Researchers develop promising metal-based compound to fight kidney cancer

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"Kidney cancer is frequently diagnosed in the late stages when there are minimal options for treating the deadly disease. The hope is that this could potentially lead to new therapies that would extend the life-span of cancer patients who are diagnosed late," said Dr. Joe Ramos, PhD, a professor and the director of the Cancer Biology Program at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

Chemical Science published the findings by Dr. Maria Contel, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at Brooklyn College (The City University of New York) and Dr. Ramos. The study highlights the increased effectiveness and reduced toxicity of anti-cancer compounds containing the two metals, titanium and gold, called Compound 5 when used together. The research indicates that the improved anti-tumor activity may be due to the interaction of the different metals with multiple biological targets, or by the improved chemical and physical properties of the new compound.

"A gold based compound (called Auranofin) has been used to treat rheumatic diseases for years and has recently been used in clinical trials for the treatment of some cancers such as Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. However, that drug does not work well for kidney cancer. An important finding for us was that the incorporation of the titanium fragment into the similar gold based compound 5 increased the activity and specificity towards kidney cancer," said Contel.

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Researchers develop promising metal-based compound to fight kidney cancer

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Unlike previous metallic compounds known to fight cancerous cells, this titanium-gold compound does not attack DNA, but rather causes cancer cell death by blocking a group of enzymes that supports cancer cell survival and metastasis.

Compound 5 shrank tumors and performed better in pre-clinical models than the FDA approved platinum drug, Cisplatin, showing excellent promise for further clinical development. Researchers emphasize the necessity of having further studies to find how the compound affects other cancers and improve its potential for clinical use.

"To do the best cutting-edge cancer research you often need to work between disciplines and institutions. This work is the result of such a collaboration. This is the sort of work especially fostered by Cancer Centers like the UH Cancer Center, and is an important mission of NCI designated Cancer Centers like ours," said Ramos.

The UH Cancer Center will host The First International Organometallic Symposium in December 2015 where top researchers in the field will meet to share and discuss the latest findings of using metal-based compounds to fight cancer.
Queensborough Community Awarded $750K From NASA

Queensborough Community College is the recipient of a NASA research grant in the amount of $750,000 entitled “CUNY-NASA Solar and Atmospheric Research Program and Education Partnership (CUNY-NASA SOLARPREP)” Queensborough is one of four community colleges across the nation to receive the award, which is designed to provide student training and expand course offerings to students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

“This grant presents a wonderful opportunity to further establish our relationship with NASA and to encourage motivated students and faculty at the community college level to engage in research in solar, geospace and atmospheric physics under the umbrella discipline of space weather,” said Dr. M. Chantale Damas, Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics at Queensborough and Principal Investigator of the grant.

“I am extremely proud that Queensborough has been selected as one of only four community colleges across the nation to receive this prestigious award,” said Dr. Diane B. Call, President of Queensborough Community College. “It clearly demonstrates how Dr. Damas exemplifies the talent and dedication of our faculty in providing students with undergraduate research opportunities unique to potential careers in the STEM fields.”

Dr. Damas explained that space weather is an area of study that requires knowledge of more than one STEM discipline. Space weather can have a severe impact on both space- and ground-based technological systems, and it is a great topic to get students thinking about and interested in STEM. Of course, mention NASA and students are totally hooked!

The new space weather curriculum will be developed with NASA and other partner institutions, including CUNY’s City College and Medgar Evers College, University of Colorado at Boulder’s Colorado Center for Astrodynamics Research, and the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Community Coordinated Modeling Center (CCMC). The New York NASA Space Grant Community College Partnership Program at CUNY/York College is also a partner.

The new space weather curriculum will offer STEM students opportunities for paid year-long undergraduate research, including summer internships at both NASA and partner institutions. Also, a seminar series will take place at Queensborough featuring guest speakers from NASA and partner institutions who will address faculty and students on topics related to space weather.

“There is a cadre of support for our students from mentors at the senior college level as well as from peers and graduate students,” noted Dr. Damas, who expressed her deep gratitude to Queensborough colleagues Dr. Paul J. Marchese, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Tak D. Chaung, Professor and Deputy Chairperson of the Department of Physics, for inspiring and supporting her efforts.

The MUREP grant overlaps with the National Science Foundation (NSF) Early-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) awarded to Dr. Damas in the summer of 2014. The grant began February 1, 2015 and will run through the end of January, 2017. The NSF EAGER QCC Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program in Solar and Atmospheric Physics has two components: during the academic year, students take what they learn in a course-undergraduate research experience (CURe) and apply it to conduct research on real-world problems; and during the summer, students are placed in research internships at partner institutions to further develop their research skills in solar and atmospheric physics.

Christopher Tandoi, an Engineering Science major, was supported through both the New York NASA Space Grant and QCC’s NSF EAGER grant this past summer to conduct supervised undergraduate research at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Christopher noted that his mentors guided him and also encouraged him, “to decide what I wanted to learn and how to apply it.” He added, “Like many kids, when I
was young I dreamed of being an astronaut. When I was conducting research at NASA it struck me that I had achieved part of that dream."

MUREP awards promote STEM literacy and enhance and sustain the capability of institutions to perform NASA-related research and education. The goals of the program are to expand the nation's base for aerospace research and development, increase participation by faculty and students at minority serving institutions, and increase the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees in NASA-related fields awarded to students for minority serving institutions.
Grants Roundup: $75-Million Commitment From Microsoft to Expand Youth Computer-Science Education

By Eden Stiffman

Here are notable new grants The Chronicle has learned about in recent weeks:

Microsoft

$75 million over three years to nonprofits around the world to increase access to computer-science education for diverse populations of young people as part of the company's YouthSpark program. The funding will also allow the company to expand its Technology Education and Literacy in Schools program. The goal is to work with 2,000 tech-industry volunteers to reach 30,000 students in nearly 700 schools.

Warren Alpert Foundation

$20 million to Harvard Medical School for three purposes: $5 million will create a professorship in the Department of Health Care Policy, and the balance will create two $7.5-million funds — one to advance pioneering immunological investigations at the medical school and the other for the school's current priorities and strategic needs.

Schooner Foundation

$1 million to Harvard Kennedy School of Government to support a new executive education program for leaders from African nations who work in technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship for economic development. The program, which launches in fall 2016, is geared toward professionals from ministries, enterprises, and academia across Africa who have expertise in agriculture, health, education, and infrastructure.
Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

$1 million to the Hispanic Federation to support the expansion of College Readiness, Access, and Retention Futuros, its college-readiness program for Latino students. The grant will allow the program to expand to three additional City University of New York college campuses, as well as into schools in Connecticut, Florida, and New Jersey. The grant will also fund technology enhancements like a virtual curriculum tied to independent study and tablet computers.

Subscribers to The Chronicle of Philanthropy also have full access to GrantStation’s searchable database of grant opportunities. For more information, visit our grants page.
Baruch’s Greek Organizations Say Ban on Pledging Effectively Shuts Them Down

By ELIZABETH A. HARRIS  SEPT. 23, 2015

When one pictures a fraternity, one does not think of Lambda Phi Epsilon at Baruch College, a commuter school in the middle of Manhattan.

Instead of housing a few dozen brothers in a rumpled old mansion, Lambda Phi Epsilon, along with the rest of Baruch’s fraternities and sororities, enters a raffle each year for some shared office space — a room with a computer or two and a couple of chairs — that it will have to split with unrelated clubs if it wins. On a campus of 15,000 undergraduates, fewer than 100 students are active members of a Greek social organization, according to the college.

Now, in the aftermath of the frightening death of a student, Chun Hsien Deng, during a fraternity initiation rite in December 2013, Baruch’s small, idiosyncratic Greek life may vanish altogether.

After the death of Mr. Deng, known as Michael, Baruch permanently banned Pi Delta Psi, the fraternity he was pledging when he died. But the administration also instituted a moratorium on pledging at every Greek social organization on campus, a ban that was later extended until the summer of 2018.

At that point, the moratorium will have been in place for four years, leaving
fraternities and sororities with few, if any, members. The college’s officials, caught in
a difficult and painful situation, said this move would help them fulfill their most
important mission, to keep their students safe. But members of fraternities and
sororities on campus said they were being unofficially shut down for something in
which they had played no part.

“The people who were involved should be punished,” said Nathalie Rae Pilaza, a
former president of the Kappa Phi Alpha sorority at Baruch and now the secretary of
its alumnae board. “But now they’re punishing all of us, just because we’re Greek
letter organizations.

“We feel like they’re eliminating us,” she continued, “slowly but surely.”

Greek life makes up just a sliver of activity at the college, as it does within the
entire City University of New York system, which includes Baruch. CUNY said that of
its 278,000 students enrolled in degree programs this fall, about 500 students are
fraternity and sorority members; even that tiny percentage is the highest in the
system’s history. None of the CUNY Greek organizations have houses.

At Baruch, the National Association of Black Accountants, by comparison, has
more than 100 members, administrators said, or more than all the members of
registered Greek organizations combined.

But those in fraternities and sororities at Baruch say it is precisely the college’s
large size and diffuse student life that make their groups so valuable. They offer
students with shared interests or common heritage a chance to socialize — Pi Delta
Psi, for example, was founded with Asian-American students in mind. Instead of
hosting teeming house parties and tapping kegs, Greeks at Baruch say they go out for
happy hour. They also participate in fund-raisers and organize events, like annual
variety shows.

“If you attend a commuter school, it’s difficult to find a sense of belonging,” said
Phillip Choe, a finance major and the president of Lambda Phi Epsilon. “You go to
school, go to work and you go home. You don’t have a chance to live ‘college life,’
where you meet your roommates and make all these friends you’ll bring to your
wedding five or 10 years down the line.
“This,” he said of Greek life, “is an opportunity to build a family within the school.”

Membership in fraternities and sororities at Baruch had already started to fall in recent years, as members graduated and were not replaced, and as the reputation of Greek life on campus suffered after Mr. Deng’s death.

Last week, prosecutors in Pennsylvania announced that five people, including four members of Pi Delta Psi at Baruch and one who had attended St. John’s University, would be charged with third-degree murder in the death of Mr. Deng. Mr. Deng died after he was tackled several times, while blindfolded and carrying a backpack filled with sand, during a Pi Delta Psi retreat at a rented house in the Poconos.

Thirty-two others are being charged with lesser crimes, including hazing and hindering apprehension, after the police said Pi Delta Psi members had tried to hide evidence, like paddles and banners, that a fraternity ritual had taken place.

Ms. Pilaza, who graduated in 2013, said that when she joined her sorority as a freshman there were more than 20 members on campus. Now there are fewer than five. Mr. Choe, a senior, said that when he was a freshman there were 25 to 30 members in his fraternity; now there are about a dozen.

The college’s officials said that while they understood that some students were disappointed, they insisted they had not tried to shut the groups down for good. Rather, they said, the death of a student had clearly indicated a problem that needed to be addressed.

“We wanted to make sure that when families send their sons and daughters here, and they join clubs and organizations, that they are safe,” Art King, Baruch’s dean of students, said.

Greek organizations that are not classified as social groups, like business fraternities, for example, are not included in the moratorium, a sore point among Greeks whose groups are locked under the ban. That is because those groups have no history of hazing, Mr. King said, while social fraternities and sororities have a culture of “secrecy.” He pointed to the national problem of hazing, even though it is illegal in
most states.

Another example of the culture problem, he said, was the Nu Alpha Phi fraternity at Baruch, which was banned from the college this year for pledging new members despite the moratorium.

"Because it's secret, we don't know what they do," he said. "We just know that, unfortunately, one of our students died."

Members of Greek organizations have disputed that they are any less open than other groups, and stressed the positive influence fraternities and sororities have on individual students, as well as on the campus as a whole.

Daniel Perez, the president of Lambda Upsilon Lambda, described his fraternity as a cultural organization for Latino students, but one that may not exist at Baruch much longer.

"As of right now, we have three active members left on campus," Mr. Perez said. "We will all have graduated after the spring semester."

A version of this article appears in print on September 24, 2015, on page A28 of the New York edition with the headline: Baruch's Greek Groups Fear for Future.
One Hazing Death, Dozens of Charges, and Questions About Making a Frat Come Clean

By Katherine Mangan

When Lianne Kowiak read about the fraternity ritual that killed a 19-year-old Baruch College freshman on an icy field in the Poconos, terrible memories of her own son’s death, in 2008, came flooding back.

In both cases, young pledges succumbed to fatal head injuries after being pummeled by their fellow fraternity members as they ran a gantlet on a cold, dark night.

No criminal charges were filed in connection with Harrison Kowiak’s death during what some Theta Chi fraternity members referred to as a team-building activity.

What happened in a darkened pasture near the Lenoir-Rhyne University campus, in Hickory, N.C., remained in dispute as the stories kept changing. The local prosecutors concluded there wasn’t enough evidence to bring charges.

A far different response is playing out in the case involving the Pi Delta Psi fraternity at Baruch, part of the City University of New York. (The university has since banned the fraternity from its campus.)

Acting on a grand jury’s recommendations, prosecutors in Pennsylvania this month began bringing charges against 37 members of that fraternity for their alleged roles in the 2013 death of Chun Hsien (Michael) Deng. Third-degree murder charges have been recommended for five current and former members, as well as for the fraternity itself. The others face criminal charges including assault and hazing.
The men are being arraigned in waves so the local court isn’t overwhelmed. Ten of them have already been charged, with more arraignments continuing this week.

The case is widely viewed as one of the most sweeping criminal cases ever against a fraternity. It’s also being closely watched by those who have been pushing for tougher enforcement against hazing.

Relatively few hazing-related deaths and serious injuries result in criminal prosecution, and charging the fraternity itself, as was recommended in the Baruch case, is extremely rare, according to experts who track hazing cases.

But attitudes are starting to change, said Douglas E. Fierberg, a Washington-based lawyer who is representing Mr. Deng’s family.

"For serious cases and serious wrongdoing," he said, "the concept of ‘boys will be boys’ is a remnant of the past."

That’s a message that Mr. Kowiak’s mother has been spreading this week at schools and colleges as part of their anti-hazing-week activities.

There was nothing bonding about the night that her son spent dodging hits across a pitch-dark field in pursuit of a "sacred" fraternity rock, or the pain that Mr. Deng felt as he was repeatedly knocked to the frozen ground, she said.

"When I heard that charges were being filed in the Baruch case, frankly I was glad to hear that some sort of action was being taken," said Ms. Kowiak. "I hope this will be a wake-up call that these traditions and cultures are not all fun and games," that people die, and that others’ lives are ruined. "Either way, it is sad for all parties involved."

Blindfolded and Body-Slammed
The facts in the Baruch case have trickled out over two years as law-enforcement officials have tried to make sense out of changing and conflicting versions of events from dozens of students.
According to the account presented to the grand jury, Mr. Deng was blindfolded, weighted down with a heavy backpack, and told to cross a frozen yard while others body-slammed him during a ritual called the "glass ceiling."

"This event was not intended to hurt anyone," said Hugh H. Mo, a lawyer for one of the defendants charged with a lesser crime.

"The idea is that these students," as Asian-Americans, Mr. Mo said, "will have a tough road ahead of them, and running the gantlet is a way to help them in their struggle to assimilate and become successful."

Pi Delta Psi is one of more than a dozen Asian-American fraternities that are generally not part of national mainstream umbrella groups like the North American Interfraternity Conference. National leaders of Pi Delta Psi did not respond to emails requesting comment.

The ritual is part of a disturbing pattern of violent hazing among Asian-American fraternities, according to experts interviewed by The Chronicle.

Some are trying to break out of the stereotype that Asian-American men aren't physically strong or masculine enough and that they spend all of their time studying, according to Mitchell J. Chang, a professor of education and of Asian-American studies at the University of California at Los Angeles and co-author of the article "To Be Mice or Men: Gender Identity and the Development of Masculinity Through Participation in Asian-American Interest Fraternities."

"These social groups respond in a very naive way," he said, "the way young men and adolescents would, with extreme hazing, thinking this would give the young men more willpower and strength to overcome those stereotypes."

In Mr. Deng's case, the results were tragic. After he lost consciousness, fraternity members told authorities they brought Mr. Deng inside, laid him down by the fire, and changed his clothes. Instead of calling for an ambulance, they looked up his
symptoms on the Internet and called the fraternity's national president, who told them to hide fraternity materials like notebooks and paddles that were in the house, according to the police.

They eventually drove him to the hospital, but more than two hours had passed by the time he was treated, the police said.

**Digital Fingerprints, a Suspected Cover-Up**

Several facts set this case apart from the vast majority of others where authorities have opted not to file charges, according to Mr. Fierberg. Police officers swooped in quickly to gather cellphones and track messages and Internet searches that implicated the students in Mr. Deng's death, said Mr. Fierberg, who has represented families in a number of high-profile hazing cases. The extent of Mr. Deng's injuries and attempts to cover up the incident also worked in prosecutors' favor.

Hank Nuwer, a professor of journalism at Franklin College, in Indiana, and the author of several books and articles about hazing, said that while it may be too late to bring charges in the Kowiai case, the public should "speak out and demand a thorough investigation the next time a fatal pummeling masquerades as team building and allows participants to walk arrest-free."

But while many, like Mr. Nuwer, have applauded the arrests in Michael Deng's case, others have accused the prosecution of overreach.

"My biggest problem with the way this investigation was handled was its broad sweep," said Mr. Mo, the lawyer representing one of the Baruch defendants. "Whether you were inside or outside, whether you slept through the weekend, everyone was charged. I don't think that's going to hold up in a court of law."

He likened the arrests of dozens of Baruch students that night to detaining an entire team of football players if one of them took off his helmet and clobbered an opponent.

"Even assuming the player who got whacked died from his injury, no one in his right mind would say all of the players from the team
should be prosecuted, even though they were all engaged in the same activity," Mr. Mo said.

If there was a turning point in the prosecution of hazing, it might be the cases filed against 15 former members of Florida A&M University's marching band after the 2011 death of Robert Champion, a drum major who succumbed after being pummeled with fists and instruments during a brutal hazing ritual aboard the band's parked bus. At least three were convicted of manslaughter.

The case was a test of Florida's anti-hazing law and sent a message to prosecutors elsewhere that hazing abuses could be criminally prosecuted. Forty-four states now have anti-hazing laws, and Florida's is one of the toughest.

"What happened at Florida A&M has influenced prosecutors to think they can successfully prosecute certain hazing events they might have been wary about pursuing before," said Peter F. Lake, director of the Stetson University College of Law's Center for Excellence in Higher Education Law and Policy.

Still, most cases result in lawsuits or are settled out of court.

When it comes to filing criminal charges, "it appears that the line has been drawn at beating someone to death, which is sad," said Gentry R. McCreary, chief executive officer of Dyad Strategies, a research and assessment firm that helps fraternities and sororities develop anti-hazing policies.

One reason, he said, is that fraternity members tend to circle the wagons when tragedy strikes.

"The veil of secrecy that happens in these cases makes it difficult to gather information," Mr. McCreary said.

That's exactly what investigators said had stymied their efforts to unravel the mystery of Tucker Hipps's death one year ago this month, during a morning run with other Sigma Phi Epsilon pledges at Clemson University.

He died after falling head-first off a bridge, and no one has come forward to explain how that happened. The local police contend
that many of the dozens of people they've interviewed are lying or withholding information.

Prosecutors say the same about many of the students implicated in Mr. Deng's death, and they're hoping the criminal charges will make the fraternity members come clean. No one can argue that the freshman pledge was participating in the ritual willingly, the family's lawyer said.

"The evidence exists that he was fighting back," Mr. Fierberg said, "and because he was fighting back, he was getting it worse."

Katherine Mangan writes about community colleges, completion efforts, and job training, as well as other topics in daily news. Follow her on Twitter @KatherineMangan, or email her at katherine.mangan@chronicle.com.
Michael Kaufmann, Steven Paladino Appointed To MSC Industrial Supply Co.'s Board Of Directors

By
Published: Sept 24, 2015 8:45 a.m. ET

MELVILLE, N.Y. and DAVIDSON, N.C., Sept. 24, 2015 - PRNewswire -- The Board of Directors of MSC Industrial Supply Co. MSM, -1.30% a leading distributor of Metalworking and Maintenance, Repair and Operations products and services to industrial customers throughout North America, today appointed Michael Kaufmann and Steven Paladino to serve as directors, effective immediately.

Kaufmann is chief financial officer of Cardinal Health, Inc., one of the largest health care services companies in the world. He has responsibility for all of the financial activities of Cardinal Health and oversees global sourcing for Cardinal Health's pharmaceutical and medical segments. During his nearly 25-year tenure with the company, Kaufmann has held a number of senior operational, sales and finance roles touching all areas of Cardinal Health. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ohio Northern University.

Paladino is executive vice president and chief financial officer of Henry Schein, Inc., the world's largest provider of health care products and services to office-based dental, animal health and medical practitioners. His responsibilities include oversight of the company's business units and the corporate finance function. Now in his 28th year with the company, Paladino is a member of Henry Schein's board of directors and executive management committee. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, NYS Society of CPAs and the Institute of Management Accountants, as well as a NASDAQ Listing and Hearing Review Council member. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Bernard M. Baruch College.

"Mike and Steve bring significant business and financial leadership experience to our Board of Directors, and perhaps, most importantly, first-hand distribution-related experience gaining share in consolidating markets. As we look to build on our leadership position, we will benefit greatly from their unique perspectives," said Erik Gershwit, president and chief executive officer of MSC Industrial Supply Co.

Kaufmann and Paladino were appointed to two newly created independent director positions on MSC's Board of Directors, increasing director membership to ten. They will be eligible for election to one-year terms at the company's annual meeting of shareholders in January 2016.

"We are very pleased that Mike Kaufmann and Steve Paladino have joined our Board of Directors. We look forward to their insights and contributions as we continue to build on MSC's 75 years of success," said MSC Chairman Mitchell Jacobson.

About MSC Industrial Supply Co. MSC Industrial Supply Co. MSM, -1.30% is a leading North American distributor of metalworking and maintenance, repair, and operations (MRO) products and services. We help our customers drive greater productivity, profitability and growth with more than 1 million products, inventory management and other supply chain solutions, and deep expertise from more than 70 years of working with customers across industries.
Our experienced team of over 6,500 associates is dedicated to working side by side with our customers to help drive results for their businesses - from keeping operations running efficiently today to continuously rethinking, retooling, and optimizing for a more productive tomorrow. For more information on MSC, please visit www.mscdirect.com.


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The Fix

Martin Shkreli: A new icon of modern greed

By Janell Ross  September 23 at 2:58 PM

BBC News has suggested that Martin Shkreli might be the "most hated man in America." Bloomberg Business opted for the adjective "notorious" when describing Shkreli's business history. The Daily Beast said Shkreli is "Big Pharma's Biggest A**hole." And more than one publication, including this one, has taken to referring to Shkreli as a "bro," with various modifiers.

But the term that might well cement Shkreli's status as a symbol of modern rapaciousness will probably be his own. In an interview with CBS News on Tuesday, Shkreli described his decision to boost the price of a lifesaving drug he purchased the rights to by more than 4,000 percent as "altruistic."

[How an obscure drug's 4,000 percent price increase might finally spur cost action]

Yes. That is what the man said. Read his exact words for yourself:

"Our first and primary stakeholder is patients. There's no doubt about that," he said on CBS. He said that the price of the drug had been so low that "any company selling it would be losing money" and that at the new price, there would be "a reasonable profit, not excessive at all."

"I can see how it looks greedy, but I think there's a lot of altruistic properties to it," he said.

By my count there are at least two words in there that should give anyone pause. "Stakeholder" is a buzzword if there ever was one, often deployed strategically in the midst of controversy to communicate the alleged import of some group that has until that moment been largely ignored or avoided. And "altruistic," in this context, would appear to be plainly abused.

This is not generally what altruism looks like on a graph.

Shkreli is the founder and chief executive of the pharmaceutical company Turing. He and his company have, of course, been the subjects of widespread news coverage this week after the New York Times highlighted Shkreli's decision to boost the cost of the more-than-60-year-old drug Daraprim from $13.50 to $750 after the company purchased the drug in August. The drug, developed long ago (i.e. the research costs were borne by a previous owner of the drug), is not exactly a frequently
Turing has a history of business practices and antics that have made Shkreli the subject of regulatory inquiries from the very start of his career. He’s a former hedge fund manager who moved a few years ago from the world of buying and selling biotechnology stocks to the industry that creates them. Shkreli told Bloomberg Business that he wants to "cure many diseases and save children’s lives."

Educated at the City University of New York’s Baruch College, Shkreli is reportedly smart enough to have skipped multiple grades. So it’s fair to say that he probably employs words such as "altruistic" with a clear intent.

He’s used other words, too. Over the last few days — before Shkreli altered the settings on his Twitter account to make its contents more difficult to read — he called a reporter who asked about the price increase a "moron." He also claimed there was simply no reason to associate the price change with avarice. The "altruism" to which Shkreli refers is this: The price increase and the profits it creates would be used to research and develop alternative treatments for toxoplasmosis that cause fewer side effects.

Now, it has to be said here that Daraprim is considered the best type of care because it is effective and its side effects are manageable. A series of stories published about the price increase and Shkreli’s altruism claim includes doctors -- particularly infectious-disease specialists -- who say just that. It’s also only fair to say that Shkreli isn’t the only pharmaceutical executive who has decided to boost the price of life-sustaining drugs developed long ago. This has begun to happen with such frequency that the issue has drawn congressional attention. This week, prescription drug costs became an issue on the presidential campaign. And Shkreli did announce plans Tuesday to lower the price of Daraprim but put no firm number on that promise.

Shkreli said only that the price will continue to allow for a profit. A second drug company, which owns a treatment for tuberculosis, also announced plans to cut its price after its own significant hike, the New York Times reported.

[Amid uproar over 4,000% increase, Shkreli says he will lower price]

Shkreli also said that "mistakes were made," in communicating the reasons for the price increase. Yes, that old chestnut.

What he did not say was: I was shortsighted or selfish in focusing on extracting more money from the people who need the drug my company owns. I want to find a better balance between patient needs and running a business structured to seek profit. I am sorry.

He said, "Mistakes were made."

Hillary Clinton had something to say about Shkreli and his decision to raise Daraprim’s prices — that it was "price gouging." Clinton also released a plan this week that would cap out-of-pocket pharmaceutical costs at $250 a month.
Hillary Clinton

@HillaryClinton

Price gouging like this in the specialty drug market is outrageous. Tomorrow I'll lay out a plan to take it on. -H
twitter.com/nytimes/status...
10:55 AM - 21 Sep 2015

2,310 2,622

This is an issue that is crying out for political action. Even before the Shkreli situation blew up, 76 percent of Americans said the rising costs of prescription drugs should be the No. 1 priority when it comes to health care in this country. The same pollster showed that about three-fourths of Americans who think drug costs are too high blame the pharmaceutical companies rather than insurers.

Shkreli might well connect with some kind of crisis manager who can save him from himself. But short of that, he seems poised to become a 21st-century symbol of greed and self-delusion for politicians -- a real-life Gordon Gekko.

And in politics, there is nothing more irresistible than a good bogeyman.
Mayor Bill de Blasio made a pilgrimage to the Vatican this summer and came back enamored of Pope Francis, saying he was “honored” just to be in the same room with him. De Blasio has created a seemingly unlikely alliance with Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Archbishop of New York and the public face of Catholicism in New York. And while he is at odds with the church’s positions on social issues, he seems ready for a defining moment, in terms of his attitude toward Catholicism, as the pope comes to town.

But in purely political terms, the mayor’s enthusiasm for Francis and his relationship with Dolan may not matter all that much when 2017 comes around.

De Blasio’s most significant support in his successful 2013 campaign came mostly from black or Latino areas of the city, and much less from areas considered white Catholic. The once-powerful white Catholic vote in the city has significantly diminished compared to the rest of the electorate, and de Blasio’s re-election in 2017 will likely depend on retaining the support of other groups that have increased in influence, such as African-Americans and progressives.

And the cultural gap between his progressive base and white Catholics appears to be large.

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- Urban Land Institute New York announces real estate contest

The pope’s visit this week comes at an auspicious time for de Blasio’s mayoralty, a few months shy of the halfway point in the rookie mayor’s first term.
In the 20 months he has held office, de Blasio's standing among the millions of New Yorkers identifying themselves as Catholic has fallen off sharply.

A month before de Blasio took office, he was viewed favorably by roughly 30 percent of Catholics, while 17 percent held an unfavorable view, a December 2013 Siena poll showed. More than half of those interviewed at the time said they didn't know enough about him to form an opinion.

At the time, self-identified Catholics were optimistic about the incoming mayor. A significant majority said they believed de Blasio would have a positive impact on schools, parks, transit and public safety.

And 74 percent of Catholic voters supported de Blasio's idea to create a tax on residents making more than $500,000 a year in order to fund his citywide universal pre-kindergarten initiative.

By July of 2015, however, the undecided Catholics had made up their mind about de Blasio. And they didn't like him. A Siena Poll released that month showed that while his favorability rating remained roughly the same, with 29 percent of Catholics viewing him positively, his negatives have soared — 54 percent of self-identified Catholics said they held an unfavorable opinion of the mayor.

But election returns and census data show that these bad numbers may not matter, because it's unlikely de Blasio will need the full support of New York's white Catholics to win a primary or even a general election in 2017.

While voters don't register with their religious affiliation, census data showing race,
ethnicity and ancestry can give researchers a proxy that can show roughly where the city's largest Catholic populations reside, according to Steven Romalewski, director of the CUNY Mapping Service at the Center for Urban Research at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Maps show that in several of the most heavily Catholic neighborhoods, a majority of registered Democrats didn't vote for de Blasio.

And in some of the city's predominantly Catholic neighborhoods, 25 to 50 percent or more of registered Democrats didn't vote for de Blasio, Romalewski said.

Census data show the city neighborhoods where de Blasio won less than half of registered Democrats are areas largely populated by white Catholics, such as northeast Queens, Middle Village, the Rockaway peninsula, portions of the Upper East Side, a majority of Staten Island, parts of Southern Brooklyn and some spots in Midtown south.

De Blasio still has significant support still among the rest of the city's Democrats, making it very difficult for any potential challenger to unseat him. Forty-four percent of the general electorate and a significant majority of the city's African-American population still view him in favorable terms.

Nationally, the Catholic vote is a key swing constituency. Since 1972, no presidential candidate has won the national popular vote without the support of America's Catholics. But in New York City, the Catholic vote has been losing its power for decades.

In the 1950s, the white Catholic vote was 40 percent of the city's general electorate. But by the 1960s and '70s, after many Irish and Italians moved to the suburbs, white Catholics made up about a third of the vote. By 2013, exit polls showed the total white Catholic vote accounted for less than 15 percent of the returns, according to pollster Bruce Gyory.

While de Blasio might not technically need the support of white Catholics, "it would be a mistake" for him to ignore them or dismiss their influence, Gyory said.

And while the Catholic vote in the city might not be decisive, it is still very important in suburban areas and statewide. Roughly 50 percent of the general electorate in the city's suburbs is Catholic, and Catholics comprise about 35 percent of the vote statewide in a general election, Gyory said.

As de Blasio encounters significant problems at the state level, with Governor Andrew Cuomo and legislators from outside the city unwilling to support his agenda, he would do well to court the white Catholic vote, Gyory said.

"The mayor has a significant problem with the state Legislature, and the perception of both cultivating and planting seeds and then harvesting seeds by getting along with white Catholic voters as well as Hispanic Catholic voters could pay enormous dividends for him in Albany," Gyory said.

And a growing number of American Catholics are Hispanic.

A 2014 Pew Research Center study shows 57 percent of the New York City metro area's Catholics are white, while roughly 35 percent are Hispanic.

Even if he doesn't technically need the support of a majority of the city's white Catholics to win re-election, de Blasio has taken pains to shore up his relationship with the city's
well-established Catholic infrastructure and its leadership, which has proven crucial to the viability of some of de Blasio's most important agenda items.

De Blasio, who irritated Catholics when he failed to include a Catholic religious leader on his transition team despite including leaders of other faiths, has been appearing in public with Dolan with increasing frequency.

Dolan and the Catholic Church were crucial to the success of the first year of de Blasio's universal pre-kindergarten program — the church provided significant space for new pre-kindergarten classrooms, and in exchange, underused church buildings that had fallen prey to the church's declining membership could earn money for the Archdiocese.

And as de Blasio confronts an increase in homelessness citywide, he is turning to well-established Catholic charities to help provide services.

On Wednesday, a day before Pope Francis was scheduled to arrive in New York, de Blasio and Dolan appeared together at the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal homeless shelter in the Bronx, full of praise for each other and for Catholicism in general. The men joked with each other, as de Blasio promised to put in a good word for Dolan with "his boss" the Pope, when he meets him this week. And the Archdiocese, de Blasio said, always answers his calls for aid. "I can't remember a time when you said no, and I thank you," de Blasio said at the press conference Wednesday.

"Whether it was pre-k, affordable housing, homelessness — and I thank you on behalf of the people of New York City," de Blasio said.

When the press conference was over, de Blasio and Dolan posed for photographs, the mayor's arm draped over Dolan's shoulder. Dolan declined to speculate on whether the Pope's visit could help boost the mayor's standing among the city's Catholics.

"I'm not looking for any political points for it and I don't think he is either," Dolan said.
‘Women at the Wheel’ tell stories of hardship and success

By Colleen Wilson

September 23, 2015  No Comment

At this year’s “Driving Your Business: Women at the Wheel” event, panelists did not spend time touting their accolades, award boards on which they’ve sat. Rather, the four women on the panel talked about the journeys and adversity they faced before becoming leaders in their communities.

The panel consisted of Marissa Brett, president of the Westchester County Association; Belinda S. Miles, president of Westch Community College; Marilyn Malerba, chief of the Mohegan tribe and Neale Godfrey, founder and CEO of the Children’s First Network Inc.

Mary Paladino, a partner at Citrin Cooperman, moderated the event. Citrin Cooperman, which has offices in Norwalk and WHi Plains, sponsored the event, held at the Westchester Country Club in Harrison.

Miles was the first to speak, sharing stories of her upbringing in Queens by hardworking parents who never went to college but helped provide the necessary tools and environment for her and her siblings to earn degrees.

Miles said her father “knew college was a good thing. It was something other people did, in his experience, but he saw that pe were able to have a different lifestyle and that’s what he wanted for his family.”

She attended York College, City University of New York in Queens and commuted there via bus from home. It was there that I said she “was exposed to a world of knowledge, which was transformative.”

Academia would eventually become her career. Miles has worked in various roles for colleges including LaGuardia Communit College, Nassau Community College, Columbia University and as provost at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland.

For the last nine months, Miles has been at the helm of Westchester Community College, overseeing a $400 million enterprise—more than 28,000 students in degree, certificate, non-credited and continuing education programs.

A fellow Queens native, Brett spoke about her early ambitions of becoming a nail technician, but, “my mother had other plans said.”
Assuming she got good grades, Brett's mother agreed to pay for her two-year degree at the then Business Institute of Westchester, now the College of Westchester. Her mother agreed to pay for cosmetology school after that, but Brett never made it there. She was hooked by her experience at the Business Institute.

"As soon as I started, it's like I got stuck with the bug of learning to do well," she said.

From there, she worked at the Food Bank for Westchester Inc. in Elmsford where she moved up in the company after she pushed for a job as the assistant services administrator, a position that normally required more experience than she had.

"That was a pivotal moment for me because I said I'm qualified for this job, I want this job and I pushed and I argued and I pushed and I argued and I got it," she said. "So I think that's a really important moment because it means the persistence pays off."

From there, Brett became vice president of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation before taking over as president of the Westchester County Association.

Persistence was also a driver for Godfrey as she sought non-traditionally female positions in the '70s and, as an author, wrote about what many publishing companies said were not topics of interest.

Godfrey joined Chase Manhattan Bank in 1972 — one of two women in an executive training program — and said she was told two things. First, don't get pregnant. Second, she would make about half the salary of the men in the program.

"We didn't say anything in those days, you didn't; I was very happy to be there," she said.

And for the next 13 years she rose through the ranks and helped broker what was in 1981 the largest merger in the United States: the $7.3 billion deal that made Conoco Inc., a subsidiary of Du Pont.

Godfrey next became the president of First Women Bank, which she reminded the audience was created in 1975, shortly after the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which prevented creditors from discriminating against any applicant on the basis of, among other things, gender or race, passed.

Even so, she said she didn't see the effects of the new law in her position with the bank.

"When I was at the First Women Bank, I watched women be disempowered handling their own money and that seemed ridiculous," she said. "So I did research and found out it was because we were never taught anything about money as kids."

When she realized there was a dearth of books dedicated to teaching children how to handle money, Godfrey said she decided to bridge that gap — a decision initially met with uninterested publishers until she said to herself, "You know how to do leverage buyout, why not a publishing company?"

Since then, Godfrey has published 27 books and created the Children's Financial Network Inc., a company that helps to educate children and adults about financial literacy.

Maierba's experience growing up and starting a career could not have been more different than Godfrey's.

"Our tribe has been very egalitarian with men and women leading the tribe always," she said, adding she is the second female
to lead the Mohegan tribe, which settled in Connecticut and has been there for hundreds of years.

Malerba's career started when she became a nurse, which she said was a career path at the time for someone to get a practical education in three years and a job in the field after that.

"This was a very transformative experience for me," she said. "You can't be shy when people who are completely naked are telling you their life story and the most intimate details of their lives and trusting you to take care of them."

Malerba eventually became the director of cardiology and pulmonary services at Lawrence+Memorial Hospital. Around that time she was also involved with the tribe, serving in various leadership positions including as a tribal council member and chairwoman of the federal committee for the Indian Health Service agency.

In 2010, Malerba became the 18th chief of the Mohegan Tribe.

"Being a nurse uniquely prepared me for being a leader because it teaches you to communicate in a way that resonates with people," she said. "I'm really fortunate people stood behind me and they believed in me and they followed my vision and there is nothing greater gift than that."
LGBTQ Literature Creates Social Justice in the Classrooms and Beyond

Posted: 09/23/2015 6:08 pm EDT | Updated: 09/23/2015 6:59 pm EDT

Previously, I shared the information from a workshop that I created and presented on LGBTQ literacies. What follows is the information from a talk that I gave at another conference. Once again, I wish to share my work with the public because I do not believe in keeping information within the confines of academia (What is the purpose of knowledge if it only remains within the ivory tower and tiny bubble that is the university?). I wish to add to the dialogue on LGBTQ literature, and I want your feedback.

You Go, Gurl! How LGBTQ Literature Creates Social Justice in the Classrooms and Beyond (Teaching LGBTQ Literature in Community College Literature and Writing Classes)

A Talk by Michael Carosone

Presented at the Transitions and Transactions II Conference at the Borough of Manhattan Community College of the City University of New York; the theme of the conference was "Literature and Creative Writing Pedagogies in Community Colleges."

"Out of the crooked timber of humanity, no straight thing was ever made." — Immanuel Kant

Overview:

When they talk about diversity at a college, in a classroom, in a curriculum and in literature, what they really mean is diversity in terms of race, gender and class (and maybe ethnicity), but what they never mean is diversity in terms of sexuality, sexual orientation — especially homosexuality and gay identity and sensibility — and gender identity and expression, and all aspects of queerness. The deviant other is still ignored, silenced and marginalized. This is because of the institutionalized homophobia, heterosexism and hetero-supremacy that are inherent in all colleges and universities — alive and strong, even in 2014, even in New York City. It is time for a change. True diversity includes all identities, even sexual identities.

Personal Statement:

Years ago, when I taught my first English 101 class at LaGuardia Community College, I created the theme for my course to be "Reading, Writing and Researching Gender and Sexuality." Of the 15 weeks of instruction during the semester, only two were spent on homosexuality, gayness, queerness and the LGBTQ community. However, those were two weeks too much for some students who complained to the chairperson and who posted homophobic and hurtful comments towards me and my course on RateMyProfessor.com. This was when I realized that there is still much work to be done in eradicating the homophobia and heterosexism that exists in higher education, especially at a community college like LaGuardia, where the student population is comprised of students from many different countries, and the cultures of many of these countries are not welcoming to LGBTQ individuals. However, a college must define its own culture — a culture that embraces LGBTQ people and ideas.
In his poem, "An Open Letter to My Students," Gerard Wonek eloquently explains how the teaching of LGBTQ literature creates social justice in the classroom and beyond.

But here are my thoughts: LGBTQ literature, and the teaching and reading of it, whether in the classroom or outside of it, creates social justice because it declares to the students and everyone else that LGBTQ people exist, that they are human, that they are worthy, that their lives matter, that they have voices and that their voices will no longer be silenced, ignored, marginalized, oppressed, discriminated against and violated. When LGBTQ literature is taught, read and analyzed in the community college English classroom, the clear message is that it is important enough to study and to include in the curriculum; therefore, LGBTQ people must be important enough to be considered as human beings and citizens. Thus, ideas of equality are created, minds are enlightened, hope is tangible, ignorance shrinks and discrimination weakens. This is how LGBTQ literature creates social justice in the classroom and beyond.

Questions to pose:
1. What is LGBTQ literature?
2. Where can we find it?
3. Who writes and reads it?
4. Why should/must we teach it?
5. How can we teach it?
6. How do we inculcate it in our curriculum and give it the same importance as we do other literatures?
7. How do we bring it from the margins to the center?
8. How do we stop the excuses on why we cannot teach it?
9. How can LGBTQ create social justice in community college literature/writing classes?
10. How do you queer, gayify, bend or lavenderize your curriculum and classrooms?
11. Why are so many English instructors reluctant to teach LGBTQ literature or any LGBTQ topics/issues? And how is this a form of homophobia?
12. Why is sexuality (LGBTQ) as an identity often ignored by so many educators? Why is it not viewed as an important identity like others?
13. Is the education system, and the discipline of English in particular, truly honest about diversity, multiculturalism and social justice if it ignores LGBTQ voices, issues, people, history and culture?
14. How can we queer/gayify/bend/lavenderize straight teachers to make them understand that a sexual identity is also about a sensibility and not only about sexual activity, and that they need to wear lavender lenses at times, in order to understand the compulsory heterosexuality, heteronormativity and hetero-supremacy that they perpetuate in the classrooms?
15. How can LGBTQ teachers help heterosexual teachers to include LGBTQ content in their classrooms?
16. What are the politics behind the institutionalized homophobia that persists in education?

Follow Michael Carusone on Twitter: www.twitter.com/MichaelCarusone

DEALS & DEALMAKERS

Tributes flow for Jerome Belson, friend to presidents, advocate for disadvantaged

BY LINDA BARR O'FLANAGAN • SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

Jerome Belson, former president of the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York and a New York State Builders Association Hall of Famer, died on September 17. He was 90-years-old.
Hailed as a builder, lawyer, sportsman, devoted friend, lovin family man and larger than life personality, Mr Belson was a central figure in the private management of subsidized New York City housing.

In the mid-70s and 80s, he worked with the Department Housing Preservation and Development to train community groups in housing management so they could acquire and run their own properties.

He even traveled to South America at the behest of his friend, President John F. Kennedy, to create non-profit housing there.

"Jerry defined 'larger than life'." said Dan Marguilies, executive director of the ABO. "He managed tens of thousands of apartments, chaired industry and charitable associations, and still managed to find time for his close-knit and loving family.

"He was involved with Associated Builders and Owners for more than 40 years, bringing local developers into the National Association of Homebuilders and helping create the industry’s biggest annual trade show.

"Everyone in real estate knew Jerry and will remember his energy, humor, and insight into business and politics."

John Banks, president of the Real Estate Board of NEw York, said, "Jerome Belson was an important member of the industry, in the 1980’s he saw the need and heeded the call to build affordable housing. REBNY mourns his loss and we extend our condolences to his family."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Mr Belson graduated from Lafayette High School and enrolled in Brooklyn College.

After a stint in the U.S. Army during and after World War II, he graduated from St. John’s Law School in 1948. Working as an assistant corporation counsel for the city, he helped prosecute racketeers. In his spare time, he worked with the Knights Before Christmas to help underprivileged children, built clubhouses for the Boys’ Club, helped war veterans and was director of an old age home.

After entering private practice — at the behest of his father, Joseph, who became the president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of America — he worked in real estate and founded the firm of Belson,
His first development, in Brooklyn in 1952, was affordable housing for soldiers returning home. He went on to create 25,000 more apartments in the city, all non-profit co-ops. From 1955 to 2005, Mr Belson managed 50,000 apartments through Jerome Belson Associates.

His relationships with members of federal, state and city agencies led to his involvement in Mitchell-Lama housing and projects such as Roosevelt Island in Queens, Concourse Village in the Bronx and Jamie Towers, named after his son, Jamie Tad.

Because of his friendship with President John F. Kennedy, Mr Belson went on five mission trips with the American Institute for Free Labor Development to Mexico, Nicaragua, Brazil and Columbia to create non-profit housing there.

He worked for decades with the Associated Builders and Owners of Greater New York, Inc., eventually becoming and winning the Fred C. Trump Award for lifetime achievement. In 1984, he was awarded the HUD Service award by President Reagan.

He was the first person from New York City to be inducted into the New York State Builders Association Hall of Fame.

He started We Media, a magazine devoted to people with disabilities, built a bakery that employed the disabled in Maine, and traveled to Rome with the St. John’s 1996 NCAA champion soccer team to meet His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

When honored by Rome as affiliates of the Vincentian community, Mr Belson and his late wife and Maxine said they wanted their legacy to be simple: “That we cared.”

Conrado “Bobby” Gempesaw, Ph.D., president of St. John’s University, said, “With the passing of Jerome Belson, our University has lost a tireless and visionary benefactor. He has served as an example of excellence and civic commitment for St. John’s, New York City, and our nation. Our prayers and sympathy are with the entire Belson family.”

Predeceased by Maxine and son Michael (Kathy), Mr Belson is survived by his son Tad, daughter Brianne (Sanford), brother Victor and grandchildren Matthew (Jodi), Joshua (Katy), Jaclyn, Toby, and Jonathan, and three great grandchildren Noah, Ariel, and Paisley, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Donations in his memory can be made to New Hope Community, Inc., a home for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
Dr. Ford on Emotional Health: Making Summer Last All Year

September 24, 2015 by Cecilia M. Ford, Ph.D.

Cecilia Ford, who has been a psychologist in private practice in New York City since 1987, has addressed emotional issues for Women's Voices in many articles over the years.

Summer officially ended yesterday, and as this transition occurs each year I know it will not be long before I am feeling nostalgic for its pleasures. Though many people say they love the change of seasons, I suspect they wouldn't like the transition nearly so much if three good months of warm, sultry, sweater-less weather had not come before the colder months. But is it the weather that makes summer so special? While there's no doubt it's a key ingredient, is warm weather the essential magic? Or is it the things we do differently that make summer unique? That said, can we make some of these changes last all year?

Summer means vacation time and vacation is good for us. The fact that most people take their holidays in the summer months is partly dictated by school schedules—students get most of their time off in June, July and August, so families can travel together in summer. While some of this originated with the agrarian calendar, urban schools used to run year round, (though wealthy families tended to take their children away during the hottest weeks anyway). The Memorial Day to Labor Day calendar resulted when an effort was made to standardize the school year, (though teachers complain about how much students forget over the long break and changes have been made in charter schools, in particular, to shorten the length of the summer hiatus.)

Many businesses are forced to slow down during parts of the summer because so many employees are away, and the people they do business with are also gone. Even many psychotherapists are gone in August—a tradition dating directly to Freud, who liked to go hiking in the Alps. Since he went away, so did all his students, patients and protégés. Of course, across Europe, it is still common for shops and restaurants to close for an entire month, though this has been changing as business becomes more "globalized."

It would be much better if the influence went the other way. The work lives of Americans have always been more intense and less healthy than their European counterparts, who have shorter workdays, longer lunch hours, and more vacation and family leave. And the American worker's life has only gotten worse. As Anne-Marie Slaughter wrote this week in The New York Times:

"For many Americans, life has become all competition all the time. Workers across the socioeconomic spectrum, from hotel housekeepers to surgeons, have stories about toiling 12- to 16-hour days (often without overtime pay) and experiencing anxiety attacks and exhaustion. Public health experts have begun talking about stress as an epidemic."

Many people have to work several jobs to make ends meet, and being middle class no longer
guarantees that you can afford the basics that your parents once did, like a place to live and an adequate education for your children.

Besides the stress put on family life because Mom and Dad are both working, and working long hours, a vicious cycle has begun in which parents are desperate for their children to achieve more. Aiming for the "middle" or "good enough" no longer seems OK in a world in which getting a good job seems so uncertain. Children's lives are as high-pressured and over-scheduled as their parents'. Gone are the days of casual play after school, which has been replaced by competitive sports, tutoring, and special lessons, all of which put further time and financial pressure on frantic parents. The film, The Race to the Top, now available on Netflix, describes in detail the toxic toll this is taking on our kids and families.

Summer, then, is often the only time when families are all together in a low-key environment, spending time together in a non-stressful way. The contrast is no longer between eating indoors or outdoors but between night and day (literally — there are families that don't see one another in daylight hours during the rest of the year). But family time is one of the things that researchers in the field of positive psychology have identified as a key to happy living. Again, it's not just the sunshine that makes summer special.

And yet, that time outdoors is good for you. The Atlantic just published a report by James Hamblin on the new field of "ecotherapy," which essentially is just what it sounds like — it promotes "nature-based exercises intended to address both mental and physical health." I have always felt that walking or running outdoors was "better" somehow, and I have been dismayed at the proliferation of indoor gyms and spas that have become standard in recent years at resorts in beautiful, bucolic and/or exotic resorts. "Science" is now confirming the obvious, according to Hamblin:

"Researchers in the United Kingdom found that when people did physical activities in natural settings instead of "synthetic environments," they experienced less anger, fatigue, and sadness. A 2015 study in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported that walking in a park reduced blood flow to a part of the brain that the researchers claimed was typically associated with brooding. And in one of the most famous studies on the topic, patients recovering from gallbladder surgery healed faster and with fewer complications when their room looked out on trees rather than a wall."

We are naturally more prone to spend time outdoors in the summer months when the weather is good, but that doesn't mean it has to stop when the summer ends. As with time off from work, relaxation time, and family time, the outdoors may be more challenging in the rest of the year, but not impossible. With all these aspects of healthy summer activity, try analyzing the parts that are most valuable to you and spend some time thinking about how to arrange "non-summer" simulations. For example, I love going to the beach but I rarely go in the water and don't tan so why do I like it so much? I realized, much as I liked the sand and the sound of the water, what I really liked most was the several uninterrupted hours of reading. Couldn't I give myself "permission" to sit around my apartment for three hours reading without the rule of "going to the beach?" OK, still better on the beach, but I learned that I don't have to wait nine months to really get lost in a good book.

Similarly, some people love barbecues because of hamburgers and hot dogs and paper napkins, but wouldn't "let" themselves be so casual indoors. Why not? Fun and casual dining need not be restricted to the summer months. You also can invite people to a barbecue spontaneously without worrying too much about the food. But you can do that in the winter, too. Having casual get-togethers can be less stressful and more fun for the guests as well as the hosts. People are happy just to see one another, which is what they do more of during the summer. Think about the things that make summer special to you: slowing down, less pressure, time outdoors, being with family, or all of the above. Whether it's once a week, once a month, or ideally, in some way a little more every day, find a way to keep summer in in your life all year long.

Dr. Cecilia M. Ford is a clinical psychologist in private practice in New York with over 30 years experience. She has post graduate training in psychoanalysis, marriage and family counseling, and sex therapy. Educated at Stanford University, New York University, and the City University of New York. Dr. Ford has served as an adjunct professor in psychology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Teachers College of Columbia University, and The City University of New York. In addition to Women's Voices for Change, her articles have appeared in American Psychologist among others.
In search of acceptance, students might succumb to hazing

Posted By Dennis Chambers on Sep 23, 2015

People enjoy the feeling of being accepted. In our society, acceptance is king. Most will do what they can to gain the respect and unity of their peers. There’s nothing wrong with it, it just happens to be in our nature.

But, when does the cost of feeling accepted become too much?

Would you put your dignity on the line? How about putting yourself through mental or physical stress, all for the gratification of acceptance?

Unfortunately in many social circles, these are the prices that generally need to be paid. The word that accompanies this payment is simple – hazing.

Looked at as a right of passage, hazing is entrenched in many aspects of our society. According to hazingprevention.org, hazing occurs in sports teams, Greek life, cheerleading, honor societies and more. This week, the same organization promotes a nationwide campaign, National Hazing Prevention Week, to help spread awareness and “empower people to prevent hazing” according to their website.

Hazing is a big time act on college campuses. The National Study of Student Hazing states “more than half of college students are involved in some form of campus hazing.”

Hazing comes in many different forms. Physical exhaustion, ridicule, and public shaming are just a few options. It all sounds awful. So why would people put themselves through all of that?

Simple. They feel they have to in order to belong.

The problem with college society, Greek life especially, is that hazing has become almost synonymous with being accepted. Somewhere along the line the outlook on friendship and being a part of these circles got skewed. How does it make sense to intentionally belittle a person that you claim will be your friend in the future?

Short answer, it doesn’t.

There is an ultimate price to be paid for this search of acceptance, and unfortunately it happens more often than one would think. Death.

In fact, it’s going on right now at Baruch College. Five members of Pi Delta Psi are formally charged with the murder of Chun Hsien Deng, and 37 brothers total face a bevy of charges ranging from assault and hindering apprehension, to hazing.

This practice isn’t new. The same study I mentioned earlier reports that “since 1970, there has been at least one
hazing-related death on a college campus each year.

So, for the past 45 years students have lost their lives just doing what they felt was their best chance at gaining acceptance. Sounds pretty unnecessary if you ask me. As a member of Greek life myself, I just don’t understand the need for hazing. Especially as the cost of someone’s life.

Hazingprevention.org is a great tool. Since its birth in 2007 under founder Tracy Maxwell, this organization has spread to campuses and communities all over the country. The top event, National Hazing Prevention Week, officially runs Sept 21-25 and has found its way right here to the campus of Seton Hall.

“NHPW is an opportunity to educate students, parents, teachers, coaches, administrators, faculty, staff, athletic directors, band and performing arts directors, residence hall leadership, student government leaders, community members, local and campus police and others to not just recognize hazing but to learn ways they can prevent it from occurring in the first place,” the organization states on their campaign site.

With the conversation opening up and people becoming more aware of the problems around campus, hopefully programs like these can help put an end to the days of hazing.

Dennis Chambers is a senior journalism major from Mullica Hill New Jersey. He can be reached at dennis.chambers@student.shu.edu
Titanium and gold based compound fights kidney cancer cells

New research on metal-based compound shows promise for kidney cancer patients

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII CANCER CENTER

Researchers developed a promising metal-based compound that destroys kidney cancer cells, while leaving normal cells unharmed. The findings may provide a new way of treating kidney cancer, opening the potential for more potent and less toxic therapies that would give cancer patients a better quality of life.

"Kidney cancer is frequently diagnosed in the late stages when there are minimal options for treating the deadly disease. The hope is that this could potentially lead to new therapies that would extend the life-span of cancer patients who are diagnosed late," said Dr. Joe Ramos, PhD, a professor and the director of the Cancer Biology Program at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center.

Chemical Science published the findings by Dr. Maria Contel, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at Brooklyn College (The City University of New York) and Dr. Ramos. The study highlights the increased effectiveness and reduced toxicity of anti-cancer compounds containing the two metals, titanium and gold, called Compound 5 when used together. The research indicates that the improved anti-tumor activity may be due to the interaction of the different metals with multiple biological targets, or by the improved chemical and physical properties of the new compound.

"A gold based compound (called Auranofin) has been used to treat rheumatic diseases for years and has recently been used in clinical trials for the treatment of some cancers such as Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. However, that drug does not work well for kidney cancer. An important finding for us was that the incorporation of the titanium fragment into the similar gold based compound 5 increased the activity and specificity towards kidney cancer," said Contel.

Unlike previous metallic compounds known to fight cancerous cells, this titanium-gold compound does not attack DNA, but rather causes cancer cell death by blocking a group of enzymes that supports cancer cell survival and metastasis.

Compound 5 shrank tumors and performed better in pre-clinical models than the FDA approved platinum drug, Cisplatin, showing excellent promise for further clinical development. Researchers emphasize the necessity of having further studies to find how the compound affects other cancers and improve its potential
for clinical use.

"To do the best cutting-edge cancer research you often need to work between disciplines and institutions. This work is the result of such a collaboration. This is the sort of work especially fostered by Cancer Centers like the UH Cancer Center, and is an important mission of NCI designated Cancer Centers like ours," said Ramos.

The UH Cancer Center will host The First International Organometallics Symposium in December 2015 where top researchers in the field will meet to share and discuss the latest findings of using metal-based compounds to fight cancer.