

# THE BANNER

## CSI Marks Ninth Anniversary of the Tragedy of 9/11

BY KEN BACH  
CSITODAY.NET

White clouds and blue skies were the backdrop for the College of Staten Island's September 11th remembrance and reflection program at the World Trade Center Memorial.

The audience, comprised of students, faculty, staff, and alumni, gathered at the Memorial Garden, whose focal point is two steel girders from the towers for the brief and poignant program.

Dr. William Fritz, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs opened the ceremony with greetings from CSI President Tomás Morales, adding "This is a campus where students come to fulfill their dreams and to gain skills to complete their career goals; the irony is that we are here to remember and honor those whose careers and dreams were cut short." Fritz noted that Staten Island and the CSI campus were particularly impacted, adding that "CSI

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Photo from: Justin Sarachik

*A fond farewell to the Cup...*

## The Emerging World's Economic Rise



Photo from: assetsofnow.com

BY THOMAS BRIGANDI  
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

Since the global financial crisis began in late 2007, the only bastions of steady economic growth have been emerging market nations. In the past, the developed economies of the United States, the European Union, and Japan have been the forces behind the direction of the global economy. However, the global economic scene is changing profoundly. We are currently in the early stages of a significant shift occurring in the balance of economic power.

If current trends in the global economy continue, there is little doubt that the 21st century will not be an Asian Century, as cited by numerous policy makers and academics. With rapidly growing middle classes, vast populations relative to the developed world, and budding domestic industries, some emerging countries are poised to overtake the developed nations in terms of overall gross domestic product within the next few decades.

A good example of the emerging world's rising status is China's recent dethroning of Japan as the world's second largest economy. Only a decade earlier, China's economy was roughly half the size of Japan's, but huge economic gains over the past few years have helped China solidify its title as a chief player in the global economy. China's rapid industrialization has made it a leader in many sectors of the global economy and as a result, has drastically changed how the world does business, especially in the manufacturing sector.

Today, China is not only the world's second largest economy, but also one of the world's largest creditor nations and holds hundreds of billions of dollars in United States debt. In effect, China has been a lifeline for the United States through its purchase of our debt, financing myriad government expenditures from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to entitlement payments to seniors.

However, if the current fiscal situation in the States is not remedied by lowering our dependence on foreign creditors to finance our ballooning expenses, China's economic influence will most likely increase with its holdings of our debt. This is just one of many examples which point to the emerging world's growing economic and political strength.

As a result of China's staggering economic gains over the past three decades, there has been much speculation about how long it will take China to eclipse the United States to become the world's largest economy. Estimates from various companies and think tanks vary when it comes to specifics but each points to a world in which China will be the largest economy within the next few decades.

PricewaterhouseCoopers, one of the world's largest professional services firms says China will take the United States' spot as top economic power in as soon as 2020. On the other hand, Jim O'Neil, who is the Chief Economist of Goldman Sachs, recently said China will overtake the United States by 2027.

These estimates point to a strong likelihood of a radically different world in a relatively short time frame. In addition to China, countries like India, Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa are growing

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## Alif: The First Letter in Arabic

BY SUNDAS NAZIR  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Now among the modern languages, CUNY College of Staten Island is offering Arabic classes.

Baruch College, Brooklyn College, City College, Hunter College, Medgar Evers College, Queens College, have been offering varying courses in Arabic including Arabic literature, Arabic script, Arabic cinema, Muslim culture and dialects of a few Muslim countries. ARB 214 Advanced Communication Skills in Arabic, will comprise of a deep exploration of written and oral expression through composition, translation, oral reports, and critical study of Arabic grammar based on the analysis of selected literary and cultural materials, as stated in course description.

Born and raised in Egypt and educated in Egypt as well as abroad, Professor Mohamed Badr was leading the Arabic Program at Berlitz Wall Street for three years. First professor to teach Arabic at CSI, he has taught Arabic at Columbia University. Additionally, with a Bachelor's in English Literature, Professor Badr has spent seven years teaching English in Egypt at private US-funded schools and has received numerous Teacher Achievement Awards.

"It is the main language in the Middle East which has substantial political and economical weight worldwide," said Professor Badr, "most importantly, it will build bridges of communication between Staten Islanders and the Arab world."

"I feel that Arabic is a language that is still overlooked by many people. I'm interested in learning Arabic because besides learning another language I want to be able to learn about the Middle East and North Africa. As an English major I'm interested in literature from different cultures including Arabic literature," said a CSI student.

CSI offers American Sign Language, Chinese, French, Italian and Spanish, and from now on Arabic. Students who wish to learn Arabic will not need an e-permit to take this language at other CUNY colleges. However, "this is the pilot project to see how much demand there is for the language," said Professor Badr, when asked why is it starting from an advanced level and not introductory.

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# American Democracy Project

## Manufactured Mosques

BY MICHAEL MILEY  
STAFF WRITER

So over the past few weeks many of us have seen and or heard of this controversy about an Islamic group originally named Cordoba House, after the famed Spanish mosque (turned Catholic Cathedral after the Reconquista) in Cordoba Spain which was considered a cultural and important learning center in Muslim Spain, the name was changed to Park 51 (after the likes of notable liars and general schmuck Newt Gingrich rewrite history to exemplify Cordoba as Muslims conquering and changing the local culture, which has happened, the Haig Sophia in Istanbul the largest most important church in Greek Orthodoxy being turned in to a Mosque complex is a major example, but there are plenty of examples of this behavior in every religion, the sites of ancient Greek and Roman temples turned into Catholic churches are proof of this, but this is only nominal to the importance of the discussion at hand) are trying to build a community center in lower Manhattan two blocks away from "Ground Zero". Now first I would like to declare my neutrality on the religious issue of this, being as I'm an atheist and I have long held that every religion is a waste of time equally (well that's not true Scientology I have found to be the most absurd out of a plethora of incredibly insane absurdities by far, the Buddha sleeping under a tree for thirty years is more believable, but I digress), so if I'm biased towards religion in anyway its in thinking that it is a waste of time; now on to correcting some of the misinformation about the community center with Muslim backers that has enraged a fearful (and lily white America).

First of all the site isn't even on "Ground Zero", to the first of the phrase "Ground Zero Mosque", is completely false. The building in question is a former Burlington Coat Factory about two blocks going up town away from the area that was formerly the World Trade Center. Now with in that radius, as has been pointed out time and time and time and yet time again, are a number of fast food joints, retail shops, strip clubs and places that sell pornography yet where is the outcry to have those closed? So when people say that it's just like if you built a museum about German Culture in Oswiecim next to Auschwitz concentration camp how offensive that would be, (I always find that people constantly use analogies about why it is offensive

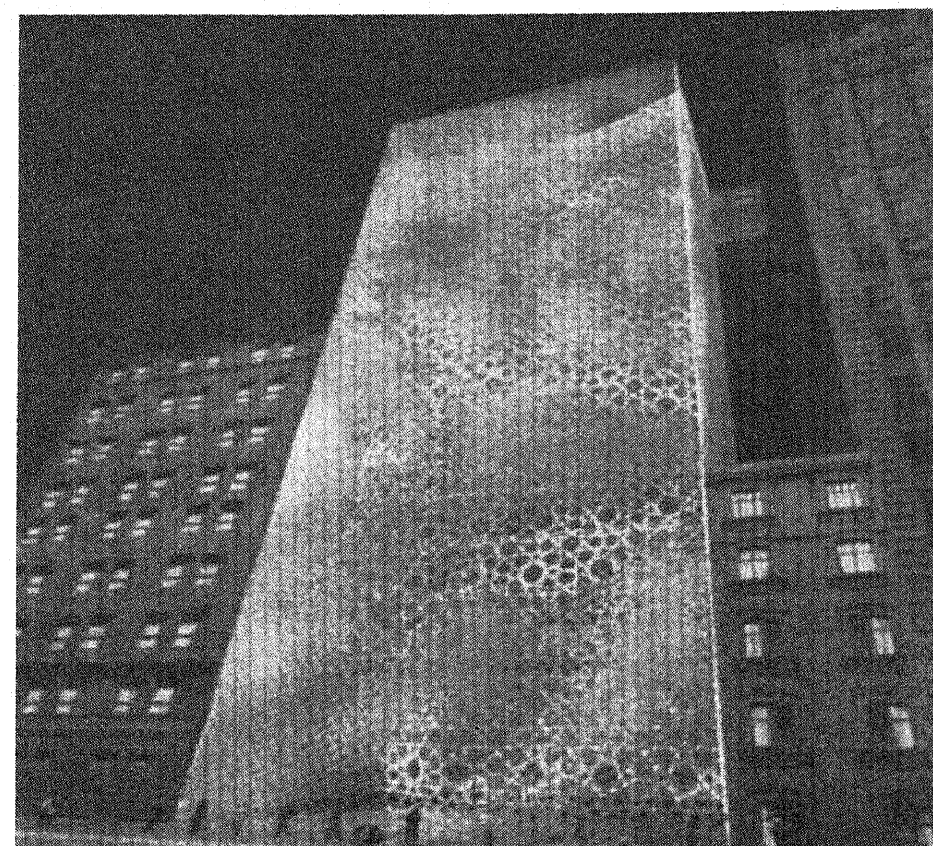


Photo from: thebusysignal.com

instead of just saying why it is to be rather odd), but wouldn't it be just as offensive and insensitive to have a number of porn shops next to the site where a million, plus people were systemically murdered? So unless people start calling for the closing of every strip joint and porn shop in whatever radius they deem is appropriate (since I guess we as a nation have decided to let a minority of xenophobes dictate how we treat people in America), that being the only way for them to avoid seeming like unabashed racists (I doubt, as you can tell they will be this ideologically consistent).

The Second major knock against the "Ground Zero Mosque" is it's not even a mosque! It is a community center with basketball courts and space set up for cooking classes as well as a prayer room, so unless were going to qualify every JCC and YMCA in existence as a synagogue or church, than calling this center a mosque is just plain batty.

The level of discourse in this has also been rather insane with people foaming about it being a 13 story tall mosque (as just noted it's not a frakking mosque), the 13 story building isn't going to be loaded wit muezzins and minarets, the interior an exterior of the building, as noted a former Burlington Coat Factory is going to be worked on. Further more the prayer room inside the building is already currently in use and there is an actual mosque just about one or two more blocks further up making an actual mosque about three or four blocks away from Ground Zero, a mosque that has been there for the better half of 35-40 plus years, considering that it was there before the World Trade Center was even built, and in the near decade following those awful attacks of September 11th 2001 there has been no

mostly used by the Muslim students of CSI for prayer.

With this information in mind I once again can see no reason to not build this community center there. What better place than the site of the worst tragedy in recent US history committed by extremists than to send out the hand of brotherhood and understanding and say that not all of us are like that and we stand against it? What more what I have found at least some what ironic is that the people that have been publically against it (i.e. Republicans, though the fact that now many Democrats are hopping on this band wagon exposes them for the weakened milquetoast liberals they are who never really want to upset the status quo even when it is being set by bigots) have been those who rage from the rafters about how any form of government taxation or involvement as "evil socialism" want government involvement to stop someone from developing their private property. Now yes they say that no one is saying they can't build it, but what they are saying is you can't build it right there, even though it is their private property, that they own, now I'm no fan of capitalism or private property (in this case I mean the private owning of land) but even I can see its wrong to suspend these people's rights to use their property in the way they want simply because people are fearful or what ever inane reason that has been given for opposition to the community center.

This issue has been very overblown, for the simple reason that this is an election issue that conservatives are using to divide opinions in hopes of drumming up support for them and I will not be surprised when this dies down right after the elections this November. But the effects of hyping up this hate towards Muslims has dire consequences for America, as all ready can be seen in Tennessee where the building equipment at the site of an actual mosque being built there was torched by a local resident not even to mention the stabbing of a Muslim cab driver by a mentally unstable New Yorker, which is even more disturbing when one looks at the increase in violence against Muslims and other ethnic groups that Americans in their ignorance think "look" Muslim, Sikhs come to mind as there have been several high profile attacks against them in the years since 9/11 since they wear turbans. With this in mind the up coming issue of Third Rail will be featuring a discussion on the development of the community center near Ground Zero and we would like to hear from you the readers, what do you think on this topic? So please email your questions or comments to thirddrail-mag@gmail.com.

outry about it being there, so why all of a sudden now about a community center a block to a black and a half closer? But no matter what people keep insisting that having it there is offensive and insensitive, and for the life of me I can't understand why (it helps that I'm not a bigot) and really bigotry, xenophobia and racism are the only options that make sense to me. Since the community center is being built by American Muslims, Americans who just so happen to profess a belief in the Islamic faith, yet many people have painted Muslims as an outside Other, that some how Muslims can't be American and so that even though there were many Muslims killed on September the 11th, they some how don't deserve a place in it as a national tragedy and to find their very faith offensive and deserving of being ostracized, Otherized and left out of the narrative of that day, that is racist, no ifs ands or butts, it is plain racist.

Now some people have taken the stance that they are for building the community center since it is with in their first amendment rights but insist that the entire area should lack any specific religious connotations. Now this is frankly ridiculous, if for anything Trinity Church an institution in lower Manhattan that has been there the better part of two centuries, so just on a historic perspective that cannot and should not be done away with. Besides the point that there are important historical landmarks in the area that are religious, just to repeat what I said above the community center is not a mosque and is only as religious an institution as a JCC or a YMCA, having a prayer room does not make a building a religious institution, or perhaps that building 1C is now a mosque since with in it is a non-denominational prayer room that is

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at brisk paces. These nations will change the economic landscape of the world as they and their citizens build not only wealth, but also political power.

Brazil, like China, is a quintessential example of an emerging economy growing at a staggering pace. According to the article "Brazil's booming economy - Flying too high for safety" from The Economist, "New skyscrapers are going up along Avenida Faria Lima in the business district of São Paulo. Sales of computers and cars are booming, while a glut of passengers has clogged the main airports. Brazil created 962,000 new formal-sector jobs between January and April—the highest figure for these months since records began in 1992. Everything indicates that over the past six months the economy has grown at an annualised pace of over 10%. Even allowing for an expected slackening, many analysts forecast that growth in 2010 will be 7%—the highest rate since 1986." The economic expansion that Brazil is currently undergoing is quite profound, even with deflationary pressures afflicting the major economies; Brazil keeps expanding its industries at a swift pace.

Emerging nations are rapidly growing even as the developed world painful-

ly struggles to get their economies back on track. However, even though these industrializing nations are growing, that doesn't mean that their economies are not filled with economic uncertainty.

There are multiple factors in each economy that could easily halt economic growth. Potential political instability, poor demand from the export sector, or weak growth in domestic consumption could all derail economic growth in any emerging economy. Additionally, such a stall could bring about a serious downturn as the emerging economies are not as structurally sound as developed countries like the United States or Germany, even though they seem to be the drivers of the global economy at this juncture.

Consequently, the major emerging economies have been centers of growth, but are still subject to all the potential risks of any nation still in the early stages of development. That being said, these countries still have huge growth potential and many decades of economic growth until they reach that potential. As a result, these countries will most likely continue to grow in both economic and diplomatic influence over the next few years.

*Thomas Brigandi is a Macaulay Honors student and is majoring in Finance and Accounting. He also is a Registered Securities Representative. He currently holds the Series 7 and Series 63 Securities Licenses.*

### Internship Opportunities @ The Banner

The Banner is now offering internships to CSI students. Internships take place for one semester and offer opportunities to learn about Journalism and New Media. Through these internships students will become involved in the operation and production of The Banner. Interns will work a minimum of 12 hours per week.

Depending on the type of internship students will learn about and assist in blogging, correspondence, editing, fact-checking, graphic design, layout & production, photography, reporting, web design, etc.

For more information visit us in 1C-228 or contact us:  
Phone: (718) 982-3116  
E-Mail: the.Banner.csi@gmail.com

## Welcome from the President

A Message From CSI President Tomás D. Morales, PhD

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I welcome back our returning faculty, staff and students. For those who are new to the College, I extend to you a very warm, "Welcome to CSI." Today, as we commence the start of the 2010-2011 academic year, there is much to reflect upon, much to look forward to, and especially much to celebrate.

At the top of the list of our reasons to celebrate, student enrollment continues to flourish as more and more students are choosing to attend CSI. For the fourth consecutive year, CSI has experienced record enrollment (over 14,000 students). More than just the overall numbers, the academic profile of this incoming class has reached heights unparalleled in the history of CSI.

As a testament of our commitment to those students who have chosen CSI for its excellence in education, we also celebrate the arrival of an extraordinary group of 18 new faculty and several new administrators to the CSI community. This extremely accomplished cohort of faculty and staff represent some of the most promising talent in their respective fields, and they are certain to contribute to our evolving status as a world-class educational institution.

We can also now reflect upon a remarkable summer in which CSI established itself as a global destination for cultural exchange and academic excellence. Approximately 200 students from prestigious middle and high schools in and around Shanghai, China visited CSI this

summer as part of the Continuing Education Summer Camp Program to learn and study English and Art. This international partnership resulted in a transformative experience for the visiting Chinese students as well as the CSI students and staff who served as gracious hosts.

Looking forward, the 2010-2011 academic year will be a time filled with momentous activity and progress in CSI's Middle States reaccreditation process. More than 130 members of the broad campus community, assigned to 7 different working groups, are involved in this process which will culminate in a visit to our campus by the Middle States Commission evaluation team in 2011-2012. Additionally, the Institutional Planning Committee (IPC) will continue to develop CSI's new Strategic Plan which will guide planning and decision-making at the College for many years to come. Through its hard work and diligence, the IPC has already successfully finalized the College's new Mission, Vision, and Values statements as well as the Strategic Directions that form the foundation for the Strategic Plan. I encourage you to visit the Strategic Planning web site which can be accessed from the CSI home page or at <https://www.csi.cuny.edu/planning/>. When prompted for your username and password, type in your e-mail name and e-mail password and you will be able to log-on.

On behalf of the College, I thank you for your continued support, and I wish you a great year at CSI.

Sincerely,

### Check Out The Banner On The Web



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<http://thebannercsi.wordpress.com>



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## BANNER BRIEFS

A Roundup of CSI News

### Free Performance of The Knights at the Center for the Arts

The Center for the Arts (CFA) at the College of Staten Island proudly presents The Knights in the Springer Concert Hall on Friday, September 24, 2010 at 7:30pm. Tickets for this performance, which is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Michael Shugrue, are free, but reservations are required and recommended.

The adventurous Knights, led by "interpretive dynamo" (The New York Times) Eric Jacobsen, will perform an ecstasically diverse program including works by Schubert, Osvaldo Golijov, Saint-Saëns, Ives, and The Knights' own Colin Jacobsen. This concert, which will take place immediately prior to an extensive tour of Germany, also features soloist Edward Arron, described by The New Yorker as "one of New York's most exciting young cellists." The Knights are a fellowship of 40 musicians who cultivate collaborative music-making and who creatively engage audiences in the shared joy of musical performance. Based in New York City, The Knights expand the orchestral concert experience with their diverse programming and innovative formats. Many members of The Knights bring talents that go beyond traditional orchestral skills; there are composers, arrangers, singer-songwriters, and improvisers who bring a range of cultural influences to the group. The chamber orchestra's extensive repertoire features traditional and contemporary masterworks of classical and popular music.

Members of The Knights have performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Israel Philharmonic, and Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Orchestra. Come treat yourself to a night of beautiful music.

Tickets can be reserved in person, by phone, by mail, or online through the CFA Box Office, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Building 1P, Room 113, Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday from noon to 3:00pm. Please call 718.982.ARTS (2787) for more information.

CSITODAY.NET

## Program Gives Hong Kong Visitors a Chance to Intern in the U.S.

BY TERRY MARES  
CSITODAY.NET

The CSI Center for International Service's Summer Professional Internship has recently given six students from the City University of Hong Kong the opportunity to intern for approximately six weeks in a local business or not-for-profit organizations.

Yi Ming Lam, a Junior studying Communications who interned at the Staten Island Museum, said, "This experience is beyond my imagination...I never thought that I'd get [an internship] as good as this one. The [museum] was fabulous. They were willing to teach and guide me...This experience helps me to develop my future career in my field of study, communications, and I think it's important to me to know what's going on on the other side of the world."

Hoi Ling Lee, a senior majoring in English for Professional Communications who interned at Staten Island Community Television, enjoyed learning something new. "I knew nothing about [television] before starting my internship, so whatever I do at the TV station is something new to me. I learned a lot of things about TV production. This is a new field for me, a new industry that I've never gained any exposure to. Now I'm thinking maybe I can enter this industry later on." Junman Huang, a senior Political Science major who interned at Mary's Pence, a Catholic organization that works toward empowering women through economic



Victoria Cox and Barbara Clark (far left) pose with the six City University of Hong Kong students.

independence, added "I learned a lot of things in New York like the culture and the working attitude that the people here have."

Other participants in the program were Man Lai Lam, a sophomore Communications major who interned at CSI's Staten Island Small Business Association; Qing Shi, a senior Media and Communications major who interned at DesignAmerica; and Po Kwan Ho, a sophomore in Policy Studies and Administration who interned at College Bound.

The goal of this pilot program is to enhance the students' English language skills, while giving them the chance to experience what it is like to work in the U.S. The students, who arrived last June, received two days of training regarding working in the U.S. Most of them worked an almost full-time schedule and stayed in private homes.

The Center's Victoria Cox, who spent a lot of time with the students, commented, "My experience with these six tremendously gifted City University of Hong Kong students has been wonderfully enriching for me personally, from my perspective as their educator in the EPP [English Proficiency Program] class and later serving as their internship business mentor. It has been a joy for me to watch these students successfully navigate the somewhat tricky terrain of the world of work, and cheer them on through victories and occasional setbacks. Transitioning from student to professional can be difficult for any university student, but to overcome the added complexity of working in a foreign American land with different customs, mores, and language, not to mention working through the difficulties with the MTA/Staten Island public transportation system, is a tremendous achievement for all six of them."

Summing up the program, Barbara Clark, Assistant Director of the Center for International Service, noted, "We have been very pleased with the 2010 Professional Internship program for The City University of Hong Kong students. Not only has the experience strengthened the interns' understanding of the world of work here in the United States, but it also has helped us build new relationships with the Staten Island community, as well as strengthened our ties with the City University of Hong Kong. Judging from the final presentations given by the interns, their experiences here in Staten Island and at CSI have been life-changing. We certainly hope to continue the program next year."

## CSI President Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

BY CSITODAY.NET

College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomás D. Morales was honored by the New York League of Puerto Rican Women (NYLPRW) at their annual gala on August 19.

President Morales received the NYLPRW's Lifetime Achievement Award in Education for his longstanding efforts in supporting traditionally underserved and underrepresented groups, including notably Puerto Rican women, gain access to higher education. The City University of New York's (CUNY) Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson presented the award to President Morales.

The NYLPRW is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting Puerto Rican women in their pursuit of higher

education by providing them with the financial support necessary to obtain a college degree. The proceeds of the 2010 College Awards Gala Dinner Dance went toward the funding of their College Awards Program. The League's College Awards offer a \$1,000 scholarship toward each Puerto Rican undergraduate woman selected for her academic excellence and service.

One of this year's undergraduate award recipients was Jennifer Villaran, a CSI sophomore who was recognized for her academic excellence as well as her efforts in giving back to the community. Ms. Villaran has tutored middle school and high school students at the Hope Gardens Community Center and has helped raise money for the Kuleba Exchange for the college education of students in Rwanda who have survived

genocide.

In accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education, President Morales thanked the NYLPRW, its President Edith Padilla, and the Board of Directors for the tremendous work they do in helping Puerto Rican women pursue higher education and transforming their lives in the process. In his closing remarks, President Morales indicated that students like Jennifer Villaran and the other undergraduate award recipients reaffirm his unwavering belief in the principles of diversity and inclusive excellence. As stated by President Morales, "I believe, and will continue to believe, in the value of diversity and inclusive excellence at the College of Staten Island, in higher education, and in our lives."

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lost more of its family than any other institution in higher education. Today we remember our alumni and members of our campus who names are engraved on the memorial before us." "The aftermath of the Sept. 11th tragedy remains close in hearts and our minds in a way that will never allow us to forget those who died in this tragedy in New York City, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC," said Dr. A. Ramona Brown, Vice President for Student Affairs. "People from all walks of life continue to have a special bond in this country, across the globe, and in Staten Island. Many of our residents from Staten Island and many CSI alumni are among those who perished and are among those we are here to remember and honor. We come together today for a very special program where our faculty, students, and staff will give special presentations

to commemorate the Ninth Anniversary."

A highlight of the program was a reading of "Rise," a passionate original poem by CSI Professor Tyehimba Jess.

The morning included Stephanie Geraci performing on violin the second movement of Antonio Vivaldi's Concerto in A minor, Op. 3, No. 6, and thoughts were shared by Robert Miller, student and member of the CSI Armed Forces Club.

The reading of alumni names was presented by CSI Alumni Board Members Lynen Libert '06, and Robert Ferone '86. Closing thoughts were given by Elaine R. Schenk, MEd, Catholic Campus Minister.

Dr. Brown concluded the morning by announcing that the CSI Prayer and Meditation Room is open from 8:00am to 4:00pm for students, faculty and staff, and that the Counseling Center is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm for those wishing to speak with a counselor, either alone or with friends.

"Alif: The First Letter in Arabic"  
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With the addition of this language, students who need to review it will be capable of marketing themselves in today's professional world by being bilingual in addition to connecting with their original families back home.

"The Arabian Gulf hires a great deal of people from the West especially in the field of Economics," explained Professor Badr. Surely, the introductory level will start from Alif, which is the first letter in Arabic Script, and then, to endless opportunities to work abroad.

Moreover, language is vital when it comes to connecting to both other ends of the world as well family. "Arabic will help students understand both the Arabic and Islamic cultures which is very important in today's world, especially, in the midst of the common misconception about Arabs and Muslims in general," emphasized Professor Badr.

With hopes for "CSI to develop a full Arabic language program," one student is already considering future options and wants to "learn Arabic to study in Dubai and possibly teach there for a few years."

**Do you have something to write about? Has any of the stories written in the Banner helped to inform you? Or has it not informed you? Let us know what you think. You can send your comments and concerns to us by sending an e-mail to:**  
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## A Fresh Look at Scholarships

BY CUNY.EDU

If you think your grades aren't good enough to qualify for a scholarship, think again, says Sussie Gyamfi, BMCC's scholarship coordinator. "Students often labor under the misconception that there's no point even applying for a scholarship if their GPA isn't at least 3.0," she says. "While grades are important, scholarships are often based on a range of factors, such as financial need, campus activities, special talents and skills, and community involvement. Grades may be only part of the picture, and well-rounded students sometimes have an advantage over those with higher GPAs."

A wealth of possibilities

In addition to scholarships offered by the BMCC Foundation, financial aid is available from many outside organizations and even, in many cases, from the employers of students' parents.

BMCC Foundation scholarships for full-time students require a 3.0 GPA and provide \$2,800 a year; scholarships for part-time students require a 3.3 GPA and pay \$1,440 a year. But criteria for scholarships available from other sources vary widely and may or may not include GPA thresholds.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a full- or part-time student, a U.S. citizen or undocumented," says Gyamfi. "Don't take yourself out of the running because you've simply decided you don't have a chance." The mission of the scholarship office, she adds, "is to ensure that every eligible BMCC student seeks out and applies for a scholarship."

When it comes to researching scholarships, starting early is critical. "Completing the application can take time, and there are deadlines for filing," Gyamfi says. "Don't wait till the last minute to pull

your paperwork together, get your recommendation letters and write your essay. Also, be aware that if you apply and are selected this semester and you're awarded a scholarship, it won't be till next semester—or possibly next year—that you'll receive money."

First things first

As a first step, she encourages incoming freshmen to visit the scholarship office as soon as possible—"ideally on their first day of classes"—and schedule an appointment to see her. "I can provide you with a list of useful web sites and walk you through the search process," she says. Starting early and enlisting Gyamfi's guidance "will definitely increase your chances," she adds. "We can brainstorm about the types of scholarship you might be eligible for and the best ways to apply for them." She also encourages students to set aside time at least once a week to search online and be aware of application deadlines.

Students are sometimes overwhelmed by the prospect of having to write an essay and wind up not applying. "That's a mistake," says Gyamfi. "In most cases, all that's required is a brief statement articulating your goals and dreams and the qualities that you feel set you apart." In any event, she maintains a list of faculty members who are willing to edit application essays. "But, again, get to them early, so you know they'll be available," she advises.

While the competition for scholarships can be intense, Gyamfi says, "There are ways to improve your chances. The important thing is to start early, think ahead and talk to me. I'm here to help."







## There's Something About Mona

Young Muslim Women's Strong Sense of Purpose an Inspiration to All

BY MAMAIE CHARYOE  
CONTRIBUTOR

In a society obsessed with pop culture it is unexpected to meet those who challenge the norm. Outspoken and reserved, Mona Mitchie is someone who is full of surprises. The twenty-two year old Bay Ridge native has had a life centered on wholesome family values and her strong faith. While most people in their 20's consider this to be an age of exploration full trial and error, Mona is one of the few people who has an understanding of who she is. She wears her hijab with pride regardless of the discrimination she faces because of her religion. She is a Shiite Muslim, but rather than hide behind her

differences she revels in them. "I really could care less what people have to say about me," Ms. Mitchie revealed with conviction. "Discrimination makes you stronger and increases your self-awareness and self-pride.

She is the youngest of nine children, and has always found her family and culture to be a huge focus in her life. She always loves to spend time with her family, and watches them grow stronger in their faith as she has. This family bond has made her extremely hesitant to invite others into her life. She is very secure in admitting that she does not have a social life, and does not feel like she one in order to feel accepted by society. She has always felt that family is more than enough. While many of her peers at Fort Hamilton High School were heading for college in 2006, she went to Lebanon in the midst of a tragic war. The Shites were Israel's main target in this national conflict. Most

of the areas that were hit were villages and suburbs that were home to many innocent civilians.

This situation hit home on so many levels. "I had to come to the realization that I would be later in my education than my peers," she said. However, I felt like I needed to be around my family during those traumatic times." This decision shows Mona's unrelentless dedication to her family.

She gained became more aware about what was happening while being in the middle of such a huge conflict. She decided to stay in Lebanon for a year and returned back to America with a new found purpose. It was to remain dedicated to her religion, using it as a platform to reach out others. In the national conflict, she became aware of the distortions, she believes, exist in the America. She feels that many media platforms slanted stories to benefit the Israeli army. Yet, she was there and she saw first-hand the innocent civilians dying, the parentless orphans wandering the streets, and her family's home destroyed. Throughout all of that she has maintained her faith in her God, Allah. She can testify that her faith has allowed her to go through life,

remaining hopeful.

Mona is aware that she is different. However, what she does not understand is how closed minded many young adults her age are. She is often amused at how often people speculate, rather than attempting to honestly get to know her for who she is. "It's so funny when people immediately assume that I am boring and isolated because of my faith," she said. If they only knew that I watch the shows they watch and I am a die hard Yankees fan."

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# BANNER ARTS

## Aspire, Inspire, Expire- the Last Cup Show

The moment of clarity is upon me...  
It is now that I realize...  
I am awake  
Where lies my fate...  
- Moment of Clarity (Process of Fusion)

BY JUSTIN SARACHIK  
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

Sweaty, hot, humid, claustrophobic, a capacity crowd in too small of a room- emotions, love, tears, memories of some of the best days past.

It's where some got their start, and a place where some came to listen.

While still others dreamed of bigger things, and some to not be taken so serious.... This is the Cup.

Ten amazing, talented, frequenters of the Cup, set to close out the Cup in style with one more jolt of passion:

Misery Loves Company, Backlashes and Bad Ideas, Rise With The Fallen, Spread the Rumor, the Threads, Julius C, Process of Fusion, Every Night Drive, It's Not Over, and Through the Year.

This isn't an article post necessarily about the show. I can honestly say that if you weren't there, the scene can not be described to you. This is more of my personal reaction to the night and a rallying call to my fellow bands or music lovers.

(Dedicated to everyone in a band that has ever played the Cup, and any fan who has paid money to see a few non-professionals play.) Thank You

This is the place that my band (and countless others) have called home. POF has only been playing the Cup for a little over two years, but in that time lasting friendships, bonds, and countless moments have been engraved in my memory.

I remember my first show at the Cup as I'm sure you do. I remember seeing the Corrao Q, Julius C, and another friend's band, Mophead. I was still drumming in my basement with Pat, and making crappy cassette recordings of terrible songs. "The Cup man, if we could just play the Cup, we'd be so legit." I remember feeling that way. It's not possible to be a band and not play the Cup, it's what you have to do. It's a funny thought, because many people couldn't stand it and are glad that it closed.

To me, that's irrational thinking. Where else could you get on a show so easily? You didn't have to sell tickets, you didn't have to travel to the city, and there was no pressure to perform. Have



Photo: Justin Sarachik

you ever been booted out of the Cup? Have you ever been told that you can not play your music there? No. The Cup was that perfect place to just show up and play. Anybody could do it, whether most talented or talent less. It gave you that shot, it gave you that chance to build a local fan base, and most importantly it gave us starving musicians a place to play.

I've played shows in many different places and I have fun looking back, but there is nothing that hits me quite like POF's CD release show, or the power and emotion that was left on the stage by everyone the 31st.

Ten bands played on August 31st, and they left it all on stage. It was an actual opportunity to play like it was the last show of your life, and for some, maybe it was.

Yes, I understand the Cup closing could be a blessing in disguise, but at the same time you can never have it to fall back on. With the Cup being gone, the bands that "want it bad" will move on and find shows elsewhere. But it's very hard to get all your fans to travel to Jersey or Manhattan etc. That's the way music works though, go somewhere else and make new fans... it sounds so simple. Be prepared to start all over again. The last show at the Cup had about 200 people there (give or take). How's it going to feel going into some club and playing in front of five people?

Here comes the adjustment period, and the "good" bands will make it. The ones who are passionate enough to do whatever it takes, will make it, and that's awesome. Just don't forget where you came from. Don't forget the seemingly lazy promoting of a cup show that still insured about 40 to 50

people. Bands, it's time to work. Everyone thinks music is dead on Staten Island, the Cup being gone is another shot in the arm. But let's roll with the punches, let's do it together. Let's show Staten Island, we are here!

ASPIRE

We all have aspirations and dreams. We all want to achieve something great with our lives. For me personally, I want to leave my fingerprint on this world. I want to touch lives through music and give those same experiences back that I've felt listening to a favorite CD. Some aspire to be rich and famous, and that's fine. Just be sure to have a goal. Two of my musical dreams were to play the Cup, (got to do about 30 times or so) and put on a great show like Every Night Drive after I played with them for the first time. (Thanks E.N.D. for some motivation!)

INSPIRE

Inspiration is a two way street. You can either be inspired or inspire something. Both of these things happened on the 31st. I was actually inspired by the amazing crowd. I felt the raw energy, I felt the need to step up, I felt important. I was so overwhelmed with happiness from the time "Misery Loves Company" played up until the end of "Every Night Drive" when I realized my "band heroes" where playing their last song. E.N.D. you guys have inspired almost every band and fan you've played in front of. Spread the Rumor, you ladies inspire other girls you play in front of and let them know it's okay to rock with the boys. Rose from my

band and Kate from Rise with the Fallen, you girls too! Be a person of influence. When we finished our set someone told Dylan, that he inspired them to be a better guitar player. That's so cool.

EXPIRE

All good things come to an end. The Cup is closed, deal with it, move on, but never forget all the good times. Be proud of everything you have ever accomplished in it. Someone at the show told me that we could be the next Every Night Drive. At first I was flattered, but now as I think about it I will disagree. I don't want to be Every Night Drive, I want to be Process of Fusion. I don't want to see another Through the Year, another It's Not Over, another Backlashes and Bad Ideas, I want everyone to be who they are as I'm sure they feel. The only thing I wish to take from Every Night Drive is the ability to inspire and humbly take people under their wings. The Cup has expired, E.N.D. has expired, what will you do?

I put the "Moment of Clarity" quote up top because it rang true for me last night. When I said "I got inspired by the crowd", it really happened. I had a moment where I knew that music is something I will do for the rest of my life. I have to, I must do it, and I won't stop until something happens. As I became choked up at the end of the night (I must admit, I cried) in thinking about all the wonderful people I have met because of the Cup. I thought about all the love that was in the room, and the sweaty hugs and handshakes. I thought about how we may never all be in the same room together again. I began to think that no matter how bad I want music to be my life; my life may not be music. That's life, and we'll see where it takes us all. So to the Cup, RIP. If you do open up again in a few months it won't be the same.

Thank you to everyone who came out on the 31st, thank you to Manny for putting together such a wonderful show and being a big brother to me. Thank you to every band I have ever had the privilege to share the stage with. And thank you to the countless friends and fans for their continued support of local music and for always making us musicians feel needed.



# Woods of Arden

BY JUSTIN SARACHIK  
CO-MANAGING EDITOR

The members of Staten Island rock band, Woods of Arden, were brought together by a series of circumstance and a little luck.

Most of the members live in the "Woods of Arden" area of Staten Island. The two original members and guitarists, Mario and Greg, placed an ad on Craigslist looking for a lead singer. Current vocalist Alex, who was new to America after coming from Bulgaria, replied to the ad by sending in "Chris Cornell type vocals" according to drummer Mike.

The band, forming in 2004, reached its current lineup around March 2005 consisting of:

Alex Kostav- Vocals  
Mario Traina- Lead Guitar  
Greg Gioia- Rhythm Guitar  
Jordan Wolfson- Bass  
Mike Gambino- Drums

Woods of Arden describes their sound as heavily 90's rock influ-

enced. Think of the grungy elements of the Stone Temple Pilots and the more alternative side of Foo Fighters and Woods of Arden falls somewhere in between.

When asked, what you can expect from a WOA show bass player Jordan said simply "A good time." Matt chimed in with "We're about having fun, and we want people to feel the same way."

Some of the band's accomplishments include a packed out performance at Webster Hall in front of 3,000 people in 2006, and returning trips on Meany Fest a tour for emerging artists and musicians. Also under their belts are three EP's, one in 06, one in 07, and one being released soon.

And speaking of soon, the album drops on November 12 with a CD release party at the Gramercy Theater hosted by Livenation.com. Playing along with WOA and also hooking them up with the sweet venue is fellow S.I. rockers, Dead Men Dreaming.

Although the Gramercy Theater won't be the biggest venue capacity wise for WOA, they realize the importance and the possible positive repercussions of this show. Mike and Jordan spoke about this being their biggest chance to get noticed, and make significant process on the band front. But Jordan keeps in perspective saying, "Success is perspective." Meaning everyone's perceptions of being successful is different. They obviously wouldn't mind some fame, but as long as their music is getting spread to a wider audience they'll be happy.

So what does the future hold for Woods of Arden? Jordan says, "Playing more shows out of state and building a bigger following." Mike says "A lot more time recording, maybe everyday. So far we are most proud of the current album. Also we want to be a good band, not just a good band on the island."

Hopefully after November 12, Woods of Arden can finally break through into an industry they worked so hard to reach.

## Public Service Announcement

College of Staten Island  
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For further information, please visit the Career and Scholarship Center (1A-105) or contact us at (718) 982-2300.

# BANNER OPINION

## REALLY ARE YOU SERIOUS?

BY JAMES KINGSLEY  
STAFF WRITER

I'm sure many of you have seen the new license plates, and they are horrible. Have you seen these things? They look like someone wanted to make a sandwich with them, and didn't eat it. I was driving around the other day and I look and see this weird license plate on a black Malibu. So I was like yeah that looks so wrong. I figured OK maybe someone got a custom plate, so I continued driving until I saw more cars with them and I was like what the heck is going on here. I asked a friend of mine about these plates, he told me, "the state made it that we are getting new license plates now." I looked at him and was completely dumbfounded at this notion, that New York the state on the verge of being broke is seriously making new and ugly license plates. Really are you serious this is an outrage that these lawmakers can't save a hospital responsible for saving thousands of lives, yet they make these stupid license plates. Now I know we live in a world full of idiots and greedy morons.

For those of you that aren't sure what hospital I'm speaking of it is St. Vincent's where some of you and your parents may have been born in. Yet the great wisdom of Governor Paterson, the Senate, and probably the Mayors office is to make these ugly 1970s or 1980s throwback license plates. Not only have I seen these plates on the road and at CSI, I've seen them in my own housing complex, it's horrible I implore New York to go back to the old ones. Speaking of seeing these plates, I watched the original Ghostbusters movie and I saw the same plates, now I know I'm living in a throwback version of the old days. I owning a green car don't think that a yellow mustard license plate is going to look good on it. So yeah the saying, Really Are You Serious? Really does mean something here.

Since I'm in a ranting mood, first it was the license plates (Yuck). Now I go to something more important, the closing of St. Vincent's hospital that I mentioned before. I was born in St. Vincent's and upon hearing it closed I can only imagine the anger and heartbreak. Not only have all of

those nurses and paramedics lost their jobs, but the community there has lost their lifeline. They have to travel to Bellvue, Beth Israel, Hoboken, and NYU uptown, believe me when I say this if it's a major emergency these poor people will not make it. Don't get me wrong I love New York, but I don't love our "beloved" leaders. Had they been smart (which would've been a miracle to say the least) and I may get arguments from people, but hey it is their opinion, our leadership should've kept some of St. Vincent's most important areas such as; Cardiovascular, Trauma, and others. So one thing to think about people as you read this, St. Vincent's Hospital is the only hospital in the village and it was one of the MAIN reasons why many of the September 11th victims survived, because of its trauma unit. So if you think it's fair that the New York government and even the United States government saves banks over a hospital that's up too you, but remember this if there is ever another or worse 9/11 then keeping St. Vincent's would've helped a lot more. I may be reacting a little crazy, but then again I'm not reacting like I don't care nor not know what I'm talking about. So think about it, and I pray that no one is ever in a dire situation where St. Vincent's could save them. As the headline goes Really Are You Serious?

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# BANNER SPORTS

## NFL Begins, NHL, NBA WRAP UP:

BY JAMES KINGSLEY  
STAFF WRITER

With the Major League Baseball playoffs starting to take form as the regular season ends, two other sports are already in their off seasons while one sport is soon to be starting up once again. In the National Hockey League playoffs, the Chicago Blackhawks defeated the Philadelphia Flyers in a hard fought and very entertaining six game series. Patrick Kane scored the cup clincher and captain Jonathan Toews have brought Chicago its first Stanley Cup championship in forty-nine years. The NHL's off season has been a quite long and controversial one at that. The New Jersey Devils first tried to sign winger Ilya Kovalchuk to a record breaking 17 year \$102 million dollar deal, however, the NHL though nixed the deal. It took six long weeks for the Devils and the NHL too agree on a deal, finally happening on September 3rd 2010. The Devils had agreed with an NHL approved deal 15 year \$100 million dollar deal for Kovalchuk. Several other minor moves had former longtime Dallas/Minnesota Star center Mike Modano joining the Detroit Red Wings for one year. In addition, former Stanley Cup winning goalie of the Chicago Blackhawks, Antti Niemi, signed with the San Jose Sharks for 1 year. In another none player deal, the NHL and the NHLPA (the National Hockey League Players Association) have agreed to a deal that will now and forever block all long term contracts. For instance, the Devils

Kovalchuk deal, Canucks Loungo deal, Bruins Savard deal, Blackhawks Hossa deal, and etc. would not happen again.

The National Basketball Association season ended in an entertaining and very much incredible seven game series as the two most decorated NBA franchises the Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers battled it out in the finals. The Lakers went into the finals as the defending champions while the Celtics were hoping to repeat their 2008 championship victory over LA in the finals. This however, was not meant to be as the Lakers lead by All-Star Kobe Bryant defeated the Celtics and Paul Pierce, Kevin Garnett, and Ray Allen to once again become the now defending back to back NBA champions. Although the NBA finals was a subject for discussion, what really had people talking was the Free Agents. Some of the biggest names in the NBA were to sign with anyone they wanted to. The Big Three of Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh, and LeBron James were linked to many teams most notably the Bulls, Cavs, Knicks, Clippers, Nets, Heat and even the Lakers. Many fans in New York had hoped that LeBron would join the Knicks. That though wouldn't happen on the "Kings" ESPN special headlined the "Decision" LeBron James decided to leave Cleveland and spurn the Knicks to join Wade and Bosh in Miami to form another Big Three with the Heat. As previously reported on the news, Cleveland wasn't happy and bashed LeBron as did all of New York. NBA greats such as Michael Jordan

and Charles Barkley also blasted James' decision to leave the Cavaliers and join Wade and Bosh in Miami so that he can win a title.

On the flip side, the National Football League season is in just a few days and there are plenty of predictions. The Super Bowl champions, the New Orleans Saints who defeated the Peyton Manning led Indianapolis Colts to win their first ever title. The New York Jets who were defeated in the AFC title game against the Colts, added several pieces in the hopes of being able to defeat the top teams in the AFC to reach the Super Bowl. Things were looking bad for the Jets as the All-Pro corner Darrelle Revis was holding out for a new contract, but breaking news on September 7th, brought good news for the Jets nation. Revis signed a 4-year, 46 million dollar deal, with \$32 million guaranteed. The Pittsburgh Steelers are also having some personnel problems as Super Bowl winning quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was suspended for violating the leagues conduct policy for a rape allegation. Finally Brett Favre, former Jet and Packer, is indeed coming back to play for the Minnesota Vikings, ending another off-season still making the NFL universe wonder, will he or won't he retire. Predictions for this NFL season: In the AFC; the Jets win the East, Chargers the West, Steelers the North, and the usual the Colts win the South. In the NFC the; Giants win the East, Packers win the North, 49ers win the West, and the Saints win the South. Predictions for the 2011 Super Bowl game I say the Jets vs. Giants or the rematch Saints vs. Colts.

## CSI Dolphins Game Schedule

**Cross Country**  
9/19/2010  
Queensborough Invitational  
@ Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, NY  
[Women's Start]  
10:00 AM  
[Men's Start]  
11:00 AM

**Men's Soccer**  
9/15/2010  
Brooklyn College  
@ CSI  
4:00 PM

9/19/2010  
Baruch College  
@ CSI  
12:00 PM

9/22/2010  
York College  
@ CSI  
3:30 PM

**Women's Soccer**  
9/22/2010  
John Jay College  
@ CSI  
3:30 PM

**Women's Tennis**  
9/18/2010  
City College of New York  
@ CSI  
12:00 PM

**Volleyball**  
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# BANNER SPORTS

## NFL WEEK I MADNESS

BY JAMES KINGSLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Week one of the 2010 NFL season is officially in the books. First the day that kicked off the season was the rematch of the NFC title games in New Orleans. The Saints and Vikings put forth a very entertaining and grinding game, yet there were plenty of mistakes on both sides of the ball. It was obvious that the Vikings need Sidney Rice back, as Brett Favre isn't the same as he was 15 years ago. Tavaras Jackson may be called upon sooner or later to lead this team again, as his youth would help. The Saints defense is still stout despite Darren Sharper injured, and their offense is sound, a much more effective running game is needed. Their most glaring need though is they must find a more reliable kicker due to Garret Hartley's two missed field goals. For Sunday's games, the Dolphins defeated the Bills 15-10, and Denver dropped their first game of the season against the Jaguars 24-17. Several other winners were the Cardinals, Seahawks, Buccaneers, Steelers, Titans and the NY Giants. The Giants were able to gain a measure of revenge against the Carolina Panthers from last seasons' blowout 41-9 Panthers win, with a 31-18



Photo from: ipbrief.net

victory to open the New Meadowlands Stadium. Though Week 1 had some impressive wins, there were also some upsets and controversy.

Some of the upsets included what many considered to be a tough battle, as the AFC East division champion New England Patriots led by Tom Brady took on The AFC North division champion Cincinnati Bengals led by the duo of "Batman and Robin" Chad Ochocinco and Terrell Owens. The game was supposed to be a matchup of the AFC's top teams, yet this game showed three things; 1.) Tom Brady and Wes Welker are still one of the most dangerous duos in the league, 2.) The Bengals looked like they were out-classed and easily defeated and 3.) The Patriots, despite an old defense and disgruntled players, are still one of the top teams in the league. This game would've been considered an upset victory had the Bengals beat the Patriots,

this however shows that the Bengals need to work on chemistry between the teams receivers and that of quarterback Carson Palmer if they want to repeat as division champs, and be able to hang in the AFC against teams such as the Colts, Patriots, and Chargers. A potential upset, well a true upset, had potential NFC West division winner the San Francisco 49ers being dismantled by the comparably weaker Seattle Seahawks. It only goes to show you that improvement must happen, and that no team should ever be underestimated.

One of the biggest upsets of the week occurred when the Indianapolis Colts were defeated by division rivals the Houston Texans. It wasn't led by quarterback Matt Schaub instead it was led by running back Arian Foster, who ran for a franchise record 231 yards. Former Colts and Bucs head coach Tony Dungy while on the Sunday night football broadcast said that, "For the Texans to reach the playoffs they would have to be able to beat the Colts in this game, which they did now they hold a mental edge against the Colts." This game was a statement game for the Texans because now they will be harder to defeat and could finally make it to the playoffs for the first time in franchise history. In a game that wasn't truly an upset, but has the makings of a controversy was the game between the Bears and Lions. The final play, a potential touchdown catch by Calvin Johnson of the Lions, was ruled incomplete due to

him losing possession of the ball despite his leg, buttocks, and his hand being down.

The Packers-Eagles game, viewed as the Rodgers vs. Kolb game, could spark a QB controversy in Philly, because Michael Vick looks like the Vick from his days as a Falcon, as he nearly led the Eagles to a win. Next the Redskins in Donovan McNabb's debut defeated those laughable Cowboys, who seem like they can't do anything right between penalties, turnovers and bad play calling. The Cowboys need to right the ship for the next game or else major changes will be on the horizon. In the Monday Night Football opener, the Jets and Ravens battled it out in a defensive clinic, only for the Jets to be defeated 10-9, mainly due to an ineffective offense and horrible penalties. The Jets though lost standout defensive tackle Kris Jenkins in the first quarter and will be out for the rest of the season. In the second Monday Night game the Kansas City Chiefs defeated the heavily favored San Diego Chargers, who were missing several key players 21-14.

The first week of football proved to be an upset for many teams, as 5 previous playoff competitors last season, lost their first match up. As the weeks continue, we will have a better sense however, of how the strengths, weaknesses and potential success of the teams.

## Race to the Finish: MLB Playoffs 2010

BY MARISSA PESSOLANO  
STAFF WRITER

With the 2010 baseball season coming to a close, fans are looking ahead to the playoffs. Some have high hopes of their teams advancing to the divisional series, while others are counting their losses and praying next year will be better. The defending World Series Champion, the New York Yankees, seem to be a lock to make the playoffs this year, leading American League East. If however the Tampa Bay Devil Rays edge them out of first, the Yankees would still win the Wild Card, as they would have a commanding lead. Robinson Cano was a major factor in the Yankees success this season, as he put up outstanding numbers, helping his ball club rise to the top. The Yankees' closest competitor, Tampa Bay, has proven themselves to be a worthy opponent as a result of their dominant defense. The Rays have

pulled through in close games in addition to only committing 20 errors in 65 games, 7 less than any other team in the MLB. Both of these teams are expected to make an appearance in the post season. Surprisingly, the Yankees premier rivals, the Boston Red Sox and the Los Angeles Angels, have not lived up to their previous hype this season. Both of these have been depleted by major injuries and by several weeks of inconsistency.

In the American League West, the Rangers are leading the division by 6.5 games, ahead of the Oakland A's. It has been all uphill for the Rangers this year after acquiring left-handed pitcher, Cliff Lee, from the Seattle Mariners. The West seems to be set in stone as it is unlikely that the trailing Oakland A's will catch up before the seasons end, although it is not impossible.

The Central has a closer race as the Chicago White Sox only trail the divi-

sion leaders, the Minnesota twins, by 4 games, however, this was not always the case. Before the All-Star break, it seemed as if the Tigers would come out on top in the Central. Unfortunately, due to a slump and the loss of Magglio Ordonez, to injury, they fell into third place, 12.5 games out of first. This paved the way for the Twins to currently be holding the spot of division leader, barring any mishaps that allow for the White Sox to prevail.

In the National League, the New York Mets, was once believed to be a contender and potential wild card or division winner, however, these hopes have since evaporated. The Mets worked second baseman, Luis Castillo and center fielder, Carlos Beltran, back into the lineup disrupting the valuable team chemistry they had before their return. The Mets are now eleven games behind in both the division and the wild card. The Atlanta Braves and the Philadelphia Phillies are now fighting it out, tied for first.

The West has a similar situation as the San Francisco Giants trail the San

Diego Padres by only one game. The Padres fell from grace after suffering a ten game losing streak, allowing the Giants to catch up and make the NL West a tight race.

The Central Division, on the other hand, is not currently as competitive as the East and West. The St. Louis Cardinals were at one time leading the NL Central, but have slipped badly to six games behind the Cincinnati Reds in the NL Central division. The wild card also seems out of reach, as they are 5 games behind. The Cardinals were at one time a commanding force, but got into a habit of long losing streaks that hurt the club greatly.

The Major League Baseball post season will be beginning on October 6th, however, who will be competing is yet to be determined. The 2010 season has consisted of many ups and downs for the teams and fans alike. In the end however, only one team will be victorious, while the others will have to go back to the drawing board and prepare for next season.