

THE BANNER

The Official Newspaper of the College of Staten Island

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HUMANS OF CSI EDITION



Photo Credit: Jesse Khachmanian

Veronica Pistek speaks with sophomore Jonathan Falcone about The Banner and his life as a CSI student.

Inspiration for a Special Edition

A Letter from The Editor

BY: VERONICA PISTEK

As The Banner continues to provide news, entertainment, and information to the CSI community, my team and I wanted to take this moment to highlight all of the humans that make CSI the remarkable place that it is.

The Humans of CSI edition of The Banner aims to bring awareness and appreciation to our college's hard-working students, staff, professors, administration, and various other leaders on campus.

As a current junior here at CSI, I have met some of the most outstanding people in my life. Whether it be a professor who made a striking discovery during years of research, or a student working toward becoming a successful entrepreneur, I wanted some way for these stories to be told.

In order to make this special edition happen, our writers and editors reached out to various people in hopes to interview them for this issue. It was to our greatest delight and pleasure that we were able to sit down with these remarkable humans

and learn more about their lives.

Before the idea for this issue became a reality, I personally was inspired by Humans of New York and Frederick Kaufman.

Humans of New York started as a photoblog comprised of street photographs and interviews with strangers about their lives. This quickly became a social media sensation, leading to a Humans of New York book, documentary, and even inspired hundreds of others around the world to create "Humans of" blogs.

Frederick Kaufman, our advisor and professor of English and Journalism, has also played a role in the birth of this idea. Professor Kaufman gives his ENL 277 students an assignment to write a profile story. His students then interview a classmate or person at CSI and then create a picture of this humans' story with their words.

In the same way, our team wanted to sit down with staff, students, administration, and some inspiring leaders who make their voice heard on campus. In our time spent working on this special edition, we have learned so much more about CSI's culture,

which we hope to share with all of you--our readers.

Some articles that you will be able to read include an inside look at the woman behind the Earth and Environmental Department, a WSIA radio station powerhouse, and the history of a screenwriting professor.

We hope that these stories can open your eyes to the excellence of the people who surround you everyday. It is our mission to inspire you all to reach out and talk to the humans around you.

Wherever you are, the person next to you has a story to tell. We all have stories that need to be told.

This issue just barely scratches the surface of the culture within our campus. We strive to create another edition of Humans of CSI next semester, and hopefully continue it on as a tradition.

In addition, we hope to create other special editions of The Banner like this, especially with the help of our community. We are ready for all ideas, and open the door to you all to pitch your recommen-

dations.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of those involved in this project. Thank you to my team of writers, editors, and the unforgettable humans whom we had the privilege to highlight.

If you want to learn more on how to become a part of our team, you can attend our meetings every Thursday at 3pm in IC Room 228.

Currently, we are in search of passionate staff members who want to write, create, design, edit, manage, and lead. We have a breadth of opportunities available, including photography, digital design, social media, journalistic style editing, managing, reporting, and even have begun our very own podcast.

You can also reach out to our email, the.banner.csi@gmail.com, and visit our website thebannercsi.com to read more of our student-written articles.

Ultimately, we hope that through reading these interviews, you can become a voice and a listener in your community, too.

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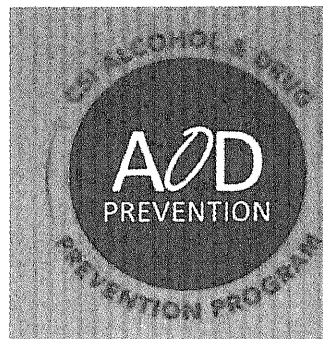
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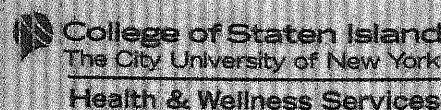


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STUDENTS

Get Psyched With Aishwarya Udayan!

CSI Junior Finds Culture in Her Career Path

BY: OLIVIA FRASCA

Studying psychology is a natural choice for Macaulay CSI junior Aishwarya Udayan. "The culture that I had most of my foundations in is community-based," she says. "Helping the other person is a very natural thing."

Udayan went to high school in Queens and knew she wanted to stay close to home when she applied to college. She lived near private universities but felt they weren't cost-effective for her career plan.

"CUNY impacted my choice a lot. My brother was a CUNY student. The reason why I chose the College of Staten Island was because I knew I wanted to go into psychology."

Udayan was impressed with the psychology program at CSI and the Macaulay Honors College. CSI is also the only CUNY school that offers a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

Udayan is currently doing independent research at the Institute For Basic Research (IBR) just outside of campus. In a behavioral pharmacology lab, her experiments focus on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

She runs tests and observations on mice that exhibit behaviors of ASD. Her thesis is neuroscience-based and a great start for what she wants to study after graduation.

"You need some of neuroscience to understand the psychological parts that are happening in this model of autism," she adds about her work at the IBR.

Udayan is aiming for graduate school and wants to become a clinical psychologist. But she wasn't always sure this was the right path.

She considered careers in education and computer science but realized they

weren't her calling. In her junior year of high school, she took a psychology class and it clicked.

Udayan's studies were also influenced by her family. "In Indian culture, we do a lot of things with our extended family. Most of my cousins and even my aunts are all in the medical field."

The flexibility of a career in clinical psychology spoke to her. "You could be in a hospital, you could be in a school, you could be doing research, you could be teaching, and you could be at the workplace."

Udayan is minoring in American Sign Language (ASL) and studio art. Her minors weren't preplanned.

She wanted to take a language in college and chose ASL because one of her friends in high school was hard of hearing. "She started teaching me how to do the alphabet in sign language. And I was like, you know what, I know [how to sign] a-b-c-d, so I might as well just continue."

As for studio art, she took a painting class with her close friend. Udayan admits that art was intimidating to her, as she had more experience with craft.

Her first project in painting class was a challenge because she was scared of using color. "My mentality was, if I use color and I make a mistake, I can't change it," Udayan says. "The thing is, you could change it."

She realized that her art classes were therapeutic. Although these classes involve a lot of manual labor, the stress she feels is temporary. "You're engaging your mind and your body at the same time and I feel like that's the more soothing part of it."

Udayan lives a few blocks away from campus. She found her roommate just before graduating high school.



Udayan is conducting research on autism at the Institute For Basic Research.

Although her family lives in Long Island, Udayan tries to stay on Staten Island during the weekends. She catches up on chores, shops, and tries new food with her roommate, who is more familiar with the island.

Udayan and her family moved from the capital of India, New Delhi, to New York City seven years ago. Living in both northern and southern regions of India throughout her childhood, she is no stranger to tropical climate.

She says that Indian street food tastes

less authentic in the U.S. compared to where she grew up because it's missing the heat of tropical climate.

"Because there are more heat and moisture in the air [in India], the spices are more intense there," Udayan states. "It's a reflection of the culture. There's a heat, so there's a heat in our culture, too."

Udayan knows the community-based culture she grew up in plays a guiding role in her life. She brings elements of this culture to her relationships, art, and career path in America.

Dear College of Staten Island, You're Halfway There...

A New Student Expresses Her Feelings Towards CSI

BY: ASHLEY MARTIN

Tania Jean-Louis, 20, is a new full time transfer student who, at this point in the semester, is underwhelmed with the efforts put forth by the College of Staten Island.

After completing two years at Suffolk County Community College, Tania embarked on the journey to continue her education. She had hopes on being a part of a different campus environment while maintaining her relationship with her old one.

Suffolk County Community College is a commuter school, where students

constantly busting through the buildings. There weren't any housing facilities, people weren't very interactive, and there wasn't a place similar to building 1C, where information about events on campus or clubs are readily available to students.

"This school [The College of Staten Island] goes out of their way to market a sense of community to students," Tania states. She was very optimistic and proceeded to take a tour of the campus before making a decision.

"They sold me," Tania jokingly states as she mentions that the tour guide really

helped her come to a conclusion. "There's a lot of clubs, and options and the ability to network."

And although Tania isn't in any clubs at the moment, she is considering joining the LGBTQ or Anime club. The LGBTQ club would allow her to learn more about her identity while being comfortable in a space with similar individuals.

Anime was a staple in Tania's childhood and she states that she "binge watch[es] a sh*t ton of anime" like "Tokyo Ghoul," "Black Butler," and "Full-Metal Alchemist Brotherhood", so she'll fit right into the anime club.

Tania is a shy, anxious, introvert, but doesn't let that stop her from pushing herself to become a better person. Being a member of the Dolphin Cove community has allowed her to open up and make friends.

"During the summer I isolated myself, no work, no school, just me and my cat," says Tania. "I like dorming... I got to know you guys and make friends but if I had the option to live alone I'll probably be my own friend."

Being a resident, Tania noticed how disorganized and money-hungry CSI really is.

During the first week of school, students were welcomed with themed lunches like Taco Tuesday or Chinese food, but that was short-lived and ended by week two.

Tania has also noticed that most build-

ings on campus are in need of repair, however the tuition and cost to rent an apartment at Dolphin Cove is stupendously high.

"Where is our money going?" Tania angrily asks as we both sit across from each other in confusion. She continues to state that during the school power outage that took place on Sunday, September 22, she received no information from the school until Monday.

"When the power was out they told us nothing... I know many students were confused, frustrated, and scared because the power went off in the middle of the night, nothing's working, and no one's saying sh*t. The school would send you an update about a past due bill but won't inform you on actual important stuff."

With a look of disappointment, Tania states that, "the way the school handled stuff my first month here set the tone for my expectations of the school, and it's not high. I had a lot of hope."

In the beginning Tania believed that the school was amazing and that she'll love it here but now "their lack of effort shows." She expects a lot, especially with how much money we give the school.

"I love the community and its diversity, but CSI, you can do better." After receiving some advice from a soon-to-be graduate, Tania will remember to be selfish and utilize all the resources the school has to offer, because it's all for you.



Tania Jean-Louis

Photo Credit: Tania Jean-Louis

STUDENTS

Finding Happiness and Flourishing Love Through Faith

Carlos Glick's Roadmap is Carved Out By Religion

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

Carlos Glick was born and raised in California. Most of his family resides in Utah.

When he was around seven years old, his adoptive parents decided to move to Staten Island.

In August 2019, he graduated from Kingsborough Community College with an associate's degree in Liberal Arts. Quickly deciding to further his education, he registered as a student in the College of Staten Island aiming for a bachelor's degree in cinema studies.

He is always changing, always evolving,

and always growing.

When differentiating the environment of the last school that he attended to CSI, Glick says, "Compared to Kingsborough, the campus here is amazing. The buildings are spread far apart and nature is all around me."

Not to brush off the warm feelings he had for his previous school, he hurriedly typed it into the computer before him, excited to show me the map of KCC.

Not to mention the fact that Glick is also currently minoring in drama as well. Inspired by his father who not only has a master's degree in landscape design but is also a noted actor, Glick seems to be

naturally pulled towards the mechanics of filmmaking. "I want to know how movies are made and the elements that go into cinematography."

With Glick, one doesn't even have to hear him talk about his love for films. Donning a shirt that celebrates both parts of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" at the time of our interview, one only has to see him in person. But the excitement for fantasy doesn't stop there. Right behind the Harry Potter franchise, Star Wars comes in at a close second.

But with Glick, something else comes closer to his soul than his interest in the cultural impact of science fiction movies and that is his religion. Most surprising and ironically enough, this topic came to light when I asked about his favorite movie.

A documentary called "Meet the Mormons" was his answer. It was about the examination of Mormon faith through the experiences of six devout people from around the world. As an interviewer always looking for that ingenious new thread within the spiderweb of a person's complexities, I finally found what I was looking for.

Glick is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and is proud of it. He is quick to correct me when I define him as a Mormon, as he tells me the members don't want to classify as that any longer and the surprises did not stop there.

A simple question I asked was: What do you hope to accomplish during the rest

of the life that you have here on earth? It was received with a straightforward, and frankly, cliché answer. To match that, there always seems to be a fitting response.

An answer would usually arrive in such a form that it can close out a profile which would bring everything to a closing statement and end the intriguing textual exploration of the person's life.

While I expected something that was a mix of capturing memories with a desire for some sort of life altering change as that's what I had learned of Glick, the answer was quite the opposite. The biggest finishing line moment that Glick was looking forward to the most was a simple one: Getting married.

If anything, the location was the clincher: the Salt Lake temple in Utah.

That answer could very well stand as the definition of his character. As much as he may pack up and move from one side of the United States to the other, as much as he may decide to transfer colleges and switch cities along the way, and as much as any and all of the pivotal decisions that he might have to make in his future change his life's ultimate path, it's the small things that truly matter for Glick. Smelling the roses, raising a family, and enjoying what you can see around you.

What I learned from sitting down and conversing with Glick is that one theme remains concrete in everything this CSI student does in his life.

"Religion is my driving force."



Glick rents out video equipment for his class, ready to record.

Photo Credit: Salvatore Cento

History with Music Won't Affect Career Decision

College Freshman Zachary Howard Undecided About His Future

BY: DANNY CACACE

Zachary Howard is a freshman at the College of Staten Island, where he's figuring out what major and future job will work for him.

Howard's mom, dad and step-dad all are part of the music world. His Mom is a singer, and his dad and step-dad are both drummers. Howard's dad is a drummer for pop singer Avril Lavigne, and he's been a drummer for her for a very long time.

Howard didn't want to be like his family and get into the world of music when he starts out his life in the real world. He wanted to be different, and he felt like he had to adapt to their lifestyle which is what Howard is best known for: his ability to adapt quickly.

He mentioned how his parents made him take piano lessons when he was a kid to start him out early to get him into music, which he hated.

"All I wanted to do was play 'Spiderman: Friend or Foe for the Wii,'" Howard said. "I just wanted to be like the other kids who got to do all that fun stuff."

A moment that stood out to him when he was a kid was when his mom was coming home with Howard's brother after she just picked up his brother from school. She was about to walk in, and Howard made sure he cleaned all the dishes and made sure the house was spotless.

Most importantly, he got his piano ready to play because he was going to play on the piano 'Song of Storms' from a Zelda videogame.

She was heavily impressed.

Howard was very stubborn and he

mentioned and he really did not want to get into the music world just like his parents are. He felt like he had to, but he didn't for a while. This was until he got into his sophomore year of high school where his dad knew his school's music teacher, and he was able to get into the music program due to that connection alone.

"Oh, you're like a mini version of your dad, we'll take you," Howard said about what his music teacher told him when he got accepted into the music program in high school, but his music teacher said that if he made one mistake and he would be out of the program. "Well, I'm not going to embarrass my family name."

Another moment that stood out to Howard was back in eighth grade where he impressed his music teacher by playing the piano in class one day. He was playing random notes while also playing on a synthesizer which made whatever he played sound so much better.

His music teacher questioned him if he knew how to play the piano, and he just said, "Yeah, obviously."

Howard finally gave in after staying in the music program for a bit, and said he might want to pursue music as a future career path after all. He realized he doesn't have to be like Tom Jones or Frank Sinatra to get into the music world, and he was finally okay with allowing himself into this world of music.

He even taught himself how to play classical music even though he does not like it at all because it's way too slow for him.

He eventually became the percussion

section leader in his high school's marching band.

One last moment that really stood out to him was when his dad came back from being the drummer for The Lion King on Broadway.

At that time Howard actually played excerpts from The Lion King in his senior year of high school, and his dad was in town to see him perform. His dad came to one of his shows, and realized right away that he was playing The Lion King and told him how impressed he was with his performance.

His dad's praise made him feel really proud of himself.

Soon after, Howard got a \$1,000 percussion scholarship due to his performance

Photo Credit: Lexi Cacace



Zachary Howard back when he was playing drums in high school.

STUDENTS

A Volunteer for CSI and a Voice for the Dead

Roseanne Cassar is a Vessel for Those Who have Passed Away

BY: SALVATORE CENTO

At 41 years old, Roseanne Cassar is taking life one step at a time. But her motto is still "I'm Mama. I make things happen."

And Cassar does. Not only graduating from the College of Staten Island in May of 2018 with a bachelor's degree in

English Writing and a minor in American Sign Language, she also dedicates herself to the college by volunteering for The Banner.

"It's my second passion. I love to write. It feels important to me to be creative using words. Hopefully by being here, I will have the best opportunity to

find a really terrific job."

But most of all, she declares herself a mother who makes things happen because she has a gift not known by many here at the college.

"I had my gift established to me by an ex co-worker's wife. His wife is also a natural born psychic."

Cassar says that she started showing signs of having an otherworldly ability when she was three years old.

"[The wife] confirmed that at the age of 3, I was in fact communicating with a little girl that passed away in the apartment that I was living in at the time."

Besides communicating, Cassar also receives visions and can heal with her hands, "kind of like Reiki Healing."

She believes she has the abilities of an empath - "I can feel people's energy."

She receives loved ones in three different ways. Feeling the presence, seeing them in all white, and then seeing them in color.

"I receive spirits' messages like vibe sensations and then those sensations turn into words. I also never add or take away from a message. I am all about being 100% accurate with my readings."

Starting in December of 2015, she decided that she was not going to sit idle and waste her gift. "I was told and convinced by my colleagues whom I associate with that it was time for me to go into business."

And thus, her brand was born: New York's Intuitive Medium.

With a realistic handle on the marketing side of things, Cassar says, "right now it's tough because I'm still trying to make

a name for myself."

With such a prospect in mind, Cassar has both good and bad days. On good days, she has given more strength to those who are praying for their loved ones.

On the other hand, she is more prone to skeptics than ever before. "Some people have the nerve to say that you are wrong or they just don't want to pay for the service, but I have no reason/nor would I ever get a message from a spirit that is wrong or a lie."

Strangers have not been her only critics. Members of her own family struggle to accept her gift.

"I have never had my closest family members' support regarding the fact that I was born with the gifted ability. I do think though that they'll come around when I'm extremely successful, and by then it will be too late."

There is an extra twist with what Cassar does. Perusing her Facebook page, she makes it a priority to incorporate her minor into her gift.

"Through ASL, I have widened my eyes to see a full picture of how important it would be for them to participate in events so I will be certain that at my gatherings there will be ASL interpreters. It always felt important to me to do that for them."

Cassar continues to write for The Banner. She continues to read aloud for those who can no longer speak into our world.

She doesn't give up on herself in the pursuit of writing, and most certainly doesn't give up on those who want to make something known to the ones they left behind.



Photo Credit: Salvatore Cento

Roseanne Cassar has learned a lot from life. A lot from the other side, too.

Life is Full of Opportunities

Andrilenny Tronilo Strives to Succeed

BY: VAL RAMOS

At the age of 19, Andrilenny Tronilo has already accomplished her dream. Andrilenny is a student here at the College of Staten Island studying International Business with a passion to travel around the world.

She is an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, arriving here with a purpose. Lenny came here to the US at the age of nine accompanied by her father.

At such a young age, she expressed how difficult it was for her to come into the United States without her mother present.

As she was growing up she saw it as an opportunity and realized that this was her new home. She is grateful for her family whom have given her this opportunity, education, and a new path she is going to walk on.

She feels that she owes her parents everything for bringing her here.

Andrilenny has become an independent woman with a drive to succeed and a mindset of life that is limitless. Andrilenny is extremely grateful for the opportunity she has been given, and is able to set goals for herself.

Ms. Tronilo is now 19 years old and is paving her path of a better future.

She is a goal setter, seeking more opportunities to impact others' lives. What she does and how she does it tells you that she is not just doing it for herself but for others to help individuals get to where they want to be.

Every person I've spoken to in our team speaks highly of her. How did she do it?

Andrilenny started to surround herself with people that are successful and as she told them what her goals are, they asked for her W's (her why's). No one can accomplish anything without a reason, and she had a reason which were her parents who have done so much for her. She wanted to repay them, and in doing so, she has built a career for herself and is doing what she loves.

She recently went to the 2019 Forex & Cryptocurrency Expo located in Dallas, TX with her Forex team. It was such a remarkable experience for her because now that she was able to get a taste of what traveling and business felt like which ultimately was the whole reason went to college for.

Now, is school even worth her time? She is grateful that she even got the opportunity to get this far in her education. But the fact that she already has accomplished

her dream of traveling has become a reality, she finds herself lost as to what college actually means to her now.

2020 is looking good for her and I'm positively sure yours could be too.

"I am 19 years old, and I joined this platform nine months ago."

Andrilenny has made her dream a reality.

There is a message here. If you have a dream, don't be afraid to go after it because

dreams are not just meant for our sleep but to recognize our true inner desires.

I am proud to call her my mentor, leader, influencer, business partner, and the next Chairwoman of our team (Enterprise). She's worked so hard and it shows.

Her next move with this business is going to London with her team in February 2020 to meet with 6-7 figure earners. This is her success story and it's just the beginning.

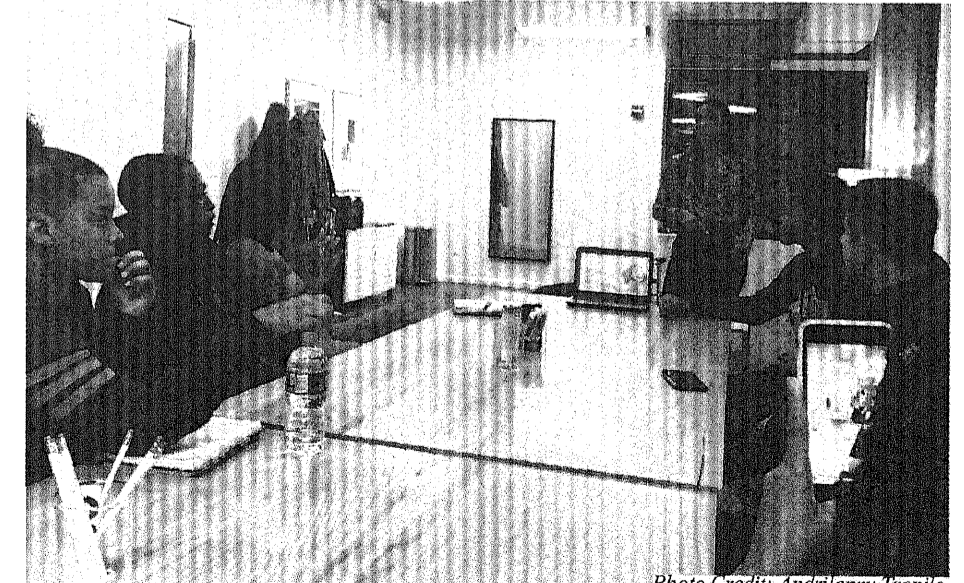


Photo Credit: Andrilenny Tronilo

"I surround myself with people that want to see me succeed ... I want them to teach me how to get it."

STUDENTS

Working With Asbestos to Get a Degree

Severe Health Problems Could be the Consequence of Furthering Education

BY: STEVEN J. MCGUIRE

Like any other college student, Patrick Tabor works to pay his tuition and student loans. It just happens that his college job can seriously impact his health as he gets older and he is very much aware of it.

"I see guys who wear thin paper masks or no mask at all," said Tabor, "I wear a big painter's mask with big air filters on the sides."

No hard labor job is easy or necessarily safe, but a physically demanding job that also requires the removal of dangerous chemicals such as asbestos adds just one more thing on a long list of things to worry about in this business. Tabor's main role at his work is to remove sealed bags of asbestos to quarantined areas for the bags to be secured, transported, and then disposed of properly.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration or OSHA, asbestos is the name given to a group of naturally occurring minerals that are resistant to heat and corrosion. Breathing asbestos fibers can cause a buildup of scar-like tissue in the lungs called asbestosis and result in loss of lung function that often progresses to disability and death. Asbestos also causes lung cancer and other diseases.

The World Health Organization estimates that 107,000 people die every year from occupational asbestos exposure. A more staggering number, however, is the suicide rate, a 2015 CDC report placing the rate at 53 suicides per 100,000 men which is four times larger than the overall suicide rate.

"People don't understand the struggle and the grind that comes with a job like this," said Tabor, "I'm 28 years old and can not get the bags under my eyes to go away, but it's inevitable. There are people all around the business that are around forty years old and they look like they're sixty."

Jobs in the construction industry come with high levels of stress that stem from many different things. Deadlines are often tight and owners of companies are often extremely demanding because the more days that a job is open the less money the owner of a company will earn.

Owners of private companies pay per man, per day from a payroll standpoint, which means that the more days a worksite is open, an owner has to pay men to be at that job which hurts in overall profits when the job is fully complete.

Stress also comes in the form of replaceability, one of the plusses of a job involving a trade is that the skills you need

Photo Credit: hshlawyers.com



A man painting a wall while being exposed to Asbestos.

to be successful and productive do not take long to pick up. On the other hand, this makes all trade workers replaceable to an extent.

If you do not want to do your job or you physically can not do your job the company or union you belong to just sends someone different in your place.

To wake up in the darkness every morning and go to a job that takes a large physical and mental toll on you is difficult enough, Tabor, however, does so while not just attending classes but while trying to be

successful enough in those classes to secure a job after graduating from CSI.

In some twisted quicksand-like way, the construction industry grips onto young men who take jobs because they want to follow their fathers' career paths, or because they need the money and it holds them hostage if they can not get out quick enough.

"My friends and my girlfriend constantly tell me to quit because I hate it so much," said Tabor, "But it beats delivering pizza any day for me."

Student Sacrifices College to Focus on his Artwork

A Student Uncertain About his Future Chose his Art over School

BY: EMMANUEL MENDEZ

Art always interested Daniel Meza when he was younger. During elementary school and middle school, he showed his art skills his classmates and his teachers alike.

"I would be home as a kid bored and had nothing to do," said Meza. "I would then scribble and try my best to recreate images like cars and cartoons that I would watch as a kid."

Daniel Meza's artwork would be recog-

nized throughout every school he attended from elementary school to high school. In high school, he would join an art academy and would participate in art shows.

His high school would get accepted into an art event and his artwork was a part of the show. He would draw all kinds of characters, especially superheroes. Meza is a big fan of the Marvel films, and that would inspire him to draw all the heroes in the movies such as Captain America and Iron Man. His art teacher in high school said he was one of his best students in the

art classes he taught, and said he had a talent.

"I realized that he was really good at drawing and drew some amazing pictures for my class," said Mr. Arthur Vallario. "He surprised me all the time when he showed me a new art piece."

Meza would listen to his teacher and friends to show the school his artwork at his high school Comic Con. Since Comic Con is mostly about comics, it was a perfect fit for Meza to show his art since most of his art is based off of comic figures like the Avengers or Transformers; both comics were his favorites when he was younger and they still are today.

Meza would get a lot of people complimenting his work, but he wouldn't take it seriously or wouldn't think about his art as being a possible career choice. He would draw for fun to frame his artwork all around his room.

"I'm a big Marvel fan and I am always excited to watch the Marvel action movies," Meza said. "It is always on my mind, so I always try to draw my favorite scenes from the movies but for myself."

After Meza graduated from high school, he would go to college with little money saved up to pay for a year. He was unsure about what he wanted to do in the future. After his first semester in CSI, he realized that college wasn't for him be-

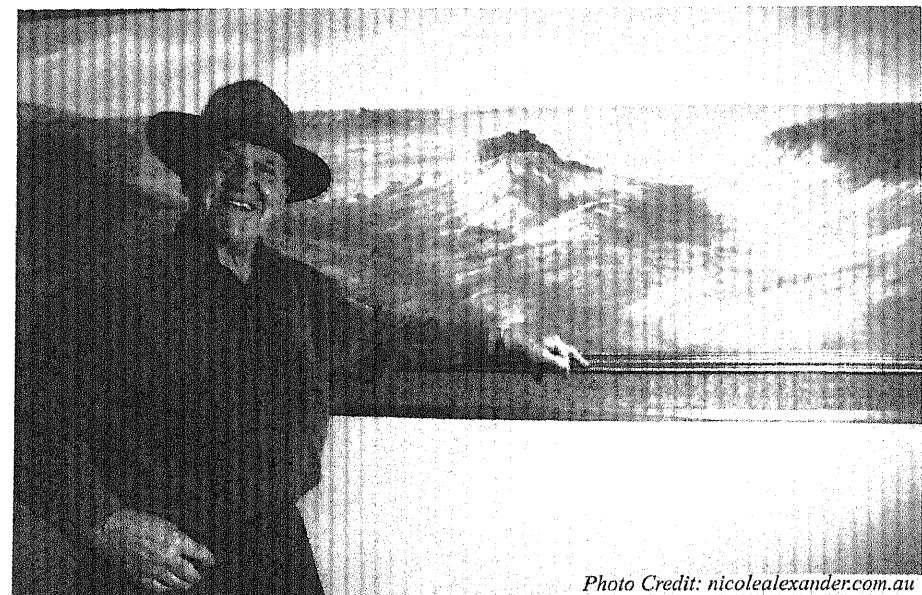


Photo Credit: nicolealexander.com.au

A man taking a picture in front of a mountain landscape art piece.

STUDENTS

Andre Lombardi Studies Dinosaurs Every Day--No Kidding!

One Student's Peculiar Fascination with Dinosaurs

BY: JORDAN ABBAS

When Andre Lombardi was four years old, he became fascinated with dinosaurs and has become more interested with them ever since.

"Once I got dinosaur toys as a kid, I fell in love with them," said Lombardi. "I wanted to know more about the extinct reptiles."

As Lombardi got older, he wanted to discover dinosaur bones and become more educated on their existence. After doing research, he found out he can study Paleontology in college and get closer to his childhood dream of studying bones of dinosaurs.

Although studying paleontology is uncommon, Lombardi hopes to take his studies seriously and one day find his own fossils. Lombardi whom is a recent graduate of CSI, now attends Hunter College aiming to get his Bachelor's degree in science.

Lombardi still visits CSI frequently to discuss future plans with his former professors. "It's like networking," said Lombardi. "These people help me grow my resume and I get to volunteer my time for research."

Lombardi's mother, Catherine, has been a big supporter of his ever since his interest of dinosaurs began. She even jokingly refers to him as "dinosaur boy" sometimes.

"My son has a huge obsession with fossils," said Mrs. Lombardi. "As a kid he

used to try and dig up bones in the backyard."

According to Lombardi, usually people don't know what paleontology is when he tells them that's his interest in a future career. He often has to explain to them that it's the study of fossils.

In January of 2019, Lombardi was selected to participate in a paleontology internship in Colorado. For two weeks Lombardi got the chance to work alongside with well known scientists and gain hands-on experience.

After completing the internship, Lombardi knew that this was what he wanted his career to be based on, and it gave him the determination to work harder. Landing the internship was one of the first real experiences Lombardi had with actual fossils.

When Lombardi isn't studying, he's most likely re-watching his favorite movie, "Jurassic Park." This movie is a favorite for him since it shows real looking dinosaurs and them roaming the world. Sometimes, Lombardi wonders what it would've been like to live at the same time as dinosaurs.

A lot of people say that Lombardi and Ross from friends are similar because they both have a love for paleontology. Lombardi's friends sometimes crack jokes about his love for dinosaur fossils, but at the end of the day they support him. Lombardi's career goal is not so common, but it is an interesting one.

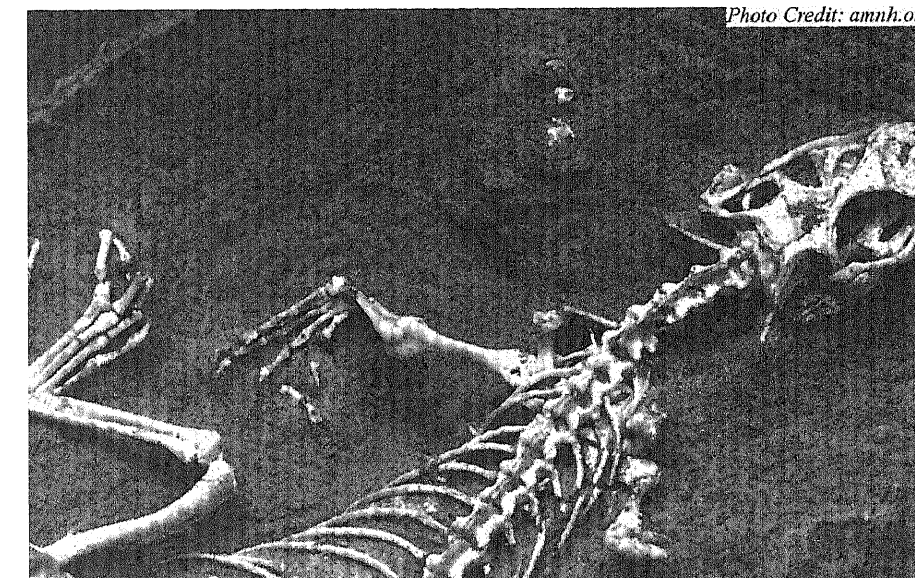


Photo Credit: amnh.org

Picture of a dinosaur fossil on the ground.

When Lombardi isn't attending classes, he often visits The Museum Of Natural History in Manhattan. They have many displays at the museum of dinosaur fossils and descriptions listed of how each lived their life very long ago.

The museum is a favorite for Lombardi because it gives him the opportunity to take a step back millions of years to see how these reptiles lived.

At Hunter College, Lombardi has plans to put together a Paleontology club where students and staff of the science department would meet weekly and discuss new discoveries and go over research. In order to create the club, Lombardi has to get

signatures from notable professors in the science department along with interested students.

His plan is to get as many people involved as possible and educate people on paleontology. The more people that know about Paleontology, the better it is for making this club happen.

Paleontology has become a lifestyle for Lombardi and he plans on sticking with it forever. Lombardi doesn't know what he would do without science, specifically paleontology.

"It's become a huge part of my life," said Lombardi. "I would be lost without it."

Pablo Tena Photographs Landscapes... and Even Pornography

A Fascinating, Unforgettable Experience

BY: BRENDA GARCIA

When Pablo Tena discovered that he could make one week's salary in two hours, he jumped for joy. "I asked what kind of shooting?," asked Pablo Tena.

"I want you to shoot my boyfriend and I having sex."

It started when Tena was at a party with a friend of his. He had just finished

work and decided to enjoy himself from a long stressful day. Tena did not plan to stay for very long, since he has school and work the next day.

Tena was confused when he was asked to shoot a pornography for a stranger he just met.

He laughed and said no, they exchanged numbers and kept in touch.

Photo Credit: PhotographyTalk.com



A man taking a picture of a landscape.

The strange woman said it was her three year anniversary with her boyfriend and she wanted it to be special. After much consideration, Tena finally decided to skip school that day to take the pornography photoshoot for the couple.

He had no trouble missing school since he was already passing all his classes.

Tena had to travel from Brooklyn to Manhattan, and on the entire ride there, he was debating how he could possibly get himself out of this job.

He arrived at an appointment that belonged to the woman who hired him at the party. She was not embarrassed at all with the revealing outfit she had on and he knew that this was going to happen.

"It was the day they invited me over," Tena said. "I walked in and they gave me \$400 up front."

The couple handed him a memory card of 64GB and wanted the card back without any edits when the photoshoot was over. Tena felt disgusted with what he has to see that day.

During the photoshoot Tena had on his headphones to block out the noise because he didn't want to hear anything.

Tena remembers very well that they had to take several breaks because the cou-

ple felt uncomfortable. In the in-between breaks, he would eat a sandwich until they would let him that they were ready.

Tena never photoshot people before, his main focus has always been the peaceful view of landscapes. He started photography at age eighteen, and was asked to do this job when he had very little experience with photography.

He does not plan on making any more porno photoshoots for anyone, unless they offer to pay a large amount of money. He does not regret any of it; Tena believes that it was a great opportunity for him to gain knowledge and to improve his learning skills. It was a way for him to get out of his comfort zone and to try new things.

After his experience with the pornography photoshoot he told no one about it, not even any of his close friends. He was still unsure if he made the right decision that day.

Tena knows that it was a win-win on both sides. Both sides of the coin got what they wanted at the end of the day.

At the end of the photoshoot session, Tena wanted to invest it on a brand new camera with high definition, so after the photoshoot, he went straight to Best Buy to do just that.

CSI LEADERS

On the Air with Michael Ivany

A Look Into WSIA's Personnel Department

BY: LAUREN M. SILVERMAN

Have you ever listened to the radio and worried about the number of staff members the station had? Or have you heard a DJ and wondered if they've been properly trained and on-air certified?

Probably not. And it's Michael "Mike" Ivany's job as WSIA's Personnel Director to make sure it's never a concern.

WSIA, the College of Staten Island's FM radio station, is an organization with a flurry of moving parts. Personnel, one of the station's several main departments, is responsible for the recruitment and management of all staff members.

Ivany was initially drawn to WSIA after hearing about it from the station's News Director, Seamus Hughes:

"My friend Seamus would tell me great tales of foolishness about the radio station and stories of how family-like the members were. I was curious to find out for myself what it was all about."

His interest in music, however, began with a dynamic love for both Top 40 and classical genres.

"Ironically," says Ivany, "at WSIA, we have neither Top 40 nor classical music. We have alternative music ... it's everything in-between. It's the essence of college radio."

Ivany has a variety of responsibilities as the Personnel Director. Personnel deals with the station's recruitment efforts and, according to Ivany, acts as its HR department. He plans and oversees recruitment activities including tabling and conducting workshops for prospective members.

Workshops are a critical part of entry into WSIA, as they highlight important traits that all station members must follow.

"After the workshops to become a member," says Ivany, "students must take a quick exam to ensure they understand the [Federal Communications Commission, or FCC] guidelines and WSIA bylaws."



Mike on the air at WSIA.

WSIA's entry exam is also created and administered by the Personnel Department.

Ivany is responsible for scheduling all station-related events, including staff meetings, and is also in charge of disciplinary procedures for both FCC and station infractions. It requires constant communication with all staff members, including the directors of every other department.

"I work with each department head to

ensure that members are doing their work and the station remains clean and productive," he says.

As Personnel Director, Ivany meets every prospective member and guides them through the process of joining WSIA, from filling out an application to completing station work as a certified on-air DJ.

His favorite part of being Personnel Director is making connections with new members and helping them develop into successful DJs.

"I enjoy that members look up to me when they need assistance and I can be there to help them succeed," he says.

Ivany was appointed Personnel Coordinator soon after joining the station. The Board of Directors noticed his high level

of commitment and quickly agreed to vote him in as Coordinator until he had enough seniority to become a Director.

"During my first week of being a member I stayed late on a Friday afternoon to clean the entirety of WSIA," recalls Ivany. "The place was spotless! Then I began running and scheduling meetings and workshops. It was as if I blinked, and suddenly the full staff of WSIA had decided to vote me in as Personnel Director."

According to Ivany, WSIA is an excellent place to learn new skills that are not only enjoyable, but are useful and transferable for a variety of careers. It is also a place to call home.

"Here at WSIA, we have so many opportunities for learning new skills and leadership opportunities that fit beautifully into any resume you need. You also have the opportunity to join our perfectly insane family."

WSIA currently has about 30 members. Despite its growing size, says Ivany, you'd be surprised at how close-knit they are.

Ivany runs his own on-air show on Wednesdays from 6-8pm and Saturdays from 12-3pm. He plays a variety of genres in the station's alternative format including metal, rock, punk, and pop.

"If you're bored and studying on a Wednesday night or just waking up and preparing for your Saturday night partying, I highly suggest you tune into 88.9 FM or WSIA.fm online and jam out to my organized chaos!"

Quotes have been edited for clarity.

Different Environments, Same Goals and Ambitions

Doshi Rahman's Ever-Changing Life

BY: SAMMY QUARRATO

Changing environments is a subject in life that makes most individuals, at the very least, uncomfortable. Now, imagine moving once and then again.

years old, she is majoring in International Studies, with a double minor in Political Science and Sociology.

She joined Student Government because she wanted to "give back to a com-

dedicate so much to a community that she didn't always have in her life.

She is willing to sacrifice her time and help do a job that most people would shy away from.

Proof of this is that she is not a native Staten Islander. "After moving back from Bangladesh, I basically had to start my life over. It wasn't easy but throughout my college journey I have met extremely helpful people. I made friends, got involved with student life and built a home on campus."

She essentially rebooted her life, started on a clean slate, and made the hard but right decision of giving to a community where "being a Student Government Senator has helped me with my own personal growth, from public speaking to networking."

The extra curricular activities are a vital role in a person's life and I believe that if I can even slightly motivate someone to do better, then it's a huge success in my part."

She didn't come here with the skills that she has now. Instead, she learned and improved those skills to not just better her own life, but to better others. Better people means a better community for all of us.

Before moving from Bangladesh to New York, she was originally in Oklahoma. "Oklahoma is a much quieter, more suburban, and definitely a cheaper place," she says.

"I wouldn't live there anymore but I'm glad my childhood was spent there because I actually had one ... It's hard to have a life like that in New York."

There might be a small number of people thinking about why they should care that someone like her is part of Student Government. It's quite simple actually.

Rahman explains, "Student Government is a vital part of a college community, especially for a CUNY system where things aren't regulated in the most efficient way ... SGA is the advocacy body, it is the bridge between the students, faculty members and professors."

We speak and are closely connected to the President ... I don't think one example would suffice the hard work that goes behind being an advocate."

Rahman's journey is a story that should inspire those who are new to a community, environment, or an ever changing situation. Just know that you're not alone and that you can succeed.



Photo Credit: Sammy Quarrato

Rahman's life is inspiring to those who had to adjust to different environments growing up.

Not only that, but imagine moving to three locations that have different cultures and different climates.

Doshi Rahman is a college senior that attends the College of Staten Island. At 23

munity that has helped [her] grow into the person [she is] today."

This may seem somewhat common, but when you look into the history of Rahman, it wouldn't make sense for her to

CSI LEADERS

Working in Hillel: Meet Shifra Puah

Puah Welcomes CSI Students to Hillel

BY: MARK DEUTSCH

There's a woman that's working inside of CSI for a good purpose, one that pertains to a certain race. This person has invested a lot of energy into Hillel, a Jewish campus organization.

This woman is Shifra Puah, and this is her background.

Before Puah worked for Hillel she graduated from CSI and acquired an undergraduate degree in sociology. Armed with a degree she traveled to Israel to work for a non-profit company there.

She gained budget managing techniques and with her skills she could go anywhere. So why did she choose CSI?

CSI is a good place to work and allows Puah to utilize her management skills. It helped that the club had a vacant spot open, so she filled it.

Ever since her first meeting, she knew that she could picture herself working there. She began assisting with club events and trainings.

Now Puah is the Student Engaging and Program Director, an important job at the Hillel organization. Students know Puah for doing many things for the club, including ordering food for meetings.

Hillel at CSI provides students with aid and training for their questions about college.

That training is about speech skills, re-

sume building, and other career guidance that people have trouble with. Hillel has connections that club members take advantage of.

Puah is always willing to help others out, whether they are in Hillel or not. She is nice enough to let people enter and leave the club quietly, even if they're not affiliat-

every meeting, there's usually something different every time.

Every week there's usually a different event on campus hosted by Hillel. These include trying candy sushi or building a sukkah on campus.

In short, a sukkah is a hut built for the sukkot holiday. Last fall, students built a

Photo Credit: Shifra Puah



Puah is behind many of the exciting events that Hillel hosts on campus.

ed with the club.

She can be found in the Campus Center, Room 212, either orchestrating an event or helping people out. These activities are meant for both club members and people outside of the club.

While there's still pizza plus soda at

sukkah together on campus.

This event was basically for the holidays, but Hillel also hosts activities outside of this time.

One such event would be that ice cream truck on campus last month, where the ice cream was free. Besides that truck

handing out ice cream on campus, Hillel has done more than handing out sweets.

Puah spends time teaching students about Hillel and encouraging them to join the club.

Hillel is trying to bring people closer to Judaism both on and off campus. There are multiple programs set to help students with careers or emergency situations.

Puah is in charge of arranging these important programs, from food to career advisement, which are quite helpful.

Puah is also part of a program that sends students to Israel. It's a once in a lifetime chance to experience a country that brings so much significance to the club.

Puah has been organizing these important activities for a few years, making her prominent in the Staten Island Hillel branch.

You can almost always find her in the club room, where she's willing to help anyone that has a problem. Her and many others have made a positive impact on campus.

For those interested in the Jewish community on Staten Island and at CSI, stop by 1C-212. There, you will meet Puah and fellow students excited to provide guidance.

Puah is a valuable figure in Hillel and makes a difference in the lives of club members and students alike.

Angela Ramos: Administrative Assistant

An Organizer and Problem Solver, Ramos Has Game When it Comes to Being an Administrative Assistant

BY: KYLE FORBES

Angela Ramos, a CSI administrative assistant, describes her career as a rewarding experience. Ramos has been working as an administrative assistant for nearly 30 years.

Right after high school, she took a course to get a secretary job. Back then, she learned about MultiMate (similar to Microsoft Word) and Lotus 123 (similar to

degree, Ramos hopes to enter the MALS (Master of Liberal Studies) program.

Ramos likes to help people. To Ramos, it's rewarding to help someone or be a part of a team. The administrative assistant job offered a quick certification.

She also likes to organize and problem-solve. So, the administrative assistant role best suited her interests.

Ramos received awards when she worked at Paramount Pictures. She was an



Photo Credit: Kyle Forbes

Angela Ramos knows about the life of an administrative assistant.

Microsoft Excel).

This coursework landed Ramos her first job. She is now a sociology and psychology major and is currently taking English and computer science courses in the fall semester of 2019.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts

executive assistant to the Eastern division manager who oversaw different offices.

Ramos oversaw cashiers (not retail cashiers) in the film industry who estimate the tentative gross of a movie during the weekend.

Ramos created a spreadsheet that linked to a shared folder so the cashiers could plug in their numbers and the supervisors could access them quickly.

Her spreadsheet was acknowledged by California's main office and used throughout the company.

Ramos likes to help people and problem-solve. She also loves crossword puzzles, logic wooden puzzles, and other puzzles.

The current CSI administrative assistant feels satisfied for guiding people in the right direction.

Every worker has a challenge in the workplace. Time management is a challenge that Ramos is learning to perfect.

Secretaries and administrative assistants get pulled in many different directions. Ramos must look at the middle of the list to prioritize.

She also must take things off the desk such as due dates, time-sensitive issues, and things related to the provost, dean, and supervisor at the college.

Ramos enjoys eating peanut butter and a banana at work. Ramos likes the protein and potassium, and it is not a heavy snack. She is also a "Bustelo-girl" and prefers coffee over tea.

Right after class, two to three days a week, Ramos is at the library. The energy from the peanut butter gets her through the day and evening.

Ramos' first day of work was hard. Her previous job was at Baruch College,

where she worked in payroll and human resources.

The dual major student never worked in an academic environment at the time.

Ramos and her chairperson at the time learned about the processes and protocols related to their jobs. Beginning work at CSI was a learning curve.

Ramos looks forward to commencement. Seeing a student graduate, begin a new job, or enter a master's degree program is rewarding for her.

Christmas is Ramos' favorite time of the year, but not because of the gifts. She catches up on her administrative duties during this time.

Ramos heard of the CSI job while working at Baruch and applied for a transfer. She was interviewed and received the job soon after.

She was unfamiliar with sociology until she began working in this department at CSI.

Caring, resourceful, and patience are the characteristics of an administrative assistant, Ramos says.

Ramos believes that if you make a person feel good, they'll remember that feeling. The secret to success is to make decisions from past experiences.

To Ramos, experience is gained by making mistakes.

If the CSI administrative assistant job was a movie, "A Day In the Life of a Gitleston" (a CUNY word for administrative assistants) would be the name.

PROFESSORS

The Pages on the Screen

An Interview with Dr. Jeffrey Couchman

BY: SIDNEY MANSUETO

Dr. Jeffrey Couchman is a screenwriting professor at the College of Staten Island. A member of the CSI community since 2012, his focus on screenwriting extended his career from screenwriter to educator.

Couchman earned a bachelor's degree in film production from Southern Illinois University, and then a master's in English from CUNY Hunter College. Later on, he earned his PhD in English from the CUNY Graduate Center in New York.

I sat down with Couchman recently to interview him, where I asked some of the most intriguing and fascinating questions about the screenwriting industry and his life as a creator.

Couchman first discovered his interest in screenwriting by reading a lot when he was younger.

"I devoured books as a kid," he says.

He also watched tons of movies and television, and he would even act out scenes from them.

"Watching, of course, lead to creating. When I was in 5th grade, I knew I wanted to work in film. I didn't know what I wanted to do in film exactly, because at the time my focus was short stories and novels. When I got to college was when I realized I wanted to work in the writing part of the film industry."

Couchman always had a passion for film and books. "I would spend my summers watching a lot of television, which was where most ideas came from. I started writing stories and novels in the 5th grade, and screenwriting in high school."

"It wasn't until college," he says, "when I wrote my first full screenplay of 170 pages."

He always knew that he was going to teach.

"Throughout college," says Couchman, "I kept a file box of notes and information, and always wondered how I can put that information to good use. I began my teaching career in the PhD program while at Hunter, where I got my start as a teaching assistant."

Couchman began teaching at the College of Staten Island in 2012. He sent out his resumes to numerous openings and

Photo Credit: Sidney Mansueto



Dr. Jeffrey Couchman at the College of Staten Island.

CSI's Media Department called him to offer him a job as a professor.

When asked about the best thing about the art of screenwriting, he responded, "the idea of living and being alone with the characters I create. It's simply the isolation and interaction that excites me."

"The interesting thing is how their realm suddenly becomes mine. It's fun to watch them come to life and interact."

Couchman said that the worst thing about screenwriting is the lack of credit the

writers get. "When you look at someone like a director or an actor, the contrast in the amount of credit they receive is unbelievable. The whole film is literally in the writer's hands. I would like to see writers be acknowledged more in the film industry."

A valuable thing that he learned as a screenwriter is to always trust yourself. This also applies to when working with collaborators who may influence or change your ideas.

New York Theater, and the Hartt School in Connecticut.

He also wrote the play "Three Wise Guys," which was an off-Broadway production that ran at the Beckett Theatre in New York.

The hardest project he wrote was a novel about his sister who attempted suicide. The deep, dark and personal subject matter made it difficult for him to write it.

The easiest project he wrote was "Three Wise Guys" since it "...was based on two short stories by Damon Runyon. Scott Evans worked as a collaborator with me."

Couchman wrote his first screenplay right when he got out of college. He had just gotten married and had some friends in his apartment and they were constantly writing.

The project soon became 170 pages, but was too long for a screenplay.

He finds most of his inspiration for his projects by observing people. "I think looking at what they are doing at a specific moment makes me think. It makes me want to write."

When Couchman hits a "dead end" when writing, he likes to take naps or walk. "It's good to remove yourself from the space of the paper for a while."

He is influenced by the works of Billy Wilder and Robert Towne. Wilder's "...films have everything you need to know about structure. There is also snappy dialogue." Towne's film "Chinatown" "...is so organic and pieced together beautifully."

Couchman's advice for someone who wants to pursue screenwriting is to read a lot and see a lot of movies. He also recommends going back to the classics, and studying the past and watch films analytically.

His screenplays are mainly character-driven.

"There is something interesting about a character's initial needs and how they manage to jump from point A to point B. Structure begins with a character and tells a lot of who they are, where they are, and what they are doing."

Couchman wrote the lyrics to the musical "Battleship Potemkin," which was based on the film. The musical was translated into German and performed at the

Fox Populism: Breaking the Stereotypes of Partisan Media

An Interview With Reece Peck

BY: JOSHUA GALINDO

Reece Peck is an associate professor of the Media Culture Department who published a book in late 2018 titled "Fox Populism: Branding Conservatism as Working Class." The book delves into how the news station Fox News was able to garner the attention of a certain audience and how its resonance with them proved to be an effective tool to help rise it to prominence from the late 20th century to contemporary times.

One of Professor Peck's inspirations for writing his book was Stuart Hall. Stuart Hall was a cultural theorist who was born in Jamaica but raised in the UK. He was a leftist who, rather than condemning the

actions of the right, had an interest in how the conservative media of the UK resonated with its target audience.

Before becoming a professor, Peck grew up in a conservative family in Utah, which is a state that is mostly conservative. During his college years, he developed an interest in politics.

During the 2008 economic crisis, Peck closely examined the way Fox News covered the event during his graduate studies at UC San Diego.

During his close examinations, he picked up on the subtle techniques that Fox News uses to garner the attention of their conservative audience. As a result, Peck realized that there was more to the right-

wing news station than "preaching to the choir" as some people tend to believe.

Throughout his research, Professor Peck learned that Fox News was more than just an eye-catching, sensational news station. On the surface, Fox News not only resonates with their target audience through shared experiences with the hosts, but they also use conservative experts to back up their claims with statistics and research.

Professor Peck was fascinated by "how ambidextrous they are in terms of making arguments." On top of that, he explains how connected the rhetoric of Fox News is towards American political history.

The "forgotten man" is a term that is usually thrown out by conservative personnel such as current president Donald Trump. The term itself was coined by a social scientist named William Graham Sumner, but was later popularized by FDR.

While conducting research for his book, Peck encountered some obstacles along the way. One of these obstacles was looking for an archive that held the broadcasting transcripts for Fox News.

Fortunately, during his time at UCSD, a brand-new archive opened for him to study. "I have yet to find another robust cable television archive" Professor Peck states. Contacting Fox News executives and hosts also posed a challenge since conservative news outlets usually view schol-

ars and academics as the "enemy."

Another obstacle Professor Peck encountered was what the Fox News' audience finds compelling about it. It wouldn't be easy to simply ask an individual what they enjoy about Fox News. As a result, Professor Peck attended tea party rallies and protests to get a better understanding of what type of news outlets the attendees watch.

The last obstacle Peck encountered was to not allow his political bias to get in the way of his project. Everyone has their own opinions of certain media outlets, however Professor Peck implores that, "you should try to keep an open mind on why something works, not necessarily if it's bad or good."

Professor Peck hopes that readers of his book will realize that Fox News isn't necessarily "simplistic and stupid." Rather, they have a sophisticated way of engaging their audience through their language and the way they market themselves to their target demographic.

Peck also elaborates that left-wing news stations could inherit how Fox News' style engages its audience and how it helps associate themselves with an identity to grapple onto which makes it effective. Professor Peck clarifies, "the style itself isn't inherently conservative, it just so happens that conservatives have captured and used this style."



Photo Credit: Reece Peck

Reece Peck used his background as inspiration to closely study Fox News.

PROFESSORS

An Inside Look at One of CSI's Geology Professors

Dr. Jane Alexander Discusses her Passion for Geology and her Career

BY: BROOKE PRICE

Dr. Jane Alexander, a geologist, a geology professor, and chairperson of the Earth and Environmental Science Department, provided me with some insight about her early life and her current research projects during a recent interview.

Alexander's passion for geology was fueled by her interest in rocks as a kid. Her mother, who was a chemist, further expanded Alexander's knowledge of this topic by answering any questions that she might have had.

She later decided to pursue a degree in geology. Alexander got her bachelor's degree in geology at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She then got her PhD in geology at University College London.

After she got her bachelor's degree, Alexander worked for two years at an environmental consultancy company just outside of London. She worked on projects related to nuclear waste disposal and modeled what happens to the waste after it's been buried.

Alexander decided to become a professor in addition to being a geologist because she enjoys research. Since she had experience in working in the industry and she went back to school to do her PhD, she realized that she liked the research environment better than the industry environment; "you are able to choose your direction a lot more than just being given assignments..."

a lot of freedom."

The most memorable experience she had as a geologist was finding something surprising and trying to figure out why it happened. When she first taught sedimentology, she found an outcrop in the back of the parking lot and she noticed that the rocks in the outcrop weren't what they were mapped out as.

This was because the exposure had recently been blasted out to make room for the parking lot.

Over the years, Alexander was able to travel around the world conducting field work. Her favorite place she did field work in was in the south of France where she did undergraduate mapping; "it was a beautiful area, the weather was gorgeous, we stayed in a really nice campsite, everyone was friendly."

The most interesting place she visited for work was Japan, where she did field work for her PhD. In Japan, she collected samples of sedimentary rock to analyze for major elements and rare earth elements.

Alexander is currently doing a survey of the Staten Island shoreline to see how much microplastic contamination there is. "There's no other area in New York City where people have analyzed the sediments [on the shoreline for microplastics]... some people have analyzed the seawater and the Hudson Estuary, but not the actual sediments on the shoreline and it's a breaking field, so we're at the moment, still de-

veloping a methodology that's reliable to actually find the microplastics and separate them out from the sediment and then, when we're happy with the method, we're going to be doing basically a spatial analysis."

For her project, she collected sediments from the east coast every 200 meters and then she would have to go around the rest of the shoreline and collect samples

and figure out what direction to take it in. It took about 5 years of writing and going through committees to get to the point where they actually launched the program.

Alexander expressed that a lot of research and writing goes into coming up with the proposal in the first place to see what other colleges are doing as well as



Photo Credit: Brooke Price

Dr. Jane Alexander is a coordinator for the Earth and Environmental Science Department at the College of Staten Island.

and then map out the distribution of microplastics.

Alexander has worked in the field of geology for many years. However, the Earth and Environmental Science Program was only recently introduced to the College of Staten Island in 2016.

As a coordinator for the program, Alexander was allowed to develop the pro-

gram and figure out what direction to take it in. It took about 5 years of writing and going through committees to get to the point where they actually launched the program.

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Alyson Bardsley: A High Impact Professor

A Professor's Passion Drives Success in the Bertha Harris Women's Center

BY: NATALIA SANDOR

Alyson Bardsley is a mentor, an academic, and a challenger of conventional thought. She also is a very knowledgeable and enthusiastic tenured professor who has been teaching at CSI since 1997.

Bardsley teaches a variety of courses at the college but is well known for teaching English and Literature classes. Recently, she has become a women's gender and sexuality studies professor at the college after discovering her "interest in feminism and how it asks unasked questions."

She is curious and always searches to better understand the people as well as the world around her. It is her drive to connect and to listen that makes her humility and empathy shine. These qualities make her the perfect leader and director of the Bertha Harris Women's Center.

Bardsley currently co-directs the Bertha Harris Women's Center, which is located in building 2N room 106, with

Catherine Lavender. The center is staffed by interns and has a very dedicated college assistant named Lori Uccio.

The interns at the center are responsible for organizing campus events and for researching various topics in relation to gender studies as well as the center's mission. This mission is described by Bardsley is to "support women students and their allies."

The Women's Center is making waves at the college in the areas of inclusion, equality, sustainability, respecting diversity, empathetic thinking, and so much more. This can be seen by the variety and expansive nature of their events.

The center has supported a range of events including stress workshops with focuses on self-care, events that speak about menstrual stigma and information sessions regarding STIs. The center even participated in a denim drive which just recently ended and proved to be a huge success.

In the spring, the center has their an-

nual community reading of the "Vagina Monologues" which happens sometime around Valentine's Day. The center even holds a fundraiser in order to give a scholarship to any single moms who are also working to get a higher education here at CSI.

Every fall, the center hosts the "Take Back the Night" event which raises awareness about things like domestic violence and abuse. This year, around 120 people attended.

The center also ran a domestic violence showcase in 1P during the month of October where they display different quotes to highlight the severity of the issue and trauma that can be caused in these sorts of situations.

On October 9th the center co-hosted a salary negotiation workshop to teach women how to effectively ask for what they deserve when performing a job in a company. All of these amazing events would not be possible without the efforts of Bardsley as she is a major source of passion and drive for the center.

It is easy to see how the efforts of Bardsley are making big changes at the college and providing female, transgender and non-conforming students with ample amounts of opportunity to find support on their sometimes really different journeys.

"She is passionate about what she believes and thinks about things that others would not think about on their own," says Uccio. For anyone who knows Bardsley knows that this is most definitely true.

Bardsley is passionate beyond belief about things like the impact we have on the environment and about social equality.

But the biggest thing about Bardsley is that she cares. "She cares so much about the student. She will do whatever it takes to get things done and that is why I love her," says Uccio.

She continues, "she knows what she has to get done so she cares about the work. But she cares about the person doing the work too." This is hard to come by and the college is so lucky to have someone like Bardsley who places emphasis on both.

On December 10th they will host a wrapping party for the gift drive they host for Gift Horizon. Bardsley explains how if it wasn't for the Women's Center, Christmas would not happen for a lot of different people who benefit from their efforts.

In the fall of 2020, Bardsley will be stepping down as co-director. "This will be a loss for the center," says Uccio. So, it is of great importance to thank Bardsley for her efforts and for her passion as she enters her last semester directing the Bertha Harris Women's Center.

The Women's Center is disrupting the status quo and implementing initiatives that will help make CSI a more inclusive and empathetic place to be. Bardsley leaves with a legacy that has impacted so many lives.

Hopefully the center will continue to move in the direction she has pushed it in. Bardsley has so much kindness and puts so much heart into the things that she does as well as the things she says. It is this mindful way that she conducts herself that makes her a person of great impact and of great wisdom.

CSI is grateful for this tremendous "Human of CSI."



Photo Credit: Natalia Sandor

Students and interns inside the Bertha Harris Women's Center.

STAFF MEMBERS

Behind the Scenes with Mitchell Lovell

A Driving Force in CSI's Media Culture Department

BY: CARLOS GLICK

Mitchell Lovell is part of the Media Department at the College of Staten Island. Mitchell graduated CSI in 2014 from the Macaulay Honors Program. He majored in Cinema Studies and minored in Mathematics.

Mitchell chose something that he knew he was going to enjoy studying. Lovell says, "Part of me thought I only had so many years to be on Earth, so I wanted to spend my last years on Earth doing something that I enjoy doing."

Lovell goes on by saying, "I wanted to study movies because I loved movies." He knew he had always wanted to become an author because he liked storytelling.

However, he didn't like to read, which was a big deal. "You can't become a writer if you don't like to read."

At some point while Lovell was in high school, he wanted to pursue video and/or filmmaking. When Lovell was applying to college, he made sure he was applying to places that had such programs.

Part of Lovell's role here at CSI is that he is a College Lab Technician (CLT). So, he does a lot of CLT's on campus.

What a CLT does is that they make sure that students have access to the tech-

nology that they need in order to study and research. One thing Mitchell does is facilitate the labs and make sure that equipment is circulating so students have access to it, and are prepared to use the equipment as well.

It means making sure that things are working, things are fixed that need to be fixed, everything is ready, present, and set up when they need to be set up safely.

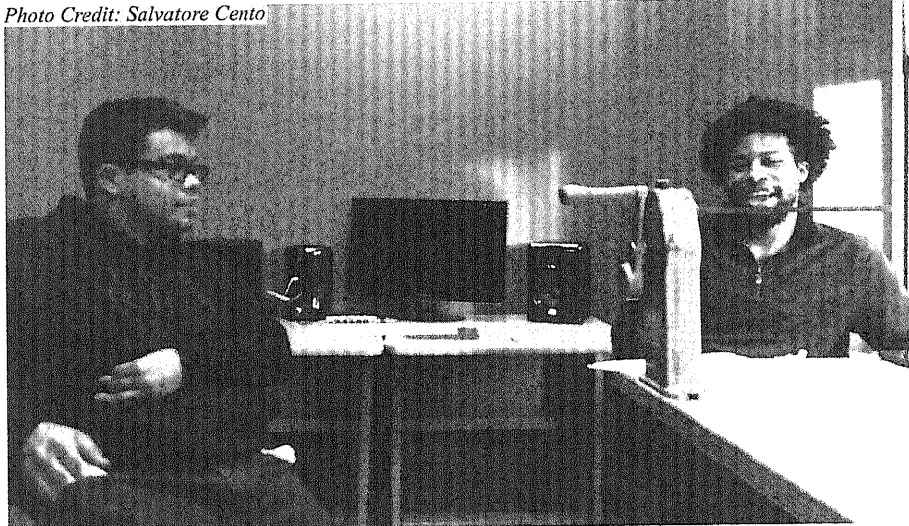
In certain classroom settings, he will set up different camera rigs and tutor some students in how to edit software. Sometimes, he will even install software as need be.

He says, "some of it is fun and some of it is computer work. Purchasing things is a big part of it because they need to make sure that the college is up to date on all the equipment that students can use."

Due to his CLT position, he responds to a Senior CLT. He answers to a chairperson and he also has to meet the requests of our production and design faculty, which includes the Cinema and Design & Digital Media faculty.

He works to make sure they have a printer that works and that there is a camera inside every classroom. Lovell has to make sure those things are in place at all times.

Photo Credit: Salvatore Cento



Glick, left, interviewing Lovell, right.

Lovell has expressed a new interest and it is the wonderful world of zines. Zines is short for magazines and is any independently produced publication.

It could look like a pamphlet, a magazine, a little booklet, or card. It's anything independently done and by nature, zines are shared, collected and are sent out into the world. They were really popular in the 80's and 90's.

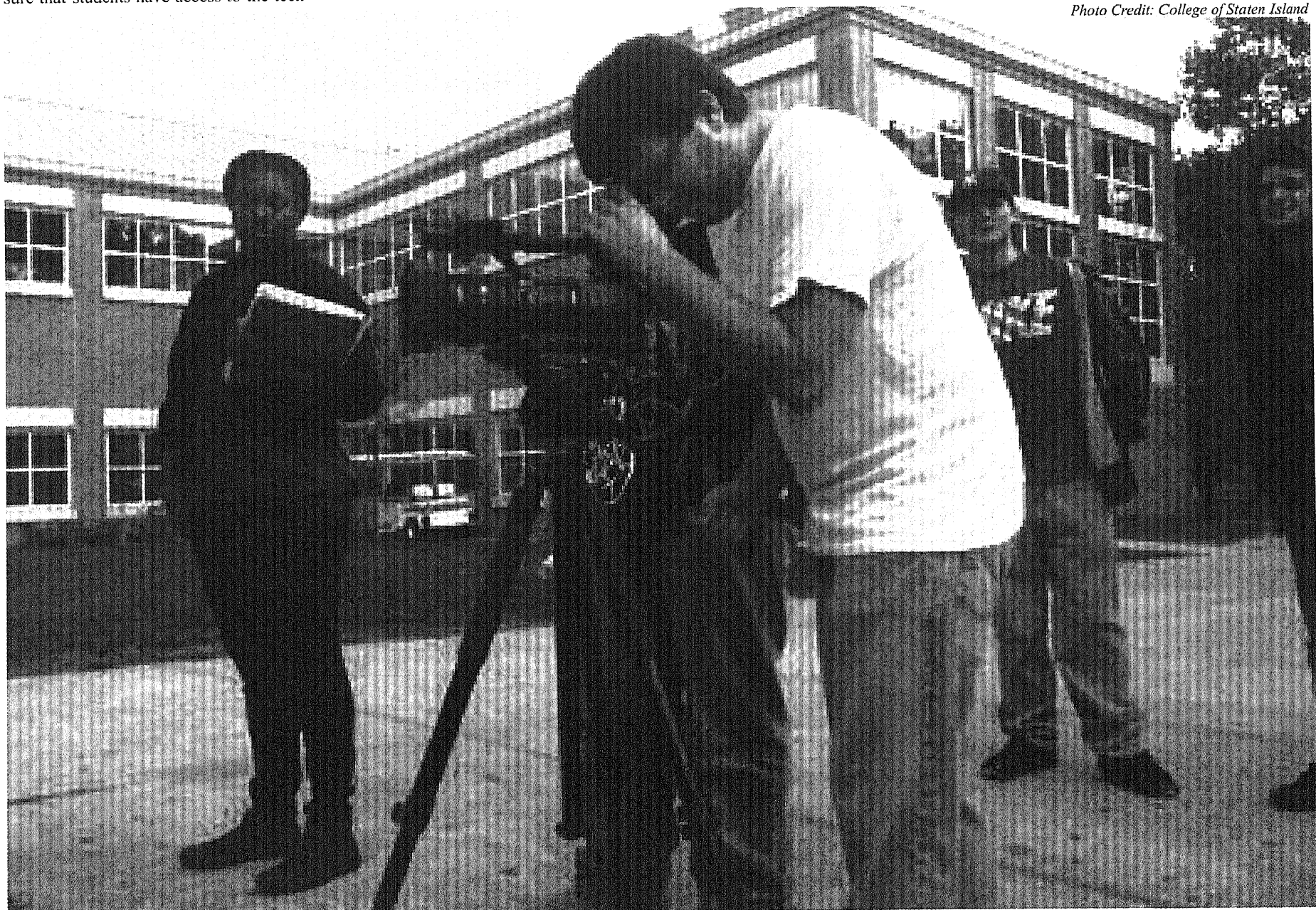
To continue on his wonderful new hobby of zines, he says, "The role of a zine has been taken over in some part by viral

email, or image macros or all sorts of wonderful internet stuff." The world of zines is really for enthusiasts.

For example, if you are enthused about any sort of subject, topic, movement or issue you can create a zine about it, share it, collect it and read other people's zines. Lovell says that if anyone is interested in picking up a zine, they are available in building 1P-122.

Overall, Lovell is a positive, outgoing person that makes the Media Department shine.

Photo Credit: College of Staten Island



Cinema students can rent equipment to shoot projects.