



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

MAY TO JUNE 2016

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SUNY College at Old Westbury

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SPORTS FINAL

Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER



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MOSTLY CLOUDY

CLASS OF 2016 SUNY Old Westbury

Advised to embrace challenges

Number of graduates

1,070 undergraduates and 96 graduate students.

Commencement speaker

Michael J. Dowling, president and CEO of Northwell Health, spoke of his poor, Irish upbringing and provided maxims for post-college success. He suggested that students continue their education and be willing to handle new responsibilities as they present themselves. He said: "Today is a step in the journey of life . . . You will be challenged, it is inevitable. Being defeated is optional."

Student speaker

Antoinette Metoyer, 21, of Brooklyn, who is receiving her bachelor of science in criminology and served as Student Government Association president, said: "As I've reviewed my tenure here, I've come to the conclusion that this school prepares students to fight against important societal issues such as inequality and unequal levels of power."



JOHNNY MILANO

Members of the Class of 2016 of SUNY Old Westbury listen to speakers at commencement.

Axel Padilla, 25, criminology



I met a lot of cool people and also improved my academic skills," Padilla, of Bellmore, said.

David Tavares, 29, criminology



Society has to be better. I'm going into law enforcement to try to do the right thing and help people," Tavares, of Freeport, said.

Joselyn Redrovan, 23, media/communication



The most important thing is the sense of community and amount of responsibility that comes from being in a school like this," Redrovan, of Roslyn, said.

Francy Rios, 21, media/communication



Being here, I learned that you find yourself. School is what you make of it. I found myself. I stayed as involved as possible," Bronx resident Rios said.

SUNY Old Westbury holds Convocation to Honor Excellence

OLAYEMI ODESANYA | 5/12/2016, 2:33 p.m.



SUNY Old Westbury President Dr. Calvin O. Butts and Brigette RileyWhite - John Butler c/o SUNY OldWestbury

The beautiful expansive campus of SUNY Old Westbury just held its annual Convocation to Honor

Excellence. Major academic honors were bestowed upon hardworking, deserving students as fellow students and family applauded their tremendous achievement. The event was held April 29, 2016.

To ensure continued success, this week Student Assembly President and SUNY Trustee Thomas D. Mastro gave support for the College in New York State: Affordability and Success Initiative.

“The Student Assembly applauds the Senate Democratic Conference on their 15point proposal to help reduce costs and improve success measures for those looking to pursue a college education,” said Mastro. “For too long, students have paid more and more without adequate support from New York State and local counties. Student loan debt outweighs credit card and auto loan debt combined, and is unable to be refinanced. Higher education, and SUNY in particular, should be as accessible as possible. We should help to provide the opportunity for people to build a better life for themselves and their families, without forcing them to take on exorbitant debt. Just as important are the critical steps being taken to improve the quality and success of higher education throughout the state. On behalf of the 465,000 students of the largest system of public higher education in the country, I want to thank leader Andrea StewartCousins and her colleagues for taking such a strong stand on these important issues.”

The Student Assembly of the State University of New York is an organization made up of student leaders elected by their peers from across SUNY’s 64 campuses. “Empowering students throughout the state, the SUNY SA is committed to student life and ensuring the representation of its members on the state and national level as well as throughout the SUNY system,” their statement notes.

Naval Reservist, Student-Entrepreneur Honored

Posted on June 10, 2016 by queenspress718 in notebook with 0 Comments

U.S. Navy Petty Officer Third Class Brigette Riley-White, a recent graduate of SUNY Old Westbury, has been recognized as the 2016 recipient of The President's Medal for Scholarship— the College's highest student honor.



Brigette Riley-White at her graduation from SUNY Old Westbury. Photo courtesy of SUNY Old Westbury.

“This is an honor won as a graduating senior, but it can only be earned through stellar efforts throughout a collegiate career at Old Westbury,” said College President Calvin O. Butts, III. “Ms. Riley-White’s academic and personal achievements are a true reflection of the values, mission and goals of a SUNY Old Westbury education.”

Riley-White graduated on May 22, 2016 with a Bachelor’s degree in Politics, Economics and Law after achieving Dean’s List in each of her semesters at the College. In addition to being a student, a parent, and a self-employed professional,

Riley-White is a decorated naval reservist. Her awards and accolades include the National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

A resident of Springfield Gardens, Riley-White enlisted in the Navy after obtaining her green card in 2011- the same year in which she started her tax preparation business, Ideal Document Solutions. During her free time, she has volunteered over 100 hours as a mentor for the Drug Education for Youth program, and has raised funds for the American Diabetic Association



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STEM Exposure At SUNY Old Westbury

Westbury High School students headed to the campus of SUNY Old Westbury last week as part of their ongoing participation in President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper initiative.

As part of their mission to advance the My Brother's Keeper initiative, SUNY Old Westbury and the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory held the Maintaining Momentum: From High School to College event at the College for more than 150 students from Westbury and beyond. The event followed up on a day of mentorship and engagement in science held at Brookhaven Lab last month, and provided an opportunity for the

students to meet faculty and student researchers, tour key campus facilities and learn about important programs available to support their future academic interests.

The participating students—most from economically challenged, diverse high schools on Long Island and New York City—were paired with college and career mentors to expose them to the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training, and encourage them to reach for their full potential. At the same time, the Brookhaven Lab and SUNY Old Westbury mentors' goal was to raise

see STEM on page 6



SUNY Old Westbury president Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, speaks to students from Westbury.



Westbury High School students check out a 3-D printer.

STEM from page 1

awareness and interest in studies in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

"It was imperative for us at the College to sustain the relationships we made with these young men and women at Brookhaven Lab during our first event to create the type of impactful partnership that My Brother's Keeper inspires," said SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, who provided the event's welcoming remarks. "It was an honor to have such eager minds on our campus learning from leaders in the STEM industries, and we hope to welcome them back as students in the years to come."

The day's program included tours of the SUNY Old Westbury campus, presentations from current student-researchers, and an overview of the College's Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), the state-funded initiative providing

services to historically underrepresented students interested in STEM and licensed professions. Old Westbury's award-winning CSTEP program provides participants with academic advising, research and internship opportunities, enrichment and developmental workshops, among other benefits.

My Brother's Keeper is a public-private initiative launched by President Obama in February 2014 to address persistent opportunity gaps faced by young men of color and to ensure that all young people can reach their full potential. Supported by the White House, several departments of government, and many foundations and corporations, this long-term program joins federal, state and local government agencies with businesses, educational institutions and foundations, who together are taking important steps to connect young people to mentors, support networks and the skills they need to succeed.

—Submitted by SUNY Old Westbury



Leo Capobianco

Long Island's biggest export is its students, as the joke goes, but the region has more than a dozen colleges and universities offering degrees in virtually every field of study.

From small specialty colleges to large research universities, there are plenty of options for students to stay local. Many of LI's colleges and universities have dorms that allow for students to transfer here from elsewhere. But matching a student with the right school can be a daunting task.

Here, with detailed descriptions and summaries of every Long Island college and university to make the decision easier...



SUNY Old Westbury

223 Store Hill Rd., Old Westbury. 516-876-3000. oldwestbury.edu

SUNY Old Westbury offers its students over 50 programs, which cover the humanities, sciences, math, social sciences, visual arts and more. The small liberal arts college sits in a scenic setting on 604 acres near scenic Nassau's North Shore. The school has almost 4,500 undergraduate students as of 2016. The university maintains an 18:1 student-to-faculty ratio coupled with small class sizes, making it easier for students to seek help with their school work. SUNY Old Westbury has an average acceptance rate of 62.4 percent.

SUNY Old Westbury is ranked by US News and World Report as a Tier 2 national liberal arts college. About 1,000 undergraduate students live in on-campus housing while the majority of students live off campus. SUNY Old Westbury participates in Division III collegiate athletics with 14 programs. Students are offered many social and academic organizations to join, including Greek life, intramural sports, ROTC programs, academic oriented clubs and many more.

Top NY education officials push for teacher training reforms

May 18, 2016 By Candice Ferrette candice.ferrette@newsday.com

Two of the state's top education officials announced a partnership Wednesday that would reform teacher training and address an anticipated shortage of those entering the profession in urban and rural areas. State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and State Education Department Commissioner MaryEllen Elia in Albany launched TeachNY, a campaign that aims to add diversity in recruiting new teachers, train them in the classroom before they start their jobs, invest in continuing professional development and create regional councils to ensure there are enough teachers to meet projected demand.

The initiative springs from the recommendations of a new 144 page report from a SUNY advisory panel made up of state and national experts. "I cannot overstate how critical it is that SED and SUNY share in this responsibility," Zimpher said. "When you see us both standing here, it is a signal to everyone in education that New York knows what it is up against, and we are ready to meet this challenge."



SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and New York's education commissioner launched TeachNY Wednesday, a partnership that aims to reform teacher training. (Credit: AP / Mike Groll)

The state needs to add 1,700 teachers a year — and nationally, a total of 1.6 million teachers — between 2012 to 2022, according to the report. Onequarter of the teachers in the state are trained by SUNY, Zimpher said.

"We need to make sure that teachers and the profession of teaching is elevated so that people want to become teachers and, that when they do become teachers, we all recognize the important role they play in our lives," Elia said.

The initiative and the report drew criticism Wednesday from the New York State United Teachers union and United University Professors, which represents 35,000 employees, mostly faculty members on 29 stateoperated SUNY campuses. Both unions had participated in early work on the report, but withdrew their names in protest.

"This report gives short shrift to the experience and voice of education professionals and repeats the failed topdown approach that wreaked such havoc on public education in New York State," said NYSUT President Karen E. Magee in the statement. The union leadership cites problems with the state's teacher certification exams and its impact on the shortage.

Leaders of several teacher training programs in Nassau and Suffolk colleges said many of the TeachNY recommendations are already in place as education schools redesign their programs.

"Many of the points would be excellent as long as we have the money to carry them out," said Nancy Brown, dean of SUNY Old Westbury's School of Education. "The potential is there for this to have farreaching and wonderful outcomes for the teaching profession."

Dorit Kaufman, director of the professional education program at Stony Brook University, applauded the report for addressing the need to add diversity in its recruitment of teachers and create more studentteaching experiences for those going into the profession. "It's a visionary report," she said.

Zimpher and Elia will next embark on a statewide listening tour that will include district schools, schools of education and other experts.

LONG ISLAND



Amid mourning, a milestone

Reeling from Orlando tragedy, LI's LGBT community marks one year since high court's marriage ruling

BY CAROL POLSKY
carol.polsky@newsday.com

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling one year ago today legalizing same-sex marriage was a milestone young people in Long Island's LGBT community said reassured them about their futures, and older members called a validation after years of secrecy and shame.

But the mass murder of mostly gay patrons at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando this month — and hundreds of anti-gay laws and legislation introduced this year across the nation — make clear the distance still to go toward acceptance and security, advocates say.

"I think what happened in Or-

lando is a stark reminder of the hate and bias that still exist," said David Kilmnick, founder and CEO of the LGBT Network, based in Woodbury. "Young people will share that there is plenty of homophobia and transphobia that still exist. . . . Real-world experience speaks volumes that no matter what laws are passed, that there is still a lot more work to do."

In the year since marriage equality was legalized nationally in a 5-4 court vote, North Carolina passed legislation barring transsexuals from public bathrooms that don't correspond to the gender on their birth certificates and banning localities from enacting LGBT anti-discrimination protections. Mississippi en-



Jonathan LaFlare, 27, and boyfriend Mike Susinno, 37, of Lindenhurst.

acted a similar law.

The response to the Orlando killings "has been heartening and in itself is a sign of progress [and] acceptance . . . but every day we see so much

discrimination, aggression and violence against the LGBT community," said Susan Sommer, director of constitutional litigation for Lambda Legal, the oldest national organization work-

ing for LGBT rights.

Carol Quirke, professor of American studies at SUNY Old Westbury and director of the college's Women's Center, said there is a persistent fear of violence and rejection in the LGBT community even though she has seen a significant drop in homophobia over the past 12 years of teaching.

"We're in a moment where both are true: marriage can be legal and people can still fear violence and are still incredibly anxious about coming out to their parents," she said.

'More possibility' today

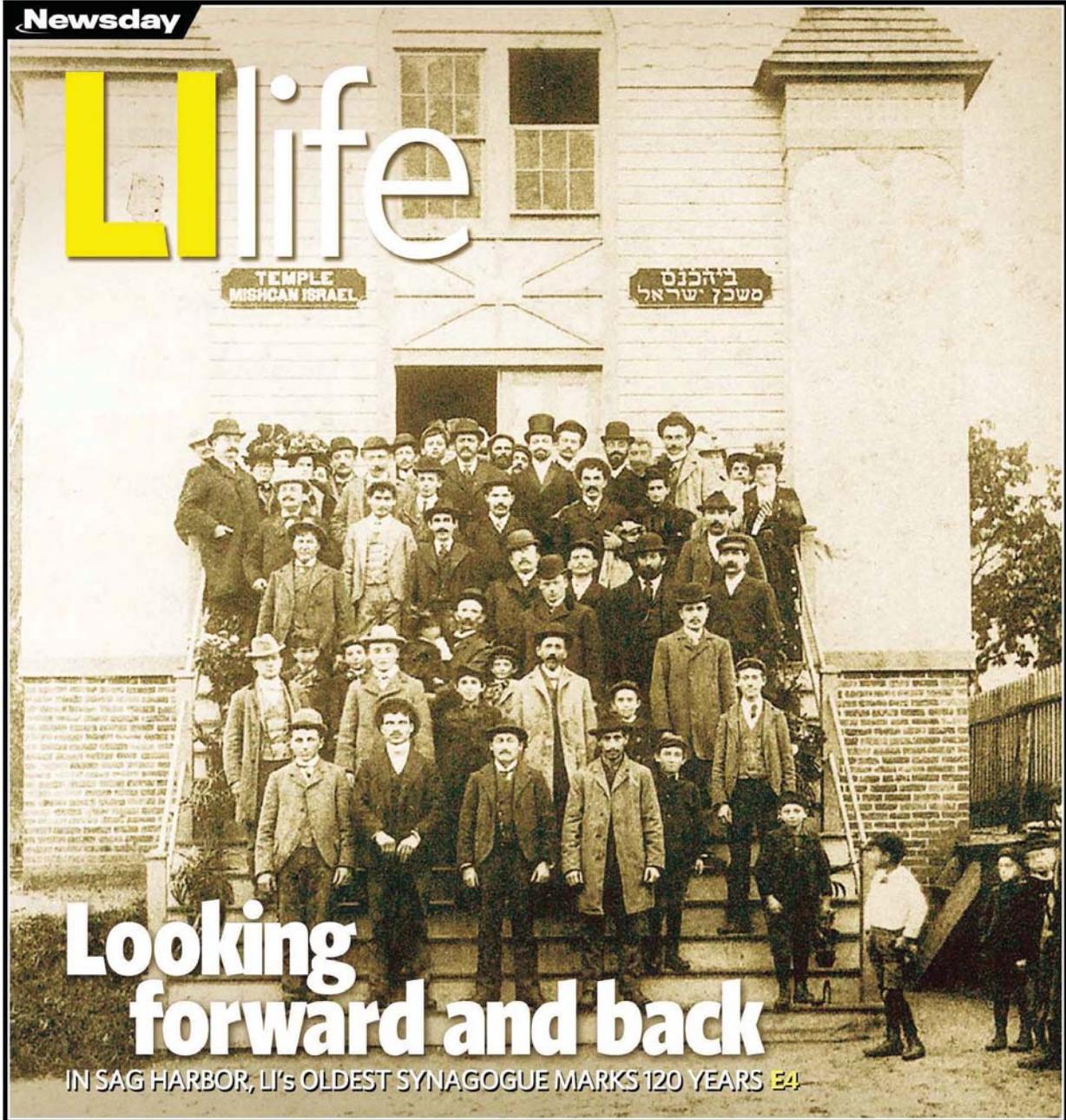
While there are those who critique marriage as an institution, federal recognition of "gay marriage was a huge coup for all those groups who brought this to fruition," said Mary Jo Bona, professor and chairwoman of women's, gender, and sexuality studies at Stony Brook University, noting the new freedom to explore gender and sexuality.

"It's clear that our students today feel that there is more possibility, that alternative choices are more acceptable," she said.

But "there is still a lot of shame and discomfort with sexual orientation . . . it's still an issue for people, and coming out is still a process."

Jon Cooper, a businessman and the first openly gay Suffolk County legislator, said the difference now from his boyhood — when he knew of no visibly gay people and had no gay role models — is enormous.

"It will be the same as a gay couple looking back to when they couldn't get married," he said, likening it to when mixed-race couples were legally forbidden to marry in some states. "They will be incredulous that there were days when it was like that."



TEMPLE ADAS ISRAEL

lighted prayer book stand believed to have been used on the *bimah* (a podium or platform) of a Sephardic synagogue in Spain more than 100 years ago. It is from the *bimah* that the Torah and Prophets are read.

Other items on display are tallit shawls, shofars (rams' horns) blown to signal a new year, a prayer book from 1900 and applications for U.S. citizenship dating to 1899.

'An unusual story'

Two years ago, Karl Grossman, a temple member and journalism professor at SUNY Old Westbury, made a documentary about the congregation, "The (Unusual) Jewish History of Sag Harbor."

The Brooklyn-born Grossman moved to Sag Harbor 42 years ago and has been active in the temple for 25 or 30 years, he said.

"I just thought it's such an unusual story . . . that Jewish people were accepted on the East End of Long Island," said Grossman, 74. "In my grandfather's day, a Jew couldn't

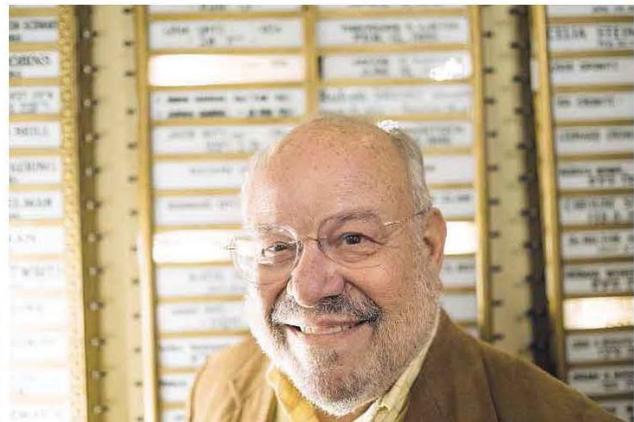
live in East Hampton or Southampton, but Sag Harbor welcomed the Jews."

Rabbi Daniel N. Geffen, who is 35 and has worked at the temple for two years, even brings a bit of history to the table. His great-grandfather Tobias Geffen was an Orthodox rabbi in Atlanta known for his 1935 decision certifying Coca-Cola as kosher.

Like others, Geffen spoke of the warmth that radiates from the congregation and noted how everyone welcomed him and his wife, LuAnne, with open arms.

The couple moved from Manhattan to Sag Harbor when Geffen became the temple's rabbi. "There was nothing but support to succeed," Geffen said.

Neal Fagin, 77, the temple's president, said Temple Adas Israel is special because "it's not your typical synagogue. People can come in jeans, come in shorts, come in sandals . . . they're all welcome. It's a small synagogue, but it's a community."



GORDON M. GRANT

Journalism professor Karl Grossman made a documentary about the congregation, "The (Unusual) Jewish History of Sag Harbor."



Photo: Flickr Beth PH (CC-BY-NC-ND)



How America Created A Third Wave Of Capitalism

May 27, 2016 - 7:00am

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As public benefits and social well-being continue to decline in favor of short-term profit and uncontrolled corporations, our guest argues both the Left and Right are deeply frustrated with it all. He explains how Americans paved the way for a new wave of capitalism and are now being impacted by the consequences of corporate dominance.

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Host(s):

John Munson

Guest(s):

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John Ehrenreich

Psychologist/Author

John Ehrenreich(ehr-ihn-RYK) is a Professor of Psychology at State University of New York, College at Old Westbury. He is also an author, who has published books on health policy, humanitarian policy, US history and US social policy. His most recent book is: "Third Wave Capitalism: How Money, Power, and the Pursuit of Self-Interest Have Imperiled the American Dream."

Related Websites:

John Ehrenreich

Biographical information last updated on May 26, 2016 - 1:03pm

Featured In

THE JOY CARDIN SHOW Fri, 05/27/2016 - 7:00am

How America Created A Third Wave Of Capitalism



Your Hands in the Soil: Tending the Garden of a Nation

William Rivers Pitt of Truthout: Gardening, like activism, is a worthwhile endeavor even if your bushels lay empty, because the effort yields its own rewards.

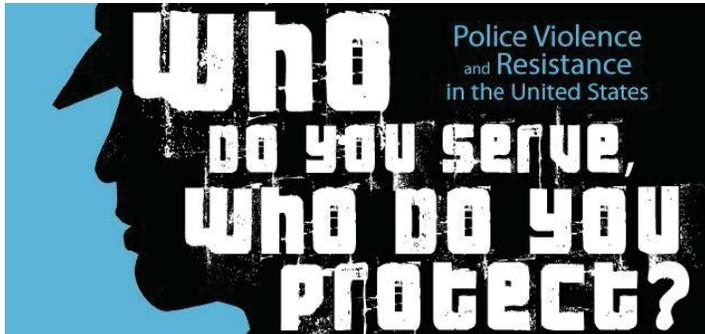
Continues to Rise: Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)

Muhammad Ali's life could be summed up in the statement "Freedom is always worth fighting for." His life as an athlete cannot be separated from his militancy.

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What's the Future of Resistance to Racist Police Violence?

Sunday, 12 June 2016 00:00 By Various Authors (/author/itemlist/user/46203), Truthout | Interview



Do police in the United States keep anyone safe and secure other than the very wealthy? How do history and global context explain recent police killings of young Black people in the US? And what alternative ways might there be to keep communities safe? These are the questions explored in Truthout's first print collection, *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect? Police Violence and Resistance in the United States*. Click here to order the book already hailed as "an invaluable resource" and "an indispensable primer" on the movement against police impunity. (https://org2.salsalabs.com/o/6694/t/17304/shop/item.jsp?storefront_KEY=661&t=&store_item_KEY=3272)

The authors in *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?* comprise a wide range of reporters, organizers, writers and thinkers. Below, we introduce you to just some of the book's contributors, and ask them to answer the question: What is the future of resistance against racist police violence in the United States?



Nicholas Powers is the author of *The Ground Below Zero: 9/11 to Burning Man, New Orleans to Darfur, Haiti to Occupy Wall Street* and an associate professor of English at **SUNY Old Westbury**. He authored the first chapter of our collection: "Killing the Future: The Theft of Black Life," which he says coalesces his years of reporting on police brutality. "I wrote about the deep, grief of parents whose children were killed by police. And the long history of violence against the Black body."

What's next? The future of resistance against racist policing must build on street protests and "copwatching" squads with electoral strategies. We need progressive politicians to end for-profit prisons, legalize drugs, enable community oversight of law enforcement, establish special prosecutors for cases of police brutality and demilitarize the police. Overall, we need a cultural push to change our narrative of crime so that the hyper-visibility of working class crime is reduced when seen in its proper proportion to the nearly invisible corporate and ruling class-perpetrated, institutional crime.

Looking Toward Commencement, Cal State Long Beach Celebrates Progress in Closing Achievement Gap

by KEELEY SMITH MAY 12 2016 15:08 in EDUCATION



One year after Cal State Long Beach (CSULB) graduated a record number of students, the university is celebrating another milestone: progress in closing their achievement gap, according to a report by The Education Trust, a DC-based nonprofit organization that promotes academic achievement for students at all levels.

The report, titled *Rising Tide II: Do Black Students Benefit as Grad Rates Increase?* examined 232 institutions with at least 30 full-time white students and 30 full-time black students that improved graduation rates between 2003 and 2013, according to the report summary. It found that CSULB narrowed the gap between black students and white students by 5.7 percentage points.

“Closing opportunity gaps is a university-wide priority, so the research by the Education Trust validates the hard work and dedication of our excellent faculty and staff to achieving this goal,” said CSULB President Jane Close Conoley in a statement. “I am proud of these measurable gains, but it is not time to rest on our laurels. CSULB is committed to eliminating all our students’ opportunity gaps.”

Long Beach was ranked 25th out of other public universities increasing graduation rates across the country at closing the achievement gap—just behind the University of Nevada-Reno (at 5.9 percent) and just above the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (5.6 percent).

The top five institutions closing the gap, according to the study, were:

1. San Diego State University (by 15.1 percent)
2. Armstrong Atlantic State University (by 14.1 percent)
3. East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania (13.6 percent)
4. California State University-Chico (12.5 percent)
5. SUNY College at Old Westbury (12.5 percent)

Andrew Nicholls, The Trust’s director for higher education, said the premise of the study was to see if schools that had seen an increase in the graduation rates of black students were actually closing the achievement gap. He said the study found that although schools have been graduating more students across the board, the achievement gap is actually widening.

“In one third of the schools we looked at, we actually saw a decline in the achievement gap,” he said. “Black students don’t always see an increase” in graduation rates, in comparison to white students.

He said schools like CSULB that are closing the achievement gap are likely more in touch with the unique needs of minority students, and have created programs aimed at addressing crucial elements of their education.

“There’s no ‘silver bullet’ intervention,” he said. “[...] Provosts have to see equity as a priority. They can’t just see it as a byproduct.”

One example Nicholls cited would be “pushing the best teachers in front of students when they need them the most.”

CSULB’s graduation will occur in a collection of 10 unique ceremonies on campus, scheduled for Tuesday through Friday, May 17 through 20.

Stepping Up

By Westbury Times Staff - June 30, 2016



Espoir Youth Program recently held their Stepping Up Ceremony. The afterschool program is designed to increase the educational opportunities given to students by providing them additional time to learn. Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth attended the event and spoke to the students, who were moving onto middle school, about the importance of education and congratulated them for their achievements while participating in the program. Dr. Calvin Butts, the president of SUNY Old Westbury, was the keynote speaker of the graduation ceremony.

SLEEP+WELLNESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH sleep number.

The #SleepRevolution College Tour Hits Over 300 College Campuses

© 05/18/2016 02:00 pm 14:00:41



When the #SleepRevolution College Tour launched in April, 50 college campuses signed on to host fairs, pajama parties and panel discussions to spark a national conversation about college sleep culture. Over the course of the tour, an additional 268 schools have joined the revolution. These schools are choosing to prioritize their students' health by planning sleep and wellness programming for this semester's stressful exam period and next semester's back-to-school rush.

Several universities planned relaxation nights and de-stress festivals, while others distributed copies of The Sleep Revolution and sleep-focused products during finals.

Below is the full list of schools receiving books and/or sleep products to support their sleep and wellness programming. If your school isn't on this list, you can still help bring the Sleep Revolution to your campus. Start a conversation with peers and faculty about promoting healthy sleep habits. We also invite all students to submit their sleep stories to blogteam@huffingtonpost.com.

256. SUNY Old Westbury



Three get leg up in wing eating contest

Thursday, June 9, 2016 1:02 pm

With the College Wing Eating Championships now completed at three Long Island colleges earlier this month, where students battled each other in an exciting and captivating throw-down to see who would represent their school at the Second Annual NY Best Wings Festival later this year, the three winners have finally been announced.

Molloy College's Anthony Pedriata, SUNY Old Westbury's Jose Gomez, and NYIT's Tobin George each came out on top, beating out their peers by eating 12 Buffalo Wings from Wing Zone the fastest, and will now advance to the main event going up against last year's champ from Molloy, Tom Malinowski.



SUNY Old Westbury's Jose Gomez.

Crowds descended upon the campuses at Molloy College April 9, SUNY Old Westbury May 3, and NYIT May 5 to watch Pedriata, Gomez, and George in an all out wing frenzy not for the faint of stomach.

Going up against some fierce trash talk and strategies from "the typewriter" to "wishboning," the three titans of chicken put their appetites to the ultimate test and will now advance to New York's wing mecca for a shot at the title and bragging rights if they're crowned this year's champs.

At the College Wing Eating Championship at the New York Best Wings Festival later this year, the winner of the final round will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Wing Zone, a special VIP ticket to the NY Best Wings Festival, a first place trophy for the school to showcase and honor their college champion, and an online feature at BestWingsLI.com and NYBestWingsFestival.com.

As they prepare for the final and ultimate challenge, these three College Wing Eating Champions are now left with the gratifying feeling of accomplishment as their road ahead leads to the 2nd Annual NY Best Wings Festival.

For More on Best Wings: Long Island and the NY Best Wings Festival, visit: <http://www.nybestwingsfestival.com/>

Long Island salutatorians 2016: Plainedge to Wyandanch

May 18, 2016 By Candice Ferrette candice.ferrette@newsday.com



KAELA KING,
ROOSEVELT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
Hometown: Roosevelt

GPA: 94.26

Activities: Smart Scholars Early College Program, SADD, student government vice president, National Honor Society secretary, band majorette, St. Paul's Episcopal Church outreach program, varsity cheerleader, track, basketball, dancer at LND Studio of the Arts

College and major: SUNY Old Westbury, biology

NASFAA Hosts College Finance Forum in NYC

By Brittany Hackett, Communications Staff

NASFAA on Wednesday hosted a Postsecondary Education Financing Forum in New York City, bringing together a diverse group of higher education economists, researchers, and practitioners to discuss policy issues surrounding financing higher education.

The forum, hosted at New York University in partnership with the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (EASFAA) and the New York Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NYSFAAA), included remarks from Martha Kanter, executive director of the College Promise Campaign and distinguished visiting professor of higher education and senior fellow at New York University.

Kanter discussed the rising popularity of “college promise” campaigns, noting that when she first began looking at the campaigns in 2014 there were only about 50 identified programs around the country. “Now there are about 130 programs and pretty much a new one every day,” Kanter said, adding that more focus needs to be placed on the financial sustainability of such programs.

During the first of the three panel discussions at the forum, David Lucca of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and Dr. Bob Archibald of the College of William and Mary discussed whether increases in federal student aid lead to increases in tuition – an idea also known as the “Bennett Hypothesis.” Lucca -- speaking as a researcher, and not a representative of the NY Fed -- said that while his research has shown that tuition sticker prices increased with different types of federal aid, other factors might lessen that sensitivity. Meanwhile, Archibald noted higher education is a unique market, and facets of that, such as a highly educated workforce and the utilization of technology for education versus productivity, can all contribute to rising costs.

During another panel, participants discussed policy solutions to counteract increasing levels of student borrowing and indebtedness, with suggestions ranging from standardizing cost of attendance to simplifying student loan repayment options.

Marc Jerome, executive vice president of Monroe College, said that policies regarding cost of attendance have strayed from their original intent and “encourage confusion and overborrowing” among students, especially low-income and nontraditional students. Jerome made several suggestions for ways to change the approach to cost of attendance, including refining annual loan limits to reflect credential status and the associated expected earnings, and prorating student loans for part-time enrollment. He also suggested “revisiting the wisdom” of allowing parents with no credit or weak credit to borrow up to the cost of attendance and ensuring that money borrowed is going to educational costs.

The forum concluded with a panel comprised of financial aid administrators who shared their experiences of implementing financial literacy strategies on their campuses. Jim Triboli, director of financial aid at Niagara County Community College, said that while many view student loan default rates as a financial aid problem, it is actually an institution problem that needs to be addressed across campus. In an effort to reduce his school’s default rates, Triboli said he hired a student loan clerk who is responsible for reaching out to defaulted borrowers to offer support and assistance, a move that he said has been very successful.

Tom Kokis, director of financial literacy at Berkeley College, described several strategies he uses to teach financial literacy to his students, which include hosting discussions during orientation, providing his students with an annual loan statements, and requiring loan counseling for all graduating students who have borrowed. Another panelist, Mildred O’Keefe, director of financial aid at SUNY College at Old Westbury, spoke about the importance of having all campus offices participate in financial literacy efforts and shared some strategies for engaging students in the discussions.

Principal Honor Highlights Excellence

May 25, 2016

Celebrating its 50th anniversary with a gala event at the Crest Hollow Country Club earlier this month, SUNY Old Westbury chose one alumnus from each of its five decades to “pay tribute to 50 alumni for their professional accomplishments, commitment to service and humanitarianism.”

Oyster Bay High School Principal, Dr. Dennis O’Hara, was chosen as the alumnus of the year from the Class of 1992.

About O’Hara, the program for the event read, “O’Hara is now in his 13th year as the principal of Oyster Bay High School. Prior to Oyster Bay High School and throughout his 25-year career, he has served as assistant principal, science department chairman, classroom teacher, class and club advisor and adjunct professor.

“Dr. O’Hara states that his goal each day is to change people’s life trajectories, especially those of his students. For his efforts, he has in recent years earned such honors as the Regional Administrator of the Year from the Empire State Supervisors and Administrators Association; High School Administrator of the Year by the Council of Administrators and Supervisors; The William U. Harris Award of Excellence by the College Board; and the SUNY Old Westbury Alumnus of the Year award,” read the event program.

“He maintains an active relationship with the college, partnering with the School of Education on programmatic offerings both on campus and in Oyster Bay,” the biography continued. “In addition to his Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences at Old Westbury, he earned a Master of Science from Stony Brook University, a professional diploma in Educational Leadership and Administration from Dowling College and a doctorate in Educational and Organizational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania.”

O’Hara’s honor is compounded by being published in the Journal for Leadership and Instruction, a SCOPE Education Services Research publication with an article that he co-wrote with Carolyn Probst. Also, O’Hara just got news that The Washington Post has selected Oyster Bay High School as one of the “America’s Most Challenging High Schools.” According to the report, Oyster Bay High School was ranked 429 out of the nearly 22,000 high schools in the country, placing the school in the top 2 percent. The high school also ranked no. 30 in New York state.

There are many factors that contribute to this rise in students challenging themselves and taking advantage of the excellence education available to them in Oyster Bay-East Norwich. Not the least of which is the tone of rigor, relevance and relationships established by the administration.

“We here in Oyster Bay have adopted a growth mindset,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laura Seinfeld. “We believe that intelligence can be developed through hard work, effort, grit, passion, determination and expert instruction. A growth mindset may sound like this: We believe in your potential and we are committed to helping everyone get smarter. We value and praise taking on challenges, exerting effort and surmounting obstacles more than we value and praise natural talent and easy success. School is not a place that judges you. It is a place where people help your brain grow new connections. I ask for your support in making sure our students and all learners hear similar messages so that they can continue to grow and become smarter through hard work and determination.”

Another contributing factor is the correlation between the implementation of the College Awareness Program and the jump in the number of students taking more rigorous course loads. The first eighth-grade college tour was taken in 2009 and the first 10th-grade college tour was taken in 2010. Students returned from those trips inspired to build transcripts worthy of the colleges and universities that they saw first-hand. Since those annual trips implemented by principal O’Hara were started, the number of AP exams given has almost doubled.

O’Hara and his cohorts, Merrick Avenue Middle School principal Taryn Johnson and Westhampton Beach High School assistant principal Carolyn Probst, have been asked to speak at state-wide and nationwide conferences.

—Submitted by Tom Gould

DR. O’HARA TO LEAD DISTRICT

HAUPPAUGE SCHOOL DISTRICT APPOINTS DR. DENNIS O’HARA TO SERVE A SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

By CAMILLE S. KOOREY (Star Patcher) - June 1, 2016 9:56 am ET

The Hauppauge School District Board of Education yesterday appointed Dr. Dennis P. O’Hara to serve as superintendent of schools effective July 1, 2016.

O’Hara will replace Neil Lederer who has served with strong and experienced leadership as the District’s interim superintendent of schools since January 2016.

“Dr. O’Hara was chosen from a highly qualified field of impressive candidates,” stated David Barshay, Esq., Hauppauge Board of Education president. “We commend the comprehensive efforts of the Superintendent’s Search Committee, which was comprised of District administrators, teachers, parents and Board members. We thank them for their service and believe that we could not have selected a better candidate for our District’s new superintendent of schools.”



Dr. Dennis P. O’Hara

A resident of Farmingville, New York, O’Hara brings a wealth of teaching and administrative experience and leadership skills to the Hauppauge School District – from both the secondary education and the collegiate levels. He most recently served as principal of Oyster Bay High School and as an adjunct professor at St. John’s University, School of Education. He also previously was a member of the Hauppauge School District community – serving as Hauppauge High School assistant principal and as Science Department chairman – from 1998 to 2003.

According to O’Hara, the people of the Hauppauge School District community changed his life. “From my first day in the District in July of 1998, my learning and career took on a new, and neverbefore imagined, trajectory,” he stated. “Eighteen years later, I feel prepared for this leadership opportunity, and I am eager to return to Hauppauge to repay a debt of gratitude and to give back to the community that has had a profound effect on my career and life.”

O’Hara received a Doctor of Education from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, a Professional Diploma in Educational Administration from Dowling College School of Education, a Master of Science in Technological Systems Management from SUNY at Stony Brook School of Engineering, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Secondary Education from SUNY College at Old Westbury. He has received numerous professional awards and recognitions, published several articles in educational publications, presented on a variety of educational topics nationwide and serves on a number of professional organizations.

“We know that Dr. O’Hara’s skill set, combined with his unique knowledge of our District and community culture, will enable our students to reach new heights of achievement and open wide postsecondary doors of opportunity,” stated Barshay. “We welcome Dr. O’Hara back home and are pleased to partner with him on our collective mission to develop a strong synergy that will make Hauppauge School District stand out among the best schools in the nation.”

Mercy Home for Children’s executive director is fulfilled in her work

Sr. Camille D’Arienzo | May. 24, 2016

Janice Aris, executive director of Mercy Home for Children

Lives in: Queens, N.Y.



Sr. Camille D’Arienzo: Janice, you recently assumed the position of Mercy Home for Children’s new executive director, the first layperson to hold that role. Please describe the mission of Mercy Home.

Aris: Mercy Home is dedicated to serving persons with developmental disabilities. This dedication is grounded in the belief that as members of the family of God, all people have the right to a life with dignity and purpose; all people have the right to an education which will help them to develop their potential to the fullest; and all people have a need to be loved and to love.

What has prepared you for this work?

I’ve had over thirty years’ experience in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities. During those years, I’ve worked with many wonderful and knowledgeable people who have served as mentors and coaches during my career while working in various positions which include recreation therapist, program manager, quality assurance coordinator, and lastly vice president at Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens.

What are your academic credentials?

I received my bachelor’s degree in psychology from SUNY/Old Westbury. I hold two master’s degrees in social sciences and social work, and an advanced master of public administration certificate in not-for-profit management from Long Island University. I also completed a Strell Fellowship in executive leadership from CUNY/Hunter College.

What inspired what has been described as your lifelong passion for assisting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities?

It started when I was a teen member for “Sing out Queens” which ministered to developmentally disabled children through song in residential campus settings. This experience convinced me to choose a career in human services and helped prepare me for a variety of positions.

What did you do at Catholic Charities?

I served as the vice president for the agency’s developmental disabilities portfolio. At Charities, I assisted the organization in expanding its day habilitation and Medicaid service coordination programs. I spearheaded a partnership between Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State and Catholic Charities via a management service agreement.

You’ve certainly made a difference in the workplace. What engages your efforts in your free time?

I’m an active member of my local and parish communities. I’m a key member of the religious boutique and the parish council as a part of my St. Pius X parish in Rosedale.

How and with whom do you pray?

Passionately, sincerely and frequently as possible. I pray with and for family, friends and colleagues.

Do you have a favorite Scripture passage?

Psalms 113: 1-3. This Scripture was recently brought to my attention. This psalm shares what we should do, who should do it, how we should do it and when we should do it. I love it so.

Please tell us about your family life and how you juggle responsibilities for home and work?

Serving others is sometimes difficult because you make many personal sacrifices. However, I am fulfilled in my work and my family knows that in doing this work, I am at my best. I am married and the parent of two wonderful young adult children.

How do you relax?

I don’t know that I relax, but I enjoy reading and listening to music.

Is there anything else you’d like us to know?

The individuals and staff of Mercy Home along with the Sisters of Mercy have made me feel so welcome. The love and warmth I receive is pure, honest and genuine.

Concert Pays Tribute To Veterans

By Glen Cove Record - June 29, 2016

Glen Cove's veterans' organizations will be the guests of honor when The Patriot Brass Ensemble kicks off the 2016 Downtown Sounds Concert Series at the Glen Cove Village Square Plaza on July 1 at 7:30 p.m. The Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District (B.I.D.) and the City of Glen Cove have partnered together to produce Downtown Sounds 2016. The Patriot Brass Ensemble (PBE) is a nonprofit corporation that provides musical tributes to veterans across the nation. Unhappy about the quality of music at his town's Memorial Day ceremony, Steven Behnke secured funding to construct an ensemble and his efforts were well received from the start.



The Patriot Brass Ensemble kicks off the 2016 Downtown Sounds Concert Series at the Glen Cove Village Square Plaza on July 1 at 7:30 p.m.

“We had veterans telling us how much it meant to them to have live music,” said Behnke. “That feeling was amazing.” Buoyed by the response, The PBE became Behnke's life work and the group experienced remarkable growth over the next five years. In 2010, they became a fulltime charity that has performed more than 150 concerts per year ever since. During their performances, they honor veterans with their music; however, more importantly, all proceeds from their events are donated to local veteran groups. Indeed, PBE events have supported organizations including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War, AMVETS and The Elks Army of Hope Fundraiser.

The PBE has performed at a special concert at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center before it was relocated. The ensemble has also received national attention when they performed on “Fox and Friends” in 2011. With this in mind, the Downtown Sounds Committee is honored to add Glen Cove to the list of places where this band has saluted veterans and invites all local veterans' groups to participate in this monumental event.

Presenting sponsors for Downtown Sounds 2016 are the City of Glen Cove, Bethpage Federal Credit Union and Garvies Point. Other sponsors include Northwell Health Glen Cove Hospital, Kimco Realty, American Paving & Masonry Corp., Bridge Marine, The Downtown Café, Glen Cove Volvo and The Glen Cove Printery. Media partner is The SUNY College at Old Westbury, OWWR Old Westbury Web Radio and OWTV Old Westbury Television. Host Joe Manfredi will be streaming the concerts live on www.ustream.tv, keyword OWWR.

Free parking for Downtown Sounds is available nearby. Rain location is the Wunsch Arts Center at Robert M. Finley Middle School on Forest Avenue. For more information, call the Glen Cove BID, 5167596570 or visit www.glencovedowntown.org or www.downtownsoundslive.org.