



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

MARCH TO APRIL 2018

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The Office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY Old Westbury



LI BUSINESS

A35

EX-AMEX CEO: TECH FIRMS MUST DIVERSIFY

BY CARRIE MASON-DRAFFEN
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The technology industry needs to do more to diversify its workforce, Kenneth Chenault, the former head of American Express, told a crowd of executives and students at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury Wednesday.

Chenault, who was one of a small number of African-American CEOs at major American companies, grew up in Hempstead and led American Express from 2001 until he retired in January. He is now chairman and managing director of General Catalyst Partners, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm.

"In the venture capital technology industries the lack of diversity is incredible," said Chenault, who spoke as part of the Executive Leadership Forum sponsored by SUNY Old Westbury. "And so you have this very dangerous dynamic that the future is technology and digital, and yet people are being left behind."

Chenault, who recently became a Facebook board member, wants to change that.

"Diversity in the technological and digital side broadly for all nationalities, races and genders is very, very important," Chenault, 66, said.

Whites represent 83 percent of executives in the tech sector nationwide, according to the



Kenneth Chenault, who led American Express and is now at General Catalyst Partners, speaks at a leadership forum held by SUNY Old Westbury at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury Wednesday.

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In response to a question from moderator Calvin O. Butts, the university's president, Chenault said it was important for the United States to continue a strong trading relationship with China. The United States under President Donald Trump has instituted tariffs on some Chinese goods, and China has retaliated, leading some analysts to express concern about a possible trade war.

"We have to be careful . . . of saying China is an enemy," he said. "At the end of the day, what has happened in China in the

last 50 years is amazing. It's not the form of government I would choose, but I think we have to step back and say it is incredibly impressive what has been accomplished in China."

He added that China has taken advantage of the United States in areas like intellectual property, and he emphasized that issue has to be dealt with. But he said relations with China, one of the world's largest economies, are vital and the United States has to be more sophisticated in dealing with that country.

"I take a view that China represents both an opportunity

and a threat," he said. "And it is our job, from the government standpoint, from a business standpoint, to figure out how to balance what we do."

Chenault waxed nostalgic about his hometown, but he said the village has suffered because of a "proliferation of gangs" and the "deterioration" of its school district.

"I feel very loyal to my roots, but I have to be very candid . . . Hempstead is in a tough situation," he said. "The hope is there will be actions put into place both in the public and private sector" to improve the village.

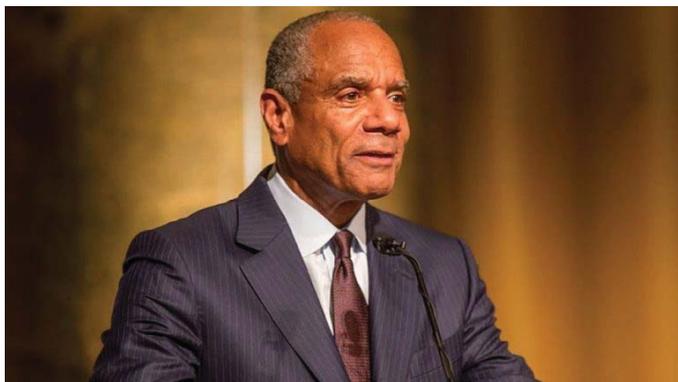
LI BUSINESS

BARRY SLOAN

Ex-American Express CEO Revives Old Westbury Forum

MARCH 15, 2018

By GREGORY ZELLER



Back in business: SUNY-Old Westbury is reviving its Executive Leadership Series with a visit from former American Express CEO Ken Chenault.

The former head of American Express will help SUNY Old Westbury resuscitate its ambitious Executive Leadership Forum.

The forum – SUNY-Old Westbury’s effort to bring national business icons to Long Island for informative presentations before regional business leaders – debuted in 2013 with JPMorgan Chase Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon in the center seat. But it’s been dormant since then, with the school focused on “other priorities,” a spokesman said Thursday.

It storms back in fine form April 18, with Ken Chenault – currently serving as chairman of a top Silicon Valley venture capital firm – slated to offer his insights and opinions on the American economy and global business.

The high-caliber speaker – who retired in January after serving 17 years as chairman and CEO of American Express and was ranked in 2014 by Forbes Magazine as one of the World’s 50 Greatest Leaders – is expected to highlight areas where growth and investment can occur and to discuss the keys to management and corporate success.

Landing one of “the most recognized and powerful financial executives in the world” is a major score for the reanimated Executive Leadership Series, according to SUNY-Old Westbury President Calvin Butts III.

“I am certain his remarks will be topical, provocative and meaningful to all of us as we seek to create a better economic future for ourselves, our families and our Long Island community,” Butts said in a statement.

Chenault joined New York City-based American Express in 1981 as director of strategic planning and also logged stints as the Fortune 100 global services company’s vice chairman and COO.

He became the chairman and managing director of Massachusetts-based VC firm General Catalyst in February. Among General Catalyst’s claims to fame are early-stage investments in such major-league successes as Airbnb, HubSpot, KAYAK and Warby Parker, among others.

Chenault – who also serves on the director boards of Airbnb, Facebook, IBM, Procter & Gamble Co., the Harvard Corp. and numerous nonprofit organizations – graduated from Bowdoin College in 1973 with a bachelor’s degree in history. He earned a law degree from the Harvard Law School in 1976.

The renowned executive has received honorary degrees from several universities and awards from a variety of civic, social-service and community organizations.

SUNY-Old Westbury’s Executive Leadership Forum is scheduled to return at 11:30 a.m. April 18 at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Old Westbury College Foundation, a not-for-profit organization supporting the college’s academic and student-service programs.

More event information and registration details can be found [here](#).



Calvin Butts III: Chenault is a great get for SUNY-Old Westbury.

LI BUSINESS

BIZBUZZ

LONG ISLAND

Lecture features ex-Amex CEO

Kenneth Chenault, a Long Island native and former chairman and chief executive of American Express Co., will share his ideas on the domestic and global economies at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by the State University of New York at Old Westbury as part of its Executive Leadership Forum. Chenault, who grew up in Hempstead, headed American Express from 2001 until he retired in January. He now serves as the chairman and managing director of General Catalyst Partners, a Silicon Valley venture capital firm. Individual tickets cost \$150. For information, call 516-876-3207.

— CARRIE MASON-DRAFFEN

Assembly Leader Carl Heastie Visits SUNY Old Westbury Media Studios

By Anton Media Staff -

April 24, 2018



State University of New York at Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, and members of the faculty of the College's American Studies/Media & Communications Department welcomed the Speaker of the New York State Assembly Carl Heastie to campus recently to tour the college's television and multimedia studios.

Heastie met with Butts and members of the faculty to discuss the current state and future needs of the College's Media & Communications program. Following the meeting, the assembly leader visited with students as he toured the college's broadcast and editing studios. The visit took place in support of an ongoing effort by the college to secure funding to renovate the studio spaces and expand the technologies available for students.

"In a world where video, voice, audio, art and the written word are melding together into multiple channels of communication, creating flexible studios and spaces where students can learn not only innovative technologies but advanced methods of storytelling is critical to their ability to succeed once they graduate," said Butts. "We were very pleased to have Speaker Heastie visit with our faculty and our students and to discuss the future of our program and its facility needs."

With a current enrollment of approximately 250 students, Old Westbury's major in Media and Communications provides students with a grounding in the economic, political, social, and intellectual history of the U.S. combined with theoretical and practical courses in journalism and production for radio, television, newspapers and interactive media.

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ONOURISLAND



7 New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie (fourth from left) toured SUNY Old Westbury's TV and multimedia studios as the college seeks to secure funding to upgrade the studios. (Also shown, from left) Julia Sorto, Jing Wang, Lisa Payton, Calvin Butts III, Andy Mattson, Jermaine Archer, Samara Smith, Wayne Edwards, Laura Chipley and Evan Kobolakis. **8** New Horizon Counseling Center organized a Superheroes Against Bullying event at the Green Acres Mall. (From left) Yehuda Plotsker as Thor, Josh Aryeh as Batman and Alana Jimerson.

The Westbury Times

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GOAT on
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PROFILES IN EDUCATION • APRIL 11 - 17, 2018

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Assembly Leader Visits Media Studios

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—Anton Media Staff

NYS Assembly Leader Tours Media Studios at SUNY Old Westbury

Speaker Carl Heastie visit the College to learn more about its Media & Communications studios, technology

By Danielle Collins, Patch Poster | Mar 19, 2018 1:19 pm ET | Updated Mar 19, 2018 1:20 pm ET



State University of New York at Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, and members of the faculty of the College's American Studies/Media & Communications Department welcomed the Speaker of the New York State Assembly Carl Heastie to campus recently to tour the College's television and multimedia studios.

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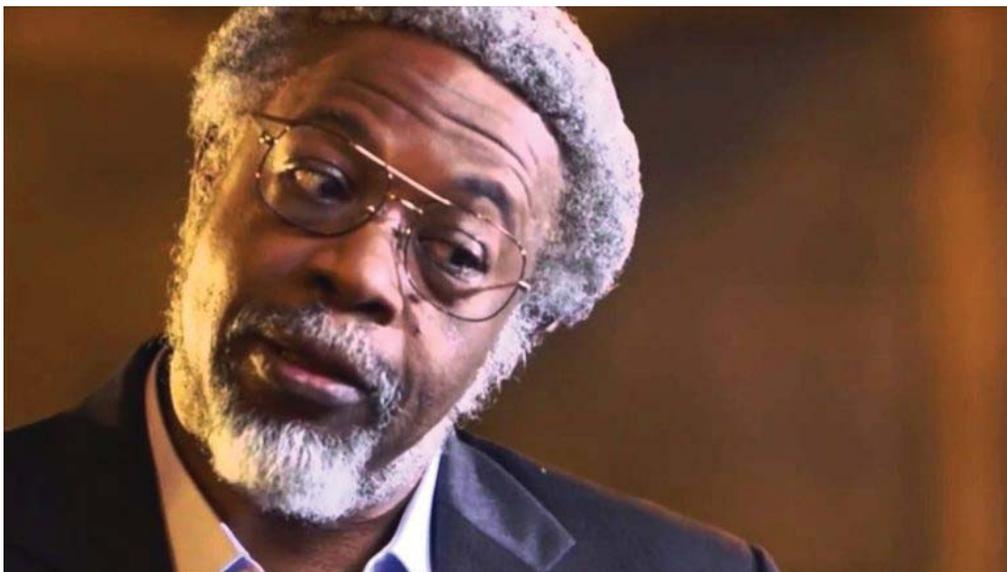
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Top Physicist Gates To Keynote SUNY Research Day

APRIL 12, 2018

By GREGORY ZELLER



Theoretically: National Science Award winner and top theoretical physicist Sylvester James Gates Jr. is expected to keynote SUNY-Old Westbury's 2018 Student Research Day on April 17.

A noted theoretical physicist and strong proponent of diversity in the laboratory will keynote SUNY-Old Westbury's annual Student Research Day.

Sylvester James Gates Jr., the Ford Foundation Professor of Physics at Brown University, is slated to deliver the opening remarks when the Old Westbury college hosts "2018 Student Research Day: Movement & Motion" on April 17.

Gates retired in 2017 after teaching and conducting research for 33 years at the University of Maryland, where he rose to the rank of University System Regents Professor – the highest teaching honor bestowed by the school.

An active proponent of education, diversity and communication, the professor is known widely for his research in theoretical physics and for his commitment to increasing diversity in his field.

A National Medal of Science winner who was appointed in 2013 to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology by President Barack Obama, Gates holds degrees in physics and mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he also earned his PhD in physics.

"2018 Student Research Day: Movement & Motion" will cover everything from the interaction of atoms to historical changes in immigrant behaviors to the great social movements of 20th century Israel and Egypt – basically, just about anything that has something to do with movement.

Roughly 150 SUNY-Old Westbury students are expected to showcase their work during the daylong event in oral presentations, exhibitions and artistic displays.

The annual Student Research Day "is always an exciting event," noted SUNY-Old Westbury College President Calvin Butts, who welcomes any opportunity to "showcase the curiosity, intellect and drive of our students."

"Through their work, they provide the real evidence of how our small college, committed to offering a strong liberal arts foundation, prepares students to succeed, whether their field of interest is in the sciences, public policy, business, education or beyond," Butts said in a statement.

"2018 Student Research Day: Movement & Motion" is scheduled to run from 11:20 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 17 in the Multipurpose Rooms of the Old Westbury campus' Student Union building. More information is available [here](#).

SUNY Old Westbury signs agreement with Cuban university

By The Island Now

March 2, 2018



Higher education officials from New York and Cuba gather to congratulate SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, seated right, and Universidad de Matanzas Rector Leyla Finale, seated left, on the completed agreement. (Photo courtesy of SUNY Old Westbury)

Before an audience of higher education officials from New York and Cuba, State University of New York at Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts, III, participated in a ceremony recently to sign a memorandum of understanding between Old Westbury and the Universidad de Matanzas in Cuba at the historic Hotel Palacio in Havana, Cuba.

“Our world continues to grow smaller every day, through the development of technology, communication, business and culture,” said Butts. “To truly compete in the global community and marketplace, our students must learn of, and be exposed to, the history, culture and practices of nations around the world. I am proud to have Universidad de Matanzas as our partner as we seek to continue growing the varied international influences that impact our campus.”

The agreement between SUNY Old Westbury and Universidad de Matanzas provides a framework for the ongoing development of academic collaborations and study abroad programs in areas of teacher training, science research, community service, language and culture.

Faculty from both countries will also have the opportunity to team teach utilizing online platforms and share research materials.

The Matanzas memorandum of understanding is the latest signed by SUNY Old Westbury, which also currently has standing agreements with institutions in Austria, Belgium, China, England, France, Germany, Iran, Mexico, Norway, South Korea and Spain

The New York delegation to Cuba was led by SUNY Board Chairman Carl McCall. The group attended a week-long international education conference sponsored by the Ministry of Education. University delegates in this conference from over 60 countries are seeking new academic collaborations with Cuban universities.

SUNY Old Westbury firma acuerdo con Universidad de Cuba

By Walter Garcés | on March 09, 2018



Ante una audiencia de funcionarios de la educación superior de Nueva York y Cuba, el presidente de State University of New York at Old Westbury, Calvin O. Butts, III, recientemente firmó un memorando de entendimiento entre Old Westbury y la Universidad de Matanzas, en una ceremonia llevada a cabo en el histórico Hotel Palacio en La Habana, Cuba.

El acuerdo proporciona un marco para el desarrollo continuo de colaboraciones académicas y programas de estudio en el extranjero en áreas de capacitación docente, investigación científica, servicio comunitario, idioma y cultura.

Los profesores de ambos países también tendrán la oportunidad de enseñar en equipo utilizando plataformas en línea y compartir materiales de investigación.

“Nuestro mundo continúa haciéndose más pequeño cada día, a través del desarrollo de la tecnología, la comunicación, los negocios y la cultura”, dijo el presidente Butts.

“Para competir verdaderamente en la comunidad y mercado global, nuestros estudiantes deben aprender y estar expuestos a la historia, cultura y prácticas de las naciones de todo el mundo. Me enorgullece tener a la Universidad de Matanzas como nuestro socio mientras buscamos continuar cultivando las variadas influencias internacionales que impactan en nuestro campus”, agregó.

Este memorando de entendimiento con la Universidad de Matanzas es el último firmado por SUNY Old Westbury, que también tiene acuerdos permanentes con instituciones en Austria, Bélgica, China, Inglaterra, Francia, Alemania, Irán, México, Noruega, Corea del Sur y España.

La delegación de Nueva York en Cuba fue dirigida por el presidente de la Junta de SUNY, Carl McCall. El grupo asistió a una conferencia internacional de educación de una semana patrocinada por el Ministerio de Educación. Los delegados universitarios en esta conferencia de más de 60 países buscan nuevas colaboraciones académicas con universidades cubanas.

En la imagen que acompaña la nota vemos al presidente Calvin O. Butts, III y a la Dr. Leyla Finale, de la Universidad de Matanzas.

Top CSTEP Honors For SUNY Old Westbury Trio

APRIL 25, 2018

By GREGORY ZELLER



CSTEP in the right direction: SUNY Old Westbury students (from left) Jourvonn Skeen, Nimra Hameed and Nelson Euceda captured first-place awards during this month's 2018 Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program Statewide Conference.

Several young minds from SUNY Old Westbury have earned top honors in a New York State competition designed to promote academic excellence among full-time, economically disadvantaged STEM students.

During the 26th annual CSTEP Statewide Student Conference, titled "Journeys Beyond Excellence" and held earlier this month in upstate Bolton Landing, roughly 700 Collegiate Science Technology Entry Program-enrolled student researchers from 52 New York colleges and universities shared their work in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

Top oral and display-based presentations in the categories of Natural Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences and Technology/Human Services were honored during the event's capstone awards banquet, with three SUNY Old Westbury presenters capturing first-place recognition in their respective categories.

Biochemistry major Nelson Euceda took first place in the Chemistry/Biochemistry Poster Research Competition with his project, "UVA-Induced 6-Thioguanine Superoxide Radical Production Enhanced by Glutathione."

Nelson worked under the supervision of professor Ruomei Gao in SUNY Old Westbury's Chemistry and Physics Department.

In the Social Sciences Oral Research Competition, biological sciences majors Nimra Hameed and Jourvonn Skeen won first place with their presentation, "Developmental Lead Exposure Alters Rodent Maternal Pup Retrieval Disrupting Adolescent Social-Play."

Both students were mentored by professor Lorenz Neuwirth of SUNY Old Westbury's Department of Psychology.

CSTEP is a NYS grant-funded initiative designed to foster academic excellence among under-represented or economically disadvantaged full-time college students majoring in the STEM fields or in majors leading to licensed professions.

The annual three-day conference is designed to enhance participants' understanding of academic disciplines and to foster networking with fellow CSTEP researchers, and to give students an opportunity to benefit from career-development workshops and presentations.

EDUCATION

Resident Earns SUNY's Top Honor



Photo/SUNY Old Westbury

Huntington Station resident Joshua Stickell, center, receives the State University of New York Chancellor Award for Student Excellence - the highest honor bestowed on students in the SUNY system. Stickell is a senior politics, economics and law major at SUNY Old Westbury, which he transferred to as a junior. He was later inducted into the Tau Sigma National Honor Society with a 4.0 GPA. Stickell is a regular volunteer for Huntington High School's "Civil War Games" and "World Court Games," through which he helps students conduct research in preparation for historical debates. He is also an active member of SUNY Old Westbury's Diversity & Inclusion Council, and Politics, Economics and Law Club. He is presented the award by Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson, left, and Old Westbury Provost Patrick O'Sullivan, right, at a ceremony in Albany.

APRIL 20, 2018 / NEWS / BRONX TIMES / BRONX TIMES REPORTER

Around Town: News from your neighbors

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Photo courtesy of SUNY

Brianna Levy (c) accepts her award.

By Patrick Rocchio

Brianna Levy of Country Club won the State University of New York's Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The award is the highest honor that can be bestowed on a student in the S.U.N.Y. system. Brianna is a Mathematics major at S.U.N.Y. Old Westbury. She recently had the opportunity to study at the Big Data Summer Institute at the prestigious University of Michigan. In addition to her excellence in academics, she is a member of the college's Honor College, and layout editor for 'Synthesia' the literary magazine for the honors college. She was presented the award by Chancellor Kristina Johnson and Patrick O'Sullivan at a ceremony on Tuesday, April 10.

The Westbury Times

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Westbury Students Earn Honors For STEM Research

SUNY Old Westbury's Science and Technology Program (STEP) student researchers recently returned from the 20th Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference in Albany, from March 23-25.

More than 600 STEP students and staff from approximately 45 colleges and universities from New York State participated in the conference, and had the opportunity to network with fellow STEP student researchers, attend professional development and college and career development workshops and attend the college fair.

Olusola Babalola, a 10th grader at Westbury High School mentored by Dr. Fernando Nieto of the Biological Sciences Department, and Dr. Sarah

Alaei from Stony Brook, received first place in the Biological Sciences Middle Division Category for her research titled "The Effects of Commercial Mouthwash on Biofilm Formation."

In the Biological Life Sciences Senior I Division, Westbury High School juniors Stacey Alvarado and Jennifer Amaya, and senior Courtney Williams won third place for their research poster titled "Treating The Effects of Lead On *Drosophila melanogaster* Using Cilantro and PMA." They were mentored by Nieto and Dr. William Gillis of Biological Sciences.

Lesly Leon Torres and Keyri Guerra, both from Westbury High School, also participated in the conference.

—Submitted by SUNY Old Westbury





LONG ISLAND

A13

Software helps SUNY grad rates

BY KESHIA CLUKEY
keshia.clukey@newsday.com

Nassau Community College is boosting efforts to increase student retention and on-time graduation through a new software program called DegreeWorks.

The web-based auditing software allows students to see what courses they need, what order to take them in, and if they're on track for an on-time graduation.

"The more user-friendly a tool is for students, the more we are able to help them be successful. And that is really the goal, that they succeed, that we retain them and then ultimately they graduate," said Amanda Fox, director of academic advisement at Nassau Community College.

Nassau launched the program earlier this month, becoming one of 43 campuses across the State University of New York system to implement DegreeWorks as part of SUNY's Completion Agenda. The system's

goal is to award 150,000 degrees per year by 2025.

Farmingdale State College was one of the first to implement the software. Stony Brook University and SUNY Old Westbury have been using the program for more than a year, according to SUNY. And Suffolk County Community College is getting ready for a soft launch over the next few weeks with full implementation for students in the fall, officials said.

Eventually all 64 SUNY campuses will use DegreeWorks, creating a network that will make it easier for students to compare programs offered at various state schools, SUNY officials said at a board of trustees meeting last week. This will make it easier for students who are cross-registering at more than one campus, or planning on transferring between SUNY campuses, officials said.

It's particularly helpful for community college students who may be looking to move to a four-year college after earning

Improving rates of graduation

Officials at Farmingdale State, which has had DegreeWorks in place since 2014, say the program has helped improve graduation rates.

- The four-year graduation rate for full-time, first-time baccalaureate degree students rose from 21.3 percent in August 2013 to 29 percent in August 2017.
- The six-year graduation rate increased from 42.6 percent in 2013 to 53.3 percent in 2017.

Source: Farmingdale State College

their associate degree, said Fox of Nassau Community College.

The software also warns students if they make course selections that would adversely impact their financial aid, Fox said, such as those receiving state tu-

ition assistance and the Excelsior Scholarship. The scholarship starting this fall provides tuition dollars for eligible middle-class students attending the state's two- and four-year public institutions. Its requirements include taking 30 credits per year.

Gone are the days of dog-earing and highlighting the course catalog in preparation for meeting with your adviser, Old Westbury registrar Patricia Smith joked. "This takes it to the next level, particularly for students who are so used to technology."

The colleges still require students to meet with an adviser, but the program helps better prepare them for the meeting and allows advisers to include notes to students within the system, said Erwin Cabrera, associate director of Farmingdale State's Research-Aligned Mentoring program.

For first-generation and low-income students in particular, understanding the pipeline to graduation can be an overwhelming task, Cabrera said.

The Westbury Times

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Law Day Line-Up Includes Variety of Voices

Featured speaker will be SUNY Old Westbury president

BY THE WESTBURYTIMES STAFF

WESTBURY@ANTONMEDIAGROUP.COM

Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III, president of the State University of New York (SUNY) at Old Westbury and senior pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church of Harlem, will be the featured speaker at the Village Justice Court's annual Law Day program on May 1.

"Reverend, doctor and President Butts is a legend in the fields of civil rights, social justice and economic development in New York," said Westbury Village Justice Tom Liotti. "I am so honored that he has accepted our invitation. It is a great day for our community that we will be privileged to hear from one of the true giants of our times."

In addition to being president of SUNY Old Westbury, Butts is chairman and founder of the Abyssinian Development Corporation, an engine for \$500 million in housing and commercial development in Harlem.

Butts earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. While a student at Morehouse, a historically black college, Butts was initiated into the Pi Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and is a current member of the New York Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi.

He returned to New York, where he earned a

Master of Divinity Degree in Church History from Union Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Ministry in Church and Public Policy from Drew University in New Jersey.

Since 1999 Butts has served as president of SUNY Old Westbury. He has gained funding for five new residence halls, a Student Union, and new academic center, as well as technology enhancement for the classrooms and dorms.

Also speaking at Law Day will be Katuria D'Amato, an attorney and wife of former U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, one of the nation's leading lobbyists. D'Amato has previously law clerked for two federal judges and was an associate at a leading Wall Street law firm. She has served as a member of the Town of Hempstead's Board of Zoning Appeals for more than a decade. She will speak on how the separation of powers is affected by lobbyists.

Edward Paltzik, Esq., a frequent speaker at Law and Constitution Day programs will address The History of Separation of Powers. Paltzik is a magna cum laude graduate of Cornell University, where he majored in history, and the Vanderbilt University School of Law.

This year's theme for the Law Day program is Separation of Powers: Framework For Freedom. The free event is open to the community. Refreshments will be served. The Law Day program starts at 7 p.m. at 235 Lincoln Place, Westbury.



Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III

TOP STORIES

MLK legacy still a

Memories of his visit at ceremony on anniversary of his assassination

BY CAROL POLSKY
AND MARTIN C. EVANS
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On the day 50 years ago that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Julius Pearse was driving alone when he heard the news.

Freeport's first African-American police officer, then 34, pulled over and "I took my feelings out within the confines of a police car," he recalled Tuesday.

"My reaction was anger, first of all, complete anger, and then I went into something I don't usually do: I cried," he said. "I didn't bother talking to anybody about it, I wasn't in the mood to talk to anybody."

Fifty years later, Pearse and others who were alive then share the searing memory of when a 20th century icon was struck down April 4, 1968, by a bullet as he prepared to dine with friends. Some, like Pearse, mark that day and what it meant to them and the nation.

On Wednesday, he will be in the ceremonial chambers of the Nassau County executive and legislative office building in Mineola for a 6 p.m. event held by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Committee of Nassau County, a county-affiliated group Pearse founded.

"The fact that he was assassinated 50 years ago, it is a solemn event for me," said Pearse, 84, of Freeport.

King had been in Memphis in support of a strike by African-American sanitation workers and had increasingly associated civil rights with class and economic inequalities. The event in Mineola will therefore honor a number of longtime county workers who were members of the civil service union, said event organizers.

The anniversary comes at a

time of heightened political divisiveness, demonstrations over police shootings of unarmed black men, and the emergence of widespread youth activism among both white, black and Latino students over the issue of gun violence. And while Pearse said he sees progress, "You'd have to be blind not to see the problems we're having today."

The Rev. Calvin Butts, an activist Harlem clergyman and president of SUNY Old Westbury, said Long Island and America continue to evade moral challenges King raised.

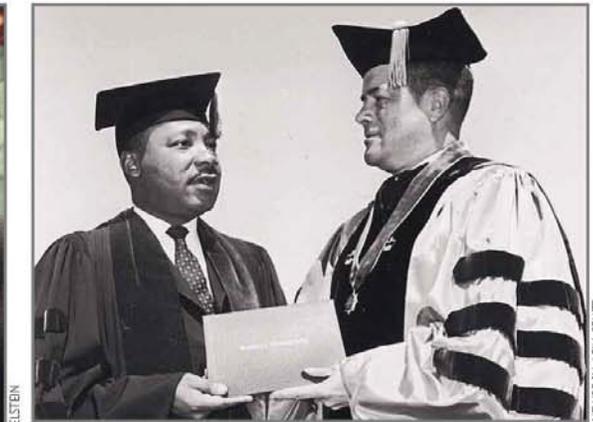
Too many people today mouth platitudes about King, Butts said Tuesday, while accommodating many of the injustices he fought, including rampant neighborhood segregation, substandard schools, sharp income disparities and other maladies that persist on Long Island. Butts said African-Americans have seen progress — in college attendance, in leadership of major businesses, and in the presidency of Barack Obama.

However, Butts said, "these are small achievements when compared to the masses of people — and now I'm speaking of all people, particularly poor white people, who do not have access to education because they can't afford it, who do not have access to quality health care because they can't afford it, who do not have access to quality housing because they can't afford it."

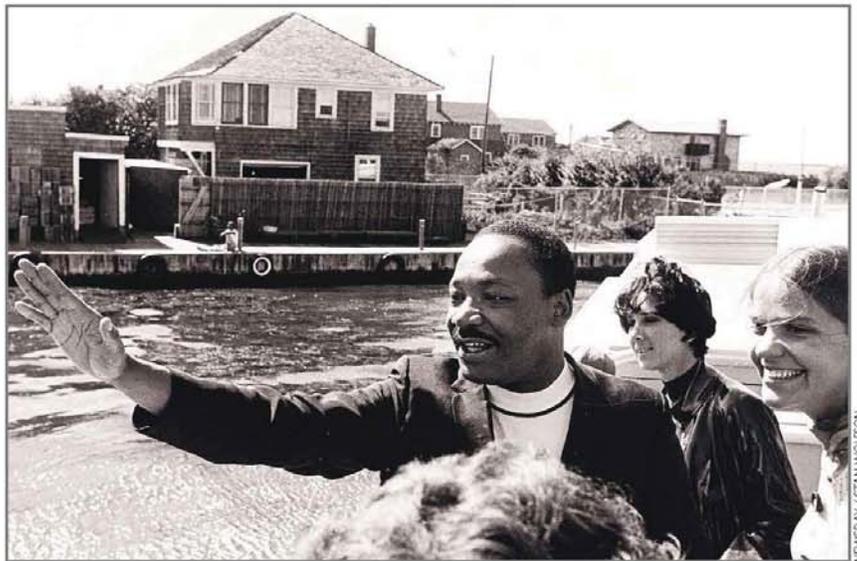
"So we have quite a battle in front of us against the forces of greed and war and exploitation and hatred and bigotry. . . . when I think of him I'm encouraged by his life, by his sacrifice of that life."

To commemorate the anniversary of King's death, the Diocese of Rockville Centre has scheduled a special prayer service Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Agnes. It will feature prayer, witness talks, a homily preached by Bishop John Barres and the Sr. Thea Bowman Mass Gospel Choir.

Of his homily, Barres said, "Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's death, St. Agnes Cathedral and all the parishes on Long Island shake with joy as we reflect on Dr. King's dream and our Catholic baptismal responsibility to stand up against racism and to be instruments of the Divine Mercy in promoting



Julius Pearse, left, a founder of the MLK Birthday Celebration Committee of Nassau County on Tuesday. Above, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. receives honorary degree at Hofstra June 13, 1965.



King greets people who flocked to see him as he rides the Fire Island ferry on Sept. 2, 1967.

racial harmony and unity in the human family at this critical time in history."

Now, as student and black activism rises to a level not seen since the 1960s, advocates for change say King's example continues to inspire 50 years after his death.

Tom Malanga, a white gay rights activist who helped organize the defunct Empire State Pride Agenda, said King's non-

violent advocacy for human dignity has encouraged people from other marginalized groups to demand change.

"Dr. King set an example toward a pragmatic approach to creating change, about organizing and accepting progress in steps," said Malanga, of Central Islip.

"That's applicable to the LGBT community, just as it was for the civil rights movement."

EDITORIAL

50 years later, King's quest is far from won **A24**

LONG ISLAND

Newsday Pulitzer Prize winner Les Payne through the years

By Newsday.com staff

Updated March 22, 2018 10:40 AM

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Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Les Payne worked for Newsday for 38 years, having risen through the ranks from reporter to associate managing editor, before retiring in 2006. He oversaw foreign and national coverage, was an editor of New York Newsday and penned a column. He died unexpectedly Monday, March 19, 2018.

See photos of Payne through the years.



Photo Credit: Johnny Milano

Les Payne, left, moderates a conversation between Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, center, and journalist Bill Moyers about race and class on the future of America at SUNY Old Westbury in 2015.

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BizEd

AACSB INTERNATIONAL MARCH | APRIL 2018

people+places

TRANSITIONS

Soumitra Dutta has stepped down as dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. **L. Joseph Thomas**, a past dean of Cornell's SC Johnson Graduate School, will take over as interim dean. Dutta is also stepping down as chair of AACSB International's Board of Directors. Effective immediately, AACSB's board chair role will be filled by vice chair-chair elect **Caryn Beck-Dudley**, the dean of the Leavey School of Business at Santa Clara University in California. The role of vice chair-chair elect will be filled by **John Elliott**, the dean of the School of Business at the University of Connecticut.

Mickey A. Hepner is the new dean of Austin Peay State University's College of Business in Clarksville, Tennessee. He previously was dean of the College of Business at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, where he also served as an economics professor. Hepner, who replaces interim dean **Charles Moses**, took his post January 2.

On January 1, **Rangarajan "Raghu" Sundaram** took up his new duties as dean of New York University's Stern School of Business. Sundaram, who joined Stern's faculty a little more than two decades ago, is the Edward I. Altman Professor of Credit and Debt Markets and professor of finance; he has been vice dean of MBA programs since 2016. He succeeds **Peter Henry**, who had held the deanship since January 2010.

Sibusiso Sibisi has been appointed director and head of the Wits Business School at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. He began his new role in January. Sibisi previously was president and CEO at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and deputy vice-chancellor of research and innovation at the University of Cape Town.

Raj Devasagayam has joined the State University of New York at Old Westbury as the dean of the School of Business. He also will serve as professor of marketing. Before coming to SUNY Old Westbury, Devasagayam was the chair of the marketing department and director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at Siena College in Albany, New York.



Rangarajan Sundaram



Sibusiso Sibisi



Thomas Froehlicher

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi has been named dean and president of ESSEC Business School in Cergy, France. He previously was professor of statistics and dean of faculty at ESSEC. He succeeds former dean **Jean-Michel Blanquer**, who is now France's Minister of National Education.



Marc Rubín



Rami Maysami

Thomas Froehlicher has been appointed dean of Rennes School of Business in France. Froehlicher has previously served as the dean of Kedge Business School in France and HEC Liège in Belgium.

Marc Rubín has been named dean of the Farmer School of Business at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Rubín has served as the school's interim dean since last summer and has taught at the school since 1990. He has been the PwC Professor of Accountancy and previously served as chair of the accountancy department. He currently serves as the president-elect of the American Accounting Association and is a member of the AACSB Accounting Accreditation Committee.

The Aspen Institute has announced that **Daniel R. Porterfield** will become the next president and CEO of the institute, which is headquartered in Washington, D.C. He succeeds **Walter Isaacson** effective June 1. Porterfield is currently the president of Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he has served since 2011. In 2016, the White House named Porterfield one of 11 "Champions of Change for College Opportunity."

Rami Maysami is now serving as dean of the College of Business and Economics at California State University in Los Angeles. He previously was dean of the College of Business at Jackson State University in Mississippi. He also held academic and administrative positions at the School of Business at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke.

After more than seven years as dean of Auburn University's Raymond J. Harbert College of Business in Alabama, **Bill Hardgrave** became the university's provost and vice president for academic affairs in January. During his tenure as dean, enrollment increased by 47 percent and the college's endowment grew more than 230 percent, in part because of a US\$40 million naming gift from alum Raymond Harbert.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Nicole Tee, director of graduate studies at Nanyang Business School at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, received the 2017 Bud Fackler Service Award from the Executive MBA Council (EMBAC) in October at its annual confer-

NEW
WA
BUSINESS EDUCATION
SURGE OF DISRUPT

Want People To Fund Your Kickstarter Project? Sell Them On Your Reputation First

BINGHAMTON, NY – When trying to entice people to invest in your product on a crowdfunding website, potential funders are more concerned about your ethical characteristics than your actual ability to make and deliver the product, according to new research from Binghamton University, State University of New York.

Popular crowdfunding sites, like Kickstarter and Indiegogo, give people a platform to display their ideas for products or services they'd like to create, giving virtually anyone the opportunity to fund the project. Funders may sometimes give money with the promise that they'll get the product in return once it's fully funded and completed.

Unlike other e-commerce platforms such as eBay and Amazon, most crowdfunding websites don't have a traditional product and seller rating system, meaning funders often enter into the process with a sense of uncertainty.

"Crowdfunding is interesting because you're literally buying something that isn't finished from a person who has never made it before. There are no product reviews, and there are no seller reviews," said Ali Alper Yayla, associate professor in Binghamton University's School of Management.

Binghamton University researchers Yayla and associate professor Surinder Kahai, along with Yu Lei from SUNY College at Old Westbury, dove into the uncertainties that funders experience in their decision-making process on crowdfunding platforms. They were particularly interested in how those uncertainties shifted in relation to product complexity. An example of a low-complexity product would be a t-shirt or a photo album, while a high-complexity product would be a 3D printer.

The researchers showed mock crowdfunding campaign pages for products of varying complexity to over 300 subjects. What they found is that no matter how complex the promised product was, potential funders were more concerned with a seller's reputation and opportunism than the seller's competence and expertise to actually make the product they're promising.

"We found that people worry more about the seller's honesty than whether the seller actually has the ability and knowledge to finish and deliver on the product," said Yayla. "People don't want sellers to just take their money and run."

As a product gets more complex, their research also found that concern for the seller's reputation increases, while concerns over the seller's ability to create the product actually decreases.

"This was an unexpected finding," said Yayla. "You'd assume that people would think if the product is very complex, the seller may not actually have the ability to make it. On the other hand, you'd think that people wouldn't worry about seller competence in low-complexity products."

Yayla said one possibility for why this happens is that funders for high-complexity products may already be familiar with the science behind that product, and that unfamiliar funders probably wouldn't consider looking into the product in the first place.

Based on the findings, Yayla said those looking to start a crowdfunding project should be willing to provide plenty of detail about themselves to their potential funders. He said project initiators should consider providing links to social media pages or other sites that feature ongoing projects in order to help bolster their reputation.

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The paper, "Unique Challenges of Decision-Making Process on Crowdfunding Platforms – An Exploratory Study," was presented at the 51st Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences.

English Professor Publishes Book on Teaching the Writing Process

SUNY Old Westbury Professor of Adolescence Education and English Nicole Sieben Builds on 'Writing Hope Framework' Research with New Book

By Danielle Collins, Patch Poster | Mar 19, 2018 1:27 pm ET



Every writer has a unique voice, style, and process; therefore, every student may respond uniquely when learning writing techniques. Dr. Nicole Sieben, Assistant Professor of Adolescence Education and English at **SUNY Old Westbury**, has long advocated the importance of exploring unique writing processes in secondary school and college classrooms. Her new book, “Writing Hope Strategies for Writing Success in Secondary Schools: A Strengths-Based Approach to Teaching Writing,” provides hope-focused ways of thinking about the teaching of writing and shares research-based strategies for immediate use in the classroom.

“This book details my findings from a research study that I conducted with support from a National Council of Teachers of English Conference on English Education Research Initiative Grant,” said Sieben. “Working within the curricular ‘Writing Hope Framework’ I previously developed, my intention in this new work is to bring readers through a process of hope that can facilitate life hope and writing hope inside (and outside) the classroom for and with students.”

The classroom-tested, student-centered writing hope strategies shared within the book are designed to allow students to work within their own unique writing processes and insert their individual writers’ voices and styles authentically. Published by Brill | Sense Publishers, the book is available to purchase on the publisher’s website as well as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

In addition to her new publication, Sieben is the author of several peer-reviewed articles on writing hope such as “Building Hopeful Secondary School Writers through Effective Feedback Strategies,” and “Teaching Writing Hope for a Just Writing Society,” which won the 2017 Article of the Year Award from the New York State English Council. She earned her Ed.D. in English Education from Hofstra University, and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses at Old Westbury including Methods and Materials of Teaching English Language Arts; Literacy, Research, and Technology in English; Literature in the Classroom; Schools for a Just Society; and English Composition I and II courses. In addition to her work in the classroom, Sieben is the Coordinator of the Graduate Programs in Adolescence English Education.

King's Death Sparked Riots In Hartford 50 Years Ago: A Look At The Lasting Effects

By DAVID HOLAHAN

March 27, 2018



The Windsor Market at Main and Pavilion streets was looted and destroyed by fire on April 5, 1968, the second night of violence in Hartford after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The market and nearby Ben's Package Store were both white-owned businesses. (Maurice Murray | Hartford Courant File Photo)

the paper's only one. He had worked his way up from the inaugural black employee.

Watson wrote the lead story for the next day's paper — although he didn't get a byline. Sending a white reporter into the North End had not been an option.

Even Watson had a tense moment, which he later recounted in a column he wrote about covering the story.

Now a professor at SUNY at Old Westbury on Long Island, Watson recalled that night: "It was very, very violent. It started at dusk with the stoning of white commuters driving along Main Street. There was a Goodyear tire store on Albany Avenue and I watched them burn it down. Fires were all around after that."

John Payne was a senior at Hartford High School, whose enrollment in 1968 was overwhelmingly white. He and fellow black students, including many from Weaver High School, reacted strongly but peacefully to Dr. King's death. The day after the assassination, some 400 of them marched in protest.

"We went downtown to city hall and in front of the library on Main Street," he said. "We marched down Albany Avenue. The police mostly stood and watched. We didn't have any problems; there was no confrontation."

The marchers met with Hartford Mayor Ann Uccello and aired their grievances about discrimination both at school and in employment opportunities. She promised to investigate their complaints.

That same day, as many as 500 Weaver students attended a memorial service for Dr. King at a local church. The Courant reported.

Though he wasn't tossing bottles, John Payne shared the frustrations of his peers who were. Like many of them, his family had been part of the great migration of African-Americans, starting in the 1940s, from the Jim Crow South to northern destinations like Hartford. King himself had traveled from Georgia to Connecticut in 1944 and again in 1947. As a teenager, he worked during the summer in the tobacco fields and had been impressed by the racial tolerance he experienced.

Payne's family had come north from Alabama to settle in Hartford for good, arriving with high hopes. The city's black population more than doubled between 1950 and 1960, from about 12,000 to 25,000 residents.

What they found up north was racism of a different, subtler hue: There were no nightriders wearing white hoods, but housing was segregated and local employers, large and small, from insurance giants and restaurants to cab companies, didn't hire blacks — or if they did, only in minuscule numbers or for the most menial jobs. They could be dishwashers, for example, but not waiters and waitresses, Payne said.

John's brother, Les Payne, an author and award-winning journalist who died this past March 19, described it this way: "We came north looking for better job opportunities, escaping the racist apartheid system and the brutality in the South ... We had rising expectations for places like Hartford and were, in fact, disappointed, if not outright thwarted in some cases, particularly by the criminal justice system. The police were kind of like an occupying army."

Racism took many forms. When Les Payne entered Hartford High School in 1954, the school wanted to hold him back a year. His mother objected, however, and insisted that he be given a test. He passed and proceeded to earn straight As, he said. When he informed his curriculum counselor that he wanted to be an engineer, Payne said the advice he got startled him: He was told that as a black person he should concentrate on an area of study where he could get a job.

Law Brown, a 1960 Hartford High graduate and a resident of the North End, reported on the disturbances for WKND, a local black radio station. Brown, who later had a long career as a reporter for WWIT Channel 30, recalled that the police established a cordon around his neighborhood to contain the protesters.

Hartford residents reacted in various and sometimes violent ways to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who died 50 years ago in Memphis. By 10 p.m. on April 4, 1968, a few hours after his murder, a group of about 100 young African-Americans had gathered at the corner of Main and Pavilion streets in the city's North End.

Hartford Police in full riot gear arrived within the hour and used teargas to break up the crowd, which had grown to 150 people, according to The Hartford Courant. The police, however, couldn't prevent smaller groups of protesters, many of them teenagers, from rampaging around their neighborhood — firebombing buildings and cars, looting businesses, pulling fire alarms, and throwing stones and bottles at police and emergency personnel.

Denton L. Watson, then 32, was in the thick of it. In 1965 he had become The Courant's first black reporter, and three years later he was still the composing room, where he also had been the



Denton L. Watson, now a professor, was The Hartford Courant's first black reporter. He helped cover the riots. (John Butler | SUNY College at Old Westbury)

"The police literally said, or implied, that you can burn down what you want inside that perimeter, but you better not come past the line," he said. "We were on a reservation and we didn't even realize it; we could only go so far. I can walk any part of the North End today and see the vacant lots where buildings were burned down."

Melvin Thomas was 27 and living on Waverly Street in the North End in 1968. "I remember there being anger that people were destroying their own neighborhood," he said. "There was a drug store on Barber Street that got hit and this was the only one for miles. Now instead of walking a block or so, people had to practically go downtown to get their prescriptions filled." He added that a nearby grocery store that was firebombed also never reopened.

A Courant story four months after the riots, headlined "North End Disorders Shove Area Deeper Into Blight," recounted that surviving businesses were having difficulty getting insurance and had lost customers from other parts of the city who didn't want to enter the North End. Many stores closed or moved elsewhere, creating both a shopping and food desert in the North End that continues to this day.

Remarkably, no one died that first April night or in the sporadic violence that continued for the next nine days in Hartford. Nationwide more than 45 deaths occurred in disturbances that rocked 110 American cities. The Courant reported that from April 4 to April 13, police made 46 arrests, 180 fire alarms were pulled, 122 store windows were broken, 25 cars were burned or damaged, 13 robberies were reported, and 27 police and firemen were injured. Property damaged was pegged at \$595,000, the equivalent of \$4.2 million today.

But arguably the biggest impact on Hartford from the unrest of 1968 — when combined with similar disturbances that took place in 1967 and 1969 — evolved over time. The riots served to accelerate white flight, of residents and business owners alike, from Hartford — and not simply from the North End. Urban renewal already was taking a toll on city neighborhoods, and the demographic shift to the suburbs was well underway.

The city's population peaked in 1950, and despite the arrival of some 13,000 African-Americans in the decade that followed, Hartford overall would lose more than 15,000 residents by 1960. In the 1970s its population would drop by another 21,000.

The riots hastened such trends, according to Thirman Milner, who was Hartford's first African-American mayor, serving from 1981 to 1987 (and the first popularly elected in New England). "The downtown area wasn't affected by the riots, but after them the department stores started moving to the suburbs," he said.

"Businesses in the Windsor and Main Street area, which was a marketplace for Hartford, all moved out. Constitution Plaza [built between 1962 and 1964] destroyed the whole downtown of the city as a marketplace. People from the South End and the North End used to come together there on Saturdays. The destruction of our downtown part of the city, that was worse than what happened during the riots."

Milner and others also pointed to positive change that emerged from the disturbances of the 1960s, specifically in employment. Businesses, many for the first time, began actively seeking out and hiring black employees.

Les Payne said he considered himself a beneficiary of the riots, which he believes inspired affirmative action initiatives, both public and private, for African-Americans. Newsday on Long Island, one of the nation's largest daily newspapers, had a single black reporter in 1968, but the following year it hired Payne, a Vietnam veteran and UConn grad, as well as five other black journalists. He pointed to the impact of the 1968 report by the Kerner Commission, which had placed the blame for urban unrest squarely on racism and pervasive discrimination against African-Americans in employment and housing.

King himself had characterized the cause of the civil disturbances of the 1960s most eloquently and concisely: "A riot is the language of the unheard."

"Tragic though they were, the disturbances inspired industry and businesses and newspapers to hire black people," Payne said. In 1974, five years into his long and distinguished career at the newspaper as an investigative reporter, editor and syndicated columnist, Payne would be part of a Newsday team that won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

But the riots were, without question, tragic for the North End of Hartford. In April 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designated it as a "Promise Zone," which confers priority consideration for future federal funding for community development projects.

A HUD handout announcing the designation, one of 20 nationwide, stated that the North Hartford Promise Zone "has alarmingly high rates of unemployment, violent crime, and food insecurity." It went on to report that nearly half a century after the disturbances of 1968, the poverty rate there was nearly 50 percent and unemployment stood at 27 percent. Fewer than 2 in 5 residents were high school graduates.

Thirman Milner, who is 84, still lives in Hartford and has a great-grandson who will soon be a kindergartener in the city's school system.

"I think the education system is key to the future of Hartford," he said. "If you don't stabilize education, what does the future of young people look like?"

There has been progress, of course. When Les Payne was growing up in Hartford in the 1950s, the notion that a black man or woman would become the city's mayor was "unthinkable," he said. But if the riots of the 1960s raised the consciousness of many Americans, black and white, of the urgent need for change, the resulting progress clearly has been uneven.

Denton L. Watson pondered the question of whether the riots woke America up to the struggles of the nation's inner cities. He replied that they did. But he added, "For a while only, only for a while, because look at them now."

Women's Herstory Month at Cinema Arts Centre

In honor of Women's Herstory Month ~ Films & Events at Cinema Arts

By Iris De Vita, Patch Poster | Mar 2, 2018 1:28 pm ET | Updated Mar 2, 2018 5:42 pm ET

NOTHING WITHOUT US

Sunday, March 18 at 2 pm / Members
\$11 / Public \$16

Includes reception and panel discussion
with:



Dr. Margaret Abraham, (Hofstra U.) President of the International Sociological Association

Dr. Diana Papademas, (SUNY/Old Westbury) UN Coordinator/United Nations Academic Impact, SWS/UN Representative

Dr. Jennifer Brown (Long Island University) SWSUN Representative

And other SWS and International representatives to the UN Economic and Social Council and Department of Public Information

Co-sponsors: SOCIOLOGISTS FOR WOMEN IN SOCIETY, A United Nations NGO, an academic, professional association working on international issues and gender equality globally.

From Burundi to the American South, how HIV-positive women on two continents have spent 30 years fighting for treatment, survival - and a place at the table.



Health Insurance For All: What you need to know about the NY Health Act

A FREE Conversations from Main Street Event

Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m.

If passed, the New York Health Act (A. 4738 / S. 4840) will provide for health care for all New York State residents and will eliminate financial barriers to care, while allowing people to go to the doctor and hospital of their choice. Like the rest of the industrialized world, it will give New Yorkers access to health care without fear of bankruptcy. New York Health will treat health care as a human right, not a commodity for those who can afford to pay.

Join Landmark and the League of Women Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset to learn more about the proposed NY Health Act. The evening will include a screening of the short film Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point, followed by a panel and audience discussion of the issues that face us in guaranteeing health care for all.

The community is invited to join the conversation. They'll hear from experts and neighbors voicing a breadth of perspectives and decide for themselves whether they are in favor of the New York Health Act.

Moderating our discussion is Dr. Judith B. Esterquest, Healthcare Chair for the Port Washington-Manhasset chapter of the League of Women Voters. Our panelists are Professor Leonard Rodberg, Research Director for Physicians for a National Health Plan and on the faculty at the School of Public Health at Queens College, CUNY, for three decades and Martha Livingston, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the Public Health department at SUNY Old Westbury and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the New York Metro chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program.

Readers sound off on Judith Clark, the Mets and Poland

By VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

APR 15, 2018 | 3:00 AM



Judith Clark (CUNY TV)



Judith Clark has earned freedom

Bayville, L.I.: I first visited Judith Clark in prison in 1985 while doing research on women and political violence (“Judge hints he may give Judith Clark new parole hearing,” April 10). For 30 years, I have watched her engage in a process of transformation that is unparalleled among those who have participated in heinous crimes in conjunction with radical movements.

Last week, I was present in Manhattan Supreme Court to hear arguments on whether she deserves a new hearing after being denied parole last year. I heard no debate about the board’s finding that Clark is completely rehabilitated, presents no risk of unlawful behavior and will continue to make productive contributions to society upon release. Instead the argument was about which box of letters should weigh more in the board’s judgment: those who know Judy and have heard her express remorse or those who don’t know her but argue that her crime remains permanently unforgivable.

I’d argue that if we as a society have any investment at all in the power of redemption, the credibility of our correctional institutions, the ability of a human being to grow and repair all that can possibly be repaired, Judith Clark deserves a new hearing. She is eminently qualified for release. Gilda Zwerman Professor of sociology and criminology, [SUNY Old Westbury](#)

Which Black People Are Allowed To Trip?

Nicholas Powers

03/12/2018 09:55 am ET

Two major films recently broke a social taboo by showing black people openly and joyfully taking psychedelics. So, is it OK for black people to “trip” now?

In the 2017 film “Girl’s Trip,” and in this year’s “Black Panther,” drug use is in your face. It’s not just weed or rum. Jada Pinkett Smith’s character and her crew swig absinthe. Chadwick Boseman’s Prince T’Challa eats a sacred plant. They. Trip. Hard. How can we accept black psychedelic use after the war on drugs left us scarred by criminalization? One answer is that upper-class privilege inoculates from stereotypes this new imagery of trippin’ black people. It is respectability politics, under the influence.

The Drug Brute

One of our oldest racial myths is that lower-class black people are wild. In Thomas Dixon’s 1905 novel *The Clansmen*, he wrote of Gus, a black Union soldier who raped a Southern belle: “He stepped closer ... his flat nose dilated, his sinister bead-eyes wide apart gleaming ape-like.” Here is the Brute caricature, a dark, lustful male whose terrifying face floated in the white mind. No wonder that in the political debate over drugs, he appeared in a 1914 *New York Times* report titled “Negro Cocaine Fiends are a New Southern Menace.” It tells of a cop arresting a black man high on cocaine: “The crazed Negro drew a long knife, grappled with the officer and slashed him.”

I saw Gus’ cinematic descendants in ’90s hood films and in news reports of the Los Angeles riots, and didn’t even know it. He shot Ricky in “Boyz in the Hood.” He was handcuffed on TV as Nancy Reagan sadly watched. He assaulted Yvette in “Baby Boy.” When I was growing up, I sometimes saw him in the mirror.

The Brute became the Drug Brute. The war on drugs is more than a century old, and has always been racist. It could be Mexicans with weed, Chinese people with opium or black people with cocaine. The lesson was clear: Drugs make dangerous, animalistic “coloreds” even more dangerous. Jail them if they try it. And for white people, the warning was also clear, from 1936’s “Reefer Madness” to the late-’80’s “This is Your Brain on Drugs” ads: Avoid using drugs or you, too, will become an oversexed criminal; you will become effectively “black.”

The Psychedelic Exception

Drugs are bad, bad, bad. Don’t fry your brain. Don’t get hooked, turned out, tricked, looped, addicted or cracked-out. Our speech flows with negative drug imagery. Except for psychedelics. They help you heal or trip, or go on an inner journey to realign your chakras. They reveal your inner child or tell you to follow your bliss.

Since the 1960s counterculture, LSD, mushrooms and MDMA have been separated from narcotics and given a benign, gentler halo. A user isn’t a violent brute or junkie, but is an “explorer.” We see this character in the Grateful Dead’s music or in Carlos Castaneda’s 1968 book *The Teachings of Don Juan*. We can also see it in American cinema, with films like 1969’s “Easy Rider,” 1984’s “Dune” and 2009’s “Taking Woodstock.” Spanning the different genres is the scene of psychedelic exploration.

Yet this archetypal trip scene was off limits to people of color. The first major American film that treated mild psychotropic drug use, marijuana specifically, by people of color was Cheech & Chong’s now-classic 1978 “Up in Smoke.” It circumvented the scary brute caricature by using a stoner comedy style that bordered on buffoonery.

It worked. Mainstream white audiences lapped it up. Decades of “Amos ‘n’ Andy” prepped them to laugh along with 1998’s “Half Baked,” 2001’s “How High” and 2014’s “Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle.” These new Asian, Latinx and black stoner comedies didn’t show psychedelic explorers, but bumbling, munchie antics that let white fans laugh at people they didn’t need to fear, but also didn’t need to take seriously.

A Girls’ Trip To Wakanda

“I feel funny,” she slurred, “Y’all feel funny?” Lisa Cooper (a funny Jada Pinkett Smith) stumbled in the club, hallucinating on absinthe. It was the hilarious set piece in 2017’s “Girl Trip.” Her friends roiled in visions and danced. One, played by Queen Latifah, dry-humped a lamp, thinking it was a slick-haired Fabio model. The audience howled.

In this year’s “Black Panther,” Prince T’Challa (a stoic Chad Boseman) drank psychedelic, the heart-shaped herb, sending him into the spirit world, where he met his father, the former king. The theater was in awe.

Millions in the U.S. and around the world saw these movies. Knowingly or not, they also saw the racial integration of a previously all-white psychedelic narrative space. The films did the work of shifting the image of black bodies under the influence from the brute criminal to the bumbling stoner to a freer one of joy, pleasure and exploration.

The films follow the real-life path of people of color navigating today’s counterculture. Folks are showing up at Afro Punk (an annual head-thrashing weekend of music in Brooklyn), spoken-word events, Afrocentric spiritual retreats and even Burning Man.

The price we pay for entry is whitewashing. In real life, tickets to these experimental spaces are too high for the masses. In media, the characters we identify must be economically privileged to render their psychedelic explorations benign. The sistahs of “Girl Trip” are middle class. T’Challa is king. Audiences see them as respectable, which eases racial stigma, but doesn’t erase it.

Yet the kernel of the psychedelic experience is the “oneness” that transcends race and class, a sense of connection with everyone and everything. Whether it’s LSD, mushroom or MDMA, the ego is dissolved, and an openness to memory and fantasy and sensation are possible. It’s a truth missed in the very way these stories are told.

We need more narratives of black psychedelia. We need to see beyond the brute or junkie, the weed buffoon or middle-class hijinks, or even a noble monarch. We need to see psychedelics used by people of color in therapy or at a concert, visiting a historic site or during sex. Maybe a film of black activists on an LSD road trip?

Psychedelic stories are one path into the vast inner space of the black soul. It is a place of abundance and mystery. It’s a trip worth taking.

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. .

APRIL 19, 2018

Opening Pandora's Box: Karl Grossman on Trump and the Weaponization of Space

by KARL GROSSMAN - TJ COLES



Photo by NOAA Photo Library | [CC BY 2.0](#)

Trump's missile attack on Syria was guided by space-based satellites. I asked award-winning journalist, author, professor and space weapons expert Karl Grossman about the prospects for peace and survival under Trump and his moves toward space weaponization. "With the arming of the heavens, the kind of attack with Tomahawk and other missiles we've just seen in the strike on Syria would be succeeded by strikes with space-based weapons – those of the U.S. and other nations – from overhead," says Grossman.

Raytheon is developing anti-satellite weapons, presumably for use against other countries. Under Trump, there's talk of re-viving the nuclear energy sector. What's your take on these developments?

KG: This flies in the face of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, signed now by most nations on Earth, and seeking to keep war out of space and designating space a global commons for peaceful purposes. Moreover, if the weaponization of space proceeds, it will be accompanied by a nuclearization of space. Reagan's "Star Wars" program was predicated on orbiting battle platforms using on-board nuclear power systems to provide the energy for particle beams, hypervelocity guns and laser weapons. His concept has remained a military preference. As a "Strategic Defense Initiative" commander once declared, without nuclear power in space there would need to be an extension cord from Earth bringing up power for space weaponry.

The US already has the Air Force Space Command. What do you make of Trump's advocating for a "Space Force"?

If the U.S. makes space a new arena of war, moving ahead with space weapons, creating a "Space Corps" comparable to the Marine Corps (as Trump is calling for) it will be opening up a Pandora's Box. It can be expected that China, Russia and then other countries will react by following in kind.

What's the way forward?

For decades, most of the world's nations have supported a treaty for a "Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space" (PAROS), but the U.S., despite whether there was a Democratic or Republican administration, has balked and refused sign on to PAROS. The nation which has led in advocating PAROS has been, incidentally, U.S. neighbor Canada, with China and Russia giving their full support. Not too incidentally, it was the U.S. along with the U.K. and Soviet Union that were the key in the creation of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. They understood then the horror ahead by the arming of the heavens. Now we have a Trump administration, wild on issue after issue, which is extreme in opening space for war— it must be stopped.

Professor Karl Grossman teaches at the [State University of New York College at Old Westbury](#) and is the author of several books, including *Cover Up: What You Are Not Supposed to Know About Nuclear Power* and *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat To Our Planet*.

T.J. Coles is a postdoctoral researcher at Plymouth University's Cognition Institute. His books include *Voices for Peace* (with Noam Chomsky and others) and *Fire and Fury: How the US Isolates North Korea, Encircles China and Risks Nuclear War in Asia*.

TOP STORIES

DACA recipients in

Courts keep program alive for now, fueling uncertainty

BY VICTOR MANUEL RAMOS
victorramos@newsday.com

For more than a half-million young immigrants nationwide protected from deportation under a controversial program known as DACA, the date March 5 has been a big "X" on the calendar through six months of vitriolic political debate and legal wrangling.

That date — Monday — took on special significance when the Trump administration in September announced it planned to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which covers many immigrants brought illegally to the United States as children. After that, they no longer would be able to renew their participation.

Now, the day will come and go, without change. Federal court orders have blocked the administration's move, and most of these immigrants, largely in their teens and 20s, will be able to stay in this country — for now.

But with the shaky status quo comes much uncertainty. They have no way of knowing whether their permission to stay will later be extended or rescinded. In bitter, polarizing feuds over immigration, Congress has not coalesced around a compromise to give them a path toward permanent residence.

"We are living our lives day to day, just waiting and waiting," said Josselin Paz, 20, who grew up on Long Island and is a junior at SUNY Old Westbury studying industrial and labor relations.

Paz, a Salvadoran immigrant, is but one of more than 43,000 approved DACA recipients in New York who could lose the shield from enforcement over the next couple of years. She has about a year left before the work permit she gets under DACA expires.

It seems pointless to think about the future until the matter is resolved, she said.

"You have passed through all these emotions, that at some point it's kind of numbing," said Paz, who was 3 when she came with her parents to the United States on visas that have since expired.

She has worked to excel in school, holding multiple jobs to pay tuition without financial aid, and she believes she belongs here. "I would love to see something happen that would ultimately lead to citizenship and doesn't criminalize my parents," Paz said.

DACA recipients such as Paz are part of the larger population commonly referred to as Dreamers, an estimated 3.2 million young immigrants who came and stayed in the country as minors, not necessarily knowing they were in violation of immigration laws.

Determining DACA's fate

When Donald Trump was campaigning for president, he gave mixed signals on where he stood regarding the DACA recipients' status and continuation of the DACA program, which was established in 2012 under an executive action by President Barack Obama.

Critics of the program and proponents of strengthened immigration policy saw it as a way of circumventing immigration laws and granting amnesty to a select group.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, at a Sept. 5 news conference, declared an end to DACA, saying the policy was an unconstitutional exercise of executive authority. The administration's action gave about 154,000 program recipients across the country, whose permits were set to expire, a chance to renew before the March 5 deadline.

MORE ONLINE
Dreamers, DACA: A breakdown of immigration numbers.
newsday.com

THE DACA PROGRAM

■ A June 2012 executive action by President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA.

■ In September, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump administration would phase out the program.

■ That action is on hold because of orders by federal judges in San Francisco and Brooklyn blocking it.

■ As of Jan. 31, the number of applicants approved for DACA was 807,447, according to government figures. As of the September policy change, those currently in the program hovered around 690,000.

Top states for DACA recipients
California: 226,215
Texas: 126,022
New York: 43,932
Illinois: 42,959
Florida: 34,329

Top countries of origin for DACA recipients
Mexico: 635,378
El Salvador: 29,109
Guatemala: 20,464
Honduras: 18,715
Peru: 9,200
Brazil: 7,492
South Korea: 7,352
Ecuador: 6,789
Colombia: 6,674
Philippines: 4,728

Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



Josselin Paz, 20, a DACA recipient who grew up on Long Island.

The battle regarding the DACA recipients' long-term status reached a stalemate as the requests of those who file for renewal are considered and tallied.

Recipients of the program had to meet multiple criteria for a chance to stay, such as being a student or having graduated or served in the armed forces. They were able to register, pay fees and receive work permits, which opened the doors for them to work legally and obtain driver's licenses.

After the Trump administration's announcement that it planned to end the program, the issue gained such prominence that it caused a brief government shutdown in January, as Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and other Democrats sought legislation for those immigrants.

Trump responded with an

offer at his State of the Union address later that month to give "a path to citizenship for 1.8 million illegal immigrants who were brought here by their parents at a young age."

All those plans failed and the debate devolved into finger-pointing.

The day after the vote, Trump tweeted: "Cannot believe how BADLY DACA recipients have been treated by the Democrats ... totally abandoned!"

Schumer, in a statement sent to Newsday on Feb. 16, criticized Trump for sinking the bipartisan compromise. "This vote is proof that President Trump's plan will never become law. If he would stop torpeding bipartisan efforts, a good bill would pass," Schumer said.

Since then, the issue hasn't

gained traction in the other chamber of Congress.

"There's not a lot to suggest that the House has an appetite to take up a solution," Gelatt said, although she added that the outcome of the federal court cases "would put more pressure on Congress."

The push for a legislative solution enjoys support among most Long Island representatives, with Reps. Kathleen Rice (D-Garden City) and Thomas Suozzi (D-Glen Cove) having said they would support versions of the Dream Act, legislation dating back to 2001 that would create a path to legal status for young immigrants who were brought here illegally or who overstayed visas. And Rep. Peter King (R-Seaford) is co-sponsoring

with Rice a bipartisan bill offering legalization and bolstering border security.

"The American people want us to solve this problem that President Trump created, and if we don't do it soon, we're going to see young, hardworking, law-abiding students, workers and service members handcuffed and kicked out of the only country they've ever really known," Rice said in a statement.

Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-Shirley) has expressed misgivings about granting legal status but said he remains open to proposals.

"Many of these children involuntarily came to our country very young, have been here for a long time, go through our education system, love our country and are looking to stay here and greatly contribute to our economy and nation's future," Zeldin said in a statement. "What I struggle with the most is how you can possibly allow someone illegally in our country to be given preference over someone who is ... following the rules and respecting our laws" and waiting their turn to migrate legally.

King said that "it's important both morally and politically to get it done" for so-called Dreamers who were brought to this country as children. He sees a legislative deal as an achievable goal.

"Think how far they've come. Democrats never wanted a wall and they are willing to put money up for the wall. Most Republicans never really cared about DACA and now they are willing to go from 700,000 to 1.8 million" people on a program, King said. "To me, there has to be a way to make this work."

TOP STORIES

limbo at deadline



Long Islanders at a 2016 demonstration in Washington, D.C., for congressional passage of a Dream Act for young immigrants brought to the United States illegally as minors.

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DJ Sandra Dee opens up about her radio career and Radio Disney

By Markos Papadatos Mar 29, 2018 in Music

DJ Sandra “Dee” Cerrone chatted with Digital Journal about her career in radio, which includes Radio Disney. She also opened up about the digital transformation of the radio industry.

On her radio career, she said, “I have been doing radio since May of 2002 (I am celebrating my 16th year in radio this year). While attending Nassau Community College, it was time for me to obtain an internship. I went to my career counseling office wanting to get an internship for a record company. It was being a fan of music, specifically the Backstreet Boys that drove me to Radio Disney’s advertisement. To the day, I still have the flyer in my paperwork that Radio Disney was ‘looking for a few good mice.’ I’ll never forget the questions on that paper. The second I saw Backstreet Boys I knew this was for me. So one day before graduating community college I faxed over my resume. It was then that I got my answer.”

Regarding her Radio Disney background, she said, “I started in 2002 as a promotions intern, which included office duties, and simple events (setting up, attending to the public, and breaking down equipment). It wasn’t until my internship was over that I stuck around to help out with events. A local and friend DJ ‘Jenny Gem’ first got me on the microphone at a 7-11 on Long Island. Needless to say, I needed some work, a lot of work. After months of practicing at home with my sisters, my Promotions Manager Jennifer Zappola decided to give me an audition. It was then that I became a local host of the NY/NJ/CT Metro area and DJ Sandra Dee was born. I did events both small and large, from local businesses to Disney Channel media events. I also assisted with our local PSA radio show called the ‘Kids Concerns Show.’ Radio Disney was a place I not only gained friends and family for life, but I grew into my professional career throughout my 12 years at a place I called my second home.”

Her proudest professional moment involved interviewing The Jonas Brothers. “One of them that sticks out in my head is when I hosted a Q&A at the mall with The Jonas Brothers. Afterwards, their label and dad requested I help host their private CD release party at Planet Hollywood in Times Square. It was then I became pals with the JoBros and became ‘Big Sister Jonas.’” she said.

Dee continued, “Another proud moment is taking the steps to learn how to work a board to create my own show. I am so grateful to my family and station manager at OWWR. If it wasn’t for the love and support of all of them I wouldn’t be able to have the Sweet Beatz show. While at OWWR, I’ve had the extreme opportunity to interview so many incredible artists. I’d have to say I one of my most memorable interviews has to be Sean Fuller, drummer, from Florida Georgia Line (FGL). He does so very much with being on the road with FGL and also goes out to schools to motivate young kids on following their dreams. He was one of the most inspiring people to speak with and a true example of someone who does so very much for others around them.”

She listed The Backstreet Boys and Rascal Flatts as her dream interview choices in life. “The sole reason I am in this industry is because of my favorite band, The Backstreet Boys, I’d have to go with them. I’d also love to interview my favorite country band of all time who are responsible for having me fall in love with country music Rascal Flatts,” she said.

On her plans for 2018, she said, “My plans are to expand my brand and creating my idea with my show to bring it to a national level. I more recently expanded myself by being invited by WBCW Networks Florida Country Radio who has decided to graciously carry my show on their station. I’ve even dabbled in and started doing a morning show on FL Country Radio. I really enjoy interviewing artists on the rise. Giving people out there not just audio, but a visual of me interviewing those artists is important to me. Also, allowing fans to become more interactive in that process also is very important. I want to be a female Dick Clark and am shooting for those stars.”



Digital transformation of radio

On the impact of technology on the radio industry, Dee said, “Technology has certainly put a strain on the radio industry. We have cell phones, which allow everyone to listen to their own music in the cars or on the go. People like to chose when they play music, how they play it and more importantly, when they want to. Many cars are now fully capable with Tune In Radio App, Sirius, etc. In turn, people would rather listen to less commercials and instead more music. Podcasts have also taken over mainstream radio. Will the radio industry even exist in the next few years? I’m not even sure. I honestly think radio may cease to exist in the next few years.”

As a radio host, Dee regularly uses technology in her daily routine. “As a radio host, posting on social media about entertainment news, upcoming interviews for my shows, and what I’m doing in my personal life is important,” she said. “I know for me if I’m not posting at least once or twice daily on certain social media apps, then I know I’m not doing my job. I also try to get more and more creative with my posts to engage with my listeners, fans and the public. I have fans who continue to follow and support me from my Radio Disney days and now moving onto other things in my career. I like keeping everyone in the loop of what’s going on.”

For aspiring radio hosts, Dee said, “Work hard, show your passion, make connections, ask questions, know your craft and add to it all the time.”

She concluded, “In this business, it’s unfortunately about who you know, but also what and how much you know. Be a sponge, soak up every experience, and learning experience as you can. Stay relevant on everything and be on top of your craft. Remember there is always someone who is your competition. Building you brand and who you are as a radio host is very important. Don’t just play the part, look the part. If you want a job, you have to put a good impression out there. Never give up in achieving your goals. Walt Disney said it best, ‘If you can dream it, you can do it.’ DJ Sandra Dee won’t give up or go away until my dreams become a reality.”

To learn more about DJ Sandra Dee, check out her official Facebook page, and her main radio station website.

Read more: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/entertainment/music/dj-sandra-dee-opens-up-about-her-radio-career-and-radio-disney/article/518584#ixzz5H0Stmh00>

The Press



America has this thing where it likes to change the slogans of social movements to better represent the white middle-class community. For instance, Black Lives Matter has been altered to All Lives Matter. What more could you do to slap a community right in the face? Well, Trump was able to give a backhand to the Latino community in his 2018 State of the Union by asserting, "Americans are Dreamers too!"

Trump's relationship with the Hispanic community can be described in no other word but ambiguous. One month he says that Mexico is sending drugs and rapists, but, the next month he says that they are amazing and hard working people. The same ambiguity could be said about Trump's opinions on Puerto Rico. So, by saying that Americans are Dreamers too is quite strange.

Without a doubt, the termination of DACA; which affects about 800,000 recipients, and the termination of the Temporary Protected Status; which affects about 200,000 participants, makes the prospect of roughly the one-million Hispanics living in America completely ambiguous.

These Hispanics who participate in programs such as DACA and TPS have had to face the decision of what to do after their documentation has expired. After being permitted to live in America for almost over a decade, it's no easy task to pack your bags, leave the country and restart your life. They are not getting any younger, nor do they have time on their hands to arrange a lucrative fallback plan.

They're in a precarious predicament of "what now" and face the decision to either stay and hope for the best or be forcefully relocated to a strange land that has little to offer them. Nevertheless, hope still shines throughout the Hispanic community with protests showing America that the community won't back down without a fight.

As for the thousands of Dreamers, immigrants, and first-generationers out there, they hold their own opinions about the whole ordeal of things. Below are the thoughts of two first-generation Americans and their own opinions on the current status of Hispanics in today's America.

Evelyn Lopez, a freshman at Stony Brook, is a first-generation Mexican-American who has seen her family build a life here and support her so that she can have the opportunity to pursue higher education. She is secretary of the Stony Brook chapter of Long Island Immigration Student Advocates (LIISA) and is an advocate for minority rights. These are her thoughts:

Do you think there are any misleading connotations about Hispanics in America?

"The biggest one I've been hearing lately revolves around speaking Spanish. People think that Spanish is not welcome here, but we are welcome to speak whatever we want. I feel like Hispanics are seen as below. Hispanics have lower jobs and people expect you to be like that. My parents, unfortunately, weren't able to get a good job here, but they have something. I have the privilege and opportunity to go to school and do something better. The stereotypes people hold against you can really put you down because that's what they think you're gonna be."

Do you feel welcome here? Why or why not?

"It's half and half. Half of the people are welcoming. But the other half are the racist people and I have seen that a lot since Trump became president. The minute that you defend immigrants, the minute you define that you're Mexican, suddenly they put a stereotype that you're not worth anything. Would it be different if I were white? It puts you on the edge. I feel like I live in limbo. I don't belong in the states and I don't belong in Mexico. I feel like I don't fit into both. Mexicans would say I'm too American but Americans would say I'm too Mexican. So what the hell am I?"

Cristiano Chavez is a first-generation Salvadoran-American who has lived in Long Island for his entire life. He graduated from [SUNY Old Westbury](#) with a BA in psychology and is currently enrolled in a master program for social work at Adelphi University. Like Evelyn, he is apart of LIISA and has his own opinions about the current attitudes toward Hispanics.

How do you feel about the current administration and its relationship with the Hispanic community? How do you feel about what's happening with DACA and TPS?

"It makes me feel livid. I'm always upset on updates about DACA and TPS. TPS is what a lot of Salvadorans rely on. I have loved ones that I spoke to and they were like, 'I don't know what to do. I have to go back and I can't go back.' I view it like this, the recent administrations are ones that opened the gates to the inner racial prejudice and discriminatory ideas that people have had for decades. People didn't want to talk about it because they knew it was something that shouldn't be talked about. But with recent changes on how the country views these communities, the president is talking about it so that means others could talk about it too. It triggers headaches because people don't understand that the government is so powerful. What the president says could change the minds of millions."

First-generation?

"First generations is more of a privilege. It's a privilege because my parents had to go through the most to get here and to be born in a hospital, to have my social security, and to have my birth certificate. It is something that not everyone in the Latino community has. Being first-generation is also a struggle to understand. For you to ask your mom why do we have to do this instead of that. You start to see what you are able to do and not able to do. It's very confusing for a lot of children while growing up."

These thoughts are only a few that represent the thoughts of thousands of Dreamers, immigrants, and first-generationers. In such mystery times, the Hispanic community has come together to fight back such repression. They have shown the determination of what can be defined as The American Dream. So, what does it mean to be Hispanic in an America which seems to trifle them?

Cristiano Chavez

"So as a Latino, I define it as an understanding of what makes me, me. I embrace being Latino by talking to people. As important as it is to educate others, it's important to educate yourself. I embrace it just by being myself or learning something I didn't know about the Salvadoran culture. In my community, I support the local Central American businesses. Instead of going to Applebees, your local pupuseria esta ahi (local Spanish restaurant is there). You got to support them because you help your community. You have to see where your money goes."

Evelyn Lopez

"To be Hispanic is to be proud of your roots. Proud to be brown. Proud of being from an immigrant background. Represent it whenever you can, but not only represent it but defend it. You're allowed to stand up for immigrants despite the backlash. Also, loving yourself and loving your community. I feel like Hispanics are family-based, so I feel like we should embrace that to continue helping our community, because if it's not us, then who will?"

To answer my own question I like to put in these words:

Being a first-generation Salvadoran-American has a lot to do with how I see myself. Yes, I do think that Hispanics are portrayed in misleading ways but then again which ethnic group is not? I know that this whole immigration issue is no simple task and if I had no connection to this community of immigrants maybe my ideology would be different, but, it's not. Nevertheless, I do feel welcomed by parts of the country; some more than others but not by everyone.

I have seen my parents struggle to give me what I need, and at times, what I want. Knowing that my parents have gone far and beyond to make my life easier provides me with this burden of doing life right by getting a stable job and having attainable, but realistic, goals. I am the lucky few for having been born with the proper documentation, for having parents who were TSP recipients but later obtained citizenship, and not having to worry about what's going to happen in the following months. However, I can't say the same for my cousins, aunts, uncles, and anybody else who is affected.

I just know one thing for certain, now more than ever is the time to represent my culture. Now more than ever is the time to represent all of our cultures. Not only if you are Hispanic, but if you're African, Asian, Middle Eastern, or Latino don't ever stop representing what makes you, you. Because if it's not you, then, who will it be?

Women Leaders Band Together

By Jill Nossa - March 9, 2018



Several local women leaders have come together in an effort to enable women to break down divisive barriers that prevent inclusion and challenge unity with the formation of the Long Island Women's Diversity Network, which will be holding a Women's Diversity Summit on Saturday, March 24. The goal of the summit will be connect and empower Long Island women from diverse backgrounds, and to provide an opportunity to discuss and learn about the fight for equity, overcoming discrimination and promoting self-care.

“With the current political and social climate in this country, I feel it is more important than ever for everyone, especially women, to speak up and be active locally,” said Annie Phillips of Glen Cove. “After the

women's march in 2017, many of us were looking for ways to stay involved and motivated.”

The Long Island Women's Diversity Network is a project of Every Child Matters and Action Together Long Island.

“The formation of this network will allow women a place to foster a unified and inclusive sisterhood that will begin the work of educating Long Islanders around issues and policies that impact many of our local communities,” said Shanequa Levin, Every Child Matters-LI campaign director and the Diversity Network's chair, who was born and raised in Glen Cove. “We hope that by supporting activism and working together to address problems like equal economic opportunities and children's issues, our members can raise greater awareness about the social justice movement here on Long Island.”

The summit will be held on Saturday, March 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Campus Center, SUNY Old Westbury**. The summit will include interactive, experiential and engaging workshops, panels and presentations. For more information, visit www.liwomensdiversity.com/summit2018. The keynote speaker is Autumn Rose Miskweminanocqua (Raspberry Star Woman) Williams, the current Miss Native American USA 2017-2018. During her year as Miss Native American USA 2017- 2018 she intendeds to travel as much as possible to spread her message of empowerment.

Phillips said she was invited to attend the initial planning meeting for the summit and was inspired to see so many diverse women from across Long Island coming together for the purpose of empowering women in this area.

“I am proud to be a part of this event and to work with this amazing group of women. And while we continue this journey to create an event that will empower and educate Long Island women, it has become much more than that,” said Phillips. “The Long Island Women's Diversity Summit will also celebrate our differences and cultures and raise awareness that we are stronger together and can make a difference for ourselves and for our daughters.”

After the summit, there will be a student-led march at **SUNY Old Westbury** in conjunction with the national March For Our Lives movement.

Women's Diversity Summit at Old Westbury March 24

By The Island Now

March 20, 2018

The newly-formed Long Island Women's Diversity Network announced the schedule of workshops and panels for their first Women's Diversity Summit to be held on March 24 at [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#).

The conference has over two dozen workshops and panels that cover a wide range of topics including race and ethnicity, children and youth issues, exploring LGBTQIA lives, advocacy and activism, women and politics, and the impact of social inequality.

"This conference is held in honor of Women's History Month, and our goal is to celebrate all of Long Island's diverse communities", states Shanequa Levin, Every Child Matters-LI campaign director and the Diversity Network's chair. "The strong lineup of programs represents our attempt to engage participants in lively discussions and active learning around meaningful topics for 21st Century Long Island. Participants should expect to leave the Summit with different perspectives on the complex issues we face today."

Levin continued "One of our more thought-provoking panels is 'The Language of Cultural Awareness: Using Words that Connect, Heal and Empower.'

Adesuwa Obasohan, from the National Council of Negro Women, will be moderating a panel of diverse community advocates to discuss the use of language and how it impacts the general public's understanding of and connection with minority communities."

The first Women's Diversity Summit will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at the Campus Center of [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#). The Summit runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with plenty of time to socialize and network. The 2018 LIWDN Summit is a project of Every Child Matters and over 30 other community-based organizations and is co-sponsored by [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

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Vallejo Admirals extend spring training invites to Fisher, Mordecai, Pope

By Times-Herald staff report

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The Vallejo Admirals have extended 2018 spring training invitations to Brandon Fischer, Ryan Mordecai and Michael Pope. The three were all selected by the Admirals on Saturday at the Pacific Association tryout in San Rafael.

“We are excited to invite these three young men to spring training and look forward to their competing for spots on our 2018 roster,” Admirals assistant general manager Matt Snyder said in a news release.

Fischer, a middle infielder and a native of Long Island, N.Y., appeared in 17 games for the Ottawa Champions of the Can-Am League during the 2017 season. Fischer played his collegiate baseball at St. Thomas Aquinas College, an NCAA Division II institution in Sparkill, N.Y., adjacent to the Hudson River.

Mordecai, who attended the tryout as both an outfielder and a pitcher, comes to the Admirals from **SUNY at Old Westbury**, an NCAA Division III school on Long Island. The Patterson, N.Y. native made previous collegiate stops at both Delaware State and Westchester Community College. Mordecai will attend the Admirals’ spring training session as both a pitcher and a position player.

Pope, a right-handed pitcher and native of Walnut Creek, joins the Admirals from nearby Cal State East Bay. The former baseball and football standout at Walnut Creek’s Las Lomas High School, was featured as a Pioneers’ starter in 2015, his senior season. Pope earned All-CCAA honors at the Division II school in Hayward.

The Admirals are preparing to defend their Pacific Association championship, and have announced the release of the club’s 2018 promotional calendar.

Individual tickets to Admirals games at Wilson Park are now available, and the purchasing process is simpler than ever before. Guests are invited to point their browsers or mobile devices to the Admirals’ tickets permalink, bit.ly/admiraltickets, and may also click “Buy Tickets” from the vallejoadmirals.com “Tickets” menu. Special rates for groups are available all season long.

In the spirit of “All Community, All Fun,” the Admirals are lining up another schedule of promotions and special events, tailored to appeal to baseball newcomers and diehards alike.

On opening night on May 31, the Admirals hoist their championship banner at Wilson Park, and host the season’s first contest against the Pittsburgh Diamonds.