



# The DISPATCH

"A  
BEACON  
OF  
TRUTH."

ISSUE 3, VOLUME 44

HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

OAKWOOD AND MCKAY ROADS HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

## A DISPATCH SEND OFF: GOODBYE CLASS OF 2015



A LAST GOODBYE  
TO THIS YEAR'S  
RETIREEES

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LEONARDI



A

Abecassis, Jean A  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Acevedo, Ezequiel  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Acton, Marissa  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Akber, Khondoker Tawsif  
SUNY AT FARMINGDALE

Alongi, Vincent

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alvarado-Amaya, Paola  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Alzate, Santiago  
BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

Amin, Usra  
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Amorison, Alyssa A  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

B

Barkat, Lubna  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bateman, Cristina  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Beach, Matthew C  
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Beatty, Kelly  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

Beers, Charles P  
BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

Belmar, Micheal J  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bergman, Christopher  
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Bialkowski, Sofia M  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Biblow, Emily  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Biernacki, Craig R  
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Binetti, Matthew J  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Borman, Alexander  
ROWAN UNIVERSITY

Boyce, Megan  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Bradshaw, Shangel  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Brewster, Shyheim  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bryan, Tamesh  
LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, BROOKLYN

Buchholtz, Nora  
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Burton, Tyler R  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST

Butz, Leah  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Byrne, Declan  
MARIST COLLEGE

Byrnes, Ellyn  
MOLLOY COLLEGE

Byrnes, Tara  
MOLLOY COLLEGE

C

Cahill, Miranda G  
COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT

Campos-Larin, Yasmi  
SUNY AT FARMINGDALE

Canales, Dilsia C  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Canas, Lizbeth P  
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

Carroll, Samantha  
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

Carrollo, Julian A  
BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

Cassell, Gunther A  
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY PARK

Castillo, Olivia  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Cataldo, Nicholas  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

Celestin, Chinasia P  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Choi, Lois  
FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Cipolla, Daniella E  
STAR CAREER ACADEMY

Clerveaux, Emmanuel Jr  
SUNY AT FARMINGDALE

Corrao, Elizabeth L  
DUKE UNIVERSITY

D

Danziger, Ariella M  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Davis Coddington, Maliyah S  
NEWBURY COLLEGE

Dayton, Kaitlin M  
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Dejoie, Samuel D  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

D

Deleon, David  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DeSimone, Darya Grace  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY AT BLOOMINGTON

Devoe, Alyssa N  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND

DiNardi, Anna I  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Downer, Jason E  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dwyer, Brendan W  
SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY

E

Echevarria, Brianna  
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Edgar-Mc Nerney, Justin  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Eidle, Kayla M  
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

English, Sydney R  
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

F

Filippini, Garrett  
DICKINSON COLLEGE

Fiordelisi, Christian  
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY PREP

Flores, Jesus  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Flores-Velasquez, Walter A  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Forster, Heather Marie  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

G

Gaitings, William A  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

Garcia Torres, Maritza L  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Garcia-Velasquez, Dania L  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gaspar, Kieran  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT NEW PALTZ

Geier, Fiona Marie  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Giammarino, Cassidie R  
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Giordano, Hailey Rose  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Glicker, Samantha R  
ELON UNIVERSITY

Glowacky, Christopher M  
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Goldenbaum, Anna  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Goldman, Elias A  
ITHACA COLLEGE

Goldsmith, Ryan E.  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Gomez, Cristian J  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gomez, Jefreed  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Gonzalez-Ramirez, Carlos I  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Grella, Justin  
SUNY AT FARMINGDALE

Gress, Timothy G  
MANHATTAN COLLEGE

Griffin, Katerra T  
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Gulizio, Scott J  
BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

H

Hampton, Andrew  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hansen, Kyle J  
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Hardardt, Hillary E  
BOSTON COLLEGE

Harman, Isabelle Michaud  
OHIO UNIVERSITY

Harris, William  
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY

Hearl, Zachary  
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Heuwetter, Stephen M  
SUNY DELHI

I

Ikuomenisan, Omotayo  
HUNTER COLLEGE OF THE CUNY

Imperato, Daniel F  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Inman, Christopher  
COASTAL CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

Isoldi, Tristan L  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

J	Joya Amaya, Lenni E MARIST COLLEGE	
K	Kaplan, Ben J CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY Kaplan, Max D NEW YORK UNIVERSITY Kemerson, Caitlin A LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, POST King, Asher SUNY DELHI Kitzen, Jack Franklin Arthur	SUNY COLLEGE AT GENESEO Kitzen, Sarah Eleanor Ann SUNY COLLEGE AT CORTLAND Knowles, Caitlin M UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA Kouttron, Thomas M WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE Kurathowski, Samuele E SIENA COLLEGE
L	Laster, Candace UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN Laurie, Katy A EASTERN UNIVERSITY Lentinello, Jillian M MARIST COLLEGE Levinson, Charlotte F PRATT INSTITUTE Liepa, Olivia Claire UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE Linares, Edvin J	SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Lofaso, Madison J SETON HALL UNIVERSITY Lombardi, Patrick S VASSAR COLLEGE Lopez, Olivia P NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY Loturco, Justin DUKE UNIVERSITY Lynch, Samantha UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
M	MacDonald, Connor W STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY Madera, Lecana G SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Magana-Ochoa, Edgar SUNY DELHI Magerle, Peter C. THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Maiorello, Hannah V SUNY COLLEGE AT ONEONTA Maloney, Mackenzie Ann WELLS COLLEGE Manigaulte, Christopher SUNY COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY Marquez, Jaclyn UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Martinez, Wilson SUNY AT FARMINGDALE Mattiace, Timothy P BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY McArthur, Meaghan THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA McCarthy, Kenneth R JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY McCartney, Daniel K	BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY McComb, Bryan SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE McDonald, Kevin Patrick SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY McGovern, Shannon L SUNY COLLEGE AT ONEONTA McKenna, John Rooker PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY PARK Meit, Kyle Benjamin ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY Mendez, Brandon NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Merrick, Ron SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Meyers, Shane G UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE Minoff, Allison UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT Molina-Rubio, Francisco MERCY COLLEGE Montreuil, Evan UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE Morales, Cristian A SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

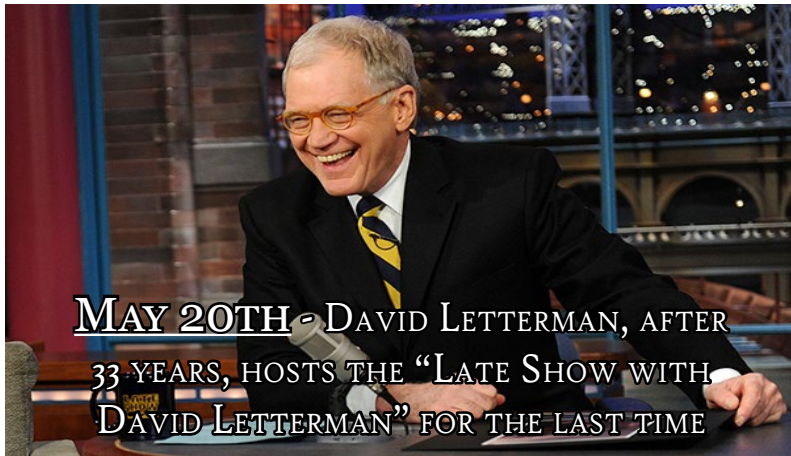
M	Moreira, Jason S SUNY AT FARMINGDALE Moreira-Lucana, Henry V SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Moreira-Lucana, Jasmine	BROOME COMMUNITY COLLEGE Morris, Lily J AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Murphy, Hanna UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
N	Napurano, Andrew J SUNY PLATTSBURGH Nemarc, Michael J	TULANE UNIVERSITY Nugent, Kathleen WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
O	Olesen, Peter A LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, POST Orjuela, Diana	LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY, POST Osias, Anne N ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
P	Palmer, Kylie Dakota BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY Panameno Moreira, Kevin SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Perez-Argueta, Gloria SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Petryk, Suzanne	CORNELL UNIVERSITY Petti, Justin M SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Portillo-Garcia, Claudia SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Pulizzotto, Mary Frances PRATT INSTITUTE
R	Ramirez, Carlos Mercy College Rauda-Hernandez, Edwin SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Reed, Matthew J BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY Reilly, John ROWAN UNIVERSITY Reilly, Keegan D YORK COLLEGE OF PENNSYLVANIA Reiver, Daniel C UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	Reyes, Bladimir SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Riggs, Madeline V TEMPLE UNIVERSITY Rivas Cardona, Hugo R SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Roman, Kiara SUNY BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE Rose, Daniel Oliver STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY Rose, Jaylen SAE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY - NEW YORK
S	Sager, Emily LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND Saginaw, Joseph D UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN Salese, Mason SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Schmelter, Amy SUNY UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO Schoen, Daniella Rose UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI Sheehan, Mary E WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE Shivers, Stephen P INDIANA UNIVERSITY AT BLOOMINGTON Shmulak, Anna M MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY Siegel, Marina	THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY Smith, Gabriel UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST Snowball, Terence SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Soto, Kayla SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Stern, Jonathan CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE Stewart, Sara SUNY COLLEGE AT CORTLAND Stieve, Dylan Paul NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE Sullivan, Andrew D IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY Sullivan, Lindsay SUNY UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY



## THE PAST FOUR YEARS:

JUNE 26TH, 2015:  
*GRADUATION*

**JUNE 19TH** - CHARLESTON CHURCH MASSACRE CONDUCTED BY 21 YEAR OLD DYLANN ROOF LEAVES NINE DEAD AND TWO TO TELL THE TALE



**MAY 20TH** - DAVID LETTERMAN, AFTER 33 YEARS, HOSTS THE "LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN" FOR THE LAST TIME



**JAN 7TH** - TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE OFFICES OF SATIRICAL NEWSPAPER "CHARLIE HEBDO" IN PARIS KILLS 12 (INCLUDING JEAN CABUT AND STÉPHANE CHARBONNIER), INJURES 11



**DEC 3RD** - DARREN WILSON, THE POLICE OFFICER WHO SHOT DEAD UNARMED BLACK TEENAGER MICHAEL BROWN IN FERGUSON, MISSOURI, RESIGNS

SENIOR YEAR ('15-'14)



**MAY 22ND** - IRELAND BECOMES 1ST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD TO LEGALIZE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BY POPULAR VOTE



**APRIL 25TH** - 7.8-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE NEAR KATHMANDU IN NEPAL, KILLING 8000, LEAVING OVER 100,000 HOMELESS, DESTROYING MANY HISTORIC SITES



**APRIL 27TH** - RIOTS IN BALTIMORE BREAK OUT AFTER THE DEATH OF FREDDIE GREY, CAUSED BY INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING POLICE CUSTODY



**DEC 3RD** - PROTESTS ERUPT IN CITIES ACROSS THE US AFTER A GRAND JURY DECIDES NOT TO CHARGE THE NY POLICE OFFICER WHO KILLED ERIC GARNER WITH A CHOKE-HOLD



**DEC 2ND** - COMEDIAN BILL COSBY RESIGNS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY FOLLOWING RENEWED SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS

*Looking Back*

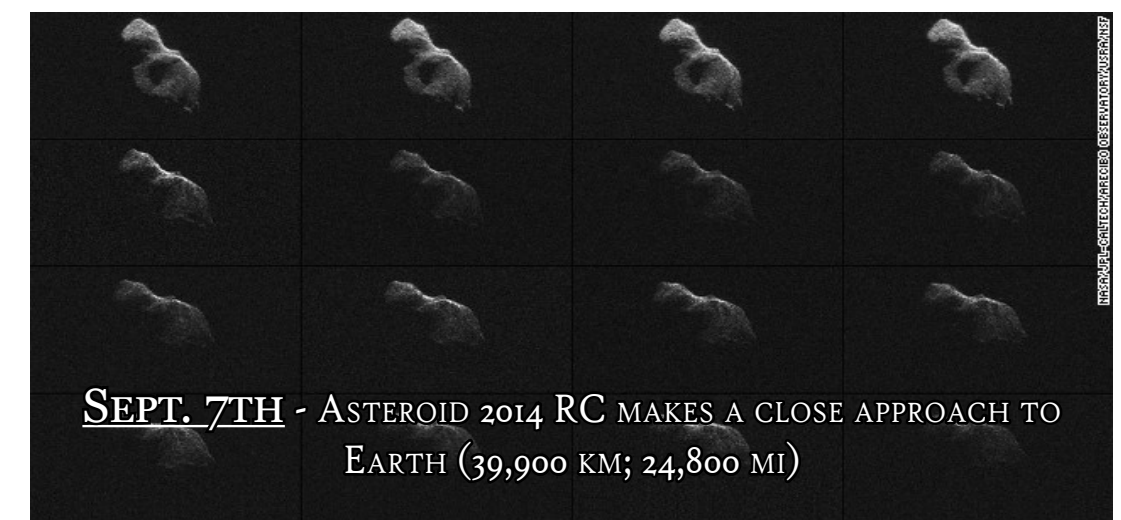
**NOV 24TH** - A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY IS SHOT DEAD BY POLICE IN CLEVELAND, AFTER BRANDISHING WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A FAKE GUN IN A PLAYGROUND, PROTESTS ERUPT THE NEXT DAY ACROSS THE U.S.



**NOV 3RD** - NEW YORK'S 104-STORY ONE WORLD TRADE CENTER OFFICIALLY OPENS 13 YEARS AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS



**SEPT. 18TH** - EMMA WATSON DELIVERS AN ADDRESS TO A STANDING OVATION AT UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY, HELPING LAUNCH THE UN WOMEN CAMPAIGN HEFOR-SHE, WHICH CALLS FOR MEN TO ADVOCATE FOR GENDER EQUALITY



**SEPT. 7TH** - ASTEROID 2014 RC MAKES A CLOSE APPROACH TO EARTH (39,900 KM; 24,800 MI)



**OCT 19TH** - A WORKING HUMAN INTESTINE IS GENERATED IN A LABORATORY FROM STEM CELLS IN THE UNITED STATES

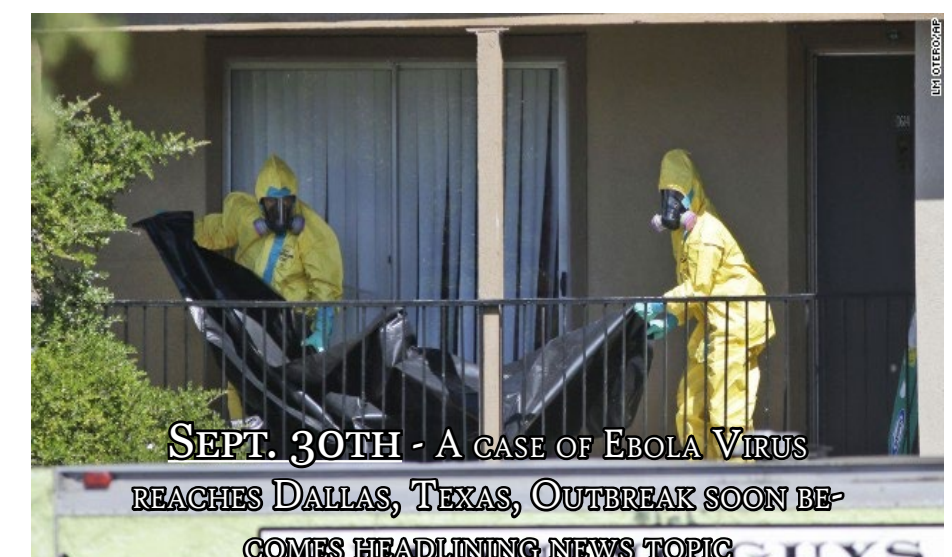


**OCT 7TH** - SPANISH NURSE DIAGNOSED WITH EBOLA, THE FIRST CASE IN EUROPE



**CDC GIVES UPDATE ON 1ST EBOLA PATIENT DIAGNOSED IN U.S.**

**SEPT. 26TH** - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ESTIMATES THAT EBOLA DEATH TOLL HAS REACHED 3,091 - WITH LIBERIA, GUINEA AND SIERRA LEONE HIT HARDEST

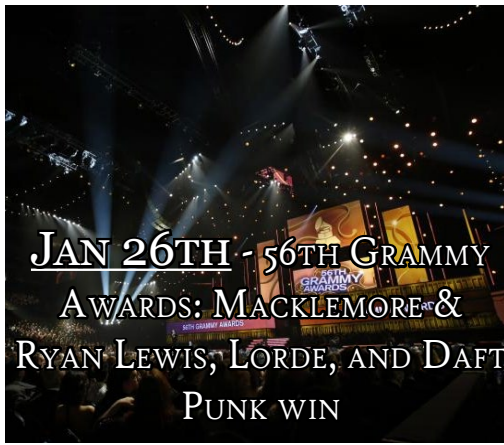


**SEPT. 30TH** - A CASE OF EBOLA VIRUS REACHES DALLAS, TEXAS, OUTBREAK SOON BECOMES HEADLINING NEWS TOPIC

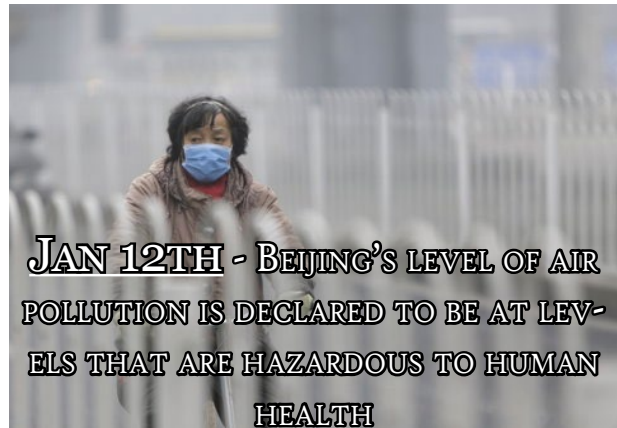


JUNIOR YEAR (2013-2014)

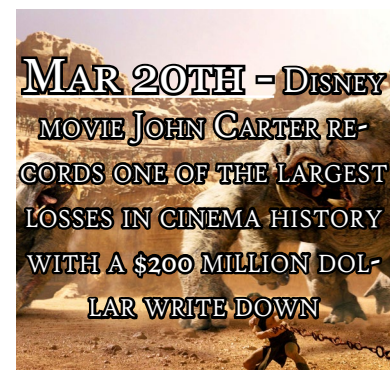
BY TAYLOR HABERKERN AND MICHELLE D'ALESSANDRO



SOPHOMORE YEAR (2012-2013)



FRESHMAN YEAR (2011-2012)



{GRADUATES CONTINUED}

Tesoriero, Anna  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY  
Tesoriero, Justyn Matthew  
CASTLETON STATE COLLEGE  
Tonissen, Veronica L  
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY

Trousdell, Marygrace  
UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
Tsotskolauri, Ketevani  
BARUCH COLLEGE OF THE CUNY  
Tucker, Jessica Mary  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

U  
Uliano-Sinnott, Michael  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
V  
Vaccaro, Lucas S  
NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY  
Valencia-Menjivar, Tatiana L  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ulloa-Palma, Maralin B  
SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY  
Vega, Albert  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Velazquez, Alexander  
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
Villatoro-Benitez, Oscar E  
SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Valles, Rosemary  
MERCY COLLEGE  
Varvatsas, Dimitri  
SUNY COLLEGE AT CORTLAND

W  
Wafajow, Meelod  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY  
Wagner, Natasha A  
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY

Weigold, Justin M  
SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE  
West, Gregory J  
SUNY OSWEGO  
Wheeler, Dylan T  
WASHINGTON COLLEGE  
Whiffen, Bailey  
ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY  
Williams, Diani  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Wirth, Brendan James  
VASSAR COLLEGE  
Wolf, Christian K  
PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE  
Wolf, Derek F  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

Wakhale, Cooper H  
HARTWICK COLLEGE  
Waldron, Thomas  
HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY  
Walsh, Bernadette  
ADELPHI UNIVERSITY  
Walsh, Kristin D  
SIENA COLLEGE  
Warren, Nicholas  
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY  
Wascher, Kaitlin  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK

Z  
Zadran, Mashal  
SUNY AT FARMINGDALE  
Zahid, Noor  
NASSAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Ziegler, Lana Rae  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Zimmerman, Kathryn  
SUNY COLLEGE AT CORTLAND





## MS. DILLON: THE BOOK WOMAN

MS. DILLON HAS BEEN WITH THE HUNTINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR 24 YEARS, SERVING AS THE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIAN FOR 5. IN THIS SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, SHE WAS ABLE TO TURN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY INTO A SAFE HAVEN FOR THE ENTIRE BLUE DEVIL COMMUNITY, AS WELL AS INSPIRE COUNTLESS BUDDING STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR TRUE POTENTIAL INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

BY: CHARLES BEERS

Ms. Dillon was raised in Wantagh and attended Sacred Heart Academy in Hempstead. After high school, she attended St. Bonaventure University, where she majored in English. After receiving her master's degree from C.W. Post's Palmer School of Library Science, Ms. Dillon worked tirelessly at Woodmere Academy and Herricks High School for a combined total of 9 years. Soon, however, she learned that there was a position at Woodhull Early Childhood Center and quickly became a member of the Huntington community, aiding Woodhull, Huntington Intermediate, and eventually the high school itself. In each setting, Ms. Dillon worked tirelessly to make sure the library was a relaxing place for kids to relax and read throughout their busy days.

However, anyone who knows her can tell you that Ms. Dillon's guidance reaches far beyond the high school library. She has participated in the Huntington community in countless ways and continues to contribute her time and resources to her students. For instance, she is the Class of

2015's advisor and most trusted supervisor, helping foster one of the most successful classes in Huntington High School history. She played an integral role in our class' biggest events: she helped build three 1st place Homecoming Parade floats, collected boxes of food for Stuff the Bus, and supervised not only the first Huntington High

extracurricular activities required, Ms. Dillon never hesitated in staying late or working on weekends to ensure each club's success. Mr. Dillon will always be remembered for helping those in need of assistance, offering advice, or just providing a place to eat lunch and do homework.

Ms. Dillon has left an everlasting

impact on the Huntington School District and, more importantly, the students who look up to her. On a personal note, Ms. Dillon has been there for me since the beginning of my freshman year. Not only did she help me find the confidence to succeed in the formidable high school setting, but she also inspired me to push myself and try new things, such as becoming the editor of The Dispatch and continuing to be a part of the student government. I owe these

successes to her.

So, for myself, the Class of 2015, and the entire Huntington community, I thank Mrs. Dillon and congratulate her on her retirement. Huntington High School will not be the same without "the book woman!"



School Jeopardy tournament, but also the class plays for Playfest each year. Ms. Dillon also has allowed other school clubs to thrive, serving as a mentor for the Debate Club and the newly appointed advisor for the successful Mock Trial team. Despite the significant time investments that these

## ~WORTH LEAVES A STYLISH LEGACY~

This year the art department will be losing an exceptional talent, the art teacher Amy Worth, who will be retiring at the end of this year. Amongst the smiles, congratulations and numerous hugs, there is a great sadness to see her leave. Ms. Worth came to us following a successful 25 year career in textile design. For ten of those years she worked at Folia Fine Fabrics, a company that provided product directly to Ralph Lauren.

She has achieved much during her 13 years at Huntington High School. Her greatest achievement came via a personal invitation from Michelle Obama in 2010 to have her and Ms. Singer's combined fashion classes attend the installation of Mrs. Obama's inaugural dress to the Smithsonian Museum. This came after Mrs. Obama received a portfolio containing designs created for the historical occasion by Ms. Worth's and Ms. Singer's students. During their visit to the Smithsonian students



were treated to a personal workshop with Jason Wu who designed Michelle Obama's inaugural dress. In addition, they also got to meet designer Tory Burch and other established designers in the fashion world who also attended the occasion. Ms. Worth was also the driving force behind the annual fashion show that has accompanied the district's art show since 2005. A progres-

sive first amongst many of the districts on Long Island.

An abounding respect for her grew not only out of her abilities to teach, but her endlessly caring nature, her support and her guidance to countless students throughout her career. Many students over the years have stated with utmost certainty that they went farther than they imagined under her tutelage. Although Amy Worth is comfortable with her students stealing the spotlight, however all focus was on her in 2014 when she was awarded second place for fashion illustration by the Folk Art Museum. This was an incredible honor considering the finished products of many hours of quality work presented by competitors. We wish her well and owe her a huge debt of gratitude. To keep in touch, many of the people she now considers family, plan to visit her as often as possible at her gallery in Greenport, where she intends to continue her passion for the arts.

## MRS. MASTRA SAYS GOODBYE

BY KATY DUVAL

After fifteen years of teaching Italian at Huntington High School, Mrs. Carmela Mastragostino will be retiring this year. Mrs. Mastra has built a reputation at Huntington for being passionate about her subject and her students. She has shown herself to be a teacher who will continually motivate her students and challenge them to be their best.

Mrs. Mastra emigrated with her family from Italy to the United States when she was a child, but her love for her first country never left her. Mrs. Mastra's love for Italy and its culture has been the focus of her career as a teacher. She has tried to pass on not only her love for the language, but the country and its history itself to her students. Her love for Italy is far from unfounded. From Antiquity, the Italian culture has contributed some of the most prized treasures of the Western world. Italy has its hands in so much of what we take for granted in our lives today in the areas of history, literature, religion, food, film, and much more. As her student for three years, I can say from personal experience that having Mrs. Mastra as a guide through Italian culture has been an

eye-opening experience. While everyone knows about the significance of the Roman Empire, in Mrs. Mastra's class I learned so much more than that. Probably the most fascinating aspect of Mrs. Mastra's class has been learning about Italy post-World War II and the ways in which the Italian people forged ahead out of being ravaged by war to reclaim itself as a capital of culture. My peers and I have a deeper understanding of Italy and Mrs. Mastra's love for the country is undoubtedly reflected in her students. Mrs. Mastra's greatest asset as a teacher is her visible passion. The quintessential Italian woman, Mrs. Mastra injects every lesson with liveliness and zeal. She keeps her class entertained with her sense of humor and has a personal connection with all her students.

Mrs. Mastra's love for teaching began when she first started school in America. Still very new to the country and having difficulty learning English, Mrs. Mastra's teacher Mrs. Brandman decided to help her with the language. Every day when the class went to the school library, Mrs. Brandman sat with Mrs. Mastra and tutored her in English. Mrs.

Mastra saw first hand how teachers can change their students lives and knew that was the profession she wanted to be in. The two stayed close and remained in contact for years, even exchanging Christmas cards. Now, Mrs. Mastra has proved again the effect that teaching can have on students, as she has shaped young lives much in the same way Mrs. Brandman shaped hers. Whether she was teaching ESL or Italian, Mrs. Mastra has left an indelible mark on all of her classes.

It's difficult to imagine Mrs. Mastra as anything but a teacher, but from 1984 to 1991 she lived in Italy and worked as a civilian on an American Air Force base as the head of its Small Purchase Office. Coincidentally, the base was located in her husband's hometown, though they actually met before while working together in a department store in New York City. While Mrs. Mastra loves her job as a teacher, working at the Air Force base taught her skills and let her have experiences that she wouldn't have been able to have anywhere else. In 2000, she moved back to New York and began working at Huntington High School.



In Huntington, Mrs. Mastra established the AP Italian curriculum and has been the only one in the Foreign Language Department to teach it since. After she retires, she hopes that the program stays as strong as it is now. The AP Italian program is the legacy Mrs. Mastra will leave at Huntington High School, while her legacy in her students' hearts will be that of a beloved teacher.

In her retirement, Mrs. Mastra plans to spend more time in Italy and with her family. As a citizen of two countries who is passionate about both, retirement will hopefully be an opportunity for Mrs. Mastra to blend these two places more seamlessly into her life.

Mrs. Mastra will be greatly missed at Huntington High School not just for her skills as a teacher, but also for her beautiful and caring personality. We hope the best for her as she starts this new chapter in her life.

## HUNTINGTON BIDS FAREWELL TO MRS. WALTER

BY SARAH JAMES

If you have ever been down to guidance, which we all have, you've seen Mrs. Walter, however, we don't all take the opportunity to chat and learn a thing or two about her—I know I didn't. So, it may come as a surprise that the friendly and familiar face in guidance west won't be there for much longer. As the end of the year approaches, so does Mrs. Walter's retirement. After 27 years in this building, 30 in the school district, and a lifetime as a member of this town Mrs. Walter will be saying a "bitter-sweet" goodbye to all of her colleges, friends, and students that have become something of a second family. Mrs. Walter's years here have been filled with happiness from the time she graduated from Huntington High School in 1960 to



when she started substituting at Finely Middle School in '85, to now as she wraps up 27 years of secretarial work in guidance. In a time when she needed it the most Mrs. Walter came to work at Huntington and fell in love with the kids, and colleagues and made friends—"people to pick you up" she told me. She enjoyed not only her work with the students but beyond that, being a part of such a large, receptive community

as she met "wonderful parents" and got to know families, however Mrs. Walter wishes to explore "different avenues" as she put it. In retirement she seeks more time with her family, she wishes to pursue rest and jokingly she told me about taking a month or two just to unwind at a spa.

I am sure I can speak for students and staff when I say that Mrs. Walter will be deeply missed. We hope that we see you around as a member of this community. We hope that in your retirement you find rest and uncover many other beautiful aspects of life yet to be seen. We hope that you grow closer to your family, but that you never forget the family you will always have here at Huntington High School. Good luck!





# THE LEGACY OF DR. LEONARDI

AFTER 34 YEARS OF BEING IN EDUCATION, WITH 24 OF THOSE YEARS AS PRINCIPAL OF JACK ABRAMS AND HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, DR. CARMELA LEONARDI IS RETIRING. STARTING AS A PRESCHOOL AND ESL TEACHER, DR. LEONARDI COMBINED HER LOVE FOR EDUCATION AND CHILDREN INTO ONE MEANINGFUL CAREER. HER INFLUENCE ON EXPANDING THE COURSES OFFERED IN HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT STUDENTS FOR YEARS TO COME, AS WILL HER PRECEDENT OF ALWAYS KEEPING AN OPEN MIND. BEING A FIRM BELIEVER IN LISTENING TO THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF THE SCHOOLS WHERE SHE WAS PRINCIPAL ALLOWED FOR DECISIONS THAT APPEASED MULTIPLE POINTS OF VIEW.

BY KATY DUVAL

Dr. Leonardi has had a long history with education. She was always fascinated by the process of how people learn and how that process could be improved. She was able to share her passion for learning by working as a teacher for decades as well as an adjunct professor of Italian. Having earned a Ph.D. in reading and cognition herself, Dr. Leonardi recognizes the value education has had in her own life. Going through her doctoral program, she believes, taught her about how thorough one must be in understanding something before they can know it. Without the education she has had, she believes she would not have as flexible a mind as she does now.

Furthermore, she understands that a community thrives when its citizens are as educated as they can be. To Dr. Leonardi, education represents the ability to make informed decisions and build off of past experiences. Without knowledge, a person cannot connect the many pieces of life's puzzle in a meaningful way. A firm foundation of learning allows for a person to use prior knowledge to make informed decisions about their future and their community. Moreover, Dr. Leonardi believes that education has to be broad and support the needs of every student, which is why for her whole time as principal she has been steadfast in creating and expanding electives and the arts, even in times of budget cuts.

For Dr. Leonardi, it was easy to dedicate herself to Huntington High School and the Huntington community. "People come together here as a family," she said, when I asked her about what she thought was special about Huntington. It was clear that she really feels a connection to this community, whose students are dedicated to service and one another. The students at Huntington are inspired by their teachers and administrators continually. Likewise, the faculty is often inspired by the kids, who are always expressing a desire to learn and make a positive impact. Even though Dr. Leonardi admits that ups and downs are a part of life, she sees her time at Huntington as an invaluable experience. The



last four years, especially, she says, she has loved it all, until the last minute. She credits her enjoyment to the superintendent and the rest of the administration who have been wonderful people to work with,

**"BEING AROUND YOUNG PEOPLE KEPT ME YOUNG," SHE SAID... HOWEVER, DR. LEONARDI HAS REALIZED THAT THE ENERGY SHE GOT FROM HER JOB DOESN'T HAVE TO DISAPPEAR WHEN SHE RETIRES.**

always doing what is best for the students. In the end, Dr. Leonardi says that she has always tried to make the decisions she felt

were best without leaving anyone out. I think it's safe to say that Huntington High School thanks her for her commitment to being open-minded in her decisions and her overall administration.

Dr. Leonardi has fostered a great relationship with teachers and students by showing her support for innovative ideas and putting trust in what they think is best. That's not to say that she doesn't have differing opinions sometimes, but part of the beauty of education is that in it, there is an ability to make compromise. After creating such a comfortable home in the community, she of course had doubts about retiring. "Being around young people kept me young," she said. She wondered if she would miss that energy in retirement.

However, Dr. Leonardi has realized that the energy she got from her job doesn't have to disappear when she retires. She came to the conclusion that she would be able to thrive as she enters the next chapter in her life, by keeping an open mind and remembering that there is always room for individual growth. Now, Dr. Leonardi looks at retirement as an adventure. It's an opportunity for her to realize who she is outside of being a teacher or principal, as well as a chance for her to connect with friends and family. There are always new experiences to be had, especially in retirement.

To the students of Huntington, Dr. Leonardi would like to impart the message that one should never think of themselves as a finished product. People are always evolving with every new thing, and around every corner of life is something exciting. She would like the Huntington High School community to continue to recognize the talents of the students and foster their growth. She knows she will miss Huntington High School, but is thankful for her time spent here. "After so many years," she says, "I look at it as a gift."

So does Huntington High School. The students and faculty offer the fondest of farewells, Dr. Leonardi. We hope you enjoy retirement and continue to stay involved with our community.

