

# OPENING CEREMONY

OF THE

## STATEN ISLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

AND THE

INSTALLATION OF ITS PRESIDENT

WALTER L. WILLIG

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER SEVENTEENTH

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIX

BOROUGH HALL, STATEN ISLAND

AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK

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*under the auspices of*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

AND

THE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# UNFINISHED HISTORY



Today's ceremonies, inaugurating the newly-born Staten Island Community College, mark the fulfillment of a cherished dream of generations of Staten Islanders. The story of its foundation is one of men and women working devotedly for years to bring to fruition the hopes of the Staten Island Community.

Were it not for the joint efforts of such persons as Albert V. Maniscalco, President of the Borough of Richmond, Supreme Court Justice Edward G. Baker, Arleigh B. Williamson, Staten Island member of the Board of Higher Education, Senator Edward V. Curry, Dr. Joseph B. Cavallaro, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, the Honorable Robert F. Wagner, Mayor of the City of New York, and the enthusiastic support of hundreds of citizens of Staten Island, we should not today be celebrating this historic opening of the College.

The campaign for publicly-supported higher education goes at least as far back as 1932, when thousands of Staten Islanders petitioned for a city college. Again in 1937 and 1938 there was a similar campaign. However, City approval was not secured.

The creation of the State University in 1948, legally authorized to share with local communities the financing and operation of community colleges, once more gave impetus here to the movement for a public college, which in 1948 and 1949 came closer to success than any previous attempts. Supported by the Board of Higher Education and the Trustees of the State University, this 1949 effort made possible eventual victory, which came in 1955 when the Borough President of Richmond, the Mayor, and the far-sighted Board of Estimate gave their approval. Later in the spring the City Administration and the Board of Higher Education received State University approval; and the Staten Island Community College became a reality.

Shortly thereafter, Dean Walter L. Willig, of City College, was appointed President; a staff was selected, a site acquired, a student body enrolled, building alterations made, and equipment acquired. The College starts small in physical plant and possessions. But the enthusiasm and devotion of its staff is of great promise for the future of higher education in our Borough.

This is Staten Island's college, the dream of its people, the achievement of its State and City officials. Its future history remains to be written. If its faculty and students in the years to come labor as lovingly as those who made the college possible, that history will be a glorious one.

PROGRAM

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- ACADEMIC PROCESSION .....  
NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND  
*George F. Briegel, Honorary Deputy Chief, Conductor*
- STAR SPANGLED BANNER .....  
OLIVIA T. BREWER, *Wagner College, '57*
- INVOCATION .....VERY REV. MONSIGNOR JOHN J. CORRIGAN,  
*Director, Mission of the Immaculate Virgin*
- OPENING REMARKS .....ARLEIGH B. WILLIAMSON, *Member of the Board  
of Higher Education, Chairman of the Ceremonial-  
Dedication Committee*
- ADDRESS .....ALBERT V. MANISCALCO, *President of the  
Borough of Richmond*
- INSTALLATION ADDRESS .....  
JOSEPH B. CAVALLARO, *Chairman of the  
Board of Higher Education*
- INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT WALTER L. WILLIG .....  
JOSEPH B. CAVALLARO, *assisted by LAWRENCE  
L. JARVIE, Executive Dean of the State University  
of New York*
- ADDRESS .....PRESIDENT WILLIG
- SCRIPTURAL READING .....  
REV. C. ASAPANSA-JOHNSON, *President of the  
Interdenominational Ministers' Meeting of Greater N. Y.*
- INTRODUCTION OF OFFICIALS AND HONORED GUESTS
- ADDRESS .....ROBERT F. WAGNER, *Mayor of the City of N. Y.*
- ADDRESS .....FRANK C. MOORE, *Chairman of the Board of  
Trustees of the State University of New York*
- BENEDICTION .....RABBI BENJAMIN B. WYKANSKY,  
*Spiritual Leader of Temple Emanuel*
- RECESSIONAL .....NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT BAND  
*Geo. F. Briegel, Conductor*
- OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE COLLEGE .....  
MAYOR WAGNER

CEREMONIAL - DEDICATION  
COMMITTEE

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ALBERT V. MANISCALCO  
*President, Borough of Richmond, Honorary Chairman*

JOSEPH B. CAVALLARO  
*Chairman of the Board of Higher Education*

FREDERICK H. ZURMUHLEN  
*Commissioner of Public Works, City of New York*

EDWARD G. BAKER  
*Justice of the Supreme Court, State of New York*

LAWRENCE L. JARVIE  
*Executive Dean, State University of New York*

WILLIAM BRAYBROOKS  
*General Manager, Gulf Oil Refining Company*

DAVID L. DECKER  
*1st Vice President, Staten Island Chamber of Commerce*

ART O. HEDQUIST  
*Executive Secretary, Staten Island Chamber of Commerce*

ROSS J. DI SPAGNO  
*Assistant to the President of the Borough of Richmond*

JAMES L. G. FITZ PATRICK  
*Staten Island Community College*

ARLEIGH B. WILLIAMSON  
*Committee Chairman*