Save the public college route to the American dream

August 28, 2015 by THE EDITORIAL BOARD /

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That investment helped New York and the United States become world leaders in upward mobility. It created a society that believed everyone could exceed the accomplishments of their parents -- and many did. It was an expensive commitment to public education.

We still provide K-12 schooling for free, so why does picking up the tab for four years of college at in-state public schools sound preposterous? Perhaps because as public universities get less and less funding from state budgets, the idea of free college sounds impossible. College costs continue to skyrocket, and parents worry as they see a generation shackled by student debt. This has changed young people's lives -- postponing marriage, families and home purchases.

It seems that the dream of upward mobility is dying. Studies show the United States has fewer people moving up the income chain than most Western nations. While an undergraduate degree no longer guarantees mobility, it is still a big part of success. And reversing that unsustainable path has become a highlight of the 2016 presidential election.
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Nationally, state funding of public universities has dropped 16 percent since 2008. In New York, direct state funding for SUNY’s 64-campus system has declined 28 percent since 2008. State officials point to significant increases in other college support, like Tuition Assistance Program grants. That has helped some students, but it’s not nearly as effective as state funding of colleges in keeping down tuition for all students.
The decreased funding has led to tuition increases and difficulty running and staffing campuses. In 2007, the state paid about 50 percent of SUNY's operating budget, and tuition covered the other 50 percent. This year, direct state funding will cover about 30 percent, and student tuition will pay nearly 70.

In 2011, a state law allowed SUNY tuition to rise $300 per year for five years. This fall, annual tuition is $6,470, not including room and board, cheap by national standards, but expensive by New York's historical ones.

Direct state support for community colleges like the hugely popular ones in Nassau and Suffolk also has dropped significantly as a percentage of expenses. And unlike our public four-year colleges, which are a relative bargain, our community colleges are among the most expensive in the country. The national average for a year of community college and fees is $3,250, but both Nassau and Suffolk county's community colleges are about $4,800 per year.

Higher tuition and student debt are generating a lot of heat in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Clinton says she would eliminate the need for college students to borrow for public university educations and would lighten the load for those who've already borrowed. Those in debt would refinance at lower rates, and she would dedicate $350 billion to incentivize states to better fund universities and expand work-study programs. Her plan also would force universities to better control spending, which is crucial. Many universities have too many professors on sabbaticals, educational programs few enroll in and ambitious construction agendas that are not always about education.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) has a $700 billion plan to make public college education free, which doesn't seem likely. There's nothing wrong with demanding that students and their families have some skin in the game. We just need to stop skinning them alive.

In Albany, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo has been presented with a bill requiring the state increase to public university funding to cover nondiscretionary cost increases. He ought to sign it. However, college leaders need to understand that per-pupil costs, like all government costs in the tax-cap era, can't be allowed to outpace inflation. That means campuses must run efficiently and everyone, including faculty, must be a part of keeping costs down.

A public college education shouldn't be financially crippling. It also shouldn't be so expensive that it forces students into high-paying fields and away from what might be passions for the humanities or performing arts. The universities need to control costs. Our tax dollars need to pick up more of the tab. And we need to go back to being the upward-mobility capital of the world.
Photos: City Tech Students Built This Impressive "Passive" Home

by Scott Lynch in Arts & Entertainment on Aug 28, 2015 2:56 pm

In about a month some 30 students from CUNY's City Tech College in Brooklyn will travel to California for the biannual Solar Decathlon, a collegiate competition that challenges school teams from around the world to design, engineer, construct, and operate a solar-powered home.

The competition's rules require the house to be inexpensive to build, it has to be an appealing and comfortable place in which to live, and it has to be extremely energy efficient, ideally to the point of passivity—a benchmark the City Tech kids, who call themselves Team DURA (for Diverse, Urban, Resilient, Adaptable), believe they have achieved.

Over the course of two years, they have built what's poised to be an amazing home. Here's what it will look like when it's finished:
Rendering via DNAinfo

Yesterday evening at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, DURA showed off their entry to the public (and to their parents), with free tours of the net-zero, pre-fabricated house, which costs just a little more than $300,000 to build. A lot of work still needs to be done before they'll take it all apart and pack the home onto flatbed trucks for the trip out west (conventionally-sized trucks, not wide-load vehicles, a DURA design innovation), but the students, all wearing their light green "team" hardhats, were clearly proud of their work and eager to kick some Solar Decathlon ass.

DURA's house will have solar panels all along the south side (they were just starting to be installed when we arrived yesterday) and the north-facing wall will be solid brick. Windows are kept to a minimum—insulation and air-tightness are key to passive design—so the house offers generous outdoor living space in both the front and back. And because these are city kids, the DURA house is designed to be stackable, the only entry in the competition with this crucial high-density feature.

If 1,000 square feet plus a pair of porches/terrace sounds like a lot room for a NYC one-bedroom home, that's because it is! But since most of the other 17 Solar Decathlon teams are from less spatially-challenged places such as Tennessee, Missouri, California, and Texas—and since this is an exercise in energy efficiency rather than micro-dwelling—Team DURA felt like they had to spread out and luxuriate a bit in order to be competitive.

The Solar Decathlon is held from October 8 to 18 at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California. Admission is free and GO DURA!!!
Addressing growing health care needs through diversity

JAMES B. MILLIKEN Cuny Chancellor and LISA S. COICO City College Of New York President | 8/28/2015, 1:50 p.m.

With the Affordable Care Act encouraging millions of patients to visit doctors and millions more baby boomers aging into Medicare, a looming physician shortage threatens the future of health care. Hardest hit surely will be already underserved urban and rural minority communities here in New York and across the country.

The Association of American Medical Colleges predicts a national shortage of 46,000 to 90,000 physicians by 2025, including 12,500 to 31,000 primary care doctors. The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that New York meets only 40 percent of its primary care needs, one of the lowest rates in the country.

Furthermore, with research showing that minority physicians are more likely than their colleagues to work in underserved communities and to care for minority, poor and uninsured patients, the Institute of Medicine says that producing a diverse and adequate supply of physicians is one of the best ways to reduce
disparities in health care. However, African-Americans comprise only 4.1 percent of the physician workforce and Hispanics just 4.4 percent.

These statistics are among the reasons why Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced that the City University of New York is launching a new medical school, building on a four-decade-old program at City College, the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. The CUNY School of Medicine will draw its students from rising fourth-year Sophie Davis students, who until now have gone on to clinical training at cooperating medical schools. In the five years from 2009 to 2013, 43 percent of the students graduating from the Sophie Davis School were Black or Latino. In 2015, this number increased to 44 percent. In comparison, just 6 percent of the nation’s medical school graduates were Black in 2014 and only 5 percent Latino, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Clearly, the CUNY School of Medicine, created in partnership with St. Barnabas Health Care System in the South Bronx, will be a medical school unlike any other, committed to graduating highly qualified physicians, many of them from minority groups, uniquely well positioned to care, in particular, for America’s increasingly diverse population. The admissions process will be highly competitive, mirroring Sophie Davis standards, in which each year more than 700 students apply for a freshman class that typically seats approximately 75 students.

But what happens when there aren’t enough Black and Latino physicians to care for these communities, especially their most vulnerable populations, the elderly and those dependent on community clinics? CUNY’s new medical school will directly address this issue. After earning their medical diplomas, most current Sophie Davis graduates (65 percent) hold a New York medical license, work in direct patient care (88 percent), practice in large cities (68 percent) or inner cities (43 percent) and almost half report that their patients are underserved minorities.

More than 2,000 Sophie Davis graduates have earned their medical degrees. Many have gone on to provide important service to their community and the nation. For example, Dr. Laurie Zephryin, the first national director for reproductive health at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, was the second White House Fellow to graduate from City College after Gen. Colin L. Powell. Her mission now is to introduce new services for the growing number of female veterans across the country.

Another graduate, Dr. Edwin Moreano, opened an office three blocks from his childhood home in Jackson Heights, Queens. Since 1999, Moreano, a plastic surgeon, has led frequent medical missions to Latin America, providing free reconstructive surgery to children who were burned or born with facial deformities.

If they and the other successful Sophie Davis alumni are any indication of what’s to come from the new CUNY School of Medicine, our city, state and country will benefit immensely.
Carbon Tax Bill Introduced Into Assembly

NEW PALTZ, N.Y., Aug. 28, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The following is being released by Network for Sustainable Financial Markets.

Assembly members Kevin Cahill and Barbara Lifton introduced a carbon tax bill into the Assembly this week. The bill would tax carbon emissions with the ultimate goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions in New York State. This is an ambitious effort that starts a discussion at the state level on what a market-based solution to climate change should look like.

The bill would implement a carbon tax that would start at $40 per metric ton of carbon dioxide and increase in $10 increments annually up to $180 per metric ton, which would entirely eliminate carbon dioxide emissions in New York State. The bill also proposes to refund 60% of its revenues to the poorest and lower middle income classes, and utilize the other 40% of revenues for supporting the transition to clean energy in New York State, augmenting mass transit to reduce carbon emissions, and improving climate change adaptation.

While few people agree on the exact amount of the carbon tax and how proceeds should be utilized, most economists, many environmentalist groups, citizens' groups, and political leaders on both sides of the aisle agree that a carbon tax is the most efficient way to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. New York State economists supporting a carbon tax for New York State in general include Mark Gertler (NYU), Thomas Sargent (NYU), Michael Grossman (CUNY), Raquel Fernandez (NYU), Graciela Chichilnisky, (Columbia University), Laura Velkamp (NYU), Sean MacDonald (CUNY), Robert Frank (Cornell University), Marco Battaglini (Cornell University), Kaushik Basu (Cornell University), Ben Ho (Vassar College), Mona Ali (SUNY New Paltz), Gary Fields (Cornell University), Willi Semmler (New School), and Gerald Marschke (SUNY Albany).

"This legislation would reduce carbon emissions in New York State by making investments in cleaner, greener public transportation systems and by incentivizing the use of renewable fuel sources through tax credits," said Assemblyman Kevin Cahill. "A market-based solution to climate change will drive consumers to make more environmentally conscious decisions when it comes to transportation and how they heat their homes, while inspiring commercial enterprises to invest in more sustainable and eco-friendly business models. Tax incentives, coupled with the growing availability of alternative energy options in the marketplace, such as solar power and fuel cell vehicles, provide a strong framework for New York State to do its part in making our air cleaner and ensuring a sustainable environment for generations to come."

SOURCE Network for Sustainable Financial Markets
Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer takes new job at Hunter College; encouraged by Hillary Clinton

By Linda Wheeler  August 28

Harold Holzer, who is best known for his writing, co-authoring or editing some 50 books on President Abraham Lincoln, will begin a new day job on Sept. 1 as director of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College in New York. Holzer, who began his career as a newspaper reporter, recently retired from his post as senior vice president of public affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

At Hunter, his work will include overseeing the institute’s public programming, student curricula and academic research. In an interview, he said he was weighing the offer in early August when he happened to attend an event for Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton in New York. His mind was so much occupied with considering the job offer that he debated if he should ask Clinton’s advice when he and his wife Edith, who were in the receiving line, reached the spot where she was standing.

She opened the door for him when she greeted him by saying, “I have a letter in the mail to you about your retirement from the Met,” Holzer recalled. “So I quickly replied, ‘The retirement may not last. I’ve been asked to head Roosevelt House at Hunter. What do you think?’ “Roosevelt House!” she exclaimed. “That’s perfect—there’s a continuum from Lincoln to FDR. You should do it.”

Holzer said that was the tipping point. “I might add, and I’m not sure that I’ve ever told anyone this, but when I was 20 years old, FDR’s granddaughter—who was my dear cousin’s best friend—helped me get my first job, as a cub reporter for a Manhattan weekly newspaper. More recently, the same Kate Whitney long served as a member of the Roosevelt House Advisory Board, and she has encouraged me to take this job—which touched me deeply, and represented yet another continuum. I’ve come full circle, with Lincoln in between, of course.”

The Hunter job will also allow him the opportunity to teach history as a professor in the history department. For all of Holzer’s scholarship on Lincoln, and his years as a writer and speaker, he had never taught college-level classes.

“I’ve always wanted to teach—and to be a part of a university program that not only offers important curricula to students, but programs for the community. It is a dream come true,” he said in an interview. “I won’t teach in the fall—I have so much
Holzer already has his research done for that course, having written in 2014, "Lincoln and the Power of the Press: The War for Public Opinion," which won the prestigious 2015 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. His students might also be impressed with honors he has received including the National Humanities Medal from former President George W. Bush in 2008 and being named co-chair for the national Lincoln Bicentennial Commission in 2000 by former President Bill Clinton, a position he held for eight years. He has since chaired its successor organization, the Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. In 1995, he was the founding co-chair of the Lincoln Forum, an annual symposium held in Gettysburg.

Will this new job interfere with his research and writing? Not likely.

"I will never stop writing books as long as publishers want to bring my work into print," he said.
Getting our fair share? You know the answer already (commentary)

The College of Staten Island is studying whether Staten Island gets its fair share of city services. Mayor Bill de Blasio welcomes the effort. (Advance file photo)

Tom Wrobleski | wrobleski@siadvance.com By Tom Wrobleski | wrobleski@siadvance.com

Follow on Twitter

on August 30, 2015 at 10:00 AM, updated August 30, 2015 at 10:02 AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. – The College of Staten Island is undertaking a study to see if we truly are the forgotten borough.

How do you think that's going to turn out?

With the help of $20,000 in funding provided by our City Council delegation, CSI will look at whether the Island gets an equal portion of city services when compared to the other boroughs.

Allow us to save our friends at the college some time: The Island doesn't get its fair share of city services. Or some state services, for that matter.

This isn't more shopworn "forgotten borough" talk. It's just the facts.

Let's take health care, one of the top concerns across the country in recent years.

Staten Island is the only borough that does not have a public hospital. All the other boroughs have at least one public hospital. It's a glaring omission.

Now, some have argued that the Island doesn't really need a public hospital, that there are plenty of hospital beds available here.

There is another thought that the borough's two big hospitals don't actually want a public hospital built here because that would drain patients away from them.

But anybody who has spent any amount of time in the emergency rooms at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC) or Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH) can testify that help is needed.

It's simple: Too many people are using the emergency room for non-emergency treatment. Too often patients
can be found crowding the corridors.

SIUH upgraded its ER a few years ago, and RUMC is looking to do so.

A public hospital could relieve some of the burden, particularly when it comes to treating patients who don't have health insurance.

And if we're not going to build a full-scale hospital, then the city Health and Hospitals Corp. needs to spend the same kind of money here on the Island that it does in other boroughs. HHC needs to build health clinics, provide other services and partner with the two existing hospitals when possible.

The appointment of a Staten Islander to head up HHC was supposed to address some of these concerns. It remains a work in progress.

We Staten Islanders also are not part of the city subway system.

True, the state shares responsibility for this, but the mayor makes appointments to the MTA board too. When it comes to a transit system that every other borough enjoys, we are left out in the cold.

There has been more and more talk lately about resurrecting long-ago plans to run a subway line from the Island to Brooklyn, but we're not holding our breath for a project that would cost billions upon billions of dollars.

And while de Blasio has followed through and increased Staten Island Ferry service, our South Shore friends are no closer to having a fast ferry, which would help commuters in particular.

And our bus system is also lacking, especially express bus service and cross-Island service. Again, the state also has to take some of the blame here.

A while ago, there was a groundswell of support for more local control for the borough, particularly when it came to land use and transportation issues. Too often the city has applied a one-size-fits-all approach, thinking that traffic and building solutions that work in the other boroughs will work here too.

That attitude has been at the root of a lot of dissatisfaction here, including with former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Don't be surprised to see those concerns surface once again in the CSI study.

But one thing we already have more than our fair share of already: Enforcement of Vision Zero. Let's have a little less of that.
TELEVISION

What’s On TV Saturday

By ALEC M. PRIESTER  AUG. 29, 2015

2 P.M. (Showtime 2) AMERICAN GRAFFITI (1973) It’s the last night of summer in 1962, and a group of recent high school graduates prepares for college, Vietnam and the rest of life in this film by George Lucas. They hang out at Mel’s Drive-In, cruise up and down the main strip of town while listening to Wolfman Jack and attend one last school dance. A young Harrison Ford drives a black Chevrolet. “American Graffiti exists not so much in its individual stories as in its orchestration of many stories, its sense of time and place,” Roger Greenspun wrote in The New York Times. “Although it is full of the material of fashionable nostalgia, it never exploits nostalgia.” He continued, “It is a very good movie, funny, tough, unsentimental.” The film also stars Ron Howard and Cindy Williams (together above), Richard Dreyfuss and Charles Martin Smith.

11 A.M. (Comedy Central) NATIONAL LAMPOON’S ANIMAL HOUSE (1978) Delta House is put on double secret probation by Dean Vernon Wormer (John Vernon), who wants to boot this misfit fraternity off campus. In response, the fraternity members (John Belushi, left, Tim Matheson and others) concoct a plan to improve their grades while making mischief. “At its best,” Janet Maslin wrote in The Times, “the movie isn’t strictly satirical, because it doesn’t need to be. The filmmakers have simply supplied the appropriate panty-girdles, crew-neck sweaters, frat-house initiation rites and rituals of the toga party, and let all that idiocy speak — very eloquently, and with a lot of comic fervor — for itself.”

8 P.M. (BBC America) DOCTOR WHO Amy Pond (Karen Gillan) and the Doctor (Matt Smith) travel to Provence, France, where they battle a space alien
alongside van Gogh (Tony Curran).

**8:30 P.M. (Comedy Central) SUPERBAD (2007)** As they approach graduation, the high school seniors and best friends Evan (Michael Cera) and Seth (Jonah Hill) are anxious about being virgins and about going to different colleges. Jules (Emma Stone) invites them to her graduation party, and the boys set out with their friend Fogell (Christopher Mintz-Plasse) to buy alcohol for the party with a fake ID. "Horny is as horny does in the sweetly absurd high school comedy ‘Superbad,’" Manohla Dargis wrote in The Times. "A tickly, funny tale of three teenage boys revved up by their surging, churning, flooding hormones, the movie joins the tumescent ranks of similarly themed works about male sexual desire — consider ‘Portnoy’s Complaint,’ think ‘Porky’s’ — and its somatic epiphanies, treacherous secretions, anguished lessons and apparently limitless storehouse of embarrassments.” Also, there is a character who goes by the name McLovin.

**9 P.M. (AMC) HELL ON WHEELS** President Grant (Victor Slezak) discusses the future of the railroad with Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount) and Durant (Colm Meaney), and the Swede (Christopher Heyerdahl) battles Mormons.

**9 P.M. (LMN) THE HAUNTING OF...** The self-described psychic medium Kim Russo chats with celebrities about their brushes with the paranormal. This episode’s haunted celebrity is the comedian Margaret Cho.

**9 P.M. (CUNY) WALLANDER** An American argues with a war photographer who is having an exhibition in Ystad, Sweden. When the photographer turns up dead, one of her pictures is discovered in the American’s possession in this Swedish criminal mystery series featuring Inspector Kurt Wallander (Krister Henriksson).
Avoid student loan debt: These colleges are tuition-free
(https://bangordailynews.com/2015/08/30/education/avoid-student-loan-debt-these-colleges-are-tuition-free/)

Stevenson Taylor Hall at the Webb Institute in Glen Cove, New York, was the former country estate of the late Standard Oil tycoon Herbert Pratt, and has in recent years been used in television and Hollywood as Wayne Manor in Batman superhero productions.

By Moneytips.com,
Posted Aug. 30, 2015, at 6:56 a.m.

If your grades do not merit a full-ride academic scholarship to college and you do not have
enough athletic skills to stop your grandmother from dunking on you, keep your chin up — you can still attend college tuition-free. There are a handful of colleges throughout the US that offer a tuition-free education.

What’s the catch? It's not a catch, if you don’t mind working. You simply provide labor or some form of commitment in return for your tuition. In most circumstances, you will have to pay room and board, and a few other expenses — but the savings are significant.

These colleges are not easy to categorize aside from their tuition-free status, but they can be broken down into a few general types.

Military academies — The commitment in return for an education is obvious here, but the education is excellent. The Naval Academy at Annapolis, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs — even the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York — are tuition-free in exchange for a service commitment after graduation.

Not only do you get a free education from the service academies and the pride associated with serving your country, but after your service, you also will be entitled to various veterans' benefits.

Religious-based institutions — While these colleges were all established with some religious emphasis, the curriculum is not based solely in religious studies. You can achieve a fine broad-based education — although you should not be surprised to find them ranked at the bottom of the Party School listings each year.

College of the Ozarks, located in Point Lookout, Missouri, near the tourist mecca of Branson, is known nationwide as “Hard Work U” thanks to publicity from the Wall Street Journal in the 1970's. Students are expected to work 15 hours each week along with two 40-hour work weeks at some point in the academic year.

Alice Lloyd College offers free tuition to residents of 108 counties in the area of the Appalachians (West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio). Located in rural Pippa Passes, Kentucky, about 2.5 hours southeast of Lexington, Alice Lloyd requires students to work ten-to-twenty hours each week.

Barclay College in Haviland, Kansas, offers a full-tuition scholarship to students living on-campus, but the scholarship does not include the cost of room, board and fees. Although it is a Quaker Bible school, the college admits all Christian students.

Williamson College of the Trades is a male-only, Judeo-Christian college in Media, Pennsylvania. Their full scholarship covers not only tuition, but also room, board and textbooks, with a choice of programs in carpentry, masonry, landscaping, horticulture, turf management, paint & coatings, power plant and machine tool technology.

Specialized colleges — Deep Springs College is located on an alfalfa farm and cattle ranch in Big Pine, California, northeast of Fresno. This all-male, two-year college requires over
twenty hours of work each week in addition to studies. Deep Springs has an excellent record of graduates continuing their education at highly prestigious universities.

The Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia is not only tuition-free; it is one of the world’s most highly regarded conservatories for the performing arts. Their alumni populate top orchestras throughout the nation. Leonard Bernstein is one of several famous graduates.

The Macaulay Honors College is a liberal arts college at City University of New York (CUNY). They give full-tuition scholarships to all undergraduate students that meet CUNY residency requirements for in-state tuition.

Webb Institute in Glen Cove, NY, a private college specializing in naval architecture and marine engineering, offers full-tuition scholarships to their undergraduate degree, which features both a sound theoretical education and practical industry experience.

Others — Berea College, a four-year liberal arts college located in Berea, Kentucky (about 45 minutes south of Lexington on I-75), accepts those with a demonstrated financial need tuition-free. Students are required to work at least ten hours per week.

Unfortunately, the economy has forced several fine universities in this field to partially abandon their tuition-free status. Cooper Union, founded in 1859 in Manhattan and offering degrees in architecture, art, and engineering, is now offering a half-tuition scholarship for undergraduates enrolling for the first time, while those who first enrolled before autumn 2014 are still given a full tuition scholarship. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, MA, has also switched to a 50 percent tuition scholarship program.

If you are still looking for a tuition-free — but not labor-free — education, consider these fine colleges and other tuition-free institutions to see if they meet your needs. Alternatively, you can learn to block shots like a 7-footer or dunk like Michael Jordan.

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U.S. Department of Education Names New GEAR UP Grantees

Nearly $8 million grants were awarded by the U.S. Department of Education for the new grantees of the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program (GEAR UP). The grant will be used to help low-income students succeed in their postsecondary education.

This year, there are two types of grants which are being awarded: $5,962,940 for three partnership grants in Utah, New York and California, and $2,708,452 in a state grant to Kansas. This year’s grantees are Utah State University, California State University, Fullerton; Research Foundation of GUNY on behalf of Lehman College; and Wichita State University.

The GEAR UP state grants, which are a six or seven-year matching grant, include an early intervention component designed to increase college attendance and success and raise the expectations of low-income students and a scholarship component.

On the other hand, the partnership grants which is also a competitive six or seven-year matching grants support an early intervention component and, according to the Department, may also support a scholarship component to increase college attendance and raise the expectations of low-income students.
What do graduates of Staten Island's colleges earn? How does your college rank?

NWS SALARY
Find out where your college ranks in salary and job satisfaction of graduates in the 2015-2016 PayScale College Salary Report. (payscale.com photo)

Diane C. Lore | lore@siadvance.com By Diane C. Lore | lore@siadvance.com

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on August 29, 2015 at 3:55 PM, updated August 30, 2015 at 8:47 AM

"By knowing how much you can expect to earn after getting your bachelor's degree, you can choose a school wisely and set yourself up for future financial security"

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- If you are a recent four-year graduate with a bachelor's degree from one of the three colleges with campuses on Staten Island, you can expect to earn an average salary of about $47,000 a year the first few years after you enter the job market, and about $90,000 a year after gaining some experience in your field, according to the annual College Salary Report just out from PayScale Inc., the Seattle-based national online salary, benefits and compensation information company.

This year, PayScale surveyed alumni from more than 1,000 private and public colleges and universities, ranking each institution by job satisfaction and entry-level and mid-career salaries graduates reported they earned.

- Wagner College, Grymes Hill, ranked #84 out of the 1,037 colleges in the survey, tied with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Wagner graduates reported earning a median salary of $48,500 in the early years of their career, and $96,900 at mid-career.
- The College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, ranked #134. Graduates reported earning a median early salary of $47,100, and $90,800 at mid-career.
- St. John's University, which has a campus in Grymes Hill, was ranked #144. The median early salary reported was $47,200, and $89,800 at mid-career for the university, whose main campus is in Queens. The survey did not give specific figures for the Staten Island campus.

This year, SUNY Maritime, a small State University of New York college in the Bronx, that focuses on engineering and business degrees, took first place for the median salary of alumni with 10 or more years of experience. Experienced SUNY Maritime alumni typically earn $134,000, just $1,000 more than the median alumni salary of second-place Harvey Mudd alumni.

Harvey Mudd College, located in Southern California, took the top spot for highest alumni earnings in PayScale's College Salary Report for the last three years. Harvey Mudd has just over 800 undergraduate students. The median mid-career salary for Harvey Mudd alumni is $133,000 - almost $4,000 more than the
next runner-up -- the United States Naval Academy (USNA) at Annapolis, MD.

**GENDER, MAJOR A FACTOR**

Major and gender also plays a role in job earnings, the survey noted. More males majored in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), and STEM graduates reported the highest salaries, over $100,000 by mid-career. Among liberal arts and humanities students, graduates earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy reported the highest salaries, $85,000 at mid-career.

**With college tuition debt a big concern among Staten Island students and parents**, "by knowing how much you can expect to earn after getting your bachelor's degree, you can choose a school wisely and set yourself up for future financial security, especially when evaluating how much to borrow to help pay for your education," the PayScale report notes.

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New York City is filled with extraordinary places many of us never have the chance to visit, but for one weekend each year, that changes. On Saturday and Sunday, October 17-18, the public will have “unparalleled access” to some of the five borough’s
“most significant buildings” and public spaces, Open House New York announced last week.

Google's New York City headquarters in Chelsea, the Beaux-Arts library on CUNY's Bronx Community College campus designed by McKim, Mead, & White in 1912, one of the city's largest rooftop soil farms, located on top of the historic Standard Motors Building in Long Island City, and the National Lighthouse Museum on Staten Island, with its collection of foghorns and lighthouse models, are among the featured sites this year during the 2015 Open House New York Weekend.
The annual Open House New York Weekend celebrates architecture and urban design by proving the opportunity to explore hundreds of sites and properties each year – ranging from historic to contemporary – "by unlocking the doors to places generally off-limits to the public for tours, talks, and special programs with architects, designers, engineers, urban planners, and educators," according to the group.

"Every year OHNY Weekend reminds us of the critical role that architecture plays in making New York the extraordinary city that it is," Gregory Wessner, executive director of Open House New York (OHNY), said in a statement. "The list of participating sites for 2015 is going to be one of the most exciting yet, giving the public access to some of the most important spaces in the
city.”

- Recommended by Forbes -

Other sites this year include: City Hall, which recently completed its first comprehensive renovation in fifty years by the architecture and planning firm Beyer Blinder Belle; the Art Deco Central Library of the Brooklyn Public Library, which will offer tours of the underground stacks; and a number of food production and processing spaces.

(photo courtesy of Shannon Nallon) The National Arts Club, one of the featured sites on this year’s Open House New York Weekend
More Than Bells Without Clappers: Students Finding Voice through Civic Engagement with Big Questions

Posted on August 28, 2015 by Sally Mesarosh

With the national conversation about college emphasizing timely degree completion and readiness for employment, how can community college educators prepare our students to tackle the big questions they currently experience and will further confront in the complex, changing environment of our interconnected global future?

In a project funded by the Teagle Foundation, housed at the Community College National Center for Community Engagement (CCNCE), and led by Kapi'olani Community College, faculty at six community college campuses—Kingsborough Community College and Queensborough Community College (New York), Raritan Valley Community College (New Jersey), Delgado Community College (Louisiana), Mesa Community College (Arizona), and Kapi'olani Community College (Hawai'i)—are actively engaged with questions like these.

More than Bells without Clappers_ Students Finding Voice through Civic Engagement with Big Questions_ Association of American Colleges & Universities.pdf
WATCH: Octopuses Appear To Take Up Arms As Submarine Warfare Escalates

By NPR STAFF (PEOPLE/NPR-STAFF) • 14 HOURS AGO

Two octopuses going at it — or, as marine biologist Peter Godfrey-Smith might put it, engaging in a bit of "ornery" behavior.

PETER GODFREY-SMITH (CUNY AND UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY), DAVID SCHEEL (ALASKA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY), STEFAN LINQUIST (UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH) AND MATTHEW LAWRENCE.

Originally published on August 31, 2015 5:48 am

There may be an octopus arms race underway. And that's not even a joke about tentacles: Octopuses are actually fighting, and potentially using weapons.
The creatures are hardly team players under the best of circumstances.

"Octopuses in general are regarded as fairly solitary animals," says Peter Godfrey-Smith, a marine biologist at the City University of New York. He is studying octopuses in Australia's Jervis Bay — specifically, the common Sydney octopus, also known as the gloomy octopus.

"A particular group of them have started living in higher concentrations than usual, which we think is because of some peculiarities of the site where they live," he tells NPR's Arun Rath. "And essentially, they've had to, we think, learn to get on a little bit. They've had to learn to interact more than octopuses normally have to do."

And, well, there's been some friction. The octopuses in the bay have been fighting — or "boxing," as Godfrey-Smith calls it — and some have even been bullying others.

"There seems to be a lot of fairly ornery behavior which has to do with policing and guarding territory," he says.

But it gets worse.

Those ornery octopuses have also taken to hurling objects at each other, like shells and bits of seaweed, blasting them through the water with high pressure. And while Godfrey-Smith says there may be other explanations for this behavior, the number of direct hits has him suspecting that the octopuses are using projectile weapons.

"It would be quite significant if it's happening," says Godfrey-Smith, who's been collaborating on this research (http://scientiamarina.revistas.csic.es/index.php/scientiamarina/article/viewFile/1553/1817) with David Scheel of Alaska Pacific University. "In general, projectile use is pretty rare among animals."

He says they've got a lot more observing to do before coming to firm conclusions about the shell-chuckers. In the meantime, he refuses to be baited by sensationalizing reporters.

"The prospects for octopus takeover are still fairly remote at present," he says.

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Transcript

ARUN RATH, HOST:

OK, let's lighten things up a little bit. There may be an octopus arms race underway. That's not some lame joke about tentacles. Octopuses are actually fighting. It turns out the creatures aren't really team players.

PETER GODFREY-SMITH: Octopuses, in general, are regarded as fairly solitary animals.
RATH: Peter Godfrey-Smith is a marine biologist at the Graduate Center City University of New York. He's studying octopuses in Jervis Bay, Australia.

GODFREY-SMITH: A particular group of them have started living in higher concentrations than usual, which we think is because of some peculiarities of the site where they live. And essentially, they've had to, we think, learn to get on with a little. They've had to learn to interact more than octopuses normally have to do.

RATH: There's fighting, what Peter calls boxing, and even bullying.

GODFREY-SMITH: There seems to be a lot of ornery behavior, which has to do with policing and guarding territory.

RATH: And it gets worse - the ornery octopuses also hurl objects.

GODFREY-SMITH: Shells, sometimes it's bits of seaweed and then blast out the contents of what they're holding under high pressure.

RATH: Peter says there may be other explanations for this behavior. But the number of direct hits has him suspecting the octopuses are using projectile weapons.

GODFREY-SMITH: It would be quite significant if it's happening. In general, projectile use is pretty rare among animals.

RATH: Peter's been collaborating on this octopus work with David Scheel from Alaska Pacific University. And he says they've got a lot more observing to do before coming to firm conclusions about the shell-chucking octopuses. In the meantime, he refuses to be baited by sensationalistic reporters.

Have you seen Stanley Kubrick's "2001"?

GODFREY-SMITH: Yes I have.

RATH: Remember the apes and the monolith? It's just a hop, skip and a jump from weapons to rocket ships, right?

GODFREY-SMITH: A hop, skip and a fairly substantial jump. The prospects for octopus takeover I think is still fairly remote at present.

RATH: Marine biologist Peter Godfrey-Smith.

(SOUNDBITE OF MUSIC) Transcript provided by NPR, Copyright NPR.
Octopuses under fire! Cephalopods hurl shells and debris at rivals during fights to protect their territory

- Marine biologists from the US, Australia and Canada filmed the gloomy octopuses in Jervis Bay, Australia, using their siphons to throw things
- The creatures were seen to hurling shells as well as sand and other debris
- Experts are not sure whether the behaviour is intentional, but believe it could be to do with preserving their territory on the crowded seabed
- The gloomy octopus is also thought to communicate its aggressive intentions by making itself darker and taller in an attempt to avoid a fight

By SARAH GRIFFITHS FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 12:46 EST, 28 August 2015 | UPDATED: 15:15 EST, 28 August 2015

Octopuses have been caught on camera hurling shells and sand at each other while they fight in what may be the first example of the creatures using weapons.

The aggressive cephalopods use siphons on the sides of their bodies to shoot the objects at an enemy.

But marine biologists are unsure whether the animals are deliberately using the items as weapons or to warn another octopus off their territory.
Octopuses usually use their siphons for jet propulsion, or moving themselves along. But marine biologists from the US, Australia and Canada captured the gloomy octopus (Octopus tetricus) in Jarvis Bay, Australia, using its siphons to hurl objects. It is the first time that experts have seen octopuses using projectile weapons.

Very few animals have been reported to throw things at one another, so it would be significant if the octopuses are doing it, said Geoffrey Smith of City University of New York told New Scientist.

In video footage shown at the Behaviour 2015 conference in Cairns, Australia, an octopus can be seen gathering a pile of debris in its arms, before directing the jet under the web of its arms to propel it towards another cephalopod.

"So it's a throw rather than a spit, though the throw uses water pressure - it uses a sort of inverted jet propulsion," he explained.

Biologists from the US, Australia and Canada have captured the gloomy octopus (Octopus tetricus) in Jarvis Bay, Australia, where lots of octopuses live. They make their dens among piles of shells and conditions are crowded, so each octopus probably only has one square metre to itself, with neighbours uncomfortably close by.

The authors write in the study: "We hypothesise that long-term occupation of the site has led to its physical modification through the

**WHY OCTOPUSES DON'T TIE THEMSELVES IN KNOTS**

- They may have an abundance of long, bendy limbs, but octopuses rarely get tangled up.
- New scientists have worked out how an octopus avoids tying itself in knots.
- Although its arms will stick to just about anything - the will not stick to each other.
- It is thought the suckers that stud its arms temporarily shut down on sensing a chemical made by its skin.
- Further experiments pointed to a substance made by the skin halting the suckers from
accumulation of shells brought in during foraging, and that this 'ecosystem engineering' has in turn resulted in higher densities being viable at the site.'

The creatures are usually solitary, but might put up with cramped living conditions because of an abundance of scallops in the area, which is their favourite food.

Despite easy meals, the octopuses frequently brawl with each other.

For example, the researchers captured a male and female octopus fighting for two-and-a-half minutes and a large octopus bullying a smaller one out of its den.

The team also showed that the gloomy, or Sydney octopus makes its intentions known before a fight. The New York Times reported.

They placed cameras on the sea floor to record the behaviour of the octopuses off the island of Tasmania.

David Schel, a biologist at Alaska Pacific University, told the annual meeting of Animal Behaviour Society that they have 24 examples of octopuses signalling their aggressive intentions.

In one, an octopus moved quickly towards another, making itself taller and darker in colour to stand out against its sandy surroundings.

In another, one rose up on its tentacles and spread its tentacles in warning.

While the animals seem to be telling others not to mess with them, their imposing stances could equally be intended to avoid an altercation.

The researchers said that sometimes two octopuses become darker in colour and slap tentacles - averting a major fight - while other times they almost box each other.

OCTOPUSES' GENETIC SECRETS

They are one of the most adaptable and intelligent creatures in the animal kingdom, now the genetic secrets underlying the unusual biology of octopuses is being unravelled.

Researchers have sequenced the genome of the common California two-spot octopus.

They found the cephalopods have large numbers of genes for signalling molecules called proteocadherins which are involved in neuronal development.

It is thought these may play a key role in the development of their intelligence and learning abilities.

They could also be crucial for allowing octopuses to control their eight arms.

Dr Daniel Rokhser, who led the project at the University of Chicago, said: 'The octopus nervous system is organized in a totally different way from ours.

"The central brain surrounds the oesophagus, which is typical of invertebrates, but it also has groups of neurons in the arms that can work relatively autonomously, plus huge optic lobes involved in vision.

"The sequencing was an opportunity to look at the genome and see what we can learn about the unique brain and morphology of the octopus.'

Sneaky octopus tricks prey into thinking it's BEHIND it
US Academics Raise Concerns Over 'Digital India' Campaign

All India | Press Trust of India | Updated: August 30, 2015 13:37 IST

File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Washington:** Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Silicon Valley to promote 'Digital India' campaign, more than 100 prominent US-based academics have raised privacy concerns about the project.

In a statement, these academics, said 'Digital India' seems to ignore key questions raised in India by critics concerned about the collection of personal information and
repress the constitutionally-protected rights of citizens.

"We are concerned that the project’s potential for increased transparency in bureaucratic dealings with people is threatened by its lack of safeguards about privacy of information, and thus its potential for abuse," said the statement signed by about 137 academics, a significant majority of whom are of Indian-origin.

"Those who live and work in Silicon Valley have a particular responsibility to demand that the government of India factor these critical concerns into its planning for digital futures," the statement said.

"We urge those who lead Silicon Valley technology enterprises to be mindful of not violating their own codes of corporate responsibility when conducting business with a government which has, on several occasions already, demonstrated its disregard for human rights and civil liberties, as well as the autonomy of educational and cultural institutions," the two-page statement added.

Among prominent signatories to the statement are Meena Alexander, Distinguished Professor of English, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York; Arjun Appadurai, Paulette Goddard Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University; Shahzad Bashir, Professor of Religious Studies, Stanford University; Akeel Bilgrami, Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy and Director, South Asian Institute, Columbia University and Partha Chatterjee, Professor of Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Columbia University.

The views expressed by these academicians were dismissed by Indian-origin entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley, who hailed 'Digital India' and said that India under Modi has finally woken up to the potential that innovation and technology can bring to the country.

"Only technology and innovation can enable massive changes that are needed in India. Prime Minister’s visit to Silicon Valley is a long overdue acknowledgement that the government in India has finally woken up to the potential that innovation and technology can bring to India," Venktesh Shukla, president of TiE Silicon Valley, told PTI.

TiE or The Indus Entrepreneurs is one of the most powerful and prestigious organisations in the Silicon Valley.

Top Silicon Valley companies and entrepreneurs are its members.
Shukla said the entire Indian American community in Silicon Valley is geared up to welcome the Prime Minister.

"We are delighted that, for the first time after Independence, there is a government in India that won the election on the platform of growth and development and not based on identity politics or competitive populism," he said.

"We at TiE stand for wealth creation through entrepreneurship. A government in India that espouses growth, development and entrepreneurship is well aligned to our mission of creating wealth and fostering entrepreneurship," he said.

In their statement, the academics also raised the issue of Gujarat riots, and also allegations related to restrictions on non-governmental organisations, and freedom of media.

"Under Mr Modi's tenure as Prime Minister, academic freedom is also at risk: foreign scholars have been denied entry to India to attend international conferences, there has been interference with the governance of top Indian universities and academic institutions such as the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the Indian Institutes of Technology and Nalanda University; as well as underqualified or incompetent key appointments made to the Indian Council of Historical Research, the Film and Television Institute of India, and the National Book Trust," they alleged.

"A proposed bill to bring the Indian Institutes of Management under direct control of government is also worrisome. These alarming trends require that we, as educators, remain vigilant not only about modes of e-governance in India but about the political future of the country," the statement said.

Story First Published: August 30, 2015 13:37 IST
WPIX Makes Two Appointments To 'Morning News'

By Mark K. Miller
TVNewsCheck, August 28, 2015 10:32 AM EDT

Tribune Broadcasting’s CW affiliate WPIX New York (DMA 1), has named Chuck Carter senior executive producer of news. He will oversee all aspects of the morning daypart, including PIX11 Morning News which airs from 5 to 9 a.m. Carter will be responsible for the strategy and content of the station’s morning newscasts, on all platforms.

Carter, who was most recently acting morning EP while also the station’s managing editor, will continue to report to Amy Waldman, news director.

“Chuck has helped the PIX11 Morning News achieve double-digit growth in the month of August, with 5-9 a.m. news up 25% in adults 25-54, topping WCBS,” said Waldman.

Prior to joining WPIX in 2014, Carter was assistant news director at Tribune’s WTIC Hartford, Conn. He has also been the assistant news director/executive producer of WRNN-TV/Verizon FiOS One News in New York; assistant news director of KRIV Houston; news director of WPHL Philadelphia; and the executive producer/special projects producer of WJXX Jacksonville, Fla.

Carter, a New York native, holds a Bachelor of Arts in English/communications from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, N.Y.

Additionally, WPIX has promoted Adam Welikson to operations supervisor for PIX11 Morning News. In his new role, Welikson will be responsible for all technical and live production aspects of the broadcast. Welikson was previously PIX11’s assignment editor and coordinated weekend editorial and news logistics operations.

Welikson, who has worked at WPIX for more than 10 years, has served as planning producer, news writer, web producer and news assistant at the station. He will report to Christian Taussig, news operations manager.

He holds a BS in broadcast journalism from the City University of New York-Brooklyn College.
Dorm life: Book examines struggles of freshmen students (and their parents)

A former Harvard University dean and a college president with 20 years of experience, Roger H. Martin decided to discover what it was really like to be a first-year student again.

Over the course of a year, he interviewed students and faculty at Boston's Tufts University, New York's Vassar College, Maryland's Washington College, Queens College of the City University of New York as well as Morningside College in order to understand the challenges facing incoming freshmen as well as their parents.


"As someone who first went to college in 1960s, I know college life has greatly changed," he said. "That's especially true for students experiencing college life for the first time."

Indeed, Martin said college life represents an important chapter of a person's life.

"They're leaving their parents' home for the first time," he explained. "They may be entering college feeling like adolescents but, by graduation, they will, hopefully, become responsible adults."

Though Martin readily admits it's often parents who have a tougher time letting go.

"Parents have been protecting their kids during the first 18 years of their lives," he said. "It's difficult coming to the realization that college isn't summer camp and the kids are unlikely to live under the same roof ever again."

In "Off to College: A Guide for Parents," you mention "helicopter parenting" and "Velcro parenting." What should parents do to help first-year students without smothering them through overinvolvement?
"Parents should always extend their love and support for their kids. They should also be there in the event of a crisis. Otherwise, they should let their children take care of their own business. When I was a college president, I'd be getting calls from parents telling me their kid's dorm refrigerator wasn't working. My advice is to let the kids take care of the problems and have them start with the appropriate person. Part of the college experience is learning to become independent. That won't happen if parents are constantly intervening for their kids."

Still, I imagine some kids really don't mind their folks running interference for them, right?

"Sure, but good colleges won't abandon their students when things go wrong. If a child is struggling with his classes, having issues with roommates, or is depressed, there are people on campus who will help out. Students do have access to a number of resources and they should take advantage of them."

For your book, I know you went to big universities as well as smaller schools like Morningside. Are there things that colleges, both large and small, should do to improve the first-year experience?

"This isn't true for Morningside, but larger universities overemphasize upperclassmen classes. The top professors teach the upper classes while adjuncts teach the first-year students. While there are excellent adjunct teachers, professors also need to be engaged with both the freshmen and the upperclassmen. All of the schools I visited also took great care to monitor their first-year students, intervening if problems became apparent. If a student is missing classes or not engaged in activities, colleges run the risk of attrition."

What do you think is the biggest issue facing first-year students is?

"It has to be the proper management of time. Before they went off to college, students live at home, mom or dad woke them up, made breakfast and then sent them off to school. In college, there's no one there to tell them to wake up, eat and go to class. Most students learn to do these things themselves because it's part of the growing-up process. For parents, it's important to allow your kids to make their own mistakes and learn the experience."
Pleasantville
August 31, 2015

Engineering Firm Funds Scholarship In Honor Of Pleasantville Man

by Tom Renner 08/30/2015 news

Daniel Cuoco, a Pleasantville resident who died last year, will have a scholarship named after him established by his former employer, Thornton Tomasetti, for students at the City College of New York. Photo Credit: Contributed

PLEASANTVILLE, N.Y. -- A scholarship named after a former Pleasantville resident will be established by engineering firm Thornton Tomasetti for students at the City College of New York.

The international firm will fund the scholarship in honor of the firm's former president and CEO, Daniel Cuoco, who died (http://pleasantville.dailyvoice.com/obituaries/daniel-anthony-cuoco-68-longtime-pleasantville-resident/494538) in September 2014.

Cuoco graduated from CCNY in 1967 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He also received a Master of Business Administration degree in management from Adelphi University.

Cuoco joined Thornton Tomasetti in 1971 and was named Thornton Tomasetti's president in 2002 and CEO in 2008. He held those positions until his retirement in May 2011 after 40 years with the firm.

He was an active participant in the company's growth from a 15-person, single-office firm to one that now employs more than 1,000 people and has offices around the globe.

Throughout his career, Cuoco served as a mentor to young engineers. He also helped establish Thornton Tomasetti as a world leader in structural design and was an early adopter of emerging technologies such as Building Information Modeling.

He also led the World Trade Center structural engineering disaster response team in the assessment of buildings in the immediate collapse area following the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

The initial award will be for $5,000, with its first recipient to be announced in spring 2016. Key Points The City College of New York will select the scholarship recipient.

Successful applicants will be high-achieving students pursuing a bachelor of engineering degree and a career in structural engineering.

Those wishing to donate to the scholarship fund can make checks payable to City College Fund and indicate "Daniel Cuoco endowed scholarship" on the memo line. Send the check to 160 Convent Ave, Shepard Hall, Room 166, New York, NY 10031. Attn: Elena Sturman, executive director.
A summer of NASA research on sea level rise in Greenland

August 31, 2015 by Maria Jose Vinas in Earth / Earth Sciences

On Greenland's ice sheet, a vast icy landscape crisscrossed by turquoise rivers and dotted with melt water lakes, a small cluster of orange camping tents popped up in late July. The camp, home for a week to a team of researchers, sat by a large, fast-flowing river. Just a kilometer downstream, the river dropped into a seemingly bottomless moulin, or sinkhole in the ice. The low rumble of the waters, the shouted instructions from scientists taking measurements, and the chop of the blades of a helicopter delivering personnel and gear was all that was heard in the frozen landscape.

This camp was Laurence C. Smith's field research site in west Greenland. Smith, a professor and chair of geography at University of California, Los Angeles, and his NASA-funded team were studying the hydrology of the ice sheet — how the shifting network of streams and rivers that form during the melt season transport water from surface of the ice to the ocean, contributing to sea level rise.

"Surface melting in Greenland has increased recently, and we lacked a rigorous estimate of the water volumes being produced and their transport," said Tom Wagner, the cryosphere program scientist at NASA Headquarters in Washington. "NASA funds fieldwork like Smith's because it helps us to interpret satellite data, and to extrapolate measurements from the local field sites to the larger ice sheet."

**Mysterious drainage networks**

Greenland loses ice to the sea mainly through two processes: the shedding of icebergs from glaciers that run into the sea, and surface melt runoff.

"Solid ice losses have been studied in great detail by scientists for years, but the melt water component, despite being the dominant agent in the ice sheet's mass balance, has received comparatively less study," Smith said. "This is particularly true for the surface water hydrology on top of the ice sheet, which has received very little study."
The handful of ice sheet surface hydrology studies have mostly focused on Greenland’s massive melt water lakes, which can disappear in a matter of hours, engulfed by the ice. But Smith and his team believe that rivers sinking into holes in the ice are the main agent transporting water from the top to the bottom of the ice sheet.

Laurence Smith, chair of geography at University of California, Los Angeles, deploys an autonomous drift boat equipped with several sensors in a meltwater river on the surface of the Greenland ice sheet on July 19, 2015.

Credit: NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center/Jefferson Beck

"While lake drainages do suddenly pump a large volume of water all at once to the ice sheet, in fact the amount of water they put into the ice sheet is almost trivial compared to the flux of water moving through these intricate, very efficient drainage networks [of rivers] that spread across the surface of the ablation [or melt] zone each summer," Smith said.

Besides contributing to sea level rise, melt water runoff also accelerates ice loss: when the water percolates through the ice sheet and reaches the rock below, it slightly lifts the ice, helping it flow faster toward the ocean. Also, the intensity and area of surface melt are projected to increase with climate change.

The increase in resolution of satellite imagery during the last decade has allowed researchers to better map melt water rivers and identify good candidates for field research. Still, it is logistically very challenging to set camp on the melt zone: the National Science Foundation coordinates the transport of equipment and personnel to Greenland. Then, all researchers and tools have to be helicoptered in from the nearest town off the ice sheet – in Smith’s case, Kangerlussuaq, in western Greenland. Researchers often have to move camp, since the melt quickly makes everything too soggy. More importantly, the scientists go to great lengths to ensure safety: were anyone to slip and fall in the frigid waters, he or she would be quickly swept away into the moulin without any possibility of rescue, disappearing forever. For this reason, researchers must tether themselves to ropes when working near the rivers.

The moulin near Smith’s camp drained a catchment, or single network of streams flowing to a river, encompassing about 27 square miles (70 square kilometers) of the Greenland ice sheet. As the river by the camp approached the sinkhole, its waters deeply cut into the ice walls and carved a steep canyon. The team had marked the limits of no-go zones with bright orange tape, confining their data collection to a safe flat riverbank. Still, the researchers were roped in to avoid falls while they moved back and forth across the waters an instrument called an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler, which bounced sound waves through the waters to measure the depth and velocity of the river's flow.

Further upstream, Smith deployed three autonomous drift boats equipped with GPS and several other sensors. As the instruments floated down the river, they transmitted via satellite their coordinates, plus temperature data and depth measurements taken with sonar, until they were swallowed by the moulin.

The data will allow researchers to calculate the volume of the water entering the sinkhole. Smith’s team will use the field measurements to calibrate remote estimates taken by satellites, such as the twin satellites of NASA’s Gravity Recovery and
Climate Experiment (GRACE) and the commercial WorldView spacecraft, and aircraft missions such as NASA's Operation IceBridge. The field data will allow researchers to verify the simulation of regional climate models used to estimate future sea level rise. They will also incorporate the remote and field measurements into a computer model to create a simulation of melt water runoff processes operating on the ice sheet.

Two researchers with Smith's team move a sonar-like instrument back and forth across the waters of a melt water river on Greenland's ice sheet, to measure the depth and speed of the waters. Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Jefferson Beck

Complementary research

On July 19, Smith's camp on the Greenland ice sheet had visitors: researchers Marco Tedesco, an associate professor at the City College of New York, and Tom Mote, a climatologist at University of Georgia. The two scientists were taking measurements of the albedo (the ability to reflect sunshine) of the basin. Albedo changes during the melt season because melt makes the snow and ice crystals grow and become less reflective. At the same time, dark material such as soot, dust and biological material is darkening the surface of the ice. The darker the ice, the more energy it absorbs, which leads to more melting.

From the helicopter, Tedesco and Mote were flying the prototype of a new spectrometer – an instrument that measures the intensity of solar light: first pointing it at the sky to calculate how much sun radiation was coming down, and then downward to see how much energy the ice sheet was absorbing. The researchers were also collecting geo-located, very high-resolution images from a digital camera mounted under the belly of the helicopter.
Streams and rivers that form on top of the Greenland ice sheet during spring and summer are the main agent transporting melt runoff from the ice sheet to the ocean. Credit: NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center/Maria-José Viñas

Tedesco said that he and Mote were overlapping their data collection with Smith's field site because the two projects were "very complementary."

"They complement each other because albedo is driving the melting, and the melting is generating the runoff that is creating the rivers Larry studies," Tedesco said. "We're going to provide Larry a very detailed map of albedo for this area, which he will use to better understand where melting is more intense or less intense, and where the water that is feeding his streams and rivers is coming from."

Mote, Tedesco and Smith's research is only a portion of the complementary research that NASA is funding this summer in Greenland: the agency provides funds for dozens of projects that look into factors such as the role of warming ocean waters in melting glaciers from below, or how the land rebounds as it sheds ice. All of them with an ultimate goal: to increase our knowledge of how fast and how much Greenland will impact sea level rise in the upcoming decades.

Provided by NASA
EXCLUSIVE: Admin. of Children's Services loses bid to kick teen accused of stabbing abusive dad to death out of home

BY CHRISTINA CARREGA-WOODBY / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Saturday, August 29, 2015, 2:30 AM

The city agency filed a petition of neglect against Hassan Razzaq's mother in Brooklyn's Family Court to remove him from their Kensington home after he was released from Rikers Island on $1 million
bond with pending murder charges.

The family of a Brooklyn teen charged with stabbing his abusive father to death was relieved last week when a family court judge allowed the young man to remain home while out on bail, the Daily News has learned.

The city Administration for Children's Services filed a petition of neglect against Hassan Razzaq's mother in Brooklyn's Family Court to remove him from their Kensington home after he was released from Rikers Island on $1 million bond with pending murder charges.

ACS's position was to "protect" the 11- and 15-year-old children from Razzaq, who allegedly used two separate knives to kill their father, Mohammad, on July 18 as he slept in the living room.

The 56-year-old father allegedly went on a violent five-hour tirade because a female relative was wearing shorts and "not covering up like a good Muslim."

"They knew about the abuse that our father was inflicting upon us and they neglected to do anything about it," said one female family member.

"They are 'trying to help us,' but they are really trying to tear the family apart when we need to be together the most."
Razzaq, 19, is facing 25 years to life in prison for allegedly murdering his abusive father after decades of mental, physical and sexual abuse the entire family endured.

The mom's lawyer, Jennifer Cassandra, said, "ACS brought this petition to rectify their failure to do due diligence during their prior investigation to remove the father, the abuser."

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"It is an outrage that [ACS] wants to attack the survivors," said Cassandra.

After the hearing on Thursday, ACS agreed to let Razzaq stay at the crime scene, on the condition that he cannot be left alone with the two youngsters. The parties also agreed that the children must receive trauma-based therapy.

While Mohammad was on a failed business trip in Pakistan, Razzaq learned from a female relative that she was sexually molested by his father.

Razzaq's criminal defense lawyer, Michael Cibella, persuaded a judge to grant a $1 million bond package Aug. 21, but spent the weekend in Rikers Island because of a paperwork "snafu."

He was released last Monday, sporting a court-ordered ankle monitoring bracelet.

The children's legal aide attorney assured the family court judge that the children "are not afraid of Hassan or see him as a threat."

"They look up to him. No harm will be done to the children," the attorney said.

Razzaq was not in attendance
"It feels good that Hassan gets to stay with us," said the mom through an interpreter.

for the hearing because it was his first day of school at Brooklyn College.

"It feels good that Hassan gets to stay with us," said the mom