Telling the Story

By President Scott Evenbeck, Guttman Community College, CUNY

Guttman Community College is sharing the story of our students. We first welcomed students on August 20, 2012, gathering in the New York Public Library to launch the college and to celebrate the opening of our first Summer Bridge program, funded by the Robin Hood Foundation. This last year we celebrated our first two commencements: one for those who started in that first class in 2012 and the second for the students who entered in 2012 and finished in three years, along with those who entered in 2013 and finished in two years.

The college was launched after years of careful study, driven by a concept paper outlining how to do college differently, and particularly how to structure a college committed to the low income, first-generation, and diverse students coming to community college in New York City. The planners did a great job, incorporating many of the features highlighted in the recent book Redesigning Community Colleges by Tom Bailey and his colleagues at the Community College Research Center at Columbia University's Teacher's College. Our students follow what is described as a guided pathway: all in cohort groups, all taking the same city-centric and "hands-on" courses in the first years of study and then moving to one of five majors in the second year.

In their aspirations, however, the planners underestimated the model's potential for student success. They set out to achieve a three-year graduation rate of 35%. The rate for our first class is 45%. This is in part because the students are engaged in their learning. Faculty and staff—working with a corps of peer mentors and collaborating in instructional teams—have done a terrific job of fostering the students' innate curiosity and inquisitiveness.

The campus has many visitors wanting to learn about the model of education here at 50 West 40th Street. We do our best to share the story. When I bid farewell to visitors at the end of the day, I ask what was best about the day. The answer is nearly always "the students." Students thrive in an environment that builds on their strengths and where high expectations are articulated and supported. This is as apparent to our guests as it is to us.
Telling the Story of Stella and Charles,

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Some of my favorite days at CUNY are the Board meetings when distinguished faculty are introduced and offer remarks. This world-class faculty nearly always talk about how much they treasure teaching CUNY students. Their heart-felt commitment to students is in the CUNY tradition combining access and excellence. It is such a gift for us at CUNY's newest college to build on that tradition. The story of this new college is the story of its students. We make a big deal of our Guttman Learning Outcomes, calling them our GLOs. Faculty and staff talk about how our students "glo." We will keep listening to and learning from them, letting them light the path forward.
Bernie Sanders to Governor Cuomo: Invest in CUNY Students, Faculty & Staff

By Fran Clark
December 17, 2015

New York—Senator Bernie Sanders, presidential candidate and Brooklyn native, is calling on Governor Andrew Cuomo to invest in the City University of New York and fund a fair union contract for CUNY faculty and staff. The message from Senator Sanders came in a letter delivered to Governor Cuomo last Friday, the same day he vetoed legislation to fund CUNY and SUNY. Senator Sanders tells Cuomo in the letter that "CUNY represents hope for economic and social justice." Sanders calls the recent cuts that CUNY senior colleges have been forced to make due to underfunding from the state "unfair to New York's students and unfair to our country's future."

Governor Cuomo has refused to restore the 14% of State funding that CUNY has lost since the 2008 recession. Instead, he has kept per-student funding essentially flat, used tuition hikes to cover costs that should be funded by the state and failed to invest in support for the faculty and staff.

The cuts the Senator refers to are being made because the governor refused to fund $51 million in CUNY operating costs in this year's budget. The Maintenance of Effort bill, vetoed by the governor late Friday night, would have prevented similar cuts in the future. Passed with overwhelming legislative support, it would have ensured that tuition hikes go to improve CUNY and SUNY, rather than to offset underfunding from the state by requiring the state to fund increases to CUNY and SUNY operating costs such as utilities, rent and salaries.

Without adequate state funding, CUNY colleges have begun to cut programs and student services, and the University has been unable to resolve its long-expired collective bargaining agreement. For six years, CUNY faculty and staff represented by the Professional Staff Congress, have worked without a raise. Today they are among the lowest-paid faculty in the New York City area—making it hard for CUNY to attract and retain talented faculty and staff. That's why Sanders is pressing the governor on behalf of the students, faculty and staff of CUNY.

In his letter to Cuomo about CUNY, Sanders says he is "concerned that a precious national resource is being threatened." And he urges the governor:
"Show New Yorkers that your concern for working people and people of color includes a commitment to their ability to achieve a college education. Provide the necessary funding for a contract for the employees represented by the Professional Staff Congress."

BACKGROUND
The Professional Staff Congress (PSC/CUNY), affiliated with NYSUT, the American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO, represents more than 25,000 faculty and professional staff at the City University of New York who haven't had a contract in five years or a raise in six years. The union, which recently announced plans for a strike authorization vote, has ramped up their fight for CUNY funding and a fair contract recently with ad campaigns, raucous rallies and a sit-in that led to 53 arrests.

CUNY is the country's largest urban public university system. Its contracts are funded by both the State (75%) and the City (25%). CUNY workers are public employees. The union negotiates its contract with CUNY, but State and City contract patterns influence its terms. PSC-CUNY.ORG. @PSC_CUNY.

Fran Clark is Communications Coordinator for the Professional Staff Congress.
City to Offer Legal Support to Immigrants

Andrew Denney, New York Law Journal

December 21, 2015

Mayor Bill de Blasio has announced the formation of hubs at immigrant service organizations in all five boroughs of New York City that next spring will begin providing legal support to immigrants.

Participating legal service providers for the $7.9 million initiative, called ActionNYC, will hire eight lawyers to provide assistance to immigrants and delegate non-legal case management work such as preparing applications to trained navigators, according to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs. The office will connect immigrants with relevant services, such as signing them up for municipal ID cards.

Funding for the initiative comes from the city's budget for the current fiscal year.

More than 500,000 New Yorkers are estimated to be undocumented and an additional 700,000 are eligible to become U.S. citizens, a release from the Office of immigrant affairs states.

The initiative is intended to prevent immigrants from relying on "fraudulent and predatory providers of immigration law."

"Today many New Yorkers qualify for permanent immigration relief and do not know it," said Nisha Agarwal, commissioner of the agency, "ActionNYC will reach New Yorkers in the languages they speak and in the neighborhoods in which they live."

The participating legal service providers are BronxWorks, CAMBA, Catholic Charities Community Services, Lutheran Social Services of New York, Make the Road New York, New York Legal Assistance Group and the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation.

The Office of Immigrant Affairs will work with the city's Human Resources Administration and the Research Foundation of the City University of New York to administer the initiative.
Parents of grown up U.S. citizen kids can seek green card through them

Parents of U.S. citizens age 21 or older qualify for permanent residence in the category "immediate
Q. My U.S. citizen wife won’t file for my green card — and she also won’t grant me a divorce. Can I get my green card through my daughter? My wife of 20 years and I are separated.

I came to the United States on a visitor’s visa in 1988 and never left. My two beautiful daughters, born in the United States, are now ages 19 and 21.

N.F., by email

A. Since you came here on a visitor’s visa and you have a U.S. citizen daughter age 21, getting a green card should be easy.

The parents of U.S. citizens age 21 or older qualify for permanent residence in the category called “immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.” People in that category can apply for permanent residence without regard to the immigration quota limiting the number of people from each country that get a visa each year. That means that you can apply immediately for permanent residence.

Moreover, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens who entered on visitor’s visas can interview for permanent residence in the United States even if they overstayed. You can get the forms and filing instructions online or by calling U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at (800) 870-3676.

U.S. CITIZEN’S RELATIVE CAN IMMIGRATE WITH KIDS, MAY WAIT YEARS

Q. I’m looking for help for an undocumented immigrant on dialysis. Can you help? I am a social worker at a dialysis clinic. My patient came here from Honduras with his mother and brother. None has lawful status. My patient has no insurance and we are looking for a way to get reimbursed for the cost of his treatment.

Name withheld, Austin, Tex.

A. Because Congress excluded undocumented immigrants from getting insurance under the Affordable Care Act, these individuals have limited health care options. Immigrants’ options also depend on which state they live in. Undocumented immigrants qualify for emergency Medicaid, but not every state or county considers regularly scheduled dialysis to be an “emergency.”

My reading of Texas rules is that emergency Medicaid for regularly scheduled dialysis is available only in some counties. Your client may have to move to a different county to get reimbursed health care. In New York, where I live,
regularly scheduled dialysis is available for undocumented immigrants throughout the state. New York, however, has particularly generous rules for providing health care to undocumented immigrants.

Allan Wernick is an attorney and director of the City University of New York's Citizenship Now! project. Send questions and comments to Allan Wernick, New York Daily News, 4 New York Plaza, New York, NY 10004 or email. Follow him on Twitter @awernick.
CUNY union members receive conditional dismissal of protest arrests

By CONOR SKELDING 8:04 p.m. Dec. 16, 2015

Fifty-three members of CUNY's faculty and staff union who were arrested during a protest in November, including its president, will have their disorderly conduct charges dropped, so long as they are not charged with another crime in the next six months.

Professional Staff Congress president Barbara Bowen and 52 other PSC members were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct for blocking the doors to the university's central office on Nov. 4.

Bowen and others appeared in Manhattan Criminal Court on Monday "to answer the Desk Appearance Tickets they received for their act of civil disobedience," PSC spokesman Fran Clark said in an email. "For each of the 53 the Court ordered an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal."

The charges will be dismissed in six months, as long as in that time the defendants are not charged with another crime.

MORE ON POLITICO
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* POLITICO New York Energy: PSC vote on transmission lines, Cuomo orders Indian Point probe
* POLITICO New York Real Estate: City Planning hearing—Riverton deal—Feds raise rates

The union has worked without a contract since 2010, and had on the day of their protest received their first economic offer after more than a year of bargaining. Bowen called it a "gesture of contempt" before her arrest.
Bear hunt begins again on Wednesday

DEP: 472 bears killed, but hunt short of 20 percent harvest goal
The state Department of Environmental Protection announced late Sunday that a four-day extension of the state’s annual black bear hunt will begin on Wednesday and run through Saturday.

The annual bear hunt, originally scheduled for six days, was held Dec. 7-12. Under the state’s updated black bear management policy, an extension of up to four days was to be allowed by the division if fewer than 20 percent of the 133 bears specially tagged by the division prior to this year’s hunt were killed.

The four-day extension of the bear hunt will begin a half-hour prior to sunrise on Wednesday and continue a half-hour after sunset on Saturday.

Hunters who have already taken a bear this season are not eligible to continue hunting for bear during the four-day extension. Hunters continuing to hunt this season, there will be three mandatory bear check stations open for the remaining period. They are located at the Whittingham Wildlife Management Area in Newton, the Pequest Wildlife Management Area in Oxford, and the
• 216 bears killed on first day of state's weeklong bear hunt

Green Pond Golf Course in Rockaway.

As of Sunday, the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife was reporting that a total of 472 bears had been killed out of the state's estimated black bear population of approximately 3,600, with the highest kill totals reported on the first two days of the hunt.

The final tally of tagged bears taken in this year's hunt fell short of the 20 percent benchmark as the division on Sunday announced a kill rate of 18 percent of tagged bears.

The division reported that of the 133 tagged bears, 24 had been brought in to official check stations set up at various locations, falling three short of the threshold of 27 that would have been required to halt the hunt.

"The harvest numbers recorded this week have fallen short of our six-day wildlife management goal, which was arrived at through extensive science and research that has been ongoing since 2010," DEP Commissioner Bob Martin said in a prepared statement. "With the four-day extension, we will reach a harvest number that will keep the black bear population healthy and sustainable, while reducing the potential for conflicts with people."

Bob Considine, a DEP spokesperson, said the tagged bears represented a combination of those identified as nuisance bears as well as those with which the division came into contact through research trapping and den research over the past year.

"We are very confident that they represent the population. This is the same research method and hunt evaluation method used in other states," he said in an email.

But for animal rights advocates and environmentalists, the continuation of the hunt came as more dismaying news following a week that many of them had been dreading.

"There is no science behind this hunt, none," said Angi Metler, of Vernon. "This is nothing but a bait and shoot."

Beverly Budz, who chairs the Vernon Environmental Commission, said it's wrong that hunters are allowed to bait bears.

"To leave out 100 pounds of butter, chocolate, molasses and peanut butter and sit there and wait for a family of bears to come by and then blow their brains out is not a hunt — it's a slaughter," she said. "It's all very disturbing and such an embarrassment to the idea of a real sportsman, if you ask me."

In many cases, she said, "the mothers and the cubs died together at the bait pile, or the mothers are dead so now you have cubs wandering around out there aimlessly." With the hunt now extended, she said, "those cubs will be easy pickings."

"The worst part," she said, "is to go back into the park in two weeks and see all the entrails that are left all over the Appalachian Trail and the piles of garbage, doughnuts and sugar. This is our state park, yet here we are taking every (item) that is not a natural food source for them and bringing it into the park where it sits there, breeding disease for the other animals that come and take a nibble, and it's not required that any of it be taken out."

On Saturday, Budz appeared with about 75 other animal-rights protesters at at the Whittingham Wildlife Management Area in Fredon. While there, Budz was joined by other members of the Bear Education and Resource Group — also known as BEAR — in voicing opposition to the hunt as several hunters arrived with bear carcasses at a nearby check-in station.

As he has previously, anti-hunt protester William Crain once again was arrested Saturday for standing in
the road and reportedly blocking traffic at the Whittingham Wildlife Management Area. Crain said he stood in front of a truck that was leaving the station "for a few seconds" before getting arrested. Considine, the DEP spokesperson, said Crain was charged with obstruction and recklessly creating a hazard.

A professor of psychology at the City University of New York, Crain has a history of being arrested during protests at Whittingham in the years 2005, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. All resulted in Crain paying fines. "I feel the state-sponsored bear hunt is cruel beyond belief," Crain said. "I feel that anyone who feels that way should take reasonable steps against the hunt."

Within what is the most densely populated state in the nation, black bears are said by the DEP to be thriving, with confirmed bear sightings having been reported in all 21 of New Jersey's counties. Northwest New Jersey has the densest black bear population in the state as well as one of the densest in the nation.

As in past years, the annual black bear hunt that began Monday in all or parts of eight northern New Jersey counties ended with the highest number of bears, 293, being taken in Sussex County. Warren County had the second highest total at 87, a figure that still represented less than 30 percent of the total for Sussex County.

Rounding out the totals were Morris County, 52; Passaic County, 29; Hunterdon County, 9; and Bergen County, 2.

Somerset and Mercer counties, where the hunt also extended, both had zero bears taken.

Eric Obernauer can also be contacted on Twitter: @EricObernNJH or by phone at 973-383-1213.
United States

MICHAEL WYSCHOGROD, DEAN OF ORTHODOX JEWISH THEOLOGIANS, DIES AT 87

The Jewish philosopher 'looked at the world with irony but without a trace of rancor'

By David P. Goldman
December 18, 2015

The Jewish philosopher Michael Wyschogrod died Dec. 17 at the age of 87, after a long illness. He was old enough to have stood with his father across the street from Berlin's main synagogue as it burned on Kristallnacht, when the Brownshirts unrolled a Torah scroll in the street and charged passersby the equivalent of a dime to trample the length of it. Wyschogrod escaped Germany with his family early in 1939 just as the gates were closing, obtaining an American visa thanks to an uncle in Atlanta whose employer knew a U.S. senator. He was a brand plucked out of the fire. And he was, perhaps, our last living link to the engagement of yeshiva-educated Orthodox Jews with continental philosophy.

Educated at the Yiddish-speaking Orthodox day school Yeshiva Torah Vodaath in Brooklyn, Wyschogrod attended City College and then earned a Columbia doctorate with a dissertation on Kierkegaard and Heidegger. At the same time he attended Rav Joseph Soloveitchik's Talmud class at Yeshiva University. He admonished observant Jews to master Western philosophy, the better to comprehend their own tradition, but he proposed a uniquely Jewish solution to the 20th-century crisis in Western philosophy. His influence was enormous; Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks once told me that Wyschogrod was the closest thing we have to a systematic theology of
Sacks once told me that Wyschogrod was the closest thing we have to a systematic theology of Judaism. But it was not as great as he hoped it would be in the community he averred would be the ultimate judge of his work, namely Torah-obedient Jews. That has changed in the last several years, and Wyschogrod’s numerous writings will guide Jewish scholars for years to come.

His favorite Christian philosopher, Søren Kierkegaard, pictured the “Knight of Faith” who is so secure in his relationship to God that his daily life becomes a continual source of joy. Wyschogrod was a knight of Kierkegaard’s order. In his wife, the distinguished philosopher Prof. Edith Wyschogrod, he found a lifelong soulmate as well as an intellectual peer. When Edith was offered a position at Rice University in Houston, Wyschogrod moved from the CUNY system to the University of Houston and was delighted to teach undergraduates who knew the Bible by heart. They had two children and five grandchildren.

Michael Wyschogrod looked at the world with irony but without a trace of rancor. Shortly before his final illness he took his grandchildren to Berlin to see where he spent his boyhood. Recalling Kristallnacht, he noted that the Berliners did not seem at all happy with the Nazis’ rampage. He joked about German anti-Semitism, formed close ties with German colleagues, and saw his major work published in German.

His doctoral dissertation became the first English-language work on the philosophy of Martin Heidegger, whose Nazi party membership (and refusal to apologize for it) remains a scandal in the philosophical world. Wyschogrod refused any contact with Heidegger but never joined in the ritual excoriation of the philosopher for his anti-Semitism. Far more interesting, Wyschogrod observed, is why Heidegger’s anti-Semitism was so muted; he refused for example to remove the dedication to his Jewish teacher Edmund Husserl from the 1935 edition of his principal work. It was a measure of Wyschogrod’s character that he found it more worthwhile to understand than to denounce.

God’s preferential love for Israel was the great theme of Wyschogrod’s own writing. Jewish history begins with an act of inexplicable love: God fell passionately in love with Abraham and for his sake loved his descendants. Wyschogrod’s most-read book, The Body of Faith, asserts
that “Judaism is a religion of the body,” whose purpose is to sanctify the real, physical Jewish people so that it can be a fit vessel for God’s Indwelling (Shekhinah) in this world. His study of Kierkegaard and other Christian philosophers strengthened his argument that Judaism is an incarnational religion: The divine is physically present in the Jewish people. Without knowing the Christian concept of incarnation, Wyschogrod wrote, he would not have understood Jewish tradition as clearly.

His teacher Joseph Soloveitchik eschewed theological dialogue with Christians, although he encouraged dialogue on ethical and moral issues. Wyschogrod disagreed and made distinguished contributions over half a century to Jewish-Christian dialogue. Even if Christianity is wrong to worship a man-god, he argued, the Christian idea of Incarnation sheds light on a fundamental Jewish concept: that God’s Indwelling is present in the physical Jewish people. As the sages of antiquity said, the Shekhinah went into exile with the Jewish people after the destruction of the Temple.

Unlike Christian theologians, who characterize Judaic particularism in contrast to Christian universalism, Wyschogrod asserted that God’s first love for Israel did not exclude love for all humankind. On the contrary, “When we grasp that the election of Israel flows from the fatherhood that extends to all created in God’s image, we find ourselves tied to all men in brotherhood, as Joseph, favored by his human father, ultimately found himself tied to his brothers. And when man contemplates this mystery, that the Eternal One, the creator of heaven and earth, chose to become the father of his creatures instead of remaining self-sufficient unto himself, as is the Absolute of the philosophers, there wells up in man that praise that has become so rare yet remains so natural.”

Instead of Aristotle’s Unmoved Mover as depicted in the philosophical writings of Maimonides, Wyschogrod looked to the biblical God, “El kanna,” the passionate (or “jealous”) God. As a philosopher he focused on Kierkegaard’s claim that passion was the source of Being and that man’s impassioned relationship to God resituated the age-old paradoxes of philosophy. From Aristotle to Heidegger, Western philosophy tries to force God into a logical framework, proving his existence or attempting to discern his attributes. In such discussions, he wrote, “a framework that is broader than God is presupposed and God is made subject to this framework. But the God of Israel is the lord of all frameworks and subject to none. This is the remarkable power of God; the Bible does not hesitate to speak of him in personal and anthropomorphic terms. It shows a God who enters the human world and into relation with humanity by means of speech and command. At the same time, this God transcends the world he has created and is not subject to any power or force.”

The unabashedly biblical spirit of his writing put Wyschogrod out of step with his peers, the philosophers. His disagreement with Rav Soloveitchik on the matter of dialogue with Christians, moreover, perplexed the Orthodox Jewish world. And he was most at odds with the Jewish public intellectuals of the 1950s and ’60s who eschewed religion entirely. In a 1968 article, he quoted the former editor of Commentary magazine Eliot Cohen, qualifying this current as “self-hatine Jews who were only too eager to burn their Judaism if this meant
admission to the literary salons of Manhattan.”

Wyschogrod nonetheless was widely read. During the 1970s and ’80s he was almost a cult figure among young Christian theologians, and it was the Methodist scholar R. Kendall Soulen who published the first collection of his essays under the title Abraham’s Promise. Soulen saw hope for Christians in Wyschogrod’s impassioned portrayal of God’s love for Israel, explaining, “God also desires to be Redeemer of the world as the One whose first love is the people of Israel.” As Wyschogrod wrote, “Because [God] said: ‘I will bless those who bless you, and curse him that curses you; in you shall all the families of earth be blessed’ (Gen. 12:3), he has tied his saving and redemptive concern for the welfare of all humankind to his love for the people of Israel.”

It was perhaps beshert that the Rav’s grandnephew Rabbi Meir Soloveichik would encounter Wyschogrod’s work—not at Yeshiva University but in the work of Christian theologians—and would write his doctoral dissertation on Wyschogrod. As Meir Soloveichik wrote in a 2009 essay in First Things, “What this means, for Christians such as Soulen, is that Wyschogrod has transformed even the issue that most divides Christians from Jews—the incarnation of Jesus—into a challenge for Christians to recognize the holiness of Israel. ... A world where Jews are threatened physically by fundamentalist Islam and morally by secularism, a world where Jews and Christians ought to go their separate ways, is one where Israel—both the people and the country—will be very much alone. And, in an age when Jewish theology must reject relativism on the one hand and instinctive anti-Christianity on the other, it is, I believe, Michael Wyschogrod who has shown us the way.”
Which airlines serve the healthiest food?

*Consumer website rates Virgin America highest, Frontier lowest*


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**By Mark Huffman**

Mark Huffman has been a consumer news reporter for ConsumerAffairs since 2004. He covers real estate, gas prices and the economy and has reported extensively on negative-option sales. He was previously an Associated Press reporter and editor in Washington, D.C., a correspondent for Westwood One Radio Networks and Marketwatch. [Read Full Bio →](http://www.consumeraffairs.com/about/staff/mark-huffman/)

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Photo (c) Dmytro Smaglov - Fotolia

Let's start by noting that you are lucky to get any food when flying coach on a U.S. airline. That said,
when passengers are served food at 30,000 feet, just how healthy is it?

That was the question DietDetective.com (http://www.dietdetective.com) set out to answer. Its report (http://www.newswise.com/articles/view/645131/?sc=dwhn) rates the food for 12 airlines, with five stars being the highest rating and no stars being the lowest. The survey includes health ratings, average calories per airline, cost, comments, best bets, food offerings, calories, and exercise equivalents.

“This year Virgin America (http://www.consumeraffairs.com/travel/virgin_america.html) wins the top spot again with the "healthiest" food choices in the sky with Delta (http://www.consumeraffairs.com/travel/delta.htm) and JetBlue (http://www.consumeraffairs.com/travel/jetblue.html) tied for second,” said Charles Platkin, editor of DietDetective.com and a professor at Hunter College and the City University of New York School of Public Health.

Frontier Airlines (https://www.consumeraffairs.com/travel/frontier.html?page=3) received the lowest score, and Platkin says was the least cooperative.

**Virgin America gets four and a half stars**

Virgin America achieved four and a half stars with an average calorie count – including meals, snack boxes, and individual snacks – of 352.27 calories.

Delta flew away with a four star rating but an average calorie count of 512. JetBlue also achieved a four star rating. Its average calorie count was lower than both Virgin America and Delta – 327.

When flying, Platkin says you are likely to get hungry. Though security restrictions are much tighter than they used to be, he suggests travelers bring food with them, or purchase it after passing through security.

**Bringing your own**

Water is one of those things you’ll probably have to buy at the concourse snack bar or gift shop. But it’s important, Platkin says, because dehydration can lead to -- or increase -- hunger, jet lag, and fatigue.

He says low-calorie cereals are also a good choice. Look for portable choices at under 120 calories per cup. You can also look for cereal in a cup. It’s portion controlled in 1.5-ounce packs that are easy to store and easy to use, he says.

Fruit and salads are very healthy but can’t always stand up to the rough treatment air travel often entails. You can buy them at the airport and pay a little more than if you made them at home, but Platkin says it is always a better alternative to what is served on board.
For ease and convenience, it's hard to beat an energy bar. Although they tend to be high in calories and fat, Platkin says they are sure to be healthier than a slice of pizza or a candy bar at the airport.
Elite NY school debates ‘Pharma Bro’ Shkreli’s $1-million gift

The drug entrepreneur’s arrest last Thursday for securities fraud adds to some alums’ discomfort with Martin Shkreli’s historic gift to the school he attended for six years without graduating.

By Molly Jackson, Staff | DECEMBER 20, 2015

"I really cleaned up in the business world. I have to give thanks," Martin Shkreli told the New York Daily News last March, explaining his $1-million gift to the city’s elite Hunter College High School.

But Mr. Shkreli’s arrest last Thursday, on securities fraud charges at his former hedge fund, strengthened the conviction of many Hunter alums that Shkreli had never really "cleaned up" after high school. (He has since been released on $5 million bail, and denies the charges.)
Many are pushing their alma mater, which Shkreli attended for six years but was asked to leave before graduating, to return his donation, the largest in the elite public school's 101-year history.

Recommended: 10 Americans who are not only wealthy but charitable

If Hunter does return the funds, the school will join a diverse club of those who have distanced themselves from Shkreli, age 32, whose penchant for bragging won him notoriety well before September, when his company, Turing Pharmaceuticals, raised the price of a rare medicine from $13.50 per pill to $750.

Once the backlash hit — including criticism from presidential contenders from Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump — Shkreli promised to lower the price, but he later reneged; instead, he said, hospitals would be given significant discounts, and the uninsured could get the drug, Daraprim, for $1. But his defiance also comes from a core doctrine of the biotech industry: progress takes money.

"I'm like Robin Hood," he told Vanity Fair's Bethany McLean. "I'm taking Walmart's money and doing research for diseases no one cares about." Shkreli insists that Turing spends far more on new drug development than its major rivals.

So far, representatives from Hunter have not commented on the donation, which was intended to strengthen programs in technology, science, and career counseling. But students, past and present, have been riveted as the Shkreli saga plays out in mainstream media and social media, where he tried to cultivate an image of luxury and eccentricity, sometimes live-streaming sessions of himself analyzing stocks, musing on his reputation, poring over women's dating profiles, and chatting online with current Hunter students.
For some, contempt for Shkreli reached its zenith with the disclosure that he had purchased "Once Upon a Time in Shaolin," a one-copy-only album from legendary New York rap group the Wu-Tang Clan. Many of the band's members hail from Brooklyn, as does Shkreli: the son of Albanian immigrants who worked janitorial jobs, he grew up in Sheepshead Bay.

Shkreli's $2-million bid for the album was arranged before his "business practices came to light," the musicians said in a statement to Bloomberg News. "We decided to give a significant portion of the proceeds to charity."

The decision did not sit well with Shkreli, who lashed out in an interview with HipHopDX. "If I hand you $2 million, [expletive] show me some respect. At least have the decency to say nothing or 'no comment,'" he complained.

"No comment" was not employed by Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, either, whom Shkreli had favored in spite of their disagreement over healthcare issues. The politician, who prides himself on not taking corporate donations, sent $2,700 from Shkreli — the maximum amount his campaign accepts from donors — to a health clinic after realizing who had given it, and refused Shkreli's bid for an in-person meeting.

Although his donation to Hunter would appear a more obvious spending choice, Shkreli's former teachers and classmates have expressed bemusement over the gift. Despite giving warm praise at the time of the donation, Shkreli has elsewhere criticized the school for its "conformity" and high-pressure atmosphere.

A habit of under-performing, or just plain skipping class, earned him a request to leave the school, and he wound up graduating through an alternative program that placed kids at internships: in Shkreli's case, Wall Street hedge fund Cramer, Berkowitz & Company.
"Let them do it. Whatever," he told The New York Times in response to the Hunter alumni Facebook page, where many former students were calling on the administration to return the donation, and offering to raise a new $1 million instead. "But can they raise $5 million?"

Those willing to keep the gift may be reflecting that, although particularly infamous, Shkreli is just one player in a frequently criticized industry.

Making profits "is actually what I've been hired to do," Shkreli told Bloomberg after taking criticism from both the Wu-Tang Clan and Sen. Sanders. "It's like someone criticizing a basketball player for scoring too many points."
Drug C.E.O. Martin Shkreli Arrested on Fraud Charges

By JULIE CRESWELL, STEPHANIE CLIFFORD and ANDREW POLLACK  DEC. 17, 2015

It has been a busy week for Martin Shkreli, the flamboyant businessman at the center of the drug industry’s price-gouging scandals.

He said he would sharply increase the cost of a drug used to treat a potentially deadly parasitic infection. He called himself “the world’s most eligible bachelor” on Twitter and railed against critics in a live-streaming YouTube video. After reportedly paying $2 million for a rare Wu-Tang Clan album, he goaded a member of the hip-hop group to “show me some respect.”

Then, at 6 a.m. Thursday, F.B.I. agents arrested Mr. Shkreli, 32, at his Murray Hill apartment. He was arraigned in Federal District Court in Brooklyn on securities fraud and wire fraud charges.

In a statement, a spokesman for Mr. Shkreli said he was confident that he would be cleared of all charges.

Mr. Shkreli has emerged as a symbol of pharmaceutical greed for acquiring a decades-old drug used to treat an infection that can be devastating
for babies and people with AIDS and, overnight, raising the price to $750 a pill from $13.50. His only mistake, he later conceded, was not raising the price more.

Those price increases combined with Mr. Shkreli’s jeering response to his critics has made him a lightning rod for public outrage and fodder for the presidential campaign. His company, Turing Pharmaceuticals, and others, like Valeant Pharmaceuticals, have come under fire from lawmakers and consumers for profiting from steep price increases for old drugs.

But the criminal charges brought against him actually relate to something else entirely — his time as a hedge fund manager and when he ran his first biopharmaceutical company, Retrophin. Federal officials described his crimes as a quasi-Ponzi scheme in which he used money from his company to pay off money-losing investors in his hedge funds. An F.B.I. official called his business schemes a “securities fraud trifecta of lies, deceit and greed.”

Still, for many of his critics, Mr. Shkreli’s arrest was a comeuppance for the brash executive who has seemed to enjoy — relish, even — his public notoriety. On Thursday, a satirical New Yorker column by the humorist Andy Borowitz said Mr. Shkreli’s lawyers had informed their client their hourly legal fees had increased by 5,000 percent.

“Personally, I think Martin Shkreli has become wealthy at the expense of the public good. I don’t believe for a second that his manipulation of drug prices fuels valuable research as he has claimed,” said Katie Uva, a 2006 alumna of Hunter College High School in Manhattan where Mr. Shkreli attended, in an email response to questions. This fall, Ms. Uva started an online fund-raising campaign to match a $1 million donation from Mr. Shkreli to Hunter in the hope of persuading the school to return the donation. So far, the campaign has raised about $800 from 16 donors.

Mr. Shkreli (pronounced SHKRELL-ee) could have been a quintessential archetype for the immigrant’s dream of American success. He grew up in a
crowded apartment on Ocean Avenue in Brooklyn, the son of Albanian immigrants who worked janitorial and other side jobs to support him and his three siblings.

Mr. Shkreli was admitted into Hunter, an elite Manhattan public school for the intellectually gifted. On Thursday, two former classmates remembered Mr. Shkreli as a somewhat shy person who could often be found lingering in the school’s hallways, playing chess, his guitar or looking at stocks in the newspaper.

But he stopped attending classes and was asked to leave before his senior year. He received the credits needed for his high school diploma through a program that introduced him to Wall Street, placing him at an internship at the Wall Street hedge fund Cramer, Berkowitz & Company.

Eventually, Mr. Shkreli opened his own hedge fund — Elea Capital. It didn’t last long, collapsing in 2007 on a big bet he made that went against him. Undeterred, in 2009, he started his second hedge fund, MSMB Capital, the initials of Mr. Shkreli and his partner, Marek Biestek, whom he met while attending Baruch College.

Like Elea, MSMB’s performance wasn’t nearly as hot as Mr. Shkreli let on. From 2009 through 2012, Mr. Shkreli lost millions of dollars trading in the market, according to the accusations contained in the indictment. But he hid those losses, telling investors instead that the funds had strong double-digit returns.

In 2011, Mr. Shkreli started Retrophin, which quickly adopted a controversial business strategy, acquiring old, neglected drugs used for rare diseases and quickly raising their prices.

Soon, however, Mr. Shkreli was making a plan to use Retrophin assets to pay off MSMB investors. When seven MSMB investors threatened to sue in 2013, Mr. Shkreli and Evan Greebel, the lead outside counsel for Retrophin,
used $3.4 million in Retrophin funds and stock to settle the investors’ claims, even though Retrophin had no responsibility, the indictment says.

Mr. Greenblatt was also arrested on Thursday and charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Later, when Retrophin’s auditor raised questions about the settlements, Mr. Shkreli and Mr. Greenblatt created fraudulent consulting agreements for the investors, thinking they could pay the money back without upsetting the auditor, the indictment states. From September 2013 to March 2014, they created fake consulting agreements for four investors, paying $7.6 million in cash and stock. Retrophin’s board did not approve of the consulting agreements, the indictment says.

In 2014, Retrophin ousted Mr. Shkreli as its chief executive. A lawsuit filed this summer by the company mirrors many of the same accusations contained in the federal charges.

Once again, Mr. Shkreli didn’t let failure slow him down. In August of this year, he raised $90 million in a first round of financing for Turing, his new biopharmaceutical company.

One of his first moves was to pay $55 million for the American marketing rights for Daraprim, a 62-year-old drug for toxoplasmosis and immediately increase the price by 5,000 percent. The jump brought the cost of a course of treatment for some patients to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Congressional committees and politicians denounced his move, but Republicans and Democrats have been split on how far to pursue further regulation of the drug industry or its practices.

News of his arrest prompted Representative Elijah Cummings, a leading Democrat on the House Oversight panel, to release this statement: “Mr. Shkreli has lined his own pockets at the expense of patients who desperately
need their medications, and he should be ashamed of himself."

Despite the public outcry, Mr. Shkreli neither reversed his decision nor showed any regret in the numerous interviews he has conducted with the media in recent weeks.

Instead, he threw gasoline on the fire. After leading an investor group to take control of KaloBios Pharmaceuticals, a failing California biotechnology company, Mr. Shkreli agreed to license the worldwide rights and said he would immediately elevate the price of a drug used to treat Chagas' disease, a potentially deadly parasitic infection.

Even as he defends his strategy on his never-ending Twitter feed, arguing that no one is denied the drugs or pays more than $10 out of pocket, a fair trade-off for more research, he asserts, he still makes time to heckle his critics. Last week, he tweeted: "Should one of my companies change its name to Wu-Tang Pharmaceuticals? (Lawsuits be damned.)"

And then there are the bizarre, hourslong live streams, including a conversation he had on Monday with a girl who identified herself as a student at Hunter.

Mr. Shkreli told her that he was planning to dominate the rap industry, have Hunter renamed for himself and bail a rapper out of jail.

When the girl asked if he would attend a school dance with her, he demurred, adding, "I am blushing though."

Mr. Shkreli's antics have not gone unnoticed by federal law enforcement officials.

When asked on Thursday if agents had seized the rare Wu-Tang Clan album that Mr. Shkreli reportedly bought, Robert L. Capers, the United States attorney, was coy.
“I wondered how long it was going to take to get to that,” he said. “We’re not aware of where he got the funds that he raised to buy the Wu-Tang Clan album.”

Matthew Goldstein and David Chen contributed reporting.

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Black Students Are Being Shut Out Of Top Public Colleges
And the Supreme Court could soon make it even worse.
12/18/2015 08:36 am ET

Meredith Kolodner
Meredith Kolodner is a staff reporter at The Hechinger Report.

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — As racial unrest sweeps across major college campuses, and African-American students demand more equitable treatment, college administrators need look no farther than their own admissions offices to find one root of the problem.

The nation's flagship public universities — large, taxpayer-funded institutions whose declared mission is to educate residents of their states — enroll far smaller proportions of black students than other colleges, and the number appears to be declining, according to federal records and college enrollment data analyzed by
The Hechinger Report and The Huffington Post.

On average, just 5 percent of students at the nation's flagship public universities are black. As recently as a decade ago, that figure was higher, although changing methods of counting racial categories makes a precise comparison difficult.

Even here at the University of Virginia, which prides itself on the diversity of its campus, just 8 percent of students are black. Just 5 percent are black Virginians, in a state where 22 percent of public high school graduates are African-American. (Low-income students are also underrepresented at top schools).

Virginia is hardly unusual. At most flagships, the African-American percentage of the student population that is black is well below that of the state's public high school graduates. Typical are the University of Delaware, with a student body that is 5 percent African-American in a state where 30 percent of public high school graduates are black, and the University of Georgia, where it's 7 percent compared with 34 percent.
Flagship Public Colleges Fail To Enroll Many Black High School Graduates

- University enrollment, 2014-15
- High school graduates in state, 2013-14

Percent black

Source: IPEDS, state education departments, ED Data Express

Hillary Fang for The Huffington Post
among public colleges in their state — especially for black students — as well as extensive career resources, well-placed alumni networks, a broad range of course selections and high-profile faculty. For state residents, these colleges also offer the most affordable top-quality college education, and usually a path toward better opportunities after college. (Low-income students are also underrepresented at top schools, according to an analysis by the Hechinger Report and HuffPost.)

Virginia says it ranks among the best flagships in graduating black students.

Black enrollment could decline even further if the Supreme Court rules in favor of Abigail Fisher, a white woman who says she was rejected from the University of Texas at Austin because of her race. The Justices seemed skeptical of the benefits of race-conscious admissions when they heard arguments in the case, on Dec. 9. Justice Antonin Scalia made comments interpreted as favoring the idea that underprepared black students would do better in “lesser colleges” rather than struggling to keep up at the University of Texas at Austin, the state’s flagship.

In the firestorm that followed Justice Scalia’s comments, advocates of affirmative action pointed to research that shows a near doubling of graduation rates for those African-American and Hispanic students who move from colleges with no academic admissions requirements to more selective ones. After the University of Texas at Austin began guaranteeing admission to the top 10 percent of students in the state’s high school classes, a move that admitted more supposedly less prepared students, graduation rates went up.

**Divided We Learn**

1 in 5 Virginia high school graduates is black.

1 in 20 University of Virginia students is black, and from the state

The low number of black students at selective colleges not only threatens to increase segregation and inflame tensions on college campuses, it could also partially explain the significant gap in the proportion of whites versus their black and Latino peers who hold university and college degrees.

Recent studies show that an African-American child who grew up in a middle-income family now has a better chance of falling down the income ladder as an adult than of climbing up it.

For many Americans, college is a route to a secure middle class life, which is why the flagship state universities are so important. But experts say that too many of these colleges are blocking this path rather than clearing it.
“Higher education is making it worse, not better, for many students,” said Anthony Carnevale, director of the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. “College now takes the disadvantages that begin at birth, and then magnifies them.”

Carnevale and other researchers say that the higher education system now works against poorer students, including many who are black and Latino, by tracking them towards colleges with fewer resources and lower overall quality, where it is often more difficult to finish degrees.

The flagship universities argue that they are trying to attract more diverse students. They say budgets cuts from state legislatures and debates about balancing admission standards with diversity goals pose challenges that they haven’t been able to resolve.

The University of Virginia used to win praise among advocates of increasing black enrollment at selective colleges, and it hit a high mark in 2007 when 11 percent of its freshman class was black, but the next year that number began to fall.

Cost is one significant barrier to enrollment of more black students. In Virginia in 2002, state funding paid for two-thirds of the cost of attending a public college and tuition funded the other third. By last year, those ratios had almost entirely flipped, so that state funding now pays for a little more than one-third of the cost and tuition makes up the rest. It costs almost half of an average Virginia resident's disposable income to pay to attend public college in the state.

Ever-rising tuition bills take a disproportionate toll on students of color. Every $1,000 tuition increase for full-time undergraduate students is associated with a drop in campus diversity of almost 6 percent at public colleges and universities, according to a study earlier this year by researchers at New York University and the City University of New York.

The shrinking stream of state money also pushes colleges to accept students who have less need, both academically and financially. At UVA, in-state fees and tuition come to under $15,000 while the out-of-state cost is just shy of $44,000.

Education researchers say high-flying public universities are caught in a bind.

“If you’re running a college and you don’t want to get fired, you have to climb in the rankings, so you’ve got to get students with higher test scores, especially if you’re a public institution,” said Carnevale. “The legislature wants to see better graduation rates and [yet] you’re getting less and less money.”

Economics do not fully explain the racial gap. Between 2008 and 2012, the percentage of low-income students increased at almost every public college, as many white families suffered job losses as a result of the recession. But at most flagships, the percentage of African-American students declined.

And while lower grades and test scores play a role in who has access to these top public universities, they don’t explain away the large discrepancy between the-
number of enrolled white and black students.

Black and Latino students who have above-average SAT scores go to college at the same rate — 90 percent — as whites. But once enrolled, white students are more likely to finish, in part because they attend more selective colleges, where the resources are better and overall graduation rates are higher.

When black and Latino students with above-average SAT scores go to those selective colleges, their graduation rate is 73 percent, compared to only 40 percent for these above-average-scoring nonwhite students at other colleges.

"You want the best of the best, but you have to let us in if you want us to graduate."

— Rashad Ferebee, guidance counselor in Norfolk, Virginia

This is why state flagships play such an important role: They offer a better chance at success for all students, especially African-American and Latino students, because they are better funded and offer more support services to help students graduate. The more who are admitted, this reasoning goes, the more who will have a good chance to succeed.

"I think that there are more kids who could be successful at UVA if they were given a chance," said Rashad Ferebee, a black guidance counselor at a public high school in Norfolk, Virginia. "You want the best of the best, but you have to let us in if you want us to graduate."

Many black Virginians don’t even apply to UVA, weighing the advantages of its academic and other resources against the potential for isolation or discrimination.

Black prospective applicants who visit campus "are not blind," said Aryn Frazier, president of the Black Student Alliance at UVA. "You can give black students a graduate student to spend the night with, and invite all black students down on the same weekend, but I think at the end of the day people can see the culture at UVA."

They see more faces like theirs at other schools that may lack UVA’s pedigree.

"One of the main reasons I wanted to come here was the diverse student body," said Danielle Campbell, a junior at Norfolk State University, a historically black public college in Virginia. "I didn’t want to be the only one who looked like me."

NSU has a proud history and a devoted student body, but last year struggled with a $16.7 million budget deficit causing it to cut staff by 9 percent. It is the least expensive four-year public college in the state, but its graduation rate for black students is 35 percent over six years, compared with 88 percent at UVA, according to federal data.
In Petersburg, about 90 minutes southeast of UVA's campus, the high school is 92 percent African-American and sends more than half of its 800 students to college each year. But none have gone UVA since 2010.

"Before any child wants to go anywhere, a college needs to make it clear that they're not treating races differently," said Alicia Fields, who has been the principal at Petersburg for a decade. "We do have children who I believe could do well at UVA."

UVA spokesperson Anthony de Bruyn said that more aggressive and targeted recruiting efforts and expanded scholarships have allowed it to accept and enroll slightly more black students over the past four years. "Still, the university has more work to do," he wrote in an email.

The state's top higher education official is pushing for more aggressive action, such as lowering the cost of college and expanding outreach to underserved students.

"These issues are at the forefront of a lot of policymakers' minds right now," said Peter Blake, director the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, which is the commonwealth's coordinating body for higher education. "To close the achievement gap and broaden the number of people in Virginia who are getting a college degree, UVA as well as the community colleges are going to have to work a little harder."

Black Student Alliance leaders at UVA led protest marches last spring after police officers roughed up a black student, and wrote a 26-page document with recommendations for what the university could do to improve conditions.

"One of the things that black students have historically and continue to push for at UVA is that at the flagship the demographics be at least as representative as the demographics of the state," said Frazier, who is a junior at UVA. "The flagship is meant to be the main force educating that state, so every group should be educated at a similar rate."

This story was produced by The Hechinger Report, a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education, in collaboration with The Huffington Post.