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By Amy Athey McDonald

Deborah Berke will assume the deanship on July 1, 2016. (Photo by Winnie Au for Deborah Berke Partners)

Deborah Berke, architect and founder of the New York-based design firm Deborah Berke Partners, will be the next dean of the Yale School of Architecture, announced President Peter Salovey in a message to the Yale community. Her appointment is effective July 1, 2016.

"As a practicing architect and a long-time faculty member in the School of Architecture, Professor Berke is ideally positioned to lead it toward a successful future as it begins its second century," said Salovey. "For more than 30 years, she has dedicated her career — in equal measures — to education and practice. She..."
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September 25, 2015

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"As a practicing architect and a long-time faculty member in the School of Architecture, Professor Berke is ideally positioned to lead it toward a successful future as it begins its second century," said Salovey. "For more than 30 years, she has dedicated her career — in equal measures — to education and practice. She has taught architectural design using disciplinary approaches both integral to and less commonly associated with the world of architecture. This perspective, in her own words, helps students to understand they are part of a larger cultural conversation."

Berke has been an adjunct professor of architectural design at Yale since 1987, and will be the first woman to lead the School of Architecture, which in 2016 is celebrating the 100th anniversary of architecture being taught as a formal discipline at the university.

Her expertise ranges from preservation and adaptation of historic buildings to urban landscape and sustainability. In her professional practice she designs private residences, hotels, residential and commercial developments, and institutional art and music buildings, including the renovation and expansion project that created the Yale School of Art's Holcombe T. Green, Jr. Hall. The firm is led by Berke, her two partners, and eight principals; Berke will maintain her active role in the creative direction of the practice.
Berke has previously taught at the University of Maryland, the University of Miami, the Rhode Island School of Design, the University of California-Berkeley, and the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, of which she was a fellow. In addition, she serves as a juror in numerous architecture and design award programs and lectures throughout the United States and Canada.

Berke is a trustee and vice president of the Forum and Institute for Urban Design, a James Howell Foundation board member, and serves on the Yaddo board of directors. Over the past two decades, she has also served as trustee and vice president of desigNYC; founding trustee of New York City’s Design Trust for Public Space; trustee of the National Building Museum; chair of the board of advisors for the Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University; trustee of the Brearley School; and a vice president of the American Institute of Architects New York Chapter. She is a LEED accredited professional.

In 2012 she was awarded the inaugural Berkeley-Rupp Architecture Prize by the University of California-Berkeley College of Environmental Design, and received the Professor King-lui Wu Teaching Award from the Yale School of Architecture.

Berke is the co-editor, with Steven Harris, of “The Architecture of the Everyday,” (Princeton Architectural Press, 1997). In 2008, Yale University Press published “Deborah Berke,” a book focused on the firm’s work, which was also the first book on a contemporary American architect to be published by Yale Press. A new book on her firm’s work will be published by Rizzoli in 2016.

Berke received a B.F.A. and a B.Arch. from the Rhode Island School of Design, which in 2005 awarded her an honorary doctor of fine arts. She pursued an honors thesis at the Architectural Association in London and holds an M.U.P. in urban design from the City University of New York.

She succeeds Robert A.M. Stern, dean of the School of Architecture since 1998, who will step down on June 30. President Salovey praised Stern’s tenure as dean.

“His leadership has raised the school to new heights, and we look forward, as a community, to recognizing and celebrating his legacy on our campus in the year ahead,” he said.

President Salovey also thanked the members of the search committee for their thoughtful work. Keller Easterling, professor of architecture, chaired the committee, which included Michelle Addington, Steven Harris, John Jacobson, and Bimal Mendis; and staff liaisons Emily Bakemeier and Martha Highsmith.

Berke lives in New York City with her husband, Peter McCann, an orthopedic surgeon. Their daughter, Tess, graduated from Yale in 2015.
Cuomo fighting for free tuition at New York’s community colleges

By Carl Campanile

Gov. Cuomo’s office is in discussions with the White House about providing free tuition at New York’s community colleges, The Post has learned.

New York has among the highest community-college tuition in the nation — $4,800 at CUNY two-year institutions and $4,200 for SUNY associate’s degree programs that enroll nearly 500,000 full- and part-time students.

Earlier this year, President Obama announced a proposal to provide community-college students with free tuition, but states are required to pick up 25 percent of the costs.
Cuomo meets Raul Castro to discuss US-Cuba economic ties

A source familiar with the Albany-White House talks said Cuomo is offering up to $500 million to make community college tuition-free.

While Congress has been cool to the Obama affordability pitch, White House officials have been quietly wooing state officials in New York and elsewhere to join the campaign to make community college tuition-free — either on their own or possibly through federal demonstration programs, sources familiar with the talks said.

"It's easy for politicians to say young people are the future. But you've got to walk the walk," Obama said earlier this month while visiting Macomb Community College in Warren, Mich.

According to the White House, 35 percent of job openings by 2020 will require at least a bachelor's degree, and 30 percent will need at least some college experience or an associate's degree.

Cuomo's office Sunday confirmed the talks with federal officials.

"New York proudly spends nearly $1 billion a year in tuition assistance — $235 million of which is spent to assist community-college students. Much of that pays the whole tuition for community-college students," said Cuomo spokesman Richard Azzopardi.

"Federal officials approached us about their program, as I imagine they have with other states, and we're reviewing the associated costs," he added.

There are 65 programs across the country that offer community-college students free tuition, said NYU professor Martha Kanter, director of the not-for-profit College Promise Campaign.

FILED UNDER  ANDREW CUOMO, COLLEGE, COLLEGE TUITION, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, WHITE HOUSE
The Elite Eight: Here are the top schools in NYC

By Post Staff Report

Students arrive for the first day of school at Stuyvesant High School.

Photo: AP
These New York City schools are the only ones that admit students based solely on their scores on the Specialized High School Admissions Test (SHSAT), which students take in the eighth grade. They rank among the nation's most competitive and demanding high schools.

1. Stuyvesant High School

385 Chambers St., Manhattan

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 3,292
Graduation rate: 96%
College ready: 98.8%
College enrollment: 97%
Taking SAT: 823
Average total SAT score: 2133
Taking AP tests: 1,562
AP pass rate: 95.8%

This crown jewel of the NYC education system is the most coveted school in the city. Last year, 22,665 eighth-graders applied for 814 freshman seats.

With a cornerstone of science, mathematics and technology, Stuy offers a rich array of advanced classes from Differential Equations to Existentialism. Besides AP courses and seven world language, students can take unique electives. Intelligence and Security covers the history of espionage, counter-intelligence, and anti-terrorism — of keen interest since the school stands blocks from the World Trade Center. American literature classes include Science Fiction & Fantasy, and Women's Voices. The new Physics of Music explores how sounds can powerfully affect our emotions and behavior. Students play in eight musical groups, from a jazz combo to a full symphonic band, plus two chorus groups. They run 150 clubs and compete in 41 sports, including co-ed cricket.

Stuy students rack up dozens of honors in many fields. Last year, 48 won medals in the Scholastic Writing Awards Competition. Two students were named semifinalists in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search — a drop from 11 in 2014, then the most nationwide — but insiders predict a comeback.

Internship coordinator Harvey Blum helps students find stimulating summer and school-year gigs. One senior shadowed the gynecologist who delivered her 17 years earlier on hospital rounds.

"Stuy students are not just smart but "nice," Blum says. "What's impressed me most is how much they look out for each other, are constantly helping/supporting their peers and friends, even while pushing themselves to learn and achieve at such a high level."

2. Staten Island Technical High School

485 Clawson St., Staten Island

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 1,235
Graduation rate: 99.7%
College ready: 100%
College enrollment: 98.9%
Taking SAT: 292
Average total SAT score: 2017
Taking AP tests: 882
AP pass rate: 86.2%

Tech draws bright and motivated kids from all boroughs to a spirited beehive of learning and enrichment.
All ninth-graders complete courses in Introduction to Robotics, Technical Writing and TV & Movie Studio Production. The aim: to build skills in critical thinking, writing, teamwork, collaborative problem solving and public speaking.

Last year, innovative kids developed Crypta, an anti-hacking device that uses fingerprints instead of passwords to log onto computer accounts. In June, senior Kevin Lin, from Brooklyn, got a $30,000 college scholarship for a year-long research project with scientists at the Museum of Natural History.

The South Shore building features state-of-the-science and engineering labs. As part of a digital initiative, all freshmen, sophomores and juniors next school year receive an iPad to use in school and take home as their textbook, notebook and nexus to peers and teachers. Using Google Classroom and other programs, teachers can ask questions at any moment during the lesson and get responses from all students, not just a few.

Every student must take at least three years of Russian, the world language offered since the Cold War ended in the late '80s. (The school's mascot is Cheburashka, a Russian Mickey Mouse.) Most students go on to AP Russian. But students can also take online courses in five other tongues.

Every student takes at least two to three AP courses and as many as 11 by graduation, plus other college accredited courses. Many graduate with 16 to 60 college credits. "S.T. Tech is proudly blurring the lines between high school, college and career," said Principal Marc Erlenwein.

3. Bronx High School of Science

75 W. 205th St., The Bronx

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 3,037
Graduation rate: 99.6%
College ready: 99.7%
College enrollment: 96.4%
Taking SAT: 744
Average total SAT score: 2029
Taking AP tests: 1,704
AP pass rate: 90.1%

World-famous for eight Nobel Laureates and six Pulitzer Prize winners among alumni, this Kingsbridge school prepares students gifted in science and math to enter top colleges and universities. Grads are expected to become leaders in all academic fields, including business, medicine, law and technology.

Bronx Science aims to give students "the ability to think and reason on a high level, and break new ground with original research." Eight students were semifinalists in the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search last year. Programs range from genetics, quantum mechanics and electronics to Holocaust studies, digital photography and animal behavior observed at the Bronx Zoo. The school boasts its own planetarium for astronomy classes.

Many advanced classes include post-Advanced Placement Genetics, Analytical Chemistry, Multivariable Calculus and a computer-science course focused on writing apps for cellphones.

This year's students will enjoy newly completed renovations in state-of-the-art labs.

Robotics and engineering courses are often hands-on, encouraging students to develop products and solutions to real-world problems. A recent project focused on designing a collapsible wall to shield soldiers in combat.

"Bronx Science has all the advantages of a big school with a small-school atmosphere."
including personalized guidance and college planning for all students," said Principal Jean Donohue. At the helm since 2013, she is an alumna, the mom of a graduate, and a former teacher with a background in cancer research.

Bronx Science offers all AP classes except German and seven languages including Greek, Hebrew and Japanese.

Students take part in 70 clubs and more than 40 sports teams.

4. High School Of American Studies At Lehman College

2925 Goulden Ave, The Bronx

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 387
Graduation rate: 99%
College ready: 100%
College enrollment: 98.9%
Taking SAT: 93
Average total SAT score: 1970
Taking AP tests: 287
AP pass rate: 86.2%

Only US history buffs need apply. Future lawyers, journalists, teachers, and politicians take three years of US history, exploring issues in depth, and also focus on current events.
The school aims to "make all subjects come alive" by using primary source documents, films, biographies, literature and creative teaching techniques.

 Teens travel to upstate Hyde Park, FDR's hometown, to research the New Deal. Last year, historian and author Tony Hiss, the son of Alger Hiss — accused in the most controversial espionage case in the Cold War — spoke to juniors.

The school's "post-AP" courses include US history from the 1970s to the present, European History Between the Wars, New York City History, and International Relations. A variety of other subjects abounds in classes such as Architectural History and Drafting, Diagnosing Disease and Environmental Ethics.

The building is small, but students share the Lehman College gym, theater and dining hall and take electives on campus. The atmosphere is warm and supportive, a "school where nobody is anonymous," as Principal Alessandro Weiss puts it.

With a nod to Thomas Paine, the student newspaper is Common Sense. Students also publish the "HSAS Uncommon Sense," with rants and essays on topics such as religion, race and sex-ed.

Students enjoy a range of clubs, and nearly half the student body takes part in athletics.

5. Brooklyn Technical High School

29 Fort Greene Pl, Brooklyn
Dante de Blasio, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's son, graduates from Brooklyn Tech. Photo: AP

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 5,458
Graduation rate: 94.8%
College ready: 97.5%
College enrollment: 90.5%
Taking SAT: 1,290
Average total SAT score: 1896
Taking AP tests: 2,829
AP pass rate: 79.1%

The city's biggest and boldest specialized school produces "problem solvers, aspiring engineers, and applied scientists." Last year's grads include the mayor's son, Dante de Blasio, who's off to Yale.

The block-long Fort Greene building houses a two-story woodworking shop, 3-D animation and robotics labs, a 3,100-seat multi-tiered auditorium and a basement Olympic-sized pool.

Students work with their hands, using state-of-the-art tools. Architecture students use computer-generated designs to create 3-D models and build a two-story home.

Offers a wide array of AP courses, plus music, dance and drama electives. The music department will host its first annual Piano Concerto Competition this fall.

Kids eat lunch in shifts of 1,000 in a massive cafeteria. Despite the huge size, kids find niches in a vast array of activities, sports and 76 clubs, from Autism Awareness to Young Entrepreneurs, and 16 sports.

**6. High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College**

158 Covert Ave., Manhattan

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 456
Graduation rate: 97.7%
College ready: 98.9%
College enrollment: 94.6%
Taking SAT: 82
Average total SAT score: 1903
Taking AP tests: 305
AP pass rate: 67.3%

An this "academically intense" school in Harlem, diverse students prepare for careers.
in pre-med and engineering, while getting a grounding in the humanities. Literacy is woven into the curriculum. For instance, 10th-graders read "Freakonomics" in math; seniors read "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" in engineering. The building is cramped, but students use amenities at City College, where they earn 12 credits. Juniors and seniors do lab research or rounds at Mount Sinai Hospital in cardiology, oncology, obstetrics or the autopsy room. Offers German, "the language of engineers," and Spanish. Several students study three weeks abroad at the Goethe Institute. A popular club, EstNyc, feeds off Gastronomy 101, a course on the history and manufacture of food. The school has lots of extracurriculars, and several boys and girls sports teams.

7. The Brooklyn Latin School

225 Graham Ave., Brooklyn

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 592
Graduation rate: 96.4%
College ready: 98.2%
College enrollment: 96.5%
Taking SAT: 112
Average total SAT score: 1756
Taking AP tests: None

Get a classical education in this rigorous but nurturing school, described as feeling like an "English boarding school," on the top floor of PS 47 between Bushwick and Williamsburg. It is the smallest specialized school but has the the highest percentage of black and Latino students. They don't take AP classes, but International Baccalaureate classes and exams, culminating in an prestigious IB diploma.

Students, called discipoli, get a strong background in math, science, English, history, art history and Latin — which is mandated for four years.


8. Queens High School for the Sciences at York College

94-50 159th St., Queens

Admission: SHSAT exam
Enrollment: 419
Graduation rate: 100%
College ready: 100%
College enrollment: 88.8%
Taking SAT: 298
Average total SAT score: 1951
Taking AP tests: 237
AP pass rate: 78.8%

This rigorous school in Jamaica/Briarwood believes students can thrive in a nurturing, small learning community. It accepts only about 100 freshmen each year and keeps the average class size at 27.

All students take two periods of science each year. By junior year, they move on to AP courses and electives such as Biology of the Brain and Behavior, Accounting 101, and Introduction to Video, or college courses. Some join professors on scientific projects. Space is tight in a building shared with York's nursing program, but kids use the campus cafeteria, library, gym and pool. Partnerships with Mount Sinai School of Medicine, the 92nd Street Y and the Brooklyn Academy of Music add opportunities. School sports are bowling, dance, handball, swimming and tennis.

A handful of clubs are built into 45 minutes on Fridays.
... And one more!

Hunter College High School is the odd school out — it requires an entrance exam, but not the SHSAT, and you take it in the sixth grade. This unique Upper East Side school for the "intellectually gifted" is funded by NYC taxpayers but run by the City University of New York.

Hunter College High School

71 E 94th St., Manhattan

Students study biology at Hunter College High School.

**Admission:** Entrance test given in 6th grade only for students who scored above 90th percentile on 5th grade NY state exams.

**Enrollment:** 7-12: 1,218

**Graduation rate:** 98%

**College ready:** 100%

**College enrollment:** 99%

**Taking SAT:** 187

**Average total SAT score:** 2185

**Taking AP tests:** 314

**AP pass rate:** 94.5%

A wealth of opportunities for brilliant kids. Of 2,064 who took the entrance exam last year, only 182 got in based on their scores, plus 50 from the elementary. The high school program begins in the eighth grade with a rigorous liberal arts curriculum, rich in academics as well as the performing and fine arts. Writing is intrinsic to all classes. All students take honors math, and some "extended honors" at a faster pace. The school gives 17 APs and electives like International Relations, Gender and Sexuality in Literature, The Art of Memoir, Neurological Medicine, and James Joyce's Ulysses. Among internships, students work in the District Attorney's Office and hospitals — some study cancer with doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering. Musicians play at Lincoln Center.

Senior Kalia Freestyler won second place and $75,000 at the 2015 Intel Science Search with research on genetically engineered plants. In May, students interviewed Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and other VIPs in D.C. Students compete in the Fed Challenge, Quiz Bowl, Chess and Debate, plus a wide array of sports.
Berke has previously taught at the University of Maryland, the University of Miami, the Rhode Island School of Design, the University of California-Berkeley, and the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, of which she was a fellow. In addition, she serves as a juror in numerous architecture and design award programs and lectures throughout the United States and Canada.

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New BCC president can relate to students' struggles

By Will Speros
Posted 9/25/15

As Bronx Community College (BCC) enters its sixth decade, it is welcoming its sixth president.

Dr. Thomas A. Isekenegbe is the successor to Carole Berotte Joseph, who served for three years. Dr. Isekenegbe brings impressive credentials and, he says, a passion for serving his students.

"The thing we're going to be taking a hard look at is what we need to do to make sure that more of our students become successful," Dr. Isekenegbe said. "What I mean by that, in short term, is that they stay with us and they graduate from us."

When the opportunity to become the college's next president was presented to Dr. Isekenegbe, he had no plans to begin a new job at a new institution.

"I saw the ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education and I didn't really pay attention to it because I didn't see myself coming to live in the Bronx or live in Riverdale," he said.

Dr. Isekenegbe did not even have a resume prepared at the time, but decided to write one up and submit his name for consideration, anyway.
"The more I dug deep about it, the more I read about the institution, the diversity of the student body, the number of faculty they have, it sparked my interest," he said. "And the rest is history."

Dr. Isekenegbe came to the United States from Nigeria with a bachelor's degree in biology. He attended Indiana State University to pursue a master's in science education. Despite plans to return to Nigeria after obtaining his degree, the university offered Dr. Isekenegbe a doctoral fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. for free as well as the opportunity to earn money as a teaching assistant. Dr. Isekenegbe said he wants to return to the classroom as soon as possible.

"Teaching is a therapy for me," he said. "I'm going to use next summer to prepare myself to teach a freshman seminar. I see myself doing it next fall."

Service learning is a top priority of Dr. Isekenegbe's presidency and he is working on creating ways for students to become more involved in the Bronx community at large. His suggestions include courses requiring students to work or volunteer in the community.
September 27, 2015 8:30 p.m.

The Black Activists Who Helped Launch the Drug War

By Jesse Singal

High-school student James Maxwell asking a question from the floor at an anti-drug meeting in Harlem that attracted nearly 1,000 residents, circa 1951. Photo: Alfred Eisenstaedt/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

Over the last few years, as mainstream concern with the war on drugs and mass incarceration has grown, a relatively straightforward narrative has taken hold: White people, engaged in a backlash against the advances of the civil-rights era, imposed the carceral state on black people. That’s the story told by Michelle Alexander in her seminal book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, as well as by any number of other academics and public intellectuals.

To many people, New York’s Rockefeller Drug Laws epitomize this sad trajectory like no other piece of legislation. Passed in 1973, they imposed harsh penalties on those convicted of drug-related offenses, including mandatory life sentences for the sale of many hard drugs and harsh sentences for possessions of small quantities. Between their enactment and 2009 repeal, they were responsible for a massive wave of incarceration over minor drug convictions — one that disproportionately targeted black and Latino New Yorkers.
Michael Javen Fortner, a political scientist at City University of New York, is hoping to complicate the story that the Rockefeller laws, and others like them, were foisted on black people by white people. His book, *Black Silent Majority: The Rockefeller Drug Laws and the Politics of Punishment* (http://www.amazon.com/Black-Silent-Majority-Rockefeller-Punishment/dp/0674743997), out September 28 from Harvard University Press, tells the story of Harlem’s struggles with drugs and crime from the 1940s through the passage of the Rockefeller laws. Key to this story is the role of Harlem’s residents in forcefully advocating for a tougher, more punitive approach to the neighborhood’s “pushers” and addicts.

Harlem experienced a devastating, drug-fueled increase in crime in the 1960s that peaked around 1971 — one that included countless grisly murders, muggings, and burglaries (seemingly every other Harlem community activist mentioned in Fortner’s book was victimized at some point). The chaos, which occurred against the backdrop of a steady stream of overdoses and the other physical ravages of drug addiction, helped mobilize figures like the Reverend Oderia Dempsey, an influential tough-on-crime African-American activist in Harlem who at one point implored the city to “Take the junkies off the streets and put them in camps.” It also spurred the creation of organizations like Mothers Against Drugs and Citizens’ Mobilization Against Crime (founded by the author of an influential NAACP anti-crime report), as well as other groups that went as far as launching armed patrols to help protect Harlem’s residents from criminal activity. One woman, whose 18-year-old daughter died from an overdose, “kept repeating ‘Kill the pushers’ when asked what should be done,” Fortner writes.

![LAST WARNING TO ALL DOPE PEDDLERS AND GANGSTERS](image-url)

A warning sign to drug dealers, users, and gang members, calling for federal, state, and city intervention to clean up Harlem and protect the lives of its residents, posted on a street, New York City circa 1970. Photo: Leo Vals/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

These attitudes and initiatives were part of what *Ebony* described at the time as “a backlash against the heavy drug traffic in [black New York] communities and against all who benefit from it.” It was a backlash fueled by Fortner’s “black silent majority” of Harlemites fed up with the
Michael Javen Fortner, a political scientist at City University of New York, is hoping to complicate the story that the Rockefeller laws, and others like them, were foisted on black people by white people. His book, *Black Silent Majority: The Rockefeller Drug Laws and the Politics of Punishment* (http://www.amazon.com/Black-Silent-Majority-Rockefeller-Punishment/dp/0674743997), out September 28 from Harvard University Press, tells the story of Harlem's struggles with drugs and crime from the 1940s through the passage of the Rockefeller laws. Key to this story is the role of Harlem's residents in forcefully advocating for a tougher, more punitive approach to the neighborhood's "pushers" and addicts.

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![A warning sign to drug dealers, users, and gang members, calling for federal, state, and city intervention to clean up Harlem and protect the lives of its residents, posted on a street, New York City circa 1970. Photo: Leo Vals/Hulton Archive/Getty Images](image)

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the city's working- and middle-class black citizens." He sees echoes of this divide in the current debate sparked by the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement — albeit a more class-centered version.

Overall, Fortner said he appreciates what the movement has done. "I think we're having a very important conversation about police brutality," he said, and he credits BLM with "forcing people and politicians to recognize both this problem and the dignity and worth of black folks in general. And I think that's a great thing." But he also argued that the BLM conversation ignores the very real effects crime has on certain neighborhoods. "I think it tends to minimize street violence and some of the terror that many poor people of color endure within urban communities throughout the United States, and that it doesn't speak to the violence against their lives that is not the product of the state but is done by people that look like them, people from their neighborhood, people from their communities," he said. "And I wish that would be a larger part of the conversation. Not to say it should replace the conversation, but that the conversation should include all types of violence that destroy and undermine the lives of poor people of color in urban communities."

To Fortner, who grew up in Brownsville, Brooklyn, at a time when it was being battered by the crack epidemic, and who doesn't have any memories of a brother who was stabbed to death when he (Fortner) was about two years old, the black silent majority remains an important concept, but the fact that African-Americans have somewhat more options about where they can live has changed the geographical equation. "I think what's slightly different from back then is that now lower-class people have been able to move," he said. "So you have people like me who have been able to leave the ghetto, who have gotten fancy educations, and right now, I don't live that close to crime. Crime doesn't affect my life in a very present way, so if I was just gonna follow my ideological instincts, then I would be saying we should focus on police brutality... But I do think that if you do go to the projects in a lot of these communities and talk to the people who are not there during the day because they're at work but have to come home at night, I think you may hear some of this silent black majority."

Fortner said he sees this class divide over crime and policing play out daily on his Facebook and Twitter feeds. "I have a lot of black friends from Ivy League schools who are part of finance or academics, and they are completely on the left on this, focused on police brutality," he said. "And then I also have some people, friends from when I was growing up, relatives — they have a much different view of these issues. Again: The black culture is concerned about police brutality, but there is some more balance in terms of their emphasis on the crime and their experience in their daily lives, and I think that’s missing from this conversation." (Richard Sherman and Michael Bennett recently debated this very issue via statements to the press (http://deadspin.com/richard-sherman-and-michael-bennett-are-having-a-seriou-1731544514).)

Lurking underneath Fortner's intricate, careful parsing of the historical record, then, is a simple claim about human beings: If you live in a neighborhood where you feel like you, your family, and your possessions are perpetually at risk, it will harden your politics and your view of your neighbors. Fortner's main goal is to remind readers that this isn't just true of white people.
10 Commuter Colleges That Give You a World-Class Education

Kim Clark  @Money_College  7:30 AM ET

By letting you live at home, these top urban schools can cut the cost of your degree by as much as $40,000.

Scholarships and financial aid can help bring down the high cost of college. For another way to save, how about living at home? The average public college charges $9,800 a year for room and board, the College Board reports; at private colleges, it's $11,200 a year.

At these 10 top urban campuses, total tuition and commuting costs come in at $100,000 or less for the typical time it takes to earn a degree. And since a high portion of students live off campus, you won't feel like you're missing out on dorm life.

Find the school that best fits your student—and your budget.

Notes: Estimated tuition, fees, books, and commuting costs, minus typical institutional grant, for average time to degree; adjusted for inflation. Sources: College Board, U.S. Department of Education, Peterson's, and MONEY calculations

View as Gallery

University of California at Berkeley
Metro area: San Francisco Bay Area

Students living off campus: 74%

Cost of a degree (est.): $63,500

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 9

Read more about University of California at Berkeley.

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University of California at Los Angeles

Metro area: Los Angeles

Students living off campus: 55%

Cost of a degree (est.): $67,000

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 26
Students in graphic arts class at Robert Morris University

Metro area: Chicago

Students living off campus: 92%

Cost of a degree (est.): $99,000

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 44

Read more about Robert Morris University Illinois.

University of Washington, Seattle
Metro area: Seattle

Students living off campus: 76%

Cost of a degree (est.): $76,500

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 56

Read more about University of Washington, Seattle.

Baruch College of the City University of New York
Students living off campus: 100%

Cost of a degree (est.): $55,000

MONEY’s Best Colleges rank: 71

Read more about Baruch College.

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Metro area: Minneapolis

Students living off campus: 78%

Cost of a degree (est.): $82,000

MONEY’s Best Colleges rank: 191

Read more about University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.
Metro area: Philadelphia

Students living off campus: 89%

Cost of a degree (est.): $101,000

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 196

Read more about Holy Family University.

University of Texas, Dallas
Cost of a degree (est.): $45,000

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 254

Read more about University of Texas, Dallas.

University of Pittsburgh

courtesy University of Pittsburg
MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 268

Read more about the University of Pittsburgh.

Georgia State University

Metro area: Atlanta

Students living off campus: 83%

Cost of a degree (est.): $74,000

MONEY's Best Colleges rank: 483

Read more about Georgia State University.
National Security

Shaker Aamer, longtime Guantanamo Bay detainee, to be freed to Britain

By Adam Goldman and Missy Ryan September 25

The Obama administration has notified Congress of its intent to send Shaker Aamer, a suspected al-Qaeda plotter held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for more than 13 years, back to Britain, yielding to a lengthy campaign to secure the British resident's release, officials said Friday.

President Obama discussed the decision to move Aamer, whose case has become a cause celebre among rights groups in Britain, with Prime Minister David Cameron in a phone call Thursday.

Aamer, who was captured in Afghanistan in 2001 and brought to Guantanamo Bay in February 2002, was a "close associate of Osama bin Laden" who fought in the battle of Tora Bora, according to U.S. military files disclosed by the anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks.

A Saudi national who married a Briton in the 1990s, Aamer has been the focus of high-level discussions between the two countries, as British officials have increased pressure on the Obama administration to put aside lingering concerns about the risks associated with releasing Aamer and set him free. He has never been charged with a crime.

This year, British lawmakers visited Washington to lobby for the prisoner's release, and Cameron raised the issue in talks with Obama.

Aamer is the last of several British residents or citizens held at Guantanamo starting in 2002.

Born in Medina, Saudi Arabia, in 1966, Aamer attended college in Jeddah and trained to be a nurse at a military hospital. He lived briefly in Atlanta in 1989 before moving to Gaithersburg, Md. After the Persian Gulf War began in 1990, he got a job as a translator for the U.S. military in Saudi Arabia, according to the military files.

While the Obama administration cleared him for release in 2010, military officials have expressed concern about the possibility that Aamer, who has been an influential figure among other prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, could return to militant activity once released.

[Once deemed to dangerous to release, Saudi detainee at Guantanamo Bay prison has been repatriated]

Ramzi Kassem, a law professor at the City University of New York, who along with students at his legal clinic represents Aamer, said the decision was years overdue.
A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal decision-making, said Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter approved the transfer “following a thorough review of his case and taking into consideration the robust security assurances that will be provided by the British government, one of our strongest allies, who has supported our efforts to close the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay.”

A British government spokesman said the Obama administration had informed British officials of the decision. “As the U.S. has said, we have one of the most robust and effective systems in the world to deal with suspected terrorists and those suspected of engaging in terrorist-related activity,” the spokesman said.

Aamer has denied any involvement in terrorism.

The decision comes as the White House prepares for a showdown with Congress over Obama’s desire to close the facility before he leaves office in 2017. Officials are racing to finalize a plan that would move some prisoners to the United States, while the rest would be repatriated or transferred to third countries.

But many lawmakers in both parties have long opposed bringing any detainees to the United States for trial or continued detention. The administration must notify Congress 30 days before moving any prisoners out of the military detention facility.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he had “grave concerns” about releasing inmates who might take up arms again.

“Shaker Aamer certainly fits that bill if he is released to the U.K. because I do not believe that the British Government has the ability to hold or try him,” Thornberry (R-Tex.) said in a statement. “Despite the rhetoric of a sophisticated PR campaign, it is clear to me that this is a dangerous individual whose release will put Americans at greater risk.”

A total of 114 detainees remain at the prison; 52 are cleared for release. Carter has also approved the transfer of a Mauritanian prisoner, the 10th detainee since he took over in February.

Although British officials have said Aamer won’t be arrested upon his return, he is certain to remain on the radar of security services there. Another British former Guantanamo detainee, Moazzam Begg, was arrested and held for seven months last year in a maximum-security prison before being released after a terrorism-related case against him collapsed.

Britain’s main domestic intelligence agency, MI5, keeps tabs on several thousand people with suspected ties to extremist causes. But it only has the resources and the legal mandate to actively monitor a relatively small proportion of them at any given time.
Bumgarner, who was in charge of the detention facility between April 2005 and July 2006.

Though Aamer was known by military guards as the “professor,” the leaked assessments said he was an “extremely egotistical” individual who sought to manipulate others.

“He had his hands on all levers of power down there,” Bumgarner said.

Bumgarner also said Aamer worked at times to “bring down the temperature at the camp,” create a safer environment for guards and end hunger strikes.

*Julie Tate in Washington and Griff Witte and Karla Adams in London contributed to this report.*
Phil Rosenthal is a naturally funny and enthusiastic guy — two traits on display in his new PBS series, "I'll Have What Phil's Having." Premiering Monday night at 8 (on Ch. 13), it showcases the "Everybody Loves Raymond" creator — and self-professed foodie — as he travels the globe sampling different cities' culinary fare.

Rosenthal says the show's genesis was a two-part episode of "Raymond" (the CBS sitcom's Season 5 premiere) where Ray Barone (series star Ray Romano) and his entire family traveled to Italy to visit a cousin. "It took five years to get the money from CBS to go film in Italy and it was one of our best episodes," says Rosenthal. "And what happened to Ray the character happened to Ray [Romano] the person — he really was transformed by this act of traveling to another country. And I thought, what if I could do this for other people — and I'm the one showing them?

"So ['Raymond'] is over and a year or two goes by and I get a call from Russia. Would I like to transform my sitcom into a Russian sitcom called 'Everybody Loves Kostya'? We filmed the whole thing and made a documentary, 'Exporting Raymond,' that started streaming on Netflix. PBS saw this, they called me in and said, 'We love this and we love the idea of you going places.' I said, 'So does my wife,' says Rosenthal (cue the rim shot). 'I said, 'What about a show where I go to the greatest cities on earth and I show people where to eat?' They said, 'We've been looking for years for a travel and food show with humor. Where would you like to go? We're giving you six hours on the air.' Sometimes God smiles on you."
In the series, Rosenthal visits cities including Tokyo, Barcelona, Florence and L.A. (In Tokyo, he eats insects and also barbecued eel, complete with heads — "leaving with my teeth and trachea intact," he says of the crunchy delicacy.) "I've got the next 25 episodes lined up and I'm ready beyond that," he says. "I can keep going. It's a big world out there — someone's gotta eat it!"

Rosenthal is also working with his pal David Wild on a new online talk show for Fandango called "Naked Lunch." "It's us talking with our friends about things that interest us," he says. "It's a simple show, only a few minutes ... frankly, it's something I can film during lunch."

**Last, but not least ...**

Former NFL quarterback Kurt Warner guest-stars on Wednesday's Season 2 opener of the Nickelodeon series "Bella & The Bulldogs" (8 p.m. with stars Brec Bassinger and Coy Stewart). "I had such a blast," he says. "It was really fun to see the tables turned, having ... Bella as the team's quarterback. And I think the show has an overall positive message that kids, including my own, can relate to" ... "The Real" (11 a.m./Ch. 5, 1 a.m./BET) spiked 33 percent in women 25-54, nationally, its opening week vs. the same week last year with hosts Adrienne Bailon, Tamar Braxton, Loni Love, Tamera Mowry-Housley and Jeannie Mai ..., CUNY TV exec (and former "Good Day New York" EP) Gail Yancey has formed Gail Yancey Consulting in conjunction with Carol Anne Riddell and Susan Iger ..., "Rachael Ray" producer Bianca Brunette, NY1 publicist Nikia Redhead and publicist Susan Blond. Just sayin'.
MAGAZINE

An article on Sept. 13 about college tuition referred incorrectly to CUNY when describing a program that helped improve the graduation rates of its community colleges. It is the City University of New York (not Universities). The article also referred incorrectly to a measure of income in a comparison of 1974 income and current income when adjusted for inflation. It is median family income, which has risen to about $64,000 a year from $62,000 in 1974, not median household income. And the article also described incorrectly the change in median family income over the past 40 years. It has risen slightly, not fallen.
WE BROUGHT OVER-POLICING ON OURSELVES

By Michael Maiello on Mon, 09/28/2015 - 8:40am | Politics

Interesting piece in The New York Times about the origins of the Rockefeller drug laws and the tough on crime stance of Harlem social activists in the 1960s. It seems a classic case of a community giving up power for safety and being abused for it. I only take issue here with the total focus on black communities within the city -- over-policing is now a problem throughout America. Minorities are disproportionate victims but there are also white people in prisons who shouldn't be there and white people are also victims of police brutality.

In his op-ed, Michael Fortner (a CUNY professor of urban studies) warns that if our zeal to curb police over-reach goes too far, it could lead to a "tough on crime" within the very communities now supporting movements like Black Lives Matter. I agree that it's a very real risk.

The problem for people like me, who would generally support a more permissive society, is that law enforcement arguments can be quite persuasive, especially in communities perceived as dangerous. Mainstream culture is becoming more permissive about things like recreation drug use, but our criminal laws are not laws are generally written to deal with specific regional problems and then imposed on the culture at large. Once in place, these laws are incredibly difficult to remove. The ridiculously slow pace of marijuana legalization is proof of that.

That over-policing is not exclusively a problem for minorities tends to be overlooked in the media and even in articles like this one. That's too bad. Influential white constituencies who should be pushing back against the over-criminalization of American life are oddly complacent as they are told, over and over again, that this is not their problem.

Stopping police brutality and curbing Draconian law enforcement seems to be the order of the day, but neither really get to the root issue which is that we simply have, between municipal state and federal codes, too many laws on the books. The best way to reduce police authority is to narrow the scope of their involvement in people's lives. We need fewer laws. It should be difficult to run afoul the police.
For over a century, the search for life on Mars has been one of humanity's biggest mysteries. For a planet perceived as having too hostile an environment to support any form of life, public perception of Mars seemed rooted less in reality and more in fantasy.

But the public's perception of Mars could soon be much different, reports CBS News correspondent Elaine Quijano.

Later today, NASA may unveil a scientific breakthrough that could solve what it's calling "the Mars mystery." The announcement comes three days after the space agency announced that a "major scientific finding had been made" and "Mars mystery solved" on Twitter.

The tweets sent space fans around the world into a frenzy. On social media, speculation about the Martian mystery included references to aliens, potatoes, and Hollywood actor Matt Damon (whose new movie, "The Martian," opens this week).

Members of the scientific community say NASA is expected to announce that a source of free-flowing water has been discovered on Mars' surface, a discovery that could forever change how human beings view their celestial neighbor.

"It changes everything. Because it means that this liquid water can be used for, perhaps, irrigation, drinking water, and even rocket fuel," said CBS News science contributor and City College of New York physics professor Michio Kaku.

Public fascination with Mars has increased ever since NASA launched its unmanned rover Curiosity, which continually sends back images of the Martian landscape. But Kaku said NASA may have "hit the jackpot" with this news.

Scientists have known for decades that Mars contains water. Most of it lies trapped far beneath the surface, inaccessible to human explorers.

The discovery of a free-flowing water source on the planet -- which Kaku called the "Holy Grail" of planetary science -- means that a manned mission to Mars could soon get off the ground.

"This potential announcement is big. Really big. Because it vastly increases the chance that there could be, for example, microbial life on Mars," said Kaku. "And if there's microbial life, who knows what else can exist on Mars? So this is a game-changer. It changes the whole scientific landscape."

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"Buddy," 86, died peacefully on September 26, 2015. Born and bred in Brooklyn, graduated from the City College of New York and New York University Law School with a Juris Doctor degree, he served honorably in the United States Army during the Korean War in the Army Intelligence Unit as a Corporal. Late in his law career he became a Magistrate which he enjoyed immensely. Beloved father of Neil, David and Joel, beloved stepfather of Lilac and Ronen, adored grandfather of Natalie and Olivia, adored step-grandfather of Noah, Jonah, Luke and Dean, and Uncle Buddy to countless competitive tennis players of all ages. He ran national and sectional tennis tournaments for decades at the Shelter Rock Tennis Club in Manhasset and was actively involved with the Eastern Tennis Association. Buddy loved being a lawyer for over fifty years and counted many of his clients as his family and closest friends. His love of family, travel, fishing, tennis and fine food gave him great stories which he shared with many. His humor, wisdom, generosity and warm smile will be missed by all who knew him. Memorial service will be at 11:30am on Tuesday, September 29th at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, NY.
Kenneth III, died peacefully at his home in Brooklyn on September 20, 2015. Mark, born October 25, 1941 in Cedar Rapids, IA, was a consummate storyteller and his own life story is a good one, complex and interesting. From All American Boy in Fargo, ND, to graduating from Princeton University cum laude, to international banking in Bangkok, Thailand and Sao Paulo, Brazil, to silver importer in Chicago and finally as professor at LaGuardia Community College, Mark embraced the world with curiosity and humor, communicating fluently in five languages. AA was an integral part of his life in New York. He is survived by his son, Matthew, siblings John (Paddy) and Anne Collins and numerous nieces and nephews to whom he was affectionately known as "Unc." Mark, always a challenge, was nonetheless loved by his family and will be greatly missed. A private family service will be held at a later date. Raccuglia and Son handled the local services. Memorials can be made to LaGuardia Community College.
Students: School hired us to fix computers – and never paid up

By Susan Edelman

September 27, 2015 | 6:00am

William Cullen Bryant High School in Queens
Photo: J.C. Rios

MORE ON:
WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT HS
Principal hid female staffer’s affair with student: teacher

'Fail Me' school's kids can take year's worth of classes in 6 weeks

Farina appoints pals for 'tough reform' amid grade-fixing scandal

This high school bytes!

Administrators at William Cullen Bryant HS in Queens put a crew of tech-savvy kids to work repairing and servicing computers — but stiffed them out of their promised pay, the students told The Post.

"We worked like dogs. They basically cheated us," said a student on the school's "Mouse Squad."

The city Department of Education is investigating complaints by six students who say they toiled at the Astoria school from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for 10 weeks in the summer of 2014.
New York's grade-fixing scandal was entirely predictable – and predicted.

"It was really hot," one said. "They made us lift heavy computers and printers. My feet were hurting. Sometimes we didn't even eat lunch."

The school promised to pay them minimum wage for a total of $2,000 each, students said. They kept asking for their dough, but administrators cited bureaucratic snafus while assuring the kids they would be compensated.

"At the end, they told us they didn't have any money, so we wouldn't get paid," said a June graduate who is now in college.

"I got angry because I needed the money to help support my family," said another Mouse Squad member, now a pre-med student in Hunter College. His dad was sick and out of work, he said.

This year, two students sent e-mails describing their plight to Schools Chancellor Carmen Farinó. "This is strictly child labor," one wrote.

Farinó's office referred the e-mails back to Bryant principal Namita Dwarka, who called the students into her office with their parents and threatened to discipline them, they said.

Another former student said Dwarka hired him after he graduated. She gave him a Bryant ID card marked "Administrat," keys to offices, and a walkie-talkie, he said.

He worked full-time for four months without pay.

"She [Dwarka] told me, 'We're going to do a contract,' but she never did it," said the student, who finally quit.

In a Mouse Squad class, students responded to work orders — requests to troubleshoot the school's computer needs. Each worked up to 25 hours a week, sometimes lifting and moving shipments of computers and other equipment, they said.

"I've had kids bring me a laptop, fix things, hook up computers to the Internet or connect to the DOE network. Any computer question you have, they answered it," said math teacher Mary Bozoyan. "They deserve to be paid for all the work they did."

Coordinating the jobs was Harpeet Kaur, a computer specialist paid $44,739 a year. The DOE suspended her "for an unrelated matter," officials said.

Also under investigation is Henry Hueso, the teacher assigned to the class, who was rarely there, the students said.

"He showed up once or two times a week for 10 minutes, then disappeared," one recalled. "He usually said he had a meeting with the principal, and just left. We were basically teaching the class ourselves."

Students said they received some paychecks late in the 2013 and 2014 school years, covering only a few of the months they worked.

Dwarka could not be reached by The Post for comment.

FILED UNDER CHEATING, COMPUTERS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, INVESTIGATIONS, QUEENS, WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT HS