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Monarch butterflies rely on nectar-producing plants, especially milkweed, throughout their life cycle, but "way stations" of these plants in the New York City area are reportedly shrinking.

The family of plants to which milkweed belongs is the sole host for monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars, and it is a source of nectar for adult monarchs.

Monarch butterflies are also vulnerable to "climate change, the deleterious effects of pesticides, the destruction of natural habitats, and the dangers posed by our biodiversity crisis," according to a statement from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

With the seven-figure grant to its Metropolitan Monarch Alliance Project, Queens College in Flushing says it will use the federal dollars to conduct workshops for 150 elementary school teachers and 100 community members, "with a goal of establishing monarch butterfly way stations at five environmental education centers in Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx."

"Queens College will also help teachers from 25 schools to establish their own monarch butterfly way stations to give students hands-on experience in caring for monarchs," according to a statement released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Queens College was one of three recipients, chosen from more than 400 applications, to receive this round of grants from EPA Region 2, which is responsible for New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and eight tribal nations.

Each of the other grantees received $91,000 as well, and funding nationwide totaled approximately $3.3 million.

The EPA says it has distributed approximately $65.5 million supporting more than 3,600 grant projects since 1992.
U.S. Backs Queens Project on Monarch Butterflies
BY BARBARA LEONARD

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Juan Sánchez, Iconic Nuyorican Artist, Presents Solo Exhibition in Brooklyn

BRIC House, the Brooklyn-based space for contemporary art, performing arts and community media programs, is currently displaying the work of influential Latino artist and Nuyorican cultural figure Juan Sánchez. His solo exhibit, "What's The Meaning of This?," opened on Nov. 6, and will continue through Dec. 27.

Sánchez, 61, is considered a pioneer and one of the greatest Nuyorican cultural figures of the late twentieth century. His two-dimensional artwork inspects equality, race, class, cultural identity and independence, which is evident when viewing the 30 pieces featured in the ongoing exhibition. This is the first time mixed media collection will be presented in Brooklyn, where he was born and raised.

For decades, Sánchez, also Professor of Art / Painting, Photography, and Combined Media at Hunter College, has used his art as a tool for protest, resistance and demonstration. At the same time, he's utilized elements of contemporary Nuyorican culture: photographs, texts, abstract paintings and objects to generate geometric elements, rich symbolism, and textured, abstracted work.

"My mixed media paintings, works on paper and videos are visually layered and loaded," said Sánchez, according to press release. "I use various painting and collage techniques such as color, surface, photographic images, collage and text, through the complexity of visual, abstract, formal and conceptual language. I want to express in my art the cries, anguish, rebellion, struggle and the self-determination of a life affirming spirit."

Seven large-scale paintings from Sánchez's series, "Cries and Wounded Whispers," are included in the exhibition. Also, included is "Mariposas para las Hermanas Mirebal," a painting dedicated to the four Dominican women who moved against Dictator Rafael Trujillo. The dark work employs the image of the butterfly as symbolism, a dollar bill that covers the eyes of a photographed woman, which is hung upside down to represent martyrdom.

Collaged pieces from Sánchez's Unknown Boricuas series is represented at the exhibition, including the mournful visual piece, "Poema para Mami: Missing You." The art pays homage to the artist's mother, and includes a photo of her feet, framed lace, handwritten messages and a Catholic prayer card.

"So many artists have looked to Juan Sánchez as a mentor and model of a socially committed artist," Elizabeth Ferrer, Vice President, Contemporary Art at BRIC, said in a statement. "We are honored to present this selection of highly accomplished work by the artist, which brings forth themes of deep political, social, and cultural significance."

Sánchez's work has appeared at Whitney Museum of American Art; El Museo del Barrio; the Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Smithsonian Museum of American; the Museum of Modern Art; the Metropolitan Museum of Art and a number of other galleries. Additionally, he's received fellowships and grants from New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and the Joan Mitchel Foundation.
My NYC: What CEOs say about their city

N.Y.C. toughness helped this entrepreneur launch a party-finding startup

Dec 2, 2015, 1:09pm EST

Anthony Noto
  Reporter- New York Business Journal
  Email | Twitter | LinkedIn

When Nabeel Alamgir set out to create Linite, he wanted to bring New Yorkers a social media network that boils down to one thing — where the parties are.

The app, he hopes, may come in handy during the notoriously hectic holiday season. Should plans fall through, as they often do, Linite can help its users find a good party to crash at the spur of the moment. At least that is what the Queens-based entrepreneur promises. Linite — a mashup of "last" and "minute" — lists open invites for events, parties and gatherings currently taking place in the city.

The concept, however, wasn't the easiest venture to get started, Alamgir said. The launch relied on round-the-clock hours and favors from friends. After receiving a positive response from fellow classmates at Baruch College, 24 year-old Alamgir and the rest of the Linite team launched a Kickstarter campaign earlier this year, seeking a total of $21,500 to bring the app to market for both iOS and Android.

A pledge of $1 would allow you to get the app when it's ready, and $20 made you a beta tester before that. "Crowdfunding was the way for us to validate the idea and get some money," said Alamgir of the campaign, which ended up bringing in $23,115. "We hired our former outsourced development team from India without a dollar in the bank."
Yet, the trials didn’t outweigh the joy of launching Linute, which made its debut in September. Alamgir credits his success with being a tough New Yorker. Here, the Linute co-founder and chief executive officer discusses why N.Y.C. was the best place to start his business.

**What is it about N.Y.C. startups that set them apart?**

We might not have many developers, and we might not have all the venture capitalists setting up shop here. But we have the tenacity to keep going. New York City raises the toughest people in the world, and we are some of those people. Things are built on the West Coast to be tested to a market that matters, and we, the city of New York, are that market.

**What do you like most about the city?**

I grew up here. I love the fact that the problem here is not what to do, but that there is too much to do. I love growing old with the city, seeing the same city at 15, then again at 21, and now 24. It’s all different, just as I am different.

**Do you have a favorite restaurant/coffee shop/location that you like to frequent?**

My favorite restaurant is this little Indian place called Seva (in Astoria, Queens). They make the best Indian food I have ever had. The staff is made up of the friendliest people, the ambience is cozy and the portions are enormous.

**Were there any major lessons you learned about starting a company in New York?**

Yes. After Silicon Valley, this is the best place to start a business. Don’t be afraid to do so. You are not in a disadvantage. Do not blame the place, focus on its strength.

Anthony Noto is a multimedia journalist focused on venture capital and Silicon Alley startups. Based in New York for the Business Journals, he previously was a reporter at SourceMedia and The Deal LLC. He is a graduate of Rutgers University.
Peeved at the plan
Molestos con el plan

Story and photos by Renzo F. Moyano C.

"I am extremely frustrated and angry," said Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

East Harlem residents will need to seek a new path forward.
Approximately one hundred residents gathered recently for an emergency town hall meeting with City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito at Taino Towers to discuss the closure of Pathmark.

The supermarket, which occupies a full block on 125th Street and Lexington Avenue, was one of the few local accessible and affordable resources for fresh produce and groceries.

It was launched in 1997 with great fanfare, drawing then-Governor George Pataki and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani to the grand opening. It serves over 30,000 customers a week.

But the building has been sold for $28 million dollars last year by the Abyssinian Development Company (ADC) and nonprofit Community Association of the East Harlem Triangle Inc., which together owned 51 percent of the building.

The city owned the remaining 49 percent, and had no say in the sale.

Led by the Rev. Calvin Butts, ADC executed the sale to Extell Development Company without public notice.

"I am extremely frustrated and angry at Abyssinian Development Corporation," said Mark-Viverito at the forum on Nov. 18th. "I believe they threw this community under the bus."

She said that upon learning of the sale, she sought to intercede directly with Butts to stop it from happening, but to no avail.

Moreover, East Harlem Triangle has not yet received any of the proceeds from ADC from the sale of the building.

ADC is Harlem’s largest provider of affordable housing and social services, but has recently become a target of probes conducted by the State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and had the de Blasio administration cancel $3.1 million in city contracts in September.

In addition to the Speakers, representatives from the New York Academy of Medicine, the Food Policy Center at Hunter College, the East and Central Harlem Public Health Office, and the New Harlem East Merchants Association were present.

Beyond access to fresh food, also lost are 236 jobs, which panelists estimated were about half of all supermarket jobs in East Harlem.

Attendees expressed frustration at being excluded from such a major decision and lamented what they said had been a lack of consideration for community needs.

"Whole Foods is not the way for us, unless it brings its prices down," declared one resident,
referring the organic foods market that is slated to make its uptown debut further along 125th Street in about a year. "We need to have a farmer's market like the one on 14th Street."

Many also expressed resentment at Butts specifically.

One audience member insisted that the new owners, who also own the Columbus Circle luxury residential tower ONE57, were likely to try a similar project uptown.

Residents voiced their concerns.

"Just so you all know, Extell is going to build a luxury skyscraper in this community," he charged. "Our own black brother Reverend Butts sold us out."

Marc-Viverito vowed to continue pressuring the new owners on the possibility of establishing a new supermarket on the 66,000-square-foot property.

She said the loss represented an unfortunate return to the past.

"The reason [Pathmark] opened was because we did not have affordable options and access to healthy food," she noted. "About 20 years later, and we're in the same place."

For more, please visit www.manhattantimesnews.com.
Foundation helps underserved students transfer to higher schools

By Erika Protier

When opportunity knocked, Nolvia Delgado was ready.

Education was a priority in Delgado’s Ridgewood, Queens, upbringing, but, “My mom didn’t understand the complexity of the higher education system here,” she says.

Although Delgado, who was born in the Dominican Republic, was an honors student, “I didn’t understand the options available to me. I planned on [attending] community college, because that’s what everyone else did.”

During her sophomore year at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Delgado, now 26, was identified as a candidate for the Kaplan Educational Foundation’s Leadership Program (kaplanedfoundation.org), which would prove to be life-changing.

Founded in 2006, the program helps high-achieving, under-represented, low-income Black, Latino and Native American students transfer from associate degree programs to top four-year colleges, an especially challenging feat as many of these students also need to work part-time and have limited information about the admissions process, says Nancy Sánchez, the foundation’s executive director.

“Many are first-generation college students, without the resources other students take for granted,” she says.
To date, the foundation's track record is impressive – 90 percent of Foundation Scholars earn their associate degree, and of those scholars, all successfully transfer to a four-year college. In addition, 100 percent of those who complete their four-year program are either employed in their chosen field or have matriculated into graduate programs.

To qualify as a scholar, "You must be enrolled in a community college in New York, New Jersey or Westchester, have a 3.5 GPA, show great academic promise [and] a potential for leadership, and want to make a difference in the community," says Sánchez.

After an "intimidating and rigorous application and interview process," Delgado was ultimately selected to be one of nine scholars in her cohort.

'**Do your research. Take advantage of opportunities afforded. Take risks, and always dream big.'**

- Novia Delgado

The individualized attention Delgado received enabled her to focus on her studies for the first time, she says. When she was struggling with a science course, "The foundation got me a tutor, alleviating that burden."

Scholars receive a monthly stipend, allowing some to quit their jobs to dedicate themselves to their academics fully. Says Sánchez, "They're given metro cards to get around the city for internships. A laptop is also provided. We give them what they need to thrive, not just survive."

For the first year, each Friday, "Scholars come to our offices for leadership workshops. We cover the college admissions process, help them with essay writing, building their confidence, and identifying and applying to the transfer schools. We also discuss how they will speak with their families about going away to school," says Sánchez.

KEF organizes college visits and preps scholars on questions for admissions officers.

Eventually, and with KEF's advisement, Delgado chose Smith College, an all-women's institution.

While someone from KEF helps move you in and stays for orientation, the transition was admittedly hard for Delgado.

"I didn't know anyone and my uncle passed away that first semester. I didn't know if I could stay, as I wanted to be with my family," says Delgado, whose KEF mentor encouraged her.

"She told me, 'You're doing this for your family, and for everyone who came before you,'" says Delgado. "She followed up on me, and it's the reason I didn't leave."

Delgado is now director of partnership for the Community Schools Initiative for the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation in
Brooklyn, NY. In her role, she connects high school students and their families with resources they need.

"I enjoy this work," says Delgado. "Students come to school with so many underlying issues."

Eventually, Delgado plans to work in education on an international level. She applied and was chosen for the Fellowship for Emerging Leaders in Public Service at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

"It's supposed to help us develop our five-year plan and career in this field. I'm finding it helpful," she says.

To up-and-comers and others aspiring to follow in her footsteps, Delgado says, "Do your research. Take advantage of opportunities afforded. Take risks, and always dream big."
What is AARP's "Who's Who on the Care Team: Alzheimer's Disease" about? It's an article discussing the role of the care team in managing Alzheimer's disease. The article highlights the importance of having a team that includes clinicians, such as neurologists, geriatric psychologists, or nurse-practitioners, who serve a support role as social workers or geriatric care managers. Confused about who does what and why? Read on.

they might be clinicians, such as neurologists, geriatric psychologists or nurse-practitioners. Or, they might serve a support role, as social workers or geriatric care managers. Confused about who does what and why? Read on.

Geriatrician: Geriatricians are medical doctors certified in either family or internal medicine who have additional training in treating, diagnosing and preventing disease among those over age 65. You may want to seek one out if your loved one’s primary practitioner does not specialize in the health of older adults.

Why: Nine out of 10 adults age 75 and older have at least one chronic illness, and about 1 in 5 have five or more chronic conditions, according to AARP. In addition to Alzheimer’s, your loved one may be battling heart disease, Parkinson’s disease, diabetes, or other conditions which require ongoing care and monitoring. The geriatrician is the “point person” who manages your loved one’s overall health and coordinates care provided by other care team members. Geriatricians help you and your loved one evaluate goals of care and develop a care plan that encompasses the things that matter most to the individual.
It's important for the family caregiver to help the geriatrician stay on top of health issues — but communication may not always be optimal, said Mara Botonis, of FL. Myers, FL, a family caregiver and author of When Caregiving Takes Courage. Use a checklist or keep a log to monitor medical and behavior issues; review it regularly with the provider to identify areas of concern.

Who's Who On The Care Team (Full ... 

Neurologist: A neurologist is a medical doctor trained to diagnose and treat disorders of the central nervous system, including the brain. He or she may help the primary physician diagnose Alzheimer's or other dementias through an examination of the nervous system and brain functioning. Neurologists may perform diagnostic tests such as CAT scans, MRIs, or spinal taps.

Why: A referral by the primary care provider is common if Alzheimer's or other dementia is suspected. The neurologist will take complete medical and psychological history and perform a variety of physical, cognitive, and lab tests to pinpoint probable Alzheimer's — such as testing motor skills and cranial nerves, and conducting a standardized mental status evaluation. Neurologists can diagnose the likelihood of Alzheimer's with about 50 percent accuracy by eliminating other conditions, say experts at the University of Miami. However, the only way to actually confirm the diagnosis is through an autopsy.

Geriatric Psychiatrist: Geriatric psychiatrists are trained to treat patients with AD and to counsel caregivers. They perform clinical assessments, provide comprehensive behavioral treatment and management, advise and educate individuals about mental health issues of older adults. Geriatric psychiatrists also help family members cope with the psychological toll of caregiving.

Why: Behavioral problems become more common as the disease progresses, according to the Geriatric Mental Health Foundation. These symptoms may be the result of a treatable problem such as pain, infection, or discomfort and managed through non-pharmacological and pharmacological approaches. The primary goals of treatment are to improve the quality of life of the patient and caregiver and to maximize function by enhancing cognition, mood, and behavior.

Nurse Practitioner and Geriatric Nurse: A nurse practitioner (NP) is a registered nurse with advanced education and training in the diagnosis and management of common medical conditions, including chronic illnesses. Nurse practitioners provide a wide range of health care services — including some of the same care provided by MDs — and maintain close working relationships with physicians. An NP may serve as someone's regular health care provider, although regulations and "scope of practice" vary by state. The Family Caregiver Alliance calls the role of nurse practitioners "pivotal" in early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and in managing disease progression.

Geriatric nurses care for the elderly, focusing on creating and carrying out treatment plans for chronic illnesses, including diabetes, hypertension, and respiratory disorders. They also educate and counsel families of elderly patients who suffer from acute and chronic conditions.
Why: Nurse practitioners are part of many medical practices, hospitals, and clinics and may treat your loved one for routine care. "Many people believe nurse practitioners are better listeners and often have more time to spend answering questions and offering support," said Susan Reinhard, Ph.D., R.N., Director of AARP's Public Policy Institute. Nurses can talk about the day-to-day topics that they weren't always comfortable talking to the physician about, like "how do I get him to the bathroom? How do I prevent those falls at night?" explained Liz Capuzeti, Ph.D., R.N., Hearst Foundation Chair in Gerontology at Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, City University of New York.
Before joining the Clinton Foundation in June, I spent several decades of my career in higher education.
Most recently, I was at the University of Miami, and before that at University of Wisconsin-Madison and Hunter College of CUNY.

Over the years, I’ve noticed that college students are constantly working to break down barriers that divide us to improve the world around them.

I’ve been particularly thrilled to witness the entrepreneurial spirit that has developed among members of the Millennial generation, who have become known for both their innovative ideas and their early dedication to social good.

Young people today are redefining expectations in terms of when to move out (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/08/01/a-rising-share-of-young-adults-live-in-their-parents-home/), when to marry and, most importantly, when to start changing the world.

And that’s why I’m so proud of the more than 1,000 aspiring world-changers who come together each year for the Clinton Global Initiative University (https://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/meetings/cgi-university) (CGI U).

President Bill Clinton launched this initiative as a platform for college students to address some of our most pressing contemporary problems.

I’ve taken a huge interest in the promise that’s been displayed by this next generation of global leaders. Perhaps it’s because I remember being similarly young and ready to make a difference in college, and as a Peace Corps volunteer at 21 years old.

CGI U gives students unprecedented opportunities and expanded networks to convert their ideas and energy into tangible results.

By cultivating and unleashing the unique potential of our students, we can start putting solutions into motion that will improve the future of our planet.

Modeled after CGI’s Annual Meeting (https://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/meetings/annual-meetings/2015), CGI U illustrates
what's possible when college students step outside the classroom to pursue leadership opportunities in civic engagement and social innovation.

In order to attend CGI U, students must make what we call, commitments to action.

These are new, specific and measurable plans to address a global challenge within the meeting's five focus areas, including education, environment and climate change, peace and human rights, poverty alleviation or public health.

For example:

Marcus Lehmann and his team at CalWave, a UC Berkeley spinoff company, are leveraging CGI U's model to find a way to produce electricity and fresh water by harnessing the renewable power of waves and tides.

According to the Department of Energy, wave energy has the potential to power over 100 million homes in the United States.

Jeremy Goss, a student at Saint Louis University School of Medicine, is carrying out his CGI U commitment to transform a donated public transit bus in St. Louis, Missouri, into a mobile farmer's market to serve all of the 15 food deserts in the city.

CGI U students' commitments to action have been featured by the likes of Forbes, Fusion and even Stephen Colbert.

Most importantly, they are making a difference in communities around the world.

Based on the exciting solutions to emerge from CGI U so far, I'm thrilled that on April 1-3, 2016, President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton will bring together students from around the world at the University of California, Berkeley, for CGI U 2016 (https://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/meetings/cgi-university/apply/before-you-apply).
I'm pleased to see universities, businesses, governments and NGOs working together to help young innovators get started, find their passions, become creative problem solvers and make a difference while they're still in college.

And, as the challenges of the 21st century get bigger, so must our efforts.

Whether that's at CGI U, in extracurricular activities at school, or in the community, let's do everything we can to empower more young people to seize the unprecedented opportunities around them.

Hopefully, they can successfully take the lead on the major social, economic and environmental challenges that lie ahead.

CGI U is now accepting graduate and undergraduate student applications to attend CGI U 2016 at the University of California, Berkeley from April 1-3, 2016. For more information, click here (https://www.clintonfoundation.org/clinton-global-initiative/meetings/cgi-university/apply/meeting-application). The final application deadline is Friday, December 4, 2015.
Top tips for students looking to transfer colleges

By Erika Prather

As you navigate the path of being a transfer student, remember, you're not alone. Seek out support early on in the process and heed the advice of these area experts:

Get a jumpstart

"Start doing research on prospective four-year colleges during your first semester of community college," says Maria Campanella, founding director, Transfer Student Services Center, Brooklyn College. "Get to know the transfer counselor at your school. He or she can steer you towards on-site visits by admissions representatives," she says.

Meet and greet

Attend open houses at transfer schools of interest. Meet with admissions counselors and talk about the process to ensure you're on track. Ask the right questions. Find out how many credits will transfer and how they apply to the degree you're pursuing.

Be financially realistic, but not pessimistic

The vast majority of four-year colleges and universities accept community college transfers, but some are more competitive than others.

"Have a spectrum of schools representing different costs," says Bart Grechan, Ed.D., director of transfer services, LaGuardia Community College. "Four-year institutions often give far less aid to transfers than they do to freshmen. Having multiple options means they can make a
smart choice."

**Stay flexible**

The associate’s degree program or major you’ll choose doesn’t have to line up exactly with your life’s goals. Liberal Arts as an associate’s degree transfers the most easily into the most programs at the most institutions, because it’s so generalized.

**Seek transfer-friendly schools**

Look for those that accept transfers, not just admit them.

"Institutions that have admissions policies and orientations that recognize the differences between freshmen and transfers, have comparable scholarships, and have clear and visible transfer credit policies that recognize the college work already completed, are institutions that accept transfers," says Grachan. "The experience for a transfer is generally much more satisfying, streamlined, and successful at these institutions."

**Be aware of deadlines**

"Apply before the deadline so you can get early registration dates," says Arpita Paulemoni, Acting Director of Transfer Admissions, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Queens College. "Make sure all documents are submitted including your official transcript, letters of recommendation, and personal essays."

**Use online tools**

Most colleges use online applications, which allows students to check and track the application when they want to. Students can submit transcripts and test scores via online as well which expedites the process to complete the application. Some colleges also offer tools to see what the students’ courses will transfer over as.

**Take your community college career seriously**

"Grades will make a big difference in your ability to get into the school and major you desire at a four-year school," says Nancy S. Kaplan, Ed.D, Associate Vice President for Academic Support Services and Director of Transfer Student Services, St. Johns University."
Nobel laureate Harry Markowitz UC San Diego Creative Services and Publications

UC San Diego finance professor Harry Markowitz has donated his Nobel Prize medal in economics to the university's Rady School of Management, where he has been a member of the faculty for almost a decade.

The 88 year-old Markowitz also gave Rady two other major medals he has won, the John von Neumann Theory Award and the Wharton-Jacobs Levy Prize.

The university accepted the gifts while celebrating the 25th anniversary of Markowitz's Nobel Prize. He shared the 1990 Nobel for his contributions to modern portfolio theory, which is used to help investors maximize how much they can earn from their portfolios based on certain degrees of risk. The theory was developed in the 1950s and is still widely used in the financial services industry.

Markowitz also rose to fame in the 1950s and 60s for developing simulation models, including ones that helped General Electric to improve its manufacturing plants. He has split his career between academia and the private sector, working everywhere from the RAND Corp. and IBM to Baruch College and the London School of Economics. In recent years, Markowitz has been running a financial consulting business in Pacific Beach and teaching at UC San Diego.

Markowitz is one several scientists that UC San Diego has recruited after they won a Nobel Prize. The laureates include physicist Harold Urey and chemist Mario Molina.
ISE reveals closing keynote speaker

3 December 2015
ISE has revealed Dr Michio Kaku (pictured) will give the show’s Closing Keynote at 9:00 on Friday 12 February, half an hour before doors open on the fourth and final day.

Dr Kaku is one of the world’s leading scientific figures and an expert in Einstein’s unified field theory and has unparalleled skill in predicting trends affecting business,
commerce and finance based on the latest scientific research.

Dr. Kaku holds the Henry Semat Chair in Theoretical Physics at the City University of New York. He received his PhD in physics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1972, and has been a professor at CUNY for almost 30 years. He also does considerable public speaking on international radio and TV and frequently keynotes major business conferences, focusing on future trends in computing, finance, banking and commerce.

He is the co-founder of string theory, a major branch of string theory, which is the leading candidate today for the theory of everything. His PhD level textbooks are required reading at many of the world's leading physics laboratories. He is also the author of several international bestsellers including *Physics of the Future*, and *Physics of the Impossible*, which are also New York Times bestsellers.
John McKeon, publisher of the San Antonio Express-News, has been named president and publisher of the Houston Chronicle, ending a two-year vacancy in the top job.

A veteran of the newspaper industry, McKeon, 59, said he hopes to build on the Chronicle's progress in attracting new readers and diversifying its revenue by refining the company's strategy, fostering teamwork among employees and pursuing new opportunities as it works to adapt to an evolving market.

"This has been a great institution and accomplished great things," McKeon said Wednesday at a meeting with employees. "I truly believe our best years are still in front of us."

The Chronicle is one of the nation's largest newspapers, with a print audience of more than 1.8 million readers. About 17 million people visit the paper's free website,
John McKeon is the new president and publisher of the Houston Chronicle.

Chron.com, each month, in addition to Houstonchronicle.com, a subscriber-only website.

McKeon, who starts work Monday, said he plans to spend time meeting with employees to foster a debate and discussion about the newspaper's future at a time when many traditional newspapers are struggling to chart clear paths forward.

"I think one of the most important things is to come in and have respect for the institution, for the people who have been running it really well and to learn: What are the
opportunities out there?" he said in an interview after the announcement.
"My experience has been, folks know. The people, the employees know."

McKeon joined Hearst, the Chronicle's parent company, in 2012 after a five-year stint as president of the Dallas Morning News. He previously held various leadership roles at Newsday, the Los Angeles Times and Knight Ridder. He received a bachelor's degree from City University of New York City College.

"He's got an incredible résumé," Hearst Newspapers President Mark Aldam said Tuesday. "He's a terrific leader."

In addition to managing operations at the Houston Chronicle, McKeon will oversee collaboration efforts between Hearst's media assets across Texas. The Chronicle is Hearst's largest newspaper.

McKeon was selected for the job because of his extensive knowledge of the newspaper business and his successes at Hearst's Express-News, where he oversaw initiatives to grow the newspaper's audience and boost revenue, Aldam said.
"What's great about this addition is: We know this guy," Aldam added. "He's a known commodity. He's a successful operator. He's one of the smartest strategic minds that I've ever worked with."

As president and publisher in San Antonio for nearly four years, McKeon helped guide the newspaper through several efforts that deviated from the role of traditional newspapers, including the recent launch of Spurs Nation, a weekly magazine written by the sports staff featuring news, commentary, statistics and photographs of the San Antonio Spurs, as well as a partnership with coupon distributor Valassis Communications, which has traditionally competed against print media.

The newspaper also relaunched the San Antonio Light, an original Hearst nameplate, as a free publication to entice more readers back to its print offerings, McKeon said.

"We just haven't toed the line," McKeon said. "We've tried new things. We've tried different things."

Tom Stephenson retired as the Chronicle's publisher in September 2013. Since then, Paul Barbetta, the Chronicle's chief operating officer, has overseen the organization's operations.

McKeon joins the Houston Chronicle as it prepares to leave its longtime space in downtown Houston for the former Houston Post building at the Southwest Freeway and 610 Loop. That building is undergoing a $26 million renovation. The relocation is expected to be finished by the end of March.

McKeon said he plans to move to Houston with his wife.

Susan Pape will oversee operations at the Express-News in the interim while Hearst searches for a new publisher to replace McKeon. Pape starts her new role Monday as chief operating officer there but will continue serving as chief financial officer for the Houston Chronicle and the San Antonio Express-News.
With more than 4,000 employees across the nation, Hearst Newspapers publishes 15 dailies and 36 weeklies. Hearst is one of the nation's largest diversified media, information and services companies, with more than 360 businesses.
Bronx high school swept after student finds map of college campus with 'place bomb here' written on it

BY ROCCO PARASCANDOLA, BEN CHAPMAN, THOMAS TRACY / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS /
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A Bronx high school and college were swept for explosives as cops and bomb-sniffing police dogs investigated a threat, officials said Wednesday.

Cops descended on the former Walton High School building — which now contains several smaller high schools — on Reservoir Ave. in Kingsbridge about 8 p.m. Tuesday after a map of nearby Lehman College was found inside a classroom with the message “Operation Blow Up Lehman College” scrawled on it, sources with knowledge of the incident said.

No explosives were found.

Police then turned their attention to Lehman College, which is less than a mile away. The college was hosting a performance by students from the Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music at its Levinger Theater on Wednesday night, a college spokesman said.

The high school is on the Walton campus.

“The NYPD were called and they did a complete sweep of the facilities in question and deemed it completely safe,” the spokesman said. “The concert is going to happen.”

A student on the former Walton High School campus found a map to the Levinger Theater, with the concert hall circled, police sources said.

“Place bomb here,” someone had scribbled. “Operation Blow Up Lehman College.”

Earlier in the day a teacher handed out the maps to students who were interested in going to the concert, officials said.

The student who left the threat was still being sought Wednesday.

Both the police and the Department of Education were investigating.

Cops believe the threat was someone scribbling on the map, but they are taking
every precaution, a source with knowledge of the incident said.

"There will be extra security and more police on hand," the source said. "The bomb-sniffing dogs have gone over all of the instruments at the school and will do so again when they get to the college."

With Ben Chapman