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Photo by: Library of Congress via Associated Press
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By HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press
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KATONAH, N.Y. – The inner circle of founders has been set for as long as anyone can remember – Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Franklin, Hamilton and Madison.

Almost never mentioned is John Jay.

"Most people know something about him. ... But very few know the full breadth of his accomplishments. Most are very surprised by what they learn," says Heather Iannucci, director of the John Jay Homestead in this Hudson River town, where the July Fourth celebration will include a reading of the Declaration of Independence, music and tours of the
stately, shingled house where the country’s first chief justice lived his final years.

As more of his papers have become available in the past decade, Jay’s admirers, ranging from specialists to such popular historians as Joseph Ellis and Walter Isaacson, have been arguing that a founder they believe underrated deserves a closer look – for achievements that extend to virtually every branch of government, on the state, federal and international level.

Jay was one of three contributors to the Federalist Papers, which helped define American government. He was president of the wartime Continental Congress, then served as secretary of foreign affairs, precursor to secretary of state, after the Revolutionary War ended. He was an essential diplomat whose peace negotiations with England, leading to the Treaty of Paris, vastly expanded U.S. territory.

For his accomplishments heading a network of informants during the revolution, actions that helped inspire James Fenimore Cooper’s novel The Spy, the CIA’s website calls Jay “the first national-level American counterintelligence chief.” He also helped write the New York Constitution, was a founder of the New York Manumission Society and as governor signed legislation that phased out slavery in the state. (Jay himself owned slaves.)

The founders bickered among themselves, but they agreed on the virtues of Jay. Noting his centrality in the talks with England, John Adams praised him as “of more importance than any of the rest of us.” Alexander Hamilton turned to Jay first when conceiving the Federalist Papers, and George Washington thought so much of him that when he was forming his original Cabinet, he offered the first position – any position – to Jay, who chose the Supreme Court.

“He’s been hiding in plain sight for all this time,” says Ellis, the historian who features Jay in his best-seller, The Quartet. “We can argue about who can be on top of the list of most important founders until the cows come home, but it’s clear he should be part of the list.”

Jay was a leading nationalist, eager to unify the former colonies, but he has become a regional hero. The John Jay College of Criminal Justice is based in Manhattan. Some students at his alma mater, Columbia University (then King’s College), live in John Jay Hall, and various prizes are handed out by Columbia at the annual John Jay Awards dinner. Some visitors to the homestead arrive from the nearby John Jay High School.

But recognition doesn’t approach that of Washington and other peers. Few Jay biographies have been published, and none close to the prominence of Ron Chernow’s Hamilton and Washington books or David McCullough’s John Adams. The Library of America has issued editions of the writings of several founders but has no plans for a dedicated book on Jay. In 2005, Walter Stahr’s John Jay: Founding Father received praise from Chernow and Isaacson among others, but he struggled to find a publisher and ended up with the London-based Hambledon Continuum.

Ellis acknowledged his own slighting of Jay. In his Founding Brothers, a million-seller published in 2000, Ellis does not include Jay among the eight “most prominent political leaders in the early republic.” Jay supporters believe his relative anonymity is mostly a story of paperwork and personality.
dependable and unusually honorable.

Historian Gordon Wood pointed out that when Jay was New York’s governor, he refused to endorse Hamilton’s scheme in 1800 to manipulate the state’s electoral laws during a close presidential campaign and deny the White House to Jefferson, their political rival. That was Jay’s “finest moment,” Wood told The Associated Press in an email.

A merchant’s son, John Jay was born in New York in 1745 and grew up comfortably on an estate in Rye, about 25 miles north of the city. He had planned a career in law and, like Franklin, was a moderate in the early years of the revolution, believing that differences with the British could be negotiated. The British use of military power to enforce order changed his mind.
Santander Supports President's Society Program At LaGuardia Community College

By

Published: July 2, 2015 12:50 p.m. ET

BOSTON and NEW YORK, July 2, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- LaGuardia Community College and Santander Bank, N.A. today announced a three-year philanthropic collaboration for the Bank's Santander Universities program to support the President's Society Program at the College. President's Society students reflect the rich diversity of all LaGuardia students who come from more than 150 countries and speak over 125 languages. Alumni of the program are currently studying at schools such as Columbia, NYU, Smith and Georgetown.

"Together with LaGuardia, we can help students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college, improve their lives and build the confidence and experience they need to achieve their goals," said Josephine Moran, Santander region president for Metro New York and Northern New Jersey. "The students who participate in the President's Society at LaGuardia Community College are expanding their education beyond the classroom. At the event, we were able to experience firsthand the powerful impact the President's Society has had on the students at LaGuardia. It was a true testament to Santander's commitment to higher education."

The President's Society Program at LaGuardia Community College offers career and college planning for students as well as community service and leadership opportunities. The program prepares students who want to continue their education or enter the workforce. Through their participation in the program, students build a network of mentors and a cohort to support them in all aspects of their educational and professional endeavors. Many of the alumni who participate in the President's Society secure prestigious internships and go on to study at elite four-year colleges and universities.

The support from Santander Universities will help students in the President's Society receive a stipend and travel allowance to complete program activities, including attending networking events, completing study tours and internships, and participating in other activities specifically designed to help prepare them for the future.

"Santander's generosity will help support a unique program that offers leadership training and teaches very practical skills -- public speaking, resume writing, how to interview, etiquette and how to dress for success -- all designed to help our students build confidence to be able to navigate an outside world that is very unfamiliar to most of them," said LaGuardia Community College President Dr. Gail O. Mellow.

Earlier this year, a group of local Santander employees participated in a bilingual mock interview workshop with students from the College's Luce Heritage Language Scholarship Program that helped prepare the students to go on internships abroad where they will use their heritage language in professional settings.

Several current President's Society students recently joined members of the College community and Santander to celebrate the new partnership between LaGuardia Community College and Santander. It was an opportunity to bring students together with successful professionals to not only practice the social skills they have developed in the program, but also to share how they have been helped by the supportive community at LaGuardia, as well as their exceptional experiences in President's Society.
Gisele Ganesh, a LaGuardia and President's Society alumna who now attends Baruch College as a Business major, shared the deep impact President's Society made on her self-esteem and her plans for the future.

"I struggled to find my place in the world," Ganesh told guests. "Although many people told me I was talented and smart, I had no idea how to make my skills work for me. President's Society showed me how. Being in President's Society was transformational and I experienced so many 'firsts': My first Broadway play, first opera, and first classical music concert. But the part I enjoyed most was the tours of the companies we went to; I'll never forget being on the 26th floor of the Viacom building meeting the star of MTV's top-rated show."

Olivia Feal, a 2014 alumna of the program who will be attending Smith College to study Art History in the fall, said both LaGuardia and Santander will benefit from the rich diversity of the College.

"This partnership will help show the world what community college students are capable of accomplishing," said Feal. "There are mixed messages out in the world about community colleges. It was so empowering to have successful professionals share their experiences with us in President's Society. Their support meant that they believed in our potential and in what LaGuardia was doing. It gave us confidence. By supporting this program, that's what Santander is saying, too."

"President's Society taught me how to overcome my fears and be able to network," said Business Administration major Wanjun Jin. "Even though it can be nerve wracking, social skills are very important," said the Columbia University transfer aspirant.

About Us

LaGuardia Community College located in Long Island City, Queens, was founded in 1971 as a bold experiment in opening the doors of higher education to all, and we proudly carry forward that legacy today. LaGuardia educates students through over 50 degree, certificate and continuing education programs, providing an inspiring place for students to achieve their dreams. Upon graduation, LaGuardia students' lives are transformed as family income increases 17%, and students transfer to four-year colleges at three times the national average. Part of the City University of New York (CUNY), LaGuardia is a nationally recognized leader among community colleges for boundary-breaking success educating underserved students. At LaGuardia we imagine new ideas, create new curriculum and pioneer programs to make our community and our country stronger. Visit www.laguardia.edu to learn more.

Santander Bank, N.A. is one of the largest retail banks in the United States by deposits. Its main corporate offices are in Boston and it operates principally in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Santander's 9,703 employees serve its 1.8 million customers through the Bank's 703 branches, 2,092 ATMs, call centers, website and mobile app. Supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Santander in the United States is a wholly-owned, financially autonomous subsidiary of Banco Santander SAN, +0.14% a global commercial and retail bank. For more information about Santander, visit www.santanderbank.com or call 877-768-2265.

Santander Universities was founded in 1996 to advance the Santander Group's commitment to its communities by supporting higher education. It provides funding for teaching and research, international cooperation, knowledge and technology transfer, entrepreneurial initiatives, student exchange and innovation. It maintains more than 1,100 agreements with universities and research centers worldwide, including 35 in the United States through Santander Bank. Since 1996, Santander Universities has provided funding for 4,100 university projects globally. Every year in the United States, Santander Universities funds more than 1,000 scholarships and supports over 70 initiatives. For more information about Santander Universities, visit www.santanderbank.com/us/universities.
Bigger Isn't Always Better In Social Media, Says CCNY Study

The study will help in giving an insight into mathematics, networks, epidemiology, marketing and scientists are of the belief that it will also help in monitoring the spreading up of contagious diseases including Ebola. (File-AP)

A recent research by physicists has projected that "smaller is smarter" when it comes to important super spreaders of information, "smaller is smarter." It marks as a change in the popular idea that "bigger is better," and can lead to a significant impact for an extensive array on several networked systems of social, natural and living ones.
There has been a huge shift in perception of people against "bigger is better" and this could have huge consequences for a broad range of social, natural and living networked systems, according to researchers from the City College of New York (CCNY).

**ALSO READ: Dubai To Make World’s First Office Using 3D Printer Technology**

The major study in the field of network science has been in solving the problem of identifying the minimal set of influential nodes in complex networks for maximizing viral marketing in social media, optimizing immunization campaigns and protecting networks under attack and researchers have only been able to develop intuitive strategies based mainly on attacking the hubs to identify crucial nodes, according to the Lead study author and CCNY physicist Flaviano Morone along with Hernan A. Makse.

The authors employed optimal percolation and state-of-the-art spin glass theory to develop an algorithm called Collective Influence algorithm. Scientists believe that the algorithm is far better than the existing algorithms including methods used in social network sites like Facebook and Twitter or the famous PageRank algorithm by Google for the research. Makse said that the set of optimal super spreaders radically differ and is much smaller than that obtained by these algorithms.

**ALSO READ: New Mobile Technology To Help Blind People ‘See’**

The top influencers are highly counter-intuitive: weakly connected people strategically surrounded by hierarchical coronas of hubs are the most powerful influencers, with the study, researchers showed.

The study will help in giving an insight into mathematics, networks, epidemiology, marketing and scientists are of the belief that it will also help in monitoring the spreading up of contagious diseases including Ebola.
LI colleges drawing more tuition dollars from international students as foreign enrollment rises

July 4, 2015 by CANDICE FERRETTE / candice.ferrette@newsday.com

Students from other countries are coming to Long Island colleges in record numbers, a trend that university officials say is helping to meet undergraduate enrollment goals, bring in much-needed tuition dollars and raise the profile of the campuses.

Admissions officers at the Island's colleges with the highest numbers of international students say a steady stream from China, South Korea and India is feeding into the undergraduate base, and local recruiters, in response, are intensifying their efforts in those countries and expanding to South America, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

The changes here are happening in tandem with a major upswing in the percentages of international students nationwide. Students are drawn to the American higher education system for many reasons: the variety of schools, the flexibility to choose from a broad range of courses, and the availability of more scholarships to study abroad, given by their own governments.

Foreign students still make up only 4 percent of the overall national college student population of about 21 million. But with growth over the past decade, their numbers hit a record high of 886,052 in 2013-14, the most recent figures available -- an 8 percent rise over the previous year.

The influx comes at a time when higher education experts say the local college-age population is expected to drop significantly for a variety of reasons, and rising college costs continue to threaten domestic students' ability to pay for four-year institutions.
"As the university has become more nationally recognized, having international students is a compliment," said Herman Berliner, the former longtime provost at Hofstra University, who last year took a recruiting trip to India. "More students from more countries -- it makes for a more cosmopolitan experience for everyone."

**Stony Brook a big draw**

In addition to Hofstra, Stony Brook University, New York Institute of Technology, Adelphi University and Farmingdale State College are driving the trend on Long Island.

The Institute of International Education, a Manhattan-based organization, publishes an annual report called "Open Doors" in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Data from the institute's 2014 report show:

Stony Brook University ranks fifth in the state in the number of foreign students, who now make up more than 13 percent of the university's 16,840 undergraduate enrollment. When graduate students are included, that figure rises to 19.6 percent of overall enrollment of 24,199.

The percentage of international students enrolled at Hofstra more than quadrupled over the five academic years beginning in 2008-09. During that same period, Adelphi's and Farmingdale State College's percentages doubled.

International student enrollment at New York Institute of Technology's Old Westbury campus has been consistent and growing for more than a decade. In 2013-14, international enrollment was 21 percent, about 1,650 students.

In New York, there were 98,906 such students, a 12.1 percent rise over the previous year and growing faster than the nation as a whole.

Nearly all of the international students pay full tuition, according to college administrators and the students. Their estimated economic impact to the United States was $27 billion in the 2013-14 academic year, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Commerce, which includes tuition, and living and travel expenses.

Officials at the Island's universities and colleges admit that foreign students are critically important at a time when the institutions face more competition for a dwindling number of students.

Many school districts in the Northeast, because of a decline in the birthrate, anticipate fewer high school graduates. Additionally, colleges in the South and West are attracting more students from the region, higher education experts have said.

"There are other good reasons to recruit international students. They are just outstanding students," said W. Hubert Keen, chairman of the Long Island Regional Advisory Council on Higher Education and president of Farmingdale State College. "But certainly enrollment and tuition dollars are not insignificant factors."

The number of students coming to the United States for college will continue to grow and quickly top 1 million over the next few years, higher education experts said. The United States hosts more of the world's college students than anywhere else -- more than double the number who go to schools in the United Kingdom, which is second.
attacks.

There were more than 10 times as many Saudi students, 7 1/2 times as many Vietnamese students, five times as many Chinese students and almost 2 1/2 times as many Indian students enrolled in U.S. colleges in 2014 than there were in 2000, according to the "Open Doors" report.

In 2014, New York University had 11,164 foreign enrollees, more than any other school in the country and beating out the University of Southern California, which had held the No. 1 spot for 12 years.

**NY enrollment jumps 12%**

As for New York State, the number of international students last year totaled 98,906 -- up more than 12 percent from the previous year -- with Columbia University, University at Buffalo and Cornell University as the most popular schools.

Critics of the recruitment of international students have expressed concern that the practice is lessening domestic students' chances of getting into universities. Nationally, some public university systems are capping the number of out-of-state students they accept.

Gary Bergman, founder of College Study US, an international student recruitment agency based in Huntington, said local and regional colleges, in general, are enrolling foreign students in academic programs that are not attracting enough domestic students.

"You will hear from some people that international students are taking spots away from domestic students -- but that's not true," said Bergman, who spent 30 years as a senior college administrator, including decades in two admissions departments on Long Island. "We would never go after the international students if we were filling programs like engineering and computer science with domestic students."

Several Long Island schools are benefiting from the influx of international students, experts and students said.

"The word that New York is a destination for students is out there," said Allan Goodman, president of the Institute of International Education, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance international education. "And you probably have a greater density of college presidents in the New York area who are saying they want international students."

Students often cite the job and internship opportunities in the metropolitan area as draws. The availability of ethnic restaurants and shops helps to curb homesickness -- a huge factor when it comes to student retention and completion rates, experts said.

Vikrant Sood, 21, attended the University of Delhi in his native India for one year before he knew he wanted to transfer to a college in the United States. He decided to enroll in NYIT's engineering school after visiting an uncle in Hicksville.

"I fell in love with the American way of education," said Sood, who is from the city of Phagwara in the country's northern Punjab state. "There is so much moral policing in college in India. Here, there's so much independence and freedom."

For most international students, Sood said, there aren't as many options in their own countries and studying "a little bit of everything" isn't the norm. At NYIT, he works on campus, does
research and is involved in clubs in addition to his studies.

"I went to what was called the best college in India, and I was still never able to do research, no matter how hard I tried," he said.

Alumni networks help

Long Island's college admissions officers, recognizing the unmet demand globally for higher education, are gaining reputations overseas through strong ties with foreign alumni networks, college consultants and other academic partners, as well as government-sponsored exchange programs.

John Deupree, executive director of the nonprofit American International Recruitment Council, said "middle-range" colleges and universities are more often the ones seeking to increase their international populations.

"Some of the lesser-known colleges are having trouble attracting domestic students, so they are looking abroad," said Deupree, whose organization accredits international recruiting companies.

It is easier than ever, through social media, for a college to reach students thousands of miles away. Current students are unofficial ambassadors and help spread the word of their experience here both in person and virtually, admissions officers said.

At least one local university, Hofstra, has a webcast of its Hempstead campus graduation ceremony translated in Chinese and available to family and friends overseas.

Isuri Wijesundara, 20, from Sri Lanka, said she was "adamant about going to college in America" after participating in a summer scholars program that gave her the opportunity to tour New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., in 2012. She took a year to apply to U.S. schools after graduating from a private high school in her country.

"I basically Googled all of the colleges in the U.S. for theater," said Wijesundara, who just completed her freshman year at Adelphi.

Foreign governments' role

Foreign governments are investing heavily in sending their students to schools in the United States, too.

"What you see internationally is that there are hot spots for recruiting. These are known by the U.S. institutions," said Ronald Maggiore, vice president of enrollment at NYIT, who expects foreign student enrollment on the Old Westbury campus to top 40 percent within the next few years.

The college degree is a U.S. export, said Maggiore, hired last year at NYIT to boost the school's international numbers.

"A lot of that interest is motivated by the local economies and local governments in those countries. They are building infrastructure and they need a sophisticated workforce, so they come to the United States to essentially import that intelligence," he said.

Maggiore said if new dorms are built on the campus -- a project that would add about 700 beds -- recruiting overseas would get even easier.

"It's a public diplomacy program," said Meghann Curtis, deputy assistant secretary of state for
In her role, Curtis oversees the department's EducationUSA program, a network of more than 400 advising centers in 170 countries where some 7.7 million international students find information on how to apply to accredited U.S. colleges and universities.

The advising centers are located in U.S. embassies and consulates, or in a variety of partner institutions, cultural centers, U.S. and foreign nongovernmental organizations, universities and libraries.

A new openness in China, driven by its economic needs and an expanding middle class, as well as the investments by the governments of other countries, has been a driving force in bringing more students here. Although China is increasing its higher education offerings, colleges there still don't come close to meeting the demand from students.

Many Chinese students, experts said, are prompted to look for U.S. colleges in July after they've gotten the results of the extremely competitive gaokao, the countrywide college entrance exam. Some, students say, apply to American colleges so they do not have to take the gaokao.

Experts and some college officials have noted that the tuition dollars the foreign undergraduates pay offset the institutions' financial losses in other areas -- such as trims of state aid at public colleges and the steep discounting of tuition at many private ones.

International students are not eligible for state and federal financial aid, though some may receive merit scholarships and grants.

Their cost to attend state institutions such as Stony Brook and Farmingdale can be more than double that of an in-state student. For example, at Stony Brook, in-state tuition was $6,470 and out-of-state tuition was $21,550 for the 2014-15 academic year. That does not include other fees, or the costs of housing and meal plans.

At the private schools, they pay the entire “sticker” price, which at Hofstra was $38,900 and at Adelphi was $32,340 for the same school year.

International students have a "definite impact on the economy, especially on the local level," said Rachel Banks, director of public policy for NAFSA: Association of International Educators.

"They are spending money in the local community," she said. "They aren't only supporting the educational institution but also the surrounding area. They need health care; they need a place to live; they need furniture."

While China and South Korea are the most reliable pool of international students, admissions officers said they are looking to build relationships and programs in other countries. Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Turkey and the countries of the former Soviet Union are relatively new places from which to recruit students, college officials said.

They are aiming for diversity on their campus but, from an enrollment standpoint, there's too much risk in relying on one country or region of the world.

A major financial meltdown, a national security risk or an infectious disease epidemic could be a huge blow to admissions, local college admissions officers said.
Saudi scholarships

Often, the educational ministries in the students' home countries will offer incentives and scholarships for top high school students to go abroad.

For example, the King Abdullah Scholarships Program, started in 2006, has brought about 10,000 Saudis to U.S. colleges each year. The scholarship pays for tuition and living expenses and provides for a small stipend.

In addition to print material on various U.S. schools, advisers at the EducationUSA centers reach prospective students through social media and webinars, and by hosting college fairs.

While the most inquiries come from Asia, Curtis said they also are trying to expand their reach into countries where few students ever come to the U.S. for college, such as sub-Saharan Africa.

"Our strategy isn't just to pitch this opportunity in areas where there's high demand," Curtis said. "The objective is to break down barriers of trust and understanding and try to create people relationships in countries where we don't have great foreign relations."

Still, there's nothing that can fully replace a university official's boots on the ground in building a brand globally, said Matt Whelan, vice president for strategic initiatives at Stony Brook University.

He recalled the validation of an experience two years ago, when he was more than 7,000 miles from the admissions office on Long Island, carrying a tote bag emblazoned with the university's logo.

"I was on my way to the taxi stand at the Beijing airport and a guy came up to me, recognizing the name," said Whelan, then provost of enrollment and retention at the university. "I was pleasantly shocked. I gave it to him. He seemed so thrilled to have something that said 'Stony Brook.'"
For Americans Seeking Affordable Degrees, German Schools Beckon

By Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson

Updated: 2 hours ago.

NPR - Editor's Note: We've reported on the crushing burden of student debt in the U.S., and the challenges of finding financial aid, but one area we haven't followed much is the growing number of students seeking alternatives outside the U.S. Our colleagues on NPR's International Desk have most recently with this story on developments in Germany. That country's higher education system is drawing more and more American students. So we thought this story, originally published June 26, was worth sharing.

Looking to escape the staggering costs of a university education in the United States? You are not alone. And German education officials say a growing number of Americans are heading to the land of beer and bratwurst to get one.

At last count, there were 4,360 Americans studying at German universities, with more than half pursuing degrees, says Ulrich Grothaus, deputy secretary general of the German Academic Exchange Service.

"We've seen an overall increase in international students in this country over the last 10 years, but the increase for Americans has been much faster," he says. Between 2003 and 2013, he says, the number increased by 56 percent.

United Kingdom and Canada are more popular.

Also appealing is the high quality of German education. This year's reputation rankings in the London-based Times Higher Education magazine placed three German universities in the top 50 of approximately 20,000 higher education institutions worldwide.

One of those three is Humboldt University in Berlin, where Casey Detrow is a student. The 27-year-old New Yorker, who graduated from the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, is pursuing a master's degree in American Studies at Humboldt.

"It offers me every bit of the academic challenge and intellectual stimulation that any top university in the U.S. would offer," Detrow says. She chose Humboldt over six American programs that accepted her over the past three years, including ones at Columbia and Berkeley.

"I just have time and space in Berlin that I really think I wouldn't have access to if I were living in the Bay Area, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago," Detrow explains. "I have an affordable lifestyle and, you know, I have a room of my own. I have time and space to sit in my little apartment and kind of exhale and read and study."

Detrow lives in a small, rent-controlled apartment in the bohemian neighborhood of Friedrichshain, which she pays for along with many of her living expenses with a scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service.

As for tuition fees? Her program charges none.

"I really cannot even compare that to what I would be getting in the United States," Detrow says. "When you are talking free versus $50,000, I feel like there is no contest. I can't justify going back."

Fellow Humboldt student Mari Jarris agrees. The 22-year-old Wesleyan University graduate from Shelburne, Vt., says she plans to defer an offer from a Ph.D. program at Princeton so she can finish her master's degree in German literature in Berlin.

"I expected it to be a couple thousand of euros a semester or something for foreign students, but I was shocked to see that you just have to pay semester dues that every student pays and you end up getting more benefits than you are really paying for," including a comprehensive
public transit pass, Jamie says.

The student fee varies depending on the university, but is generally in the low hundreds of dollars.

Like Detrow, Jamie receives a scholarship to cover her living expenses and rent in the trendy Kreuzberg neighborhood, but pays no tuition fees.

So why is Germany so generous when it comes to higher education?

For one thing, with an aging population and a shortage of skilled workers, Germany is eager to attract qualified young people from other countries who might want to settle there.

For another, many Germans oppose tuition fees as unfair. While a court ruling in 2005 led the 16 state governments that control and finance higher education to start charging students, a public backlash eventually led them to throw tuition fees out.

Some universities, however, continue to charge modest amounts for certain programs.

There are also direct benefits to German state coffers, Grothus says. "If only 30 percent of graduates stay for at least five years, they would pay within these five years even while they are studying more taxes than the taxpayer pays for their education."

Detrow says she would like to stay in Germany and teach once she's finished with her graduate and postgraduate degrees. But she may find the German job market less welcoming to foreigners than the education system.

A June study by the Expert Council of German Foundations on Integration and Migration found that three in 10 foreign graduates spent more than a year looking for employment. One in 10 found no jobs at all.

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Louis Armstrong House Museum's 2015 'Hot Jazz / Cool Garden' Series Kicks Off Today

by
BWW News Desk
July 4

It's not summer in NYC until there is hot jazz and red beans 'n rice at the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Louis Armstrong House Museum announces the line up for its signature summer concert series Hot Jazz / Cool Garden.

Now it its 9th season, Hot Jazz Cool / Garden features three hot NYC jazz bands in Louis's garden: Today, July 4 with The Ladybugs; Saturday, July 18 with Jon-Erik Kellso & Friends; and Saturday, August 15 with Cynthia Sayer & Her Sparks Fly Quartet.

Meet the Bands:

The Ladybugs
The Ladybugs are a traditional jazz vocal group known for their intricate harmonies and experimental arrangements. Lead by Martina DaSilva, all members of the band sing while playing ukulele, guitar, trombone, bass, and drums. The Ladybugs' repertoire includes favorites from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, infused with old-school swing, country, and blues. The band has received high praise for recent performances at Jazz At Lincoln Center's Generations in Jazz Festival, the NY Hot Jazz Festival, and the NYC Winter Jazzfest. With a sound that attracts all audiences, The Ladybugs effortlessly keep listeners smiling and moving.
Jon-Erik Kellso & Friends
At home in New York City Jon-Erik Kellso has been leading The EarRegulars featuring guitarist Matt Munisteri and various guest badasses at the Ear Inn on Sunday nights since 2007. On Mondays and Tuesdays Jon plays with Vince Giordano's Nighthawks at Iguana. Aside from these steadies, Jon can also be seen performing at all the great NYC venues, including Dizzy's, Mezzrow, Small's, Birdland, the Blue Note, the Jazz Standard, etc.

Recent engagements include a week in Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola with Wynton Marsalis celebrating Louis Armstrong's Hot 5s and 7s; leading the EarRegulars at the Detroit Jazz Fest and Moab Music Fest; various appearances on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" live Public Radio International show, including a live cincast to movie theaters everywhere with Elvis Costello; several jazz fest at sea cruises; concerts at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. with John Lithgow; tours of the U.S. and Japan with Ken Peplowski's Kingdom of Swing big band; annual appearances in jazz clubs and festivals in New Orleans; and jazz parties, festivals, and concerts all over the world.

Cynthia Sayer & Her Sparks Fly Quartet
Cynthia Sayer & Her Sparks Fly Quartet is a hot jazz quartet led by acclaimed jazz banjoist/vocalist Cynthia Sayer. Their classic jazz core pays tribute to Louis Armstrong, while their eclectic repertoire embraces many musical influences of the 1920s, '30s, and beyond. Comprised of top New York City musicians, Cynthia Sayer & Her Sparks Fly Quartet perform at festivals and in concert around the world.

Each concert begins at 2:00 pm at the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Advance tickets are $18 and the series subscription is $45. Subscribers enjoy reserved VIP seats for all three concerts. Advance tickets can be purchased online at LouisArmstrongHouse.org. Tickets include red beans 'n rice & sweet tea plus a complimentary historic house tour pass. Birthday cake will be served on July 4th in honor of Louis Armstrong's traditional birthday. Advance tickets are suggested due to the popularity of the series. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door on a first-come bases. For more information, go to LouisArmstrongHouse.org.

The Louis Armstrong House Museum is located at 34-56 107th Street in Corona, Queens, New York. The museum is open Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturday/Sunday from 12:00 noon - 5:00 pm. Travel directions and more at LouisArmstrongHouse.org or 718.478.8274. Parking is available in the neighborhood and the museum is accessible by subway via the 7 train.

Currently on exhibit: Red Beans & Riceely Yours: Louis Armstrong & Food now through October 2015 and is free with museum admission.

The Louis Armstrong House Museum, the long-time home of Louis and Lucille Armstrong, is a National Historic Landmark and New York City Landmark in Corona, Queens. Since its opening in 2003, more than 100,000 visitors from all over the world have been introduced to
administers the largest research archives in the world for any jazz musician.

Thanks to the vision and funding of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, the Louis Armstrong House Museum welcomes visitors, six days per week, 52 weeks per year. The Louis Armstrong House Museum is a member of the American Alliance of Museums, Association of African American Museums, Museums Council of New York City, New York State Museums Association, National Trust for Historic Preservation, NYC & Co., and the Queens Tourism Council. The museum is a cultural center of Queens College / CUNY and constituent of Kupferberg Center for the Arts.
Most NYC high school graduates at CUNY need remedial classes

By Aaron Short

New York City high school graduates who enroll at CUNY often aren’t ready for college, according to data showing the rising number of freshmen in need of remedial help.

An astonishing 78.3 percent of CUNY community college students who graduated from city high schools in 2014 enrolled in remedial courses this past school year, up from 77.6 percent the year before.

Students who failed CUNY admissions tests in math, English or writing had to take the extra courses freshman year to catch up.

Education experts said the city must better prepare kids for college.

“Clearly, grads continue not to be college-ready,” Brooklyn College professor David Bloomfield said.

“In theory that’s what all this new testing and curriculum is supposed to ensure, but the promises of the Common Core have not been realized. It will be a long road.”

The remedial numbers rose as Mayor de Blasio touted improving graduation rates at struggling city high schools for much of the past year.

About a third of city high-school graduates go on to attend CUNY schools.
Sliding toward a new Cold War

JULY 5, 2015

Re “Counterrevolutionary Russia” (June 26) by Roger Cohen: There have been two alternative social, political and intellectual currents with deep roots in Russia. The neo-Slavophile current exerted significant influence in the past and is re-emerging as a strong political orientation in Vladimir Putin’s Russia, as Mr. Cohen notes with alarm. This illiberal ideology emphasizes the uniqueness of the “Russian World” with its Eastern Orthodox faith, and is providing Russian foreign policy with a renewed regional assertiveness as an Orthodox power that will protect its perceived core: Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Seen in that light, the intervention in Ukraine is not only to further strategic interests, but also Russian moral values and sense of honor.

The other current has been the neo-Westerner, which re-exerted itself strongly during the Mikhail Gorbachev years and gave rise to his world-transforming ideas and ideals. In contrast to the neo-Slavophile current that is anti-Western, this liberal rival outlook actually seeks integration with the West, which Mr. Gorbachev assiduously pursued during his tenure. Unimagined opportunities for cooperation to fashion a more peaceful world may have been possible if Mr. Gorbachev had been able to continue his revolution. Unfortunately, given the popularity of the neo-Slavophile current in today’s Russia, the world is facing a new Cold War.

Reza Fakhari, Brooklyn, N.Y.

The writer is associate provost and professor at the City University of New York at Kingsborough Community College.
City didn't tell state it changed grades for failing high school students

By Susan Edelman

The city Department of Education failed to tell the state that it changed Regents exam scores at Automotive HS in Brooklyn, officials say.

The DOE "should have provided a full report after the fact, but failed to do so," said Jonathan Burman, a spokesman for the state Education Department.

The state is now "in dialogue with them and will issue a letter of corrective action," he said.

The damning finding follows a Post report last Sunday that Automotive — one of the DOE's 94 low-performing "Renaissance" schools under pressure to improve — raised scores on five Regents exams from failing to passing.

A junior at the Greenpoint school, which gives classes in car repair, received a failing 64 on both his Common Core Algebra and Living Environment exams in January, records show. He had also failed both classes.

But on his June transcript, the exam scores were raised to a passing 65 and 69 — helping put him on track to graduate next year.
The DOE would not explain why Aimee Horowitz, the superintendent of Renewal schools, did not file the report.

Spokeswoman Devora Kaye said only, "We are working with NYSED to ensure that all appeals that result in a change in score are properly communicated to the state."

But the bungle alarmed experts.

"This was caught by The Post. It raises the question — what hasn't been caught?" asked Brooklyn College and CUNY Grad Center education professor David Bloomfield.

The city DOE said 379 of 155,000 Regents exams given in January were re-scored. Of 52 appeals at Renewal schools, "about half" the scores increased and half decreased, education officials said.

But schools appeal with one goal — to boost scores, Bloomfield said.

"There's no downside to trying, only an upside," he said. "If a student's failing score goes down a point or two, he or she still fails. But an extra point or two can bump the student into a passing score."

In 2011 the state banned "scrubbing" — the longtime practice of re-scoring exams that fall just below passing. But in 2012, the state allowed re-scoring if a principal cited strong evidence of a mistake or "incorrect application of rubric."

An Automotive student who appealed his Living Environment 64 score said he asked a guidance counselor and principal Caterina Lafergola "if I could get that one point." He signed his name on a list of students with scores of 64 or 63, just below passing.

"I could mean something was overlooked."

Jordan refused to comment.

The DOE's Kaye called it "blatantly false" and "impossible" that any Richmond Hill teachers were involved in the re-scoring. Of seven exams, five scores decreased and two stayed the same, she said.

Kaye would not say whether the DOE filed a report on those changes.

SOURCES SAYS FEW"
Girl found dead in Queens College soccer field area: NYPD

By Madina Toure
TimesLedger Newspapers

A 10-year-old girl found unconscious in the soccer field area of Queens College in Flushing Monday afternoon died, the NYPD said.

Queens College confirmed that the girl, identified as Laura Palma, of Jamaica, was enrolled in the Queens College Summer Camp.

The college said she collapsed and stopped breathing on the soccer field at about 3:10 p.m. Trained college staff immediately administered CPR with the use of a defibrillator until EMS arrived at 3:22 p.m.

She was taken to New York Hospital Queens, where she was pronounced dead at 4:11 p.m.

"The Queens College community mourns the tragic loss of this young life and extends its heartfelt sympathy and prayers to her family," the college said in statement.

The NYPD said officers found Palma unconscious.

The investigation was ongoing, according to a police spokeswoman.

The medical examiner's office examined the child's death Tuesday and said it would remain under investigation.

"There'll be additional medical studies that we have to do," Julie Bolcer, a spokeswoman said.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at mtoure@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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Cuban activists will visit Southern Illinois on Tuesday

22 HOURS AGO • THE SOUTHERN

The 26th IFCO/Pastors for Peace Friendship Caravan to Cuba will travel to Southern Illinois on Tuesday, July 7.

The visit is described as “an opportunity to show support for ending the U.S. economic blockade and travel ban on Cuba and to support the changing diplomatic environment.”

One of the first stops of The Caravan will be the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, 105 N. Parrish Lane.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. July 7 with a performance from the Latin band HOT!Sauce.

A Cuban-inspired dinner will be served at 6 p.m. followed by speaker Father Luis Barrios, co-executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization.

He steps in for the original speaker, Manolo de los Santos, who has been invited to meet the Pope in Bolivia.

Barrios is an Episcopal priest and associate professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice-City University of New York.

Barrios is a longtime community activist and an exponent of the use of non-violent civil disobedience to challenge unjust laws and policies. He is also a former prisoner of conscience from the US military’s “School of the Americas” (SOAW) movement.

In 2009 he spent several months in jail for his participation in a protest about training in torture methods at the SOA in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Since 2000, the Peace Coalition has worked with supporters of the Cuban people in Southern Illinois to assist the Caravan as it transports donated construction, medical and education supplies for the people of Cuba.

The US and Cuba are on the verge of establishing diplomatic relations but the embargo is still in place.

The Caravan’s journey challenges the legality of the longstanding US economic blockade of Cuba and this year focuses on community organizing, visiting senior centers, cooperatives and Cuban churches.
Cuba has doubts as Google pitches expanded Internet

Cubans have one of lowest Internet access rates in world. Only 3.4 per cent of homes have web access, according to International Telecommunications Union

By: Nora Gamez Torres El Nuevo Herald, Published on Fri Jul 03 2015

Google executives have proposed to the Cuban government a way to expand Internet access on the island quickly and massively, but Cuban authorities are skeptical of the plan, several sources familiar with the proposal have told El Nuevo Herald.

The sources said the proposal would make the Internet available through Wi-Fi connections and cellular phones, much like Google Ideas executive Brett Perlmutter suggested during a recent visit to Havana. The sources asked for anonymity and declined to provide further details.

"Cuba has a big opportunity to jump its infrastructure directly into mobile phones, without going through all of the fixed cables that are being installed in African countries," Perlmutter told the digital magazine On Cuba during the visit.

Companies such as Google and Facebook are competing to close the world's so-called "digital gap" and expand connectivity in less developed countries — which in the long run would expand the markets for their own products and applications — through new systems like those that use drones or balloons.

One official Cuban source said the Google executives met with "commercial authorities, and they have been talking. This is seen as a process." Another source in Cuba said Google offered to pay for almost the entire cost of the proposal.

A Google spokesperson told El Nuevo Herald that the company "is working to help the Cuban government think through their publicly stated goal of improving Internet access. We have not given money to Cuba to develop Internet connectivity."
A big-scale project of this type could significantly benefit Cubans, who have one of the lowest Internet access rates in the world. Only 3.4 per cent of homes have web access, according to the International Telecommunications Union.

Alan Tummino, head of the Cuba working group at the Americas Society/Council of the Americas and head of the group whose trip to Havana included Perlmutter, said that big companies are "interested in exploring options and submitting investment proposals in sectors such as telecommunications, but patience and trust-building are key."

"There is still skepticism from Cuban officials on the motives of U.S. companies entering their market," Tummino added. "There is enormous opportunity, but it will take time to turn this opportunity into real projects being implemented on the ground."

Ted Henken, a Baruch College professor who has studied Cuba's Internet issues, said the Cubans' skepticism may be dropping. "It is less likely that Web connection and services coming from the United States, such as Google's, will be seen as a Trojan horse now that the Obama administration has explicitly rejected a regime change policy and moved toward engagement," he said.

According to Henken, the Cuban government's concerns reflect "a long tradition of a siege mentality and phobia to autonomy, the wish to control all independent organizations or label them as traitors or mercenaries."

The official Cuban source noted, however, that the island's government did not like much the U.S. House approval of $30 million for the promotion of democracy in Cuba. The funding, part of the State Department budget, has not received final congressional approval.

Several of the sources said the Cuban government's reluctance also stems from the relationship between Google and Roots of Hope, a nonprofit founded by Cuban-American youths to help youths in Cuba with technology issues. The group sends donated cellphones, computers, thumb drives and other digital equipment to Cuba, and has organized events to develop applications that can be used in Cuba. Google supported one of those events, a "Hackathon" held in April at the California headquarters of Facebook.

Roots of Hope was mentioned in an Associated Press report last year on the so-called Zunzuneo project, a controversial U.S. government effort to provide Cubans with a platform similar to Twitter, which is not available on the island. The AP report said the group was not involved in the project, although two of its members worked on it as consultants. Official Cuban media nevertheless attacked the group and mentioned its support for Yoani Sanchez, a blogger and journalist in Cuba accused by the island's government of being a "mercenary" paid by the United States.

Henken argued the Cuban government should understand that the members of Roots of Hope "are young (not fathers or grandfathers who favored the overthrow of the government) Cubans (not controlled by the U.S. government) and open (their website openly declares their goal of creating bridges and empowering Cuban youths)."

Raul Moas, executive director of Roots of Hope, told El Nuevo Herald that the organization "has always been dedicated to building bridges between Silicon Valley and Havana. Our priority is not political, but to help improve the quality of life of Cubans on the island."

Moas said he had recently met with the head of the Cuban diplomatic mission in Washington, Jose Ramon Cabanas, who declared that he was willing to "sit down and talk with Cuban American youths and any other person who wants to help to build a better and more inclusive Cuba."

Some of the people involved in the negotiations between Google and Havana said they believed that an agreement on the proposal could be reached if the Cuban government decides to negotiate directly with the U.S. company and openly discuss its doubts with Google's executives.
OPINION: BOOK OFFERS LOOK AT HOW CHARTER SCHOOLS DIVIDE COMMUNITIES

MARK WEBER | JULY 6, 2015

Founders and operators of charters mean well, author believes, but charter system leads to further segregation of education

It’s a sunny summer day in Hoboken, and everywhere I turn on Washington Street, I see the same thing:

Strollers.

Hoboken has become a mecca for young, affluent families looking to enjoy the trappings of urban living. And yet the city retains a significant population of economically disadvantaged families, many living in public housing separated from the rest of the city.

This interplay between segregation and gentrification is the subject of a fascinating new book by Molly Vollman Makris: “Public Housing and School Choice in a Gentrified City: Youth Experiences of Uneven Opportunity.”

Makris, a professor of Urban Studies at CUNY, as well as a Hoboken resident with a preschool daughter - looks carefully to her community to determine how segregation occurs when affluent families move in, and what can be done to ameliorate its effects in the schools and throughout the community.

I met Makris in her city to discuss her findings, which deal with the role of charter schools and intra-district school choice in Hoboken.

The city’s three charters serve a significantly different population than the district schools: fewer students who are Limited English Proficient, fewer students of color, and far fewer students eligible for free lunch, a measure of economic disadvantage. There is also a significant difference in the student demographics of the district’s elementary schools.

Despite this, New Jersey Education Commissioner David Hespe recently ruled that one of the charters could expand because, in his view, that school did not have a segregative effect.

Hespe’s ruling has created a political firestorm in Hoboken, leading to a privately funded appeal on behalf of the local school district, which fears the financial implications of the expansion.

What follows is an edited version of a much longer conversation between Makris and me. I have posted the entire interview [http://jerseyjazzman.blogspot.com/on my blog]; however, I also encourage everyone to read Makris’s book, a comprehensive, honest, and engaging exploration of how school policies shape our communities.

Weber: One thing that struck me right away is that your book isn’t at all a takedown of charter schools.

Makris: It’s not. It’s a larger analysis of the direction of education policy. The book does take a critical look at school choice and what’s happening in Hoboken, but it’s not about the individual actors. There aren’t heroes or villains per se; it’s about these larger systems of inequality that are
happening in many places.

Weber: You take the charter school people at their word when they say they are genuinely interested in the inequality of their student populations and they want to do something about it.

Makris: I do. I think their intention was to create some level of socio-economic and racial diversity. But, given the demographic makeup of the founders, that was going to be a challenge. And part of that is charter school policies. It takes a lot of work to start a charter school. Many of these were stay-at-home parents and parents with flexible careers where they can spend hours and hours starting a charter school. So when you have them at the helm, it's going to be harder to create a school that represents the entire community. There also are no policies in place that allow charter schools to easily "manipulate" their lotteries to create socio-economic and racial diversity.

Weber: Is it fair to say that starting and sustaining a charter school, by the nature of its structure, is going to attract a different sort of family than a traditional public school?

Makris: Yes; we see that everywhere. We see that in Newark and Harlem and other neighborhoods that don't look anything like Hoboken. I think your research has shown this, in the difference between free and reduced-price lunch students, this level of creaming.

I call it charter confusion, which is something we found in Hoboken and when I was working with the Newark Schools Research Collaborative. People are just confused about what a charter school is and who can attend a charter school, whether they were in Newark or Hoboken, whether they're low-income or advantaged.

Weber: So you're saying there is some global misunderstanding about charter schools.

Makris: I think it's a bit of a global misunderstanding, but when it comes time to figure it out for your own children, you tap into your own networks. And if your network all goes to the local neighborhood school, and you went to the local neighborhood school, and you don't really have the resources to do a thorough investigation of all your school options, you're going to go to the local neighborhood school.

Weber: But if you cleared up that confusion, do you believe public housing residents would see the so-called "advantages" of a charter school trumping what they see as the advantages of their neighborhood school?

Makris: That's a great question. It's hard to predict; I do think there are enough families in public housing who would be interested in the opportunity - if they see that as an opportunity. I think there are some who still wouldn't, which of course would still mean there would remain issues with the kind of creaming we see in Newark and elsewhere.

Weber: What did you think about the commissioner's decision?

Makris: I was not surprised. I'm not a quantitative researcher, so I don't dive deep into the numbers. But right away when I looked at it, I thought: "He's looking at the under age 18 population in Hoboken." And a huge part of that population is under five. To use that to compare to the school-aged population is, to me, flawed to begin with.

But as I write in the book, I don't think the whole problem is the charter schools. I also think it's important to note that in some way these urban schools have always been segregated. So I don't think the charters and intra-district school choice are creating segregation so much as inhibiting desegregation. I think we all could do a better job.

Weber: You spent a lot of time talking with Hoboken's affluent parents. It seems that putting their kids into a school with a significant number of students who are in economic disadvantage is not an option for them, particularly when their children get up to high school.

Makris: For those parents, the idea of sending them to the public elementary school near public housing is totally off of the table. In the junior-senior high school, we're starting to see a little change. There are groups of adamant advantaged parents - often early wave gentrifiers, even
But for the vast majority of affluent parents I interviewed, the high school is not an option. The public school near public housing is not an option.

Weber: So if that’s true, why are you optimistic about integrating the schools throughout the city?

Makris: Well, I would say we have the potential here, and we have that in large part because of gentrification. There is such a desire for urban living that you have more advantaged people who are choosing to live here and remain here. These people, when I interview them, say that diversity is one of the reasons they want to live in a place like this.

Weber: Part of school choice, to my mind, is this idea of values. Some people look at an advantaged charter school and say: “It makes no sense: why wouldn’t anyone want to send their child here?” But isn’t that an imposition of values on others?

Makris: I think so. You’re not recognizing the value of that neighborhood school, and what that school might represent: the history for the families of that school, the convenience, the idea of where your children may fit in.

Research led me to think that one reason public housing families may not choose a charter school is because of the progressive pedagogy. So I went into this thinking that might be part of the issue. But I found that wasn’t the reason for the decision, because there was such a level of charter confusion, and so many people thought these were private schools and would cost money; it wasn’t that they weren’t going because they perceived that the schools weren’t strict enough.

Weber: That whole debate over school choice has become highly politicized, with stakeholders on all sides making claims about the effectiveness of charter schools. Is it possible, in this environment, to have an honest conversation about school choice and segregation?

Makris: I think it can be difficult to talk honestly about what’s going on with the loudest voices in the room. In my research, I’ve tried not to rely solely on the loudest voices in the room. The quiet voices I think are open to having these conversations. I see that in public housing, too. I go to board of education meetings, housing meetings - there are always the loudest voices in the room, and you always know where they stand.

I’ve done two book talks in the community, and afterwards, there are always parents who say, “Thank you for writing about this. It seems like people were really honest with you.”

Again, they’re the quieter voices in the room. They’re parents of young children who have a social justice mentality, and they’re asking: “How can we talk about this? How can we meet as a community and talk openly about change without imposing values on people? What are positive solutions?”
TELEVISION

What’s on TV Monday

By KATHRYN SHATUCK    JULY 6, 2015

8:55 A.M. (FXM) THREE CAME HOME (1950) Claudette Colbert stars as Agnes Newton Keith, an American writer living with her British husband (Patric Knowles) and 4-year-old son (Mark Keuning) in colonial comfort in 1942 North Borneo, in this adaptation of Ms. Keith’s memoir. Then Japanese soldiers attack Pearl Harbor, and Agnes and her child are taken to a prisoner-of-war camp. Sessue Hayakawa, the silent-film actor, plays the Japanese officer who, despite his cruel treatment of other captives, befriends Ms. Keith out of admiration for her literary talents — even while failing to save her from torture. “Played against realistic settings, which vividly convey the meanness of the jungle prisons, and directed by Jean Negulesco for physical and emotional credibility, ‘Three Came Home’ is a comprehensive film,” Bosley Crowther wrote in The New York Times. “It will shock you, disturb you, tear your heart out. But it will fill you fully with a great respect for a heroic soul.”

9:30 A.M. (CUNY) BOB HERBERT’S OP-ED.TV The journalist Pamela Newkirk discusses her book “Spectacle: The Astonishing Life of Ota Benga,” about a 23-year-old Congolese pygmy who in 1906 was placed on exhibition with an orangutan and parrot at the Monkey House of the Bronx Zoo.
‘Tangerine’ Captures an Offbeat Hollywood

Sean Baker’s new film was shot with an iPhone, mostly near Santa Monica and Highland boulevards

By STEVE DOLLAR
July 5, 2015 8:37 p.m. ET

When he wants to make a new movie, Sean Baker never looks far for his subject.

The filmmaker, a native New Yorker, long ago adopted a trait that became
essential to his career. "We're all used to walking around looking at the ground," he said, "and I'm always trying to look at people, keeping my eyes open, ready to find that next face."

Mr. Baker hit the jackpot with "Tangerine," which stars nonprofessional transgender actors Mya Taylor and Kitana Kiki Rodriguez as transgender prostitutes on a manic quest in the sleaziest stretch of Hollywood. The comedy flourishes amid slang-rich dialogue and bravura performances.

A breakout hit at this year's Sundance Film Festival, "Tangerine" is likely the first major theatrical release to have been filmed on an iPhone. Most of the scenes were shot on the streets near the intersection of Santa Monica and Highland boulevards, a half mile from the director's home.

"It's known as an unofficial red-light district," he said. "Why hasn't it ever been shown on film or TV? There are probably millions of incredible stories that have taken place there."

The movie, which opens Friday in New York and Los Angeles, previews Tuesday at the Jay Walk at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Thursday at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Mr. Baker will join various cast and crew members at both screenings. The latter is part of a mini-retrospective that includes two of Mr. Baker's previous films, "Prince of Broadway" (2008) and "Starlet" (2012).

Those projects share a lot with "Tangerine." Each is based in structured improvisation. Each has fostered creative relationships with mixed casts of trained actors and nonprofessionals. And all three show an affinity for marginalized characters and subcultures.

"You get to a point where your collaborative effort has evolved into a friendship," Mr. Baker said. "You become a group of artists from different backgrounds, cultures, races, sexes, genders, and hopefully those barriers are broken."

The star of "Prince of Broadway" is real-life Ghanian immigrant, Prince Adu, who hustled fake designer goods in the Flatiron District, where Mr. Baker met him. The aspiring actor agreed to assist with casting and locations if he could play the lead role, much of it based on his own circumstances hawking watches and tennis shoes to tourists. In the film, his life is upended when an old girlfriend drops off a baby she says is his.
The character was inspired by performers Mr. Baker met on the set of “Greg the Bunny,” a puppet show he cocreated that featured cameos by porn stars. “I got to know them on a personal level,” he said. When one of the stars lamented that she had forgotten her clothes at the laundromat, Mr. Baker had a realization. “Her life is just as mundane as mine,” he said, and decided to make a character study “of a day in the life of an adult film star on a day she isn’t working.”

James Ransone, an actor who plays a pimp in “Tangerine” and also appeared in “Starlet,” suggested that the characters are only marginal because of how society views their occupations, which mostly provide a backdrop. “Everyone experiences pain and loss and grief and elation in the same way,” he said.

“Tangerine” marks a logical progression from the earlier films. As before, Mr. Baker workshopped story lines with his performers, often during regular
meetings at a local Jack in the Box restaurant. The cast participated in the editorial process, building dialogue out of personal anecdotes and improvisatory riffing. “Every vignette came from something we had heard,” he said, including a comedic sex scene that realized the director’s dream of shooting inside a carwash in a single take.

The experimentation included the choice of camera, an iPhone 5s. “If I’d had all the money in the world, I would have shot on 35mm,” said Mr. Baker, who instead would trail his performers on a bicycle as they strutted, offering suggestions on dialogue as he steered and filmed.

“I’d do 360s around the girls,” he said. “I got a painter’s pole and attached the iPhone to the end of it for impromptu crane shots.”

If the small, nearly unseen camera offered unexpected logistic benefits, Mr. Baker also was lucky—once again—with casting. “Mya and Kiki were incredibly brave and vibrant,” he said. “I knew they would be popping off the screen. They were even popping off this tiny little iPhone.”
Social worker Millie Pacheco offers teens incarcerated at Rikers Island a lesson in hope

BY USA L. COLANGELO Follow NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Saturday, July 4, 2015, 9:05 PM

Millie Pacheco has been nominated for a Hometown Heroes in Education Award.

Hope is something that’s in short supply for many teens incarcerated at Rikers Island. But social worker Millie Pacheco is determined to help them find it and make positive changes in their young lives.

She works hard to develop a rapport and earn the trust of the 16- to 19-year-olds at the Rose M. Singer Center while tending to their families in a vital support group she founded.

"Sometimes just being there and giving them hope helps the students," said Pacheco.

"I want to help them understand this is just a period of time in their lives and they have to get through this. But there is nothing they cannot do."

Pacheco has been nominated for a Daily News Hometown Heroes in Education award. She joins a field of exceptional teachers, principals and school staffers who have gone above and beyond their job descriptions to help students in the five boroughs.

Nominations are open until July 24 and will be reviewed by a panel of esteemed judges in August. The winners will be celebrated at a star-studded breakfast in October.
Pacheco has served as a social worker in the schools on Rikers Island for over 10 years.

Pacheco was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. She started out in the corporate world, working at the former NYNEX telephone company. She went to school at night to get her master’s degree in social work and changed careers 18 years ago.

“I’ve always done a lot of volunteer work since my teens,” said Pacheco, whose grown daughter is an occupational therapist. “I’ve always been drawn to service.”

She worked at Jacobi Hospital and Brookdale University Hospital before hearing about an opening at the city Department of Education to be a social worker.

Pacheco said she helps her students focus on plans for the future and makes sure they work with teachers to study for their high school equivalency test called the TASC.

But she also realized their families needed support.

“Some of them were ashamed and feared they would be judged so they didn’t talk about the situation,” she said.

Pacheco worked with her bosses at District 79 and officials at LaGuardia Community College to secure space for the monthly meetings, which draws dozens of parents, siblings and other family members.

“The group provides them with support and encouragement,” she said. “Sometimes it’s just a place to cry.”

During a special event in April, students who are back home read poems and letters to thank family members for their love and support. Staffers read on behalf of students who were still detained.

“We do a lot of work on positive thinking,” Pacheco said. “They have a career to think about. Just because they are in here doesn’t mean they can’t fulfill their dreams.”

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**NOMINATE AN EDUCATOR FOR A HOMETOWN HERO AWARD**

To nominate an educator, include a brief description of why he or she deserves an award. Please provide relevant names, dates, locations and contact information for the person making the nomination.

*Email: hometownheroeseducation@nydailynews.com*

*Letter: P.O. Box 5047, Bowling Green, NY 10274*

*Fax: (212) 643-7831*
Bronx teen who dealt with depression and foster care accepted into Penn State and Howard University

BY BEN CHAPMAN, LISA L. COLANGELO / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Thursday, July 2, 2015, 7:08 PM

Bronx teen Ashley Davis spent most of her time as a student at the High School for American Studies at Lehman College battling depression and bouncing from one foster home to another.

But Ashley, 17, overcame those hardships to earn her diploma in June, and now she's weighing college offers from Penn State University and Howard University.

“A lot of people believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself,” said Ashley, who has since been adopted. “I had the help of amazing friends, amazing teachers and, of course, my adoptive mom.”
Ashley was just one of 102 inspiring high school graduates honored by city schools boss Carmen Farina and the Mets Thursday at the city’s 10th annual Remarkable Achievement Awards.

The awards celebrate grads who have overcome obstacles to excel in academics and extracurricular activities.

Speaking at a reception for the students at Citifield Thursday, Farina told this year’s Remarkable grads that they are the cream of the public schools’ crop.

The students were rewarded with free tickets to the Mets Thursday game against the Cubs.

“You all have one thing in common, you are hard workers and you don’t give up,” Farina told the beaming grads, who were seated with their families behind the Mets’ bullpen.

“I need you to hold the banner high for New York City Public Schools wherever you go,” Farina said.

Each year education officials ask principals, college advisors and guidance counselors to select one student from their schools to receive Remarkable
The students who were honored are from all five boroughs. They were rewarded with free tickets to the Mets Thursday game against the Cubs, which unfortunately ended in a loss for the Kings of Queens.

Most of the students, officials said, will be heading off to college before long.

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GOLDSMITH—Marcia

Stebbins, peacefully passed away at age 92 with her family at her side on July 3rd 2015. As a board member of The Jewish Foundation for Education of Women, Marcia profoundly improved the lives of those less fortunate than her. She was a graduate of Hunter College. With her adoring and beloved husband Warren of fifty-seven years she shared a life-long appreciation of art, music, nightlife, ballet, theater and especially travel, spanning the globe often with extended family in tow. Her dinner parties and Seders were legendary. While Marcia’s spiritual life was her constant compass it was her family that was the foundation of her being. She leaves behind her daughters Susan Herman, Rachel Katz and Ilene Rapkin, grandchildren Zachary Herman and Gabriel Herman, Rebecca Brown, Edward Katz, Kimberly Katz and Asher Rapkin; extended family members David Rapkin, Caitlin Rolls, Tzili Ressler, Jennifer Katz and dear family friend Dr. Garet Gordon. Her cherished great grandchildren are Sabrina Katz and Chelsea Katz. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to The Jewish Foundation for Education of Women, the Sharon Chapter of Hadassah or the Park East Synagogue Day School in memory of Marcia Stebbins Goldsmith. Services will be held at "The Riverside", 180 West 76th Street on Monday, July 6th at 12 Noon. The Interment will be private.
WACHTER—Maxine (Mikki), 80, passed away on June 27th after a valiant battle with emphysema. Loving mother of Richard (Ann) and David (Jiali Chen). Devoted grandmother of Andrew and Danielle. Born in Brooklyn, she graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in 1952, earned her BS in Psychology and certification in teaching from Adelphi University in 1956, and a Master's in Education from Brooklyn College in 1967. She retired in 1999 from George McVey Elementary School in East Meadow. In addition to a 40+ year career in education in which she fostered a commitment of young people to civic duty, Mikki served with the League of Women Voters, and the National Council of Jewish Women. She was an avid bridge player, patron of the arts and passionate about Jewish causes and global suffering.