radio in New York; last year's Old Westbury graduate Moses Nunez, Jr. just got a job as a broadcast operations coordinator at NBC in New York; Selena Hill is digital editor of Black Enterprise magazine in New York; Kathryn Menu is editor of the Sag Harbor Express; Dean Harding is at NBC News; Beth Young started and edits the East End Beacon; Francys Rios is assignment desk editor at News12 The Bronx; Tim Gannon is a reporter for the Riverhead News-Review; Pat Rogers is publisher of and journalist at Hamptons Art Hub; Fred Towle is sales and marketing director at the South Shore Press; Megan Kapler is a filmmaker in New York; Annette Fuentes has been a reporter for the New York Daily News and an editor at Newsday and is an author; Niclas Gillis, a student at SUNY Old Westbury from Sweden, is a writer and director in New York; Asha Johnson is a videographer at News12 Long Island; Eric Wald is co-publisher of The Waldo Tribune; Annette Hinkle is community news editor at the Shelter Island Reporter. And the list goes on.

Some of my ex-students are in government work. Fran Evans is a spokesperson for the Suffolk County Legislature; Tim Laube was the clerk of the legislature and is now business manager of the Eastport-South Manor School District on Long Island; Brian Frank is chief environmental analyst for the Town of East Hampton; Jeff Szabo became a deputy Suffolk County executive and since 2010 has been CEO of the Suffolk County Water Authority. I know my Environmental Journalism class Jeff and Brian took has been helpful in their positions. Brian told me it was “the inspiration” for him to get into environmental work.

Some students, like me, after years in journalism went into teaching it. Claire Serant is at Brooklyn College and Bill O'Connell, a professor of communications at Suffolk County Community College.

The years of doing and teaching journalism have been very fulfilling.

# Educators rethink healthy tech use in the classroom

By Isabelle Bilton | February 5, 2018

| @izzybilton

Students tap away on laptops, a phone buzzes, then another, and another. Every face is lit up in the light from a screen. A lecture hall full of students yet only one or two write in notebooks. The rest glare at screens.

It is a familiar sight and one many educators are desperate to change. But with social media, tech disruptions and the rise of edtech comes this unnerving truth: students are getting hooked on electronics.

Even investors in arguably the largest tech company in the world have entered the dialogue. Two large investors in Apple recently called for action over young people's worrying addiction to smartphones.

And with studies showing excessive smartphone and social media usage is linked to poor mental health, concerns are growing.

In response, many educators are rethinking technology's role in the classroom. While they want to prepare children for the digital world, they also do not want them to become reliant on their devices for learning.

France recently banned smartphones from their classrooms altogether, but many educators in other countries are keen to find a middle-ground.

This was the motivation behind Flipd, an app that can be used both inside (and outside) the classroom to self-regulate students' phone use. The app has been growing in popularity since its launch in 2016, its user base expanding from 2,000 regular student users to over 15,000 with nearly 200,000 downloads worldwide.

Flipd switches off a student's phone for anything other than emergency calls. They can "Flip" back on at any point during a lecture, but it logs how long they were "Flipd" off for.

Based in Toronto, Flipd now operates in a number of colleges all over the US and Canada and, as of this semester, in the UK.

"There are often two extremes," Flipd co-founder Alanna Harvey told Study International. "On the one hand 'let's embrace technology. Let's pump as much technology into classrooms as we can.' Or, let's go down France's route and just ban tech altogether."

Flipd is trying to "reinforce" a balance to the polarising debate, she said.

The app costs US\$4 per semester. Harvey and her team have found the cost is low enough that it is affordable to students but high enough it makes them think about using it. Students are encouraged, but not forced, to use the app. It creates a form of ownership.

And it's working. In classrooms where Flipd is used, 90 to 95 percent of students voluntarily downloaded the app.

## Finding a tech-life balance

"We worked with professors at a few different universities in North America and we found that this [distraction from tech in the classroom] is a pretty profound and growing issue in K-12 and higher ed," Harvey told Study International.

Educators are the forefront of what Flipd is doing. Many are big advocates of the notion of single-tasking in the classroom.

"The professors are the ones researching this issue. There are so many studies out there and more recently they have come to light and have been published," Harvey said.

One of these professors is Dr Lorenz S. Neuwirth, an Assistant Professor of Biopsychology at [The State University of New York College at Old Westbury](#). He has used Flipd for two years across six different courses in Psychology with over 300 students.

Neuwirth claimed that as we "move towards a more digital frontier there are as many benefits as there are risks."

## Keeping students interested enough to stay off their phones is a challenge

Neuwirth told Study International, "faculty are continually challenged with grasping and sustaining student attention within the classroom while competing with other information that students may be more inclined, motivated, or interested in beyond the curriculum," notably their mobile phones.

Assistant Teaching Professor of Psychology at Pennsylvania State University Dr. Alicia Drais-Parrillo PhD who began using Flipd in the fall of 2016 agrees: "I think, students, over the last few years, have become more distracted and people, in general, struggle with delay of gratification."

Disconnecting from technology allows students to "begin to re-experience what the curriculum can offer when they have perhaps a less divided attention," Neuwirth said.

## Staying off your phone could boost your grade

Neuwirth makes Flipd worth five percent of his students' grades and adds another five percent for physical attendance to ensure students do not just stay in their dorms with the app on.

So if students don't attend his classes, or if they do and they are not engaged, they cannot earn a high mark.

Dr Drais-Parrillo uses a similar method to Neuwirth. She receives data on how long students were "Flipd" off for during her lectures. This is then translated into a point system and used as an incentive to boost students' grades.

She claimed this encouraged even more students to use Flipd.

Her points system is put into a leaderboard, and she even places herself in the competition. She tells her students whoever beats her will get an extra bonus. This applies to time outside of class as well.

"So I am essentially reinforcing them for not using their phones outside of class [too]," she said.

Neuwirth claimed "after one week of students using Flipd, which is only two classroom exposures, students adapt and make positive changes to their behaviours. They take notes in class and become more active in taking responsibility for their own education."

However, he said students do get "active learning fatigue."

They found it increasingly difficult to handwrite notes. "It was like I asked them to ride a bike and they hadn't done so in a decade. They actually had to re-learn the motor memory to take notes."

## Many educators don't want to totally ban tech

But this doesn't mean the educators want technology cut out altogether.

Neuwirth claimed he uses other technology in the classroom such as Kahoot, an interactive gaming app for the classroom.

"In the last 15 minutes of my classes, I display a pop quiz with Kahoot and monitor my students' learning comprehension through their percent of correct responses," he said.

"This behaviour habit reversal of restricting cellular phone access to limited learning time periods with reinforcement, as well as their successful completions of tests and exams, naturally reinforce students to continue taking notes, reduce their cellular phone habits and become more active learners within the classroom."

Drais-Parrillo takes a similar approach. She claimed she uses other tech in the classroom to keep students engaged, but limits it to the necessary.

She doesn't want to ban devices, but instead "shape good behaviour and encourage students to make good choices, not simply force them into it."

However, she stated she is always careful about when, how and why she uses technology in her lessons.

"We should demonstrate meaningful use of technology for our students and perhaps the lesson will be absorbed," she said.

Dr Drais-Parrillo told Study International:

"We are in a position to put students on the right path; it's up to them to stay on the path, but I try to do everything I can to help them along the way."

# Reference experts announce annual Outstanding Reference Sources list for adults

For Immediate Release

Sat, 02/10/2018

Contact:

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DENVER - The most noteworthy reference titles published in 2017 have been named to the 2018 Outstanding References Sources List, an annual list selected by experts of the Collection Development and Evaluation Section (CODES) of the Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association. The list was announced today at ALA's Midwinter Meeting in Denver.

The Outstanding Reference Sources Committee was established in 1958 to recommend the most outstanding reference publications published the previous year for small and medium-sized public and academic libraries. The selected titles are valuable reference resources and are highly recommended for inclusion in any library's reference collections.

The winners are:

"Defining Documents in American History: Immigration and Immigrant Communities (1790-2016)." James S. Pula (ed). Salem Press.

"A Dictionary for the Modern Percussionist Drummer." James A. Strain. Rowman & Littlefield.

"Encyclopedia of African Colonial Conflicts." Timothy J. Stapleton (ed). ABC-CLIO.

"Encyclopedia of Black Comics." Sheena C. Howard. Fulcrum Publishing.

"End of Days: An Encyclopedia of the Apocalypse in World Religions." Wendell G. Johnson (ed). ABC-CLIO.

"The Holocaust: An Encyclopedia and Document Collection." Paul R. Bartrop and Michael Dickerman (eds). ABC-CLIO.

"Horses of the World." Élise Rousseau. Translated by Teresa Lavender Fagan. Princeton University Press.

"The Last Superpower Summits: Reagan, Gorbachev, and Bush at the End of the Cold War." Sventlana Savranskyia and Thomas Blanton. Central University Press.

"Musicals in Film: A Guide to the Genre." Thomas S. Hischak. Greenwood.

"War and Religion: An Encyclopedia of Faith and Conflict." Jeffrey M. Shaw and Timothy J. Demy (eds). Greenwood (ABC-CLIO). "Women in American History: A Social, Political, and Cultural Encyclopedia and Document Collection." Peg A. Lamphier and Rosanne Welch (eds). ABC-CLIO.

The Outstanding Reference Sources selection committee consists of Cindy Craig, University of Florida, (Chair); Stephanie Alexander, California State University, East Bay; Nateisha Allen, Pierce College; Shelley Arlen, University of Florida; Laura Birkenhauer, Miami University; Curt Friehs, [SUNY Old Westbury](#); Kara Krekeler, University City Public Library.

The Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), a division of the American Library Association, represents librarians and library staff in the fields of reference, specialized reference, collection development, readers' advisory and resource sharing. RUSA is the foremost organization of reference and information professionals who make the connections between people and the information sources, services, and collection materials they need. Learn more at [www.rusaupdate.org](http://www.rusaupdate.org).

# THE INDYPENDENT

a FREE PAPER for FREE PEOPLE

## Fear of a Black Planet

### *Under the Republican push for welfare cuts, racism boils.*

BY NICHOLAS POWERS

Feb 12

Issue 232

"Never tell anyone," my mother hissed, "that we're on welfare!" I sputtered, "Okay." She let go, angrily. People shuffled to the window where a tired man scanned their papers. That was 1982. Passing a poster of President Ronald Reagan, she shot him the middle finger. Later, I realized he'd risen to power by branding women like her "welfare queens."

In late 2017, Donald Trump smiled as the GOP passed its Tax Cuts and Jobs Bill. The Republicans want to slash Medicaid, food stamps and welfare. The deficit their tax bill created will be used to justify that. Yet, why attack the needy? In American conservatism, the internal enemy of the nation is the idle poor — specifically, the poor of color.

Republicans talk of prosperity, dignity and self-reliance. Peel back the rhetoric, and racism boils underneath. Tax cuts and calls to end welfare are dog whistles for white supremacy. The real effect of their policies is that people will suffer and thousands will die as they fall through gaping holes in the safety net.

#### Deadly Math

Every day, I see homeless people ask for money. Every. Day. On the street or lurking in a train, they shake cups for loose coins. Most of us look away. A few give wrinkled bills. Many wince with disgust — mostly, I think, because we're afraid of becoming them. We already live such precarious lives.

How do we justify poverty in a land of abundance? The U.S. is the wealthiest nation in history. The annual federal budget is nearly \$3.5 trillion. All of us pour into it. Our paychecks are silvered. Corporations cough up cash. Even undocumented workers pay taxes. Yet, out of 326 million people, 43.1 million live in poverty.

In the Deep South, Midwestern Rust Belt towns and public housing all over the nation, people cling to food stamps and Medicaid. These needed programs lie on the Republican chopping block. President Trump has pushed drug testing for food stamps and work requirements for Medicaid. Rep. Paul Ryan wants to cut Social Security and Medicare.

Again, why attack the most vulnerable? Maybe it's because the poor vote less. When they do, they vote for Democrats. Maybe it's because Republicans — like all of us — don't see just with their eyes, but also with their ideology.

The GOP is led by a business elite that does not have a natural base. Since the 1970s, it has allied with Christian evangelicals, jingoists and racists to ride reactionary movements to power. It fuses our class and racial hierarchies to cut off interracial, working-class solidarity. It is kept going by feeding its voting base with political "red meat" via Fox News and other right-wing outlets, which channel resentment at immigrants, the poor and especially, the poor of color.

The GOP employs a Manichean ideology with two poles, opposed but bound together. On one end, there is the "job creator," who comes off like Hercules in a business suit. He is smart, decisive and a straight, white male. "I will be the greatest job producer that God ever created," Trump promised. He is exhibit one on how privilege warps self-image. In a Mar-a-Lago portrait he commissioned, our president looks like Alexander the Great crossed with Fabio.

On the other end, conservatives see the poor as expecting handouts for nothing. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) recently said, "I have a rough time wanting to spend ... trillions of dollars to help people who won't help themselves ... and expect the federal government to do everything." He was followed by Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), who wanted to repeal the estate tax because the rich invest, unlike the poor who "are just spending every darn penny they have, whether it's on booze or women or movies."

The modern GOP thinks the poor are parasites, an idea inherited from older conservatives, schooled in social Darwinism and eugenics. It is deeply familiar. I've known this rhetoric my whole life because it was aimed at me.

#### When Nonwhite Means Non-Human

"Blacks are lazy." "Blacks complain." "Blacks always want a handout." I heard it all before and hated it. My mom came home, bone-tired from work. My aunts, uncles and friends were wrung dry from work. I was always told to work "twice as hard." We were running from a stereotype: the "parasite coon."

Racism bends vision into preset images. The underlying spectrum is from fully human whites to animalistic nonwhites. At the bottom, in the right-wing worldview, Africans are still framed as monkeys: bestial, lustful and stupid.

The white racial imagination changes with the level of control over Black people. In the Antebellum era, the Southern planter class promoted the docile Black as proof of slavery's beneficence. "Mammy" happily served her master. "Uncle Tom" happily served his master. "Sambo" did too. They were portrayed as pets, kept by a superior race.

After the smoke of the Civil War cleared, the white racial imagination, fueled by fear of free Black people, created more menacing imagery. The rapist, Black male brute was a threat. The wanton Black Jezebel was a threat. The "coon" was a sambo gone bad; he was lazy, cynical and mean.

"Bad" Black images rose with white fear. The Black Codes were written with the pen of white panic. The Ku Klux Klan rode at night to kill freedmen and reclaim the land. As the Radical Republicans sent troops to guard Black voting rights, property and bodies, former Confederates hated federal soldiers for forcing racial equality. "States' rights" transformed into a call to arms for white supremacy.

In 1877, a deal to resolve the disputed presidential election of 1876 ended Reconstruction. Federal troops left the South. White militias killed, raped and beat Black people who tried to vote. Southern "Redemption" had begun — a political cycle of Black freedom confronted by white backlash. It used "bad" Black imagery like the Brute or Parasite Coon. It was violent. It spoke the language of states' rights and small government.

D.W. Griffith romanticized this terror in the 1915 film *Birth of a Nation*. In it, Gus, a Black federal soldier — a brute — tries to rape a white woman. In the state-house scene, Black elected officials put their dirty feet on desks; they eat chicken, drink, fight and act loutish. They were "coons" in power. The white audience cheered the Ku Klux Klan chasing them out to "redeem" the white man's country.

I saw *Birth of a Nation* in a college film course, and, watching it, my chest tightened. Here was the myth that lay in the heart of the U.S. Here were the characters that racists saw when they looked at me, my family and friends.

#### Beware of the Dog Whistle

It is an iconic photo. I always wonder at it. In 1957, soldiers guarded nine Black teens walking to school in Little Rock, Arkansas. White Southerners spat slurs as if the civil-rights movement were a second Reconstruction. Eighty years after Northern occupation, federal troops were back in an attempt to force at least a

semblance of Black equality.

Today, a memorial stands to the Little Rock Nine at the Arkansas state capitol. When they integrated the school, each step inside was a literal and symbolic trampling of open racism. Alongside African-Americans' legal victories was a cultural one: White supremacy, if not defeated, was somewhat delegitimized.

When the white backlash came, politicians could no longer speak in bald racism. Republicans, who were rebounding after decades of New Deal Democratic dominance, used a "Southern strategy" to corral racist Democrats. It cleaned up bigotry with euphemism.

Lee Atwater, a political strategist for Reagan and George H.W. Bush, spelled out the mechanics. "You start out in 1954 by saying, nigger, nigger, nigger," he breezily instructed. "By 1968 you can't say nigger. So, you say forced busing, states' rights. You're getting so abstract now that you're talking about cutting taxes and a byproduct is Blacks get hurt worse than whites." It was a cruel calculation. The Black poverty rate was higher and the need for social programs, greater.

So, when Richard Nixon called for "law and order," the Republican voter heard "Blacks." When Reagan praised states' rights and attacked "welfare queens," the Republican voter heard "Blacks." When Bush hammered Democrat Michael Dukakis in 1988 with the infamous Willie Horton ad — Atwater's baby — Republican voters saw "Blacks."

Each political invocation of the "bad" Black, whether the parasite-coon, brute or baby-making Jezebel, heralded cuts to social programs. Poor Blacks got hurt worse than poor whites. They also got hurt with them. President Lyndon B. Johnson's 1965-68 War on Poverty had saved millions of lives. What was not being saved was the idea of welfare itself. Republicans gave it a Black face, even though the majority of welfare recipients had been (and still are) white.

After campaigning against "welfare queens," Reagan said in his 1981 inaugural address, "Government is not the solution to our problem, government is the problem." He cut payments to the working poor, cut a million people off food stamps and cut job programs. He then gave tax breaks to the wealthy.

Fifteen years later, President Bill Clinton in his 1996 State of the Union speech said, "The era of big government is over." Later that year, he signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act; it ended welfare as an entitlement, limited benefits and forced work requirements. He then repealed parts of the Glass-Steagall Act and let big Wall Street banks play in the markets.

In 2005, George W. Bush tried to privatize Social Security. He was stopped cold by Democrats and a disbelieving public.

The Republican strategy of displacing racism onto welfare and other social programs satisfied the GOP's business elite. It did not help their base, who were trapped on both ends. Over them was a top-heavy GOP whose business leaders and donors were destroying the very social programs the white poor needed. At the other end, they were trapped by their own racial bias against "big government."

What racist voters could not see in the footage of federal troops protecting Black children going to school in Little Rock was that the soldiers were not just protecting everyone's right to attend public institutions. They were protecting the very possibility of having them.

#### Fear of a Black Planet

"It's not a bigger government we need," Barack Obama said in his 2013 State of the Union address. "It's a smarter one." I cringed as he spoke. The first Black President felt he had to soothe a public raised on the racial stigma of big government, assuring them that he wasn't going to sell white people into slavery to pay off the federal debt.

Just a year before, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich launched a short-lived presidential candidacy by calling Obama "the most effective food-stamp president in American history." He was asked about it and squirmed like an eel.

Months later, Pat Buchanan bellowed on TV, "Barack Obama is a drug dealer of welfare." He contrasted him with candidate Mitt Romney's work ethic. Romney was caught on a hot mic saying, "There are 47 percent of the people ... who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe government has a responsibility to care for them."

Again, race works its magic between the lines. Again, the parasite coon is a shadow in the text. After Obama's 2008 victory, fear of a Black planet became a rising rage. Black Democratic pollster Cornell Belcher noted on Roland Martin's TV One show, "You saw a spike in racial aversion. ... Whites see it as we're losing power to them."

It was *Birth of a Nation* again, only this time, federal troops didn't just attempt to force racial equality: They obeyed the commands of a Black President. Each news cycle brought fresh proof that the United States was slipping out of white hands. A Latina was on the Supreme Court. Confederate statues were torn down. Black people rioted and protested in the streets.

When Donald Trump glided down the escalator, he was a one-man Ku Klux Klan coming to the rescue; he was the Redeemer of White Supremacy. He promised border walls. He promised "law and order." He even promised to save Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security for the "deserving poor" — down-on-their-luck white people.

They needed it. Blatant white supremacy, left behind by global capitalism, had hit a nadir. Deaths of despair hit a heartland ruined by opioids and joblessness. Seeing no future, they turned to Trump — who, having no plan, turned to the GOP — who tried to "solve" this problem with a massive tax cut for the wealthy.

At this point, it doesn't matter if this or that Republican is personally racist. They can toast marshmallows on a burning cross for all it matters. The GOP cannot credibly take a race-neutral position when its politics has been based on racism for the last 50 years. The effects of its policies are race-specific. And class-specific. And deadly.

We won't see them, and we won't know their names, but people will die. Quietly. Invisibly. Ten thousand of us will die. Former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers analyzed the Congressional Budget Office report that 13 million people will leave Obamacare when the individual mandate is repealed. He said on CNBC, "When people lose health insurance, they're less likely to get preventive care, defer health care they need, and they're more likely to die."

Ten thousand. Ten thousand. I repeat it. Not just a number. It's someone shaking with fever. It's someone fighting for breath. It's getting a phone call that someone you loved died, far away and alone because they couldn't afford treatment.

How many people have they killed? On my laptop, a video plays of the GOP cheering the tax bill. I turn it off, go outside and see a line of people waiting for free food at my neighborhood church. Old men, workers, a neighbor I know, all wait with carts. A mother stands with them, trying to hold two squirming kids. She's tired. I look at her and see across 30 years to my childhood and the moment I learned to be silent.

*Nicholas Powers is a professor of African American literature at SUNY Old-Westbury and author of The Ground Beneath Zero (Upset Press, 2013). This article originally appeared at truth-out.org.*

# SEC taps Richard Best to lead Atlanta office

BY DAVE KOVALESKI | JANUARY 12, 2018 | FEDERAL

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) named Richard Best as regional director of its Atlanta office, succeeding Walter Jospin, who is leaving the agency at the end of January.

Most recently, Best served as director of the SEC's Salt Lake office, where he led the prosecution of several high-profile cases.

Best joined the SEC from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) in New York, where he was a senior director and chief counsel in its Department of Enforcement.

Prior to FINRA, he spent 10 years as a prosecutor in the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney, where he handled, among other things, organized crime prosecutions.

As director of the SEC's Atlanta office, Best will lead a staff of more than 160 enforcement attorneys, accountants, investigators, and compliance examiners involved in the investigation and prosecution of enforcement actions. The office covers Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama.



*Richard Best*

“I am excited that Richard is taking over as head of our Atlanta Regional Office, and I thank Walter for his exemplary service,” SEC Chairman Jay Clayton said. “Richard has made a lasting impression in the Salt Lake Regional Office and I am confident that he will continue to protect the long-term interests of American investors through his leadership in Atlanta.”

Best graduated from the **State University of New York, College at Old Westbury** and earned his law degree from the Howard University School of Law.

“I am excited and honored to serve with such a talented group of professionals in the Atlanta Regional Office,” Best said. “Their dedication and skill is evidenced by the office’s many significant accomplishments. I look forward to working with them to protect investors and maintain fair and orderly markets.”

## Shaneda Destine to present on police brutality against Black women

By Caitlin Yamada [Caitlin.yamada@iowastatedaily.com](mailto:Caitlin.yamada@iowastatedaily.com)

Feb 27, 2018

Shaneda Destine will present “WGS Seminar - #sayhername: Black Women Movement Actors Moving from Race Consciousness to Class Consciousness” on Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m. in 1030 Morrill Hall.

Shaneda Destine is a lecturer in the women’s and gender studies, African and African American studies and sociology at Iowa State.

Destine earned her bachelor’s in sociology at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, her masters at Queens College in applied social research, and her doctorate in sociology and medical sociology from Howard University.

“The African American Policy Forums’ #SayHerName calls national attention to police brutality against Black women,” according to the seminar. Destine will be discussing the stages of political consciousness among these Black women movement actors and will explore the development of class-consciousness.

The African American Policy Forum, a “think tank” founded in 1996 that works to connect academics with activists to dismantle structural inequality, coined the hashtag in 2015.

Say Her Name documents stories of Black women who have been killed by police and focuses on forms of police brutality experienced by women of color.

This lecture is a part of the women’s and gender studies seminar series.

## SPORTS

### LOCAL COLLEGE REPORT

## Old Westbury reaches NCAAs behind Renker

Charlotte Renker's 15 points and 15 rebounds led No. 2 SUNY Old Westbury over No. 1 seed Mount Saint Mary, 53-47, in the Skyline Conference Tournament title game Saturday, clinching the Panthers an automatic berth into the NCAA Division III Tournament.

Tori Bellings added 14 points and four steals for Old Westbury (23-3), and converted a layup with four seconds remaining to extend the lead to 51-47.

**Adelphi 66, Merrimack 50:** Natalie Fekula posted career highs of 16 points and 19 rebounds, and Simone Hobby contributed 16 points and eight rebounds to propel No. 4 Adelphi (14-15) in the first round of the Northeast-10 Tournament on Friday.

**Mount Saint Mary 57, USMMA 34:** In Thursday's Skyline semifinals, Shelby Peters had 12 points and nine rebounds for No. 4 USMMA (17-9).

**LIU Post 74, Daemen 61:** Sasha Patterson's 16 points and 11 rebounds lifted LIU Post (21-6, 16-1 ECC) on Friday.

**Molloy 56, Mercy 41:** Marthe Guirand had 20 points and 20 rebounds for Molloy (9-19, 4-14 ECC). Melody Prichard had 14 points and eight rebounds in the Lions' regular-season finale.

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

**Yeshiva 77, Farmingdale State 75:** In Thursday's Skyline semifinals, Matthew Graham had 17 points and George Riefenstahl had 16 points and 20 rebounds for top-seeded Farmingdale State (18-8) in its overtime loss to No. 4 Yeshiva.

**Stonehill 85, Adelphi 74:** In Friday's Northeast-10 first-round, Michael Coffey scored 20 points, and Terrel Martin-Garcia added 16 points and 10 rebounds in No. 5 Adelphi's (11-18) loss to No. 4 Stonehill.

**Molloy 83, Mercy 61:** Curtis Jenk-

ins had 24 points and 12 rebounds to lead Molloy (8-20, 7-11 ECC) on Saturday.

### MEN'S LACROSSE

**LIU Post 9, Adelphi 8:** Dylan Harned's second goal with 7:40 left in the third period was the winner in the season opener Saturday.

**Suffolk CCC 10, Essex CC 8:** Willie Petro had two goals and two assists in Suffolk's season-opener. Jon Vargas made 18 saves.

**Molloy 13, Walsh 4:** Kevin Pastier scored five goals for Molloy (1-2) in non-league. Jeff Hauser added two goals. Nick Del Giorno had three assists.

**Farmingdale State 22, Mitchell 1:** Conor McAvoy had three goals and two assists in Farmingdale's season opener. James Ragland added three goals.

### WOMEN'S LACROSSE

**LIU Post 16, Southern New Hampshire 7:** Brianna Feldman and Paige Sherlock each scored four goals, lifting LIU Post in its season opener. Feldman added two assists. Olivia Kirk made 16 saves.

**Scranton 17, Farmingdale State 3:** Julia Tuohey scored a goal for Farmingdale State in the season-opener.

SPORTS / COLLEGE / COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Alan McDonald stars off the bench to lead Old Westbury

By Newsday Staff

*January 6, 2018 7:01 PM*

Alan McDonald had 16 points and seven rebounds off the bench to lead Old Westbury to a 79-71 win over USMMA in a Skyline Conference men's basketball game Saturday afternoon.

McDonald hit a layup with 3:26 remaining to break a tie at 66 and scored five of Old Westbury's final 13 points. Yancy Ulysse added 12 points and eight rebounds for Old Westbury (4-7, 3-3).

## How this duo from Long Island ‘accidentally’ became luge pros

By Howie Kussoy

February 12, 2018 | 11:12pm | Updated



Justin Krewson and Matt Mortensen

Some Olympians don't have a choice, but a calling.

There are toddlers who learn to figure skate shortly after learning to talk. There are pre-schoolers who grow giddy watching slap shots. There are children who find ski lifts more thrilling than roller coasters.

Lugers Matt Mortensen and Justin Krewson will be among them in Pyeongchang, South Korea, each on one of Team USA's two doubles sleds. On Wednesday, they'll be racing at 90 mph or so in the most-anticipated moment of their lives, having made so many sacrifices and trained so many years for this opportunity to make two Olympic runs totaling less than two minutes.

Mortensen, 32, and Krewson, 21, are there by choice, but mostly, by chance; a pair of Long Islanders who stumbled into a sport they didn't know existed.

"[Even] with all the mountains on Long Island," Mortensen joked. "We looked it up in an encyclopedia because the Internet wasn't really kicking."

The old-school investigation began only because Mortensen's father, Jerry, worked for Verizon, a luge sponsor, and he'd learned the company was offering an introductory event at [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

The Huntington Station family attended, simply to throw a weekend curveball.

"We just did it as a fun Sunday," Matt's mother, Mary Mortensen, recalled. "And our journey began."

Krewson's father, Steve, just wanted Islanders tickets. He called into radio station WBAB, won the prize, and took his son to Nassau Coliseum. When the Eastport natives arrived to their luxury box, 2002 Olympic luger Adam Heidt of Long Island was also there, and encouraged the young boy to try the sport that changed his life.

"It's the butterfly effect," Steve Krewson said. "One thing that happens so far away ends up influencing events so far down the road."

More than two decades later, Matt Mortensen vividly remembers traveling down the paved hills of the Slider Search — a series of nationwide events in which young athletes are evaluated and the most qualified are invited to Lake Placid, home of USA Luge — steering down the yellow line and swerving in between the cones.

By the sixth grade, Mortensen's family was routinely packing their van and making the 12-hour round-trip drive from Suffolk County to upstate New York. He'd be away from his family from October through March, and split his time between home, the training complex and competitions across North America and Europe, receiving his school work from St. Dominic's HS via fax, because, well, the Internet wasn't really kicking.

"I had a suitcase that was just textbooks and notebooks, and I'd get back and take the tests, and I did it that way from sixth grade through 12th grade," Mortensen said. "To me, it all didn't seem like a big deal. I was an outgoing kid and I liked traveling and I liked being on my own. I was doing this thing that's letting me see the world for free and meeting all these new people, and that was awesome to me."

"We don't really have the same crazy winters on Long Island, so when I went up to Lake Placid for the first time, it really opened my eyes to winter sports, and I knew if I got really good at [luge], I might be able to get to the Olympics. When I was playing soccer or basketball or baseball, it never crossed my mind that I could be a professional athlete in that. I knew the chances were not there."

Krewson made his first run down Bald Hill in Farmingville, LI — and wanted it to be his last. The 10-year-old crashed, and cried, and asked to go home.

His mother, Regina, insisted he make at least one more run.

"This all probably wouldn't have happened if I don't say, 'Stop crying. Don't give up. We're not going home. Just finish it, because then you get a water bottle and a T-shirt at the end,'" Regina said. "The following year, he said he'd try it again, and it was amazing. They picked him to be on the developmental team. You just never know."

When you think you know, disappointment is only more devastating.

Mortensen fell just short of securing Team USA's final spot for the Vancouver Games in 2010 — he had also failed to qualify for the 2006 Torino Olympics — and began questioning the sacrifices he'd made.

"I was 24 and I was thinking: What am I doing with my life?" Mortensen said. "I really thought I was going to that Olympics. That was a life-changing moment for me. I was super depressed after that, and I was thinking about my options. I hadn't gone to college, and I didn't really have a future set up. If I stopped sliding, I could go and paint a house, and that's not the future I wanted."

"At that point, I've already put 11 years into this sport, and how much more am I gonna put into this before I start thinking about my future. It was a moment of self-realization that I needed to get my stuff together. I had to make a plan that if I stayed with the sport, I was gonna land on my feet when I'm done."

The Army addressed every concern.

Mortensen enlisted in February 2010, and joined the Army World Class Athlete Program, which allows athletes to compete in elite-level sports while serving in the military.

Joining him was his brother, Joseph, a former luger, who recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Matt's education was taken care of — he graduated from DeVry University in October — and he remains in the National Guard, keeping up with annual training, including combat and marksmanship.

Sgt. Mortensen — up for promotion to staff sergeant — successfully qualified for the 2014 Sochi Olympics, where he finished 14th in doubles with Preston Griffall. He will team with a different partner, Jayson Terdiman, in Pyeongchang.

"Honestly, if I didn't join the military, I wouldn't still be in [luge]," Mortensen said. "You grow up, you get bills, you go to school, you have to do these things. It was really tough, and it was a lot of work, but I knew where I wanted to be when this Olympics was over. I wanted to have my college degree, I wanted to have enough money to buy a house and I wanted to be able to walk away from this sport if that's how I felt after this Olympics, and so far, all those goals have been met."

"The last time around, I didn't really view myself as a medal contender, but my goal this time is definitely to bring home some hardware, which I think we're more than capable of."

Krewson will experience the dream for the first time. Signs in Eastport brag about it. People his parents haven't seen in years are sending their best, and classmates of his sister, Jessica, keep stopping her to share their disbelief.

Krewson is one of theirs, even if he hasn't lived there in years. Now living in Lake Placid, with hopes of more Olympic appearances, Krewson also thinks about what happens when the ride is over.

In June, he will begin a six-month welding program — he has already sold furniture he built, and worked as a server at Lake Placid Pub & Brewery to make extra money — and he is also a volunteer in the Lake Placid Fire Department, likening the calls' effect on him to the adrenaline high from luge.

"I wanted to give back to the community once I was settled," said Krewson, who is teaming with Andrew Sherk. "I have a real passion for firefighting, and I'd like to do it as a career one day. I've thought that since I was really young."

Chance presented this Olympic possibility. Choice — of dedication, of focus, of will — allowed it to be realized.

"We all made sacrifices, and he made more than anyone, but we always encouraged him to follow his dreams," Krewson's mom, Regina, said. "I would've liked to have him home until he was 18. It was hard to keep going up there, and it's expensive, but this is gonna be the ultimate validation, seeing him with Team USA, with the flag."

"It's gonna make me and everyone else cry."

## THE WORLD

0

# Meaningful Educational Experiences Abroad Are Gained Through the Gilman Scholarship

By Taras Kufel

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he opportunities at a global education are large at SUNY. More than 1,000 programs across all seven continents and more than 60 countries give students a chance to see the world and learn from it. As SUNY seeks to extend the benefits of global learning to all students, many SUNY students with demonstrated financial need have a tremendous opportunity to study abroad.

The U.S. Department of State has selected 23 students from 12 SUNY institutions to receive the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study or intern abroad during the Spring 2018 term. In the most recent round of awards, students from New Paltz led the way for SUNY with seven total awards. Approximately one in four New York State Gilman recipients is a SUNY student. A complete list of the SUNY recipients for 2018, including home campus and host country destination, is available below.

The late Congressman Gilman, for whom the scholarship is named, represented New York's 26th congressional district in the House of Representatives for 30 years and chaired the House Foreign Relations Committee. When honored with the Secretary of State's Distinguished Service Medal in 2002, he commented, "Living and learning in a vastly different environment of another nation not only exposes our students to alternate views, but adds an enriching social and cultural experience. It also provides our students with the opportunity to return home with a deeper understanding of their place in the world, encouraging them to be a contributor, rather than a spectator in the international community."

The campus of SUNY Orange County Community College, located in Middletown, NY – Gilman's hometown – is host to the Gilman Center for International Education. The Center is home to the college's growing Global Studies programs and serves as a fitting tribute to the late Congressman.

In her 2018 State of the University System address, Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson noted the large number of education abroad opportunities available to SUNY students and challenged the SUNY community to enroll greater numbers of students in these valuable, enlightening, international experiences. SUNY's vision of Global Learning for All, in fulfillment to its commitment to diversity and inclusion, is aligned with the goals and outcomes of the Gilman Scholarship as it broadens the student population that studies and interns abroad by supporting those who might not otherwise participate due to financial constraints. There is also an emphasis on placing students in countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study.

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 toward their study or internship abroad program costs with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas. Since the inception of the scholarship in 2001, over 89,000 applications have been received and over 25,000 scholarships have been awarded, enabling outstanding American students of diverse backgrounds the chance at meaningful educational experiences abroad.

The online system for Gilman scholarship applications is now open for students participating in credit-bearing study abroad and international internship programs during the summer 2018, fall 2018 and academic year 2018-2019 terms. All applications are due Tuesday, March 6, 2018 by 11:59pm (Central Time).

## Spring 2018 Awardees

### Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program

#### Old Westbury

Tyreek Dixon – South Korea