



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

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United they stand

Colleges entering into various alliances with each other, with benefits for both students and the institutions

By **BERNADETTE STARZEE**

Colleges and universities face a more challenging and competitive business climate than ever before. In an effort to attract more students, provide them with a better product and meet various other objectives, many are entering into agreements with other institutions of higher learning.

Molloy College in Rockville Centre, for instance, announced a new alliance with St. John's University in Queens last fall. The agreement allows students enrolled in 14 academic disciplines in arts and sciences to earn two degrees in five years: a bachelor's from Molloy and a master's from St. John's. The students, who must meet certain academic require-

ments, apply for the program during their sophomore year at Molloy and can take up to one graduate course at St. John's in each semester of their junior or senior years; these classes are applied to both their bachelor's and master's degrees, thus allowing the students to take as many as 12 fewer credits.

"It's a very competitive environment, with declining demographics in the northeast, that we're all facing," said Christopher Malone, dean of Molloy's School of Arts and Sciences, which mainly offers undergraduate degree programs. "We're looking at ways to create collaborations that will be beneficial, and St. John's has a robust College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with dozens of graduate programs."

Rather than start its own graduate programs – which is a very expensive proposition – in these disciplines, Molloy deemed this agreement a better avenue to pursue.

"We could try to build graduate programs to compete with St. John's, or we could align with St. John's in a very competitive industry at a time when the demographics are giving us a reality check," Malone said. "We decided that collaboration is better than competition and the mutual benefit is better than mutual assured disruption."

Molloy is getting the word out about the new program to its existing students and recruits.

"The message is: We are a cost-effective, moderately priced private college

FOCUS//EDUCATION

COLLEGES FINDING WAYS TO PARTNER WITH OTHER COLLEGES

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and we can get you through a master's program in five years across various STEM fields and humanities and save your family money," Malone said. Students get to "double-dip" with the 12 credits, for which they pay undergraduate prices.

Elsewhere in the region, SUNY Old Westbury signed several agreements with SUNY Downstate in Brooklyn over the past year to assist Old Westbury students in pursuing advanced degrees in a variety of healthcare fields.

"These partnerships are very strategic in providing students with cost-effective pathways to high-demand health careers to better serve the region," said Duncan

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Colleges entering into alliances with each other

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Quarless, acting associate provost in SUNY Old Westbury's office of academic affairs. "The other overarching objective is to help develop a more diverse workforce in these career fields. Old Westbury probably has the most diverse student body in the SUNY system, so the opportunity to provide pathways to these health career fields to our student population is also an opportunity to help our SUNY partner, Downstate, achieve its diversity goals."

In broad strokes, the agreements provide priority consideration for a certain number of qualified SUNY Old Westbury graduates to enroll in Downstate programs in fields that include public health, physician assistant, nursing, medical informatics and physical therapy.

"Students are dealing with issues of college debt, and helping provide them with cost-effective pathways to degrees in high-demand fields gives the students added value and helps the healthcare field in the region," Quarless said, noting that the SUNY system overall is "attempting to develop stronger articulation that allows it to maximize its impact in terms of degree offerings as a system-wide process that leads to high-needs workforce development."

High-needs fields of study are, in fact,

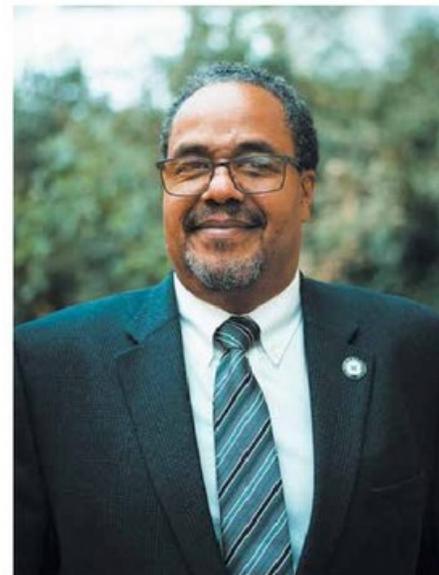
'WE DECIDED THAT COLLABORATION IS BETTER THAN COMPETITION AND THAT MUTUAL BENEFIT IS BETTER THAN MUTUAL ASSURED DISRUPTION.'

the focus of many recent articulation agreements in the region. Last fall, St. Joseph's College signed new agreements with Suffolk County Community College that allowed SCCC students to seamlessly earn both bachelor's and master's degrees at St. Joseph's in the in-demand fields of human services and forensic computing.

The two agreements facilitate and expedite the transfer of credits to allow students to complete Master of Science programs in human services leadership or forensic computing in as little as five total years.

More than 300 SCCC students transfer to St. Joseph's annually, and there were already several articulation agreements in place between the two institutions, but these were the first that provide a pathway to graduate degrees.

St. Joseph's also has several articulation



DUNCAN QUARLESS: Articulation agreements between SUNY Old Westbury and SUNY Downstate provide pathways for students to get advanced degrees in high-needs areas within the healthcare field.

agreements with Nassau Community College as well as with other institutions, while SCCC has articulation agreements with about two dozen colleges.

"The articulation agreement ensures that a student will be guided through the associate level classes needed to enter the

bachelor's level classes and then guided through to the master's level," Gigi Lamens, vice president of enrollment management for the Patchogue campus of St. Joseph's College, told LIBN in September. "Articulation agreements facilitate a smooth transition between institutions and through the various levels."

The New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury receives many requests from undergraduate institutions, both in the region and beyond, to enter into various agreements that would give their students some kind of leg up, such as a guaranteed interview with the medical school if they meet certain criteria.

"These institutions all have pre-med students who are interested in going to medical school," said Dr. Jerry Balentine, NYITCOM dean and vice president for health sciences and medical affairs.

NYITCOM does not lack for applicants – there are typically about 7,000 to fill 300 spots in a given year, Balentine said.

"But we're always interested in diversifying our student body," he said. "Developing relationships with schools that students don't usually apply from helps us diversify where our students are coming from."

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WINNERS HAVE
BEEN NOTIFIED!

2020

VISIONS

NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW HOPE, CHALLENGES

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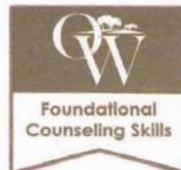
SUNY Old Westbury Announces New Micro-credentials

In an age of specialized training and with the demand for ongoing professional development growing, SUNY Old Westbury has approved and now offers its first micro-credentials.

The three new programs are Business Taxation; Estate, Gift & Trust Taxation; and Foundational Counseling Skills.

The micro-credential programs are made up of a series of two to four related courses that result in no more than 16 credit hours, offering focused curricular content available via a shorter duration than traditional degree and advanced certificate programs. Upon completion of the courses, the student earns a digital badge that can be shared online, via digital resumes and sites like LinkedIn. The badges are distributed through Acclaim by Credly, a New York-based digital credentialing company.

"This is a new path for our College as we continually seek to expand the opportunities available for all



students -- current undergrads, mid-career professionals and non-traditional students -- to accelerate their skills progression and move forward in the lives and careers they want for themselves," said College President Calvin O. Butts, III.

Offered through the School of Business, the Micro-Credential in Business Taxation and the Micro-Credential in Estate, Gift & Trust Taxation involve graduate level coursework for individuals that are in or are aspiring to be in those fields.

The Micro-Credential in Foundational Counseling Skills is an undergraduate offering of the Psychology Department designed for students considering professions that require interviewing/intake skills or those seeking to pursue the licensed or certified counseling professions.

Further details on the micro-credentials offered by SUNY Old Westbury are available at www.oldwestbury.edu/micros.

MOVERS & SHAKERS

► NONPROFITS



Mili Makhijani

SUNY Old Westbury welcomed four members to its College Council, including Makhijani, who will serve as chair. She is the principal law clerk to Hon. Randy Sue Marber, Supreme Court of Nassau County.



Phillip Elliott

Elliott, senior pastor of The Antioch Baptist Church of Hempstead, was named to SUNY Old Westbury's College Council.



Martha Maffei

Maffei was also named to the College Council at SUNY Old Westbury. She is executive director of SEPA Mujer in Patchogue.



Theresa Regnante

Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island in Deer Park, was also appointed to the College Council at SUNY Old Westbury.

Students Participate in 19th Amendment Centennial Research Campaign

SUNY Old Westbury students enrolled in the American Studies course "History of U.S. Women" recently took part in a nationwide crowdsourcing campaign to help document the lives of suffrage leaders.

In the effort for the Online Biographical Dictionary of Women Suffragists, 1890-1920, the students contributed with hundreds of college students and local historical society members in celebrating the centennial of the 19th amendment by developing short biographical sketches of local leaders' lives and political commitments. Over 3,000 suffrage leaders have been researched nationwide, drawn from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Matilda Jocelyn Gage and Ida Harper's six volume History of Woman Suffrage (1881-1922).

Last year, Professor Carol Quirke led the course, which contributed fifteen sketches of women from Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York.



SUNY Old Westbury American Studies Professor Carol Quirke with students who engaged in crowdsourcing research for the national effort.

This year, students in her class researched suffrage leaders in Maine, including the wife of the man responsible for inventing ear muffs.

Students' work will be published in the Online Biographical Dictionary of the Women Suffragists, which is connected to the Women of the Social Movement database published by Alexander Street Publishing.

Participating students included D'Andra Barksdale, Agnelli Bruno, Brandon Johnson, Brianna Knibbs, Lanise Paige, Niko Nantsis, Teesha Puri, Mikayla Renton, Julia Richards, Demi Spirou, and Avia Yoseffi.

The students' genealogical and primary source research was supported by the SUNY Old Westbury Library and Honors College along with Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus Thomas Dublin of SUNY Binghamton and members of the Maine Historical Society.

Survey: LI colleges ranked among state's top desired

By: Adina Genn ⌚ February 24, 2020

Long Island has some of the state's most desired colleges and universities among applicants.

That's according to a study from LendEDU, a website that helps consumers compare financial products, including student loans, personal loans, credit cards, insurance products and banking products.

Released this month, the study tracked the total number of applicants and the ratio of enrolled to admitted students, comparing the metrics from the 2008-09 and 2018-19 academic years.

Each school had to have a minimum of 500 applicants during this range. And the data was from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System.

More than 1,200 colleges and universities were compared across the nation, and 116 were compared in New York.

In New York, Farmingdale State College came in ninth, and the top public college in New York State.

Adelphi University was rated the private college on Long Island in the survey, and ranked 13 among higher education institutions in the state overall.

Stony Brook University was number 21, SUNY College at Old Westbury was 28, Hofstra University 42, and Molloy College 59.

"This is a truly remarkable national recognition," Farmingdale State College President John Nader said in a statement.

"As we head into the new decade, prospective students want to go to schools that are trending upwards, and Farmingdale State College is on the right track based off its desirability statistics from the last decade," Michael Brown, a research analyst at LendEDU, said in a statement.

2020 INNOVATOR AWARDEES

Innovate Long Island is proud to announce the winners of its fifth annual Innovator of the Year awards. The list will include multiple awardees in technology, clean energy, health science/medical devices, invention and craft food & beverage. Two special categories – no boundaries and student innovation – hold especially outstanding award winners.

The 2020 program recognizes an impressive cross-section of aspiring young inventors, successful startups and big thinkers.

Herewith, the roster of awardees, to date:

NO BOUNDARIES

- **Marc Alessi**, executive director of the Business Incubator Association of New York, director of the Tesla Science Center at Wardencllyffe and quite possibly the **hardest working man** in Long Island innovation
- **Ziqian (Cecilia) Dong**, associate NYIT professor of electrical and computer engineering The NYIT College of Engineering and Computing Science investigator making use of **multiple grants** to explore the food/energy/water nexus, critical to urban planning
- **Raj Devasagayam**, dean of the **SUNY Old Westbury** School of Business
As part of its innovative Master's Degree in Forensic Accounting program, SUNY Old Westbury introduces the **Justice for Fraud Victims** project
- **Terri Arnold-McKenzie**, Hofstra University, program manager for diversity-focused capital-access program Ascend Long Island
- **Dylan Ander**, Hofstra University business student and CEO of digital marketing agency Next Core Media

Talking Point

Now hiring for higher ed

Want a job as a college president? Come to Long Island!

Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz's recent retirement announcement means Long Island will have at least four simultaneous presidential searches at local colleges and universities.

While Rabinowitz, who will have served as Hofstra's president for two decades, won't leave until next year, Hofstra plans to start its search immediately.

Hofstra joins Stony Brook University, Suffolk County Community College, and SUNY Old Westbury in looking for a new president. Combined, the schools serve a total of more than 68,000 students.

All four schools are at various stages of their searches. Due to their varying sizes and focuses, they likely look at different candidate pools. Stony Brook is down to about a dozen candidates, and its search committee started holding interviews last week, a process that could continue into mid-February. And Suffolk County Community College has posted its search and is gathering candidates.

SUNY Old Westbury, however, is only at the start of its presidential search process, one that was delayed because the school didn't have a chair of its College Council and search committee. As a result, the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III has put off his departure, and is continuing to lead the school, a spokesman told The Point.

But the transitions at the top of higher-education institutions don't stop there. Molloy College just appointed a new president – James Lentini, who comes to Long Island from Oakland University in Michigan and will start in July. And Nassau Community College's new president, Jermaine Williams, began his tenure in July.

While the schools are different in many ways, Rabinowitz told The Point that there are also similar needs and interests that will continue even after the leadership turnover is done.

"There was always a feeling of cooperation on issues that are common to higher ed, where nobody was competing. We were all trying to make our institutions better," he said.

As for the new crop of presidents, Rabinowitz added: "It will take time for them to get to know each other, to get to know the groundwork, but they can do that, too."

—Randi F. Marshall @RandiMarshall

“Sonnets for Donald Trump’s America: Poetry, Race, and the Future of Democracy”

at SUNY Old Westbury | Wed Feb 19

Location

SUNY Old Westbury

223 Store Hill Road
Old Westbury, NY 11568 ([Map](#))

Contact Name: Deepa Jani

Visit Website: [Website](#).

Date & Time

01:00 PM - 02:30 PM

Wed, Feb 19, 2020

Cost: Free Event

Description

Widely recognized poet Terrance Hayes will visit campus in recognition of Black History Month and offer a presentation of his works from his most recent book, “American Sonnets for my Past and Future Assassin,” as well as readings from his seven prior works.

His latest book was a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry and was named among the “New York Times Critics Top Books of 2018.” Having won such prestigious honors as the National Book Award for poet

ry (2010) and a MacArthur Genius Fellowship (2014), his writings address issues of race, gender, politics, and music. He is currently a professor at New York University and serves as the Chancellor of the American Academy of Poet

s.

The reading will include a question-and-answer session and a book signing.



Paradox of Constructed Nature: The Faculty Show 2020

at Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, SUNY Old Westbury | Thu Feb 13 - Thu Mar 12

Location

Amelie A. Wallace Gallery, SUNY Old Westbury

223 Store Hill Road
Old Westbury, NY 11568 ([Map](#))

Contact Name: Hyewon Yi

Visit Website: [Website](#).

Date & Time

Mar 03, 2020 through Mar 12, 2020 (daily)

Cost: Free Event

Description

"Paradox of Constructed Nature: The Faculty Show 2020" features works by nine adjunct faculty members of the **Visual Arts Department** at SUNY Old Westbury.

Liz Atz's work evolved from her experimental interdisciplinary approach to process, material, and abstraction. She mines the materials of consumer culture to create painting, drawing, installation, and photography. Her recent work employs plastics, textiles, and other materials acquired from dollar stores and industrial sources.

Chris Bors' post-Pop conceptual paintings feature mash-ups of images in which anything visual is fair game for repurposing. He works with bold graphics and text, commenting on commodification, trash culture, and personal obsessions. .

Jude Broughan presents three large loose-hanging works and two smaller mixed-media panels that reveal her interest in travel and its resultant instability of place. Broughan draws on the languages of painting and printmaking alongside those of photography and collage to play with space and form, line and color.

Ronnie Burrage, MFAIA, drummer, artist, producer, and composer, has performed with Wayne Shorter, Sonny Rollins, Pat Metheny, Jaco Pastorius, McCoy Tyner, Jackie McLean, Freddie Hubbard, Woody Shaw, and Archie Shepp among many other innovators of America's classical art from Jazz.

An alumnus of SUNY Old Westbury, Michael Capobianco offers *Hard*, *Shrunken*, and *Plush*, a new series of mundane objects that have been crushed, coated, and condensed to be fossilized and preserved for future generations. These "trapped-in-amber" objects question the real and imagined relationship between the viewer and the artifacts of our shared cultural history.

Lizzy De Vita works in performance, text, sound, drawing, installation, video, and sculpture unified by her interest in "viral moments" where interpersonal boundaries are blurred. De Vita will present *Edging* (2015), a video of a manicurist painting the nails of a client in a scene that takes an unexpected turn to make the viewer re-examine the relationship between client and low-paid personal services worker.

Brooklyn-born Egyptian-American **Anthony Hamboussi** presents "Arab Republic of Egypt," a photographic project documented in Egypt between 2009 and 2016. This series of street photographs was made within the framework of the "state of emergency" under which Egyptians have lived for most years since 1956.

Korean-born **Hong Seon Jang**, known for his sculptural installations, will present *Ghost* (2018), an ivory tusk in a Plexiglas box made of Ivory soap bars and a wooden pallet, representing the paradoxes of the marketplace.

Maxine Montilus founded MV Dance Project, which had its debut at Brooklyn Studios for Dance in 2019 with its first evening-length work "Strength in Spirit". In 2017, Montilus served as the Afro Cuban/Haitian Folklore consultant to choreographer Camille A. Brown for the Tony-winning musical "Once On This Island."

Gallery Hours:

Mondays - Fridays: 12pm - 5pm, and by appointment.

7TH ASIA PACIFIC BUSINESS CONFERENCE 2020

Written By Jeremy Spirogis | 07/01/2020



To present options within the present atmosphere, new approaches to issues within the business panorama within the altering atmosphere, the position of business analysis is required

The seventh Asia Pacific Business Conference efficiently concluded on 7 January 2020. Its theme was “New approaches to problems in business scenario, role of business research is needed in providing solutions in current scenario in changing environment”. The authorities’s efforts in direction of bettering ease of doing business, and the position of business analysis on this altering business atmosphere, have been evacuated from the risky international business atmosphere. The occasion was seen within the presence of distinguished dignitaries: Dr Robert Ducoffe, Pro VC, University of Wisconsin -PS, USA, Dr. Vipin Gupta, Ex. Associate dean and Professor & Co-Director, Center for Global Management Degenerated Research Fellow Business and Public Administration, California State University – San Bernardino, who shared their experiences on varied alternatives and challenges in today’s international business atmosphere. Dr. Raj Devasagayam, Dean, School of Business, SUNY College at Old Westbury, New York, USA, who spoke on “Resuming Business Education: From Management to Leader”. Dr Vipin Gupta Spoken about White Ocean Strategy: Understanding and Shifting the Limits of the $e = mc^2$ Principle of Organization Planning.

He outlined the impacts on society and the atmosphere. While earlier crimson and blue ocean methods targeted on gaining status and benefit by implementing methods for aggressive benefit, the WOS targeted on the sustainability of business by means of its impression on the atmosphere and society. The Blue Ocean technique is an efficient business technique for producing concepts, innovation and revenue, but it surely was prompt that if corporations incorporate WOS into their progress plan it would assist them in sustained progress. Significant contributions have been made by researchers like Noted American Laureate of America. Dr. Rajnandini Pillai USA “Factors Affecting Diversity in Organizations and Financial Performance: Some Lessons for Leadership”.

Professor of USA: Dr. Keerthi Sahni Kelly spoke on “Poetry as Pedagogy”. Dr. Shefali Pandya discussed “understanding and explaining structural modeling and path analysis” in analysis.

Dr. Rajanandini Pillai, USA, and Dr. R. Okay Srivastava “Developed a research paper of international standards”.

Acclaimed International Faculty of Art of Living Ms. Tejal pradhan Talked in regards to the impression of office spirituality on worker efficiency. The present VUCA atmosphere has affected the worker by way of job stress, nervousness, insecurity and worker burns. Organizations are struggling to create work atmosphere in addition to diet. This analysis proposes a place of business as a center path to spirituality that promotes efficiency in addition to creates a supportive work atmosphere.

Researchers Mansi Sachdeva And Taranpreet kaur Discussed the applying of Kabir couplets / couplets in administration observe. Jitender nangia Discussed the related matter of the impression of presidency coverage on the event of sensible cities. This was a tentative evaluation of the efficacy of the sensible metropolis mission. Somnath adhya, DGM, SBI discussed work life stability amongst staff of Indian public sector banks. This matter turns into vital on the background of the current merger of huge public sector banks. Researchers Krishna Murari, Vimal Bhatt And Prabhat Kumar Study on folks’s preferences and issues in direction of cashless fee techniques: Evidence from North Eastern area of India gave fascinating info on acceptance of Digital India among the many folks of North East of India.

Not researcher Dr. Mrinal phalle A research on the impression of digital finance on microfinance establishments in India will likely be offered on the topic. This matter highlights the impression of Digital India on India’s monetary inclusion goal. Dr S.S. Dhure re dered Vote of thanks More than 150 individuals offered their analysis on the convention. Dr. R. Okay Srivastava, Professor and HOD, Sydenham Management Institute Such occasions are thought of vital for a growing financial system like India. According to him, “Such events strengthen the research spirit for change in our country, mankind can dream, achieve research and technology”.

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TECHNOLOGY

Succeeding with your robotic process automation project

By JOEL LANZ, CPA/CITP, CFF, CISA, CISM, CISSP, CFE

Rapidly developing technologies, explosive media attention and consistent business needs to do more with less have driven financial professionals' interest in opportunities provided by artificial intelligence (AI) and related tools. Although some of the business solutions promoted by vendors may be in their infancy or years away, others have attained maturity levels, enabling organizations to implement them today and achieve desired productivity and service delivery benefits. Despite the inherent challenges presented by emerging technologies, however, the accounting community must both manage existing risks and plan for the impact of well-known operational and related implementation risks in order to maximize the return on investments of these needed business initiatives.

Robotic process automation (RPA) represents one AI-related technology that organizations are beginning to use and benefit from today. Some practitioners do not classify RPA as AI because it relies on preprogrammed routines rather than learning by itself and developing new processes. Others believe that the more complex RPA tools do contain some of these features and thereby



classify RPA as an AI tool. Although the term "robotic" implies some science fiction function, what you are doing is automating and, yes, reengineering existing processes using specialized software and tools that reduce human intervention in mundane tasks that are needed to provide traditional accounting services. In other words, drop the word robotic, and think

of it as software used to automate processes.

Recent *CPA Journal* articles have discussed how RPA has the potential to transform how practitioners deliver accounting and audit services. Because RPA enables them to do so more effectively and efficiently, these practitioners can focus on higher-value idea generation and related consultative work. One article, focusing on how audit firms could use RPA in performing substantive testing, defines RPA as "software that interacts with other application software at the user interface level (i.e., in the same way as a human) and is used to automate processes that are structured, rule-based, and repetitive, as well as those with machine-readable data." The article, "Exploring the Use of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) in Substantive Audit Procedures: A Case Study," by Michael Cohen, Andrea M. Rozario and Chanyuan (Abigail) Zhang, bit.ly/36rqz7X, also observes, "RPA can automate tasks that are executed across different software applications."

Popular RPA tools include Automation Anywhere, Blue Prism and UiPath. Microsoft has recently enhanced its offerings to include the Power Automate RPA solution. All vendors provide short videos that assist those new to RPA in visualizing solutions and how the software can help eliminate redundant and mundane "human" work. Readers whose organizations have a Microsoft Office license may already have access to simple RPA tools that they can use to automate personal computing activities, and that facilitate the introduction to the power and potential of RPA. As with all opportunities, however, potential threats need appropriate oversight and risk mitigation management.

RPA can play a significant role in automating processes and driving efficiencies throughout an organization. In the realm of finance and accounting, this can include automating processes that can impact financial reporting. As a result, these RPA applications may be subject to various regulatory requirements, including, but not limited to, ensuring adequate controls over the financial reporting resulting from the RPA. Improperly

implementing RPA can result in unreliable financial information, wasted expense and disruptions to service delivery. Perhaps the most significant risk that organizations face is failing to manage the implementation as the vital process re-engineering effort that it is, by treating it as a one-off, impacting only limited departments or individuals.

Organizations should consider the following risk-management strategies as part of their RPA implementation activities.

Establish governance and communicate organizationwide expectations. Examples include obtaining executive management support, establishing appropriate policies and procedures, and ensuring alignment of RPA initiatives with business goals. If relevant, consider a center of excellence or project management office to facilitate the communication of control practices.

Confirm understanding of current processes and the effectiveness of the designed RPA solution. Too often, organizations will quickly try to implement solutions to take advantage of potential savings, without sufficiently understanding their current processes. Sometimes, there is no justified reason for a unique process performed by the organization. Yet at other times, exceptions to standard processing can be critical. Understanding that these exceptions exist and critically assessing their continued need will help ensure an effective transition.

One risk often neglected at the start of the RPA project relates to the lack of appreciation for the need to fully understand application interfaces and the infrastructure needed to support RPA activity. Depending on the complexity of the organization and its technology, users may be unaware of back-end interfaces, data integrity challenges, regulatory-related security or privacy requirements, and other vital issues impacting the successful performance of the process. The integration of the tool with the organization may result in political challenges that can quickly derail the best-planned project.

Organizations need to manage RPA implementation as the new systems project that it is. Unfortunately, newly implemented systems and conversions contain numerous instances of failed efforts and wasted investments. Organizations should implement system development—or acquisition—life cycle controls to manage these risks. These controls help ensure that new applications produce reliable information and achieve intended goals. Essential controls include the cost of implementation, determining that the automated tool functions as intended, and communicating progress and performance to stakeholders. These controls are critical for RPA implementation success.

Joel Lanz, CPA/CITP, CFF, CISA, CISM, CISSP, CFE, is the sole proprietor of Joel Lanz, CPA PC, and a visiting assistant professor at SUNY College at Old Westbury. He is a member of the NYSSCPA's Technology Assurance and Internal Audit committees, as well as the CPA Journal Editorial Advisory Board.

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SAND IN MY SHOES: REPORTING THAT MOVED THE HAND OF GOVERNMENT

Shine Light On Karl Grossman

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

BY | DENIS HAMILL

The professor never took a journalism class.

But for 60 years, Karl Grossman has been a celebrated investigative reporter, esteemed East End columnist, popular author of six books on the threat of nuclear energy, and a noted documentarian and TV host. He's won a coveted George Polk Award, Generoso Pope Award, John Peter Zenger Award, a Long Island Press Club Award, and other honors too numerous to list.

Grossman earned these accomplishments wrinkling his shoes in the old-school, pre-Internet reporting trenches across seven decades using the world as his classroom and its people as his teachers. Today, he's a full tenured professor of journalism at [State University of New York/College of Old Westbury](#), where he's taught investigative reporting and the ethics of reporting since 1978 after his beloved Long Island Press folded.

To say that they don't make ink-stained scribblers like Grossman anymore would suggest that this tireless newshound set out to become a made man of the journalism racket.

Not true. It happened by accident.

"I actually never thought I'd be a reporter," said Grossman, 78, who lives in Sag Harbor with his schoolteacher wife, Janet, to whom he's been married for 59 years, and his main squeeze for 61.

"I was born in Brooklyn and raised in Queens and went to Andrew Jackson High, where I considered writing for the school paper, but it was run by a bunch of snobby girls who were like a clique. That turned me off. I was an Eagle Scout and in the 1950s on Eagle Scout Day you were 'paired' with someone in the field you thought you'd like to go into. My aim at the time was to become a college professor so I was paired with Queens College president Dr. John Theobald. I spent the day in part with him and in part dropping into classes meeting various professors and I really thought I'd probably become a professor."

Then, in 1961, at age 19, reporting discovered Karl Grossman.

He was accepted into Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, where students spent three months in the classroom and three months interning at on-the-job-training jobs in various professional fields in the real world.

"I wound up as a copy boy at the Cleveland Press, where over the front door was the motto: 'Give light and the people will find their own way,'" said Grossman. "The paper was founded by EW Scripps who loved muckraking reporting. The Press was known for it. I met the most interesting people I'd ever met in that newsroom and realized that reporters were so much more invested in the real world, in the lives of others, than college professors were."

Grossman answered phones, taking news tips, giving memos to reporters on alleged corruption in city or state government. He'd watch a team of reporters dig deep into stories with research, gut instinct, and legwork. He watched those reporters toil late past deadline, overturning municipal stones, meeting secret sources, ferreting breadcrumb trails of avarice, and finally unearthing the gleaming ore of truth.

Grossman watched his little memos blossom into multi-part exposés splashed across page one with banner headlines. He saw that a story that revealed the truth in a newspaper — that got its rugged power from common taxpaying readers — could actually move the arthritic hand of government for the betterment of the citizenry.

"The reporters provided the light and the people found a way to make change," Grossman said. "I knew I'd found my path in life. I knew that this was what I wanted to do. I wanted to become a reporter. On campus, I had been dating a beautiful girl named Janet Kopp from Huntington. She was homesick. I figured I'd learned enough in school. I'd never taken a single journalism course but my internship at the Cleveland Press made me want to be a reporter. I packed up my motorcycle, Janet hopped on the back, and we headed east to Huntington, which is how I wound up on Long Island."

If we flash ahead several years, that motorcycle ride from Yellow Springs led Grossman to "shine light" on LILCO and the Shoreham nuclear power plant story and the scary plan to build nine nuclear plants on Long Island. Karl Grossman's reporting on that radioactive hot-button issue — and his subsequent documentaries and books on the subject — would shed the light to make the people of Long Island vote to live nuclear energy free.

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

Grossman landed his first reporting job for the Babylon Leader at age 20, where, in 1963, he sharpened his mighty No. 2 pencil and took cocky aim at one the most powerful power brokers in New York State — Robert Moses, head of the State Parks and Public Works. Moses was twirling a grotesque highway system that resembled a bowl of linguini through the five boroughs of New York City, displacing tens of thousands of working-class people with eminent

domain, destroying historic neighborhoods with no regard for cultural concerns, aesthetics or traditional community cohesion. Moses, who never learned to drive, would also ram highways like the Southern State Parkway out into shores of Nassau and Suffolk counties with overpasses so low that minorities on buses could not pass under them as documented in the magnificent book "The Power Broker" by Robert Caro.

"Moses also wanted to build a four-lane highway the length of Fire Island," said Grossman. "That story took me out to Fire Island to take a look and to talk to people who lived there. What I found was a gorgeous preserve of nature, the Sunken Forest with wild holly and an amazing seashore. I was a city kid, but I was an Eagle Scout, so I knew about nature. I also spoke to the people who lived on Fire Island whose idyllic world would be destroyed by Moses's plan to cover it with asphalt. I quoted these articulate, very concerned people like Charles Collingwood, a TV commentator, and Theodore White, the Time writer who wrote "The Making of a President," Reginald Rose, who wrote '12 Angry Men.'

"I went back to the Leader and wrote a long, long story quoting these smart people about how Moses was going to destroy Fire Island as his roads had already destroyed so many other communities. The story ran in the Babylon Leader and other concerned citizens like Murray Barbash, a builder and conservationist, and environmentally concerned lawyers, got involved. So did my publisher, who let me write story after story after story about Moses's Fire Island road plan."

Several other Long Island weeklies followed the Leader and even though The New York Times and Newsday championed Moses's vision, the local conservationists and weekly newspapers helped move the hand of government as Fire Island was declared a National Seashore, which took the power away from New York State and Robert Moses and placed it with the Feds.

If you visit Fire Island on Valentine's Day with someone special and marvel at the preserved natural beauty, give thanks that a gutsy kid reporter named Karl Grossman from St. Albans, Queens biked east as a young man because he fell in love with newspapering and a Long Island gal named Janet Kopp at Antioch College.

Karl Grossman made his journalistic bones with shoe leather and a notebook, an unteachable hunger for that elusive thing called the truth which he spoke loudly to people of power.

Soon after Fire Island was saved, the Babylon Leader was sold to a new publisher who let Grossman cover another Robert Moses horror story, the 1964 World's Fair in Queens. Because Moses refused to hire any blacks in his simulated world, a civil rights march embarked on the Unisphere. "I reported the story and took photos," Grossman said. "The story ran in the Leader. I was called into the office of the new publisher and fired because Robert Moses complained about my story."

When one door closed, endless new doors opened for Grossman, who was soon hired at the Long Island Press at age 22, where he covered issues concerning the environment and the aforementioned nuclear power plant issue on Long Island.

In 1977, Grossman learned that the Long Island Press was closing from a headline in a newspaper box outside the Whalebone on Noyac Road. Soon after, he received a call to come teach at SUNY Old Westbury, and was hired by a chain of local Long Island weeklies to write a column that has appeared in The Southampton Press, The East Hampton Press, The Shelter Island Reporter, and The Sag Harbor Express. The newspapering led to books including "Cover Up: What You Are Not Supposed to Know about Nuclear Energy," "The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to Our Planet," and "Weapons in Space."

Grossman also became the chief investigative reporter for WVVH-TV, the host of the weekly Enviro Close-Up, and documentaries "Three Mile Island Revisited," "The Push to Revive Nuclear Power," and "Nukes in Space: The Nuclearization and Weaponization of the Heavens," all available on YouTube.

So, what does a man who got hooked on news in the early 1960s tell his students today as daily newspapers close from sea to shining sea?

"I tell them that there is still a legitimate media for them to work in," he said. "I tell them to work on local weeklies that have prospered as dailies close. It's where I learned the craft. But I stress that they need to learn all the platforms news is delivered on now — print, radio, TV, internet, podcasts, blogs, social media, websites. They need to learn how to use cameras so they can make documentaries that start with a simple news story. I tell them that in the movie 'The Graduate,' a businessman tells Dustin Hoffman that the future is a single word: 'Plastics.' I tell them to substitute 'digital' for 'plastics' and they will work in the news business.

I also tell them that they must learn to write well. And to be on time. A student more than 10 minutes late in one of my classes is marked absent. Because if it was a news conference or an interview he just missed, he would be fired. I also tell them 'Give light and the people will find their way.'"

After 60 years in journalism, Karl Grossman is still shining the light. Lucky us.

OPINION

Don't militarize the heavens

OPINION

BY KARL GROSSMAN

President Donald Trump has signed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020 that establishes a Space Force as the sixth branch of the U.S. armed forces — despite the landmark Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which designated space as a global commons to be used for peaceful purposes.

The treaty was put together by the United States, the former Soviet Union and Britain, and since has been signed by many nations. Craig Eisendrath, a U.S. State Department officer involved in its creation, has said that “we sought to de-weaponize space before it got weaponized . . . to keep war out of space.”

It prohibits the placement of any weapons of mass destruction in space. Although the Trump administration has said a Space Force is necessary

because Russia and China are moving into space militarily, Russia, China and Canada have led for decades in pushing for an expansion of the treaty. They've advocated for the UN's Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space resolution, which would affirm a ban on weapons in space. The United States has opposed the PAROS resolution and has effectively vetoed it at the UN.

At the defense authorization act signing Dec. 20, Trump said forming a Space Force marked “a big moment.” He said: “Space. Going to be a lot of things happening in space. Because space is the world's newest warfighting domain.”

Trump's advocacy for a Space Force started as a joke. National Public Radio's Claudia Grisales related that in March 2018 “Trump riffed on an idea he called ‘Space Force’ before a crowd of Marines in San Diego. It drew laughs.”

Subsequently, he noted: “I said, ‘Maybe we need a new force, we'll call it the Space Force.’ And I was not really serious. Then I said, ‘What a great idea, maybe we'll have to do that.’”

I've investigated the possibility of space becoming a war arena since President Ronald Reagan's “Star Wars” in the 1980s.

This has included writing a book, “Weapons in Space,” and writing and narrating three TV documentaries. I've been to Russia several times, and I've been to China. What these nations want is the PAROS initiative and not to waste their national treasuries on weapons in space.

I recall sitting with Chinese diplomats after I spoke at a UN conference on the threat of weaponization of space. They stressed how they need to feed, educate, house and provide health care to their people. My speech was fol-

lowed by the Chinese UN ambassador who said his nation sought to keep space for peace.

But if we move ahead with a Space Force, China and Russia, and other countries, will respond in kind. China and Russia won't accept “American dominance” of space, and there would be an arms race in space.

The Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space protested in Florida against space weaponization. Apollo astronaut Edgar Mitchell participated. He said, “Any war in space would be the one and only.”

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Maine-based Global Network, said Mitchell warned at the protest that in the event of war “activity on Earth below would immediately shut down — cell phones, ATM machines, cable TV, traffic lights, weather prediction and more

— all hooked up to satellites, would be lost. Modern society would go dark.”

China has said that a U.S. Space Force would be a “direct threat” to peace. Its foreign ministry recently said the world should “adopt a cautious and responsible attitude to prevent outer space from beginning a new battlefield and work together to maintain lasting peace and tranquility in outer space.”

War in space would be calamitous.



Karl Grossman is a professor of journalism at the SUNY College at Old Westbury. He is author of “Weapons in Space” and writer and narrator of the TV documentary “Nukes in Space: The Nuclearization and Weaponization of the Heavens.”

Mad in America

SCIENCE, PSYCHIATRY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

EDITORIAL ▾ DRUGS ▾ EDUCATION VETERANS PARENTS ▾ MIA GLOBAL ▾ GET INVOLVED ▾ ABOUT ▾



Moving Mental Health Work Away From Diagnosis: Sarah Kamens and Peter Kinderman on New Open Letter

MIA's Justin Karter interviews two leaders of the Task Force on Diagnostic Alternatives, a group of mental health professionals who have issued an open letter demanding a new look at psychiatric diagnosis.

By **Justin Karter** - February 12, 2020 5027 18

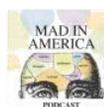
Psychiatric diagnosis has come under increased scrutiny in recent years following the release of the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5) in 2013.

Two organizations that played a prominent role in challenging the Bible of psychiatry prior to 2013, the British Psychological Society and the Society for Humanistic Psychology (American Psychological Association - Division 32) subsequently joined to form the Task Force for Diagnostic Alternatives (TFDA).

Today, February 12th, 2020, the TFDA released [a new Open Letter regarding the reform and revision of diagnostic systems](#). MIA spoke with two leaders of the Task Force, Sarah Kamens, and Peter Kinderman about this effort.

Sarah Kamens is an Assistant Professor of Psychology, at the [State University of New York \(SUNY\) College at Old Westbury](#) and co-chair of the Task Force for Diagnostic Alternatives for the Society for Humanistic Psychology. Her research examines the intersections between extreme emotional distress and [structural marginalization](#). More specifically, she studies the ways in which [lived experiences of psychosis](#) and trauma are entangled with [social conditions](#) in the world.

Peter Kinderman is past president of the British Psychological Society (BPS) and a Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool. He is also a past guest on the *Mad in America* podcast and the author of *A Manifesto for Mental Health, Why We Need a Revolution in Mental Health Care* (2019) and *A Prescription for Psychiatry: Why We Need a Whole New Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing* (2013).



MAD IN AMERICA: SCIENCE, PSYCHIATRY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Sarah Kamens and Peter Kinderman - Moving Mental Health Work Away F...

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After Decades Working To Champion Latinos, Dr. Donna Maria Blancero Is Bentley University Newest Provost

Shirley Gómez | Feb 18 2020, 09:04AM EST



Bentley University has announced the appointment of Dr. Donna Maria Blancero, who has worked for decades to champion Latinos and people of color, as its provost and vice president for academic affairs. The announcement comes after a comprehensive, national search launched last May. Courtesy

Bentley University has announced the appointment of Dr. Donna Maria Blancero, who has worked for decades to champion Latinos and people of color, as its provost and vice president for academic affairs. The announcement comes after a comprehensive, national search launched last May.

“Donna Maria has played an integral part in rolling out our strategic plan and supporting the university’s academic growth,” said Bentley University President Alison Davis-Blake. “But her impact goes far beyond academia. She is a champion for diversity and inclusion, frequently encouraging students of all backgrounds and identities to share their experiences.”

Blancero joined the Bentley community in 2010 as an associate professor of management. She held several important roles on campus including interim provost for close to a year, interim dean of business and the McCallum Graduate School, and associate dean of undergraduate business. Prior to joining Bentley, she held a faculty role at Arizona State University and was a member of the academic cabinet at Touro University International.

For over 20 years, Blancero, a proud Latina of Puerto Rican heritage, has worked as a consultant to help organizations mentor Latinos and people of color. She is the founding editor of The Business Journal of Hispanic Research and recipient of several awards including the Brillante Award for Hispanic Education and the Presidential Award from the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science.

Blancero is also a faculty member with the Ph.D. Project, which promotes diversity among business school faculty, and chairs its Committee on Hispanic Excellence, which was named a White House Initiative under the Obama administration. She received her Ph.D. in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University, a master’s degree from New York Institute of Technology and a bachelor’s degree from [SUNY, College at Old Westbury](#).



Town of Islip

A Message from the Supervisor

"Welcome to Islip, the 3rd largest town in New York State, but with an endearing small town feel. We are so proud of our town...our beaches, golf courses, marinas, parks, housing opportunities for all, businesses, industrial parks, healthcare and educational institutions including our own Islip MacArthur Airport that provides many job opportunities. I sincerely hope you find this website helpful." – *Angie*



HOME GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS **NEWS** COMMUNITY & SERVICES HOW DO I...

Town Honors Educator at Black History Celebration

February 12th, 2020 – Islip Supervisor Angie Carpenter joined with members of the Town Board to honor Sharon Dungee, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Central Islip School District.

Ms. Dungee oversees all aspects of district-wide curriculum development and instruction, working with school principals, departmental directors and faculty, to develop and implement academic and extracurricular programs designed to enhance all students' learning capabilities in grades Pre-K through 12.



"Sharon is a dedicated educator who has demonstrated a deep commitment to furthering the education of all children in the Central Islip district," said Supervisor Carpenter.

Prior to her current role, Ms. Dungee served as Principal of the Early Childhood Center and Cordello Elementary School. She is active throughout her community, serving on the Board of Directors of the Central Islip Public Library and the YMCA.

Ms. Dungee earned her Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from [SUNY Old Westbury](#); a Masters Degree in Early Childhood and her Professional Diploma in School District Administration from Long Island University at C.W. Post. Ms. Dungee is presently pursuing her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership for Diverse Learning Communities at Molloy College in Rockville Centre.

Ms. Dungee and her husband, Bill, live in Central Islip with their children Angelique, Jacob and Lucas.

New Hyde Park resident to have book published

By Dan Offner -January 20, 2020

New Hyde Park resident Allan Hunter will be releasing his memoir, "GenderQueer: A Story from a Different Closet," available soon from Sunstone Press. The story tells of the author's journey through the challenges of gender identity that did not fit neatly into the categories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.

Hunter explains, "I'm one of the girls. That's my gender. I'm male. That's my sex. I'm attracted to females. That's my orientation. My experience was different from anything else I'd ever heard of. I wanted to write it down so there would be a book showing what it is like to grow up like this."

Hunter received a B.A. in American Studies with a concentration in Women's Studies from SUNY Old Westbury and an M.A. in Sociology and MSW in Social Welfare from SUNY Stony Brook University.

His self-examination and his skills at research into the areas of women's and gender studies have provided him with many answers that have been incorporated into this book. "GenderQueer" should prove invaluable to those who want to learn about themselves, perhaps discovering that they, too, are genderqueer, as well as others studying the complex world of gender identities, whatever their personal stories happen to be.

Hunter also maintains an online blog (<http://ahunter3.livejournal.com>) which provides relevant material for an online course, as well as some more formal theory pieces available on his theory web site, www.genderkitten.com.

"In a world of increasingly complex gender identity issues, 'Genderqueer' transcends labels and categorizations," said Susan F. Edwards, editor, author, journalist. "It tells the story of one person's voyage outside the box at a time when there was no roadmap for the journey. This book extends a warm, open and affirming hand to people who are struggling to understand their own personal mix of gender and sexuality — and to those who want to understand and support their quest."

During his undergraduate days, Hunter was an active participant at the campus Women's Center, edited the student newspaper, and wrote many articles about sex roles, gender, and feminism. He also conducted a psychological research project on sex-role nonconformity, where he profiled male sissies (male girls) and female tomboys (female boys), differentiating them from either sexual orientation or studies of transsexual people seeking sex reassignment.

The author has often been at odds with other academics concerning his views on gender identity and on feminism. He has brought a fresh perspective to these discussions, which have not always been favorably received, yet they have added to the scholarship in an area that has been greatly lacking in researching and writing.

"Having facilitated 20Something, a queer support group in New York City, for many years, I have observed many of our young members explore a variety of experiences that speak to the development of their gender identity and sexual orientation. When Allan Hunter was our guest, his storytelling and amusing anecdotes helped open conversations they may never otherwise have on their own exploration of gender. We know Allan's book will be a valued resource for many queer youth," said 20Something organizer Nicholas Tamborra.

"Allan Hunter's story highlights what it means to find that engrained understandings of how gender was understood in the late 20th century failed to accommodate individuals that did not fit the binary standards," said Ann M Peiffer, Ph.D., Women's and Gender Studies Program, Mars Hill University.

The book, "GenderQueer: A Story from a Different Closet," will be available at Amazon.com and at local booksellers later this year.

Rapper Wordsworth Loving Day Job as Middle School Teacher

HANK MCCOY | JANUARY 21, 2020 | 11:35AM



Students at Oak Hammock Middle School in Ft. Myers call him Mr. Johnson, but sometimes on weekends he's still Wordsworth. / Image via [Oak Hammock Middle School](#)

Wordsworth is here to teach, and hopefully, you fools will be wise enough to listen.

A journeyman emcee who's collaborated with some of the most important artists in hip-hop came to C & I Studios in Fort Lauderdale this past weekend and it was a good time for taking notes.

There is a trend with rappers in South Florida that leaves me speechless — rapping over the vocals on their tracks. This. Is. Inexcusable. If you can't manage to perform without using the vocals from the record, you are not a rapper. You are a hobbyist that deserves no shine. Your hit song doesn't mean shit, your style and swag is vapid and without thought, and you do a disservice to those that you claim to idolize. In the '90s, we called them posers. Today, posing seems an acceptable art form.

Now I don't want to appear insensitive to an up-and-coming artist who's planning on rapping over the vocals at a show coming up, but you are wasting your damn time. It takes talent and real skill to rock a crowd. That realness will always reign supreme in hip-hop.

That's where Wordsworth has lived a good long time.

After two decades, Wordsworth is still shining above most that dare to grip a microphone and spit that fire. He's had a career full of collaboration and respect that few underground or indie artists find. Words featured on A Tribe Called Quest's *The Love Movement* album alongside his old rap partner Punchline, and they also featured on Mos Def and Talib Kweli's *Black Star*. These early opportunities were pivotal for Wordsworth, putting him among artists who are considered hip-hop's true practitioners.

Wordsworth caught a lot of people's eye on MTV's *Lyricist Lounge*, which he created, produced, and starred in. The hip-hop/sketch comedy show built a cult following and launched the careers of many talented individuals, most notably actress Tracee Ellis Ross. Then in 2005, Wordsworth joined the underground supergroup eMC, consisting of the legendary storyteller Masta Ace, her former rhyming partner Punchline, and Milwaukee emcee Stricklin. Their debut LP *The Show* was a concept album taking the listener on tour with them as they deal with the typical issues that arise for indie artists on the road. It's not a glamorous record, full of bottles popping and late nights in VIP, but a heart-breaking experience that talks of amateur promoters and getting their money out of venues that typically screw over artists.

But Wordsworth is much more than just an astounding lyricist. He's found his true calling through teaching. So many have the perception of hip-hop artists as misogynistic, greedy, and egotistical, but in truth, it's normally the opposite. Examples abound with artists like Nipsey Hussle, who worked tirelessly to help clean up his old neighborhood, KRS-One and his time as a lecturer/speaker, and 9th Wonder as a professor at Duke. Akon has basically dropped off the map to focus on bringing solar energy to Africa, while Chance The Rapper works on local politics and activism in Chicago. Wordsworth created a music production curriculum at Oak Hammock Middle School in Ft. Myers that is unlike anything educators have seen before, and he hopes to expand nationwide.

Wordsworth, who earned a bachelor's degree from [SUNY at Old Westbury](#), completed a master's in music business at the University of Miami in nine months. The Brooklyn native still has all of his college papers. "I wrote my papers in rhyme form," Wordsworth says. "It made me want to go to college — it made me want to do the work."

Wordsworth hasn't been on tour since he became a teacher at Oak Hammock, where he's known as Vinson Johnson. "My daughter was failing, her grades were slipping, because her school couldn't supply enough substitutes. I went in kind of irate about that," Words says. "So when I went in to become a sub, I went down to the office and a lady approached me to tell me more black male teachers are needed in the industry, so I should actually become a teacher instead of a substitute. Within three seconds, it changed my life. It was the realest decision I've ever made in my life. Like these kids need you."

That's putting his money where his mouth is — he has officially become a part of the solution.

"This generation of kids needs you," he says. "I had to think about it, like everything I've done up to that point, if I just walk away, whatever kind of happens to them I feel socially responsible for — 'cuz I had the chance to say yeah, and I did it and it was actually the best move I ever did."

Wordsworth now has summers off and although you would think a rapper with the credentials he has would use that time off to tour and make a gang of money, it's deeper than that for Wordsworth. "The summers are about being home with my family. I did so much touring before this, I missed so many birthdays. A lot of moments."

Wordsworth is a man who has found his own path by following his dreams. His life's an example to those that think the dream they have in their mind's eye is the be-all and end-all. It isn't. Oftentimes your purpose comes to you when you least expect it.

From catching Wordsworth's performance at C & I Studios, it's clear his calling in life as an educator hasn't stripped him of his ability to outshine any rapper that steps on stage before or after him. His latest album is called *Champion Sounds*, with rapper Pearl Gates and producer Quincey Tones — and it is relentless with the soul samples and the boom bap vibes they're creating. Talib Kweli, Masta Ace, Kool G Rap, and many others make appearances. Check that shit out. And if you haven't checked out eMC, then motherfucker, get that education.

My high school sent a counselor to visit me in college. I repaid the favor by running a marathon.

By Karla Arroyo January 16, 2020

As my feet pounded the pavement during the marathon I was surprised to be running, I thought back to seventh grade.

I was a student at Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School, but everyone there called it WHEELS, and I was in Ms. Aberger's class for College 101 week. Throughout that week, we learned about following the path to get to college. We learned about choosing majors of interest, moving away from home, and writing theses. We even learned about the University of Notre Dame and its renowned football games.

I recall telling my mother about what we were learning. As a woman who migrated from the Dominican Republic a year before I was born, she was excited to hear I was being exposed to something — confidence that a college education was in reach — that she'd wished for.

Thinking about college in the seventh grade felt normal for me. I knew college was the ultimate goal after high school so the more mentally prepared I was, the better. I wasn't concerned about how to pay for college or even about going away for college at the time. I knew it would be revisited later on during my WHEELS stay as a student, where I would learn about all the logistics. I was just happy to be on the right path.

That seventh-grade class kicked off a theme that followed me throughout my entire time as a WHEELS student: that getting to and through college was a very important value.

Nowhere was that theme more palpable than in the College Access Room, known as the CAR to students and people at the school. I felt very blessed to have been part of the first class to experience the room, which was created in 2013 as a space for students to work on all things college.

The CAR was home to the college counselors at WHEELS but also a second home to us, the students. Any time we had a question or an issue regarding college applications, we were able to receive help there. The college counselors helped with filling out college applications, applying for financial aid, and helping us craft our personal statements.

Visiting the CAR nearly every day helped me cultivate a great relationship with my college counselor, Ms. Osorio. I would walk her through every step of my college application process and speak to her about personal issues when I needed advice. When it became time to request recommendation letters for our college applications, Ms. Osorio was the first person I asked. I felt confident in her ability to speak well of me as she saw me grow academically, professionally, and personally. She was an important part of my college application process as a high school student and I wanted that to be known through her testimony.

Students in many schools don't have the advantage of having faculty to help them out individually with their college transition process, so I was extremely grateful to have this resource. The CAR was like a second home to me. It helped me overcome the fears I had developed about paying for college, adjusting to a different school, and being away from my family. The counselors there always assured me that college was going to be a reality for me and they would be the resources to help me throughout my journey. And since they had known me as a student for years, I trusted that they would have my best interests in mind.

Without the CAR, I don't think I would've been as prepared for college. The counselors helped me get admitted to [SUNY Old Westbury](#), my top choice. Their around-the-clock support helped me prepare with my application and, most importantly, helped me stay on track during my college career. The CAR counselors would often check in with me and visit me in college to ensure I had the support I needed to graduate.

My sophomore year at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) was a tough one, where I went through some emotionally challenging situations and, as a result, the quality of my work declined. Ms. Batke, the WHEELS college counselor at the time, had scheduled a visit to my school to get an update on my academics and college life. I explained to her what I was enduring and how I had a lack of motivation. She was extremely supportive and reassured me that she and the WHEELS team are my family, people I could reach out to if I needed anything.

Her visit reminded me of how much WHEELS kept their promise of helping us get into college and beyond. This moment was when I realized I had chosen the right school to lead me into this new chapter of my life. Ms. Batke continued checking in with me at least once every semester after that. Thankfully, I was in a better place when she reached out to me the next semester. I was doing better in classes and I began getting back into my rhythm of taking life day by day.

That my high school school stuck with me through the marathon that is getting ready for college, applying, and graduating has been a defining aspect of my life. So when members of the school's booster group, Friends of WHEELS, encouraged me to run the New York City marathon to raise money for the school, I was game.

The preparation was challenging, and the experience was grueling. But Friends of WHEELS supporters lined the marathon route for the first 13 miles, and I knew my mother and was waiting to cheer me on at mile 20. It felt like I was never going to get there but as soon as I saw them, I got an instant energy boost. Having them support me on the course really kept me going.

With just three miles left, I was jogging really slowly and beginning to envision myself crawling to the finish line. But then I thought about the advice a fellow runner had given me at the beginning of the marathon: "Don't worry about time, just worry about finishing!" After 6 hours and 17 minutes, I did, raising nearly \$4,000 for Friends of WHEELS.

My experience in the race paralleled what I felt preparing for and applying to college: The end can feel so far away when you're so close. But with support and encouragement, hard journeys can end in achievement.

I'm now enrolled in graduate school, studying to become a journalist. The finish line of a master's degree is in sight, something I could hardly have imagined on my first day at WHEELS. The race continues, but the lessons and sense of support I developed in the CAR back in high school, and Ms. Aberger's class in middle school are keeping me going.

Karla Arroyo is a student at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY.

This year, Chalkbeat reporters are examining whether students from struggling schools are prepared for college — and whether colleges are prepared for them. Catch up on the Ready or Not series [here](#).

LONG ISLAND / EDUCATION

Elwood student's math research recognized



Rithika Narayan, a junior at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School, recently had her math research published and was a presenter at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2020 in Denver. Credit: Prakash Narayan

By Michael R. Ebert

michael.ebert@newsday.com

Updated February 7, 2020 6:00 PM

An Elwood student's research recently earned her the opportunity to speak at the world's largest math meeting.

Rithika Narayan, a junior at Elwood-John H. Glenn High School, was one of the youngest presenters last month at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2020 in Denver, which was hosted by the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America.

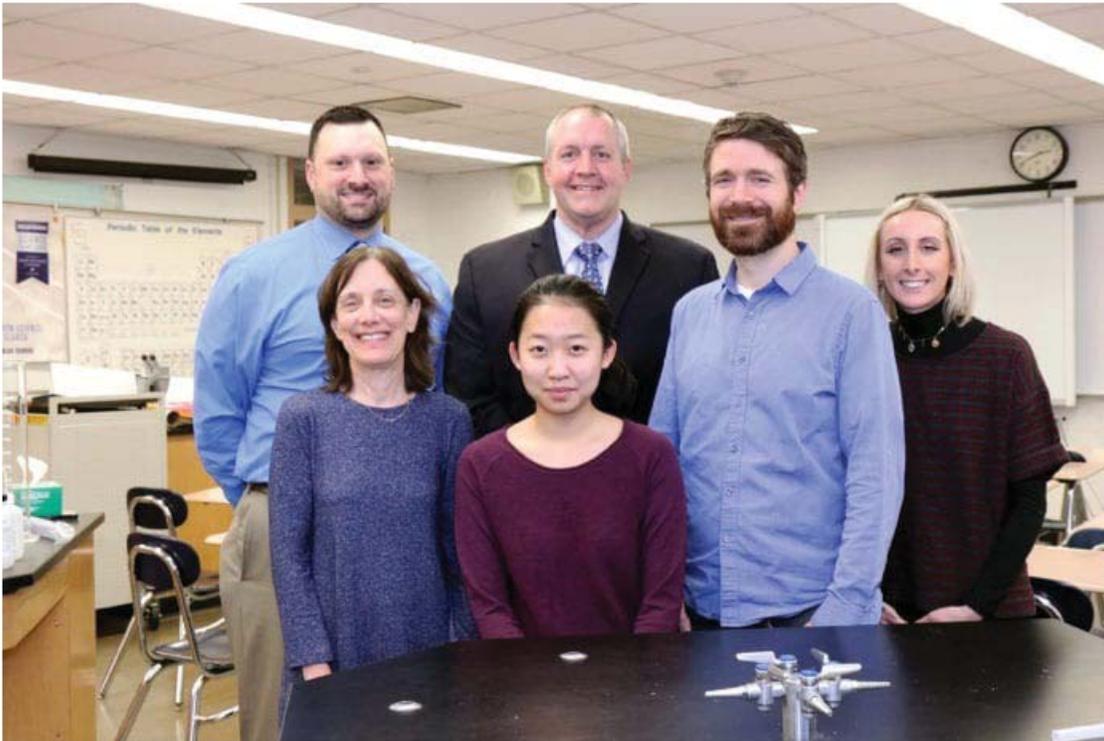
Narayan's research involved using a mixed-unit lattice approach for determining the area of cellular and subcellular structures, which she found outperforms the conventional unit squares method used for these measurements.

Her findings also were published in the December issue of MDPI, a publisher of peer-reviewed open access journals.

"It's a validation that my research is worthy of peer-reviewed standards," said Narayan, 16, noting that accurate determination of cellular and subcellular dimensions are critical to detecting changes related to certain diseases.

Narayan's method uses a hexagonal and triangular grid somewhat similar to a honeycomb instead of pixel-sized squares typically used by computer software. She came up with the idea while attending [SUNY Old Westbury's](#) Institute of Merit, a nonprofit that strives to improve local math education.

Narayan plays viola in her school's chamber orchestra and is a member of the Habitat for Humanity Club and Art and Tri-M Music honor societies. She also tutors chemistry and is involved in Elwood's Freshman Buddy Mentor Program.



Regeneron STS Scholar Kallista Zhuang (seated, center) is congratulated by (back row, left to right) science department head Michael DiPasquale, Principal Dr. Christopher Gitz, and (front row) science research teachers/advisors Dr. Carol Hersh, Dr. James Truglio, and Nicole Spinelli. Photo courtesy of Great Neck Public Schools.

Kallista Zhuang of South High School has been named a Scholar in the prestigious 2020 Regeneron Science Talent Search competition. She is one of 300 semifinalists nationwide, selected from an applicant pool of nearly 2,000 students.

Kallista's award-winning project is titled, "A Novel Link Between Xenoestrogen Bisphenol-A's Neurotoxicity and Neuroinflammation via Estrogenic Activity and Alzheimer's Disease Pathogenesis." She conducted her research at [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

Bisphenol-A is a man-made chemical additive found in many common manufactured products, including water bottles, food containers and plastic toys. It's now a widespread environmental contaminant, mimicking important functions of estrogen, thus making it dangerous to organs that respond to estrogen, such as the brain. Many studies have suggested that environmental pollution is a factor in Alzheimer's disease development. In this study, Bisphenol-A was observed to be toxic to neuronal cells and to increase the deleterious effects of cellular factors that play a role in the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Science research teachers/advisors at South High are Dr. Carol Hersh, Nicole Spinelli, and Dr. James Truglio.

Regeneron STS Scholars each receive \$2,000, with a matching amount for their school to use toward STEM-related activities.

On Jan. 22, 40 of the top 300 Scholars will become Regeneron Finalists. Finalists will travel to Washington, DC, in March to compete for top awards.

The Regeneron competition is the former Westinghouse and then the Intel Science Talent Search. The Talent Search, begun in 1942, is the nation's oldest, and often considered its most prestigious, pre-college mathematics and science competition. It is administered by Society for Science and the Public, a non-profit group based in Washington.

2 Syosset students named Regeneron Scholars



Pictured from left, Superintendent Dr. Tom Rogers, Research Facilitator Ms. Veronica Ade, Regeneron STS Scholars Hailey Edelman and Michelle Li, and Syosset High School Principal Dr. Giovanni Durante.
Photo courtesy of the Syosset School District

January 16, 2020

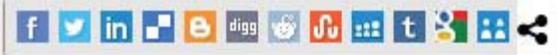
Congratulations to Syosset High School seniors Hailey Edelman and Michelle Li, who were named 2020 Regeneron Science Talent Search (Regeneron STS) Scholars. The Regeneron STS is the nation's oldest and most prestigious pre-college science competition. These students were selected from 1,993 U.S. and international entries and they each will receive a \$2,000 award with an additional \$2,000 going to the high school to support STEM education. They are among 300 students named Regeneron STS scholars and hope to be among 40 finalists named later this month. The scholars were selected based on their exceptional research skills, commitment to academics, innovative thinking and promise as scientists.

"I am extremely proud of the dedication and passion these young ladies display for their research," said Syosset High School research facilitator Veronica Ade. "They are both outstanding scientists, and future leaders in STEM."

Hailey Edelman conducted her research project, Exploring the Role of Cannabidiol in a *Caenorhabditis elegans* Model, at Syosset High School. Epilepsy is a progressive neurological disease characterized by recurrent seizures affecting people of all ages worldwide. Individuals afflicted with epilepsy whose seizures are not well controlled by the 24 anti-epileptic medications approved by the FDA are deemed drug resistant. Epidiolex (CBD) was approved by the FDA in 2018 for the treatment of seizures as cannabidiol components of cannabis have been shown to have anti-convulsive effects, yet the pathway in which CBD inhibits seizure activity is unknown. Cannabidiol has been shown to affect various pathways of inflammation including the adenosine and tumor necrosis factor alpha pathway. To further explain the protective effects of cannabidiol in mitigating seizure activity, the adenosine and TNF α inflammatory pathways were tested by culturing nematodes with adenosine and TNF α antagonists and agonists. Further understanding the mechanisms of action of cannabidiol will allow for greater therapeutic implications for the 65 million people impacted by epilepsy.

Michelle Li conducted her research project, Linarin and Luteolin Elicit Anti-A β Cytotoxicity and Inflammation Properties as Novel Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease, at [SUNY Old Westbury](#), mentored by Dr Wei Zhu. Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is a dementia-associated neurodegenerative disease characterized by plaques of deposited amyloid-beta (A β) proteins and tangles of tau protein fibers. Synthetic AD treatments often have adverse side effects, prompting the need for natural treatments. This study examined linarin and luteolin, two plant-derived substances, as potential natural AD treatments. Linarin and luteolin treatments, individual and combined, were tested on the survival rates of murine neuronal and immune cells to investigate their neuroprotective effects against A β . The effects of these substances against A β on the cell counts of human neuronal cells, as well as the amyloid precursor protein (APP) concentration in human neuronal cells and the pro-inflammatory interleukin-1-beta (IL-1 β) concentration in murine immune cells were investigated. Results demonstrated that linarin and luteolin increased cell survival against A β , indicating protective properties against A β toxicity. They have also been shown to decrease the concentrations of APP and IL-1 β in A β -treated cells, indicating that they decrease both the source of A β plaques and inflammation causing proteins. Therefore, while both linarin and luteolin have been shown to have neuroprotective properties against A β toxicity, which make them promising AD treatments, they have not demonstrated synergistic effects that would make the combined substances a promising treatment.

The 40 finalists in the competition, to be named on January 22, will travel to Washington, D.C., where they will undergo a rigorous judging process, interact with leading scientists, display their research for the public, meet with national leaders, and compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards provided by Regeneron.



Math Accolades Add Up

R.C. Murphy Junior High School eighth grader Benjamin Wu and seventh grader Oliver Wu have been accepted to the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#).



These students are among 85 students who will pursue the study of mathematics and its applications. To qualify for this honor, the 85 students that were selected for the institute's three divisions competed against approximately 550 of the top-ranking students recommended by educators from public and private schools on Long Island. Selection by the institute implies that a student is among the top one-tenth of 1% in math of all students on Long Island in his or her grade. Acceptances were based on four criteria: school transcript, teacher recommendation, a brief statement written by the student and a rigorous entrance exam.

The curriculum covers mathematical topics of algebra, geometry, discrete math and number theory, in addition to topics not included in the standard courses of study. These topics include problem-solving applied to probability, theory of finite differences, science applications and mass point geometry.

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