



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

# “IN THE NEWS”

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2017

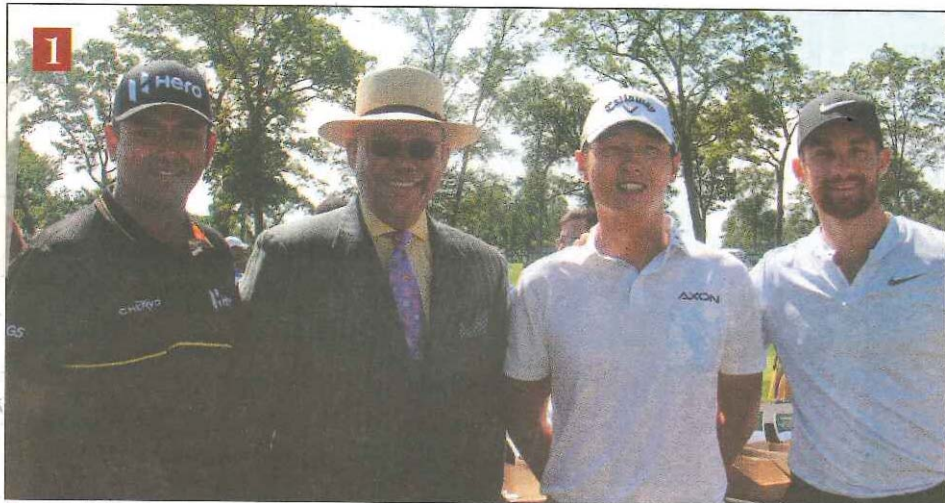
Prepared by  
The Office of Public and Media Relations  
SUNY College at Old Westbury

# Long Island Business NEWS

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ONOURISLAND



OSUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III (second from left) joined golfers (from left) Anirban Lahiri, Danny Lee and Patrick Rodgers at the Northern Trust tournament in assembling 5,000 comfort bags for victim of violence.

30 DAYS OF GIVING

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## 30 Days of Giving 2017 – Day 8: Old Westbury Helps Haiti

By SUNY Old Westbury

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As part of SUNY Old Westbury's award-winning Community Action, Learning and Leadership (CALL) program, a group of first-year students created the Help Haiti Project in 2017 in response to recent natural disasters that struck the island. Led by seven freshmen, the Help Haiti Project collaborated with local school district to raise funds and collect donations for children in Haiti. The HHP students involved the elementary school children in their campaign to bring awareness to the need for resources in Haiti, and also to encourage and motivate young children to do what they can to help people in need.

Through various efforts on campus, including a social media campaign, advertising, tabling, and canvassing, the Help Haiti Project donated enough supplies for 115 elementary school children at L'ecole Rural de Platon. A collection of clothes and toiletries was also sent to the town of Platon de Leogane.

CALL Director Tonya Thomas stated – "I am so proud of our students who truly developed this project from the ground up. They selected the cause, developed the campaign, contacted the local school districts, presented their case, solicited the donations, and even sought out a local congregation to partner with to ship the items. This type of applied learning and project management was a great experience for first-year college students."

The student leads that ensured the success of this initiative were Aniesha Allen, Zenobia Curry, Judith Lacoste, Jovan Manning, Ana Toledo, Nairobi Whiting, Mavel Rodriguez and Joy Alonge.

TOP STORIES

TOP STORIES

A3

# LEARNING TO LAND A JOB

## Dual subject certification helps make teachers more marketable

BY JOHN HILDEBRAND  
john.hildebrand@newsday.com

Evan Goldaper was just out of college, looking for work as an English teacher, when he decided he'd better make himself more marketable.

"I had been applying for jobs, and I found I wasn't getting called back except as a sub," said Goldaper, 26, who lives in Kings Park.

So he decided to obtain dual certification — a form of licensing that allows him to teach in two fields — and the strategy worked. He now is in his first year of full-time teaching at Glen Cove High School, with qualifications in both English and literacy.

Across Long Island, school districts have begun hiring again after a painful period of retrenchment. That development comes with a caveat for would-be teachers, though.

While qualified candidates are scarce in a few educational fields, applicants are plentiful in others, school employers cautioned.

Oversupply is particularly pronounced in elementary education, where some districts report as many as 1,000 online applications for every slot that opens up.

One task for job-seekers, then, is to familiarize themselves with where the demand lies.

Teachers certified in sciences such as chemistry and physics are eagerly sought, local school administrators said. Ditto for teachers trained in bilingual education, foreign language, technology and special education.

The concentration of job openings in specific subjects is confirmed by results of a recent survey by the New York State School Boards Association, which found similar patterns throughout the state.

Versatility is another key to employment.

More than a dozen school

superintendents and college deans interviewed by Newsday agreed that prospective teachers better their chances of employment when they obtain dual certification. Examples would include candidates qualified to teach both elementary education and special education, or Spanish coupled with English as a Second Language.

Obtaining such credentials need not increase tuition costs. Administrators on several local campuses said their students regularly earn dual credentials, along with bachelor's or master's degrees, at no extra cost by carefully selecting the appropriate course credits and without taking more classes than are needed to earn a single certification.

Often, the only extra expense is the \$100 fee paid to the state for each certification.

**Extra job security**

For teachers, dual certification provides extra job security. For school employers, it supplies flexibility in assigning teachers to different classes throughout the day.

"Sometimes, you have to search to the end of the globe for it, but we've had success," said David Bernardo, superintendent of South Huntington schools.

South Huntington hired 35 new teachers this year, including 15 with dual credentials. The district's efforts to recruit appropriate candidates extended as far as California, Bernardo added.

Long Island, like other regions of the state, experienced widespread layoffs of teachers starting around 2009, as the economy soured and student enrollments declined.

The trend discouraged many college students from considering careers in education.

From the 2009-10 through 2014-15 school years,



Evan Goldaper, 26, earned certifications in both English and literacy

and now is a teacher at Glen Cove High School.

the number of young adults entering teacher-training programs on campuses statewide dropped by nearly 40,000, or 49 percent, according to the state Education Department.

**Jobs available again**

Now, with the economy rebounding and schools restoring programs, local education leaders want to spread the word that jobs are available

once again — as long as applicants know how to prepare.

"We lost so many teaching jobs from 2009 to 2011," said Albert Inserra, education dean at the LIU Post campus in Brookville. "Now schools are hiring again. But the hiring is in certain specific areas."

With that in mind, the LIU Post College of Education and Information Technology this year established a dual-certifi-

cation program at the bachelor's degree level. It also set up a five-year program in which students earn dual certifications along with both bachelor's and master's degrees.

Dual-certification training also is available at other area colleges and universities, including Adelphi, Hofstra, Molloy, SUNY Old Westbury, St. Joseph's and Stony

Brook. Some such programs are brand-new; others go back 15 years or more.

Veteran educators counseled prospective teachers that employability is by no means the only factor to consider.

"I always say to them, 'Don't go into a certain certification area just because you think it's going to get you a job,'" said Maria Ri-

## TEACHING FIELDS WITH SHORTAGES OF APPLICANTS

Based on percentages of school superintendents reporting shortages in each academic area.

NASSAU	
Science	44%
Special Education	44%
Technology	28%
English Language Learners, English as a Second Language, English as a New Language	22%
Foreign language	22%
SUFFOLK	
English Language Learners, English as a Second Language, English as a New Language	71%
Foreign language	47%
Science	35%
Technology	29%
Special Education	18%

SOURCE: New York State School Boards Association

anna, the Glen Cove superintendent. "Focus on your area of interest."

**Interesting and practical**

The question is exactly how to pursue a career path that is both appealing and practical.

Goldaper found one way. First, he earned a bachelor's degree at Stony Brook University with a double major in English and history and certification as an English teacher. He later earned a master's degree at Columbia University, with certification in literacy that qualifies him as a reading specialist.

At Glen Cove High School, Goldaper teaches two daily English classes for ninth-graders at a regular Regents level. He teaches three other English classes for 10th-graders at a more advanced level.

Goldaper said his training

in literacy dovetails nicely with his academic background in English, especially when he is giving students practical help in managing their academic workload.

The 10th-grade classes are part of an Advanced Placement Capstone program, which provides comprehensive college-level instruction while students still are in high school. The program is new to Glen Cove this year.

Goldaper was hired June 20. A week later, the district sent him to Baltimore for five days' training in AP Capstone's seminar-style program.

July and August were spent helping to write his school's new curriculum.

"I'll tell you, it was a whirlwind," the new teacher said. "It was definitely intimidating, but I felt ready. It's really exciting to be able to build something from the ground up."

# Long Island Business NEWS

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LONG ISLAND BUSINESS  
**HALL OF FAME**  
2017

MEET THIS YEAR'S ELITE CLASS OF VISIONARIES

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## DR. CALVIN O. BUTTS III

PRESIDENT  
SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY

the communities in which they live.

In working to enable Old Westbury to achieve its fullest potential, Dr. Butts has guided the campus to its largest enrollment in 15 years, added full-time faculty, and expanded the services it provides to support and aid students. Under his leadership, the College earned accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education and created its first-ever graduate programs, which now include degrees in Accounting, Adolescence Education, Liberal Studies, Literacy Education, Mental Health Counseling, Special Education, and Taxation.

Dr. Butts has overseen the College's investment of approximately \$150 million in capital projects, including the introduction of cutting-edge technologies to campus and the completion of five residence halls, a student union, and a 147,000 square foot academic building that opened on campus in fall, 2012.

Along with his Presidency at the College at Old Westbury, Dr. Butts continues as Pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York — among the most historic churches in the nation. Under his leadership, Abyssinian Baptist Church is committed to its active role in the ongoing development of its New York City home.

A lifelong, iconic New Yorker, Dr. Butts is sought after for his comments on educational, religious, social, and ethical issues. He has conducted speaking engagements nationally and internationally before an array of colleges and universities, business and professional organizations, religious congregations, and governmental agencies.

In every effort, his leadership has had a pervasive impact on such wide-ranging community development initiatives as education, homelessness, senior citizen and youth empowerment, cultural awareness and ecumenical outreach.

Dr. Butts earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, a Masters of Divinity Degree in Church History from the Union Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry in Church and Public Policy from Drew University.

**D**r. Calvin O. Butts, III is one of America's foremost spiritual leaders and educators. He is President of State University of New York College at Old Westbury and Pastor of the nationally renowned Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York. He is widely known for his accomplishments on behalf of social justice, civil rights, economic development, and education.

As President of The College at Old Westbury, Dr. Butts works continuously to create an invigorating environment dedicated to academic excellence and the development of leadership qualities in students.

Through its broad multidisciplinary liberal arts programs, the College confers degrees in 65 majors leading to Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Professional Studies, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Teaching, and Master of Science degrees.

Since being named Old Westbury's President in September 1999, Dr. Butts has reinvigorated one of the most diverse public college campuses in America. He is determined to prepare Old Westbury students to succeed in the global marketplace while fostering in each leadership qualities that will prove valuable to both themselves and

REPORTED BY Brittany Comak

POSTED ON Nov 3, 2017, 8:39 am

UPDATED Nov 3, 2017, 8:40 am

## Long Island counselors hold annual conference at SUNY Old Westbury

Discussions include impacts of gang violence on the Long Island communities



OLD WESTBURY — On Nov. 3 school counselors prepare for their annual conference at SUNY Old Westbury.

Among the many things slated to be discussed at the conference concerning the wellness of students are the impacts of gang violence, in Long Island communities.

During the Long Island Counselors' Annual Conference, professionals from three different organizations will come together for professional development and to learn how to best serve their students.

These include the Nassau Counselors' Association, the Western Suffolk Counselors' Association, and the East End Counselors Association, all of which are part of the larger state organization, the New York State School Counselor Association.

At their conference today, the keynote presentation will be given on the impacts of gang violence in the communities they serve.

With the recent finding of human remains in Nassau County, and the brutal slayings of young men and women in Suffolk in the last year the importance of guidance in schools across Long Island is at an all-time high.

The conference will help counselors learn the realities of gang violence and how to address it within their schools.

## LONG ISLAND / EDUCATION



Wyandanch Superintendent Mary Jones, left, with Shamika Simpson, principal of LaFrancis Hardiman Elementary School and Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, on Friday, Dec. 1, 2017. Photo Credit: Joseph O. Sullivan

## Wyandanch primary school wins removal from state's 'priority' list

By John Hildebrand

Updated December 1, 2017 7:24 PM

LaFrancis Hardiman Elementary School in Wyandanch is among 27 schools across the state that have won removal from the state's "priority" list because of rising student achievement, the state Education Department announced Friday.

The primary school's improved status means it now is considered in good academic standing — at least until the next round of state evaluations — and no longer risks being placed under receivership of the district superintendent, with special oversight authority. The school first was posted on the priority list in February 2016.

"All of us are elated," said Mary Jones, Wyandanch's superintendent since 2014. "This demonstrates that our strategies for improvement are all working, and we will continue to do more of the same."

Charlie Reed, president of Wyandanch's school board, said he considered the latest sign of achievement "outstanding."

Hardiman enrolls about 420 students in prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade, according to the state's most recent records, from the 2015-16 academic year. Those records indicate that 92 percent of the school's students are economically disadvantaged and that 35 percent speak limited English.

Wyandanch's own records show a larger enrollment of about 700, because the Hardiman School and another building, Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, are jointly administered. Shamika Simpson, who serves as principal of both schools, joined Jones on Friday in marking Hardiman's elevation.

To gain removal from priority status, schools had to show academic progress in both 2015-16 and 2016-17. A total of 174 schools statewide were designated as priority level in 2016-17.

Jones said the district focused over the past two years on providing professional training for teachers, with an eye toward more individualized instruction for students, depending upon their varying levels of abilities and needs. Trainers came from Western Suffolk BOCES, SUNY Old Westbury, Farmingdale State College and Molloy College, the superintendent added.

"Removal from Priority School status shows the hard work being done by students, teachers and administrators at these schools and I applaud them all," Betty Rosa, chancellor of the state Board of Regents, said in a prepared statement.

Of the 27 schools statewide, one school each was removed from priority status in Albany, Buffalo and Wyandanch. The remaining 24 schools listed in improved status are in New York City.

The statewide school list included eight that already were in receivership — one in Albany and the other seven in New York City. Those schools will exit from receivership at the end of the 2017-18 academic year, at which time local superintendents for those schools no longer will have the special authority of receivers. Those powers include authority to revise the budgets and curricula of individual schools.

Three schools in Nassau and Suffolk counties remain under superintendents' receivership: Milton L. Olive Middle School in Wyandanch, and Hempstead High School and Alverta B. Gray Schultz Middle School, both in the Hempstead district.

The two middle schools are classified as "struggling" and the high school is classified as "persistently struggling."

On Oct. 31, the Education Department announced that both of those middle schools had shown satisfactory academic progress two years in a row. Hempstead High's record was under review, the department said.



## WHO'SWHO EDUCATION

tor of distance learning, director of summer and winter courses, and co-chair of the strategic planning task force.

SUNY Old Westbury's School of Professional Studies has a unique purpose, Dr. Bever explained.

"Old Westbury's new School of Professional Studies is designed for the post-traditional student — a student who for family or job reasons cannot attend on traditional days of the week during traditional business hours; who has to balance school work against job and family responsibilities; and who already has credits from one or more other college-level institutions and is striving to complete or up-credential to a bachelor's degree," Dr. Bever said.

The school offers two baccalaureate programs: a Bachelor of Professional Studies in Professional Studies and a Bachelor of Science in General Studies. "The BS in General Studies is a 'design your own' major that enables students to bring together their past studies, current interests and future plans to create a custom program tailored to their own unique situation," Dr. Bever explained. "The BPS in Professional Studies offers a core of courses that equip students to operate as an autonomous professional in the white-collar world."

"Both majors can be taken in conjunction with one or more of the school's growing selection of minors, like entertainment and sports management, or minors offered by the college's other schools, like digital design marketing, so that a student can graduate with multiple, layered credentials customized to their intended professional path," he said.

Outside of his work in the School of Professional Studies and in the classroom, Dr. Bever has authored the book "The Realities of Witchcraft and Popular Magic in Early Modern Europe: Culture, Cognition, and Everyday Life," and has written, edited works and presented extensively on the topics of the history of witchcraft and magic, his scholarly specialty.

Prior to joining Old Westbury, Dr. Bever worked as a software developer, creating a series of historical computer games on World War II, the Vietnam War, the American Revolution and the Civil War that were published by Microprose Software, Britannica Software, and Strategic Simulations, Inc. He also contributed to a number of other historical computer game projects; worked as a product manager and producer for Microprose and Grolier Interactive; and ran his own company, SpaceTime Simulations.

While a software developer he taught history at Loyola College of Maryland, Monmouth College and Drew University, and wrote a book on African history.

Dr. Bever graduated, summa cum laude, with highest honors in history from Dartmouth College; and earned a Ph.D. in history from Princeton University.

Located on the historic North Shore of New York's Long Island, the State University of New York

College at Old Westbury is a selective public liberal arts college with more than 4,400 students studying in more than 40 undergraduate degree opportunities in its liberal arts and professional programs and 15 graduate programs in business, education and mental health counseling. On the college's 604-acre campus, students and faculty participate in 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.

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## WHO'SWHO EDUCATION

# WHO'S WHO

## In Education

Long Island embraces higher learning through its numerous colleges, universities and educational facilities that are renowned for their specialty fields of interest. In this *Who's Who in Education*, influential educators from some of these noted institutions highlight a unique feature their establishment offers.

## DR. EDWARD BEVER

SUNY Old Westbury



Dr. Edward Bever is director of SUNY Old Westbury's new School of Professional Studies in Old Westbury, where he is engaged in building academic offerings, growing enrollments and helping students successfully complete their degrees. Dr. Bever joined the college in 1997 in the history and philosophy department, and has since served in various roles including professor, department chair, direc-

# THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

## **Appointments, Resignations, Deaths (12/15/2017)**

Compiled by Brianna A. Tucker DECEMBER 10, 2017

### **OTHER ADMINISTRATORS**

#### **DEANS**

##### *Appointments*

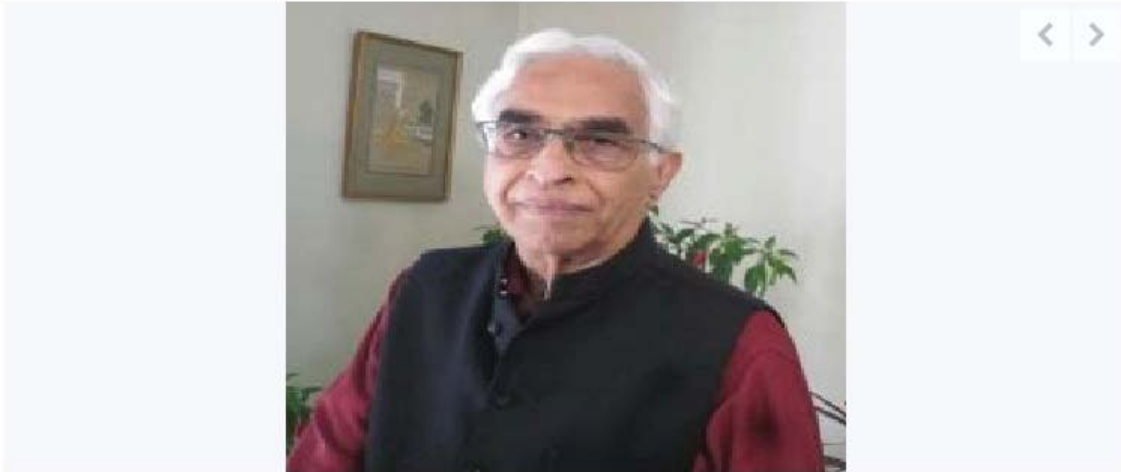
Raj Devasagayam, chair of the marketing department and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at Siena College, to dean of the School of Business and professor of marketing at State University of New York College at Old Westbury.

# INDIAWEST

Best Indian Newspaper in Print & Online

## Two Indian Americans Named Recipients of National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships

Dec 7, 2017



Narayan Hegde, of Setauket, N.Y., was among the recent recipients of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. The Indian American earned a grant in the NEA Literature Translation area. (Arts.gov photos)

The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced various fellowship lists with two Indian Americans — Narayan Hegde and Shilpi Suneja — among the honorees.

Hegde, of Setauket, N.Y., was awarded a \$12,500 grant for the 2018 fiscal year for the NEA's Literature Translation Fellowship.

His fellowship is to support the retranslation from the Kannada of the novel *Avasthe* by Indian writer U.R. Ananthamurthy, according to the NEA.

Kannada is a major language of India, spoken by roughly 60 million people in the state of Karnataka. Ananthamurthy (1932-2014) is one of the most celebrated writers of contemporary India. He was one of the pioneers of the Navya (Modernist) movement in Kannada literature, the NEA said.

Hegde is emeritus professor of English at SUNY College at Old Westbury, where he taught English, Indian and world literatures. As a Senior Fellow of the American Institute of Indian Studies, he has translated several works of Kannada literature, including *Stallion of the Sun and Other Stories* by U.R. Ananthamurthy, *Annayya's Anthropology* by A.K. Ramanujan and a 19th-century drama, *The Marriage Farce of Iggappa Hegade*, the NEA said.

He is a recipient of the Katha Translation Award. He is currently part of a team translating the 15th century Kannada epic *Kumaravyasa Bharatha* for publication by Harvard University Press in its Murty Classical Library of India series.

Suneja was among 36 recipients earning a fellowship grant in the Literature Creative Writing (Prose) by the NEA. The endowment doled out \$900,000 to the 36 recipients.

Suneja earned a degree in computer science from North Carolina State University before earning a master's in English and American literature from New York University and a master's of fine arts in creative writing from Boston University. She most recently worked as an email marketing specialist for Boston-based Nth Degree and before that as a web developer for Cambridge-based Akamai Technologies.

# League of Women Voters eyes potential Medicare changes across New York

November 16, 2017 By Pat Grace



*Julie Meer Harnick, President, League of Women Voters Port Washington-Manhasset; Professor Martha Livingston, Chair, Dept. of Public Health, SUNY College at Old Westbury; Dr. Judith Esterquest, Health Issues Chair of LWVPWM, and member LWV-NYS Health Issues Committee. (Photo courtesy of League of Women Voters)*

The New York Health Act: Improved Medicare for All New Yorkers is surprisingly close to bringing universal, comprehensive and cost-effective healthcare to New York State. At the League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset Nov. 2 event at the Port Washington Library, the featured speaker, [Prof. Martha Livingston, Chair of the Dept. of Public Health at SUNY College at Old Westbury](#), explained that 23 states now have similar legislation pending.

In January 2017, Livingston explained, New York was 10 senators short of approving the plan. Today, the senate vote is even; only one senator more has to approve. Bills in New York and California are the closest to being enacted, Livingston said, perhaps as early as spring 2018. And a month ago Governor Cuomo voiced his support.

When League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset President Julie Meer Harnick introduced Dr. Judith Esterquest, Health Issues Chair of LWVPWM, and member LWV-NYS Health Issues Committee, at the Nov. 2 event at the Port Washington Public Library, Harnick praised Esterquest for spearheading the event and emphasized the league's ability to adapt to members' interests and convictions. The league is non-partisan and a stated goal is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government.

To that end, the evening began with the screening of "Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point," a short film followed by a Q&A with Prof. Martha Livingston.

View the film at [fixithealthcare.com](http://fixithealthcare.com), produced in 2016 by Richard Master, founder and owner of MSC Industries.

According to the individuals quoted in the film, uncontrolled healthcare costs are a factor in the huge federal deficit, where taxes currently pay about two-thirds of all American healthcare costs in a system where Americans spend twice as much per capita as other developed countries; surprisingly, these wealthy countries that spend so much less per capita also provide universal healthcare.

About 60 percent of personal bankruptcies in America are caused by medical expenses, and most of those declaring bankruptcy have health insurance. The film pointed out that all but the wealthiest Americans are one diagnosis away from financial disaster — unlike countries with universal healthcare.

Livingston also noted that the NY Health Act would cut New York's current expenditures on healthcare by about 25 percent before adding some costs like increasing reimbursements to physicians who treat the poor. Combining federal healthcare funding, current state funding, and the estimated \$45 billion in savings, the NY Health Act could provide all NY residents with comprehensive healthcare, she said, for far less than is currently spent.

Livingston noted that about 50 percent of our property taxes currently pay for healthcare, and the NY Health Act would likely save between 16 percent and 20 percent of local budgets because of a decrease in healthcare costs.

Business owners' profits are eroded by relentless increases in healthcare costs and, according to the film, most agree that insurance company middlemen add little value. Richard Master of MSC Industries explains on camera that 30 percent of every healthcare dollar is spent on non-health related activities: profits and administration for insurance middlemen and the administrative complexity they spawn.

He argues that single-payer alternatives, like Traditional Medicare in the U.S. and like Medicare in Canada, which provides healthcare for every Canadian, eliminate the costly complexity of the multi-payer system and have a long track record of controlling costs better. They also allow physicians to focus on patients (not arguing about benefits with insurers). Numerous business owners and economists in the film explain that the multi-payer system adds a significant burden to American businesses.

To meet Wall Street expectations, the film stated, insurance companies discourage care. The movie compared yearly doctor visits in Japan (13) with the United States (4.2) where the system is set up to discourage seeing doctors. France is first in providing healthcare, Australia is second, and America is 19th with its citizens more likely to defer medical care.

"Sick Around the World," a PBS special that can be viewed online, was recommended by Livingston. Insurance companies, according to the movie, add more cost than value.

According to the movie and Livingston, traditional Medicare is the most trusted healthcare in the U.S., has the lowest overhead costs (2 percent versus 15 to 20 percent of for-profit insurance), despite covering the oldest and sickest citizens. Traditional Medicare, where the government pays the bills but doesn't choose your doctor or hospital, does not pay its executives \$10 million salaries, requires far less paperwork for health providers and far fewer hours of interface.

"Warts and all," Livingston said, "single-payer insurance is one of the most popular programs in the country."

The movie asks, "Can we afford single payer?" It answers, "We can't afford the current system."

An animated Q&A followed the film. Audience members asked how it would be paid for. Livingston answered one way was graduated taxes, the more you make, the more you pay. She added that 98 percent of New Yorkers would be paying less than they currently do for healthcare premiums and out-of-pocket costs.

Livingston encouraged individuals to visit [NYHCampaign.org](http://NYHCampaign.org) for more comprehensive information, including a "calculator" using your income and current insurance to see an estimate of how much you will save for comprehensive healthcare, including all doctor visits, hospitalization, prescription drugs and more, with no payment due at point of service.

Another question was why we don't have single payer insurance already. The answer: big insurance and big pharmaceutical companies employ two lobbyists for every member of Congress. They are also among the most profitable of all American industries and among the biggest campaign donors. Another question, if the New York Health Act passes, what happens if you go to Florida for the winter.

The answer: you are still covered by New York.

Livingston recalled how, during the 2017 spring recess, as the Trump Administration battled to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, some citizens became actively involved to dissuade their representatives. If you believe the New York Health Act is a good idea for New York, contact your senators now, directed Livingston. An audience member added, "When the people lead, the leaders will follow." Ryder, who joined the department in 1986, was a police officer in New York City for two years

# The Westbury Times

110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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## AROUND LONG ISLAND

Great family events happening this month around the Island

### Wednesday, Nov. 1

#### Lecture Series

A survivor of female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced child marriage, Jaha Dukureh was named one of the 2016 *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential people in the world. Hear Dukureh speak about ending fgm and child marriage at Nassau Community College on Nov. 1 at 9:30 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. in the school's College Center Building (CCB) multipurpose room. Free and open to the public. Parking guests must stop at the public safety office to get a parking permit. Nassau Community College is located at 1 Education Dr. in Garden City.

### Thursday, Nov. 2

#### Health Care Discussion

Join the League of Women Voters on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. at Port Washington Library (1 Library Dr.) for a program on the NY Health Act. The program includes the screening of *Fix It*, along with Q&A with Professor Martha Livingston, department of public health, SUNY College at Old Westbury. Program is free and open to the public.

### Saturday, Nov. 4

#### Veterans' Information Fair

The Great Neck Library will host an informational fair for veterans on Saturday, Nov. 4, from noon to 4 p.m. at its Parkville branch (10 Campbell St., New Hyde Park). Free and open to the public, including non-veterans. Visit [www.greatnecklibrary.org](http://www.greatnecklibrary.org) or call 516-466-8055 ext. 257 for details.

#### Nature Walk

Sagamore Hill will host a nature walk on Nov. 4 at 1 p.m. The national historical site is located at 20 Sagamore Hill Rd., Oyster Bay. Visit [www.nps.gov/sahi](http://www.nps.gov/sahi) or call 516-922-4788.

#### History Tour

Join the Preservation of Long Island Antiquities for its Oyster Bay Railroad Station Restoration Tour on Nov. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is \$15 for members (\$20 for nonmembers). Reservations are required. Call 631-692-4664 or visit [www.splia.org](http://www.splia.org) for details.

#### Happy 159th Birthday

The Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society invites you to celebrate the 159th anniversary of the Fire Island Lighthouse with a "Conversation with Augustin Fresnel" on Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. with historian Joseph Smith. This lecture is free.

Then at 5:15 p.m., enjoy an evening tower tour as you view sunset from atop the Fire Island Lighthouse. Evening tour cost is \$20, reservations required for this portion. Visit [www.fireislandlighthouse.com](http://www.fireislandlighthouse.com) or call 631-661-4876 for details.

### Sunday, Nov. 5

#### Daylight Savings Time ends, fall back

#### A Visit From The Washingtons

Portrayed by living historians, George and Martha Washington tell you about their accomplishments in the Revolutionary War on Nov. 5 at 1:30 p.m. at Rock Hall (199 Broadway, Lawrence). Admission is \$10. Reservations requested; space is limited. Visit [www.friendsofrockhall.org](http://www.friendsofrockhall.org) or call 516-239-1157 for details.

#### Veterans Legal Clinic

Hofstra Law School will host its legal clinic for veterans on Nov. 5 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Hofstra Law Atrium (121 Hofstra University, Hempstead). Reservations are required. For more information or to schedule a free consultation, contact the Hofstra Veterans Legal Assistance Project at [VLAP@hofstra.edu](mailto:VLAP@hofstra.edu) or call 516-463-7302.



#### Poetry Event

Molloy College will feature Francine Witte as part of a poetry event on Nov. 5 at 3 p.m. in the reception room of Kellenberg Hall (1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre). Free and open to the public. Visit [www.molloy.edu](http://www.molloy.edu) or call 516-323-3260 for details.

### Monday, Nov. 6

#### Mid Island Dahlia Society

The next meeting of the Mid Island Dahlia Society will be on Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m., in Winthrop Hall of the Church of the Advent (555 Advent St., Westbury). Learn about storing your tubers and planning your garden for next year. The meeting is open to the public. Visit [www.midislanddahlia.org](http://www.midislanddahlia.org) or call 631-838-7370 for more information.

### Tuesday, Nov. 7

#### Election Day

# HYPERALLERGIC

## Over 120 Prominent Artists and Scholars Call on NYC to Take Down Racist Monuments

In a letter to the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers, the signatories advocate for the removal of monuments to Christopher Columbus, J. Marion Sims, and Teddy Roosevelt.

Benjamin Sutton December 1, 2017



Statue of J. Marion Sims in Central Park (photo Benjamin Sutton/Hyperallergic)

On Tuesday, November 28, the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers held its final public hearing for New Yorkers to voice their opposition to and support for the removal or reframing of public monuments around the city. Based on comments at the five public hearings and other feedback, the Commission is expected to make its recommendations to Mayor Bill de Blasio about how best to deal with contentious monuments by the end of the year.

Today, more than 120 prominent scholars and artists have signed and sent a letter to the Commission — and shared it exclusively with Hyperallergic — calling for the removal of three monuments and two historic markers. The signatories include such well-known art historians as Ariella Azoulay, Claire Bishop, Lucy Lippard, Fred Moten, Deborah Willis, Gregory Sholette, and Hal Foster, and artists, including Alicia Grullon, Jackson Polys, and Martha Rosler.

“These monuments are an affront in a city whose elected officials preach tolerance and equity,” the letter, which is included in full below, reads in part. “We encourage the Commission to seize this opportunity to make a brave, even monumental, gesture that will resonate for generations to come, rather than a politically expedient fix that will be easily absorbed — and quickly forgotten — by the status quo.”

Protesters covering the Teddy Roosevelt statue with a parachute during a protest outside the the American Museum of Natural History in October 2016 (photo by Hrag Vartanian/Hyperallergic)

The three monuments cited in the letter are the same ones that were most frequently discussed in the Commission’s public hearings: the Christopher Columbus monument in Columbus Circle; the equestrian statue of Theodore Roosevelt outside the American Museum of Natural History; and the monument to J. Marion Sims in Central Park. The two historic markers, commemorating members of the government of Vichy France known to have been Nazi collaborators and convicted of treason after World War II, Philippe Pétain and Pierre Laval, are located in the so-called “Canyon of Heroes” on Broadway in the Financial District.

“[F]or all the infiltration of corporate philanthropy and so-called private public ‘partnerships,’ museums and public spaces are still considered society’s foremost public fora,” Carin Kuoni, the Director/Curator of the Vera List Center for Art and Politics at the New School and one of the letter’s signatories, told Hyperallergic. “As such, they must remain pertinent to contemporary society, responsive to the demands, hopes, and visions of ‘the public’ — citizens, visitors, moving populations alike. These institutions cannot insist on the duty to enshrine and preserve the ethical values of periods past, if they want to be thriving spaces of encounters for the people of our time.”

While many attendees at last month’s hearings suggested adding contextualizing plaques alongside controversial monuments, the letter’s signatories are adamant that they be removed.

“Any plaque or signage that addresses the complicated legacy while leaving these statues in their current position, serves to justify, to indicate that these problematic glorifications — despite any complicating by indicating their genocidal roots — deserve to endure,” artist Jackson Polys, one of the signatories, told Hyperallergic. “These monuments, particularly the Statue to Roosevelt, directly communicate a message of superiority and inferiority along racialized lines. The danger is that this message is normalized daily, not only by adults but by more than 300,000 school children per year, reproducing harmful divisions. How far will this extend to our future generations?”

Indeed, the letter concludes by suggesting to the Commission possible ways of recontextualizing the statues and markers within historical institutions that would offer a less edifying, more educational framework.

“They should be placed in exhibits that lead visitors through this history so that at the moment of confronting the statue, the (white) viewer already has the knowledge they need to see the statue as racist,” Nick Mirzoeff, another signatory and a professor of visual culture at New York University, told Hyperallergic. “I don’t think that’s ever been a problem for Indigenous and African American viewers. In Germany, Nazi-era sculpture cannot be seen except in such organized exhibition space.”

The full text of the group’s letter is below. Anyone can add their name to the list of signatories via this online version of the letter.

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To the Mayor’s Commission on Monuments:

As scholars of American art, cultural history and social analysis, we are writing to urge that the Commission recommend the removal of several monuments from public view in New York City. They have long been highlighted as objects of popular resentment among communities of color and anti-racist scholars, artists, and movements. It is thus no surprise that these monuments have risen to the top of the list of the “symbols of hate,” to quote Mayor de Blasio, singled out during the Commission’s recent public hearings. For too long, they have generated harm and offense as expressions of white supremacy. These monuments are an affront in a city whose elected officials preach tolerance and equity.

In this letter, we add our voice to the widespread sentiment calling for their removal. We understand this call for removal as an historic moral opportunity for creatively reckoning with the past and opening space for a more just future. We encourage the Commission to seize this opportunity to make a brave, even monumental, gesture that will resonate for generations to come, rather than a politically expedient fix that will be easily absorbed— and quickly forgotten— by the status quo.

The monuments in question are as follows:

1. The Dr. J. Marion Sims statue in Central Park, commemorating a doctor who performed surgical experiments on enslaved African American women, including children, without anesthesia or consent. Momentum for its removal has spurred a remarkably broad coalition in support of the long-standing demand from Black and Latinx Harlemites that this affront be removed.
2. Historic markers of Vichy France’s Nazi collaborators, Philippe Pétain and Pierre Laval, are located in the Canyon of Heroes. Lest anyone need reminding, Vichy organized its own deportation to Auschwitz of over 70,000 Jewish French citizens.
3. The Equestrian Monument to Theodore Roosevelt in front of the American Museum of Natural History. It depicts Roosevelt on horseback, accompanied by half-naked African and American Indian figures on foot, carrying his rifles.
4. The Christopher Columbus statue overlooking Manhattan’s Columbus Circle.

We believe the case for removing the first two is largely beyond debate. There are no defenders of these monuments, and they have no place on City property.

The third monument is not simply a free-standing statue of the 26th President, but rather a grouping of figures: Roosevelt on horseback, flanked by subordinate figures on foot, one Black (African by appearance) and the other Indigenous (in a stereotypical Native American cast but with an especially inappropriate mix of headdress and clothing). As an imperialist, and frank advocate of eugenics, Roosevelt’s views on racial hierarchy are well-known to historians. The Museum (center of the American eugenics movement in the early years of the twentieth century) now pays tribute to his conservationist efforts, without acknowledging the link to those racist beliefs. The dedication of the Museum’s memorial in 1936 and of the adjoining equestrian monument in 1939 was celebrated by its officials as a consummation of the theories of Henry Fairfield Osborn, who had presided over the institution’s early growth at the same time as he championed eugenics within and without. Even casual visitors who may not possess this knowledge regard the monument as a stark embodiment of white supremacy, and it is an especial source of hurt to Black and Indigenous people among them. The removal of this monument will be a bold statement on behalf of all New Yorkers that this unsavory moment in American history no longer deserves to be commemorated. Indeed, this past October, more than one thousand people gathered at the Museum at the invitation of groups including Black Youth Project 100, Decolonize This Place, and NYC Stands With Standing Rock to demand the removal of the statue.

By far the most controversial of the monuments is that to Christopher Columbus, who served the Spanish crown, and spoke and wrote only in Catalan. Because he was born in Genoa in 1451—a city that did not become “Italy” until the unification of the country in 1861—he was adopted as a patriotic symbol by Italian immigrants in the nineteenth century. But the public claim of “ownership” of Columbus by Italian-Americans cannot be allowed to override his key role in the historical genocide of Indigenous peoples of the Americas. By 1600, at least 50 million Indigenous people died in this hemisphere as a result of the Columbian encounter with Europeans, whether from war, disease or enslavement. It takes only a little understanding to see why their descendants do not regard anything associated with 1492 as an object of veneration. Many U.S. cities have chosen to do what is just and renamed Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples’ Day. There is now a national movement to remove statues of Columbus parallel to the movement to remove Confederate monuments in the South. The recent events in Charlottesville prompted Mayor de Blasio to establish the Commission, and so it is incumbent upon us to look to the example of that city in boldly opting to remove the offending monuments.

In calling upon the Commission to recommend the removal of the aforementioned monuments, we also endorse any forward-looking post-removal initiative to advance understanding of these histories and make creative use of the vacated city property. These statues could be placed in dedicated museum spaces or memorial gardens, as has happened in Germany, India, South Africa and across Eastern Europe. The Roosevelt monument by James Earle Fraser could be profitably displayed alongside Fraser’s The End of the Trail in the Metropolitan Museum, for example, so that viewers could explore how race and eugenics were visualized in the period. The empty sites could be used as the subject for artistic competitions, as with London’s Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square. In short, we see the outcome of the Commission not as destroying heritage, let alone the purported erasure of history, but as the beginning of an exciting new set of possibilities for public art and museums in New York City, one finally devoted to an inclusive and reparative vision of the difficult histories of settler colonialism and the Indigenous peoples of this land.

Sincerely,

Rachel Adams (Columbia University )  
Awam Ampka (NYU)  
Jane Anderson (NYU)  
Tom Angotti (Hunter College/CUNY Graduate Center)  
Ariella Azoulay (Brown University)  
Gianpaolo Baiocchi (NYU)  
Kadambari Baxi (Barnard College)  
Herman Bennett (CUNY Graduate Center)  
Maurice Berger (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)  
Claire Bishop (CUNY Graduate Center)  
Kirsten Pai Buick (University of New Mexico)  
Eduardo Cadava (Princeton University)  
Jordan Camp (Barnard College)  
Hazel Carby (Yale University)  
Sujani Reddy (SUNY-Old Westbury)

## Why Are Conservatives More Susceptible to Believing Lies?

An interplay between how all humans think and how conservatives tend to act might actually explain a lot about our current moment.

By John Ehrenreich



Many conservatives have a loose relationship with facts. The right-wing denial of what most people think of as accepted reality starts with political issues: As recently as 2016, 45 percent of Republicans still believed that the Affordable Care Act included “death panels” (it doesn’t). A 2015 poll found that 54 percent of GOP primary voters believed then-President Obama to be a Muslim (...he isn’t).

Then there are the false beliefs about generally accepted science. Only 25 percent of self-proclaimed Trump voters agree that climate change is caused by

human activities. Only 43 percent of Republicans overall believe that humans have evolved over time.

And then it gets really crazy. Almost 1 in 6 Trump voters, while simultaneously viewing photographs of the crowds at the 2016 inauguration of Donald Trump and at the 2012 inauguration of Barack Obama, insisted that the former were larger. Sixty-six percent of self-described “very conservative” Americans seriously believe that “Muslims are covertly implementing Sharia law in American courts.” Forty-six percent of Trump voters polled just after the 2016 election either thought that Hillary Clinton was connected to a child sex trafficking ring run out of the basement of a pizzeria in Washington, D.C., or weren’t sure if it was true.

If “truth” is judged on the basis of Enlightenment ideas of reason and more or less objective “evidence,” many of the substantive positions common on the right seem to border on delusional. The left is certainly not immune to credulity (most commonly about the safety of vaccines, GMO foods, and fracking), but the right seems to specialize in it. “Misinformation is currently predominantly a pathology of the right,” concluded a team of scholars from the Harvard Kennedy School and Northeastern University at a February 2017 conference. A BuzzFeed analysis found that three main hyperconservative Facebook pages were roughly twice as likely as three leading ultraliberal Facebook pages to publish fake or misleading information.

Why are conservatives so susceptible to misinformation? The right wing’s disregard for facts and reasoning is not a matter of stupidity or lack of education. College-educated Republicans are actually more likely than less-educated Republicans to have believed that Barack Obama was a Muslim and that “death panels” were part of the ACA. And for political conservatives, but not for liberals, greater knowledge of science and math is associated with a greater likelihood of dismissing what almost all scientists believe about the human causation of global warming.

It’s also not just misinformation gained from too many hours listening to Fox News, either, because correcting the falsehoods doesn’t change their opinions. For example, nine months following the release of President Obama’s long-form birth certificate, the percentage of Republicans who believed that he was not American-born was actually higher than before the release. Similarly, during the 2012 presidential campaign, Democrats corrected their previous overestimates of the unemployment rate after the Bureau of Labor Statistics released the actual data. Republicans’ overestimated even more than before.

Part of the problem is widespread suspicion of facts—any facts. Both mistrust of scientists and other “experts” and mistrust of the mass media that reports what scientists and experts believe have increased among conservatives (but not among liberals) since the early ’80s. The mistrust has in part, at least, been deliberately inculcated. The fossil fuel industry publicizes studies to confuse the climate change debate; Big Pharma hides unfavorable information on drug safety and efficacy; and many schools in conservative areas teach students that evolution is “just a theory.” The public is understandably confused about both the findings and methods of science. “Fake news” deliberately created for political or economic gain and Donald Trump’s claims that media sites that disagree with him are “fake news” add to the mistrust.

But, the gullibility of many on the right seems to have deeper roots even than this. That may be because at the most basic level, conservatives and liberals seem to hold different beliefs about what constitutes “truth.” Finding facts and pursuing evidence and trusting science is part of liberal ideology itself. For many conservatives, faith and intuition and trust in revealed truth appear as equally valid sources of truth.

To understand how these differences manifest and what we might do about them, it helps to understand how all humans reason and rationalize: In other words, let’s take a detour into psychology. Freud distinguished between “errors” on the one hand, “illusions” and “delusions” on the other. Errors, he argued, simply reflect lack of knowledge or poor logic; Aristotle’s belief that vermin form out of dung was an error. But illusions and delusions are based on conscious or unconscious wishes; Columbus’s belief that he had found a new route to the Indies was a delusion based on his wish that he had done so.

This is a very human thing to do. As popular writers such as Daniel Kahneman, Cass Sunstein, and Richard Thaler have pointed out, we often use shortcuts when we reason, shortcuts that enable us to make decisions quickly and with little expenditure of mental energy. But they also often lead us astray—we underestimate the risks of events that unfold slowly and whose consequences are felt only over the long term (think global warming) and overestimate the likelihood of events that unfold rapidly and have immediate consequences (think terrorist attacks).

Our reasoning is also influenced (motivated, psychologists would say) by our emotions and instincts. This manifests in all kinds of ways: We need to maintain a positive self-image, to stave off anxiety and guilt, and to preserve social relationships. We also seek to maintain consistency in our beliefs, meaning that when people simultaneously hold two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas, or values, one or the other must go. And so we pay more attention and give more credence to information and assertions that confirm what we already believe: Liberals enthusiastically

recount even the most tenuous circumstantial evidence of Trump campaign collusion with the Russians, and dyed-in-the-wool Trump supporters happily believe that the crowd really was bigger at his candidate’s inauguration.

These limits to “objective” reasoning apply to everyone, of course—left and right. Why is it that conservatives have taken the lead in falling off the deep edge?

The answer, I think, lies in the interaction between reasoning processes and personality. It’s each person’s particular motivations and particular psychological makeup that affects how they search for information, what information they pay attention to, how they assess the accuracy and meaning of the information, what information they retain, and what conclusions they draw. But conservatives and liberals typically differ in their particular psychological makeups. And if you add up all of these particular differences, you get two groups that are systematically motivated to believe different things.

Psychologists have repeatedly reported that self-described conservatives tend to place a higher value than those to their left on deference to tradition and authority. They are more likely to value stability, conformity, and order, and have more difficulty tolerating novelty and ambiguity and uncertainty. They are more sensitive than liberals to information suggesting the possibility of danger than to information suggesting benefits. And they are more moralistic and more likely to repress unconscious drives towards unconventional sexuality.

Fairness and kindness place lower on the list of moral priorities for conservatives than for liberals. Conservatives show a stronger preference for higher status groups, are more accepting of inequality and injustice, and are less empathic (at least towards those outside their immediate family). As one Tea Party member told University of California sociologist Arlie Hochschild, “People think we are not good people if we don’t feel sorry for blacks and immigrants and Syrian refugees. But I am a good person and I don’t feel sorry for them.”

Baptist minister and former Republican congressman J.C. Watts put it succinctly. Campaigning for Sen. Rand Paul in Iowa in 2015 he observed, “The difference between Republicans and Democrats is that Republicans believe people are fundamentally bad, while Democrats see people as fundamentally good.”

These conservative traits lead directly to conservative views on many issues, just as liberal traits tend to lead to liberal views on many issues. But when you consider how these conservative traits and these conservative views interact with commonly shared patterns of motivated reasoning, it becomes clearer why conservatives may be more likely to run into errors in reasoning and into difficulty judging accurately what is true and what is false.

It’s not just that Trump is “their” president, so they want to defend him. Conservatives’ greater acceptance of hierarchy and trust in authority may lead to greater faith that what the president says must be true, even when the “facts” would seem to indicate otherwise. The New York Times cataloged no less than 117 clearly false statements proclaimed publicly by Trump in the first six months of his presidency, with no evident loss in his supporters’ faith in him. In the same way, greater faith in the legitimacy of the decisions of corporate CEOs may strengthen the tendency to deny evidence that there are any potential benefits from regulation of industry.

Similarly, greater valuation of stability, greater sensitivity to the possibility of danger, and greater difficulty tolerating difference and change lead to greater anxiety about social change and so support greater credulity with respect to lurid tales of the dangers posed by immigrants. And higher levels of repression and greater adherence to tradition and traditional sources of moral judgment increase the credibility of claims that gay marriage is a threat to the “traditional” family.

Conservatives are also less introspective, less attentive to their inner feelings, and less likely to override their “gut” reactions and engage in further reflection to find a correct answer. As a result, they may be more likely to rely on error-prone cognitive shortcuts, less aware of their own unconscious biases, and less likely to respond to factual corrections to previously held beliefs.

The differences in how conservatives and liberals process information are augmented by an asymmetry in group psychological processes. Yes, we all seek to keep our social environment stable and predictable. Beliefs that might threaten relationships with family, neighbors, and friends (e.g., for a fundamentalist evangelical to believe that humans are the result of Darwinian evolution or for a coal miner to believe that climate change is real and human-made) must be ignored or denied, at peril of disrupting the relationships. But among all Americans, the intensity of social networks has declined in recent years. Church attendance and union membership, participation in community organizations, and direct political involvement have flagged. Conservatives come disproportionately from rural areas and small towns, where social networks remain smaller, but denser and more homogeneous than in the big cities that liberals dominate. As a result, the opinions of family, friends, and community may be more potent in conservative hotbeds than in the more anonymous big cities where Democrats dominate.

The lack of shared reality between left and right in America today has contributed greatly to our current political polarization. Despite occasional left forays into reality denial, conservatives are far more likely to accept misinformation and outright lies. Deliberate campaigns of misinformation and conservative preferences for information that fits in with their pre-existing ideology provide only a partial explanation. Faulty reasoning and judgment, rooted in the interactions between modes of reasoning and judgment shared by all with the specific personality patterns found disproportionately among conservatives may also play a central role.

John Ehrenreich is a professor of psychology at the State University of New York—Old Westbury and the author of *Third Wave Capitalism: How Money, Politics, and the Pursuit of Self-Interest have Imperiled the American Dream*.

# ANTHONY BOURDAIN PARTS UNKNOWN



AUTHOR Kaylee Hammonds

22 November 2017

In the "Parts Unknown" episode set in Puglia, Bourdain and traveling companion Asia Argento witness a dramatic reenactment of tarantism, which seems to consist mostly of tambourines and women dressed in white rolling around on a blanket. Also some dancing and scarf waving. But, as with most things that Bourdain chooses to highlight, there's more to the story than that. (Well, that wouldn't really be much of a story, would it?)

It may be ancient, it may have found a modern rebirth, there may be a ton of interest after this episode airs, but there's still a definite "What the hell?!" element to the pizzica, or taranta, music and dance. Wading into research is nebulous at best: Some claim the dance and music date from the 15th century; some simply say "thousands of years."

Thankfully, expert Lee Blackstone was kind enough to weigh in. Blackstone is a professor and chair of the Sociology department at [State University of New York Old Westbury](#). He spoke with me over the phone about the ancient art form. The pizzica, it seems, dates back thousands of years to when Puglia was known as "Magna Graecia," on account of the Greeks who lived there. There was a cult of Dionysus that existed in the area.

"I wasn't prepared to go back that far to understand the music, but you have to," says Blackstone.

Apparently, whenever the god Dionysus "appeared," he was always accompanied by drums. Women who worshipped him would drop whatever they were doing and runoff, act out in ecstatic frenzies, and let their hair down in the process, which Blackstone reminds me is a sign of freedom. He adds, "The drumming aspect is important, because for as long as people have been on the planet, rhythm has had the ability to put people into a trance." The ritual of tarantism is rooted in those Dionysian rites, but historians typically place the advent of the ritual between the 15th and the 17th centuries.

The south of Italy historically was an agricultural and poverty-stricken place. The afflicted were primarily women. They would be working in the fields, and then "at one point they might start to act differently, and the condition was ascribed to being bitten by a spider," continues Blackstone. "Taranta in Italian is 'spider,' so if it had been determined that she had been bitten by a spider, she became a tarantata." (A male, if so afflicted, would be known as a tarantato.) A woman who was bitten would have a number of symptoms—most notably, she might appear tired or melancholic. The cause of this attitude change? "At the point of biting, the spider was supposed to transmit a song to you," Blackstone explains.

"So then it became the job of the family to hire some musicians to fiddle around and try to get a rise out of the woman and find a tune that she would respond to, and sometimes she would be in a listless state and she would have interaction with these musicians. It could last for days or weeks."

So this genre of music came about because women supposedly got bitten by spiders, and they use music to try to draw the poison out of the tarantata.

Blackstone continues, "They would use different types of instrumentation. If you look at classic acoustic pizzica groups, they might be using a violin, an accordion, and absolutely the tambourines—the tamborello, those are essential to the sound—but sometimes it could have been bagpipes. It could have been zithers. There would be lots of symbols, pictures. There might be pools of water because it was thought that the tarantata seemed to be drawn to the water or the ocean. Ropes would be around so that the woman would be able to swing, which would ... be an allusion to the Greek myth of Arachne. Becoming the spider, the woman might kind of writhe around, and she would also kind of talk to her spider and come to kind of an agreement to stop her affliction."

To make the rest of a long story short, the Council of Trent did not like these pagan rituals. Women dancing with their hair down! What could be worse?! And so, as in so many other cases, the council transposed a Christian meaning onto a pagan one. St. Paul enters the picture here, having been dubbed the patron saint of those bitten by things like snakes, scorpions, and spiders. The tarantism ritual shifted to include a Catholic figure. As Blackstone says, "When the event had run its course, the woman would go and give thanks to St. Paul in Galatina—that's also in Puglia." The ritual of coming to terms with the spider drifted through the years. It wasn't, says Blackstone, something people were necessarily proud of. It became both a stigmatized condition and a kind of sociocultural therapy.

It's thanks to the work of Italian multicultural anthropologist Ernesto de Martino that we know so much about tarantism today in its modern context. De Martino, according to Blackstone, wrote a book in 1961 that translates as either "The Land of Remorse" or "The Land of the Rebite." De Martino heard about the phenomenon of tarantism in Salento and traveled there in the late '50s with a team of researchers. It was in Nardo where de Martino got off the train with his team and happened to ask a passing child if he knew anything about it. The child led them to a nearby home where a woman known as Maria of Nardo was in the middle of a tarantism ritual. De Martino's team filmed the event.

You guessed it. Here it is.



You're welcome.

De Martino drew conclusions about the significance of tarantism to those afflicted. According to Blackstone, "his evaluation of the phenomenon is that this was a specific sociocultural phenomenon that was specific to the Salento, to Puglia. 'Crisis of presence' is the famous term that he used, particularly when he was referring to these poor and afflicted women. And there may have been some men, but again far and away it was women. By 'crisis of presence' he meant that you had been left behind by society, that you didn't know what the meaning of your life was anymore, or your place in history. So this was a way for people to sort of deal with it. He discovered a number of really interesting things. One was that there was no physical proof that any of these women had actually been bitten by spiders—some people would say that this is the mystery of it. But he also noticed that ... if the woman was a taranta, it was more likely that her daughter was likely to be stricken as well—and her daughter's [daughter]—and so tarantism seemed to run in families, and it would recur year after year. He came across women who had been tarantata for upwards of 40 or 60 years. It's an interesting thing to ask, 'Why is it they had to go through this every year? What function did this particular phenomena do for them?'"

Here, says Blackstone, is the crux of the matter: "What happened in the modern age is that when [the tarantata] would go to the church of Galatina after they had run through the music and come into their accommodation with [St. Paul], they would reenact their possession in the church but without the music. And they would crawl through the church, and there was a day when all of these people would show up and cry of suffering. They would often yell in the process of doing this. This is, I would argue, very important. As a tradition, people would never have let this go on if it didn't have a result of mending some sort of social, psychological issue. It would have died out long before."

Fast forward from de Martino's research of the early '60s. The music—and tradition—dies out, only to be revived in the '70s by bands like Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino, who still play today. Initially it was roundly rejected, as the people of Puglia felt that the condition and the music associated with it were painful and brought back difficult times. Then along came the '80s and the world music craze and a fair amount of immigration to Italy. The immigrants, the Italians noted, were retaining the cultural identities of their native countries. And so "all of this was kind of inspiring to young people in Puglia, and they settled on the music as what was really distinctive" to them, says Blackstone. "Music that's played with this specific chickitachickitachickita beat, you don't find that anywhere else—it's distinctive to their area. They latched onto this as something that they could work with as kind of a cultural reclamation project. Then all kinds of groups start popping up that start to incorporate traditional folk music into their own."

Today, if you are so inclined, you can attend La Notte della Taranta to listen to the nuovi tarantati bands who take pride in this music of place. Blackstone is a fan of Nidi d'Arac. He mentions an interview that he did with singer Vera Di Lecce, who had some poignant words for him: "When I was interviewing her, she said, you know, the [original] idea was to dance the poison of the spider out, but the poison now is the speed of modern society and it's the war, it's the economy, it's all of these things that are sort of bringing people down. And so what the music can be used for on sort of a mass level is to exorcise the ills of modern society." Blackstone furthers the hypothesis with his own take: "What's really significant is that when I was analyzing this, what really stands out is that this is a music that goes from being an individual therapy rooted in the place's culture to something much broader. This is something that would very much have been part of a social psychological cultural complex, so once it hits the concert stage, it becomes something different. There's an irony there, right?" The individual struggle has been replaced with the consumption of a new take on the original music of the rituals of the past.

With that, I'll put the topic down with some lyrics that the good professor sent to me with the words, "I think anyone can relate to that song today!"

You've graduated but there's no work  
have a [master's] but there's no work  
and you're left with only your imagination  
wanting to buy a house, it's an agony  
wanting a family, it's crazy  
but if you stop, there's melancholy  
get up find a way keep on going don't stop  
find a way take a chance your voice is strong make it heard  
when you go abroad the symphony changes  
when you go abroad it feels like magic  
when they respect you for your art  
don't stop don't stop  
get up find a way keep on going don't stop  
find a way take a chance your voice is strong make it heard  
I'd like to go away but I don't want to  
because you have my heart and I knew it  
how bittersweet is my land  
and now I sing for my life  
and now I play for my life  
to cure myself from this disease

And here's the song, "Nu te fermare," performed by Canzoniere Grecanico Salentino.

# LONG ISLAND PULSE

## 7 Long Island Stories That Moved Us in 2017

*pulse staff* | DECEMBER 26, 2017

As a media company, *Pulse* prides itself on not only recommending a place to go for dinner but also in joining the conversations people are having over a glass of wine. As change and political controversy mounted, *Pulse* responded with fact-driven pieces as well as personal anecdotes from people impacted by new legislation. And whether you loved it or hated it, you shared your own anecdotes and opinions with us. We hope to hear more of them in 2018. For now, let's reflect on seven Long Island stories that moved us.

### Sweet Dream to an American Nightmare: Laura Lemus



*Laura Lemus graduated SUNY Old Westbury*

Digital strategist Beth Ann Clyde introduced Laura Lemus, Sag Harbor native, college graduate and DACA recipient, as part of *Pulse's* immigration series. Brought to the United States from Mexico as a six-month-old, Lemus received protection under Dreamer Act in June 2012. She went on to graduate college—paying out of pocket—and got a job in non-profit. But her status is now up in the air, as Trump [ended DACA in September](#). What would she tell him? “I’m just as much of a New Yorker as he is.” [Read more](#)

## Peekskill Mayor-Elect Rainey Names Transition Team

Members of the transition team represent the city's diversity and bring local, professional expertise to the table, the Rainey team said.

By Lanning Taliaferro, Patch Staff | Nov 21, 2017 11:08 am ET

EEKSKILL, NY — Mayor-elect Andre Rainey has appointed a volunteer transition team to work with the city manager and department heads to ensure the new administration can hit the ground running on Jan. 1, 2018. Rainey narrowly ousted incumbent Frank Catalina in the city election Nov. 7.

“My number one goal over the next six weeks is to have as much information as possible from the professional staff and a clear assessment from experts on the state of the city so that we can hit the ground running on January 1,” Rainey said in an announcement. “I am grateful for the assistance Mayor Catalina has given me over the last two weeks as we begin this transition. The team I have selected has a wide range of experience in business, finance, development, public safety, management, community relations, recreation, and youth services. They also represent the true diversity of Peekskill, which is critical if we want a city that reflects everyone. I look forward to working with this team over these next six weeks to get ready for day one.”



Peekskill Mayor-Elect Andre Rainey

The transition team consists of 13 initial members chaired by current Council members Kathie Talbot and Vivian McKenzie.

They will meet with department heads and city staff to assess operations, identify existing challenges that departments are facing, and learn from professional staff where they see their department priorities in the coming years.

The team covers 10 broad policy areas. They include: City Finance; Public Safety; Economic Development; Youth Services; Parks, Recreation, and Open Space; Senior Services; Legal; DPW and City Services; Buildings and Code Enforcement; and Boards, Commissions, and Hiring. Transition appointees of the various policy and operations areas will expand their reviews and policy and operations areas if necessary. Rainey noted the team may expand as the transition gets more fully underway.

In addition to McKenzie and Talbot, the team members are:

Tuesday McDonald, Youth Services

Tuesday Paige McDonald is the Director of Community & Youth Development for Hudson River HealthCare, responsible for the program development and management of a multitude of service and health-related youth programs and events. She has over 25 years of work & service experience, including 15 years on the Peekskill Board of Education. Tuesday has deep roots in the interfaith community, coordinating and directing community and musical productions involving Peekskill youth. She is a licensed Minister at the historic Mount Olivet Baptist Church, where she serves as Minister of Worship. She also serves as Youth Sunday School Facilitator and the Director of Youth Ministry. She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from PACE University, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from S.U.N.Y. at Old Westbury and a Mentoring Supervisor Certificate from Fordham University Graduate School of Service. Tuesday is a lifelong Peekskill resident and lives in Hillcrest Park with her family.

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E42



Napoleon Revels-Bey plays the drums at his home in Uniondale. **V** Video: Newsday.com/act2

**BY BONNABIE**  
Special to Newsday

In a career spanning more than four decades, drummer Napoleon Revels-Bey has pounded many beats, from concert stages with such legends as Aretha Franklin and Gladys Knight to the white lights of Broadway. Now, the Hempstead-born musician has found his rhythm as an educator.

"I have a mission deep within me that drives me, and that is to help people through music and the arts," said Revels-Bey, 70, who now lives in Uniondale. "I have had a blessed career with lots of mentors and good luck. I decided a long time ago to give back to the community."

For Revels-Bey, giving back meant creating a series called 21st Century Community Engagement & Development Outreach Programs, designed

## Learning to the beat of a devoted DRUMMER

to teach musical education to students in Long Island and New York City public schools. The programs cover such diverse subjects as the joy of jazz, which examines the genre's history and its significance in American society, and Music in the Classroom, a drumming program for preschoolers to teens. Adventure in Music and Aviation is an inspirational multimedia

program that uses 300 images and eight original songs to celebrate the pioneers of aerospace.

"Napoleon always brings our children to the music," said Kim Lowenberg-Coyne, director of music and art for the North Babylon Union Free School District. "He is not satisfied with merely presenting a concert, packing up and leaving a space. He meets with

the kids, works with the teachers, plans activities that are best suited for the kids and teachers and always presents himself in a polished and professional manner."

Revels-Bey creates programs that were in the history of music around the world, but tailors them to newcomers.

"I always have to keep in mind that my audiences may not be musically trained and

that I have to come up with programs that can catch their interest immediately, so at the end of the hour they have an appreciation for music and the arts," he said.

The reward has been seeing many of his students make music their careers. "I recently received a message on Facebook from one of my former drum students... who told me he just finished his degree in music at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and wanted to thank me for preparing him so well as a drummer and percussionist," said Revels-Bey.

**'I had to try the drums'**

When Revels-Bey was a youngster in Hempstead in the 1950s, his first instrument was the piano.

All the families in our neighborhood

See DRUMMER on E40

E40 act two



Napoleon Revels-Bey gets on the sticks with the tools of his trade.

## his beat



A longtime drummer, Revels-Bey teaches musical education to students in Long Island and New York City public schools.

**DRUMMER** from E39

neighborhood had a piano in their house, used mostly for gospel music," recalled Revels-Bey, who was recently dressed in his signature performance outfit: a patterned vest, a white shirt, black pants with white stripes and a fez as a nod to his Muslim faith.

His first exposure to the drums didn't come until he was 15.

"A few of my friends at Hempstead High School played the drums, and they were having fun playing in bands," said Revels-Bey. "I had to try the drums."

A year later, he was sitting in with bands and performing locally at parties, weddings and local night spots like the Stereo Club in Hempstead. "My dad loved music and would bring me to the local clubs," he said. "He would ask the owners if I could sit in on a few songs with the band. They often would let me."

Revels-Bey took formal drum lessons from Charles Perry, who played in many famous big bands, including those of Benny Goodman and Woody Herman.

"Charlie taught me the basics of drumming and music theory," Revels-Bey said. "His teaching helped me develop my technique and timing."

His spare time was spent at his father's television and radio repair shop in Hempstead. Many of the clientele were local musicians who worked in New York City. Revels-Bey said he remembers joining his father on a house call to repair a television for a well-known musician. "He was the legendary lead trumpeter for 'The Ed Sullivan Show,' Jimmy Nottingham," Revels-Bey said. "He had a large house with a pool. For the first time, I saw that musicians can do pretty well."

After a stint in Vietnam as a radar operator on a destroyer, Revels-Bey attended Nassau Community College and then studied music at SUNY Old Westbury.

Among his teachers was Ronald Gould, a principal percussionist with the New York City Ballet Orchestra, and Warren Smith, a percussionist who worked with Lena Horne on Broadway.

"I owe a lot of my successes to my



Revels-Bey shares his love of music with students at Nassau Performing Arts Inc.

college professors," Revels-Bey said. "In fact, Warren Smith helped me get my first Broadway play, 'Bubbling Brown Sugar.'"

Smith's nephew, Frank Derrick, was the 1976 musical's lead drummer. "Frank called me in to learn the book, and I was hired to be on the 'bus and truck' touring company," he said.

Smith also served as Revels-Bey's mentor, and if Smith couldn't make a gig, he would call Revels-Bey to sit in.

Of the many legends he has performed with, the high point came when Revels-Bey played for the "Queen of Soul" herself, Aretha Franklin.

"The gig was at Westbury and the band did a few rehearsals prior to the show," Revels-Bey recalled. "Aretha did not attend any of the rehearsals. When she came on stage I couldn't believe I was part of her band that night. I was so excited I was able to take a few photos of her from my drum set."

**Time on the road**

Revels-Bey's transition from professional musician to a music educator and goodwill ambassador began in the 1980s, when he was approached by John Devol, a fellow Broadway musician who founded the Festival of Music community programs (renamed Arts Horizon in 1995). Devol asked him to join his new community arts youth program as a percussionist in the demonstration band.

"John told me that it wouldn't interfere with my night gigs and that I can do the youth community programs during the day and still gig at night," Revels-Bey said.

At the time, Revels-Bey was ready to reduce his time on the road and welcomed employment alternatives. Less travel meant more time with Pearl, his wife of 46 years, and daughters Carmen and Amirah. He also has four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

ACT2

**LIVE SHOWS**  
When Napoleon Revels-Bey isn't teaching, he often can be found on stage with his drums. Here are some upcoming performances.

**NOV. 26**  
Noon, Kitchen 21  
3052 W. 24th St., Brooklyn  
**INFO** Free; 718-954-9801, kitchen-21.com

**DEC. 20**  
5 p.m., Great South Bay YMCA,  
200 W. Main St., Bay Shore  
**INFO** Free; 631-665-4255, ymca.org

Devol trained Revels-Bey on the community arts programs and taught him to write and prepare study guides, which are essential to working with school systems and obtaining grants.

Revels-Bey continued to play on Broadway and in other venues while developing the study guides. His first programs were with Hempstead public schools through grants from BOCES of Long Island and support from Tyree Curry, a well-known Hempstead public school administrator.

As his program offerings grew, he founded Revels-Bey Music Inc. in 1993 and then the nonprofit Nassau Performing Arts Inc. in 1998 to acquire larger grants and reach more organizations on Long Island and in New York City. Revels-Bey is most proud of receiving the 2017 Jubilation Fellow Award for the Arts grant, which is presented to individuals who work to help young people through rhythm as expressed in dance, music and poetry. The fellowship is for two years and awards \$5,000 annually.

Over the years, the benefits of Revels-Bey's outreach programs have not been just to the thousands of children he has instructed. "I guess I got an extended family I never thought I would get," he said.

## COUNTYWIDE

### Math scholars

By Michael R. Ebert

November 2, 2017 7:27 PM

Eighty-seven students were named Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at [SUNY Old Westbury](#). Selection means they are in the top one-tenth of 1 percent of math students in their grade Islandwide.

Students chosen from public school districts in Suffolk County were: Michael Jang and Harry Poulouse, Commack; Miles Kim, Jason Long, Talha Waseem and Alexander Witkowski, Half Hollow Hills; Caleb Kapen, Harborfields; Rishabh Dholakia and Sahishnu Sagiraju, Hauppauge; Samantha McGloin, Huntington; Taryn O'Connor and Nadia Prasad, Kings Park; Braden Cizek, James Connor, Tara D'Amico, McKenzie Schuvart and Luke Tuthill, Northport-East Northport; Mili Das, Sachem; and Amy Chen, Theresa Jiao and Benjamin Zhang, Three Village.

Those chosen who attend private schools in Suffolk were: Daniel Mullan and Stephanie Mullan, St. Anthony's High School, South Huntington; and Vincent Yang, Long Island School for the Gifted, Huntington Station.

## 5 Northport Students Accepted Into Math Institute

*The students are placed in the top one percent of math students on Long Island.*

By Paige McAtee, Patch Staff | Nov 14, 2017 10:49 am ET



*Northport-East Northport Students Braden Ciszek (left), Tara D'Amico, McKenzie Schuwart, James Connor and Luke Tuthill were accepted into the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students.*

The Northport-East Northport School District was recently informed that five students have been accepted into the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students.

Northport Middle School eighth-grade student Braden Ciszek, Northport High School freshmen James Connor, Tara D'Amico, and McKenzie Schuwart, and East Northport Middle School sixth-grader Luke Tuthill are five of the 90 students who received this honor. Six hundred students across Long Island were nominated, but being selected for the program places these students in the top one percent of math students Island wide.

These five students will spend 50 hours during 20 Saturday mornings studying an extensive mathematics curriculum. This tuition-free institute is supported by [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#), the Suffolk and Nassau County Mathematics Teachers Associations, the Nassau Interscholastic Mathematics League and others.

The district is extremely proud of these students, and commends them for their academic excellence and hard work that qualified them for this honor.

## NHP Freshman Accepted Into Math Institute

Selection by the institute implies that a student is among the top one-tenth of 1 percent in math of all students on Long Island.

By Paige McAtee, Patch Staff | Nov 20, 2017 11:40 am ET



New Hyde Park Memorial High School freshman Navdeep Kaur is pictured with Principal Dr. Richard Faccio and guidance counselor Dr. Eileen Valdes.

Navdeep Kaur, a freshman at New Hyde Park Memorial in the Sewanhaka Central High School District, was accepted into the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#). Navdeep is among 87 students who will pursue the study of mathematics and its applications.

To qualify for this honor, Navdeep and 86 other students competed against approximately 600 of the top-ranking students nominated from school districts on Long Island. Selection by the institute implies that a student is among the top one-tenth of 1 percent in math of all students on Long Island in his or her grade. Acceptances were based on four criteria: school transcript, teacher recommendation, a brief written statement by the student and a rigorous entrance exam.

Each student is expected to spend 50 hours in class over the course of 20 Saturday mornings. The curriculum covers mathematical topics including algebra, discrete math, number theory and more.

Principal Dr. Richard Faccio congratulated Navdeep on this prestigious honor.

## 24 Massapequa Student-Athletes Commit To Colleges

Congratulations to all the student-athletes!

By Priscila Korb, Patch Staff | Nov 20, 2017 4:48 pm ET



Photo courtesy of Massapequa School District

MASSAPEQUA, NY - A total of 24 Massapequa High School student-athletes committed to colleges during a recent national letter of intent signing ceremony.

The seniors will continue their academic and athletic pursuits at colleges and universities across the country.

The signees included seven students from the boys lacrosse team, six from the baseball team, five from girls lacrosse and three from girls soccer.

Several athletes will remain teammates in college including Michael Abagnale and Michael Homan who will play baseball for **SUNY Old Westbury**; Michael Grisanti and Vinny Morales who will suit up for the baseball team at College of Mount Saint Vincent; Shannon Bernhardt and Jacqueline Kanapes who will play field hockey for SUNY New Paltz; and Jaclyn Gatti and Erin Tierney who join Hofstra University's lacrosse team.

Other students who signed included Micayla Brady (Mercy College, lacrosse), Moira Callahan (U.S. Military Academy in West Point, lacrosse), Morgan Camarda (Siena College, soccer), Jenna Defina (Adelphi University, softball), Daniella Felicetti (LIU Post, soccer), Thomas Gerasci (SUNY Maritime College, lacrosse), J.C. Greenblatt (DeSales University, lacrosse), Griffin Hawthorne (University of Notre Dame, lacrosse), Brian Lenaghan (Bowdoin College, football and lacrosse), Timothy Ley (Boston University, lacrosse), Haylee Poltorak (Binghamton University, soccer), Andrew Primm (LIU Post, baseball), Jordan Taylor (Binghamton University, lacrosse), Michael Venezia (Lehigh University, lacrosse), Matthew Weigand (U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, lacrosse) and James Zupo (SUNY Oneonta, baseball).

The students wore shirts representing their future colleges and were joined by Principal Patrick DiClemente, Director of Health, Physical Education, Athletics and Recreation John Piropatto, their coaches and families to celebrate the momentous occasion.

Congratulations to the student-athletes!