

THE COLLEGE AT
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STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

“IN THE NEWS”

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The office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY College at Old Westbury

The New York Times

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N.Y. / REGION | ARTS | LONG ISLAND

Perceptions of Beauty, and Their Cost

By AILEEN JACOBSON

A dress stretched so tightly on a rack that it could not fit even the skinniest of women is the first piece a visitor is likely to spot upon entering the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery at State University of New York College at Old Westbury. Called “Thinner Than You,” it is one of the works in an art exhibition, “Body Conscious,” that explores women’s concerns about their size and weight, including dieting, obesity and eating disorders.

“I think it is a really important, necessary topic,” said Emily L. Newman, 31, the curator of the exhibition, speaking on the phone from her home in Texas, where she is an assistant professor of art history at Texas A&M University-Commerce. “I want it to be provocative. I want it to be unsettling and in your face, a look at what we are doing to our young women.”



An image from “Thirty-Two Kilos,” a Photoshopped series by Ivonne Thein.

Credit Courtesy of Ivonne Thein

The exhibition, which encompasses 22 pieces by nine artists, grew out of Dr. Newman’s doctoral thesis. She earned her Ph.D. in 2012 from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. For her thesis, she said, she started with an interest in “the media perception of body image” and thought, “Why not look at the way artists look at it?”

She found many examples. “In the 1960s, with the rise of the women’s liberation movement, it became more acceptable to address these issues in public,” she said. She didn’t think about an exhibition, however, until she had lunch in Texas with Hyewon Yi, the director of the Wallace gallery, during the summer of 2013. They knew each other from graduate school.

Dr. Yi, 39, said she knew about her colleague’s thesis topic and pressed for more details. “I had an idea of how great it would be to turn this dissertation research project into an exhibition, which the student body and larger audiences would like,” she said on the phone from South Korea, where she was traveling last month. The images are accessible, Dr. Yi said, and the issues compelling.

Jerimah Kelliehan, a visual arts major at Old Westbury who is an intern at the gallery, agreed. “It’s something a lot of women can relate to,” she said. “Society has a perception of beauty, and a lot of people are struggling with it.”

The piece she likes best, she said, is a series of photographs titled “Thirty-Two Kilos,” on a lower level of the gallery. The six large-scale prints show painfully slender women — their images Photoshopped to look as if they weighed 32 kilos, or around 70 pounds — in the kinds of absurdly angular poses that fashion models sometimes use. Though Ms. Kelliehan knew from a brochure available at the gallery that the images were computer-manipulated by the artist, Ivonne Thein, to make the women look even thinner than in real life, the pictures still evoked for her the relationship among fashion, body weight and the

low self-esteem that is shared by many of her friends, she said. The women's clothes, Dr. Newman noted in the brochure, are made of bandages, accentuating the unhealthiness of their slight figures.

Another medical theme emerges in "Trophies," a 1995 piece by Beth B, a New York artist and filmmaker. This one shows two rib cages, made with wax, inside a starkly lit display case. The rib cages look like specimens in a natural-history museum, Dr. Newman said in an interview, and show how women altered their bodies by wearing corsets. "We're doing the same thing today," she said. "But today we don't call them corsets. We call them Spanx."

She said that she found "Thinner Than You," made in 1990 by Maureen Connor of net stretched over a dress rack, "really powerful."

"It forces you to think about when is enough," she added. "We're always trying to be thinner than the next person."

Dr. Newman said she likes that Ms. Thein's photographs of the extremely thin women can be seen behind the sculpture, even though they are on a lower level, reachable via a ramp.

"No Way Out," another sculpture by Ms. Connor, is also on that lower level. This one, made of a net bodysuit stretched over a stainless armature with rubber straps, displays a more extreme posture, barely discernible as human. "In the '90s, women wore bodysuits made of lingerie, trying to be sexy," Dr. Newman said. "But this one is so stretched out it is about to break. I like that tension."

Another artist who also has two pieces shown on different gallery levels is Laia Abril. Ms. Abril shot "A Bad Day," a 2011 video of a bulimic woman who talked about vomiting (and cutting herself), and also made "Thinspiration Fanzine," a compilation of images from websites that promote anorexia, called "pro-ana." Visitors can leaf through the 46 pages of the "fanzine," printed in 2012 in an edition of 500, to see close-ups of skeletal bodies and phrases like "If you are not thin you are not attractive" and "I like to tell myself I'm allergic to food."

Nearby is another artwork filled with both images and text, only these words are more considered. Faith Ringgold, well-known for her story quilts, tells about losing 100 pounds, regaining them, and then trying to lose 30 again, in "Change 2: Faith Ringgold's Over 100 Pound Weight Loss Performance Story Quilt," from 1988. It is part of a series, Dr. Newman said, in which "she really addresses dieting and how painful and frustrating it is, how our bodies don't want to do what we want them to."



A photograph by Ariane Lopez-Huici conjuring zaftig pride.
Credit Courtesy of Ariane Lopez-Huici

Like the other pieces in the exhibition, Dr. Newman said, Ms. Ringgold's story quilt is on loan — in this case, from Ms. Ringgold's gallery, ACA Galleries in New York. In general, she said, "This is not the kind of artwork that sells." Toward the end of her narrative, Ms. Ringgold repeats the word "tomorrow" three times, then adds, "I'll lose it tomorrow."

"Ideal Individual," a complex video, takes up an entire wall of the gallery's lowest level. It comes from a project lasting from 1999 to 2001 in which Liesbeth and Angelique Raeven, twins from the Netherlands who go by the name L.A. Raeven, auditioned dozens of women after posting advertisements saying they sought characteristics like "unusual food and drink habits," "loss of hair" and "infantile appearance." (A related film will be shown on March 26.)

Though most of the art is about women trying to be thin, two groups of photographs, both taken by Ariane Lopez-Huici (who will speak at the gallery on April 2), show nude women who are obese — and appear to take pride in their size. "They take credit for their bodies, with a sense of confidence," Dr. Newman said.

If the exhibition has the effect she wants, said Ms. Newman (who will give a lecture at the gallery on April 10), it "can open a lot of doors for discussion and, hopefully, healing."

"Body Conscious" continues through April 10 at the Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, Campus Center, SUNY College at Old Westbury, Route 107, noon to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and by appointment. Information: (516) 876-2709 or oldwestbury.edu.

Roslyn Times

Old Westbury senior earns SUNY honor

BY BILL SAN ANTONIO

Four years ago, Susan Ramirez brought with her to SUNY Old Westbury a childhood dream to help cure cancer.

But her studies have taken her further than the biology labs and conference stages she's graced or the medical journals that will soon house her research.

The Brentwood native has been named a recipient of this year's SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence, which recognizes academic and extracurricular achievements.

"I was very surprised," Ramirez said. "I was up against some very talented and super smart students, and of course I was very grateful and blessed to win an award like that."

Ramirez was one of 274 students throughout the SUNY system to receive the award, which was created in 1997.

Students are nominated for the honor by faculty and administrators at their schools and put through several rounds of screening before final recommendations are made to the chancellor.

"Students honored with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence truly embody the power of SUNY," said Nancy L. Zimpher, chancellor of the



Susan Ramirez (center) receives her award from SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher (left) while SUNY Old Westbury Provost Patrick O'Sullivan looks on.

SUNY schools. "As proven leaders and role models, scholar athletes, creative artists and civic volunteers, each student is recognized not just for academic achievement, but also for the profound impact they have on college campuses and local communities across New York State."

Ramirez said she did not know anything about the award until she was nominated for it by Manya Dhar-Mascareno, an Old Westbury professor and researcher.

After taking Dhar-Mascareno's cancer cell biology class, Ramirez began working for her as a research assistant to test the reactions of prostate cancer cells to varying concentrations of the protein Hexim1.

"I've always felt deep compassion for people, especially when they're hurting, and helping people understand what happens with cancer or avoid or cure cancer has always been a dream for me," Ramirez said.

Ramirez has so far presented her findings at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students and has co-authored a paper for inclusion in the journal *Molecular Cancer Research*.

"To me, making a dent in the field is pretty exciting," she said.

Ramirez, who graduates in May, plans to take a year off from school to prepare applications for medical school in hopes of becoming a pediatrician.

After commencement, Ramirez said she'd like to attend a two-week missionary trip with her church, Smithtown Gospel Tabernacle, to either Nigeria or Guyana.

"Hopefully, I'll be able to practice medicine abroad someday," she said.

Ramirez said she has her sights set on a Christian ministry based in Uganda called Watoto, which provides medical and educational services for children.

"They take in children who've been abandoned or whose parents have died of HIV or have been recruited to war. They're given a home and the opportunity to become professionals or advance further and help their country," she said. "That's my dream."

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SUNY College at Old Westbury Bio Major Earns 2014 SUNY Chancellor's Award

Published: April 15 2014

Nearly 500,000 students attend SUNY schools. Only 274 earned the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. Old Westbury's Susan Ramirez was one of them.

Old Westbury, NY - April 15, 2014 - Susan Ramirez, a senior at SUNY College at Old Westbury, was one of only 274 students across the state recently honored by SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher with the 2014 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence.

A resident of [Brentwood](#), New York, Ramirez studies as part of the Honors College at Old Westbury and will graduate this May with a degree in Biological Sciences.

"Students honored with the Chancellor's Award for Excellence truly embody the power of SUNY," said Chancellor Zimpher. "As proven leaders and role models, scholar athletes, creative artists, and civic volunteers, each student is recognized not just for academic achievement, but also for the profound impact they have on college campuses and local communities across New York State."



In addition to being a high-achiever academically, Ramirez has demonstrated leadership and involvement both on and off campus. Having actively conducted research alongside faculty member Manya Dhar-Mascareno into signaling indicators that may serve as early alerts for those with prostate cancer, Ramirez has presented her findings at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students and is a co-author on a paper being prepared for inclusion in the journal *Molecular Cancer Research*.

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence was created in 1997 to recognize students who have best demonstrated, and have been recognized for, the integration of academic excellence with accomplishments in the areas of leadership, athletics, community service, creative and performing arts, campus involvement, or career achievement.

Each year, campus presidents establish a selection committee, which reviews exemplary students. Nominees are then forwarded to the Chancellor's Office and are subject to a second round of review. Finalists are then recommended to the Chancellor to become recipients of the award. Each recipient receives a framed certificate and medallion, which is traditionally worn at commencement.

<http://www.longisland.com/news/04-17-14/suny-old-westbury-student-earns-chancellors-award.html>

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Old Westbury senior earns SUNY Honor



Susan Ramirez (center) receives her award from SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher (left) while SUNY Old Westbury Provost Patrick O'Sullivan looks on.

Posted: Thursday, April 17, 2014 1:58 pm

By **Bill San Antonio** | [0 comments](#)

Four years ago, Susan Ramirez brought with her to SUNY Old Westbury a childhood dream to help cure cancer.

But her studies have taken her further than the biology labs and conference stages she's graced or the medical journals that will soon house her research.

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Students are nominated for the honor by faculty and administrators at their schools and put through several rounds of screening before final recommendations are made to the chancellor.

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Ramirez said she did not know anything about the award until she was nominated for it by Manya Dhar-Mascareno, an Old Westbury professor and researcher.

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After commencement, Ramirez said she'd like to attend a two-week missionary trip with her church, Smithtown Gospel Tabernacle, to either Nigeria or Guyana.

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Ramirez said she has her sights set on a Christian ministry based in Uganda called Watoto, which provides medical and educational services for children.

"They take in children who've been abandoned or whose parents have died of HIV or have been recruited to war. They're given a home and the opportunity to become professionals or advance further and help their country," she said. "That's my dream."

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Four SUNY College at Old Westbury Students Earn Statewide Honors at CSTEP Conference

Eight student researchers from SUNY College at Old Westbury participated recently in the 22nd annual New York State Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program Conference, ...

Old Westbury, NY - April 18, 2014 - Eight student researchers from SUNY College at Old Westbury participated recently in the 22nd annual New York State Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program Conference, and four left the conference having earned awards and recognition for their efforts.

"The success of these students is quite an accomplishment and stands as further evidence of the strength of Old Westbury as it relates to teaching and research," said College President Calvin O. Butts, III.

Old Westbury's students were among the more than 600 students and staff associated with CSTEP at more than 50 colleges and universities across New York State who gathered recently in Bolton Landing, New York, for the conference.



In addition to presenting their own research, students participating in the conference had the opportunity to network with fellow CSTEP researchers, participate in professional and career development workshops, and listen to prominent speakers from various CSTEP targeted fields.

Highlighting the event is the annual awards banquet, where CSTEP researchers in the categories of Natural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, and Technology and Human Services celebrate the accomplishments of the student presenters.

Susan Ramirez, a senior biological sciences major from [Brentwood](#), New York, won first place in the cell biology category for her research titled "Hexim-1 Protein Expression Modulates Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) During Prostate Cancer: A Novel Mechanism Metastasis."

Senior Prince Yearwood, a biological sciences major from Brooklyn, New York, took first place in the Environmental Science category for his research, titled "Are we slowly dying: The Effects of Bisphenol-A and 4-Nonylphenol in the Progression of Alzheimer's Disease." In the same category, senior biological sciences major Maurice Chandon, of North [Baldwin](#), New York, was awarded honorable mention for his project, "Elucidating the protective effect of Phenylmercaptoacetamide (PMA) to AS (V) toxicity in *Caenorhabditis elegans*."

Chemistry major Monique Louis, a junior from Springfield Gardens, earned first place in the Chemistry II category for her research, titled "6-Thioguanine: A Potential Endogenous Oxidant via Excitation-Oxidation-Reduction Cycles."

Other CSTEP students who presented their research included Treasure Allen of Brooklyn, New York, Cassandra Castma of [Westbury](#), New York, Eric Doucet of [Deer Park](#), New York, and Laesha Jean-Louis of Westbury, New York.

The Collegiate Science & Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), funded by the New York State Department of Education, is a program geared towards increasing the number of underrepresented students in the fields of science, technology and the licensed professions.

The Sag Harbor Express

Since 1859

MARCH 13, 2014

Grossman Named to Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame

Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter who lives in Noyac, has been named to the inaugural class of inductees to the new Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

Mr. Grossman, who is also a professor of journalism in the Media and Communications program at SUNY College at Old Westbury, will be inducted into the hall of fame at the **Press Club of Long Island's** media awards dinner on June 5 at the Woodbury Country Club. The Press Club of Long Island, the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, created the hall of fame to recognize trailblazing journalists, past and present.

Mr. Grossman joins 23 inductees, including Walt Whitman. Mr. Grossman earned an automatic induction as a past winner of the **Press Club of Long Island's Outstanding Long Island Journalist Award**.

Mr. Grossman has been a professor at Old Westbury, where he teaches investigative reporting, for nearly 35 years, and has

specialized in reporting on issues related to the environment and nuclear technology. He is also the author of books including, **“Cover Up: What You Are Not Supposed To Know About Nuclear Power,” “Power Crazy,”** and **“The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet.”**

Mr. Grossman also hosts the television program, **“Enviro Close-Up,”** and has written and narrated television documentaries including

“Three Mile Island Revisited,” “Nukes in Space,” and **“The Push to Revive Nuclear Power.”**

Mr. Grossman writes a column, Suffolk Close-Up, which appears in *The Sag Harbor Express*.



CAREERS & EDUCATION

Media Prof Earns Place In Journalism Hall Of Fame

BY ANTON NEWS STAFF

EDITORIAL@ANTONNEWS.COM

Karl Grossman, professor of journalism in the Media & Communications program at SUNY College at Old



Karl Grossman

Westbury, has been named a member of the inaugural class of inductees to the new Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame. The Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame, founded to recognize trailblazing journalists of the past and present, is being created by the Press Club of Long Island (PCLI).

Westbury, has been named a member of the inaugural class of inductees to the new Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame. The Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame, founded to recognize

“Delving into the nooks and crannies of American life, politics, and relationships and calling for accountability at every level of our society has been the passionate pursuit of Karl Grossman through his more than four decades of investigative work,” said College President Calvin O. Butts, III. “He has paired his pursuit with a level of excellence in the classroom that prepares young journalists not only to report on the news of today but to seek the impacts such news will have on our tomorrows.”

As an inductee, Grossman joins a list of 23 honorees that includes Walt Whitman. The criteria for those being inducted requires that members be someone who has made a significant contribution to Long Island journalism, or be a Long Islander who has made contributions to journalism beyond Long Island.

Grossman has taught investigative reporting at Old Westbury for nearly 35 years.

He has long specialized in reporting on issues related to the environment and nuclear technology. Along with hundreds of articles and commentaries and regular features for sites such as *Huffington Post*, he has authored such books as *Cover up: What You Are Not Supposed to Know about Nuclear Power*, *Power Crazy*, and *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet*. He has also written and narrated television documentaries, which include the award-winning *Three Mile Island Revisited*, *The Push to Revive Nuclear Power*, and *Nukes in Space*. Grossman also hosts the nationally broadcast TV program *Enviro Close-Up*.

LIPOLITICS.COM COLUMNIST, KARL GROSSMAN, NAMED TO LONG ISLAND JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME

Fri, Mar 7, 2014

[News, Suffolk](#)



You may have read the many Op/Ed pieces **Karl Grossman** has contributed to LIPolitics.com over the years. Well, we are proud to announce that Karl Grossman has been named a member of the inaugural class of inductees to the new Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

The Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame, founded to recognize trailblazing journalists of the past and present, is being created by the Press Club of Long Island, the local chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. The inaugural induction will take place at the PCLI Media Awards dinner, June 5, at the Woodbury Country Club, to help commemorate PCLI's 40th anniversary.

"Delving into the nooks and crannies of American life, politics, and relationships and calling for accountability at every level of our society has been the passionate pursuit of Karl Grossman through his more than four decades of investigative work," said College President Calvin O. Butts, III. "He has paired his pursuit with a level of excellence in the classroom that prepares young journalists not only to report on the news of today but to seek the impacts such news will have on our tomorrows. He is especially deserving of this honor."

As an inductee, Grossman joins a list of 23 honorees that includes Walt Whitman, one of America's greatest poets and founder of The Long-Islander, a community newspaper that continues to operate today. The criteria for those being inducted requires that members be someone who has made a significant contribution to Long Island journalism, or be a Long Islander who has made contributions to journalism beyond Long Island. As a past winner of PCLI's Outstanding Long Island Journalist Award, Grossman earned automatic induction.

Grossman has taught investigative reporting at Old Westbury for nearly 35 years. In addition to his recognitions from the Press Club of Long Island, Grossman has received the Generoso Pope Foundation Award for Investigative Journalism, the George Polk Award from Long Island University, The John Peter Zenger Award from the New York State Bar Association, and The James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism. He has long specialized in reporting on issues related to the environment and nuclear technology. Along with hundreds of articles and commentaries and regular features for sites such as Huffington Post, he has authored such books as "Cover up: What You Are Not Supposed to Know about Nuclear Power," "Power Crazy," and "The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet."

He has also written and narrated television documentaries, which include the award-winning "Three Mile Island Revisited," "The Push to Revive Nuclear Power," and "Nukes in Space." Grossman also hosts the nationally broadcast TV program "Enviro Close-Up" and is a professor of journalism in the Media & Communications program at SUNY College at Old Westbury.

As seen on <http://www.lipolitics.com/blog/2014/03/07/lipolitics-com-columnist-karl-grossman-named-to-long-island-journalism-hall-of-fame/>

Roslyn Times

Journalism professor lands in hall of fame

BY BILL SAN ANTONIO

Karl Grossman, a journalism professor in the SUNY College of Old Westbury's Media & Communications program, has been named to the inaugural class of the forthcoming Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame, school officials said.

Grossman, who has taught investigative reporting at the school for nearly 35 years, is one of 23 icons of Long Island journalists who will be inducted during the Press Club of Long Island's June 5 meeting at the Woodbury Country Club in celebration of the organization's 40th anniversary. Press Club of Long Island officials said inductees were selected based on their significant contributions to journalism on Long Island and beyond and Grossman earned automatic induction into the Hall of Fame as a past winner of the press club's Outstanding Long Island Journalist Award.

"I think it's necessary to have a certain fire in one's belly to be a good journalist, and obviously you have to have the skills and persistence, but the fire in the belly is absolutely central to this field,"

Grossman said. "A lot of my students who are out there not as people in media, and who are really making it, are the ones who I observed when they were 20 years old in my classroom having that fire in the belly, wanting as many internships as they could get or being involved with the college paper."

The organization's hall of fame will also induct poet Walt Whitman, who founded the Long-Islander newspaper in 1838.

"I'm thrilled for them to have included Walt Whitman. He's beyond giant in the field of poetry but he was also a journalist, and not many people know that he founded the Long-Islander, so that was great," he said.

A freelance journalist, Grossman has written extensively about issues related to the environment and nuclear technology. He is the author of the books "Cover Up: What You Are Not Supposed to Know About Nuclear Power," "Power Crazy" and "The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet."

In addition to his Press Club accolades, Grossman has also been the recipient of the Generoso Pope



SUNY Old Westbury journalism professor Karl Grossman has been included in the inaugural class of the Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame.

Foundation Award for Investigative Journalism, the George Polk Award from Long Island University, the John Peter Zenger Award from the New York State Bar Association as well as the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism.

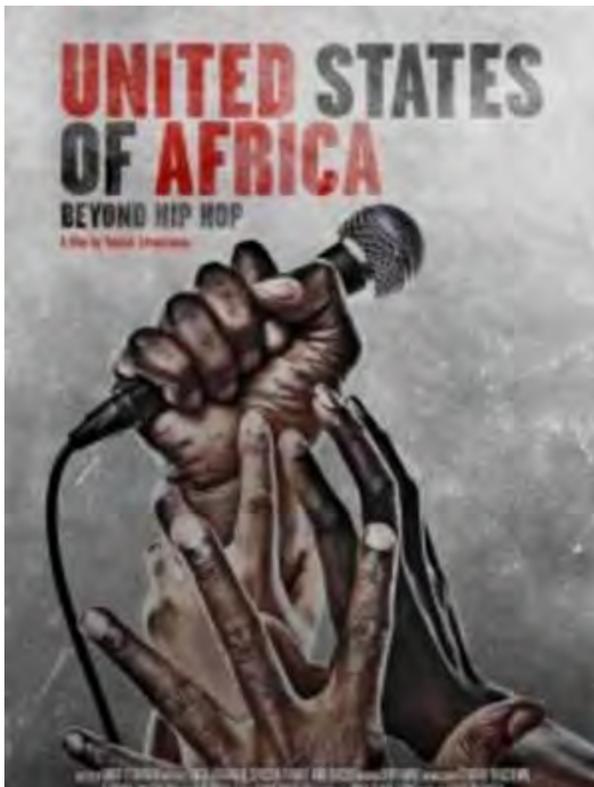
"Delving into the nooks and crannies of American life, politics and relationships and calling for accountability at every level of our society has been the passionate

pursuit of Karl Grossman through his more than four decades of investigative work," SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts said in a news release. "He has paired his pursuit with a level of excellence in the classroom that prepares young journalists not only to report on the news of today but to seek the impacts such news will have on our tomorrows. He is especially deserving of this honor."

College Of New Rochelle To Host Francophone African Cinema Conference

by Alesha Hanson

Events - 04/06/14



A screening of "The United States of Africa" will be shown at the Francophone African Cinema Conference at College of New Rochelle. Photo Credit: **Contributed**

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. -- The College of New Rochelle will be hosting the Francophone African Cinema Conference along with film screenings on Friday, April 11, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with screenings beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The conference will be held in the Mooney Center, Room 241, at the main campus of The College of New Rochelle, 29 Castle Place. Screenings will be held in Room C of the Sweeny Student Center.

The event will include presentations on French-African cinema and literature, film screenings and close with a final discussion session.

Keynote speakers and presenters will be Andre Beuzethier, The College of New Rochelle; Sylvie Kande, SUNY College of Old Westbury; Caroline Messa Wambe, Universite De Montreal; Jean Ouedraogo, SUNY Plattsburgh and Quebec filmmaker, Yanick Letourneau.

Two films will be screened, "Les Raquetteurs," a short documentary about the celebration and ritual surrounding a snowshoe competition in rural Quebec in the late 1950s

and "Les Etats-Unis d'Afrique" ("The United States of Africa"), a full length documentary directed by Yanick Letourneau.

"This is the first time that the event will take place at the College and I know it will be a wonderful and enriching opportunity for students, professors and professionals to interact with one another while learning more about the interplay between art and politics in Africa," said Nahed Noureddine, French professor and program coordinator at The College of New Rochelle.

As seen at <http://newrochelle.dailyvoice.com/events/college-new-rochelle-host-francophone-african-cinema-conference-0>

Huntington Prof Featured in 'Music Sociology'



Posted March 18, 2014 at 09:59 AM

Dr. Lee Robert Blackstone, a resident of Huntington, New York, and an associate professor of sociology at SUNY College at Old Westbury, is among the academics and experts who have penned chapters for "Music Sociology: Examining the Role of Music in Social Life," a recent book that explores 16 musical genres and seeks to demonstrate that music everywhere reflects social values, organizational processes, meanings, and individual identity.

Appearing as Chapter 19, Blackstone's "Painful Listening: The Musical Noise and Cultural Transcendence of Southern Italian Tarantism" includes discussions of music and its relevance to society, of the concept of "noise" and how it bridges concerns about music and deviance, and, finally, of tarantism as found in the southern Salento region of Italy. The ancient music of the tarantism ritual, a ceremony to treat a supposed "spider bite," is a particular cultural formation of the Salento region.

The music known as the pizzica tarantata allowed southern Italians to express, and endure, their conditions of hardship and alienation. As Blackstone describes in his research, music is a healing medium against social alienation. It constituted painful listening that today has been superseded by cultural activism and commercialism, moving the once stigmatic music towards social acceptability.

"Music Sociology: Examining the Role of Music in Social Life" was published by Paradigm Publishers.

Dr. Blackstone earned a B.A. from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Trending Now on Patch

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The New York Times

MARCH 6, 2014

N.Y. / REGION

Events on Long Island for March 9-15

Film

HUNTINGTON Cinema Arts Center “Here One Day,” documentary about mental illness, suicide and family, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker, Kathy Leichter. March 9 at 2 p.m. \$10 and \$15. “Arise,” documentary narrated by the actress and environmental activist Daryl Hannah, followed by a discussion with Dorothea Cappadona of the Conservation Board of the Village of Lloyd Harbor and Adrienne Esposito from Citizens Campaign for the Environment. March 10 at 7 p.m. \$10 and \$15. “Nuclear Nation” (2012), directed by Atsushi Funahashi; followed by discussion with Professor Karl Grossman, Department of Journalism, SUNY Old Westbury. March 12 at 7:30 p.m. \$10 and \$15. “A Field in England” (2013), directed by Ben Wheatley. March 14 and 15 at 11 p.m. \$5 to \$11. Cinema Arts Center, 423 Park Avenue. cinemaartscentre.org; (800) 838-3006.

THE INDYPENDENT

a FREE PAPER for FREE PEOPLE

CURRENT ISSUE LOCAL NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CALENDAR MULTIMEDIA BLOGS ARCHIVES STORE ABOUT US   



Kevin Spacey (left) and Robin Wright (right) play the scheming D.C. power couple of Frank and Claire Underwood in the hit series, "House of Cards".

INDY BLOG

1% Politics: House of Cards Revels in the Pleasure of Pain

BY **NICHOLAS POWERS**
MARCH 4, 2014

The first time I met Frank, he was strangling a dog to death. "They are two kinds of pain," he drawled, "The sort of pain that makes you strong. Or useless pain. The sort of pain that's only suffering." In his grip, the dog died. And this is why I love Frank; he will stare in your face while killing and say something smart.

My 14th episode of [House of Cards](#) was loading on Netflix and by now Frank Underwood and I were intimate friends. It's an awkward relationship. He's a fictional Machiavellian Democratic congressman (played by Kevin Spacey) using people's weaknesses as stepping stones in his rise to power. His wife Claire (played by a statuesque Robin Wright) heads a non-profit and gives orders with a voice as icy as Antarctic wind. Together, this Nietzschean power couple moves through the halls of Washington D.C. like a pair of sharks. But once in a while, Underwood looks at me, breaks the fourth wall, that imaginary divide between performer and audience, to guide me deeper into his maze.

Most narratives have a cathartic pleasure, an emotion purged through a conflict the protagonist is engaged in, a fear exorcised by his or her triumph. So what is the pleasure of *House of Cards*, now in second season, drawing nearly 5 million viewers with a cult following in the nation's capital? Real life politicians act out scenes from the series in on-line homage, imitating his menacing Southern drawl. Conservative and progressive groups both reference it with glee. The reason is simple. Underwood taps into our inner authoritarian desires; he lets us experience, briefly, the joy of being cruel.

Palace Intrigue

The show is a modern version of the palace intrigue, a genre of tragedy as old as Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Set in somber D.C. lit with blue and grays, *House of Cards* begins with Underwood as the House Majority Whip who helps President Walker get elected in exchange for the post of Secretary of State. When Walker denies him the position, Underwood begins his drive for power. Cringing, we watch in sick fascination as he crosses every moral rule in the pursuit of vengeance. The closer Underwood gets, the longer the trail of ruined lives behind him.

After binge-watching the series, my eyes were dry marbles but I saw Underwood looming larger and larger as he lied, cheated and killed his way to the vice-presidency. Set against a neo-noir backdrop

of dark rooms, dark rainy nights and the beige halls of the West Wing, the actors strike iconic poses of power and addiction, cruelty and submission. The camera frames each scene like a classical painting. We see Underwood shaking hands with a man he just betrayed or doling out addictive doses of prestige or blinding someone with their own dreams until they fall into a trap or handing a man a razor to kill himself or cutting people off by hanging up the phone or walking off and leaving his words echoing in the air.

Again and again, he leverages himself back on top even as the political terrain shifts beneath him like sand. And that's the joy of it, in him, we champion competent evil. Usually the villain embodies illicit desire; they kill, steal, rape, plunder and manipulate others with a sparkle in their eyes. Yet however fascinating they are, they cross a line that disturbs us and we want them to die at the hero's hands. But in *House of Cards*, the villain is the hero. Crossing ethical lines drives the plot forward and drives the tension higher. The question churning the series is - will evil be rewarded?

At this point the question can't be answered. The suspension of disbelief snapped. Since the logic of the show demanded the tension intensify as the increasing violence of Underwood's secret life overlapped with his public role, it may have been inevitable that he became a caricature of evil. At this point, he's not remotely human but a stock in trade serial killer whose uniqueness comes from being the vice-president. It's an adolescent view of evil that as [Hannah Arendt](#) showed in *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* misses it's far more destructive form. In showing Underwood, essentially as a dandy psychopath whose personality is both reptilian and flamboyant, we miss the chance to see how institutional logic, social roles and self-justifications combine with a militarized bureaucracy create charred human landscapes across the world from, to use one example, our drone missile attacks.

Deadly Charm

Another reason the question of will evil be rewarded can't be answered is because it conceals the fact that it already has. Even if Netflix renews the *House of Cards* for another season and at the end, Underwood is cornered and caught, we will have voyeuristically been pleased with his crimes. We have twenty-six episodes from two seasons to watch over and over, savoring his deadly charm, how he throws reporters into oncoming trains or leaves a man to die from carbon asphyxiation as lays knocked out drunk in a car as the engine runs.

His evil is rewarding to us because it purges us of a fear rising in America; the fear of our own powerlessness. As economy crashed and now stumbles from quarter to quarter, as a great divide splits the nation into the many poor and the wealthy few, as Russia claims the Ukraine and China claims whole swaths of sea, as Washington D.C. stands paralyzed and Wall Street surges; a great pessimism has swept us. It has been reflected in the apocalyptic movies, the dark grim shows like *The Walking Dead* and *Game of Thrones* which throw its characters, our stand-ins, into a frenzied state of survival and helplessness.

And onto the scene comes Francis Underwood, our hero, our gangsta', a man empty of ideological content; who has no agenda, no goal except his own glory. He transforms the anxious desire for power into a fascinating spectacle of its fulfillment. And that's why *House of Cards* is a sign of a renewed American optimism. In its fictional universe, unlike our real lives, we finally win even if the victory leaves blood on our hands.

Nicholas Powers is an assistant professor of literature at SUNY Old Westbury. He is the author of [Ground Below Zero](#).

Board | Town Square

PRPLI's 'Pitching LI' features local resident as panelist

March 14, 2014 at 11:43 AM



From left: Kali Chan, Adelphi University; Kimberly Alarcon, Alcott HR; Lee Peretz, Anchin, Block & Anchin; Mindy Wolfle, Neptune Marketing LLC; David Chauvin, Zimmerman/Edelson, Inc.; Kinane; and Randi Dresner, Island Harvest.

Michael Kinane (second from right), a resident of Smithtown and assistant to the president for advancement at SUNY College at Old Westbury, was featured this week as a panelist at "Pitching Long Island," an event held by Public Relations Professionals of Long Island.

The program was part of the monthly series of professional workshops and networking events hosted by PRPLI, the leading organization for public relations professionals on Long Island.

For more information on upcoming PRPLI events, visit www.prpli.org.



Kevin's Corner

by Kevin Horton

“OWWR & The Downtown Café Invites You To ‘Shave Your Head,’ As We Rock Another Fundraiser For St. Baldrick’s!”

OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio and The Downtown Café in Glen Cove team up for their fourth year to raise monies for St. Baldrick's, Sunday, March 23rd, 2014, from 12 until 5 pm on the corners of Glen and School Streets in Glen Cove, NY.

The Downtown Café last year collected over \$46,000 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation. In the past four years they have raised over \$140,000. Nationally, the St. Baldrick's Foundation has raised over \$118 million. Approximately 422,191 volunteers have joined in the fight to find a cure for childhood cancer. They host nearly 8000 events annually, and they have acquired \$127,543,680 in research grants.

OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio and OWTV, Old Westbury Television will have a special live broadcast from

12 until 5 pm on www.ustream.com keyword: OWWRNY. Our live student web-cast will feature the brave men, women and children who will be having their heads shaved live on-line.

OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio is the official radio station of the SUNY College at Old Westbury on the air 24/7. OWWR provides student, faculty, alumni, and community volunteer programming that broadcasts online, on cell phones, and on-campus through a closed circuit cable system. OWWR is a variety station that features News, Sports, Talk, and offers a wide variety of Music programming. OWWR acts in the interest convenience and necessity of the public, entertaining both on and off campus communities. OWWR is the official radio station for coverage of the SUNY College at Old Westbury Panthers.



March 13, 2014

Surprise honors for Bey

SUNY Old Westbury freshman Sara Bey wasn't thinking about lacrosse last fall. The Calhoun graduate was content playing soccer and adjusting to college. But then, conversations with some of her teammates who were also on the lacrosse team, her plans changed.

"I knew that [Old Westbury] had a new lacrosse team and I was interested in talking to the coach, but it wasn't a definite thing until midway through the first semester," Bey said.

She, as well as the rest of the Old Westbury lacrosse program, is glad she found her stick again and joined the squad. After scoring five goals in two games last week, Bey was named the Skyline Conference Rookie of the Week.

"I always thought I'd be better at soccer," Bey said. "I got a text that I had become rookie of the week and I was in shock. I was happy that I had scored goals, but I never expected any honors to come my way."



Queens' Largest Weekly Community Newspaper Group

March 6, 2014

Scott soars in Skyline Conference

St. Albans resident DeAndra Scott, center, a senior at SUNY-Old Westbury, last week was named to the All-Skyline Conference Women's Basketball First Team.

This is the second straight year that Scott, who was the conference's player of the year in the 2012-13 season, has received the postseason honor.

Scott concluded her career at Old Westbury finishing second in the conference in scoring with 21.4 points per game. She also finished the year second in rebounding with 11.8 per game, and double-doubles, while first in offensive rebounds and top 10 in field goal percentage, blocked shots and minutes played.

Nationally, Scott's 18 double-doubles were eighth in Division III women's basketball, while she finished 19th in the country in scoring and 20th in rebounds.



PHOTO COURTESY SUNY OLD WESTBURY

[News](#) | [Sports](#)

SUNY Old Westbury Senior Tosses No-hitter



Posted by [Adina Genn](#) (Editor), April 18, 2014 at 11:01 AM



Arismendy Nunez Credit: SUNY College at Old Westbury

SUNY College at Old Westbury's senior right-handed pitcher Arismendy Nunez (Bronx/Morris High School) tossed a no-hitter on Thursday night (April 17) vs. the Stevens Ducks on Senior Day from Jackie Robinson Athletic Complex.

Nunez (4-2) tossed 79 pitches and allowed just three base runners en route to his first career no-hitter. The complete game outing was Nunez's third of the season while the senior fanned four batters and walked one.

[Read more about the game.](#)

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Levittown Outfielder Makes Skyline Conference Honor Roll

Jennifer Jean, a Levittown native and SUNY College at Old Westbury senior outfielder, was tabbed to the Skyline Conference Softball Weekly **Honor Roll**. **This is Jean's sixth conference weekly honor.**

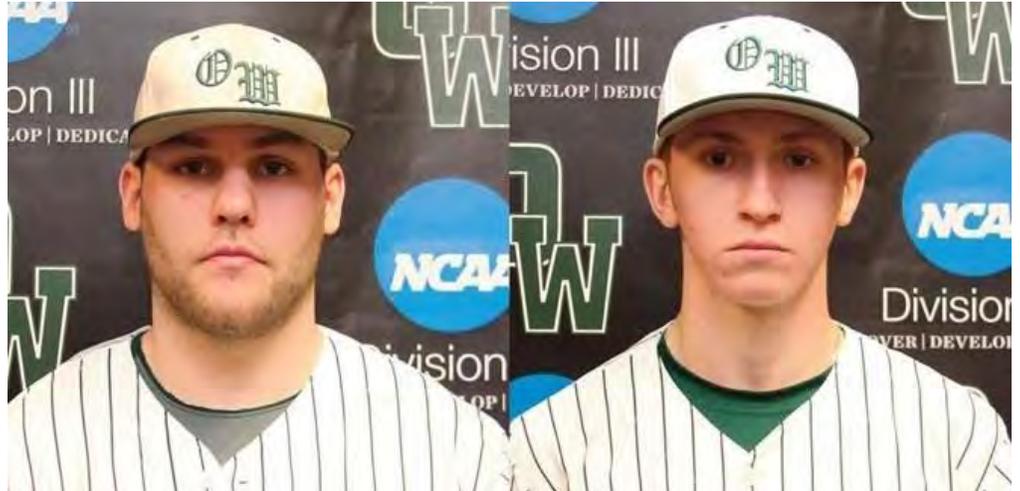
Jean opened the season with a .583 batting average (7-12) in five games last week for the Panthers. Jean totaled six runs scored, five RBIs, five walks and three stolen bases on the week.

Jean hit 2-for-2 (2 RBI, 2 R, 2 BB, SB) with an RBI triple and then scored the eventual game-winning run in the fifth inning of game two's 4-2 win over Purchase on March 22. In game one, Jean went 2-for-3 at the plate with three runs scored, one RBI, one stolen base and drew a pair of walks. In the season opener against Hunter on March 21, Jean produced a 2-for-4 (RBI, R, BB, SB) game.

Jean currently leads the team outright in batting average, slugging percentage (.750), on base percentage (.667) and walks (5) while she is tied for the lead in triples (1) and stolen bases (3). Jean is second on the team in RBIs (5), runs (6), hits (7) and total bases (9). Jean also leads the conference in batting average and on base percentage and ranks fifth in slugging percentage.



Licul, Ziegen earn baseball conference honors



The SUNY College at Old Westbury men's and The Skyline Conference announced its weekly baseball awards Monday afternoon and the SUNY College at Old Westbury senior first baseman Kevin Licul was tabbed player of the week while freshman short stop Tommy Ziegen earned rookie of the week honors.

Licul, a native of Levittown, hit .455 (5-11) with one home run, two doubles and five RBI in a four-game season opening series against Frostburg State. In the season opener, Licul was 2-for-3 with a solo home run and an RBI double. In game two, Licul went 2-for-3, including a three-run double in the first inning. Licul singled and later scored in the series finale on Feb. 23.

Ziegen, a product of Glen Cove, New York, hit .300 (3-10) with four RBI and two runs scored in four games against Frostburg State. In game three, Ziegen stroked an RBI single in the second inning to collect his first career hit. Ziegen then added a 2-for-3 game in the series finale with three RBI and two runs scored, including a two-run single and a run scoring double.

Roslyn's Gjonlekaj honored again
Freshman center Mark Gjonlekaj earned

Skyline Conference Men's Basketball Rookie of the Week honors the second time this season, announced Monday by league officials. Gjonlekaj averaged 15.0 points, 1.5 blocks and 1.5 steals in two conference tournament games last week to cap off his freshman season with three conference.

weekly honors The Roslyn, New York native led all scorers with 22 points in Thursday's Skyline Conference semifinal loss at top-seeded Purchase.

Gjonlekaj contributed eight points and two blocks in Old Westbury's 81-69 quarterfinal road win Tuesday over No. 4 Sage. On the season, Gjonlekaj is averaging 10.0 points, 5.3 rebounds, 1.9 blocks and 1.4 steals per game.

Gallagher named to Honor Roll

The SUNY College at Old Westbury sophomore midfielder Courtney Gallagher earned a spot on the Skyline Conference Women's Lacrosse Weekly Honor Roll, released Monday afternoon by league officials. Gallagher's weekly honor was her fourth career. Gallagher, a native of Rockaway Beach, scored a pair of goals in Old Westbury's season opening 11-5 loss against Ramapo on March 1.

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HEALTH LAW

Joel Greenberg is a Marundale-Hubbell AV[®] rated healthcare attorney who has been chosen as a Super Lawyer in each of the past three years. He is an Adjunct Professor of Health Law at SUNY-Old Westbury and Co-Editor-In-Chief of the Legal Manual for New York Physicians.



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Ronald Terenzi, founding partner at STCW, heads the Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights Practice Group. Ron is admitted in New York and Connecticut. He is a past president and chairman for ACIT and serves on the Advisory Board for the School of Business at SUNY Old Westbury.

Spanish With Miss Lupe

By Youseph Rasheed
HICKSVILLE@ANTONNEWS.COM

In today's ever diversifying world, knowing another language can be a huge asset. Lupe Beatriz Urquizo has been teaching Spanish to children at the Hicksville Public Library for the past 14 years. The library offers these free lessons to youngsters ages five to 14 most Saturdays throughout the year.

"I believe all of us remember our good teachers and our bad teachers," said Urquizo. "There have been teachers in my life that have touched my soul. They were an inspiration to me and I want to give that same motivation to the children I teach."

Urquizo was born in Lima, Peru, the fifth of eight children. After high school, she moved to the United States. She didn't know any English, but enjoyed living with her cousins in Great Neck so decided to stay in the Long Island. She started doing odd jobs, such as babysitting, cleaning houses, and taking care of elderly people, taking any opportunity that presented itself to her.

Urquizo found good fortune with an abstract artist named Stephanie Brody Lederman. "I worked for her in her home and she began to develop affection for me," explained Urquizo. "She saw that I myself had an artistic eye and she convinced me to go to the Germain School of Photography. My horizons really expanded after I graduated and I began working as a professional photographer for weddings, birthdays, baptisms and other special events."

Even though she had a comfortable career, Urquizo still didn't feel whole.

"There was something missing in my soul," she explained. "I always wanted to have a college degree. I decided to go back to school after I finally became comfortable with the English language."

Urquizo attended Queensboro Community College where she received her Associate Degree in Liberal Arts. Afterwards she transferred to SUNY Old Westbury to work towards a degree in education.



"In college I was lucky enough to have wonderful professors who really moved me," said Urquizo. "For example one of my professors named Kate Velsor was very good to me. When I had difficulty with the English language, Professor Velsor was very understanding and patient with me. She really encompasses the type of teacher that I would like to be. I want to touch lives. I don't like to teach the rude way. I want to be a friendly teacher. I don't want to be the teacher that people feel afraid of because if you teach in a simple way it is easier for the kids to learn. Lots of teachers are strict and mean and in my opinion that doesn't help children learn."

In May of 2000 Urquizo finally received her Bachelor's Degree in Bilingual Education and Special Education from SUNY Old Westbury, a degree which has special meaning to Urquizo.

"My goddaughter is special needs and her condition made me realize that all children deserve an education," she said.

In August of 2000 Urquizo became a Spanish teacher at the Hicksville Public Library. She said "the children I teach are incredible. They all come from such a diverse background. Their enthusiasm to learn reminds me every day that I am doing the right thing."

She encourages residents to sign their kids up for the free Spanish program.

"The Spanish language has become very necessary to speak and understand these days," she said. "If children become fluent in Spanish then there is a wealth of opportunities that are open to them."

Urquizo holds her next Spanish class for beginners and advanced learners Saturday, March 15. To find out more visit www.hicksvillelibrary.org