CUNY board chairman hails 'best city budget'

By Conor Skelding

9:32 p.m. | Jun. 29, 2015

Benno Schmidt, chairman of the board of trustees for the City University of New York, said Monday the city budget approved last week is "the best city budget in the history of the university."

And CUNY chancellor James Milliken called it "perhaps the best programatic and systematic investment in CUNY that we have seen."

During Monday evening's board meeting, Milliken said the budget provides $42 million to expand the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs; $17 million for the City Council's merit scholarship program; $1.5 million for CUNY Start; $1 million for MetroCards for Guttman Community College students; $2.7 million for CUNY Prep; $20 million in capital funding for maintenance at community colleges; and $41 million for capital projects at LaGuardia Community College.

Schmidt said CUNY had also made good in Albany.

"If we're able to hold to what the Legislature did—with respect to, among other things, the five-year capital budget, the maintenance of effort, renewal of the CUNY tuition five-year plan—if that holds, it will have turned out to be a great year for us," Schmidt said. "We will hope that Albany develops well for us in the weeks ahead."

Milliken said the state had increased base aid at community colleges by $100 per students or $8.3 million in all, and approved increases of $6.3 million for academic services; $12 million for senior colleges to help them meet "performance improvement plans;" $103 million in capital funding for senior college critical maintenance; and $55 million for the next installment of the CUNY 2020 grant program.

Milliken also updated the board on the university's plans to comply with the state's new requirement that it provided "experiential learning" to all students.

He said he has appointed a task force that will be chaired by John Jay College of Criminal Justice president Jeremy Travis and university dean for continuing education Suri Duitch to develop these plans.
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He said he has appointed a task force that will be chaired by John Jay College of Criminal Justice president Jeremy Travis and university dean for continuing education Suri Duitch "to develop these plans.

In other matters, the board:

—Voted to name CUNY Prep after Derrick Griffith, the Medgar Evers College dean who died in the May 12 Amtrak derailment near Philadelphia. Griffith served as CUNY Prep's founding principal from 2003 to 2010.
One month before his death, he defended his dissertation. Griffith's son, Darius, and other members of his family attended Monday night's board meeting.

—Abolished dormitory judicial boards, created in 2009 as a venue for residential students to "play a significant role in the internal disciplinary process."

—Approved four appointments, following a discussion in executive session: David Gomez as president of Hostos Community College, Thomas Isekenegbe as president of Bronx Community College, Judith Bergraud as vice chancellor for facilities, and Brian Cohen as vice chancellor for technology and chief information officer.

—Accepted two large gifts on behalf of the Macaulay Honors College: "Approximately $1.5 million" from the estate of Joseph M. Schor, a City College alumnus and the late husband of Macaulay founding dean Laura Schor, and $1 million from the Anthony E. Meyer Family Foundation. Meyer is vice chairman of the Macaulay Honors College Foundation Board.

—Named Brooklyn College's business school after Murray Koppelman, an alumnus who recently committed $8.5 million to the school.

—Named City College's honors center after Herbert and Ruth Aschkenasy, who gave $1 million, and named a trading room in the College of Staten Island's business school after Con Edison, which gave $150,000. A study room at Bronx Community College will also be named for the Pershing Rifles, Company E-8, a former chapter of the fraternal military organization. A group of 20th century New York University alumni "who were education at the 'Heights' campus, now Bronx Community College and who still consider it their home" gave $10,050 to B.C.C. for the purpose.

—Approved the following new degrees, effective June 30: an associate's and bachelor's an A.A. in history and an A.S. in gerontology at Borough of Manhattan Community College; a physician assistant M.S. at City College; a B.S. in applied chemistry at the College of Technology; and a B.A. in early childhood education at Hunter College.
CUNY board approves four appointments

By Conor Skelding

7:52 p.m. | Jun. 29, 2015

The City University of New York board of trustees approved the following appointments at its Monday night meeting:

– David Gomez as president of Hostos Community College
– Thomas Isekenegbe as president of Bronx Community College
– Judith Bertraum as vice chancellor for facilities
– Brian Cohen as vice chancellor for technology and chief information officer

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Board names CUNY Prep for Derrick Griffith

By Conor Skelding

7:57 p.m. | Jun. 29, 2015

The City University of New York board of trustees voted Monday to rename CUNY Prep after Derrick Griffith, the Medgar Evers College dean who died in the May 12 Amtrak derailment.

Griffith served as CUNY Prep's founding principal from 2003 to 2010. One month before his death, he defended his dissertation. The CUNY Graduate Center posthumously awarded him a Ph.D. in urban education on May 27.

Griffith's son, Darius, and other members of his family attended Monday night's board meeting.

You've received this Capital Pro content because your customized settings include: Education (all whiteboards)
A 7-year-old girl died after she fell ill during a Queens summer camp Monday afternoon, sources said.

The girl stated she didn’t feel well and collapsed during a break from playing soccer at the camp at Queens College in Flushing around 3:15 p.m., sources said.
She was rushed unconscious to Long Island Jewish Hospital where she was pronounced dead, cops said.

Police are investigating but don’t believe there to be any criminality.

It remains unclear what caused the girl to collapse.
CUNY Prep renamed after Dr. Derrick Griffith

AmNews Staff Reports | 6/29/2015, 5:59 p.m.

Derrick Griffith Medgar Evers College photo

The CUNY Board of Trustees renames CUNY Preparatory School in the Bronx after its founding principal, the late Dr. Derrick Griffith who died in the May 2015 Amtrak accident that killed eight people.

The Board unanimously approved the resolution, which was recommended by Chancellor James B. Milliken and the Committee on Faculty, Staff and Administration.

"Dr. Griffith was a brilliant and passionate educator, scholar and extraordinary human being who saw potential in others when it was hard for them to see it in themselves. He was a tireless force in the world of education," the Trustees said in a statement.

Griffith's family and members of the CUNY Preparatory School staff as well as friends and colleagues were on hand for the announcement of the decision.
"I was first introduced to Derrick by Senior Dean John Mogulescu, and I quickly became enamored with this most talented and dedicated educator, whom we will all miss," Trustee and Committee Chairperson Valerie Lancaster Beal said.

Starting out as a social studies teacher in Rochester, N.Y., Griffith subsequently taught as an adjunct instructor at Hunter College. In 2003, CUNY hired him to serve as the founding principal and director of CUNY Prep, a school he helped create that has enabled thousands of out-of-school youth to earn high school equivalency diplomas and enter college.

In doing so, Griffith altered the educational landscape for out-of-school youth in New York City. Because of his early efforts to build the school, CUNY Prep has become a recognized model for re-engaging young people with an education that provides a rigorous and supportive pathway into college, especially for those traditionally considered incapable of achieving such goals.

Since leaving CUNY Prep in 2010, Griffith served as Assistant Provost at Medgar Evers College and most recently as Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. He wrote his dissertation and earned his Doctorate of Philosophy in Urban Education at The CUNY Graduate Center just one month before his death. He received his degree posthumously on May 27 at MEC’s spring commencement where he was also honored.

"Dr. Griffith transformed thousands of lives of young New Yorkers who were uplifted by his encouragement as they found the resolve to pursue education and build personal beliefs in their own ability to persevere," the resolution said. "He was a true visionary whose compassion and intelligence were paralleled only by his sense of humor and love for his students, colleagues, friends and family."
Global Innovation Exchange: A new kind of investment in higher ed

Last week, Microsoft (MSFT) announced its $40 million contribution to the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX), "a new model of learning" that partners the tech behemoth with the University of Washington and the "MIT of China," Tsinghua University.

GIX, set to open next year, will be a graduate school with an aim to train students to solve real-world technology, design and
entrepreneurship through "project-based learning."

Students who finish the program will get a master's degree in technology innovation and, it's hoped, a crash course in startup culture. The goal is to help students learn how to navigate the tech world better than traditional academia does now.

The Institute will be based in Bellevue, Wash., just east of Seattle and only 10 miles from the University of Washington's campus.

Ann Kirschner, the dean of the Macaulay Honors College at CUNY and a proponent of academic innovation, praised GiX as a "giant step forward" in the largely static realm of higher education, explaining that it is the first institution of its kind in more than one way.

It's the first time a Chinese academic institution has put down roots on U.S. soil. The inverse relationship, with American universities expanding their physical presence abroad—like NYU Abu Dhabi or Georgetown's Qatar campus—is more common, says Vikram Jandhyala, vice provost for innovation at the University of Washington.

GiX is a good opportunity for American students to learn about the Chinese mindset, he said. While Americans are known for bold and risky choices in the tech industry, the Chinese have a reputation for taking a slower, more cautious approach, thinking more about the long term.

The Microsoft connection

The other innovative aspect of the GiX partnership is its corporate connection. Microsoft, based in Redmond, Wash., hopes to bolster the tech economy in the Pacific Northwest with its financial contribution. The greater Seattle area is also home to web retail giant Amazon.com (AMZN).

The ultimate goal is to create the same sort of symbiotic relationship that Stanford has with Silicon Valley.

"Everybody has Stanford-envy, everybody says I want this to be just like Stanford and Silicon Valley," Kirschner said.

Don't expect to see this type of feeder program in Seattle anytime soon though. The inaugural 2016 GiX class is expected to have just 30 students. Though they hope to expand to a class of 3,000 by 2025, Kirschner said that pace is more on par with the academic rate of change than that of the tech world.
President, Hunter College
2013 Rank: 47
By Theresa Agovino

Jennifer Raab's 14-year tenure as president of Hunter College is a study in bold expansions. Two years ago, Hunter received the OK to build a medical complex with Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center that will cost more than $500 million and eventually house a nursing school. And earlier this year, Hunter strengthened ties to Weill Cornell Medical College after the completion of a $65 million deal in which Hunter purchased the fourth floor of Weill Cornell's new research center so the two entities could collaborate.

Hunter, with about 22,600 students and a budget of $310 million, will close on an $18 million building on the Upper East Side in July that will serve as a new theater department. The 59-year-old Ms. Raab, who holds degrees from Cornell, Harvard and Princeton, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and sits on the steering committee of the Association for a Better New York.
For Dreamers, Legal Barriers to College Evaporate While Cost Burdens Remain

June 30, 2015

Thanks to an executive action by President Barack Obama, Dreamers – the sons and daughters of undocumented immigrants who have been in the US since they were children - now have the ability to attend college. But too many aren’t pursuing higher education because they don’t have the means to pay for it.

According to the US Department of Education, 85% of all full time students [4] get some form of financial aid. But for most non-citizens, including these Dreamers, this aid is nearly non-existent. This is largely because undocumented students (including Dreamers) by law aren’t eligible, as all their classmates are, for federal grants or even loans to fund their education, which is by far the largest source of support for low-income students’ college education.

While many juggle jobs, often helping support their families and scraping together college hours one course at a time when they can accumulate funds, this is a slow, painful and often impossible way to finish school. It took Cristina Constantino four years to finish a two-year degree, getting up at 5 am to make it to class and working in a restaurant when she wasn’t in school. There are at least 550,000 of these Dreamers in the US, and perhaps as many as 1.9m. Many of them, despite their best efforts, are going to wind up trapped in the low-income jobs waiting for those without college degrees.

Objections to helping Dreamers get a college degree make little economic sense. By 2020, 65% of all US jobs will require some education beyond high school [5]. At the current production rate, the United States will fall short by 5m workers with postsecondary education by 202 [7]. Cultivating a more educated workforce is essential to the nation’s economic future as baby boomers leave the job market and our economy increasingly requires skilled workers. This isn’t just a mission for Dreamers’ higher education, but a mission for the nation’s future workforce and economic development.

Advertisement

Many of these young adults are highly motivated and talented individuals who want nothing more than to go to college and contribute to the economic and social richness of our nation. Many graduate at the top of their class. Many get 4.0 grade point averages. They do community service. They play sports. Some have struggled to complete their high school
education, all the while working to help support their families. They want to be teachers, nurses, lawyers, engineers, veterinarians and accountants. They want to start businesses and help other people. The barriers they face are beyond their control.

These young people come from El Salvador, Mexico, Poland, Korea and almost 80 other countries. If we help educate these students, we can create a powerful resource for their communities and for all of us in this country. If we fail to do so, we lose a whole generation of motivated talent and ability.

Over the past 25 years, we have worked to make scholarships available to low-income students, and we've seen the transformation a college degree can make in the life not only of an individual, but of his or her entire family. With a scholarship, Cristina Constantino plans to finish her BA degree over the next two years and plans to go to graduate school. Korean-born Dreamer Grace Couch dropped out of college for years when juggling full-time work and nighttime classes became impossible; today, at age 29 and with scholarship help, she is starting a nursing career. "I am planning to follow my professors' footsteps in obtaining my masters and eventually a PhD in nursing. I want to become a nurse educator and a leader to speak up for our immigrant and minority populations," she told her graduating class at City University of New York in May.

These students want to learn, to grow, to contribute. The promise of a better future for these young people is also the promise of our own country's future – their education is an investment we would be foolish not to make.

Amanda Bennett is a journalist and one of the co-founders of TheDream.US, which has awarded nearly 1,000 scholarships to Dreamers.

Carlos Gutierrez is the co-chair of the Albright Stonebridge Group and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He is also one the co-founders of TheDream.US, which has awarded nearly 1,000 scholarships to Dreamers.
421-a deal brings more anxiety for real estate developers

By Ryan Hutchins  5:32 a.m.  |  Jan 30, 2015

For months, real estate developers across New York City have been on edge, growing more anxious as the weeks ticked past. The source of their unease? Renewal of the 421-a tax incentives—a program that provides the underpinning for virtually all rental housing production in the five boroughs—was caught in Albany gridlock.

That dynamic might have ended last week with a last-minute accord between lawmakers, an all-smiles press conference and, on Friday, a signature from Governor Andrew Cuomo. But developers are still worried—some, perhaps, moreso now.

The 421-a law Cuomo enacted gives rental developers a lot to like, including considerably longer periods without taxes. But it comes with a giant caveat: If representatives for real estate developers and construction unions do not come to an agreement on wages by the end of the year, the program will end altogether.

Experts say that could squeeze rental housing production, drastically reduce the number of affordable apartments built and undermine Mayor Bill de Blasio’s ambitious housing plan, which aims to create 80,000 affordable homes in a decade.

MORE ON CAPITAL
- Capital Playbook: FBI probing escape prison; de Blasio holiday
- Albany Pro: Women’s package, minus

Even if that scenario is avoided, though, it doesn’t change the fact that developers are unable to plan projects now. Executives say they will work furiously in coming months to get already-planned buildings into the ground
abortion; ride-hail backers look to 2016
* Chris Christie announces, unrecognizably

before the end of the year, hoping to lock-in tax breaks under the existing program. That continues a pattern that's been happening all year.

But planning any other rental projects, at this point, seems to be out of the question, some developers said. There's no way to figure the cost of a project without clarity on what workers will be paid—or if there will even be a 421-a program.

"There's no way to know anything," David Schwartz, a principal at Slate Property Group, said Monday. "We don't even know what the issues are. We don't know anything, and it's impossible to make that gamble, because it's not possible to build rental without 421-a."

Like other developers, Schwartz said all projects he takes on at this point will have to be condominiums. That won't change until there he knows whether the program will exist come January and, if so, what wage requirements will be added. In the meantime, Schwartz said, four or five rental projects that are in the pipeline will be scrapped for condominiums. All five would have included between 20 percent and 30 percent affordable housing, and would have produced between 750 and 1,000 apartments.

"We're only looking now at condo projects. We're not looking now at any new projects that could have any rental component, any affordable component," Schwartz said. "We have to invest our money now and we won't get it back if no deal is made."

The 421-a program has existed since the 1970s, when it was created as a way to spur growth in an increasingly bleak, crime-ridden city. Since then, it has grown to become a central component of how real estate developers plan their projects. Last year, 421-a accounted for more than $1.1 billion in forgiven tax revenue. That has helped make it the target of some affordable housing advocates, who argued the program failed at what is now seen as its main function: Creating affordable housing.

The changes signed into law last week—largely based on a plan developed by the de Blasio administration—will mandate that all projects build affordable apartments, setting aside between 25 percent and 30 percent of the units for that purpose. Developers will be given three options, each tailored for different types of housing markets. The changes ban most condos and co-ops from receiving the abatements, with some exceptions that are meant to protect small, reasonably-priced projects in the outer boroughs. And the tax breaks will now last for 35 years, up from a maximum of 25 years.

The fate of all those changes are in the hands of two special interests groups: The Real Estate Board of New York, which represents the city's biggest developers, and the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York, which represents numerous construction unions. The new laws says leaders from both organizations must sign a "memorandum of understanding" by the end of the year for the program to continue.

Exactly what that entails is somewhat unclear, perhaps by design. The law mandates the
agreement cover “wages or wage supplements” for buildings with more than 15 units. The law also allows for wage schedules based on the number of units, size of overall projects and geographic locations within the city.

That language gives real estate some room to cut a deal that may not hurt the bottom lines of as many developers as, say, a citywide prevailing wage mandate. That would essentially be a requirement to hire union. REBNY leaders are said to detest the concept and had considered it a non-starter in discussions with lawmakers in Albany. They say the costs run high, with prevailing wage for carpenters on heavy construction jobs topping $94 per hour with benefits.

While some developers routinely pay that much, it is a not a figure that sits well with a number of firms building in the outer boroughs. It would be a death blow, some say, to many affordable housing developers.

“I’m concerned that anything that will increase the cost side of that equation will immediately result in fewer affordable housing units being built,” Jolie Milstein, president of the New York State Association for Affordable Housing, said of changes that the negotiations may bring. “More expensive construction means fewer affordable units to solve the crises we’re facing in the city.”

There are many potential deals that could be worked out between REBNY and the building trades. There could be a living wage scale, which would set a minimum pay that’s far less than prevailing and would have little to no impact on big-time developers. There could be a mandate to pay a prevailing wage in Manhattan and a living wage elsewhere. The unions could give something back, perhaps cutting down on rules that developers consider onerous.

Steven Spinola, the outgoing president of REBNY, and Gary LaBarbera, the building trades president, issued a joint statement last week, apparently a sign they’re starting on amicable terms. They said they “look forward to working together to craft a long-term, comprehensive plan to ensure that a reformed 421-a program can maximize the creation of affordable housing in New York City for years to come” and that they “look forward to partnering over the next months to structure a program that works for the real estate community, and works for the hard working men and women who build affordable housing in New York City.”

Both sides have an interest in coming to a deal and would likely need to have flex to reach one. Ed Ott, a labor expert at CUNY who used to be the executive director of the New York City Central Labor Council, said he’d never encountered a law that’s contingent on two interests groups coming to terms. He said an accord was certainly possible, and noted this is far from the first time developers and the trades have negotiated.

“This may be an opportunity for everybody to get their issues discussed. It’s interesting. It has possibility,” Ott said Monday. “I think everybody’s got something to gain and something to lose here. So it sounds like a pretty good situation for them to work it out.”
The Town Shrink

Trained as a psychiatrist, Mindy Thompson Fullilove now puts entire cities on the couch.

By ROBERT SULLIVAN   JUNE 23, 2015

High Bridge, spanning the Harlem River and connecting Manhattan to the Bronx, is the oldest bridge in New York City. It is also an aqueduct, or used to be. Built in the 1840s, when public health officials across the country were battling cholera, it carried clean water from upstate to a growing urban population. In just a few decades, planners would build not just aqueducts but the so-called sanitary greens that today we call parks, including Highbridge Park, on the Manhattan side of the bridge. A side benefit of High Bridge was the walkway above the aqueduct that allowed Bronx pedestrians to reach Manhattan. By the 1960s, though, the aqueduct was no longer in use, and city planners, working to fight what was then called urban blight, decided to disconnect the boroughs. The Parks Department closed the old bridge, cutting off an artery.

In June, the Parks Department reopened High Bridge to pedestrians, not just resuming the flow of foot traffic but also connecting it to a more recent innovation in public health, called the Giraffe Path, which was spearheaded by Mindy Thompson Fullilove, a research psychiatrist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. Fullilove has spent the past 30 years investigating how broken connections between various parts of cities harm public health and, more recently, exploring ways to reconnect them. The Giraffe Path, a six-mile trail that runs from Central Park to the Cloisters, is
designed to do just that, providing links between communities that have, by Fullilove's analysis, undergone systematic disinvestment, resulting in numerous public health crises: AIDS epidemics, crack addiction, asthma, post-traumatic stress and obesity.

The Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health is a sponsor of the trail initiative, called City Life Is Moving Bodies, or Climb, along with the Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation, a local nonprofit. This year, after more than a decade of community meetings with the Parks Department, local college students who started hiking the Giraffe Path when they were kids at last saw their route extended, as the gates on High Bridge were opened, a victory for the city's entire circulatory system. "People have a pretty easy time accepting the analogy between the body and the city," Fullilove says. Indeed, when considering the health of the city as a whole, metaphor and reality neatly align. Rule No. 1 for long life: Stay active, keep the blood flowing. Rule No. 1 for urban planning: Never close an artery.

The idea of a psychiatrist's treating an entire city emerges from straightforward questions about how people interact with extreme environments. Fullilove was inspired in particular by the work of Alexander Leighton, who, as a Navy psychiatrist during World War II, studied an Arizona internment camp for Japanese-Americans. Leighton expected to see a tremendous amount of illness and mental trauma — the conditions in the camp were terrible — but the internees, though they were suffering, proved to be startlingly resilient. "He sees this heroic effort to reorganize life," Fullilove says, and the ability to organize their own community appeared to be at the root of their success. After the war, Leighton launched a multigenerational study (still ongoing) to document the ways communal ties influence individual mental health.

Nonetheless, psychology of place remained a radical notion even into the 1990s, when Fullilove was working as a specialist on the mental health problems associated with H.I.V. and AIDS. "The idea that the location was
important — people were just looking at me aghast,” she recalls. But as she continued her work through the ’90s, researching community trauma in Pittsburgh and New York, Fullilove increasingly came to see cities as ecosystems, with streams and channels, one flowing unseen into the next, disruptions wreaking havoc, threatening vitality everywhere. In a 1999 article in The International Journal of Mental Health, she showed federal urban renewal policies to be a fundamental cause of disease.

In the 1970s and ’80s, for instance, city managers practiced what Roger Starr, the New York City housing commissioner, deemed “planned shrinkage,” whereby planners focused their limited resources on high-wealth neighborhoods; the poor, primarily in minority neighborhoods, were left with fewer firehouses, dilapidated housing, parks fenced off, bridges shut down. “A Synergism of Plagues,” Rodrick Wallace’s 1988 paper in Environmental Research, described how disinvestment accelerated H.I.V. infection, not just in the inner city but also in the suburbs.

Fullilove’s approach turns the standard story of the American ghetto upside down. Instead of neighborhoods with intractable problems of their own making, isolated from their more comfortable neighbors, she sees people in constant motion, shifted, pressurized and harassed by ever-changing federal and state policies that work actively to sort cities by race. In the 1930s, the federal Home Owners’ Loan Corporation steered bank investment away from areas that surveyors identified as minority or foreign-born. In 1949, the Housing Act designated older neighborhoods with high minority populations for slum clearance; cities received federal money to replace thriving neighborhoods with civic centers and housing projects. In the terminology of place psychology, the pathways of the constructed community were devastated. Fullilove’s research showed a total of 2,500 renewal projects in 993 neighborhoods, 67 percent of them black.

Many of these communities are then mined of their jewels, young people who flee the places where their families struggled to raise them. “I grew up
hearing all the stereotypes — “There’s nothing here!”” Khemani Gibson told me a few months ago at a youth summit that Fullilove helped organize. Gibson, a 22-year-old Ph.D. candidate in history at N.Y.U., grew up in Orange, N.J., Fullilove’s hometown. “I wanted to leave instead of actually trying to improve my community.”

Fullilove diagnosed the health consequences of this largely African-American displacement as “root shock” — which she defines as “the traumatic stress reaction to the destruction of all or part of one’s emotional ecosystem.” It can also follow displacement relating to natural disasters or gentrification, and her term has been adopted by urban planners and community psychologists. Fullilove’s diagnosis of root shock begins with an analysis of a traumatic past, to identify the breaks in the civic fabric. One treatment, says Fullilove, is to teach young people that they do have roots, and they can tend them by learning history. In Orange, she helped middle-school students write a history of their city, chronicling its troubled legacy, but also celebrating it.

On a recent tour of Orange with Fullilove as my guide, we visited a still-functioning black-owned funeral home, as well as a historic black church, Union Baptist, just paces from the highway that cut it off from downtown. “People mortgaged their homes to build this church,” Fullilove said. We saw the park, fenceless on what had previously been the white side, fenced off on the black side, and we went downtown to see the vibrant small businesses on Main Street. We passed an elementary school just in time to encounter the students spilling out at the end of their day. Miphilove Milord, a seventh grader, approached the psychiatrist. “Are you Mindy Fullilove?” she asked. Milord, it turned out, had been a participant in one of Fullilove’s history projects. “Are you the famous Miphi?” Fullilove answered. The girl beamed.

Last year, on the 10th anniversary of Climb, Fullilove, who was recovering from hip surgery, didn’t get to see much of the trail. This year, hip healed, she was excited to walk the Giraffe Path again, but also a little
nervous about the pressure on neighborhood rents from Edgecombe Parc, new luxury condominiums half a block from Highbridge Park. "It was deeply moving to be there today," she wrote me after. "So much work has been done — so much remains."

Robert Sullivan teaches the ecology of cities at Macaulay Honors College and writing at the Bread Loaf School of English. His most recent book is "My American Revolution."

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A version of this article appears in print on June 28, 2015, on page MM50 of the Sunday Magazine with the headline: The Town Shrink.
Undocumented Immigrants Help Keep Medicare Solvent, According to New Study

BY: California Healthline
POSTED: 7:08 AM, Jun 29, 2015

Undocumented immigrants pay billions more into Medicare every year than they use in health benefits, and in fact they subsidize care for other Americans, according to researchers.

A study published in the contends that undocumented immigrants generated surplus Medicare contributions of $35.1 billion from 2000 to 2011, extending Medicare's estimated life span by one full year. The study appeared earlier this month as an "online first" article in the Journal of General Internal Medicine and will appear in a forthcoming print edition of the journal.

Researchers from Harvard Medical School, the Institute for Community Health and City University of New York's School of Public Health at Hunter College found that in one year alone -- 2011 -- undocumented immigrants generated an average surplus of $316 apiece for Medicare. Other Americans generated an average deficit of $106 apiece. Undocumented immigrants contributed $3.5 billion more than they received in care in 2011, according to the study.

Researchers concluded that restricting immigration would be bad for Medicare's financial health. They estimated that contributions from undocumented immigrants during the first decade of the century prolonged Medicare's trust fund solvency by one year. The trust fund is predicted to be insolvent in 15 years.

Undocumented immigrants are not eligible to participate in government health programs, including Medicare and the Affordable Care Act, but they do contribute by paying taxes. Payroll taxes are the major revenue source for Medicare's trust fund, used primarily to pay hospital bills. Using an Individual Tax Identification Number or an unauthorized Social Security number, most undocumented immigrants -- the estimate in California is 90% -- pay payroll taxes.
Researchers examined Medicare trust fund contributions and expenditures from 2000 through 2011, comparing data from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey to calculate tax contributions. They used the HHS Medical Expenditure Panel Survey to determine medical expenses paid by Medicare.

"For years I have seen my unauthorized immigrant patients be blamed for driving up health care costs," lead author Leah Zallman, a faculty member at Harvard Medical School and researcher at the Institute for Community Health said in a prepared statement. "Yet few acknowledge their contributions. Our study demonstrates that in one large sector of the U.S. health care economy, unauthorized immigrants actually subsidize the care of other Americans."

CMS officials declined to comment on the research, citing a standing policy against commenting on "outside studies."

Although the research dealt exclusively with Medicare -- the federal health coverage program for seniors and those with disabilities -- the findings have implications for Medicaid -- the state-federal partnership providing health care for those with low incomes -- according to California Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones (D).

"While these are two different programs with different funding sources, I think there's no question that this study lends support to the efforts to extend Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented immigrants. I think many of the same points in this research -- that undocumented immigrants contribute tax money to support government programs -- applies to Medicaid and California's Medicaid program, Medi-Cal," Jones said.

Zallman said the study's underlying message -- that undocumented immigrants' contributions should be recognized and appreciated -- applies to Medicaid, as well.

"I think our study should cause us to re-examine our assumptions about the impacts of unauthorized immigrants in other sectors such as Medicaid," Zallman said.

Daniel Zingale, senior vice president at the California Endowment, said the Medicare research showed similar results to the Endowment's own efforts to secure health coverage for undocumented Californians.
"These findings mirror what we found in California -- that undocumented people contribute far more than they take out," Zingale said.

As part of its Health4All campaign, the California Endowment did similar research in California and found undocumented Californians paid $3.2 billion in state and local taxes in 2012.

The Endowment's statistics are included in a You Tube video, California's Hidden Truth.

Jones and Zingale predicted the Medicare research would help advance immigration reform efforts.

"I believe this may be the first study to analyze the impact of unauthorized immigrants on the national Medicare program," Jones said. "The information is well researched and well documented and clearly shows they have had a very positive impact."

Jones said the study goes one step further and predicts that immigrants will continue to bolster Medicare's trust fund under President Obama's immigration reforms.

"This study also analyzes the potential impact of the president's efforts if the courts allow him to move forward with immigration reform to enable some portion of the unauthorized population to stabilize their status and move forward on a path to citizenship. The net contributions persist even if there's a path to citizenship," Jones said.

Zingale said Medicare's national status will help broaden the immigration arguments his organization has been making in California.

"This is another installment in a mounting number of facts that show how undocumented people are good for the health of our country," Zingale said. "Because Medicare is a big deal, it will advance that progress toward a greater understanding."

Zingale and Jones both pointed to California's budget agreement last week that includes health coverage for undocumented children.

"Clearing the way for children of unauthorized immigrants to join Medi-Cal is a good first step," Jones said.
"We're calling that the first ever health for all kids budget," Zingale said. "That shows you how far we've come. That budget received Republican votes. Indeed, we are in a very different place than we were just a few years ago. Remember Proposition 187?"

In 1994, California voters approved Prop. 187, a controversial ballot measure denying public services -- including health care and education -- to undocumented immigrants. Courts declared much of the initiative unconstitutional and last year, Gov. Jerry Brown (D) signed legislation repealing unenforceable provisions of the proposition.

Physicians for a National Health Program, a national advocacy organization, is helping spread the word about the Medicare research.

Although the group "had no role in conducting, financing or otherwise supporting the research, it decided to help publicize the study and its findings because they are consistent with PNHP's mission statement," Zallman said.

The organization's mission statement, in part, says:

"PNHP believes that access to high-quality health care is a right of all people and should be provided equitably as a public service rather than bought and sold as a commodity."

Two of the Medicare study authors -- Steffie Woolhandler and David Himmelstein, both professors of public health at City University of New York and lecturers in medicine at Harvard Medical School, are co-founders of PNHP.

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Prominent anthropologists join academic boycott of Israel

Sarah Irving (/people/sarah-irving)
Activism and BDS Beat (/blog/activism-and-bds-beat)
29 June 2015

Earlier this year, the blog Savage Minds (http://savageminds.org/) and Anthropologists for a Boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions (https://anthroboycott.wordpress.com/) joined forces to post a series of six essays (http://savageminds.org/2015/06/15/anthropology-and-the-boycott-of-israeli-academic-institutions-is-an-academic-boycott-effective/) on the issue of the academic boycott of Israel (https://electronicintifada.net/tags/academic-boycott).

The essays, all by figures eminent within the field of anthropology and archaeology, combine personal, political and philosophical reflection on why each of the writers believes an academic boycott to be a necessary and ethical tool in the fight against Israeli oppression of the Palestinian people.

Together, the authors of the essays read like a roll-call of some of the most eminent scholars in the anthropology of the Middle East.

They include Talal Asad (http://savageminds.org/2015/04/10/talal-asad-why-do-i-support-the-boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-movement/), specialist in Middle Eastern religion and politics at City University of New York Graduate Center; Steve Caton (https://anthroboycott.wordpress.com/2014/12/01/why-i-signed-the-boycott-petition-steven-caton/) of Harvard (https://electronicintifada.net/tags/harvard), who is an expert on Yemen (https://electronicintifada.net/tags/yemen) and the Arabian peninsula;

The penultimate essay was by Brian Boyd (http://savageminds.org/2015/06/10/anthropology-and-the-boycott-of-israeli-academic-institutions-brian-boyd/) of Columbia University (https://electronicintifada.net/tags/columbia-university), an archaeologist of prehistoric Palestine who I must thank for tipping me off about the series in the first place.

**Why do academics boycott Israel?**

In the ongoing fight for a boycott, in which BDS supporters are often charged with stifling academic freedom or anti-Semitic targeting of Jewish scholars, the set of essays is a valuable contribution for several reasons.

Firstly, it gives a detailed picture of the decisions-making processes which major scholars in the field have been through as they decide to publicly back the boycott call. Some note that they have not previously been fans (https://anthroboycott.wordpress.com/2014/12/01/why-i-signed-the-boycott-petition-steven-caton/) of boycotts, but see the case of Israel as justifying such a move.

Some describe decades-long processes of coming to an understanding of the extent to which drastic – if peaceful – measures need to be taken to challenge a state which routinely flouts international law and basic ethics, and is never pulled up on it by other nations.

All display the amount of thought and consideration that academics put into deciding that to boycott another country’s academic institutions is necessary in the face of state intransigence and brutality. There are no knee-jerk reactions or simple bigotries in these actions.

Secondly, it is a valuable insight for those of us outside the world of academia
into the conversations that go within academic disciplines.

For better or worse, there are many causes and campaigns demanding people’s time and commitment. So it is important to know what arguments and events sway professionals like this to decide not just to back a cause, but to put their heads above the parapet and make a statement which they know will bring accusations and insults at them from the Zionist lobby.

Thirdly, this collection of essays represents a brilliant resource, almost an anthology of the arguments for an academic boycott, as well as refutations of the accusations that invariably come from the Zionist quarter.

For the six not only comprise the essays themselves, but also a set of suggested readings and links from each writer, pointing the interested on to new essays, statements, articles and other resources.

And those interested (whether for political or professional reasons) in the interactions between the issue of Palestine and the discipline of anthropologist can look forward to the forthcoming book *Anthropology’s Politics: Disciplining the Middle East* (http://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=22055) by Lara Deeb and Jessica Winegar (who edited the *Savage Minds* series).
TEANECK, N.J. (AP) - A high-ranking official at Fairleigh Dickinson University has been named the school's next president.

The university's Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Christopher Capuano on Monday.

Capuano will serve as president-elect during the 2015-2016 academic year, then become the University's eighth president in July 2016, when current President Sheldon Drucker will retire.

The 57-year-old Capuano now serves as the school's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs.

Capuano said he was "deeply honored" to become the school's next president.

Capuano earned his doctorate in biopsychology and holds two master's degrees from the Graduate and University Center of the City University of New York. He earned a bachelor of science degree in biological sciences from Purdue University.

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The U.S. Supreme Court ruling granting same-sex marriage rights in all states is a boon to immigrant same-sex couples

Supporters of gay marriage rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington after the Court granted same-sex couples the right to marry in all U.S. states and unincorporated territories.

Last week's U.S. Supreme court decision granting same-sex couples the right to marry in all U.S. states and in unincorporated U.S. territories, like Puerto...
Rico, applies to all individuals, including couples from different countries. Prior to the ruling that same-sex marriage is a constitutional right, a same-sex couple wanting to marry sometimes had to travel to another state or country. That was a hardship to some U.S. citizens or permanent residents seeking to petition for a spouse.

10 HISTORICAL MOMENTS IN THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Since the Supreme Court found the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional in 2013, U.S. citizens and permanent residents have had the right to petition for foreign same-sex spouses. But until last week’s decision, many binational same-sex couples had a hard time marrying. For example, one undocumented reader in Puerto Rico wrote about wanting to marry a U.S. citizen living in New York, a state that already allowed same-sex marriages. Until last Thursday, same-sex couples could not marry in Puerto Rico.

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And, an undocumented immigrant traveling to the U.S. from there risked arrest and deportation. Now, the couple can marry in Puerto Rico and the U.S. citizen can petition for her spouse. Once the foreign national gets her green card, the couple can live anywhere they choose. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will recognize marriages lawful in the state or country where the marriage occurred, including marriages in foreign countries.

TEXAS A.G.: RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TRUMPS GAY MARRIAGE RULING

The immigration laws for married same-sex spouses are the same as for different-sex spouses. That includes the right for a U.S. citizen to petition for a same-sex fiancé(e) abroad and for a U.S. citizen or permanent resident to petition for stepchildren created by a same-sex marriage.

Of course, as in other marriage cases, USCIS will want proof that a same-sex marriage is bona fide, or “real” before it will recognize the marriage. The essence of the Supreme Court’s decision is that same-sex couples deserve the same rights as different-sex couples, but not “special” rights. USCIS and U.S. consular officers abroad have adjusted to same-sex marriage sponsorship. I’ve yet to hear of a case where a same-sex couple faced special scrutiny or were treated unfairly compared to different-sex couples.

GOP CANDIDATES CONDEMN SCOTUS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE RULING

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, 7th fl., New York, N.Y., 10004 or email to questions@allenwernick.com. Follow him on Twitter @awernick.
New York, NY Author Publishes Breakdown of Current U.S. Economic Crisis

(PRLEAP.COM) June 30, 2015 - "GOOD and EVIL: Tales of ECONOMICS in Transit," a new book by Annette E. Meyer, has been released by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc.

The economy of the United States has been in turmoil for longer than most can remember. It seems like everyone is talking about "The Great Recession" or a "jobless recovery," all the while pointing their fingers across the aisle, attempting to place blame on the other side. Is the increase in partisan politics the result of increased economy volatility or is it the other way around? What other factors contributed to our current situation and how do we fix a system that is obviously broken?

Annette E. Meyer breaks the economy down to its basic elements and discusses trends and projections in four key areas: higher education, healthcare, government, and consumer prices. She presents a thorough analysis of every major factor in economics over the past decades and more, and she backs everything up with real numbers and a review of the opinions of top economists and political thinkers. This is more than a crash course in economics—it is a roadmap to help you understand an increasingly complicated world.

About the Author:
Annette E. Meyer is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at the College of New Jersey. She is a former Adjunct Professor of Economics at the Hunter College of the City University of New York. She earned her doctoral degree in economics from The Graduate Center of The City University of New York.

Her most recent books include "An IOU: Domestic/External/International DEBT and BLITZKRIEG" from Dorrance Publishing Co. and "Value Added: 14 NATIONAL LABOR
FORCES" and "Spatial Dimensions of Color" from RoseDog Books.

"GOOD and EVIL: Tales of ECONOMICS in Transit" is a 142-page paperback with a retail price of $13.00. The ISBN is 978-1-4809-1240-3. It was published by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information, or to request a review copy, please go to our virtual pressroom at www.dorrancepressroom.com or our online bookstore at www.dorrancebookstore.com.


The Maverick Concerts series is celebrating its 100th anniversary in numerous ways this summer. One interesting event was the concert on Sunday repeating the exact program of a concert in the first season. I have my doubts that the performances then were in a class with what we heard at this event, featuring the Shanghai Quartet and pianist Ran Dank.

Since Dank was making his Maverick debut, I’d like to spend a moment on him. He is an Israeli, currently studying at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York with Ursula Oppens and Richard Goode. He was recently appointed Director of Piano Studies at the University of Charleston, in a city which currently needs all the help from the arts it can get. It will benefit from Dank’s presence, at least as a pianist, my only opportunity to judge his work. For years I have been bitching about the tonal qualities of the playing of young pianists, many of whom seemed happy to tolerate flinty tone in the pursuit of ever-greater speed and dexterity. Perhaps the tide has turned, with pianists like Jeremy Denk, Benjamin Hochman, and Yuja Wang, who play brilliantly but with beautiful and varied sound. Dank is another one of these, and hearing the lush sound he produced from the piano was a great pleasure. Although he played only as a collaborator in this concert, and had the piano lid open, he was always an assertive presence without ever swamping his colleagues. I hope to hear more from this musician.

The program demonstrated the good taste of Maverick’s founding musicians. It opened with Haydn’s Quartet in D Major, Op. 77, No. 1, as great a piece as Haydn ever wrote. The Shanghai Quartet played with excellent balance. I noticed the singing quality and wide dynamics of the first movement, which became even more soulful in the gorgeous Adagio. The usual excellent Maverick program notes by Miriam Vliechur Berg noted that although the third movement is labeled Menuetto, it also says Presto and sounds more like one beat to the measure than three. At the Shanghais’ tempo it sounded almost like a tarantella but the Trio was radically slower, with sharp contrasts and strong accents throughout. The finale is also labeled Presto and was very fast but not crazy fast, with the players finding time to emphasize the humor in the music.

Bruch’s Kol Nidrei gave cellist Nicholas Tsavaras a chance to demonstrate his solo qualities, which were outstanding, and introduced us to Dank’s playing. After intermission, the entire ensemble gave us as fine a performance as I’ve heard of a great personal favorite, Schumann’s Piano Quintet in E-flat Major, Op. 44. Some musicians I’ve heard recently, notably pianist Vladimir Feitman, are bringing back 19th century rhythmic style to Schumann’s music without pulling it to pieces, and that’s what we heard in this surprisingly flexible music-making. Along with the freedom of rhythm, the first movement had some pretty extreme contrasts
which I enjoyed. The second movement was extremely expressive and moving, with, for once, plenty of viola audible. The Scherzo was indeed Molto vivace, and here I heard the only minor flaw of the afternoon, some passages which weren't well articulated by first violin and piano, probably due to the tempo. But this is the sort of thing a critic notes only to prove he was awake; the problem didn't bother me.

Overall, a glorious concert, worthy of Maverick at its best. And next weekend we have three concerts: Simone Dinnerstein playing Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on July 3rd, Adam Tendler playing piano music of Cage and Cowell on the 4th, and flutist Paula Robison and guitarist Fred Hand on the 5th.

Leslie Gerber, who lives in Woodstock, New York, has been reviewing professionally since 1966, for such venues as *Performance Today*, *Fanfare*, and *Amazon.com*. He also publishes the Parnassus Records label.