



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

MAY TO JUNE 2018

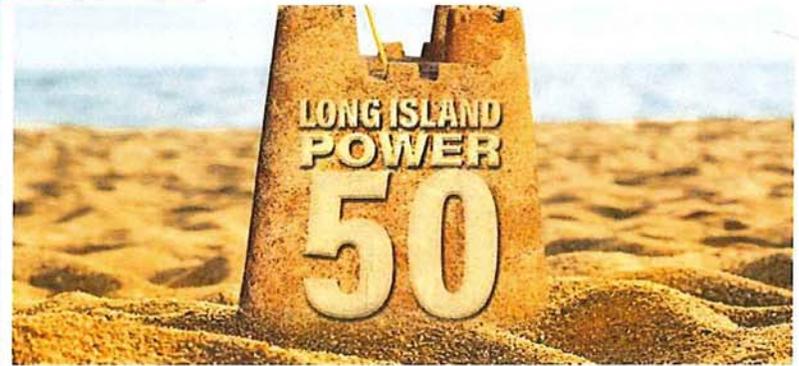
Prepared by
The Office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY Old Westbury

CITY & STATE NEW YORK

SESSION RECAP
ALBANY
PHONES
IT IN

TOP 50
LONG
ISLAND'S
POWER
BROKERS

WILL
THE BLUE WAVE
WASH OVER
LONG ISLAND?



Graphic by Alex Law

POWER LIST

Long Island Power 50; 11-50

Recognizing the most influential people on the island.

By CITY & STATE | JUNE 24, 2018

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Calvin O. Butts III

President,
SUNY Old Westbury

President, pastor, professor are just a few of the hats worn by Calvin O. Butts III. Next year will mark his 20th year as the president of SUNY Old Westbury, but Butts has a collection of at least nine honorary degrees, a clear indicator of his impact on the larger community of higher education. Butts is also a highly regarded pastor at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Manhattan, one of the most historic churches in the country.

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Theresa Sanders

President and CEO, Urban League of Long Island; Chairwoman, Suffolk County Community College Board of Trustees

Theresa Sanders has been at the forefront of equity and race discussions throughout the region. As the CEO and president of the Urban League of Long Island, she has directed millions in funding to programs focused on economic independence and empowerment and recently spoke about "The State of Black Long Island" at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. In addition, she serves as an adjunct professor at SUNY Old Westbury, and chairs the Suffolk County Community College board.

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ONOURISLAND



8 SUNY Old Westbury's Executive Leadership Forum hosted former American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault (fifth from right). He was joined by (from left) Hoang Nyuen, Jeannette Adelson, Oluwatosin Akinfeleye, Antoinette Riehl, Cassandra Lirio, Tony Dass, David Rodriguez, Patrick O'Sullivan, Evan Ruffano and Raj Devasagayam.

LONG ISLAND / EDUCATION

SUNY leader listens and learns of needs at LI college campuses

Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson met Thursday with the presidents of SUNY Old Westbury and Nassau Community College, as well as students and faculty.

By Keshia Clukey

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Updated May 10, 2018 9:47 PM



SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson, center, tours SUNY Old Westbury with seniors Drumil Shah, 21, an international student from India, left, and Chaz LaSalle of the Bronx, 22, right, as her guides Thursday, May 10, 2018. Photo Credit: Barry Sloan

SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson, with visits Thursday to SUNY Old Westbury and Nassau Community College, can check all of the system's Long Island schools off of her tour list.

Johnson, who succeeded Nancy L. Zimpher as the system's 13th chancellor in September, is making a point of going to each of the 64 campuses statewide.

"I'm looking to see unique things that this campus does that maybe can be utilized by other campuses," Johnson said while touring SUNY Old Westbury. "I'm looking for opportunities. I'm looking to understand what the needs of the campus are, what their strategic direction is."

During the stops, she met with the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, SUNY Old Westbury president, and NCC President W. Hubert Keen, as well as executive leadership teams, members of the Faculty Senate organizations and students.

"You can't really get a feel for a place unless you're here and you walk around and you get to interact with these great students and the administration," the chancellor said.

The visits provided campus leadership the opportunity not only to show off their campuses, but also to make their case for infrastructure funding and support for expanding academic programming.

"She's familiar with the statistics of our diversity, but I wanted her to see it," Butts said of the four-year, 5,000-student school. "I wanted her to see the beauty of the campus and the need for a new science building." There are a number of students "who want to major in physical sciences, but our lab space and our facilities are very outdated," he said.

Johnson, in her official capacity, now has toured nearly 40 campuses statewide. She previously visited Farmingdale State College, Stony Brook University and Suffolk County Community College.

One of the strengths of SUNY's colleges and universities on the Island is their proximity to New York City and the ability to "help provide a SUNY-style education for the downstate population," she said.

Several of the chancellor's questions for administrators on both tours revolved around energy and efficiency, her specialty area.

Before becoming chancellor, Johnson founded and led Cube Hydro Partners LLC, which operates hydroelectric generation facilities on rivers in five states, including New York. She is a senior adviser to the company. She also served as undersecretary of energy with the U.S. Department of Energy during the Obama administration from 2009 to 2010.

Johnson's signature initiatives for SUNY thus far include making buildings more energy-efficient, reducing emissions and using campuses as regional microgrids.

While touring NCC's campus, she lauded its efforts in keeping energy use low.

Keen said there are a number of services SUNY's leadership can provide, "especially in the support of our changes in academic programs and academic program support." With an enrollment of more than 19,000 full-time and part-time students, NCC is the largest single-campus community college in the state.

"For instance," the NCC president said, "they are providing some funding for us to invest in what are called 'corequisite' courses and developing curriculum called pathways for students."

Butts said he was encouraged by Johnson's visit.

"She's talking about a creative investment in developing resources. She's talking about online learning. She's talking about the right kind of relationships with our leadership in the state," he said. "And these are the kinds of things we need to hear."



SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson snaps a selfie with SUNY Old Westbury President the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III during a tour of SUNY Old Westbury on Thursday, May 10, 2018. Photo Credit: Barry Sloan



OUR TOWNS

NASSAU COUNTY

SUNY chief to visit Old Westbury, NCC

BY KESHIA CLUKEY
keshia.clukey@newsday.com

Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson, leader of the State University of New York, will visit SUNY Old Westbury and Nassau Community College on Thursday as she continues her tour of the state's 64-campus system.

Johnson, who took the reins from former chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher, plans to take part in a commencement-related celebration in the morning with the president of SUNY Old Westbury, the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III, according to her public schedule.

In the afternoon, she is to tour Nassau Community College with its president, W. Hubert Keen. Johnson also plans to meet students and faculty at each campus.

In earlier trips to the Island in her official capacity, Johnson has visited Farmingdale State College, Stony Brook University and Suffolk County Community College.

Johnson is an engineer, entrepreneur and inventor who helped develop technology for 3-D imaging.

When named SUNY's 13th chancellor after an international search, she was founder and chief executive of Cube Hydro Partners LLC, which operates hydroelectric generation facilities on rivers in five states, including New York. She is now a senior adviser to the company.

She served as undersecretary of energy with the Department of Energy during the Obama administration from 2009 to 2010. Before that, she was provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Johns Hopkins University, dean of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University, and professor at the University of Colorado-Boulder.

With this trip, Johnson is nearly halfway through her tour of the SUNY system, a spokeswoman said.

LONG ISLAND

A11

CLASS OF 2018 SUNY Old Westbury

'Think it, believe it, and then do it'

SUNY Old Westbury held its 52nd commencement Sunday at NYCB Live at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Number of graduates

1,178 undergraduate and 118 graduate degrees.

Commencement speaker

State Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie told graduates that "the job that you should have is just to make the world a little better place than when you came in. And I hope that you do it . . . Think it, believe it, and then do it."

— SCOTT EIDLER



Paul Nandle of the Bronx gets champagne poured over him by his cousin, Craig Finlay of Inwood, after the commencement.

MARISOL DIAZ-GORDON

Oluwaseun Akanni, 21, history

"I can't believe I finally made it," said Akanni, of Elmont. "College is really what you make of it, and we really have to be resourceful with the opportunities around us."



Elissa Wallen, 26, media



"I feel really blessed," said Wallen, of Medford. "Life can throw you anything, but if you're prepared you should be OK." She added, "Don't ever doubt your skills."

Sumit Shah, 22, biological sciences

"I've learned how to communicate with many people of different nationalities," said Shah, of Amityville. "I'm more open to new ideas and accepting of others."



Ishmael Moya, 22, biochemistry



"No one can take the steps for you," said Moya, of the Bronx. "You've got to put in the work. What you put in is what you get out."

The Westbury Times

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Spoons on
page 1A

Vol. 112, No. 21

THEWESTBURYTIMES.COM

May 16 - 22, 2018

\$1.00

www.thewestburytimes.com

THE WESTBURY TIMES • MAY 16 - 22, 2018

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(Photo by Ray Muntz)



Lessons In The Law

The Incorporated Village of Westbury Justice Court held its fifth annual Honorable John L. Molloy and Honorable Frank J. Santagata Law Day Program on May 1. This year's theme, set by the American Bar Association, was Separation of Powers: Framework For Freedom. Speakers for the program included (from left) Edward

Paltzik, Esq., of Joshpe Law Group; Katuria D'Amato, Esq., member of the Board of Zoning Appeals in the Town of Hempstead; Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, President of SUNY Old Westbury and Senior Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem; and Honorable Thomas F. Liotti, Village Justice.

LONG ISLAND

A25

NEW 6-YEAR CONTRACT FOR SUNY UNION

Yearly wage hikes,
family leave benefits
in deal with state

BY KESHIA CLUKEY
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The state has reached a six-year contract agreement with United University Professions, the union representing SUNY employees, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced last week.

The contract includes 2 percent wage increases each year through the 2021-22 school year, access to paid family leave benefits and a newly established minimum compensation level for part-time faculty.

The state's last contract with UUP, the nation's largest higher-education union, ended in July 1, 2016, and the new contract is retroactive to then. It affects more than 35,000 employees of the State University of New York system, including thousands of faculty and staff members at the four-year



The Campus Center at Farmingdale State College, which has about 1,100 members in its United University Professions chapter.

SUNY schools on Long Island. "We've been waiting a long time for this, and we were very pleased that it finally was expedited and it finally became a reality," said Vicki Janik, a professor and president of Farmingdale State College's UUP chapter, which has about 1,100 members.

Full contract details have yet to be released.

Cuomo said the contract

"fairly compensates SUNY university employees" and is a "significant step forward for all of New York's public universities."

The agreement comes as the 64-campus system heads into its second year implementing Cuomo's Excelsior scholarship, which provides tuition dollars for eligible in-state, middle-class students.

SUNY could not immedi-

ately provide the budgetary impact of the retroactive contract, spokeswoman Holly Liapis said. "SUNY is carefully reviewing the agreement."

The paid family leave provision makes UUP the first public-sector union in the state to have the policy included in a new contract, according to the union.

Beginning in 2019, the contract also would establish a minimum starting salary for part-time faculty members, known as adjuncts, for each three-credit course they teach at the state-operated campuses.

"This is part of a larger effort that's being made on a national and international level on behalf of adjuncts everywhere," said Douglas Cody, a part-time professor of chemistry who represents adjuncts for UUP's Farmingdale chapter and who participated in the negotiations.

Adjuncts make up more than 70 percent of the faculty at Farmingdale State, he said, adding that they are often paid well below the rate of full-time

faculty, even though many have an equivalent level of education and more field experience. He called the new provision long overdue and "very important."

The six-year term of the contract also provides some stability for the state, campuses and employees, Cody said.

In addition to salary increases, the agreement allows employees to access a yearly grant to help pay for their child's education at SUNY state-operated campuses.

UUP's members must ratify the contract. A vote will be conducted by mail this summer, according to the union.

"We're very pleased that we have a contract and those of us who are privy to the details think that we've done the best we could," said Martha Livingston, a professor who served on the negotiations committee and is president of the union's Old Westbury chapter, which has more than 500 members. "Did it give us everything that we wanted? Of course not, but it's fair, and it's reasonable."



Tuitions increase for SUNY students

Posted: Jun 14, 2018 7:31 PM EDT
Updated: Jun 14, 2018 10:29 PM EDT



OLD WESTBURY - The State University of New York Board of Trustees has approved a tuition hike for the next school year.

Full-time, in-state tuition rates at [SUNY Old Westbury](#), Farmingdale State College and Stony Brook University will increase from \$6,670 to \$6,870 a year. Nassau Community College tuition will see a \$248 increase.

The increase is part of annual tuition hikes expected through the 2020 to 2021 academic year.

"I definitely feel like it obviously hinders the access to education for many people," says Jillian Silverman, a senior at [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

State officials say students with Excelsior scholarships – which cover the cost of tuition for in-state students who come from families that make less than \$110,000 a year – will not be affected by the hike.

News 12 is told that 34 of the 64 colleges within the SUNY system will see tuition hikes.

2 Comments

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SUNY Old Westbury students win top prize in national 'Up To Us' competition

By The Island Now

May 31, 2018



The SUNY Old Westbury team of students at the U.S. Capitol while visiting Washington, D.C. to participate in the Peterson Foundation Fiscal Summit. (Photo courtesy of SUNY Old Westbury)

In a field of more than 100 collegiate teams nationwide, SUNY Old Westbury's student team recently won the Sixth Annual Up to Us Campus Competition. The nationwide, non-partisan campus-based initiative aims to mobilize young people to promote fiscal responsibility. The team was recognized on stage at the Peter G. Peterson Foundation's annual Fiscal Summit in Washington D.C. on Thursday, May 10, 2018.

"With more than 100 energetic teams participating across the nation, the Up to Us Campus Competition leaves no doubt that America's young people care passionately about the economy they will inherit," said Michael A. Peterson, Chairman, and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. "The winning team from SUNY at Old Westbury developed a creative and effective outreach campaign to engage their peers and raise awareness about the growing national debt. The leadership demonstrated by these young people is essential to building support for a sustainable fiscal future that supports economic growth and opportunity for the next generation."

Alarmed by the \$21 trillion national debt, the winning team from Old Westbury, led by junior Evan Rufrano, developed and implemented an imaginative campaign demonstrating the detrimental impact of the current fiscal trajectory. The team comprised of Politics, Economics and Law majors at Old Westbury engaged hundreds of peers on campus by hosting trivia games that tested attendees' knowledge of the debt and economic issues. They created an interactive walkway – "Debt Boulevard" – that stretched across campus and helped students learn the facts about fiscal policy with each step. In addition to the on-campus installation, the team organized a bipartisan debate between local elected officials, and a lecture series featuring distinguished professors.

"My teammates and I joined the Up to Us movement because we feel strongly that our peers should be better informed about economic and fiscal sustainability, as our collective future is at stake," said Rufrano. "This issue will impact our future, but the debate about the national debt too often omits the voices of young people. Through this Competition we were able to amplify the voice of our generation, calling on lawmakers to make responsible fiscal decisions today that will prepare us for a better tomorrow."

The Old Westbury Up to Us team included Rufrano, Josselin Paz Torres, Priscila Ortega, John Holst, Matthew Schmitt, and Professors Thomas DelGiudice and Veronika Dolar.

The finalists and winner of the 2017-2018 Campus Competition were determined by a panel of judges from public policy and civic organizations including Jenn Graham, Founder, and CEO of Civic Dinners and Aha! Strategy; Gordon Gray, Director of Fiscal Policy at the American Action Forum; Steven Olikara, Founder and President of the Millennial Action Project (MAP); Sruveera Sathi, an alumna of Up to Us and winner of the 2015-2016 Campus Competition, and; Ben Ritz, Director of The Progressive Policy Institute's Center for Funding America's Future and an alumnus of Up to Us.

Up to Us was created as a partnership between the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Clinton Global Initiative University and Net Impact, and has engaged and empowered 150,000 students in conversations of the fiscal future in its six years.

College students know a lot about debt.

But Evan Rufrano, a junior at SUNY Old Westbury, is not only concerned with looming student loans, but also the growing national debt, which has soared to over \$21 trillion. Earlier this semester, Rufrano joined a team of students on campus competing in the 2018 Up to Us competition. According to their website, Up to Us is a nonpartisan, millennial and Gen Z-driven movement that is elevating the next generation's collective voice to raise awareness about the \$21T-and-growing national debt.

This year, more than 100 universities across the country participated in the 2018 campus competition, which tasks teams with educating and engaging their classmates on the issue of national debt.

Led by Rufrano, SUNY Old Westbury won this year's competition and was invited to Washington, D.C. to attend the Peter G. Peterson Foundation's Fiscal Summit, meet with local leaders, and accept their cash prize. Rufrano, a 2015 graduate of Patchogue-Medford High School, spoke with the Advance on the phone from D.C. about the competition, his future in politics, and why millennials should care about national issues.

Long Island Advance: Congratulations on your big win. How are you liking D.C.?

Evan Rufrano: Thank you! It's wonderful. I always love being in D.C. There's a feeling you get when you're here ... you can see that this is where laws are made and where things happen that really impact the nation.

LIA: You also got to meet with Rep. Tom Suozzi, who represents the district including your campus. What did you discuss?

ER: We spoke to him about the nation and issues facing young people, and bring back what we learned from students on our campus to our representatives' offices.

LIA: After you graduated from Pat-Med, why did you decide to study politics?

ER: What brought me to Old Westbury is my major, politics, economics and law, with a minor in industrial labor relations. It's a really unique major and having the opportunity to study all three disciplines has been a great experience.

LIA: Tell me about your experience with Up to Us

ER: Students interview to be selected into the competition and, from there, receive weekly trainings and webinars from fiscal policy experts. It's a 10-week program and we entered late, so it was really pedal to the metal.

LIA: How was your team able to make an impact on campus?

ER: Our debt boulevard did really well. We used chalk on the sidewalks all over campus to showcase statistics and definitions. 75 percent of our campus is commuters, and generally, students get out of their cars and go to class. We made sure they saw our message. As we worked, students were coming up to us, wondering how it's even possible that we're in this much debt. [The national debt] is a complex issue, but we simplified the message to bring it back to students and get them more involved.

LIA: What else did the team come up with?

ER: We did a number of kickoff and tabling events, hosted a My Two Cents day, where distinguished faculty spoke about economics, gave classroom presentations and hosted a panel of elected officials, who spoke about the growing debt.

LIA: What surprised you about the competition?

ER: The gap in information, which I believe we were successfully able to narrow by the end. We asked students how large they thought the national debt was, and what they think our top three expenditures are as a nation. Not many people knew what we spend our money on and believe national defense is the largest part of the budget. It's not.

LIA: What is?

ER: It's in the top three, but we spend more on Social Security and healthcare. We then asked students what their priorities would be in terms of spending. It was an interesting perspective, because their responses were generally at the bottom of Congress' priorities. Students wanted to see education made a spending priority, which was not surprising, since we're on a SUNY campus. Environment was another top priority, and most shocking was that 21 percent of students said they'd like to see increased aid to foreign nations.

LIA: What made your team stand out?

ER: I think the judges liked our debt boulevard, but also that we got over 1,000 students to sign a pledge urging representatives for a bipartisan solution to the debt. We engaged 75 percent of our student population around the issues. I think that spoke out to the judges.

LIA: Why should young people care about the national debt?

ER: We might not feel the impact now, but we are the generation that will inherit this debt. It will be our problem in the future.



Patchogue-Medford alum Evan Rufrano, 20, recently led a student team at SUNY Old Westbury to victory in the 2018 Up to Us Competition, which seeks to engage millennials on the issue of national debt

No. 308: Turtles And Horses, Disney And The Who, Collegiate Innovators And Colorforms For Grown-Ups

MAY 23, 2018

Oh, and: Speaking of impressive collegians, congratulations also to the SUNY Old Westbury squad that bested a field of 100-plus competitors to win the sixth-annual Up to Us Campus Competition, a nationwide initiative to promote fiscal responsibility among young adults.

The winning 2018 team of politics, economics and law students, led by junior Evan Rufrano, engaged hundreds of other students via trivia contests focused on debt and the economy, and also created “Debt Boulevard,” an interactive walkway stretching across the Old Westbury campus that imparted fresh economic wisdom with each step.



LI BUSINESS

A34

LI BUSINESS

LI People ON THE MOVE

BOARDS/ ASSOCIATIONS



Cristina Keiley of Rockville Centre, account manager at LDI Color Tool-Box in Jericho, has been appointed vice president of the **Long Island**

Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees).



Terri Elkowitz of Mount Sinai, Northeast manager at VHB Engineering, Surveying and Landscape Architecture in Hauppauge, has been

appointed to the board of trustees of the **Old Westbury College Foundation** at **SUNY Old Westbury.**

REAL ESTATE

Signature Premier Properties has two new associate brokers.

Nancy Pafites of Dix Hills, hired in Dix Hills, was with Realty Masters North Shore in Huntington.

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has a new position
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WHO'S WHO

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WHO'S WHO Education

the Generations Institute, one of the first in the country aimed at studying Generation Z, and is offering innovative new degree options in high demand fields such as healthcare, education, and business.

Dr. Cline also formed partnerships with noted philanthropist, T. Denny Sanford, to open an Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship bearing his name on the LIU Post Campus, with RXR Realty to monetize air rights on the LIU Brooklyn Campus allowing for historic development of the campus and community, and with Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment to restore the legendary Brooklyn Paramount Theater located on the LIU Brooklyn Campus. These initiatives reinforce LIU's prominent role not only in engaged learning but also in promoting community efficacy within the areas surrounding LIU's campuses.

In addition, Dr. Cline opened the new School of Computer Science, Innovation and Management within the AACSB International-accredited College of Management at LIU Post and the School of Arts and Communication at LIU Brooklyn. LIU was also the first private college in the region to be selected to participate in the START-UP NY initiative, with a newly-renovated business incubator designated for use by fledgling high-tech businesses.

Through these groundbreaking initiatives, Dr. Cline is committed to providing unique opportunities for the entire LIU community in all areas of study.

LIU offers more than 500 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degree programs and certificates, educating 20,000 students each year across multiple campuses.

"Great students with the desire to thrive and excel are drawn to Long Island University because we share their passion and give them the tools to achieve excellence," Dr. Cline said. "LIU is a top teaching and research university with a stunning, 322-acre Gold Coast campus just a short train ride from elite opportunities through our partnerships in New York City."

"Our campus features innovative and entrepreneurial programs, world-class faculty, championship athletics and in-demand degrees that launch promising students into successful professionals," she explained. "Our students join an elite alumni network of over 200,000 leaders at the highest levels of their profession around the world."

Prior to joining LIU, she previously served as president of Mercy College and vice chancellor and chief financial officer of the State University of New York.

Dr. Cline is a board member of the Center for Creative Leadership, the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities and the Long Island Association. She serves as college chair of the Long Island Chapter of the New York Blood Center. Along with a bachelor's degree in industrial relations,

Dr. Cline's degrees include a Master of Business Administration, Juris Doctor and Doctor of Educational Administration.

LIU is a leading national teaching and research institution, which has received accolades by leading organizations including US News & World Report, The Princeton Review and Forbes. LIU Post's 322-acre campus in Brookville is situated on Long Island's historic Gold Coast, just 27 miles east of New York City. A national leader in engaged learning, LIU Post offers student-run businesses and a startup incubator that allows students to explore their entrepreneurial interests. Since 1926, LIU has provided high quality academic programs taught by world-class faculty. LIU offers hundreds of accredited programs to approximately 17,000 students, with a network of over 200,000 alumni, including leaders in industries across the globe.



DR. RAJ
DEVASAGAYAM
SUNY Old
Westbury

Dr. Raj Devasagayam is dean of the School of Business at SUNY Old Westbury, located in Old Westbury. Dr. Devasagayam is responsible for the management of faculty, staff, and student support services; faculty recruitment and development; the school's international accreditation; and the operation of the two academic departments - accounting, taxation & business law, and management, marketing & finance. He also serves as professor of marketing.

The School of Business provides access and support to empower its students with the knowledge, skills, and values to think critically, communicate effectively, and act responsibly, Dr. Devasagayam said.

"Above all, students find the commitment of our faculty to excellence in teaching very attractive," he explained. "Faculty expertise in their chosen field and continued research in their specialty enriches the classroom experience of our students."

The School of Business delineates clear pathways to degree completion and beyond, Dr. Devasagayam noted.

"In short, our students find the School of Business attractive due to our steadfast commitment to being student centered," he said.

Prior to joining SUNY Old Westbury in 2017, Dr. Devasagayam was chair of the Marketing Department and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at Siena College in Albany, NY.

He has received several teaching awards including the Jerome Walton Excellence in Teaching Award

from Siena College in 2007; the Lavina Excellence in Teaching

Award from St. Norbert College in 2003; and was honored with the Hormel Meritorious Teaching Award at the Marketing Management Association's annual meeting in 2008.

Dr. Devasagayam has numerous publications in leading peer-reviewed journals such as the Journal of Brand Management, Journal of Financial Services Marketing, Case Research Journal, and Sport Marketing Quarterly. In 2015, he received the Siena School of Business Excellence in Research Award.

Dr. Devasagayam earned a Ph.D. in Marketing from Florida Atlantic University, an M.B.A. from Mumbai University, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Vikram University. He served on the board of the Marketing Management Association, as well as vice president for Publication Council of Marketing Management Association. He is a member of the American Marketing Association.

SUNY Old Westbury is a selective public liberal arts college with 4,800 students studying in more than 40 undergraduate degree opportunities in its liberal arts and professional programs and 19 graduate programs in business, education liberal studies and mental health counseling. Since 2015, student enrollment at SUNY Old Westbury has grown 12 percent and applications for Fall 2018 entry are ahead of the prior year's pace, which saw the college enroll the largest freshman and transfer classes in its history.

More and more students are responding to SUNY Old Westbury's combination of challenging academic coursework, commitment to the enriching value of human diversity, personal attention, real-world opportunities, and affordable tuition. SUNY Old Westbury was recently named one of the "Top 100 Most Affordable Colleges in America" by the website Best-values.com.

The 604-acre campus is a place where students are challenged to take ownership of their futures through an environment that demands academic excellence, fosters intercultural understanding, and endeavors to stimulate a passion for learning and a commitment to building a more just and sustainable world.



STEPHEN
DI DIO
Queensborough
Community
College

Stephen Di Dio is vice president and chief marketing and communication officer at Queensborough Community College of The City University of New York (CUNY) in Bayside, Queens. As a result of his

leadership, there is now a national audience aware of the college's contributions to ground-breaking research and education, as well as its collaborations with local and global communities, and its impressive stories of diversity combined with student success.

In keeping with his dedication to the mission of public education and community colleges in particular, Di Dio has captured the attention of potential students throughout the state. One result of his message: Record-breaking enrollment from Queens and Nassau County.

His tenure has been marked by several firsts including an award-winning, full-scale rebrand, the launch of Queensborough's first digital media strategy, and cutting-edge mobile initiatives that reached students from more than 139 nations around the world.

Prior to joining the college, Di Dio launched the nationally-acclaimed Patch Politics brand from scratch while at AOL Huffington Post Media Group, transforming how Americans consumed the 2012 presidential race. There he led communication, strategic planning, and media strategy development for 850+ hyperlocal sites in 23 states and Washington D.C. and executed the first social listening strategy, keeping over 1,000 journalists abreast of current political issues.

Di Dio has been a dedicated public servant in local, state and federal leadership positions. As deputy director of communications services for the New York State Senate he oversaw communication and messaging strategy for 32 senators. During his time in the state Senate, he also served as communications director for the College Democrats of America LGBT caucus.

He later served as a member of former U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton's communications team and then traveled with Clinton's first presidential campaign.

Cited as one of 40 Under 40 Top by Schneps Communications, Di Dio earned a Master of Science from Columbia University, where he is a faculty associate in the strategic communication graduate program.

Located on a 37-acre campus in Bayside, New York, Queensborough Community College offers more than 40 top ranked academic programs designed so that students can seamlessly transfer to four year colleges and/or obtain the necessary skills for career advancement. Queensborough has ten dual/joint programs with senior colleges including Biotechnology with York College; Accounting for Forensic Accounting, Computer Science and Information Security, Criminal Justice and Science for Forensics with John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Education with Queens College; and Nursing with Hunter College, the School of Professional Studies and York College.

Queensborough Community College is among the best two-year schools in the nation offer-

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

▶ EDUCATION



Rachel Littenberg

Littenberg, transfer articulation manager at **SUNY Old Westbury**, was awarded the New Professionals Award by the New York State Transfer and Articulation Association.

THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Appointments, resignations, retirements, fellowships, awards, deaths

Compiled by Julia Piper JUNE 14, 2018

OTHER ADMINISTRATORS

Appointments

James Mwaura, former associate director of purchasing and accounts payable at State University of New York College at Purchase, has been named director of purchasing at State University of New York College at Old Westbury.



James Mwaura

LI BUSINESS

A31

LI People ON THE MOVE

EDUCATION



James Mwaura of Kew Gardens, Queens, has been hired as purchasing director at **SUNY Old Westbury** in Old Westbury. He was associate director of purchasing and accounts payable at Purchase College (SUNY) in Westchester County.

ON THE MOVE

JUNE 15, 2018

- + James Mwaura has been hired as purchasing director at **SUNY Old Westbury**. He was associate director of purchasing and accounts payable at SUNY's Purchase College in Westchester County.
- + Craig Sukenic has been named vice president of sales for Hauppauge-based SmartSource Computer & Audio Visual Rentals. He was previously vice president of strategic sales with Comdata in Tennessee.
- + Martin Smith has been hired as a senior strategist at Westbury-based Spark451, a higher-education marketing firm. Smith was previously a chief enrollment officer at the University of New Orleans and Saint Leo University.
- + Leo Sternlicht, owner of Riverhead Ford Lincoln, has been elected chairman of the Port Jefferson-based John T. Mather Hospital Board of Directors.
- + Elena Karabatos, a senior partner of Garden City-based Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, has been elected president of the Nassau County Bar Association.
- + Huntington Hospital has elected four new members to its board of trustees: Katherine Heaviside, president of Huntington-based Epoch 5 Public Relations; Edward Murphy, managing director of Wells Fargo Advisors in Melville; Xavier Palacios, managing partner at Mineola-based Palacios Law Group; and Rachel Spencer, owner of Huntington-based Long Island Otolaryngology & Pediatric Airway.
- + Bay Shore-based A+ Technology & Security Solutions has announced two personnel moves: Frank Jacovino has been promoted to vice president of operations and product development and Rick Cadiz has been hired as vice president of sales and marketing.

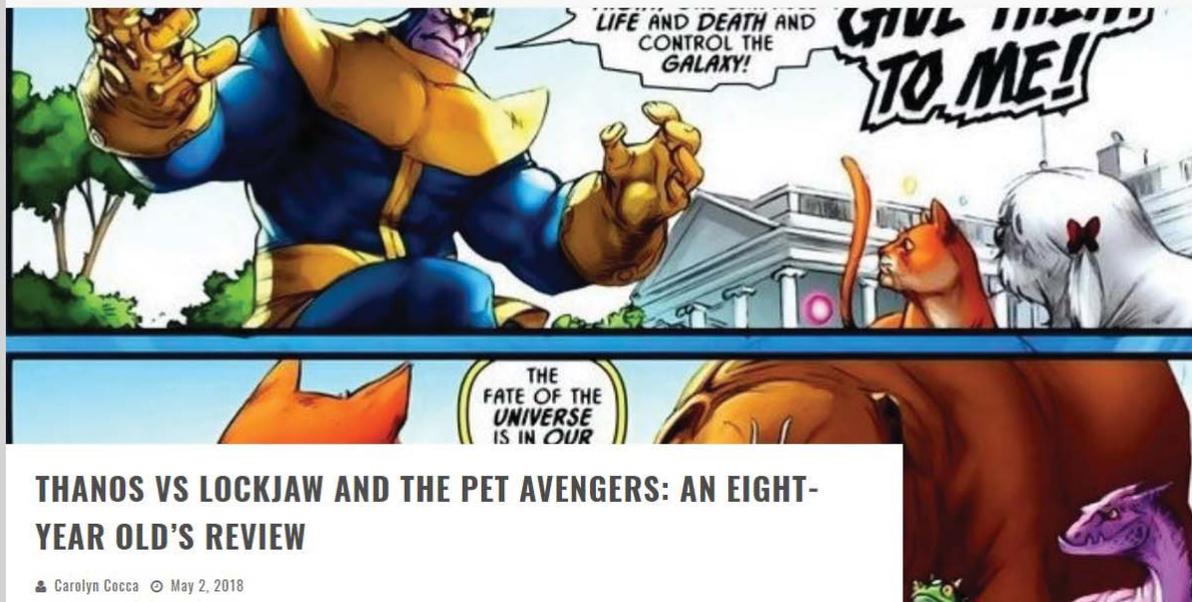
THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Appointments, resignations, retirements, fellowships, awards, deaths

Compiled by Julia Piper MAY 24, 2018

AWARDS

Jacqueline Emery, an assistant professor of English at State University of New York College at Old Westbury, received the Ray and Pat Browne Award for Best Edited Collection in Popular Culture and American Culture for *Recovering Native American Writings in the Boarding School Press* (University of Nebraska Press, 2017).



THANOS VS LOCKJAW AND THE PET AVENGERS: AN EIGHT-YEAR OLD'S REVIEW

by Carolyn Cocca © May 2, 2018

By Carolyn Cocca and Anna Cocca Goodman

[Note: A longer version of this was originally published in 2015. This shorter re-post is in honor of Avengers: Infinity War. Check out Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers, a four-part series in which Marvel super-pets battle Thanos with heart and strength and humor...and win :-]

There are three main Pet Avengers stories: Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers (2009), Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers Unleashed (2010), and Avengers vs. Pet Avengers (2010-11), by Chris Eliopoulos (w), Ig Guara (a), and Chris Sotomayor (c). These are on Marvel Unlimited and collected in trade paperbacks as well.

Here is a conversation my eight-year-old daughter Anna and I had about the series. We both highly recommend it.

Carolyn: Who are the Pet Avengers?

Anna: Lockjaw, Lockheed, Hairball, Redwing, Zabu, Throg, and Ms. Lion.

Carolyn: Do you know who their owners are?

Anna: Lockheed's owner is Kitty Pryde [of the X-Men], Lockjaw's owner is Medusa [of the Inhumans] but I first saw him with the new Ms. Marvel. Redwing's is Falcon. Redwing always talks about Falcon. Throg uses fancy language like Thor...

[She takes out my iPad, goes to Marvel Unlimited, and reads:] "Lockheed is an alien dragon; Redwing, the noble bird of the hero Falcon; Zabu is the loyal sabertooth partner to Ka-zar; Hairball, a cat gifted with kinetic powers; Ms. Lion, a well...um...dog. And I am Frog Thor, but thou may call me Throg."

Carolyn: What is their mission [in Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers]?

Anna: To find gems and destroy them.

Carolyn: Yes, they need to keep the Infinity Gems from Thanos. [She looks blank]. The big purple guy?

Anna: Right. I like this one the best because you meet everybody. They're all different and they're a good team.

Carolyn: Avengers vs. Pet Avengers is a little different, though.

Anna: They are on opposite sides of a battle. The Pets work with the dragons and Fin Fang Foom, not the Avengers. The Pet Avengers are right to work with the dragons. And also, Captain America, Iron Man, and Thor are frogified. Iron Man keeps saying, "I want my armor!"

Carolyn: What about Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers Unleashed?

Anna: They're looking for Throg, and they find him in another land, a dream world. And they meet a Yeti, who Ms. Lion names Hairball 2 and that makes Hairball mad, and a unicorn named Damiella. They save the world.

Carolyn: What do you like most about Pet Avengers?

Anna: Hairball and Ms. Lion are funny together. Cats and dogs never get along unless they grew up together. Ms. Lion's kind of annoying, but funny. Like when they're in the water, Hairball says, "Hate the water, hate the dog, hate, hate, hate. Get me out of here, don't like water, must get away from water and dog. Dumb dog." But then Ms. Lion saves her. And Hairball saves Ms. Lion too. On one cover, all the pets look brave, and Ms. Lion is drooling. And she, meaning Ms. Lion, is on the cover of many of the books. All of the pets look ready to defend themselves and they look heroic. While they're saving the Earth, Ms. Lion pees!

Carolyn: Ms. Lion's not a she...

Anna: Ms. Lion is a boy dog, but he's called Ms. Lion.

Carolyn: If you were to describe Pet Avengers to your friends, what would you say?

Anna: They're animals, and they're funny and heroic. Both boys and girls would like it. Pet Avengers-Assemble!

We Need The Revolutionary Black God That James Cone Saw

Nicholas Powers

05/18/2018 01:26 pm ET

In the fires of a burning city, James Cone saw the face of God. He was a young theologian transfixed by newsreels of the 1967 Detroit uprising. For five days, Black people fought soldiers as buildings burned in the night. Two years later, his *Black Theology & Black Power* hit bookstores; God, he said was on the side of the protesters.

Cone died last month. Although mourned by many, his legacy is in question. Millennials have left behind the church in the internet age. What role does Cone's theology have now? What can we do with a faith that once linked us to our ancestors?

Black Theology

"I heard the voices of black blood crying out," Cone said in a 2017 speech at Yale University. "All the anger I had suppressed about white supremacy ... burst forth out of me like an erupting volcano."

Born in 1936 Arkansas, Cone's rage began early. He lived in a segregated South. He went to "colored" schools, drank from "colored" water fountains, sat in "colored" waiting areas and heard of lynchings. He picked cotton for \$2 a day and 2 cents a pound. In order to live, he hid that rage.

It caught up to him in the quietest of places. As a seminary student in the 1960s, Cone faced white Christian theologians, who prized Plato and Hegel as Black people were killed, beaten and arrested for protesting. Seeing the Detroit uprisings in 1967, he poured his bottled-up rage into the Bible and burned away the irrelevances until he found a pure truth. God is Black and has always been Black.

In 1969, his first book, *Black Power and Black Theology* was published. A year later came his *A Black Theology of Liberation*, and his fifth title, 1975's *God of the Oppressed*, established Cone as a fiery, activist intellectual who nearly singlehandedly shifted the terms of American Protestant theology into a radical mode.

Cone's Black liberation theology is a method of Biblical interpretation that highlights God's covenant with the oppressed, in which liberation of the poor is the ultimate meaning of Scripture. He wrote in *A Black Theology of Liberation*: "God is identified with the oppressed to the point that their experience becomes God's experience." In his reading, Jesus was God on earth who touched the poor. Jesus fed the hungry. Jesus welcomed the homeless, lame and crippled and told the rich to give up their wealth.

Cone went on to write 11 books over five decades. He spoke, gave interviews and wrote essays. Prolific and committed, Cone influenced generations of pastors. When the revolutionary tide of the civil rights and Black power movements ebbed, he held out and tended the spark of Black liberation theology. He did so in the face of a rising materialism in the Black church, where pastors sported gold and tailored suits and preached in stadium megachurches a new gospel of prosperity.

The Prosperity Gospel

"When you pay your tithe," Pastor Eddie Long told his parishioners, "you are giving God your faith!" In the clip from the documentary "Black Church Inc.," Long wears a sharp suit and holds a thick brick of bills.

Pay for salvation. Pay for God's grace. Pay for blessing. Men of the cloth, using religion to shake down desperate people is nothing new in the Black community. In the 1940s, Prophet Jones, a faith healer, told his flock that God spoke to him directly. He lived a lavish life. He had gold-crusted mansions and a personal staff. In 1970s New York, Reverend Ike, an evangelist, exhorted followers to send money for his "Blessing Plan." The more they sent, the greater the "blessing." Both men were early luminaries but also outliers of the Black church. In the decades that came, their gospel would take center stage.

When racial barriers in neighborhoods and employment somewhat fell after the civil rights movement, a class divide deepened in Black America. The middle and upper classes integrated the white mainstream or made enclaves of color while the poor languished in rural poverty, Section 8 housing or run-down suburbs. Prosperity gospel answered the psychological need of a divided people. It sanitized the new wealth of the upwardly mobile as a sign of God's approval. For the poor, it gave a false hope that their lives can change if they just prayed hard enough.

Wealth, however, cannot stop a bullet. Wealth cannot even stop a racist insult. Whether it is Oprah, who was refused service in a store, or Michael Brown, who was fatally shot in Ferguson, racism rained upon us. Outrage pushes Black youth to rise up, and when they march, they did not reach for the Bible but for cellphones.

The Revolution Will Not Be Evangelized

"The blood of Black people is crying out to God from the ground," Cone said his Yale speech. "Sandra Bland in Texas, Tamir Rice in Ohio and Eric Garner in New York, the millions gone on the auction block and during the Middle Passage; Black blood is crying out to God."

He drew up from his body the long, deep lived history of being Black in America and told them that no one can understand the crucified Christ without seeing him "through the experience of the crucified peoples today."

How can the new generation see his teaching today? Although still religious, Black youth, like America in general, increasingly go to church less and read Scripture less. When they gather, plan and start protests, it is online or, if in person, more often at a college or community center. They use memes, not Bible verses. They are queer or queer allies. They do not use a top-down command structure, but are decentralized.

And yet, Black liberation theology is still relevant today. Religion is a mirror of our deepest selves. Nineteenth century philosopher Ludwig Feuerbach, who connected Hegel to Marx, wrote in *The Essence of Christianity*, "God is nothing else than man, he is the outward projection of man's inner nature." It is why the face of God always changes, and the divine is remolded by each new generation.

What if you do not believe in Jesus? That's fine; I don't either. The only thing real about God is our need to be in communion through, as Feuerbach would say, "an outward projection." It is that need, not the image, which is real. It is that need, not the image, which makes authentic religion ultimately revolutionary. The parts of ourselves that are alienated, whether as sin or shame, can be brought back to our bodies.

James Cone recuperated his blackness through the image of a Black God. Today, black millennials have in Cone an inheritance they have not yet opened. If we open his work, we can take the first practical step of publicly stripping conservative evangelicals of their false piety. We can call out pastors and churches that give a veneer of sanctity to the Trump administration's anti-immigrant, law-and-order bigotry.

If we open his work, we can reconnect with Black churchgoers caught in the prosperity gospel and invite them into social movements. We can show them how Black Lives Matter and other movements represent the core of their faith and our history. We can show those clinging to fundamentalist homophobia that the queer activists who sacrificed for everyone's freedom are the true believers in Black holiness and worth.

If we open Cone's work, we can show that religion is deeper than the language it's written in or face of God it imagines or arcane rules it uses to define purity. God is what unites us across differences, which is why we begin with those whose difference is used as an excuse for their suffering. We say God is a woman. God is poor. God is gay. God is a refugee. God is us.

*Nicholas Powers is a poet and associate professor of literature at [SUNY Old Westbury](#). He is the author of 2014's *The Ground Below Zero: 9/11 to Burning Man, New Orleans to Darfur, Haiti to Occupy Wall Street, from Upset Press*.*

OWWR Teams up with Children's Sangha & The Project Stewardship

SUNY Old Westbury campus radio station continues its community outreach efforts by hosting group from Bellmore not-for-profit.

By SUNY OW Public and Media Relations, Patch Poster | May 14, 2018 7:57 pm ET | Updated May 14, 2018 8:17 pm ET



Old Westbury Web Radio (OWWR), the campus radio station of SUNY Old Westbury, recently provided an introduction to the world of digital broadcasting for a group of participants involved with The Children's Sangha, a Bellmore-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing innovative programs and consulting services geared towards the educational and environmental well-being of youth across Long Island. The participants in the visit were taking part in the organization's Project Stewardship, a program designed to engage young adults both intellectually and socially in various educational and fun programs. The programs are chosen based on the interest of the young adults and are meant to build social skills and foster a sense of community.

During Project Stewardship's outing to OWWR the participants toured the radio station and learned about the various equipment and skills necessary to create and produce a radio show. Additionally, the young adults also created their own "OWWR Spotlight" radio program highlighting their experience in Project Stewardship.

The Project Stewardship visit is the latest in the efforts of OWWR to engage the community in its work. This semester, the station continued its work with clients of YAI, a not-for-profit organization providing support and services to more than 20,000 people with intellectual or development disabilities in the local community, and served as a host organization for the annual St. Baldrick's Day Celebration in Glen Cove in support of cancer research.

OWWR, Old Westbury Web Radio, is the student radio station of SUNY Old Westbury. OWWR provides students, faculty, alumni, and community volunteer programming that broadcasts online and is available via the TuneIn Radio app. OWWR is a variety station that features news, sports, talk, and offers a wide variety of music programming. OWWR is also the official radio station for coverage of the SUNY Old Westbury Panthers.



STUDENTS | MAY 5, 2018

SUNY College's Rachael Petito Is Filing Taxes For Free

As an accounting major, Petito enjoys helping low to moderate income people with their taxes.



BY BRITTANY SIMS, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Petito dreams of opening her own accounting firm in the future (Image via Rachael Petito)

Rachael Petito, 25, from Long Island, New York is a senior at [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#) where she studies accounting. After graduating this upcoming fall, she will start her master's program in either tax accounting, accounting or forensic accounting.

On top of her 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. school schedule and commuting, Petito volunteers for a tax program called the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, program, that runs through the Bethpage Federal Credit Union (BFCU). The program allows qualified state residents to file their tax return for free.

Brittany Sims: Tell me a little bit about yourself and your time in college.

Rachael Petito: I enjoy being busy, but I also enjoy a nice relaxing weekend with nothing to do but watch Netflix. As a Long Islander, I love being able to drive 20 minutes to the beach or take an hour train ride to NYC.

I love spending my free time with my cousins and exploring Long Island. As far as school goes, I went to Farmingdale State College after graduating high school in 2011 before attending [SUNY Old Westbury](#). I took my time in deciding what my major was, and that was time well spent. Everything seems to be falling into place, which is a great feeling.

BS: What made you want to major in accounting?

RP: I started helping my neighbour with his business invoices when I was 16 years old. As time went by, I grew into the idea of doing accounting as a career. When I attended Farmingdale State College on Long Island, I never really knew what I wanted to do.

So, I decided to take a year off and found a job as an administrative assistant in a certified public accounting office. I worked there for a year, and with the knowledge I learned there, it confirmed my idea that this was what I wanted to do. I knew [SUNY Old Westbury](#) had a well-known accounting program and decided to attend there.

BS: What does the program involve?

RP: It's about a 10-week program, lasting from February to the beginning of April. We would pick a location, whether it be a BFCU banking branch or another location that offers the services on LI and that would be our location for the program.

We have to take certification exams to be officially certified by the IRS in order to prepare taxes. For the last 10 weeks, I would go to the local branch that I chose. From 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., I would prepare taxes.

BS: How did you get started with the tax program and why did you want to volunteer for it?

RP: My school regularly sends out emails for different opportunities and events. I saw an e-mail asking for volunteers for the tax program and decided that it would look good on my resume and allow me to gain valuable experience in my career.

BS: What is your role in VITA and how do you become a volunteer?

RP: My role was a Tax Preparer, represented by BFCU. I would sit with clients and view their tax papers (W-2s, 1099s, etc.) and prepare their tax return, the same way an accountant at a firm would. I would spend about an hour with each client and help them understand the process and answer any of their questions they have along the way.

For us volunteers, we have to pass three certifications in order to qualify: a Code of Conduct, an interview in-take test that quizzes you on things you should or should not ask a client while getting documents and information and a Basic Certification Exam, which allows you to prepare the most basic tax return.

Higher level certifications are available, but I chose not to take them. The higher the certification, the more advanced return you are allowed to do. As a volunteer, I am not legally allowed to e-file a return. It needs to be reviewed and transmitted by a site coordinator. E-filing a return officially transmits the return to the IRS. As long as there are volunteers willing to help out, the program will be there.

BS: How important is it to you for people who can't afford to file their taxes for free?

RP: I think it's an amazing thing that this program exists. I know that an accountant can charge a lot of money to prepare someone's taxes, and I understand that not everyone can afford it. I saw people that were so grateful that we were able to help them out without a fee. It's definitely a rewarding feeling. BFCU is well-known on Long Island for caring about our communities and this program definitely shows it.

BS: Anything else you would like to tell others about the program?

RP: It's a very rewarding experience. I just finished my last day on April 7, and I am actually sad it's finished. I have become friends with everyone I have volunteered with and gained so much knowledge. I feel more confident in my choice being an accounting major through my helping out with this program.

BS: What is your ultimate career goal?

RP: Ultimately, I'd love to be my own boss and have my own accounting firm. I love the idea of making my own hours and creating a work environment that is still professional but with an atmosphere to be a fun place to work. I want to have an accounting firm where my employees would actually enjoy coming to work and would want to be there for a long time.

BS: How do you manage a full-time school and work schedule and volunteer at the tax program but still find time for yourself?

RP: Honestly, I really didn't have time for myself. I spent those weeks doing the tax program; I'd wake up, go to school, go to work, back to school, do homework and go to sleep. The only real time I spent by myself was early Saturday mornings and Sundays, which half of those days were for homework.

It felt like the longest 10 weeks ever, but I made it work. I just finished the program, so now I can finally relax and take a day for myself. If you ever feel overwhelmed, take a deep breath. I know it may seem like there is a lot may be on your plate with finals coming up. Just a friendly reminder, that you are awesome and you got this!

If you live on Long Island and can't afford to file your taxes next tax season, check out this program. Petito will be able to help you in the future when you need help with your taxes!

WINNERS Compiled by Michael R. Ebert

Compiled by Michael R. Ebert

CORRINNE GRAHAM
Founder, president



Corrinne Graham of Brookhaven has received the 2018 Excellence in Civic Engagement Award from the Alumni Association of SUNY Old Westbury in recognition of her civic and community work. Graham is founder and president of Graham International Consulting & Research. She also is a speaker, personal and professional trainer and management consultant to small, startup and medium-sized businesses and individuals. Her other involvements include serving as a mentor for Women Entrepreneurs NYC, a board member for the Long Island Advancement of Small Business and a member of the Town of Brookhaven's Black History Commission and L.I. African American Chamber of Commerce.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018 | NORTH HEMPSTEAD-OYSTER BAY



BACK TO SCHOOL

act2 | David Katz makes sure race courses measure up E25

LEAF | W

COVERSTORY

Rising to the challenge

Wyandanch High School alumni return to the district to educate and inspire new generations

BY MERLE ENGLISH
Special to Newsday

There's a lot of school spirit in Wyandanch. And not just in the usual places, like on the basketball court, the football field or the cheer squad, but in the classroom, where several alumni who went to school in the district over the past several decades have returned to help instruct, guide and inspire new generations of students.

"It's always about saving lives," said Paul Sibbles, principal at Wyandanch Memorial High School. "They went to school here and find it fruitful to return and guide the kids that are here now. They become a symbol of being successful in school and returning to work in the school."

The school district has an elementary, a middle and a high school that educate about 2,700 students, most of whom are Hispanic or African American, according to Steven Berger, the district's data coordinator. Alumni have stuck with the district and its students through good times and bad,



Wyandanch Memorial High School principal Paul Sibbles says former students are a symbol of success.



ON THE COVER: Wyandanch school board trustee James Crawford with mentors, from left, Jermaine Miller, 9, Sharne Washington, 4, Jahmir Crawford, 3, Jhane Washington, 4, Josiah Crawford, 7, Aneurri Bower, 11, and James Crawford II, 10, outside Wyandanch Memorial High School.

"All that time, I was longing for Wyandanch. My goal, even in high school, was to come back. I never left."

A chance encounter with a former teacher set the wheels in motion for Sharon Parrell's return to the district. The Class of 1990 alum said her goal now is to "continue learning and growing educationally so I can continue to be a positive influence and role model for my students."

It's a sentiment shared by Margaret Rivera-Simpson, a member of the Class of 1985. "With the influx of the Hispanic population in Wyandanch, I feel like I can be a voice for the children who haven't developed a voice yet," said Rivera-Simpson, who is bilingual.

More profiles on E6



BARRY SLOAN

MARGARET RIVERA-SIMPSON SECRETARY

For much of her life, Margaret Rivera-Simpson has been preparing herself for a career she only recently decided would be working with children in the Wyandanch school district.

When she was 7, Rivera-Simpson moved to the hamlet with her parents from Manhattan, where she was born. She attended LaFrancis Hardiman / Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, graduated from Wyandanch Memorial High School in 1985 and studied at various educational institutions, pausing only to dedicate time to being a mother.

Rivera-Simpson began working as a secretary in the district in 1994, and after school attended classes in secretarial

science. She earned an associate's degree in office management from Farmingdale State College. She then began studying psychology at the SUNY Old Westbury campus.

"I switched majors several times, going from marketing and advertising to professional communications, and went back to psychology," said Rivera-Simpson, who is working toward a bachelor's degree.

"I hope to eventually work with children," said Rivera-Simpson, who is bilingual. "I plan to stay in the district and do that. This is home; this is where I feel I can be effective."

"With the influx of the Hispanic population in Wyandanch, I feel like I can be a voice for the children who haven't developed a voice yet," she added. "We have an excellent psychology staff; they do all they can to help the children. I want to contribute in that area."

More profiles on E8



Bentley University Announces Academic Leadership Team

by Helen Henrichs May 4, 2018



Donna Blancero, Lynne Rosansky and Rick Oches

Bentley University announced changes in its academic leadership team to position the university for continued success. Lynne Rosansky, Ph.D., who had been interim provost since July 2017, has been re-appointed to a three-year term as provost. Rick Oches, Ph.D., chair of the department of natural and applied sciences, has been named as the new dean of arts and sciences. Associate Dean Donna Maria Blancero, Ph.D., will become interim dean of business and the McCallum Graduate School of Business. The appointments will take effect on July 1, 2018.

The dual dean appointments highlight Bentley's interdisciplinary approach that integrates the study of arts and sciences within a business degree program to prepare students for successful careers and lives.

"I'm excited to work with Rick and Donna to continue to build Bentley's strong academic reputation as a university on the rise and one of the country's top business schools," said Rosansky. "It's a time of change in higher education and I know this team can help Bentley successfully navigate these waters."

Lynne Rosansky, Provost

Rosansky has made a significant impact in her first year at Bentley, working with the Cabinet and the faculty to reposition Bentley's graduate programs and expand online course offerings.

Rosansky's academic credentials span both business and arts and sciences, and she has extensive experience in higher ed leadership. She served as founding president of the Hult International Business School, dean of the University of New Haven College of Business, provost at SUNY's Levin Institute and interim provost at Franklin Pierce University. She has also served on the faculty at Brandeis International Business School, the Simmons School of Management, the International University of Japan and Babson College. Rosansky earned a Ph.D. and M.A. from Boston University, M.B.A. from Babson College, and B.A. from Carnegie Mellon University.

Rick Oches, Dean of Arts and Sciences

Oches has taught as a member of the Bentley faculty for 10 years, serving as chair of the Natural and Applied Sciences Department for seven years. His teaching and research interests have focused on Earth's recent climate history as well as the human and environmental responses to climate changes. He is currently researching environmental sustainability planning in the context of population growth, increasing natural resource consumption, environmental degradation, and global climate change.

Before joining Bentley, Oches was chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at the University of South Florida. He received his Ph.D. and M.S. from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and B.S. from Purdue University.

Oches' appointment followed a comprehensive national search to succeed Dan Everett, who announced last year that he would step down in June 2018 after eight years as Bentley's dean of arts and sciences.

Donna Blancero, Interim Dean of Business and the McCallum Graduate School

Blancero has served as associate dean of business at Bentley since 2016 and as an associate professor of management since 2010. She has held faculty and research roles at Arizona State University and Cornell University and served as Ph.D. director at Touro University and as a fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. She is the division chair for the Gender and Diversity in Organizations Division of the Academy of Management and a Ph.D. Project faculty member.

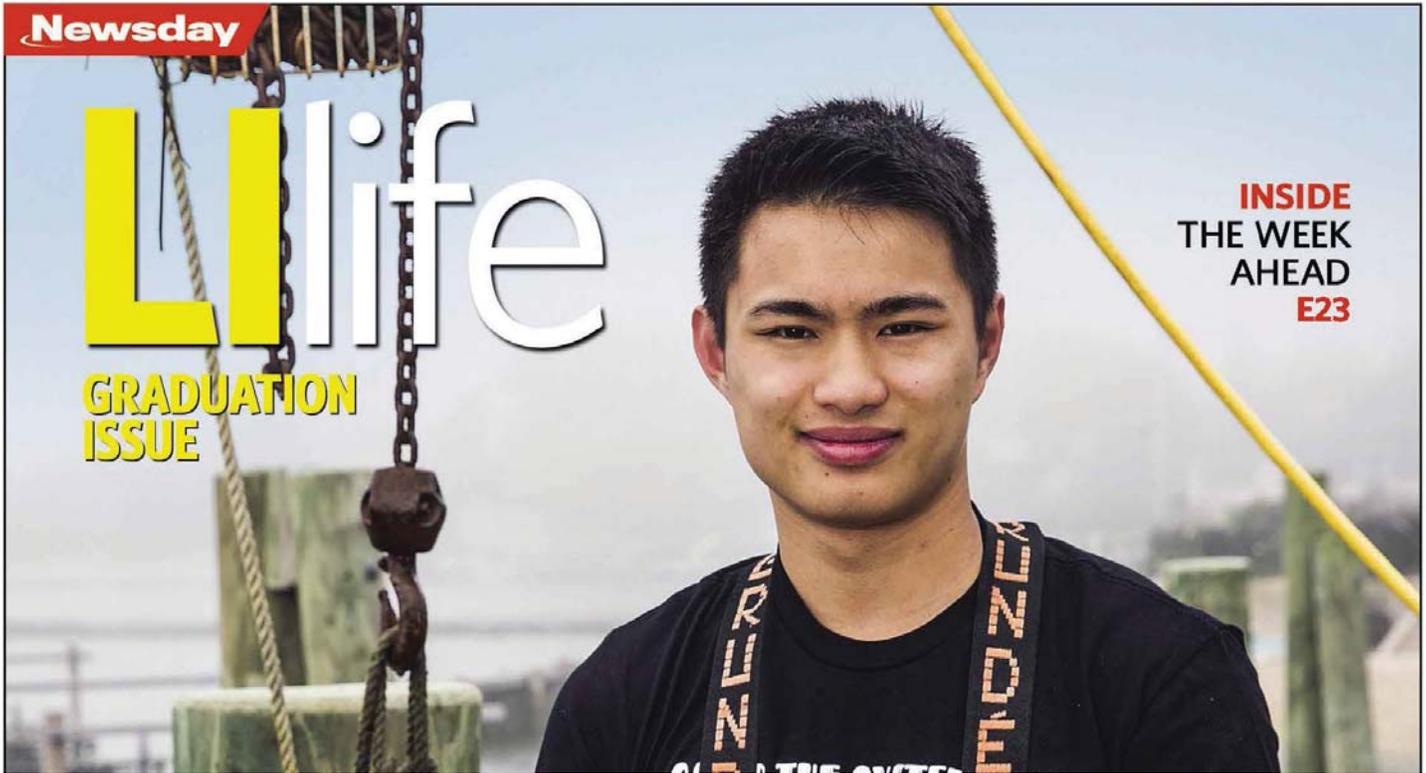
In the private sector, Blancero has consulted with organizations on diversity, networking, mentoring and leadership training, specifically for Latinos and other people of color. She is a national speaker on issues related to Hispanic leadership and the founding editor of The Business Journal of Hispanic Research. Blancero received her Ph.D. from Cornell University, M.S. from New York Institute of Technology and B.S. from SUNY, College at Old Westbury.

Blancero will succeed Roy "Chip" Wiggins, who announced in March that he would step down after seven years as dean of business and the McCallum Graduate School. Bentley will conduct a comprehensive search for a new business dean beginning this summer.

About Bentley University

Bentley University is one of the nation's leading business schools, dedicated to preparing a new kind of business leader with the technical skills, global perspective and ethical standards required to make a difference in an ever-changing world. Bentley's diverse arts and sciences program combined with an advanced business curriculum prepares graduates to make an impact in their chosen fields. The university enrolls approximately 4,000 undergraduate and 1,000 graduate students. For more information, visit www.bentley.edu.

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018 | NORTH HEMPSTEAD-OYSTER BAY



21

TOP STUDENTS

E28

newsday.com/graduation

GARDEN CITY SENIOR H.S.

VALEDICTORIAN

BRANDON GONG

Garden City

GPA: 101.88 (weighted)

Activities: Neuro-
science Research
Institute **SUNY Old**

Westbury intern, Latin
Club president, Honor
Society president, Math
team captain, varsity

cross country captain, All-State oboist, two-time
Neuroscience Research Prize national finalist

College and major: Harvard University,
neuroscience



Road School students accepted in SUNY Old Westbury gifted program

By The Island Now

June 22, 2018



Darsh Mirchandani, a New Hyde Park Road School fourth grader and Fiona O'Reilly, a State University of New York at Old Westbury gifted program. (Photo courtesy of New Hyde Park Road School)

Darsh Mirchandani, a New Hyde Park Road School fourth grader and Fiona O'Reilly, a New Hyde Park Road School sixth grader, were accepted into a competitive mathematics program at the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at [State University of New York at Old Westbury](#).

The Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students is one of the most competitive programs in the nation. Each year approximately 700 outstanding students are nominated on Long Island for 84 available spots. Selection by the Institute implies that a student is among the top one-tenth of one percent of all students in mathematics on Long Island in his or her grade. Acceptance is based on three criteria: a rigorous entrance exam, a recommendation of student's math teacher and a school transcript or report card.

Mirchandani and O'Reilly will begin classes in September 2018, where they will spend sixty hours in class and on related outside projects. They will learn about mathematical topics such as algebra, geometry, and number theory, as well as others not included in the standard courses of study, like problem-solving applied to probability, theory of finite differences, and mass point geometry. Additionally, selected applications of mathematics taken from science and engineering are presented and discussed.

Roslyn students make mark in math olympiad tournament

By The Island Now

June 18, 2018



Roslyn Middle School fourth place winners at Math Olympiad Tournament are Jacob Lee, Cayden Shen, Jacob Zwerling, Lucas Weisser, and Jacob Gross. (Photo courtesy of Roslyn school district)

Thirty students from the East Hills, Harbor Hill, and Roslyn Middle School attended the Twelfth Annual Nassau Math Olympiad Tournament held on May 31 at [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

Roslyn Students attending the Twelfth Annual Nassau Math Olympiad Tournament were, back row, from left, Victor Chan, Caitlin Lee, Jacob Lee, Jacob Zwerling, Lucas Weisser, Mason Lee, Jadon Barish, Jacob Gross, Jason Ganjian, Hanah Youn, Fariha Majumder, Daphne Lin, Sophie Plotnitzky, Cayden Shen, Hannah Goldberg, Graydon Archondo, Ria Budhrani.

The students were coached by Roslyn's computer teacher, Amy Braunstein, enrichment teacher, Suzanne Falcone, and middle school math teacher, Gabriella Gizzi.

There were 280 students in fourth through sixth grades from schools throughout Nassau County at the tournament, which was co-sponsored by the Nassau County Mathematics Teachers Association and the Nassau County Association of Mathematics Supervisors.

During the tournament, the students competed in individual and team contests. These problems were intense and stimulated the minds of our students.

Roslyn Middle School Team A came in fourth place among the 55 Team



Roslyn Students attending the Twelfth Annual Nassau Math Olympiad Tournament were, back row, from left, Victor Chan, Caitlin Lee, Jacob Lee, Jacob Zwerling, Lucas Weisser, Mason Lee, Jadon Barish, Jacob Gross, Jason Ganjian, Hanah Youn, Fariha Majumder, Daphne Lin, Sophie Plotnitzky, Cayden Shen, Hannah Goldberg, Graydon Archondo, Ria Budhrani.

Front row, from left, Michael Chen, Ethan Lee, Justin Wang, Ethan Jeon, Ethan Berkowitz, Cooper Forrest, Maksim Gallo, Alexander Ren, Ayaan Ahmed, Niko Quadri, Ariela Yousefzadeh, Kaitlyn Yuen, and Esha Chandra. (Photo courtesy of Roslyn school district)