



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

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SUNY Old Westbury



LI now has one of the lowest infection rates

By Newsday Staff

Updated July 9, 2020 3:20 PM

Colleges across Long Island prepare to open

College life on Long Island will look different this fall, with frequent screenings for coronavirus, limited in-person gatherings and, for some, a mix of remote and face-to-face instruction.

“We’re being as flexible as we can be with our students, but it’s safety that counts, following all the protocols and wearing masks,” said Kathy Coley, spokeswoman for Farmingdale State College. “It’s going to be quite a semester.”

Some students won’t be moving in at all, while others will undergo mandatory testing for COVID-19 before they step on campus.

State University of New York Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson recently approved the reopening plans from Stony Brook University, Farmingdale State College, **SUNY Old Westbury**, Empire State College and other campuses.

[Read more](#) about what colleges have planned.

Still have questions? [Save your spot](#) on Friday for Newsday's latest free virtual event featuring a discussion on the fall semester, how colleges will keep students safe, parent concerns and more.

Coronavirus Concerns Loom Over Fall College Semester Plans on Long Island

DANA CHIUEH

AUGUST 4, 2020

After an impromptu remote spring semester thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, colleges and universities across Long Island are developing measures to ensure a safe fall semester.

Of the 15 institutions on LI, only Touro College and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy have not yet released plans for the new academic year as of press time. Officials at other institutions warn that despite their plans, policies may still be subject to change.

"We need reopening plans, monitoring plans, containment plans, and shutdown plans," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said of colleges in September.

Experts have warned that Thanksgiving break may result in a spike in cases as students travel nationwide. As a result, all colleges will be operating remotely after the holiday, many shifted their academic calendars, and Stony Brook University cancelled fall break.

LESSON IN SAFETY

When it comes to health department guidance, colleges are leaving no stone unturned. Face coverings will be mandated in all spaces, gatherings will be limited, and common areas shut down. Hygiene and social distancing signs, plexiglass barriers, plentiful hand sanitizer, and increased surveillance are all a part of the "new normal" outlined in each college's reopening plan.

New York Institute of Technology is upgrading its HVAC systems to eliminate viral particles through filtration, said President Hank Foley. Meanwhile, Adelphi University unveiled a new Health and Wellness Office to increase its health response.

Temperature checks and health screenings via smartphone apps will become a facet of students' routines. At St. Joseph's College and SBU, students will be required to fill out the screenings every morning they are on campus. At Molloy College, all individuals will have to take their temperature at a kiosk prior to entering any building.

SETTING UNSETTLED

Most local institutions have announced an array of education formats to be offered in the fall semester, including synchronous online learning through platforms such as Zoom, asynchronous online learning (prerecorded videos), hybrid classes that have students alternating between in-person and remote elements, and fully in-person classes, especially for hands-on, experiential education such as laboratory work.

At Adelphi and Molloy, an additional HyFlex course option is available, "offering students the option to participate live, synchronously, or asynchronously," according to Adelphi. Students choosing this option can attend in-person, watch lectures live, or watch recordings, for maximum flexibility.

This flexibility may be important to accommodate out-of-state or international students who may struggle with time zone issues, inability to travel to campus, or new restrictions on student visas. Students with health concerns can also benefit from a home environment.

However, accreditation requirements for certain degree programs may pose a challenge for students in a largely remote semester. Programs such as Farmingdale State College's professional pilot program require demonstrated hands-on experience, necessities the college says applies to around 35 percent of its students.

Webb Institute, Long Island University Post, and Five Towns College are forging ahead with all in-person instruction, keeping in mind social distancing and sanitation within classrooms.

"We also are adjusting class schedules to allow for more time between classes, because we know it will take longer to get from place to place on campus safely," Hofstra University wrote in an announcement.

Both Nassau and Suffolk County Community Colleges are anticipating a largely remote reopening; at SCCC, 88 percent of all classes offered will be completely remote.

By contrast, FSC announced its intentions to have "an on-campus experience that includes no more than one-third to one-half of its students and faculty on campus on any given day."

DORM LIFE

Most schools with residential programs are reducing dormitory capacity and encouraging students to seek off-campus housing or live at home, in efforts to promote social distancing, which can be a challenge in a shared living space. However, if a student resident has been exposed to the virus, there will be isolation areas.

Hofstra announced that in dormitories, "students will be assigned to use only one sink, one shower and one bathroom throughout the semester to reduce the number of people sharing facilities." Elevator capacity will also be capped at two.

SUNY College at Old Westbury will be the only local residential college not offering student housing in fall 2020, citing the possible need to house first responders if the temporary COVID-19 hospital constructed on its campus is activated in a second wave.

Among LI college officials, Webb Institute President Keith Michel was alone in requiring that all students reside on campus, citing a 130-year tradition.

"The overwhelming majority of students, faculty, and staff have expressed a desire to return to campus in the fall," he wrote.

Coronavirus forcing LI colleges to freeze hiring, cut salaries, dip into reserves

By Carol Polsky

Updated August 16, 2020 7:54 PM

One of the SUNY system's foremost research institutions, Stony Brook University, will freeze hiring, cut salaries and budgets, and take more than 50% from its \$80 million reserve fund this next academic year to offset mounting costs from the coronavirus pandemic, the school's president said in a letter last week.

All of Long Island's colleges and universities are grappling with revenue losses and playing on their strengths to survive the challenges of COVID-19, their leaders say, as they prepare to reopen campuses with a mix of in-person, remote and hybrid courses.

"The bottom line: We know we have at least a \$109.6 million deficit this year on the academic and research side, and it could become significantly worse, depending on the future impact of COVID-19 in our state and on our campus," Stony Brook president Maurie McInnis said in a letter to faculty and staff. "The economic havoc COVID has left in its wake will be significant and long-lasting, and it is impacting Stony Brook's financial health in multiple ways."

Long Island schools refunded millions of dollars to students for room and board cut short when campuses shifted to remote instruction in March. Now, lowered density in dorms this fall will further impact revenue at schools that typically have many residential students.

Anticipated dips in enrollment, especially in international students, also will affect tuition income, while federal aid will cover only a portion of the costs of upgraded technology for remote instruction, upgraded ventilation and other measures to dampen the spread of the coronavirus, school administrators say.

To defray costs, schools have left positions unfilled, cut expenses such as nonessential travel, and in some cases furloughed employees.

Stony Brook, which had an enrollment of more than 26,000 in 2019-20, said it lost \$34 million in refunded fees and \$12 million in other income last spring, and spent \$9.3 million in COVID-19-related costs. The school anticipates a 17.5% drop in out-of-state and international students for a \$20 million reduction in revenue, McInnis wrote. And, based on registration information, it expects a decrease in the number of student residents on campus from a capacity of 10,000 to 6,000, for an estimated loss of \$38.9 million.

As the financial prospects darken, several graduate students complained fall semester fee increases of about 18% are double what they had expected.

Jose Moscoso, 28, a PhD candidate in Ecology and Evolution and secretary of the Graduate Student Organization, said, "It's like them saying 'yikes we bled money' so now the poorest, lowest-paid employees on campus will have to carry this load. Why are we not seeing higher administrative pay cuts?"

McInnis said Stony Brook had used \$13.4 million in federal support and achieved \$18.7 million in savings from refinancing student housing loans. But costs continue to mount, including those at the university's hospital and clinic, which anticipate "an additional loss of between \$60 [million]-\$80 million in this fiscal year due to COVID," she wrote.

The picture elsewhere

While some universities are freezing tuitions, Hofstra University will go forward with its 4% increase in the fall. The school paid \$12 million in refunds to residential students last spring and will forgo \$10 million in revenue by reducing dorm density from 3,000 to 2,300 students this fall, Provost Herman Berliner said. The school resisted calls by some students for further rebates last spring and defended the tuition hike for the fall, he said.

"I understand the students' feelings — they don't value remote instruction the same way they value in-person, but the cost structure here is exactly the same; actually the costs are higher," Berliner said. "It's still Hofstra faculty teaching the courses, the same class size. We're doing everything we can."

At Adelphi University, where about a quarter of students live on the Garden City campus, dorm density will be reduced by 10% and students will go home after Thanksgiving, said Kristen Capezza, vice president of enrollment management. That will lead to the loss of millions in revenue on top of millions in added costs due to the pandemic, such as upgraded technology and ventilation systems, plexiglass barriers, and the costs of testing and cleaning, Capezza said.

Capezza noted that federal CARES Act aid will cover some but not all of the costs. In addition, she said, enrollment is anticipated to drop about 5%, from last year's 7,991 students to about 7,600, including fewer new international students.

But the university has not had to dip into its endowment, she said, and is instead reducing operating expenses, nonessential travel and competitive travel sports.

"No games, no traveling," she said. "It is challenging, but it forces us to be nimble and innovative, and we'll emerge stronger and more efficient on the other side."

Michael Kinane, spokesman for SUNY Old Westbury, said the decision to not allow on-campus living in the fall would lead to a \$3 million loss. And while it appreciated federal aid through the CARES Act, it anticipated cuts in state aid.

Eyes on enrollment

Institutions with fewer residential students, like Molloy College, St. Joseph's College and New York Institute of Technology, rely more on tuition income, and most said that while they anticipated dips in enrollment, they were hopeful those numbers would be manageable.

"Whatever president you talk to is anxious about what the fall census actually will be," said Donald Boomgaarden, president of St. Joseph's College, a largely nonresidential school, with campuses in Patchogue and Brooklyn, that relies on tuition for 89% of its income. "We have to see who shows up on campus ... if numbers hold now, we should end up with a slight increase in revenue."

But that doesn't mean they haven't felt any losses, spending millions on COVID-19 responses and in some cases freezing tuition and fees.

"Our costs have increased, not decreased in terms of managing our campus," said James Lentini, the new president of Molloy College in Rockville Centre, which will forgo a 4% tuition hike at a loss of \$4 million and a loss of a further \$150,000 in fees.

The school was allocated \$2.6 million in federal CARES Act aid, with half going to students and the rest paying for COVID-19 responses on campus like facial recognition kiosks to measure the temperature of those entering buildings. However, Lentini said, the aid "doesn't help the bottom line at all, frankly ... some of these things we couldn't consider doing if we didn't have CARES Act money. So it helps increase safety, but it can't be used to plug budget holes created by loss of revenue in tuition, room and board, and our regular costs."

At Farmingdale State College, an anticipated \$10 million deficit, due in part to decreased housing revenue, could improve if enrollment holds up, school president John Nader said. But a cut of up to 25% in state aid could force it to draw down some of its reserves.

The extraordinary challenges could pay off as investments now in remote and online instruction expand opportunities later, he said.

"In the longer term, I believe it will make us a stronger institution," allowing it to reach out to potential students who, because of work and family obligations, might thrive with online instruction, Nader said. "We had been moving into the online realm pretty steadily in the last few years. This may offer us an opportunity to become even better at that."

Some schools are looking for potential advantages in the crisis. New York Institute of Technology, a primarily nonresidential career-oriented school with more than 4,000 students on its Old Westbury campus last year, is anticipating a drop in enrollment, especially in international students, said Elizabeth Sullivan Roseman, senior director for communications. But it has noted upticks in some of its programs and hopes it will attract Long Islanders who prefer to study closer to home.

"We certainly think it's a good opportunity for us," she said.

Even tiny Webb Institute, which offers full scholarship tuition to its 100 students, has not escaped the impact of the pandemic. The four-year college offers a dual degree in naval architecture and marine engineering and is located in a former mansion on 26 acres in Glen Cove.

Although it has received government aid and loans, it anticipates a revenue loss between \$200,000 and \$500,000, and "expenses we don't know yet ... a net impact probably around \$700,000," said school president R. Keith Michel, noting it amounted to about 10% of Webb's budget. "It's significant, but something we can weather."

He added, "If there are major outbreaks, and everyone has to send everyone home, there would be a major impact on room and board, so we just don't know."

For now, he said, "We're going to try to keep ourselves somewhat isolated and keep ourselves healthy. That's our goal."



Chancellor Malatras Announces New Officers-in-Charge at SUNY Old Westbury and SUNY Empire State College Campuses

August 27, 2020

Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Teresa Miller to Lead Old Westbury; President Calvin Butts to Leave After More Than 20 Years of Service

SUNY Empire State College Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer Beth Berlin to Become Officer in Charge

Albany – State University of New York Chancellor Jim Malatras announced today the appointments of officers-in-charge at SUNY's Old Westbury and Empire State College campuses. Dr. Teresa A. Miller, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor of Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer, will begin as officer-in-charge of SUNY Old Westbury on September 1st, after President Calvin O. Butts III leaves campus following more than 20 years of service. SUNY Empire State College Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Operating Officer Beth Berlin will lead the campus as officer-in-charge.

SUNY Old Westbury

"Dr. Teresa Miller's commitment to diversity and depth of experience as a professor and a leader on campus and at SUNY system administration will benefit the SUNY Old Westbury community during their leadership transition and as campus begins the fall 2020 semester," **said Chancellor Malatras**. "As a member of SUNY's leadership team as campus reopening plans were reviewed, Dr. Miller is well aware of the planning that has enabled campuses to resume classes and is prepared to make additional changes to keep our students and the communities we serve safe."

"President Butts has led a rebuilding of SUNY Old Westbury both in growing enrollment with an increasingly diverse student body, and in renewing the campus infrastructure," **said Chancellor Malatras**. "And, more importantly, he has inspired a generation of students passing through Old Westbury to earn their degree and has created a culture of community service. We thank him for his years of service to SUNY."

Dr. Miller will serve as SUNY Old Westbury officer-in-charge as the search for a permanent president nears completion.

Dr. Miller serves on SUNY's senior leadership team as Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Diversity Officer, which she will continue to serve during the SUNY Old Westbury leadership transition. In this role, she works on the leadership and direction of strategic initiatives and sets the goals and expectations for diversity and inclusion across SUNY and its campuses. She also leads PRODiG, designed to increase diversity amongst faculty ranks and guide campus hiring.

She has a wealth of experience in leading diverse teams of individuals and coordinating university-wide strategies that ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion. Dr. Miller joined SUNY System Administration from the University at Buffalo (UB) where she served as a longtime member of the faculty at the UB Law School, earning her tenure and a promotion to the rank of full professor of law. She also served as the University's Chief Diversity Officer and Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence.

Temporary leaders named for SUNY Old Westbury, SUNY Empire State College

By Matthew Chayes

August 27, 2020 7:13 PM

Local branches of the State University of New York system have new, temporary leaders: Teresa A. Miller at SUNY Old Westbury, and Beth Berlin at SUNY Empire State College, according to a SUNY system news release.

Both are to hold the title “officer-in-charge,” the release said.

Miller is SUNY senior vice chancellor of strategic initiatives and chief diversity officer; Berlin is SUNY Empire State College’s executive vice president for administration and chief operating officer.

The current president of SUNY Old Westbury, the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, who served for about two decades, announced in March of 2019 his plans to retire from the college early in 2020. He is also pastor of historic Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem.

SUNY Empire State College, which is aimed at older students and grants academic credit based upon work and life experience, had been helmed by Jim Malatras, now the SUNY system’s chancellor, appointed Aug. 21. He had also been a top aide to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo.

Miller will hold her post as SUNY finalizes plans for Butts’ permanent replacement, according to the release, which said the college council is expected to narrow down the final three candidates in the coming weeks. She is a longtime professor at the University of Buffalo.

Berlin was executive deputy commissioner of the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and commissioner of the Department of Social Services in Albany County.

“The SUNY Empire College Council will begin planning a presidential search immediately,” the release said.

SUNY names officer-in-charge at Old Westbury

By: [Adina Genn](#)

August 28, 2020



There's a new leader at SUNY Old Westbury.

Theresa Miller, SUNY's senior vice chancellor for strategic initiatives and chief diversity, will serve as officer-in-charge of the campus, beginning Sept. 1.

Miller will serve in this capacity as the search for a permanent president nears completion.

She takes the helm after the campus' President Calvin O. Butts III steps down after 20 years of service.

"Dr. Teresa Miller's commitment to diversity and depth of experience as a professor and a leader on campus and at SUNY system administration will benefit the SUNY Old Westbury community during their leadership transition and as campus begins the fall 2020 semester," SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras said in a statement.

"As a member of SUNY's leadership team as campus reopening plans were reviewed, Dr. Miller is well aware of the planning that has enabled campuses to resume classes and is prepared to make additional changes to keep our students and the communities we serve safe," he added.

"President Butts has led a rebuilding of SUNY Old Westbury both in growing enrollment with an increasingly diverse student body, and in renewing the campus infrastructure," Malatras said. "And, more importantly, he has inspired a generation of students passing through Old Westbury to earn their degree and has created a culture of community service. We thank him for his years of service to SUNY."

Miller will continue her role at SUNY during the SUNY Old Westbury leadership transition. In this role, she works on the leadership and direction of strategic initiatives and sets the goals and expectations for diversity and inclusion across SUNY and its campuses. She also leads PRODiG, designed to increase diversity among faculty ranks and guide campus hiring.

She has been instrumental in leading diverse teams of individuals and coordinating university-wide strategies that ensure diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Miller joined SUNY System Administration from the University at Buffalo, serving as a longtime member of the faculty at the university's Law School, earning her tenure and a promotion to the rank of full professor of law. She also served as the university's chief diversity officer and vice provost for inclusive excellence.

LI activists, lawmakers salute civil rights icon John Lewis

By Catherine Carrera

Updated July 18, 2020 10:27 PM



Rep. John Lewis, middle, speaks at a SUNY Old Westbury panel, moderated by former Newsday journalist, Les Payne, left, with journalist Bill Moyers on Nov. 12, 2015. Credit: Johnny Milano

Lawmakers and activists across Long Island saluted civil rights icon and longtime Georgia Rep. John Lewis as they mourned his death, which comes at a time when communities are still confronting racial injustices decades after he started fighting for equality.

"John Lewis' life and now his death has to inspire us — all of us — to keep going for justice, for reform and for equity," said Tracey Edwards, Long Island Regional Director of the NAACP New York State Conference. "It's important for all of us to take time out of whatever we're doing to talk about his legacy."

Lewis, 80, represented Georgia's 5th Congressional District since 1987. He died Friday after battling Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

Lewis was the youngest of "the Big Six" leaders of the civil rights movement, one of the original 13 Freedom Riders, and a leader of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which led to the Voting Rights Act.

The Rev. C.T. Vivian, another prominent civil rights leader, also died Friday. Vivian was a Baptist minister and field general for the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. In 2013, former President Barack Obama gave Vivian the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor. Lewis received the medal in 2011.

"They were giants of their generation and ours," Edwards said. "Both of them passing on the same day is tragic. It is also a reminder of how important it is to pick up the baton and continue to move forward."

Lewis last month visited and shared support for the Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C., where the words "Black Lives Matter" are painted in yellow on a street blocks away from the White House.

The mural was done days after nationwide protests over the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died while in Minneapolis police custody. All four officers who were involved have been fired and charged in connection with Floyd's death.

State and national political leaders expressed condolences for Lewis and his family on Saturday.

"It's especially painful to lose Congressman Lewis at a moment when we need him most — when division, fear, and anger are rampant and when we're trying to figure out how to rebuild our country better than we were before," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a statement.

President Donald Trump tweeted he was "saddened" by the news of Lewis' death and issued an order to lower the flags at the White House and other federal buildings in honor of Lewis.

Local leaders on Saturday shared memories of meeting Lewis.

"Last year, my family and I had the privilege of meeting with Congressman Lewis in our nation's Capitol," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said in a statement. "It was a powerful moment for my children to listen to his stories of peacefully protesting to advance the cause of civil rights in this country."

SUNY Old Westbury president Calvin O. Butts III recalled sitting down with Lewis at a campus event five years ago.

"I am proud SUNY Old Westbury was able to host Congressman Lewis for a moving program back in 2015 that not only excited and informed our students about the history and ongoing trajectory of our nation, but that tied so well into the mission and values of our college," Butts said in an email.

State political leaders noted the significance of the march from Selma to Montgomery, which led to federal legislation prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.

"His actions opened the door for so many Americans, including myself," said State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (D-Bronx). "With the passage of the Voting Rights Act, John Lewis transformed the political landscape for African Americans, allowing people of color to not only participate in elections, but to represent their communities in government as elected officials."

State Attorney General Letitia James said, "We will continue to follow the example of the great John Lewis by voting, fighting voter suppression at every turn, and standing up for those who can't stand up for themselves."

Other state and county officials also paid tribute to the longtime congressman, who was known in Washington as "the conscience of the Congress."

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran said Lewis "was an American hero who dedicated his whole life to ensure our nation lived up to its ideals."

State Sen. Jim Gaughran, who represents the 5th District, spanning towns across Nassau and Suffolk counties, said of Lewis, "Our nation was lucky to have his leadership and commitment to justice for all."

Fellow members of the U.S. House of Representatives also remarked on Lewis' death.

Rep. Peter King (R-Seaford), who represents the 2nd Congressional District, tweeted he was "proud to serve with him. Will miss him being in the office next to mine after these many years."

Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-Garden City) tweeted a photo with Lewis with the caption, "It was the greatest honor of my life to serve with him in Congress."

Civil rights activist Bob Zellner, a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee with Lewis in the early 1960s, recalled, in a phone interview on Saturday, memories of the late congressman.

Zellner taught the history of the civil rights movement at Long Island University for 20 years until he retired in 2015. He recently moved back to his home state of Alabama, where he first met Lewis in his early 20s.

"John Lewis was one of the young leaders that I and many other young white Southerners had great respect for," Zellner said. "He showed us the importance of taking action, not just having an idea or feeling."

Zellner reunited with Lewis in March during the 55th anniversary of the march from Selma to Montgomery.

"He seemed to be as strong and motivated as ever," Zellner said as he began to cry, remembering his last moments face-to-face with his friend.

"We always laughed about having the same first two names — he was John Robert Lewis and I was John Robert Zellner," Zellner said. "We were one Black Alabamian and one white Alabamian, working together to bridge the gap between our races."

Remembering a church visit by John Lewis

Glen Covers were honored to meet Lewis

Posted July 30, 2020

Six years ago, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, the late civil rights leader, spoke at First Baptist Church of Glen Cove on a Sunday and signed copies of his 1998 memoir, "Walking With the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement."

According to the church's pastor, the Rev. Roger Williams, then U.S. Rep. Steve Israel, whose 3rd Congressional District included Glen Cove, reached out to Lewis to ask if he could visit the church.

"I told him certainly it was going to be an honor," Williams recalled. "He came with Steve Israel and one of Steve Israel's aides at the time, and people from all over the community were here . . . the people that were here, you could tell, were profoundly respectful of who he was and his living legacy. They knew who he was; they knew he was a major exponent of the civil rights movement. It was Black and white here that day to see him. They knew they were in the presence of civil rights royalty."

Williams remembered seeing Lewis many times before meeting him. He had seen photos and videos of Lewis on television and in newspapers and books recounting his fight for civil rights.

As detailed in Lewis's congressional biography, as a college student at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., he demonstrated in sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in 1961, and took part in Freedom Rides, which challenged the segregation at bus terminals across the South, often risking his life just for sitting in a seat reserved for white patrons.

By 1963, Lewis had become a national leader of the civil rights movement. At age 23, he was an organizer and keynote speaker at the 1963 March on Washington.

On March 7, 1965, Lewis and other civil rights leaders led more than 600 peaceful protesters across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. to demonstrate the need for voting rights. They were met by Alabama state troopers, who brutally attacked them on what became known as "Bloody Sunday," and Lewis nearly died of his injuries. The photos and videos captured that day, illustrating the cruelty of the segregated South, helped lead to the passage that year of the Voting Rights Act.

Over Lewis's years of fighting for equal rights, he was arrested more than 40 times. When he died on July 17, he had represented Georgia's 5th Congressional District for nearly 33 years.

"When I saw that face in person, he was very profound, yet simple," Williams said. "He was a man of dignity. He was a representative of the way my older people taught me how to be as a young Black man. He was a symbol of that."

At First Baptist, Williams recalled, Lewis talked about his lifelong fight for civil rights, the need to remain faithful to that fight, the importance of voting and making sure that young people continued the activism of his generation.

"I appreciate him for that day, and he could embrace you like you knew him for years and could talk to you like he knew you for years," said Williams, who still has his copy of Lewis's signed memoir.

When the church attendees, who included Nassau County Legislator Delia Deriggi-Whitton and State Assemblyman Charles Lavine, approached him afterward to chat or pose for photos, Williams recalled, Lewis engaged every one.

Lavine met Lewis a second time in 2017, at an event at **SUNY Old Westbury**. Lavine said that his conversation with Lewis that day was one he will never forget.

"I had been a senior in high school in March 1965, at the time of Bloody Sunday," Lavine said. "It was such a jarring, shocking occurrence that I would certainly never forget. It shaped my view of the world. I was then living in a small town in Wisconsin, and of course the seriousness of the civil rights movement was something that was pretty much oblivious to the town that I had been living in, while it was something extraordinarily compelling to me."

As he grew up, Lavine said, he watched important moments in the civil rights movement on television, which had a lasting impact on him. At SUNY Old Westbury, "I got to share that with him," Lavine said of Lewis. "He nodded and understood. He was a super-charismatic, heroic gentleman. So this is a meaningful recollection, and for what it's worth, meeting him was certainly the highlight of my civic life."

Lavine said that as a youngster, he never would have imagined he would someday have the chance to meet Lewis as a state assemblyman. Lewis's life's work, Lavine said, inspires him to protect the rights of his constituents.

"He grew up in a state where he could have gotten hung, but he became a U.S. Congressman in that same state [of Georgia]," Williams said of Lewis. "He did not forget the history that he had to go through to arrive where he was. I would hope his memory and legacy would motivate people to do a diligent study of our history, and [not] make some of the mistakes we have in the past. And it seems like we're making some of those mistakes on the national scene."



State Assemblyman Charles Lavine said that meeting Lewis, the late civil rights leader, was the highlight of his civic life. COURTESY ASSEMBLYMAN CHARLES LAVINE



2019-20 ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award winners announced

July 28, 2020

The American Baseball Coaches Association is proud to recognize the over 400 member college and high school programs from across the country who have been awarded the 2019-20 ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award. Teams from every level of college and high school baseball were honored with this year's award, which highlights programs coached by ABCA members that posted a GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for the entire 2019-20 academic year.

A record 451 college and high school programs submitted nominations and received this year's award. In total, 148 high school teams along with 303 programs from the NCAA Div. I, II, III, NAIA, and Junior College levels were recognized.

"In light of the challenges faced by so many programs across the country, we are humbled to be able to honor a record number of teams for their outstanding academic achievements," said ABCA Executive Director Craig Keilitz. "It is a testament to the leadership of our member coaches and the commitment of their student-athletes who persevered during an unprecedented academic year."

Coaches were able to nominate their teams for the ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award following the conclusion of their spring semesters prior to the nomination deadline of July 17. To be honored, teams had to meet the following criteria:

- Must be a high school or college team
- Head coach must be a current ABCA member
- Team must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4.0 scale during the 2019-20 academic year (*Due to some schools changing to Pass/Fail grading, spring semester grades were not required to be included in the cumulative calculation*).

The American Baseball Coaches Association has a long tradition of recognizing the achievements of baseball coaches and student-athletes. The ABCA/Rawlings All-America Teams are the nation's oldest, founded in 1949, and the ABCA's awards program also includes the ABCA/Rawlings All-Region Awards, the ABCA/Diamond Regional & National Coaches of the Year and several other major awards such as the ABCA Hall of Fame and the Dave Keilitz Ethics in Coaching Award.

[NCAA Division III](#)

[SUNY Old Westbury](#)

Farmingdale College Joins SUNY For Virtual Adult-Learner Fair

The Virtual SUNY Adult-Learner College Fair is scheduled for late July. Here's what to expect.

Michael DeSantis, [Patch Staff](#)

Posted Mon, Jul 13, 2020 at 3:05 pm ET

LONG ISLAND, NY — SUNY is scheduled to host its Virtual SUNY Adult-Learner College Fair on July 29, featuring webinars by Farmingdale State College and five other SUNY downstate colleges, the Farmingdale-based school said in a news release. The fair is scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 4 to 6 p.m.

Nearly half the adult students enrolled in undergraduate higher education are known as "post-traditional" students. Their numbers are increasing every day, as adults are returning to college in record numbers, which was the inspiration for the virtual fair.

Other participating schools include Nassau and Suffolk County Community Colleges; **SUNY Old Westbury**; SUNY Empire State College; and Maritime College.

This community outreach program is for both returning students and adults considering college for the first time. Specifically created for this population, the fair includes assistance, information, and advice on:

- Financial Aid
- Admissions
- Transfer credits
- Online learning
- Veterans services
- Programs for adults who are not "college ready"
- Prior learning
- Scholarships

Long Island EOC will be available for those who need special preparation to achieve their academic goals.

Additional information is available at 934-420-2733, or cestarjm@farmingdale.edu.

"Adults are returning to school in record numbers," says Judi Cestaro, Farmingdale's director of transfer services. "Some are beginning their college career as an undergraduate, some are returning to complete what they started as an 18-20 year old, and others are seeking further training as the demand for higher-skilled workers rises. The one common thread among them is that they are terrified. This program is designed to alleviate their concerns.

"I meet with so many adults who wish to pursue a degree or complete one, and don't know where to begin," Cestaro said. "We're hosting this college fair just for them."

H-ton Class of 1969 Awards Two Scholarships

July 27, 2020

Huntington High School's Class of 1969 has awarded two generous scholarships to Class of 2020 members Jai-la' Bush and Patricia Campos.

Formally named the Class of 1969 Reunion Scholarships in Loving Memory of Andrew Spokas, the two awards were announced during Huntington High School's virtual senior academic awards ceremony.

The event was held online this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A full video of the event is available on demand via a link on the homepage on the Huntington UFSD website at www.hufsd.edu.

The scholarships were announced by Class of 1969 member Linda Schwartz. She said that Mr. Spokas "initiated, planned and was the driving force" behind last year's 50th class reunion weekend.

The two scholarships in the amount of \$1,525 each were presented based on the leadership qualities displayed by Ms. Bush and Ms. Campos.

Ms. Bush is headed to **SUNY College at Old Westbury** where she will study politics, economics and law. She plans to pursue a career as an attorney. During high school, the teenager was a member of AWOD (A World of Difference) and the Yearbook Club. She volunteered with Young Leaders, a community based youth development organization.

A longtime member of the high school's Ready Step team Ms. Bush was named the senior with the Best Smile. A sensational vocalist, she has performed publicly at many events, including the Key Club's K-Factor talent show.

"I think what makes Huntington High School special are the teachers who are there to support you until it's time to graduate," Ms. Bush said. "My experience at Huntington High School is something that I will always remember along with the friends that I have made here."

Ms. Campos plans to attend Suffolk Community College where she will begin studying for a career in journalism. She immigrated to the United States from El Salvador in 2017 and has worked hard every day since to master English and to maximize her academic and personal potential.

The teenager has served as president of Huntington High School's United Amigos club, helping new students coming from other countries to adapt and flourish in and out of school. Ms. Campos has worked especially closely with school counselor Diana Bonilla, science teacher Rosario Lorenzana and AP Spanish teacher Mercedes Peña. She has extensively volunteered in the community and across Long Island.

"What makes Huntington special is that each student is made to feel a part of the Blue Devil family," Ms. Campos said. "I lived my best moments at Huntington High School, where I also met great people. I will miss everything about Huntington, especially my teachers. What I will always remember is how Huntington made me grow academically and become a better person. Huntington represents for me a place where my heart will stay forever."

Huntington's Class of 1969 graduated at the high school's 108th annual commencement on Sunday, June 22, 1969 at 3 p.m. Valedictorian Kevin Cavanaugh and salutatorian Joshua Turner addressed their classmates and the huge crowd along with Principal Richmond Bell, Superintendent William F. Keough (who was later held hostage in the US Embassy in Teheran, Iran for 444 days from November 4, 1979 to January 20, 1981) and Huntington School Board President Robert R. Maller. Mr. Maller and fellow trustee Oliver Geiger presented the graduating seniors with their diplomas.

The commencement ceremony was held on the athletic field. The Class of 1969 consisted of 584 seniors.



Huntington Class of 2020 member Jai-la' Bush plans to study at SUNY College at Old Westbury.

Blue Devil Senior Runners & Throwers Honored

July 29, 2020

Huntington's cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field senior athletes were honored with a series of awards presented by the Blue Devil boys' and girls' coaching staffs.

Boys' cross country coach Mark Jackson named Jason Verville (Villanova University) the team's MVP. Robert Caputi (University at Buffalo) was tapped as Most Improved and Craig Haas (University of Florida) captured the Coaches Award.

Girls' cross country coach Beth Vogelsang recognized her only senior, Diya-Rai-Gersappe (Vassar College) with the Coaches Award.

Girls' indoor and outdoor track and field coaches Mark Jackson and Eddie Santos also presented awards to the top senior athletes in those two seasons.

The indoor season MVP Award went to Alicia Brooks (University of North Carolina A&T State University). Daniela Ramos Campos (SUNY College at Old Westbury) won the Most Spirit Award and Mya Davis (University of Connecticut) garnered the Coaches Award.

Boys' indoor and outdoor track and field coaches Ronald Wilson and Eli Acosta were also thrilled to recognize their top seniors.

Justin Stevens (Dartmouth College) and Gary Barash (St. Thomas Aquinas College) were named the senior indoor MVP Award recipients. Rahliek Thomason-Jackson (Suffolk Community College) is the Most Improved Award winner.

Girls' outdoor season seniors Vennyse Green (Hampton University), Alicia Brooks (North Carolina A&T State University), Mya Davis (University of Connecticut), Jai-la' Bush (SUNY College at Old Westbury) and Lanaya Swazey (Suffolk Community College) were all recognized with Coaches Awards.

Seniors Justin Stevens (Dartmouth College), Gary Barash (St. Thomas Aquinas College), Rahliek Thomason-Jackson (Suffolk Community College), Andy Garcia (Suffolk Community College), Jason Verville (Villanova University), Jack Jamison (Local 138 of the International Union of Operating Engineers training program) and Jaylen Bush (Utica College) were all presented with the Coaches Award.

The cancellation of the spring outdoor track and field season due to the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Blue Devils hard. Both the boys' and girls' relay teams were favored to win state titles and All-American honors.

Daniela Ramos Campos Wins Huntington Foundation Scholarship

Daniela Ramos Campos captured the 2020 Huntington Foundation scholarship award.

August 3, 2020

Daniela Ramos Campos strives to make a difference in whatever cause she decides to take on. President of Huntington High School's Class of 2020, the teenager garnered this year's Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education's \$2,500 scholarship award.

Ms. Ramos Campos plans to study political science at SUNY College at Old Westbury. Named a Distinguished Senior last spring after compiling an enviable academic record during every semester of high school, she attributes the success she has achieved to date to her motivation.

Ms. Ramos Campos said she is always thinking about the people who do not have the opportunities she has and it makes her passionate about changing the world.

The scholarship was announced by former Huntington Foundation President Alice Marie Rorke, who said the award is presented annually to one graduating senior who has displayed "good moral character, volunteerism, involvement in the community and a love of learning."

The teenager said her teachers have taught her to believe in herself and that has allowed her to get to this point in her life. Ms. Ramos Campos has especially enjoyed "connecting with the people who work inside the high school building, from teachers and coaches to the kitchen ladies and custodians."

A member of the National Honor Society as well as the Art Honor Society, English Honor Society, Social Studies Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society, Ms. Ramos Campos has spent countless hours volunteering at Huntington High School, serving in the high school's student government and participating in United Amigos and the women's empowerment club.

Ms. Ramos Campos has written stories for The Dispatch, Huntington's student newspaper and she has been a Natural Helper, assisting classmates as they work to get through difficult circumstances.

As she transitions from high school senior to college freshman, Ms. Ramos Campos is approaching a new set of challenges with the same energy and enthusiasm she is famous for displaying.



Locust Valley Middle School student accepted into competitive math institute

Posted August 20, 2020



Locust Valley Middle School incoming seventh grader, Kathryn Kilpatrick, said that her favorite part about math, which is one of her favorite subjects, is the fact that one can either be right or wrong when solving a problem.

But it appears that she usually right, as the Institute of Creative Problem Solving has selected her as a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics for Gifted and Talented Students.

Each year, approximately 700 students are nominated to be included into this competitive program, which is housed at the [State University of New York at Old Westbury](#), and Kathryn is one of fewer than 100 students accepted for the 2020-21 school year.

Kathryn said that she was excited that she was accepted into the program.

According to the institute, students selected are among the top 0.1 percent of all students in mathematics on Long Island within their grade. Kathryn was chosen after completing a rigorous entrance exam, a review of her report card and the recommendation of her math teacher, Joseph Lee.

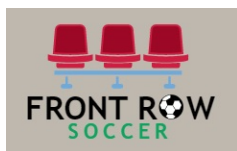
"It was a weird year because we were in quarantine," said Kathryn's mother, Kaira Kilpatrick said. "We are so proud. She works really hard and she does a lot of extra math contests. So she's been practicing quite a bit. And it's nice when something you've been practicing pays off."

Lee recommended Kathryn for the program and said she is a perfect fit. "Kate is an inquisitive student and a versatile learner," Lee said. "She loves a challenge and is eager to impress. She gained great experience this past year, as she challenged herself in our double accelerated honors math course and earned the top score for our school in the American Mathematics Challenge 8."

Kaira said that the district has been supportive in recognizing her daughter, putting her accomplishment on its website. "She's been getting lots of attention from her friends," Kaira said, "and the different teachers she's had over the years."

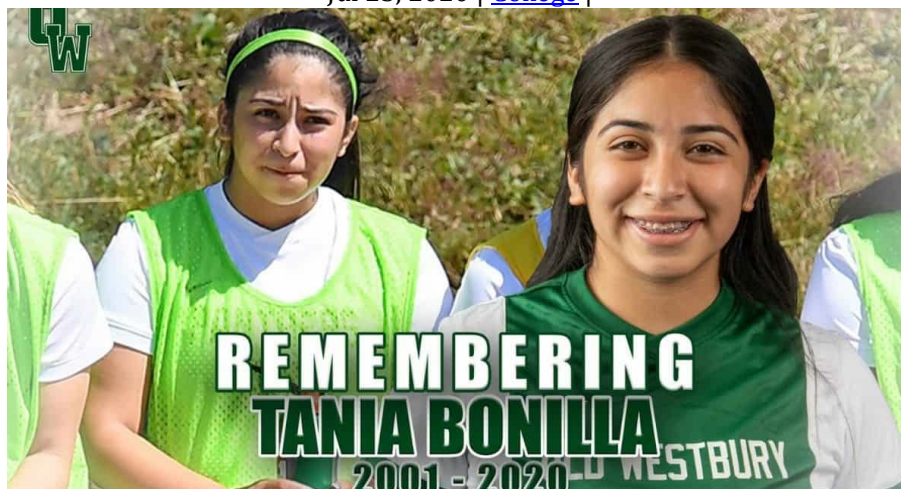
Kathryn will have the opportunity to challenge herself even further through the institute's curriculum, which covers topics such as algebra, geometry and number theory, as well as problem-solving applied to probability, theory of finite differences and mass point geometry.

The mission of the institute is to develop a participant's "ability to use a variety of problem-solving skills and strategies; increase their interest and enthusiasm for problem-solving in mathematics; sharpen their mathematical intuition; acquaint themselves with interesting and important mathematical ideas; and experience the fun, satisfaction and thrill of discovery associated with creative problem-solving."



GOODBYE, TANIA: Mourning the death of former Brentwood H.S. and current SUNY-Old Westbury player Bonilla

Jul 23, 2020 | [College](#) |



Former Brentwood High School girls soccer player Tania Bonilla has died during a car accident last weekend.

She was 19.

"We are very sad to hear the passing of Tania Bonilla," local soccer coach Alvaro E. Phan said in a Facebook post. "She was one of our own that wore the Green and white proudly.

"A young soul taken to early in life.

"We as Brentwood Alumni family we are sending our condolences, love, support and prayers to the Bonilla family.

"If you have a chance to please say a prayer."

A car Bonilla was driving on Southern State Parkway left the road and struck a guardrail on the northbound ramp to the Sagtikos Parkway a little before 3 a.m. Saturday, New York State police said.

Bonilla was taken to Southside Hospital, where she died. Four passengers in the car were taken to Good Samaritan Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

A Brentwood, N.Y. native, Bonilla was a criminology major and a member of the at SUNY-Old Westbury women's soccer team.

"We mourn today the life of a student who passed too soon, but let us also remember fondly Tania Bonilla and offer our hopes for strength and peace to her loved ones and teammates in this difficult time," Old Westbury president Calvin O. Butts III wrote in an email.

Women's coach Betty Bohringer was just as shocked and sad.

"Our soccer family is completely devastated about Tania's tragic death. We do not plan for this when we speak about our goals and dreams," she said in a statement. "Tania's life was cut much too short and she had so much to share and experience with us.

"She made us all better people and players. A piece of us died along with her and we hope that she had our strength and comfort as she passed. It will be a long time, if we ever can move on from the unexplained timeliness from this accident.

"My sympathy and condolences to the Bonilla family, the Brentwood community, the SUNY Old Westbury family and everyone that was touched by Tania's living spirit.

"Tania – You had so much more to give, you were taken much too soon and we will all remember and play soccer for you forever."

Bohringer said that the team will honor Bonilla when the team resumes its soccer season.

As a defender, Bonilla started in 13 games and made 18 appearances while recording three assists as a freshman wh

She also excelled in the classroom earning at least a 3.0 grade-point average to earn a spot on the fall 2019 Athletic Director's Academic Honor Roll. Bonilla also participated in community service projects, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee annual Turkey Trot.

Long Island Mourns Student-Athlete Killed In Crash

The 19-year-old college student who died in a crash this month is being remembered as a loving friend and a talented soccer player.

Priscila Korb, [Patch Staff](#)

Posted Wed, Jul 29, 2020 at 5:20 pm ET | Updated Thu, Jul 30, 2020 at 11:45 am ET

BRENTWOOD, NY — Long Island is mourning the loss of a 19-year-old SUNY Old Westbury student from Brentwood who died earlier this month in a crash on the Southern State Parkway.

[Tania Bonilla died July 18](#) after she crashed her Honda Civic. Four passengers in the car survived.

Many expressed condolences for the Brentwood High School graduate and first-year student at SUNY Old Westbury. She is remembered by friends, family and teammates as a talented soccer player, starting as a defender in 13 games of her 18 appearances, according to a statement from SUNY Old Westbury.

"Our soccer family is completely devastated about Tania's tragic death. We do not plan for this when we speak about our goals and dreams," said Betty Bohringer, SUNY Old Westbury's head women's soccer coach. "Tania's life was cut much too short and she had so much to share and experience with us. She made us all better people and players. A piece of us died along with her and we hope that she had our strength and comfort as she passed."

During a game against Mitchell College last year, Bonilla delivered her first career assist to classmate Britney Graham for the game's opening goal in the 34th minute. She followed by setting up classmate Bernadelle Dorvil with a feed to double the team's advantage and help secure a 4-2 road victory.

Then in a game against Skyline Conference foe Purchase College, Bonilla's throw-in found the boot of Jessica Pedroza to extend Old Westbury's lead to three goals (4-1) and help the team make its return to the conference championship for the first time since 2015.

Bohringer said the team plans on honoring Bonilla when the soccer season resumes.

"It will be a long time, if we ever can move on from the unexplained timeliness from this accident. My sympathy and condolences to the Bonilla family, the Brentwood community, the SUNY Old Westbury family and everyone that was touched by Tania's living spirit," she said. "Tania – You had so much more to give, you were taken much too soon and we will all remember and play soccer for you forever."

Bonilla excelled in the classroom, earning at least a 3.0 GPA to land on the Fall 2019 Athletic Director's Academic Honor Roll. She participated in community service projects, including Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's annual Turkey Trot.

"Tania will be missed throughout the Old Westbury Athletics community," said SUNY Old Westbury Director of Athletics Lenore J. Walsh. "Her loss has affected our teams, our staff and the connections she had within the Skyline Conference. Tania made a significant impact as a Panther by being a model student-athlete achieving academic success while participating as a member of the women's soccer team ... Her presence and passion for the game will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Bonilla family and to all friends of Tania."

Following her death, Bonilla's cousin, Ana Campos, started a [GoFundMe](#) effort to help her family cover the cost of funeral expenses.

"Many of us are at a loss of words," Campos wrote. "Tania was a loving daughter, sister, cousin, teammate and great friend to many. She was always filled with joy and happiness. This hits home to many people, including the strong bond many of us have with the Brentwood Soccer Community. We are all trying to cope with the idea of losing such a young life."

She started the fundraiser July 19 with a goal of raising \$20,000 for the family. As of Wednesday, supporters have raised \$28,134.

"Tania's parents and siblings are going through a great deal of pain and stress at the moment," Campos wrote. "In times of need our community always comes together with generosity and support and I hope that everyone can come together for this."



How The Coronavirus Pandemic Affects Low-Income College Students

[Chaim Turner](#)

[Jul 13, 2020](#) · 6 min read

In the past few months, my experience as a full time student at Nassau Community College was turned on its head. After a few weeks of classes, the campus closed, and all classes were switched to online sessions on the webcam conferencing website, Zoom. Unfortunately, this coincided with my placing a transfer to [SUNY Old Westbury](#), an affordable college with a dorm. I don't have a job, and I have been constantly seeking one without luck for months. I found in February that I could not afford my rent or my commute without some serious help, and the idea of transferring to a college with a dorm, once a post-associate's degree goal, became a pertinent necessity.

As my professors, fellow students and I grappled with the sudden change of virtual education, my state and my city in turn grappled with an ever growing death rate. Within a few weeks, 800 people were dying every day. I hardly dared go outside except for necessity, wearing a variety of masks that fogged my glasses. Eventually, the death rate and the infection rate began to plummet, and as New York began to retake control over the devastation and reopen society, constant vigilance remained.

In the virtual classrooms, performance plummeted. On at least 2 occasions, my Environmental Science class was hacked and interrupted by pranksters, and the technological problems caused issues for every class at every time. The required effort I was expected to put into my schoolwork changed, and while it was easier for me, I am not convinced that it was not bad for me in the long run.

I passed my classes well, having only dropped one class prior to the Pandemic. As my classes came to an end, my focus was redirected towards my new college, [SUNY Old Westbury](#). I began to feel anxious over the uncertainty of the dorms. The Departments at the college rarely gave information. At my Transfer orientation, I was informed that the majority of classes would be switched to virtual status. I made it clear to my counselor at orientation that residence was the primary reason for my transfer, as my financial situation made it necessary. I said that if I had wanted to attend a virtual college, I would have applied for University of Phoenix or remained at Nassau Community College. I was not a college student looking for a virtual experience. I vastly preferred the structure of the in person college environment. Governor Cuomo, whose efforts during the pandemic I supported and still support, began directing research be done on changing the format of education to a virtual one for the future. Such a format would lack the structure in person college provides, and the interpersonal connections between students and professors as well.

"I said that if I had wanted to attend a virtual college, I would have applied for University of Phoenix or remained at Nassau Community College."

1 in 3 college students nationwide are either homeless or at risk of being homeless. Many college students don't have families or safe environments from which to attend a virtual college. I have been renting an illegal converted garage for the past year, and I can barely afford the rent on it! My mother passed away 2 years ago, and I have not had a completely stable residence since her passing. I have been at my current residence for almost a year, which was the longest period I've stayed in one place since my mother's passing. I fear that after this summer, my forced nomadic lifestyle may yet continue to my detriment.

"I fear that after this summer, my forced nomadic lifestyle may yet continue to my detriment."

Each of my family members are in similar situations to mine. My father also rents a converted garage, my estranged sister stays by a relative who cannot help anyone else, and my brother rents a room with housemates. I have no family in a capacity to provide me with a home if I had to continue college on my laptop, which I had to purchase out of necessity when virtual classes began! If I do not find work and cheap lodgings soon, I will likely join the ranks of the 1 in 3 college students who are homeless. A college dorm offered me much-needed stability. I wouldn't have needed to worry about becoming homeless or not having a meal for 8 months out of 12. Now, I have to worry.

None of this is to argue against the constant vigilance against the pandemic. Protecting ourselves from this scourge of a virus is and should be our top priority! I would be perfectly willing to wear a mask and stay 6 feet away from people on a college campus. I would consent to regular tests and temperature checks. I would consent to constantly washing my hands with available soap and sanitizer. I do all of these things already. The reason I write all this out of anxiety is the fact that I will not be able to keep washing my hands if I do not have a sink to do so. I will not be able to socially distance if I am sleeping on the streets. Becoming homeless and consequently not having access to a bathroom or shower will likely lead to me catching this virus, as hygiene is the best guard against this scourge.

"I will not be able to socially distance if I am sleeping on the streets."

With the fact that New York has pretty much recovered from the pandemic, with death rates and infection rates returning to their early-March levels before the pandemic, I was lured into a false sense of security in the notion that with the stable trends continuing, I would not have to worry about not having a dorm in the Fall. I had thought that certainly by August, my future at the dorm would have been secure. These notions have been dismantled. Governor Cuomo has made it clear that he will not allow colleges to reopen without a comprehensive plan, and while I support the policy, I have been left without a pot to piss in. On July 9th, 2020, [SUNY Old Westbury](#) announced that they will not be reopening the residence halls for the Fall Semester, because part of the New York State guidelines for reopening is to set aside 3 residence halls to facilitate an Alternative Care Facility in case of a second wave.

The best thing for New York colleges to do for the Pandemic at this point is to use common sense. Have sanitizer, soap and masks in abundant supply and readily available to anyone who wants them. Provide and mandate regular Coronavirus swab testing, at least once a week. Implement regular temperature checks. Increase attention in janitorial services and make sure that facilities are constantly cleaned. Put down markers for social distancing in all public areas, and enforce social distancing and mask wearing with adequate disciplinary measures, such as requiring students to wear masks or face fines or be asked to leave the campus. At the very least, not every student is a dorming student, so therefore direct commuting students to distance learning classes and reserve in-person classes (with social distancing practices in place) for students in residence. New York State already has guidelines in place with these ideas ready for Phase 4 reopening for Colleges.

For the time being, [SUNY Old Westbury](#) is laudably acting cautiously. And while I applaud my new college for doing so, the fact remains that I have been left without a stable place to live as I work to earn my degree.

College has been and should continue to be not only a place of learning and self improvement, but a safe environment and haven for those in troubled positions and situations. Students should not be deprived of that security. It would be better if the Pandemic forced residential students to remain in their residence halls than to be thrown out from campus without a place to go.

NO SHADES OF GRAY

BY [KARL GROSSMAN](#) |

JULY 10, 2020

Long Island too was part of the protests that have swept the nation in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis – one of so many killings of black people by police through the years. Many of these demonstrations in many communities across the bay from Fire Island included Bay Shore, Sayville, Lindenhurst, West Babylon, West Islip, and Patchogue.

The protests on Long Island have been peaceful, heartfelt and intense.

However racism remains deep-set on Long Island and the nation. Newsday last year published a series of articles entitled “Long Island Divided,” the result of a three-year investigation. The newspaper sent out testers carrying hidden cameras and microphones to meet with real estate agents. The findings, as Newsday stated, provided “evidence” that “potential homebuyers were steered to neighborhoods based on race.”

It's how communities on Long Island there like Wyandanch and North Amityville came to be. Racial steering although illegal still happens on Long Island, which has been rated among the “most segregated” areas in the U.S.

For 42 years I've taught Investigative Reporting at [SUNY/College at Old Westbury](#), a remarkably diverse institution. Experiencing diversity is a major element of the college's educational program. As part of the course study, every semester some students investigate prejudice with white and black students teaming up and looking for jobs, apartments and used cars at dealerships – and being treated differently. Last year, one pair added to their investigation by the white student repeatedly screwing up in a job test involving folding and hanging garments, the black student doing excellent work. The white student was offered a job, the black student rejected.

Suffolk County Community College-based Center for Social Justice and Human Understanding issued a call following the Floyd murder that “we must take action to stop the intentional or unintentional killing of unarmed black Americans.”

“All Americans must take ownership of the pervasive racial discrimination that exists in our nation and move forward collectively to ensure that justice prevails,” said a statement signed by the center's chairperson, Rabbi Steven Moss, for 47 years the spiritual leader of B'Nai Israel Reform Temple in Oakdale, and Jill Santiago, executive director.

A personal account of racism following the Floyd murder came from Dr. William R. Spencer, among the most distinguished public officials in Suffolk County history. An African-American, he is a pediatric surgeon, the first physician to be a member of the Suffolk Legislature. Dr. Spencer is chief of otolaryngology at Huntington Hospital, a clinical professor at Stony Brook University Hospital, past president of the Suffolk County Medical Society and also an ordained minister.

At a meeting of the legislature's Public Safety Committee after the Floyd killing and amid the protests, he shared with fellow committee members some experiences he has had with police as a black man. He began by saying he has the “utmost respect and admiration” for police but “at the end of the day there are still individuals.”

“I can share my personal experience as someone who has always been law-abiding,” said Dr. Spencer. “I can honestly say as a 52-year-old man that I have been pulled over at least 50 times over the course of my life. I've been called ‘boy.’ I've had guns drawn. I've had a gun held to me and it's from law enforcement.

“So, when I get pulled over even in Suffolk County until the point when that officer recognizes who I am, I'm terrified. I am terrified. I was with my son. I got pulled over. And, again, the officer was absolutely professional, but still, I'm faced with that.”

At the session was Stuart Cameron, the highest uniformed officer in the Suffolk County Police Department. Dr. Spencer asked him his thoughts about measures that be can taken so that whoever has interface with police are acknowledged and treated equally.

“I know that you are an honorable person. You are a good human being, and you definitely should not be treated with anything but the utmost respect.” said Chief Cameron.

He then asked Dr. Spencer if the incidents didn't happen in Suffolk County. Spencer confirmed they did not.

“What I always like to say is that the police department is not something in the community,” said Cameron in his closing statement. “It's part of the community, it's our community, and that's the attitude that every officer should take.”

Corporate President of the State University of New York at Old Westbury Dr. Calvin O. Butts III says, “Old Westbury is rightfully celebrated as a college community that brings people of all races, creeds, and socio-economic backgrounds together. Being designated among the top diverse campuses in the country...reinforces that Old Westbury is at the forefront of cultivating intercultural understanding and global citizenship in its students.”

Teaching at [SUNY/Old Westbury](#) has shown me that, yes, integration can work well.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



KARL GROSSMAN

Karl Grossman is a veteran investigative reporter and columnist, the winner of numerous awards for his work and a member of the Long Island Journalism Hall of Fame. He is a full professor of journalism at the State University of New York/College at Old Westbury, the author of six books and for 28 years the host of the nationally-aired TV program “Enviro Close Up with Karl Grossman” (www.envirovideo.com).



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PROFESSOR KARL GROSSMAN ON THE HISTORY OF JEWS ON EASTERN LONG ISLAND

AUGUST 2, 2020 @ 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM



Karl Grossman, journalist and professor of journalism at **SUNY Old Westbury**, speaks on The History of Jews on Eastern Long Island.

Professor Grossman will trace the journey of Jews to Eastern Long Island through the story of his own grandparents who emigrated to Sag Harbor in the early 1900s.

Please register for this virtual event by sending an email to director@amagansettlibrary.org.



Learning to Teach During Uncertain Times

NCTE 07.01.20

[INSTRUCTION](#)

This post was written by NCTE member Elizabeth Morphis. Her article "[The Journey to Teacher: Facilitating Communication Skills in Preservice Teachers to Build Trust, Learn about Students, and Create Literacy Lessons](#)," appeared in the February 2020 issue of English Language Quarterly.

"How are we going to learn to teach reading and writing if everything shuts down?"

I am a teacher educator who works with preservice teachers before they begin their semester of student teaching. I teach a clinically-rich literacy methods course, which means that the preservice teacher and I meet at a local elementary school and, for the first hour of the course, the preservice teachers work with elementary students.

Specifically, the preservice teachers are responsible for planning reading and writing lessons and then implementing the lessons with the child partner they are assigned to work with for the semester. This course is important for the preservice teachers because they are working in a school, with teachers and children, prior to student teaching, when the stakes are higher. They receive consistent feedback, primarily from me, but also from classroom teachers, on the lesson plans they write as well as on their teaching.

While the goal of this course has been to prepare preservice teachers for the role and responsibilities they will assume during student teaching, and this past semester, it looked a bit different. March 10, 2020, was the last day that the preservice teachers and I met at the elementary school, and the question the students wanted me to answer was, "How are we going to learn to teach reading and writing if everything shuts down?"

This question has continued to stick with me, even as the semester ends and preservice teachers who are entering methods courses and student teaching are facing uncertainty about what schools will look like in the fall.

I'd like to share three pieces of advice for learning to teach during these times.

First, **consider this an opportunity to learn new skills and technology** that may need to be utilized during student teaching. Currently, there are online trainings for programs that preservice teachers can take either for free or for a fee that will earn them a certification. Two popular online trainings that my students have been signing up for are: Edpuzzle and edX.

Through the courses, the students are learning to build online content so that they can be prepared if there is a component of remote instruction in the fall. By learning what platforms are available, the preservice teachers are being proactive, which is reducing their anxiety about the uncertainty of the fall and building their knowledge of how to teach reading and writing remotely.

Building on the idea of learning new remote teaching skills, **I recommend learning how to build digital libraries for students.** My former students who completed their student teaching this spring used Google and YouTube to create virtual libraries for the elementary students. In addition, they created videos of themselves conducting read-alouds for the elementary students to watch on their own time. They shared that the children and parents found these pre-recorded videos to be a huge positive because children felt connected to the teacher and the videos could be watched multiple times.

So my suggestion is to continue to read books that would interest students and get familiar with creating videos of yourself reading the books. Think about how you would introduce the book to the students, practice reading the book, pausing at particular points to engage the students, and include your own thinking about what is happening in the book.

Finally, **shorten your planning window.** The future is uncertain right now. Teachers, students, and parents across the country are not sure what school will look like in the fall. In addition to working with preservice teachers in schools, I am also the parent of a rising kindergartener. In order to manage the uncertainty of what school will look like for my daughter, I have decided to look ahead two weeks at a time and plan just for those weeks.

It may not be a technique that works for everyone, but I find that as developments happen so quickly, it is one way to plan without becoming overwhelmed with the unknown.



*Elizabeth Morphis is an assistant professor of Childhood and Literacy Education at **SUNY College at Old Westbury**, where she is currently teaching undergraduate and graduate literacy courses. She enjoys seeing her students discover creative ways to engage elementary students in reading and writing.*

The Democratic Convention Aims for the Center and Spurns Progressives

BY Nicholas Powers, Truthout

PUBLISHED August 20, 2020

"I cast New York's votes," said nurse Scheena Tannis, "44 votes for Sen. Bernie Sanders and 277 for our next president Joe Biden." She pointed at the camera. "It's Joe time!"

On Tuesday night, the Democratic National Convention showcased a delegate roll call from U.S. states and territories. Each time one of them announced how many votes went to Sanders or Biden, it inadvertently exposed the split between the centrist and progressive wings of the Democratic Party.

One goal of the Democratic National Convention is to suppress that split for the sake of party unity. Yet the cost of that suppression is that popular progressive policies are obscured by a cult of personality boosterism. In contrast, the Progressive Democrats of America is holding a five-day People's Convention (from August 16-August 20) that focuses on ideas (not personalities), strategies to safeguard the elections and a vision to hold the country accountable for racism.

When compared to the substance of the People's Convention, the Democratic National Convention's use of emotional appeals looks increasingly vacuous. The Democratic Party is torn between the corporate world, a college-educated white middle class and a multiracial working-class base, and is attempting to reconcile them with centrist reforms. In doing so, the Democratic Party is missing a chance for systemic change that can rescue the masses of people sliding into economic depression. Democrats may win the election, but they risk losing the future.

A Tale of Two Conventions

The Zoom call that launched the People's Convention on Sunday felt like an intimate conversation between activists and organizers. Led by Progressive Democrats of America, which was founded in 2004 in the wake of the Howard Dean and Dennis Kucinich presidential campaigns, the group's guiding strategy is an "inside/outside" method that works alongside but also independent of the Democratic Party. This is why Progressive Democrats of America takes bolder positions like calling for Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, protecting voting rights, an end to war and overturning Citizen's United.

Meanwhile, on Monday, the Democratic National Convention hit the big screen. According to The Hill, roughly 18.6 million watched, but that is a 30 percent decrease compared to the 2016 convention. As the flagship program for the Democrats, it was a slick, well-produced show. Side by side were Zoom call-ins from voters at home and in cars and stately flag-draped backdrops where party officials made their pitches for Biden. The overall arc of the convention builds from individual stories and party stalwarts invoking history toward the official nomination at which Biden reintroduces himself to the voting public. Before, he was Obama's wingman. Now, he will save "the soul of America."

Back at the People's Convention, Progressive Democrats of America Executive Director Alan Minsky told Truthout: "If Biden wins, we have to focus on moving an agenda forward in an administration that's not a Sanders or Warren one. I think there is one vibrant, ascendant movement, and that is the progressive movement. It's rooted in a rejection of the neoliberal direction the country started on under Reagan."

The People's Convention is singularly focused on naming explicit policies that the larger, glitzier Democratic National Convention sidesteps. One example is Senator Sanders's signature issue of a national health care system.

On Sunday's online Zoom conference, a segment was set aside for a panel on Medicare for All. It came on the heels of the exclusion of Medicare for All from the Democratic platform. On the panel, Paul Song said, "It is easy to be a little dejected ... but I want to shed a little perspective.... Many times, we felt like lone wolves speaking out in the wilderness.... [We] now have overwhelming support [for Medicare for All] — I think it's 80 plus percent among Democrats and 69 percent among independents."

In contrast, at the second day of the Democratic National Convention, Biden's personal story of immense loss was used to anchor his commitment to making health care accessible. His wife, Neilia Hunter, and daughter, Naomi, were killed in a car crash in 1972. His son Beau Biden died from brain cancer in 2015. Biden described the presidency as "a duty to care." In a recorded talk with families, he assured them, "We're going to make sure we don't lose the ACA [Affordable Care Act]; we're going to provide a Medicare-like option as a public option."

et, as reported in Jacobin, despite the talks between the Biden and Sanders teams on policy, and the public option being in the official Democratic platform, it's most likely a ruse. Andrew Perez and David Sirota write that a Biden victory will be due to "red and purple" states with moderate representatives. Meanwhile, Democrats have been given \$86 million from the health care industry, and that same industry is likely to spend tens of millions on ads to "demonize" the public option. For these reasons, despite Biden's intimate knowledge of pain and loss, a Biden administration seems likely to only offer modest tweaks to the Affordable Care Act.

Another telling contrast between the People's Convention and the DNC was the ratio of Republicans to progressives in the Democratic National Convention. In essence, the left was left behind. On the first day, Republicans from Gov. Christine Todd Whitman to former Congressman and Gov. John Kasich were joined by former Secretary of State Colin Powell on day two in lining up for Biden. Yet "The Squad" was not showcased.

Only two nationally known faces of the progressive movement, Sanders and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, were allotted time to speak. Sanders said, "Our campaign ended months ago, but our movement continues ... many of the ideas that just a few years ago were considered radical are today mainstream." But it was Ocasio-Cortez who had the most memorable moment.

A Long, Slow March

A famous saying in progressive circles is that the Democratic Party is the graveyard of social movements. It is a bitter, if humorous, semi-truth — one countered by the famous line by German 1960s student Communist Rudi Dutschke of progress being "a long march through the institutions." Dutschke's sentiment is akin to the Progressive Democrats of America's strategy of working inside and outside a larger, more mainstream organization. The near-torturous work of going against the tide is not lost on its members.

"The Democratic Party is unwilling to break with the policy wishes of Wall Street, and the whole corporate logic. But since the 2008 crash, it is the logic that has been rejected," Minsky told Truthout. "Now they have Biden. If he gets elected and the establishment pursues the Blackstone agenda of finance capital, the Republican Party will rise from the dead."

When asked why the Democratic Party doubles down on centrist policies when progressive ones are gaining popularity, Minsky replied, "The party has two core constituencies that are at odds: You have finance capital and billionaires, [and] you have lower-middle- and working-class voters."

Each night, that tension runs between the People's Convention and the Democratic National Convention. Here are two competing — and in a few places, overlapping — visions. The only sign of hope in the hype and bombast of the DNC is that refusal to concede in Representative Ocasio-Cortez's face as she stares into the camera and sees a future that we need right now.

Nicholas Powers

Nicholas Powers is the author of *The Ground Below Zero: 9/11 to Burning Man, New Orleans to Darfur, Haiti to Occupy Wall Street*, published by Upset Press. He is an associate professor of English at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and has been writing for Truthout since 2011. His article, "Killing the Future: The Theft of Black Life" in the Truthout anthology *Who Do You Serve, Who Do You Protect?* coalesces his years of reporting on police brutality.

Historic \$24 million gift lights path for underrepresented students, diversity at UC Berkeley

By [Ivan Natividad](#)

AUGUST 24, 2020

Daisy Boeckmann always dreamed of being a UC Berkeley student and proudly walking on campus through iconic Sather Gate, with its “Fiat Lux” emblem at the center.

But her path there wasn’t easy. When she was nine, her father, a Guatemalan immigrant to the United States, died in a traffic collision while visiting his native country. A year later, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

As one of three sisters without their father, and with a mother fighting cancer, Boeckmann said money was always an issue. She had to grow up fast, but despite the family’s hardships, she excelled in school.

“Education is something that is valued in our family,” said Boeckmann. “I wanted to accomplish all the things my parents, my father, never had the chance to. It is what pushes me to persevere.”

In 2016, the Carson, California native graduated near the top of her high school class. She was accepted to Berkeley and won the Fiat Lux Scholarship, an award that, throughout the years, has been granted to hundreds of high-achieving, low-income and first-generation Berkeley students around the state.

The scholarship provides students with full financial support: Boeckmann’s dream had come true.

“Each day, as I walk through campus and see the emblem at the top of Sather Gate and to know what it means, ‘Let there be light,’ I am reminded of why I’m here,” said Boeckmann, who will be a fourth-year media studies major this fall. “There is a light they saw in me. They really believe in me.”

To further fuel this scholarship for students like Boeckmann, and as part of Berkeley’s “Light the Way: The Campaign for Berkeley,” Bob and Colleen Haas have given a historic \$24 million gift to support undergraduate students at Berkeley.

The investment includes \$10 million in matching funds for the Haas Family Fiat Lux Scholarship that is one of the single largest scholarship gifts in Berkeley’s history. The matching gift is meant to challenge other Berkeley alumni and donors to contribute individual scholarships which the family will match. This means that additional donors have the opportunity to join the effort and have their scholarship contributions matched by the Haas family dollar-for-dollar.

This extraordinary gift will not only double the Fiat Lux Scholarship endowment to \$20 million, it will double the potential impact every matched donation can have on the lives of deserving Berkeley scholars.

The Haas family hopes that the appeal of the match will inspire many donors to step forward and give.

Cruz Grimaldo, director of Berkeley’s Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, said Fiat Lux Scholarship students come from diverse backgrounds that enrich the experience for all Berkeley students.

“These scholarships, fully matched at \$20 million, will allow the university to welcome exceptional new first-generation students who might have otherwise not been able to attend Berkeley,” said Grimaldo. “These students are exceptional, and through this scholarship, we are able to tell them that they are what Berkeley wants.”

The scholarships will also help the students avoid the worry of paying for school, allowing them to join clubs, explore classes and pursue research opportunities, instead of working side jobs or worrying how they will pay off student loans after graduating.

Chancellor Carol Christ said the Haas family’s Fiat Lux endowment, along with the \$10 million in other donor contributions, will continue to help increase campus equity and diversity, a top priority for Christ since her tenure began in 2017.

“Through these generous endowments, the Haas family continues to show their deep commitment to building a more diverse, equitable and inclusive Berkeley campus,” said Christ. “The students supported by these scholarships all have unique experiences and perspectives that will not only benefit our campus, but through their achievements, the world as a whole.”

The Haas family will also contribute \$14 million to permanently endow the Haas Scholars Program, which has, for more than 20 years, cultivated cohorts of Berkeley students from diverse backgrounds to focus on a specialized, yearlong senior capstone research project.

As a lifelong supporter of civil rights and social justice, Colleen Haas said that the opportunity to support underrepresented students who have been historically marginalized in higher education brings her great happiness.

The combined \$24 million donation is just one of many gifts the Haas family has given over time to Berkeley to support student experiences. Moreover, both programs also provide intellectual communities for students through faculty mentorship and peer support, which enables the scholars to succeed at Berkeley and beyond.

“Having not only the financial support, but the mentorship, makes a huge difference, because we are the types of students that are always juggling many things,” said Haas Scholar Simone Matecna, who graduated this year and at Berkeley researched the effect of household finances on the cognitive function of children.

Matecna, whose parents immigrated to the United States from Slovakia as political refugees during the Cold War, is the first person in her family to graduate from college. This fall, she will begin a research assistant position at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.

“As an undergraduate, I was fortunate enough to participate in a program that really prepared me for the next step. I could definitely see a lot of my peers benefiting from opportunities like this, and so I really hope that this endowment can lead the way for other programs,” she said.

Bob Haas enjoys being an engaged donor to the Haas Scholars Program and other programs he has helped to fund. He looks forward to opportunities to get to know and talk with students. He can often be found lingering after on-campus meetings to ask students questions, listen to their experiences and concerns, and learn more about the unique students who benefit from the various programs the Haas family continues to support.

“The human capacity for greatness is not bounded by gender, nationality, race, religion, sexual orientation, income or prior family history,” he said. “Enabling hard-working, ambitious students to realize their full potential is a source of great personal satisfaction.”

A legacy of giving, foresight

The Haas family has had a long history of philanthropy and engagement with Berkeley, going back to Bob Haas’ great-great-grand uncle, Levi Strauss, who founded dry goods wholesaler Levi Strauss & Co. in 1853 in San Francisco.

The family’s first gift to the university was in 1897, when Strauss personally matched funds allocated by the California Legislature to establish the University of California’s first student scholarships. To this day, 28 of those scholarships are still awarded to students with financial need.

Haas said the value of giving to those who are less fortunate has been a staple in his family’s household.

“My father, Walter A. Haas Jr., was president of Levi Strauss, and he would come home, but he never talked about business,” Bob Haas recalled. “He was most proud of talking about the things that he was doing in the community.”

Walter Haas Jr. graduated from Berkeley in 1937, and just 10 years later would co-found The Guardsmen, a Bay Area group of professionals who support underprivileged youth in San Francisco.

Still active in the community to this day, the group creates opportunities and experiences for at-risk youth outside of the neighborhoods where they live.

Bob Haas remembers standing in a Christmas tree lot every December weekend sorting and selling trees to raise money for those kids to go to summer camp.

A Berkeley alumnus himself, Haas graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1964 and joined the Peace Corps. He taught middle school children in a West African village where he also helped establish a public health program.

“Attending Berkeley is a life-changing experience,” Haas said. “My time as an undergraduate shaped my skills, challenged comfortable assumptions and enlarged my possibilities. As a result, I understood what a difference a Berkeley education could make for others — especially those who had less opportunities than I had.”

Throughout the years, Bob and Colleen Haas have continued to support Berkeley programs focused on student needs and diversity on campus.

Continuing that giving legacy, their daughter, Elise Haas, has also given generously to Berkeley and founded its Undocumented Student Program, which provides guidance and support to undocumented students on campus. The program is the first of its kind in the nation and has been emulated by other universities across the country.

“Colleen and I are proud that our values are being expressed in such a meaningful way by our daughter,” said Bob Haas. “The students in these programs inspire us as a result of their overcoming what their environment handed them. And to achieve this, to make it into Berkeley, or to be the first in their families to go to college, is not only inspiring, it’s nothing short of amazing.”

Investing in a community

Being a part of the community of current and former Haas Scholars that was built over the past 20 years can change the trajectory of a student’s life.

In 1997, as the daughter of South Korean immigrants, Lillian Park was part of the first cohort of Haas Scholars. Park said that, even in its infancy, the program gave her the tools to articulate her research goals and the presentation skills that led to her earning a second degree, in Berkeley’s Ph.D. program in psychology.

Now, as a professor and department chair at **SUNY Old Westbury** in New York, Park said she has created a community with her students that was inspired by her time as a Haas Scholar.

“I loved being in that community of scholars,” she said. “I loved how we would get together and talk about our projects, even though we were in different fields and doing very different things. What we had in common was our passion, and that was something that we all understood about each other.”

Similarly, Fiat Lux Scholars have built bonds through the Fiat Lux Scholars Association, which gives students the opportunity to give back by returning to their high schools to meet with students and share what life is like at Berkeley as a Fiat Lux Scholar.

Boeckmann said being a Fiat Lux Scholar has helped to unlock her potential, which is true for so many students supported by these two programs. She hopes one day to work as an ambassador for Berkeley’s Fiat Lux Scholarship and travel to communities around the state to light the way for prospective students.

“My dad raised us to do everything without fear,” said Boeckmann. “So, if you’re going to set your mind to something, do it fully and without any hesitation. I plan on dedicating my life to giving back to my community and future students. This scholarship is founded on giving back, and I’m working hard to ensure I pay it forward.”

For Bob Haas, potential donors looking to make the biggest impact with their time and money need look no further, as supporting students like Boeckmann is a real investment in the future.

“Berkeley really stands out because of the way your gift can make ours a better society through the student discoveries that come out of its laboratories and through the transformations students go through,” he said. “If you want to do something that’s truly satisfying, reach your hand out and help somebody for whom it will make a difference.”



Richard R. Best Named Director Of SEC's New York Regional Office

Date 19/08/2020

The Securities and Exchange Commission today announced that Richard R. Best has been named Director of the New York Regional Office. Mr. Best will succeed Marc P. Berger, who has been named Deputy Director of the Division of Enforcement.

Mr. Best joined the SEC in June 2015 as the Regional Director of the SEC's Salt Lake Office, and in 2018, he was named Regional Director of its Atlanta Office. In his new role, Mr. Best will lead a team of approximately 400 staff, including enforcement attorneys, accountants, and investigators who investigate and enforce the federal securities laws nationwide and examiners who perform compliance inspections in the New York region. The New York Regional Office is responsible for the largest concentration of SEC-registered financial institutions, including more than 4,000 investment banks, investment advisers, broker-dealers, mutual funds, and hedge funds.

"Richard has been a remarkable leader of two SEC regional offices. During his tenure in both Salt Lake and Atlanta, he has demonstrated a remarkable ability to effectively pursue the unique needs of the region, always with a keen eye on investor protection and market integrity," said SEC Chairman Jay Clayton. "Richard has also been a key part of many of the SEC's agency-wide efforts to connect with investors in new and meaningful ways. I look forward to the many successes his leadership and investor-first focus will bring to the New York Regional Office."

"Richard is widely respected for being a talented lawyer and a strong leader, and I am thrilled that he has agreed to take on this new role," said Stephanie Avakian, Director of the SEC's Enforcement Division. "He is a wonderful colleague and I look forward to continuing to work closely with him as he leads the New York Regional Office."

"Richard has distinguished himself as a strong leader across both Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations (OCIE) and Enforcement in each regional office he has led. His exceptional prior experience and performance leading those offices, as well as his outstanding legal experiences prior to his time at the Commission, make him an outstanding choice to lead our women and men of the New York Regional Office," said Pete Driscoll, Director of the SEC's Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations. "We in OCIE congratulate him and look forward to continuing to have the benefit of Richard's talents in his newest leadership role."

Mr. Best said, "I am excited and honored to join the New York Regional Office. During my time at the SEC, I have collaborated with the New York office and its incredibly talented and dedicated examinations and enforcement staff and look forward to leading their efforts to protect investors and ensure fair and orderly markets."

Under Mr. Best's stewardship, the Atlanta office has investigated and litigated a number of impactful enforcement cases, including the Commission's actions against:

- A [former chief information officer](#) of an Equifax business unit with insider trading in advance of the company's September 2017 announcement about a massive data breach that exposed the personal information of approximately 148 million U.S. customers;
- [SCANA Corp.](#), two of its former top executives, and South Carolina Electric & Gas Co. with defrauding investors by allegedly making false and misleading statements about a nuclear power plant expansion that was ultimately abandoned;
- [Turbo Global Partners Inc.](#) and its CEO for allegedly making false and misleading press releases claiming to offer products to combat the COVID-19 virus; and
- [Madison Timber Properties LLC](#) and its principal in connection with an alleged \$85 million offering fraud.

Mr. Best joined the SEC from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) in New York, where he was a senior director and chief counsel in its Department of Enforcement. Mr. Best previously held other supervisory and investigative positions within FINRA's Enforcement function. He also spent approximately 10 years as a prosecutor in the Office of the Bronx County District Attorney, where he handled and supervised high-profile public integrity and organized crime prosecutions, among other matters. He earned his law degree from the Howard University School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the [State University of New York, College at Old Westbury](#).

2020 Ones to Watch: Robert Logan, The Fuoco Group

August 18, 2020 - [Spotlights](#)



Name: Robert Logan, CPA

Company: The [Fuoco Group](#)

Title: Tax and Accounting Manager

Education: [SUNY Old Westbury](#), Bachelors in Accounting

Which project, deal, or transaction was the “game-changer” in the advancement of your career?

I was a gymnastics coach before I became a CPA. Now I coach companies in industries that range from real estate brokers and REITs, to construction and development firms. I like to call myself their “Controller for a Day.” I jump in and assist their team with anything from day-to-day problems to tax and financial issues. I’ve helped my clients understand their businesses and increase the accuracy and efficiency so they can grow. Their success became my success. I started at [Fuoco Group](#) as an intern and am happy to say that I am now a manager at the firm.

What led you to your current profession?

When I was a gym coach, I used my analytical/critical brain to devise lesson plans and keep the team programs organized. Along the way I learned patience and process—very important to accountants. I started at [Fuoco Group](#) as an intern because of the accounting classes I took in college; also it made sense for a career because this was “post-Enron” and accountants were in high demand.

How do you contribute to your community or your profession?

I teach, coach, and mentor my staff. I enjoy helping them understand the clients and the accounting work and, most importantly, how to solve problems on their own. It’s great to see them progress from intern, to staff, to senior. I was very fortunate to have Lou Fuoco our managing director as a mentor helping me along the way.

What do you like most about your job?

The different industries I am able to work in, and the people I meet. The clients all present different challenges, and it keeps things interesting. Folks think accountants are boring. Not in the least. I work on some very high profile clients in the New York, Long Island and Westchester areas, helping them with tax planning, tax-minimization strategies, tax-efficient transactions. For a “numbers guy” it’s heady stuff.

Who or what inspires you?

Growing up, my dad worked three jobs—as a union plumber, installing fence on weekends, and working nights at a cigar bar. He said “when you’re my age, you don’t want your hands to look like this.” He said to pick a profession in which “....I could use my brains not my hands.” His hard work and dedication to our family inspires me today. I know he wanted more for me, which is why I focused on this profession. Now as a CPA, I can provide a better life for my wonderful wife Brenda and our two little boys.

If your life were made into a movie, what actor would you want to portray you?

Ben Affleck in “The Accountant” — he was a very numbers savvy guy!

Local Artist Fiona Lee Honors Black Lives Matter with New Art Exhibition in Queens

Industry: Art

"My wish is for everyone that comes in contact with my work to be able to visualize themselves in the scene captured and be present within that moment"

Jamaica, NY (PRUnderground) July 17th, 2020

The Art At Fame Gallery will be presenting a unique exhibition featuring the budding photographer and mixed-media artist, Fiona Lee, from July 14 – August 8, 2020. ***The Rising: A Photography Exhibition*** will feature a stunning collection of images taken direct from the front lines of the recent #BLM protests in NYC and Long Island. Open receptions is scheduled for July 19th 4pm-7pm.



The Rising: A Photography Exhibition seeks to showcase the uninhibited truth of the global #BLM protests triggered by the murder of George Floyd, with a focus on the NY protests. With this exhibition, Lee seeks to connect art and reality by challenging our senses, our emotions, and our perspectives.

When asked about what this exhibit means to her, Lee said about the protests, "I wanted to capture moments that were not being highlighted in the media. Wanting to show the authenticity of what the movement was/is supposed to be."

A native of Georgetown, Guyana, Lee, and her mother relocated to the United States when she was nine years old. Lee always expressed an interest in art, but it was not until a photography course taken in her sophomore year of college that she truly found her passion for creating. After obtaining her degree in Legal Studies, Lee enrolled in the Visual Arts program at **SUNY College at Old Westbury** where she began to grow and evolve as an artist.

Lee's multicultural background influences and sets the tone for all her work. With a distinctive and personal approach to her art, Lee's works tell stories that are untarnished, unbiased, and emote to all those who are brave enough to look.

For more information about Fiona Lee's work, including dates and times for ***The Rising: A Photography Exhibition***, please visit www.fionalee.art or email Fiona.lee@me.com.

Inwood resident Audrian Gray named Peninsula Public Library board president

Posted July 27, 2020

BY Matthew Ferremi

For new Peninsula Public Library Board of Trustee President Audrian Gray, reaching out to the community is what she wants to emphasize in her five-year term.

At PPL's July 16 reorganizational meeting, Gray was elected by her fellow trustees to serve as president of the [library's](#) five-person board. She previously served as the board's secretary and vice president. The current board also includes Vice President Samuel Francis, secretary Jeff Leb, treasurer Sarah Yastrab and Trustee Reva Oliner.

Gray, who grew up in Inwood and graduated from Lawrence High School, spent 23 years in Alexandria, Va., before returning to the Five Towns in 2001, is a former executive director of nonprofit organizations who has also sat on the board of the [Five Towns Community Center](#) in Lawrence and conducted evaluations of Girl Scout USA programs.

Retired from paying positions, she applied her professional experience volunteering in the Hempstead office of the Urban League of Westchester helping 55 and older workers gain new skills and placing them with other nonprofit groups. Gray holds a bachelor degree from [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and a master's in social welfare from Stony Brook University.

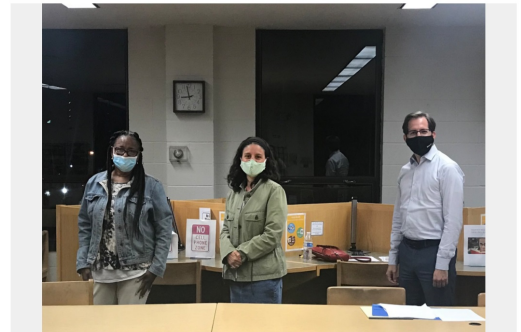
Gray ran unopposed for another five-year term in June. She received 3,296 votes. She noted her appreciation for her colleagues on the board for believing in her. "It's great to have their support," she said. "We all think alike in terms of our expectations in what we want to do for the community."

Leb, the immediate past president and current trustee said that he was elated that Gray was chosen to be president. "Audrian is an incredibly talented individual and professional, and her many strengths will help bring the library to be better than ever," he said. "The Peninsula Public Library serves an incredibly diverse constituency and community, and our library board and president represent that amazing tapestry that makes our district the best area in Nassau County to live."

Carolynn Matulewicz, PPL's director, has worked alongside Gray for the past five years. She believes that Gray is a great fit to be president of the board. "Audrian has many years of professional board experience having been on the board of the Girl Scouts and other community organizations," she said. "She has been a valuable member to the library during her time on the board."

Peninsula Public Library, which is on Central Avenue in Lawrence, has long been the library that has the largest usage in one of the smallest library buildings in Nassau County. Gray noted that it is essential to reach out to other communities to keep the library relevant, especially during the coronavirus pandemic.

"As a kid, I grew up in the library and I want kids to view our library as a place that they can escape to," she said. "To increase the interest in the library, you can't just serve one community, you have to embrace other communities and bring them into the fold."



New Peninsula Public Library board President Audrian Gray, left, with Trustees Sarah Yastrab and Jeff Leb.
COURTESY PPL



Truth & Justice = Green's Trailblazing World Peace Platform

Knowing that without truth there can be no justice and without justice there can be no peace, the Green Party Action Committee (GPAX) endorsed a trailblazing [world peace platform](#), on July 6th, that aggressively fights back against the militaristic corporate hijacking of the United States domestic and foreign policy, and its methods of imperialist oppression through open and covert warfare. With this new platform and ballot access in over 44 states – as of the 2016 presidential election, the Green's national party is uniquely positioned to rightfully snatch political victories throughout the United States from the clutches of the decrepit, racist, sexist, homophobic, warmongering duopoly – otherwise known as the Democratic & Republican parties.

As an international grassroots movement, the U.S. Greens stand proudly in solidarity with Greens in almost 100 countries. With approximately 129 U.S. Greens already serving in elected office in 22 states, and candidates running in [78](#) races throughout the country this November, and now with the July 11th selection of U.S. presidential candidate Howie Hawkins & vice presidential candidate Angela Walker, the Greens are strategically positioned to be the world's peace party that's long-awaited and desperately needed.

Irrespective of the outcome of the 2020 presidential election, the Green's platform issues are routinely used by presidential candidates from other parties and continue to raise the bar for environmental & human rights and benefits – which are especially evident with the promotion of the [Green New Deal](#) and [Medicare for All](#).

While sheep-dogging detractors' attempt to write-off the Greens as a tree-hugging, granola crunching grandma party to poach volunteers and funding, the Greens are in fact young, vibrant, and inclusive. The Green national party was founded in 2001 and is still in its teenage years. The fallacy that the Greens are a one-trick pony environmental group must be dispelled. In addition to the World Peace Platform and Ecology, there are two other critical pillars in the Green Party: Democracy and Social & Economic Justice. GPAX is presently drafting the Social & Economic Justice platform and just like the World Peace Platform, it has sharp teeth.

Support the [Greens](#) to shut down the United States' police, prison, and surveillance industrial complex that forces black and brown people into [modern-day slavery](#), and end its repeated violations of [international and humanitarian law](#) for [corporate greed](#), under the pretense of [American Exceptionalism](#), that drags us all closer every day to [nuclear war](#). With the Green Party, the United States of America is being taken back by the people for the people.

Lauren Smith

Lauren Smith is an independent journalist and member of the Green Party and Sanctions Kill.com. Her work has been published by Alliance for Global Justice, Black Agenda Report, Common Dreams, Counterpunch, The Duran, Global Research, CA, Monthly Review, and Telesur amongst others. She holds a BA in Politics, Economics, and Society from [SUNY at Old Westbury](#) and an MPA in International Development Administration from New York University. Her historical fiction novel based on Nicaragua's 1979 revolution is due out in 2021.

ABL

ABL a rich source of Fil-foreign talents for the PBA. Take a look

by RANDOLPH B. LEONGSON

JUL 9, 2020

FOR the better part of the last decade, the ASEAN Basketball League (ABL) has served its purpose of trying to bridge the basketball gap in Southeast Asia.

Yes, the Philippines remains as the region's alpha. But the fact that no team was able to win back-to-back crowns in the 10-year existence of the league speaks volumes of how some nations have narrowed the gap with Philippine teams.

Not only that, as the ABL has also become a significant platform for Fil-foreign talent to introduce themselves in the region and eventually, make it here.

And lo and behold, a lot of them did make it and are now thriving in the PBA.

With the very existence of the regional league in the balance in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Spin.ph lists seven players who made their ABL stints worthwhile enough to garner great interest from PBA teams.

Rashawn McCarthy

McCarthy's stint in the ABL was short and largely forgettable.

The 6-foot **SUNY-Old Westbury** stud struggled to adjust in his time with Malaysia's Westsports Dragons, notching only 2.5 points, 2.0 rebounds, 1.0 assist, and 1.0 steal in two games in the 2014 season before he was replaced by Avery Scharer.

McCarthy soon found his way to the PBA D-League, showcasing his true worth for AMA before San Miguel took him in the first round of the regular draft back in 2016.

Although seeing little action in his rookie season with the Beermen, he has since been an integral part of the attack for the Terra Firma Dyip.



PHOTO BY: JEROME ASCANO

Music men missing in action

By Daniel Anazia

18 July 2020 | 2:31 am

Like the country's movie industry, Nollywood, Nigerian music is drawing interest from beyond the borders, as it showcases the vitality of a creative industry that the government is now depending on, among other sectors, to diversify the economy and foster development.

From Lagos to Accra, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Cape Town, Dubai, London, Toronto, Houston and Atlanta, just to name a few places, Nigerian music, sometimes branded as Naija music, has created a new culture of entertainment, excitement and enjoyment.

Be it a bar, nightclub, lounge or restaurant, music lovers gyrate to the beat coming out of the sound monitors that recognise and celebrate Nigerian music, as Naija musical artistes have made immeasurable contributions to the music industry, making Nigeria, Africa's biggest depot of talented, creative, and successful musical artistes.

Despite taking their art of singing beyond the shores of West African sub-region and the continent as a whole, having their career blazing high above the skies, some artistes who once took the centre stage are no longer being heard of them again, as it appears their musical burning light have been dimmed.

Many music buffs, have asked and still asking the where about of these 'once upon a time music heavyweights' in the country.

Naeto C

There is no doubt, Naetochukwu Chikwe popularly known by his stage moniker, Naeto C, who grunted his way into the Nigerian music industry with his debut single, You Know My P, a track of his debut album with the same title has definitely broken all boundaries and surpassed more limits than any up and coming artiste, lyrically and production wise.

Born in Houston, Texas, the rapper, Afrobeat artiste and record producer won the Best New Musician at the 2008 MTV Africa Music Awards and the Video of the Year category at the 2009 Channel O Music Video Awards.

After finishing his secondary education in Lagos, and moved to the United States for higher education both in **SUNY Old Westbury** and a year later at George Washington University, he met Uzikwendu and Ikechukwu, who was then an aspiring hip-hop artiste out of Washington Heights, New York.

The trio went on to form the World Famous Academy (WFA), a brotherhood of musicians with plans to grow into an independent record label but could not get their hands on the proper funds. Storm Records, a Lagos based record company signed the group, after several attempts to get WFA signed to the label.

Naeto C at the time had just decided to pursue his dream as a musician. This was after some deep self-searching, upon his graduation in 2004 from the George Washington University with a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Biology, and intending to go study further and become a medical doctor.

The group did not return to Nigeria until early 2006, when Ikechukwu released his debut album, Son Of The Soil, which laid the grounds for Naeto C and the WFA. Working as an in-house producer with his newly discovered production team 'ET-Quake' (consisting of TY Mix and VC Perez), Naeto was able to display his production skills working with Storm artistes like Sasha, Dare Art-Alade, GT the Guitarman, Disconnect, Saro-Wiwa and Nkiru.

Within one year of working with the aforementioned artistes, the music producer had successfully recorded over 60 songs including his own album (a bulk of which he co-produced with ET-Quake). A notable production achievement is the I Believe song he wrote and co-produced with VC Perez, which features him, Sheun, an up-and-coming R&B/Gospel artiste, and late South African music icon, Hugh Masekela.

The rapper, whose hits such as You Know My P, Kini Big Deal, Ten-over-Ten among others once ruled the airwaves was appointed as Special Assistant on Lagos Liaison by former governor of Imo State, Emeka Ihedioha upon assumption of office in May 2019.

Alfonso Curry 1935-2020

JUL 3, 2020

YOUNGSTOWN — Alfonso Curry, 85, departed this life to be with the Lord on Tuesday, June 16, 2020, following an extended illness.

Al was born March 15, 1935, in Youngstown, the son of Lorenzo and Lillie Stevenson Curry.

He was a graduate of East High School and State University of New York College at Old Westbury. He was employed in New York City with the New York Times for 25 years. Subsequently, he returned to Youngstown and worked for the Youngstown City School District.

Al was a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church and he enjoyed vintage jazz music.

He served honorably in the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict from 1953-1956, receiving medals for National Defense Service, Good Conduct, United Nations Service and Korean Service. He served on the USS S Potter DD 438.



Al married Shirley Diane Montgomery Curry on Aug. 9, 1998. She unexpectedly passed away April 24, 2020.

He leaves to mourn and to remember him, two daughters, Ms. LaNice Curry of Bronx, N.Y., and Ms. Azaria Curry of Oakland, Calif.; one sister, Mrs. Lorraine (Eugene) Thomas; four stepchildren, Tangela Montgomery, Jeffrey Howard, Natasha Jones and Joyce Jackson; two grandchildren, Adanna Wilson and Corrine Wilson; several nieces and nephews; and a host of relatives and friends.

Al was preceded in death by his parents, seven brothers and two sons, Kenneth Curry and Derek Curry.

Funeral services will be held 9:30 a.m. Monday, July 6, 2020, at Sterling-McCullough Williams Youngstown Chapel, followed by interment with military honors in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery.

Calling hours will be held 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, July 5, 2020, at the funeral home.

Arrangements of comfort were handled by Sterling-McCullough Williams Youngstown Funeral Home.

August 6, 2020

Facts about Dr. Carlos E. Russell



Caption: Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, Carlos Russell, then-Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton.

TRAILBLAZER

While serving as the Panamanian Ambassador for the United Nations, Dr. Russell, inspired by Douglas Turner Ward's fictional play "Day of Absence" in which a small town in the South is suddenly devoid of its Black population and is crippled by their absence, established Black Solidarity Day (BSD) in 1969. BSD is held annually on the Monday before Election Day in November, demonstrates the spirit of self-determination and collective responsibility for economic empowerment. Black people are encouraged not to attend school or work and to abstain from shopping in white establishments.

LEGACY

Many of our present-day activists and luminaries benefit from the legacy Dr. Russell leaves behind. During the 1960's and 1970's, Dr. Russell was a primary organizer for the first national conference of Panamanians which was solidifying the movement of the unification of Black and Caribbean pushback on systematic oppression. He was also one of the creators of "Bahiano" which is the first Black newspaper and Panamanian newspaper here in the USA written in both English and Spanish. [Other co-founders noted are Walter Livingston, George Priestly, Aguilla Jimenez and a few others.] Dr. Russell was professor and Chair of Field Studies at **SUNY Old Westbury** and at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York (BCCUNY) before becoming Dean of Contemporary Studies. He has also held the position of Acting Director of International of Urban Affairs at Medgar Evers College, CUNY in the late 1980's- early 1990's.

In the 1990's he was a lead curriculum developer, educator, and trainer for the Ella Baker Academy (EBA) [later renamed Ella Baker/ Cleveland Robinson Academy, EBCRA], a program dedicated to create youth leadership using the methodology of "Kingian Nonviolent Conflict Resolution," as part of the New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and Institute in Albany, New York, under the funding and support of Governor Mario Cuomo.

Dr. Russell worked with numerous community organizations throughout his life time. He was a guiding light for many, leading some into successful careers in social justice, finance, and politics in both the US and Panama.

ACTIVISM & CREATIVITY

Dr. Russell graduated from the National Institute in Panama and left Panama in 1955 on a student visa to De Paul University in Chicago, Illinois. He lived and worked on the South Side of Chicago and worked at the Mary McDowell Settlement House. He moved to New York in 1961 and worked at the Albany Community Center in Albany Projects as a youth worker and directly working with gang members. He eventually moved on to the Fort Greene Community Progress Center.

As a creative individual, he published "Miss Anna's Son Remembers," which is known as the first book of Panamanian-West Indian poems outside of Panama. Around this time with Anesta Samuel and other cadres, he helped to establish the Panamanian-West Indian Heritage Association inspired by one of the first oral history conferences held in New York City. He also spent many years as a playwright and a producer of community theater, namely "Ode to Panama," performed on stage at Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM).

"It has been my honor and privilege to have known Dr. Carlos E. Russell as a personal friend for over 30 years. Dr. Russell is a brilliant, noble and brave scholar committed to the love of Black people and expresses this love in every aspect of his life. He is bold, dynamic and inspiring. His creation of Black Solidarity Day represents a source of pride for the vast number of Black people. We love you Dr. Russell and thank God for all you have done to enrich our lives as people of African Ancestry." – Cliff Frazier, President, International Communications Association, Dwyer Center; Executive Director, NY Metropolitan Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolence; and Co-Founder of the Harriett Tubman Charter School (The Institute of the Black World 21st Century (IBW21) www.ibw21.org)