At our October 28 Convocation, we celebrated achievements of our College as we honored those of our campus community reaching five-year milestones. Such events make us wish for a smaller world with more time to come together and share both the challenges and the successes of our mission. To extend this spirit from the 2010 Convocation, I am launching this newsletter to you, the CSI community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

In this first newsletter, I want to reiterate the milestones we celebrate this season. As a first and major milestone, we celebrate the new CSI Mission Statement, which is vital to the life of this institution as both the foundation and the framework of the College’s purpose and direction for years to come. The New Mission Statement can be found on my Web page at www.csi.cuny.edu/presidentsoffice/mission.php.

In a word, we commit to the Mission of providing academic excellence, individual fulfillment, diversity, and enlightened citizens of the community and the world. We should be proud of this significant and noble undertaking.

There are numerous milestones that you, the CSI community, have achieved since our last Convocation. Your success takes the Mission Statement from just words on paper to life, action, and meaning.

At the heart of our Mission Statement are our students. At a time when employment expectations and global competitiveness demand a new sort of generation, no charge could be more critical than that of our Mission: the attainment of student access, persistence, and academic excellence.

Detailed within this newsletter are some of our milestones toward this goal as well as some accomplishments that I have highlighted. With a deep appreciation for your efforts, I have compiled a full list of our accomplishments sent to all members of the College community by email and archived at www.csitoday.com/publication/presidents-convocation.

I encourage you to view the document to appreciate truly all that we have done.

Together we will advance our core Mission of pursuing academic excellence at the College. This is my commitment to you.

I wish you all a very successful semester and happy holiday season.

Best wishes,

Dr. Tomás D. Morales, PhD
Thanks to the talent, dedication, and hard work of our staff and faculty, we enjoyed a record enrollment for the fourth consecutive year that includes a 6.2% increase in the number of entering baccalaureate students, the largest number of entering baccalaureate students in the College—ever. Faculty and staff at all levels have worked to recruit an incoming class that also breaks the CSI record for high academic profile in three crucial areas: College Admissions Average, SAT scores, and assessment exam scores, the last of which increased by 10%, also an all-time high for the College. Finally, highlighting this record-breaking year of recruitment, we welcome eight new valedictorians and salutatorians.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS** [www.csi.cuny.edu/selective](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/selective)

Many of these exceptional students chose CSI for our selective academic programs, which continue to thrive. In the second year of the expansion of the [Macaulay Honors College](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/selective), our incoming class arrives with a College Admissions Average of 92 and a mean SAT of 1264. [The Verrazano School](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/selective) recorded its highest College Admissions Average and SAT scores for its entering students since the program’s inception. Also, special tribute goes to our [Teacher Education Honors Academy](http://www.csi.cuny.edu/selective), which celebrated its first graduating class this year. This Academy fulfills a critical mission of preparing high-achieving students to become math and science teachers.

**FACULTY** [www.csitoday.com/new-faculty-2010](http://www.csitoday.com/new-faculty-2010)

Of course the key to excellence in education ultimately lies with the faculty. While many students have chosen CSI for our outstanding senior faculty, many find additional inspiration from an extraordinary group of 18 new faculty joining the CSI community this year. Thanks both to the recruitment efforts of our faculty and to the reputation that they have built nationally and internationally, this extremely accomplished new cohort of faculty come to CSI representing some of the most promising talent in their respective fields and are certain to contribute to our evolving status as a world-class educational institution.

*(Continued on page 3.)*
These new faculty are drawn to our current faculty and staff who continue to be recognized for their excellence in scholarship and research, receiving numerous grants from state and federal agencies as well as recognition from the most prestigious and respected academic disciplinary organizations.

**AWARD PROGRAMS**
Among the many landmarks of faculty and staff achievement, the Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computational Center (www.csi.cuny.edu/cunyhpc) deserves special kudos for attracting support at the national level. For the first time in the history of CSI, with the assistance of Senior Senator Chuck Schumer, the United States Senate Appropriations Committee approved funding directly for the College in the amount of $450,000 to support research and infrastructure, giving CSI a unique status in the CUNY system.

**NEW PROGRAMS**
In tough economic times, our faculty has worked to meet the changing academic needs of our students. Course offerings have increased by 5.3%. CSI faculty have also launched a new Bachelor of Arts degree program in Italian Studies, which offers two tracks—one that concentrates solely on Italian Studies, encompassing history, art, literature, philosophy, politics, and language, and a second that prepares students to become teachers of Italian Studies.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**
Thanks to these efforts of staff and faculty, the College of Staten Island was one of only 15 institutions recognized nationally by the Southern Regional Education Board for significantly improving student retention and degree completion. This distinction comes at a time when retention poses deep challenges across the country.
This part of our Mission, to educate good citizens of our global and local communities, is supported by an amazingly diverse and talented pool of faculty and staff who distinguish themselves and the campus with their outreach efforts.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS www.csi.cuny.edu/international

Internationally, just this past summer, approximately 200 students from prestigious middle and high schools in and around Shanghai, China visited CSI to learn and study English and Art as part of the Continuing Education Summer Camp Program. This international partnership resulted in a transformative experience for the visiting Chinese students as well as CSI students and staff who served as gracious hosts.

While the impact of CSI programs has become global in scope and in scale, we have never strayed from our commitment to our local community. Outstanding programs in every field produce far-reaching benefits for the Staten Island community. This service is a hallmark of our institution.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

CSI played a critical role in the health of our community. Recently, I had the honor of serving as Ambassador for the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation’s 2010 Health & Wellness Expo. Among the healthcare professionals offering their expertise at the Expo were CSI faculty of the Nursing and Physical Therapy departments. Staff of the Health and Wellness Center also participated, partnering with colleagues from Wagner College and St. John’s University to lead a workshop on college student health issues and promote a common goal of fostering healthy lifestyles for the residents of Staten Island.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

CSI nurtured community programs to enhance the well-being of our citizens. The College’s Third Annual Greener Fall Festival raised over $20,000 for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative. Approximately 10,000 members of the Staten Island community attended the festival, which took place on the Great Lawn.

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COMMUNITY SPIRIT

CSI stepped forward to address the recent bias incidents and hate crimes occurring on Staten Island. CSI faculty and staff have joined the “I Am Staten Island” campaign, initiated by Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Council Member Debi Rose, uniting all community stakeholders in an effort to put an end to this senseless violence. As an integral component of the campaign, CSI has agreed to do its part by providing diversity and tolerance training and initiatives to the local community.

It should come as no surprise then, that our Mission also embraces the diversity and inclusion of all students, faculty, and staff. Thanks to the expertise and sensitivity of CSI faculty and staff, we have done this with distinction.

NATIONAL DISTINCTION

U.S. News and World Report recently named CSI among the top 25% of regional universities in terms of diversity of its student body.

CAMPUS INITIATIVES

Each month, CSI continues to highlight and celebrate different areas of our diversity through innovative programs and seminars. CSI’s Inclusive Excellence Committee, comprised of dedicated faculty and staff, continues to meet with the administration to discuss and strategize initiatives for infusing diversity and inclusion into every facet of this institution.

CAMPUS COLLABORATION

Diversity and inclusion also stand for the larger principle, to which we steadfastly adhere, that all faculty, staff, and students are enfranchised and have a voice pursuant to the ideals of shared governance. These ideals are well reflected in the efforts of faculty and staff engaged in two of the College’s most significant current initiatives—the Middle States Reaccreditation Process (www.csi.cuny.edu/middlestates) and the Strategic Planning Process.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is a non-governmental association dedicated to quality assurance and improvement of colleges and universities through the process of accreditation by way of peer evaluation. More than 130 members of the CSI campus community—faculty and staff—have spent hours of...
their time sharing experience, data, and insights in preparation for this reaccreditation process.

For each accreditation cycle, Middle States selects an area of special emphasis. This year, the focus is on **Developing and Strengthening Assessment and Evidence-Based Decision Making to Continue Building Institutional Effectiveness**. Faculty, staff, and community involved in this self-study design have already engaged in substantial efforts to develop measures of student learning, integrity, transparency, processes, and planning that will demonstrate graphically what we know first-hand to be the achievements of our academic community.

Often a companion to an accreditation process is Strategic Planning, a process that also requires an intense amount of work. The College’s Institutional Planning Committee and College Council have finalized not only our new Mission Statement, the same Mission Statement that I have presented to you in this newsletter, but also **CSI’s new Vision and Values Statements and Strategic Directions**. Embracing and exemplifying best practices in shared governance and institutional transparency, these documents are the product of hundreds of stakeholders (faculty, staff, and students) and will mark the course that we navigate over the next few years.

Currently, more than 90 members of our campus community serve on **six Strategic Direction Committees**, charged with providing information that the College will need in order to determine how to implement the goals and steps associated with the Strategic Directions. It is anticipated that this phase of the Strategic Planning process will be completed by December.
As you continue to perform with distinction and inspire those who look to you as role models, I look forward to sharing your successes in future editions of this newsletter. To continue our sense of community, I am also initiating three features of this newsletter that involve you:

- In addition to reporting on the challenges and achievements of the College, I am asking your faculty, chairs, deans, directors, supervisors, and alumni to contribute to a “kudos” section of each newsletter that highlights special achievements of you as individuals. In the near future, look for our new “Kudos” section and submission form on www.csitoday.com/faculty
- I will be setting up a “Q&A” link to this newsletter that provides answers to some of your most frequently posed questions about the College.
- In future issues of this newsletter, I will preview some of the very special events that we have planned. In the meantime, I encourage you to visit the CSI Event Calendar at www.csitoday.com/events and join your colleagues at an exciting upcoming event on campus.

Finally, there is the economy. It is a testament to you, our faculty and staff, that we have been able to accomplish so much in a time of increasing fiscal constraint.

**BUDGET REDUCTIONS: CUNY**

This year has brought $84.4 million in operating budget reductions for CUNY according to the Chancellor. This reduction, combined with the reductions of the past two years, means that the University has sustained over $205 million in State cuts.

**BUDGET REDUCTIONS: CSI**

The cumulative effect of these reductions, combined with growing enrollments, places a significant strain on all senior colleges, including CSI. This year we have already experienced a reduction of $3.2 million to the base of our tax-levy budget. Fortunately the true strength of a college is its human wealth—individuals like yourselves with the dedication, intelligence, and ability to work over and around obstacles to fulfill our Mission.

While we must all do with less materially, we must not and will not fail to support one another and offer the finest student experience that our combined expertise can provide. With your support, I will continue to meet with the College-wide budget committee and other campus governance bodies as we work together to accomplish our goals in the face of these declining resources. I will also keep you abreast of developments and our strategies for dealing with them.