

Suffolk County Community College

Spring/Fall 2012 Volume 4 • Number 1

CareerFocus™

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Minds: Early
Childhood Education**

**Is there
a Paramedic
in the House?**

and more...

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Veterans!**

**Educational Programs
and Services for
Returning Heroes**

Photo by Joan Larsen Wozniak

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COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



*New
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Turn Your
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a Career!*

Pursue your passion as a professional paramedic with the first two-year degree program in our region. Apply now for fall 2012. Financial aid is available and you may be eligible for tuition reimbursement under the "SERVES" grant. Classes are conveniently scheduled for working adults. Call 631-451-4022 or visit sunysuffolk.edu today.

Suffolk
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE



**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
Macbeth**

Join us this summer for FREE performances!
The Long Island Shakespeare Festival presents

**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
Macbeth**


Rain or shine, bring a chair and the family to an abridged performance of one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies of ambition, fate, deception and treachery.
Directed by Steven Lantz-Gefroh

July 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 13 at 8:00 p.m.
Under the stars, please bring a chair or blanket

July 8, 11 and 14 at 2:00 p.m.
Shea Theatre

Suffolk County Community College
Ammerman Campus, Selden

For more information, call the
LISF box office at 631-451-4163 or visit
LIShakes.org or sunysuffolk.edu/spotlight

 Suffolk Spotlight

Suffolk
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A gift to Long Islanders, these free performances are funded by the Suffolk County Community College Association, Ammerman Campus.

Questions about SCCC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Admissions Office at 631-451-4100.

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**Visit SCCC on the Web at:
sunysuffolk.edu**

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Selden, NY 11784

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Brentwood, NY 11717

Eastern Campus

121 Speonk-Riverhead Road
Riverhead, NY 11901

SCCC Mission Statement

Suffolk County Community College promotes intellectual discovery, physical development, social and ethical awareness, and economic opportunities for all through an education that transforms lives, builds communities, and improves society.

SCCC Vision Statement

Suffolk County Community College commits to maintaining high educational standards, to fostering and inspiring student success, and to creating diverse opportunities for life-long learning. By attracting strong leadership and distinguished faculty to a college of excellence, we create an enriched learning environment that empowers students to transform their lives.

Suffolk County Community College

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CareerFocus™

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about Suffolk County Community College.



On the cover:

SCCC students Mary Beth Kerstiens and Dimitri Hampton

Campus Conversations



Coach of the Year...Again!

Kevin Foley, Suffolk County Community College's Head Women's Basketball Coach, was voted Region XV Coach of the Year by his coaching peers. This is the 8th time since Coach Foley has been the women's basketball coach at Suffolk that he has been chosen to receive this honor.



Coach Foley (center) takes a break with SCCC President Dr. Shaun L. McKay and the women's basketball team.

SCCC Shark Makes National Splash

With a first-place finish, SCCC student-athlete Alberto Catano of Ronkonkoma, was named national champion in the Men's 200 Backstroke at the NJCAA Men's Swimming and Diving National Championship. Mr. Catano started swimming competitively at the age of 8 and attended Connetquot High School where he still holds many individual records.



National Champion Alberto Catano receives congratulations from Carlington Simms (left), SCCC Head Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Coach and Jennifer Scott (right), Assistant Men's and Women's Swimming Coach.



Transforming Lives Through SCC Foundation

The Suffolk Community College Foundation is a non-profit corporation formed to develop resources to enable the College to provide quality educational experiences for its students. Scholarship funds constitute the largest single use of the assets of the Foundation, which annually awards over \$350,000 in student scholarships. Emergency student loans, special projects for staff development, support for unique academic enrichment programs, and efforts to enhance the community's awareness of the College and its services are also supported by the Foundation. To be a part of this important mission, please contact 631-451-4115.



SCCC Ad Gets the Gold

SCCC was presented with a Gold Paragon Award for creating the best community college print ad in North America by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations. The work features students who attended the college and then successfully transferred to other recognized four-year institutions. The competition featured 1,800 entries from more than 240 community colleges from across the U.S. and Canada.



Dr. McKay (left) and Legislator Nowick salute the humanitarian efforts of Lisa Quinones (center).

Nursing Professor is a “Woman of Distinction”

SCCC Professor, Lisa Quinones, of St. James, recently received the county's annual “Woman of Distinction” award. Presented by Suffolk County Legislator Lynne C. Nowick, Professor Quinones was honored by the Legislature for her work in Honduras. An advanced nurse practitioner, Professor Quinones spends vacations crossing borders and traveling the world to help others. Along with her students, she has created 165 kits to aid locals with childbirth. As a volunteer brigade member for the nonprofit Hope for a Healthier Humanity (HHH), she has led medical missions to areas of Honduras, Panama that require special and sustained efforts just to maintain life.

Kennedy Center Applauds SCCC



The Kennedy Center American College Theatre (KCACTF) selected *The Icarus Project*, an original work produced by the Theatres at SCCC, to be showcased at its Region I Festival in Massachusetts. The KCACTF has grown into a network of more than 600 academic institutions throughout the country, where theater departments and student artists showcase their work and receive outside assessment by KCACTF respondents. *The Icarus Project* is directed by Charles Wittreich and Andrew Wittkamper, SCCC's College Director of Theatre and Associate Professor of Theatre, respectively. What's more, SCCC students were recognized for excellence in a wide array of categories, including Lighting Design, Sound Design, Allied Crafts, Best Comic Actor and Best Classical Actor.

Accredited Programs of Study

BUSINESS

Accounting
Business Administration
Business Management
Information Processing
Marketing
Office Management
Paralegal Studies
Retail Business Management



COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS

Communication Studies
Computer Art
Graphic Design
Journalism
Interior Design Assistant
Music
Photographic Imaging
Radio and Television Production
Theatre Arts
Visual Arts



PROGRAMS IN COMPUTING

Computer Science
Information Technology



HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES

American Sign Language
Chemical Dependency Counseling
Criminal Justice
Dietetic Technician
Early Childhood Education
Fitness Specialist
Health Information Technology/Medical Records
Human Services
Nursing
Occupational Therapy Assistant
Paramedic
Physical Therapist Assistant
Practical Nursing
Veterinary Science Technology



LIBERAL ARTS

Education (Adolescence)
Education (Child Study)
Education (Early Childhood)
General Studies
Humanities
International Studies
Mathematics
Science
Social Science
Women's Studies

TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING CAREERS

Automotive Specialist
Construction Technology: Architectural Technology Option
Culinary Arts
Drafting (CAD)
Electrical Technology: Electronics
Engineering Science
Fire Protection Technology/Fire Investigation
Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
Hotel and Resort Management
Manufacturing Technology

Certificate Programs

Accounting Business
Business Management Business
Information Processing Business
Retail Management Culinary Arts
Restaurant Management Culinary Arts
Baking and Pastry Arts Engineering & Technology
Drafting-CAD
Fire Investigation
Heating
Ventilation
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration
Hotel and Resort Management
Information Technology
Paralegal Studies
Practical Nursing



Responding to a Great Opportunity: SCCC's New Paramedic Program

By Drew Fawcett

With more than 7.5 million people on Long Island and upwards of 100 separate fire and EMS agencies across Suffolk County alone, it's readily apparent why Suffolk County Community College has launched a new Paramedic Associate Degree. "There's a clear demand for skilled and experienced professionals who can deliver the highest level of pre-hospital emergency care," says Matt Zukosky, Associate Professor for SCCC's EMT/Paramedic Program.

An emergency medical technician (EMT) and a paramedic are not synonymous says Professor Zukosky. EMTs usually have less than 200 hours of training and provide entry-level pre-hospital care, while paramedics have in excess of 1,100 hours of training and are able to provide the highest level of pre-hospital emergency medicine care. "The College recognized an opportunity to offer residents the ability to earn a degree and become more marketable to fire and EMS

agencies that are rapidly moving toward a system that includes both paid and volunteer professionals," Professor Zukosky points out.

It's worth noting that SCCC's Paramedic Program is the only degree-granting program east of New York City. "This allows Suffolk County residents to train, work and live right here," adds Zukosky. What's more, SCCC's program allows its students to gain wide exposure to all kinds of hospitals and EMS agencies across our region.

"Suffolk County is not homogeneous and our students are able to get real-world experience in all kinds of hospitals and EMS agencies across our region. It makes for a well-rounded paramedic and provides students with a better perspective on how our many communities come together."

In order to gain admission into the program, the candidate must already be an emergency medical technician. The program stresses mastery in advanced life-support

skills, which will be accomplished in college laboratories, affiliated hospitals and advanced life-support ambulances. Classes are scheduled to maximize convenience for working adults.

Financial aid is available and current EMTs may be eligible for tuition reimbursement under the SERVES grant. For more information about this unique opportunity, visit sunysuffolk.edu/CareerFocus or call 631-451-4100.



Is College a Good Investment?

Despite costs, career education makes financial sense

By Drew Fawcett

With soaring college costs, some wonder if higher education is worth the time and expense.

When the Pew Research Center surveyed Americans about their views on college, 5 percent said the higher education system provides excellent value, 35 percent said the higher education system provides good value, 42 percent said the value is fair, and 15 percent said the value is not good.

Avoid Big Tuition Bills

Research found that a typical student with loans graduates from a four-year college with a balance of \$23,000 in debt. However, according to the College Board, with aid and federal income tax benefits

accounted for, the average tuition and fee cost is close to zero for the majority of students attending community colleges.

Rachel Cronemeyer, a pastry chef and recent graduate of Suffolk County Community College's culinary arts program, appreciates the low tuition and personal attention that she received. "I got my job directly through one of the events that they had at Suffolk. They helped me meet my future employer. If you're considering Suffolk, definitely go for it. It's worthwhile, it's affordable and the education is top notch."

The Pay-Off

The Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census data found that the average high school graduate with no additional education earns approximately \$770,000 during a 40-year work life. Those with a two-year associate's degree earn approximately \$1 million during that time frame, and a worker with a bachelor's degree earns approximately \$1.4 million. The figures include the cost of time and money spent to obtain a college degree.

"So, is it worth it to forego about \$50,000, the estimated earnings lost while studying for an associate degree in order to boost one's earnings over the long haul by \$230,000?" asks Richard Fry, a researcher with the Pew Research Center study. "I think many students and their families think this is a pretty good use of funds compared to other risky alternative investments they might make."

\$23,000 The typical student loan debt of a four-year college graduate.

Americans' views on college

5% EXCELLENT value
35% GOOD value
42% FAIR value
15% NOT GOOD value

Pew Research Center

\$630,000 The increased lifetime income a college graduate will earn over a high school graduate

Of those surveyed who graduated from four-year colleges, 74 percent say their college education helped them grow intellectually; 69 percent said their education helped them mature, and 55 percent said their education was useful in preparing for a career.

Kim Parker, a researcher with the Pew Research Center, says she was surprised that only 55 percent of the

responders thought that college was useful in preparing for a career. She says that response might stem from some graduates' sense of frustration with the tight job market. "They want to come out of college and get a job. Some feel they are coming up short."

"I got my job directly through one of the events that they had at Suffolk. They helped me meet my future employer."

– Rachel Cronemeyer, Pastry Chef and recent SCCC graduate

Real-Life Internships Provide Real-World Experiences

By Mary M. Feder

When students begin thinking about pursuing career opportunities, they often start by preparing a résumé and cover letter, practicing their interviewing skills, and seeking the advice of a trusted faculty member and/or career advisor. All of this is good. What they may not consider is the value of an internship in making their career dreams come true.

“An internship is a way to develop a professional foundation for the future,” says Debra Klein, Faculty Coordinator of Cooperative Education and Internships in the Career Services and Cooperative Education Office at Suffolk County Community College. “It gives students experience and the opportunity to test out different careers to see which ones suit them.” More and more employers are buying into that equation as well.

A rocky economy has made employers cautious. They see the power of internships in bridging the perceived gap between school and work.

This newfound value that employers are placing on internships, combined with an increased enthusiasm at colleges and universities, is changing the look of this type of experience. Today’s internships are vibrant, structured and may provide academic credit. The best of the lot provide “real-world” experience to complement the important theoretical elements received in the college classroom.

Disney College Program

One example of an internship program offered to Suffolk students is the Disney College Program. As a Disney College Program participant, students become part of the magic that is known worldwide. “Students get valuable, on-the-job experience in Disney’s parks and resorts, and expand their knowledge by interacting with international students,” said



“An internship is a way to develop a professional foundation for the future.”

-Debra Klein

Faculty Coordinator of Cooperative Education and Internships

Megan Edelstein, a Suffolk student who attended the Disney College Program and continues to work for them as a Campus Representative. Kim Rooney, a Suffolk alumna, who also attended the program added, “For those students who attend a commuter college and never had the opportunity to go away to school, the Disney College Program gives that experience and all the benefits of a paid internship.”

For Nicholas Byrnes, a budding meteorologist, an internship with

Pat Pagano and Metroweather of Valley Stream, who provides the weather for WALK 97.5 FM and with the National Weather Service in Upton, New York, will make all the difference when he tries to stand out in a competitive field. Byrnes noted, “My goal is to be a meteorologist and I will be finishing up at Suffolk and transferring to Oneonta to earn a degree in meteorology. I am certain that my internships will reflect my dedication to my field of study and the experience will also give me a

leg up when it comes to securing a job.”

Employers Favor Internships

In a competitive world, internships are often proven to be the difference between gainful employment and wishful thinking among new college grads. A 2012 Job Outlook Survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers reveals that having relevant work experience also stands high on employers’ wish lists for job candidates; with almost 75% of employers who responded indicating they prefer this type of experience in their résumés. Given a preference for any work experience, more than half of employers prefer that it comes from an internship. Equally important, but harder to quantify, are the invaluable skills interns receive about networking, workplace culture, and teamwork - all part of the maturation process.

For more on how internships may affect your career plans, contact internships@sunysuffolk.edu or Debra Klein on the Ammerman Campus in Selden at 631-451-4049 Toni-Anne Nhotsoubanh on the Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood at 631-851-6877 or Kristen Cosentino on the Eastern Campus in Riverhead at 631-548-2579.

The following organizations are just a few examples of where SCCC students have completed internships:

Brookhaven Memorial Hospital	Metropolitan Weather Service	SONY
Brookhaven National Laboratories	Nassau Coliseum	Town of Islip Foreign Trade Zone
Clearvision	News 12	UBS
Hilton Garden Inn	NYPD	VOUGE magazine
Hauppauge Industrial Association	Suffolk County Police Department	Walt Disney World
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society	Southside Hospital	and many more...
LI Cares	Suffolk County Attorney General's Office	
Long Island Aquarium and Exhibition Center	Suffolk County Fire Marshall	

Welcome Home, Veterans!

Standing Ready to Serve Returning Veterans

By Drew Fawcett

Of all the counties in New York State, Suffolk County has the single largest population of returning veterans,” says Tom Ronayne, Director of Suffolk County’s Veterans Services Agency. In fact, New York State has the 5th largest population of veterans in the United States, with a total of 1.1 million. Of this population, more than 150,000 live on Long Island, with approximately 80% living right here in Suffolk County. When matched with counties across the country (excluding urban counties), Suffolk County becomes the 6th most veteran-populated county in the nation.

In light of this noteworthy population, Suffolk County Community College has been preparing to welcome back our military heroes with valuable educational programs and services designed to help veterans easily and efficiently assimilate into an academic environment. “We realize that our returning veterans possess skills and experiences that can help them succeed in a wide array of careers,” says Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. “We stand ready to address the unique needs of these men and women through the implementation of a new Office of Veteran’s Educational and Transitional Services (VETS).”

A Smart Fit for Returning Vets

SCCC’s VETS office will operate as a central point of contact for veteran students on all three campuses. It will assist veterans with their transition into college by providing targeted support, resources, and services. Upon completion of their



Army Specialist and SCCC Student Mary Beth Kerstiens

studies at SCCC, it will even help guide them through their transition to other postsecondary institutions or the workforce.

“Suffolk County Community College is a natural fit for our returning military,” says Dr. Carla Mazzarelli, SCCC’s Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs. According to research conducted by the American Council on Education, a majority of returning military undergraduates expressed a preference for attending two-year postsecondary institutions. “With three campuses and two satellite locations,” adds Dr. Mazzarelli, “SCCC provides convenience along with outstanding

faculty and workforce preparation programs.”

Access to an affordable higher education is another reason why SCCC makes sense for returning veterans. With low annual tuition, SCCC’s cost of education falls well within the range of educational benefits provided by the Post 9/11 Veterans’ Educational Assistance Act. In addition, SCCC has flexible financial policies designed to accommodate military undergraduates who may experience delays in receiving educational benefits, receive deployment orders in mid-semester or otherwise

experience financial difficulties that may require assistance.

Army Specialist and current SCCC student Mary Beth Kerstiens appreciates how the College is creating an environment in which returning veterans thrive. “Suffolk is such a great place for vets to continue their education. The affordability of the institution along with the benefits offered through the VA assistance makes the hard journey toward a degree easier. The faculty and administration are willing to serve the vets in such a selfless manner to get them through the application process and make the most of their time here. Having been part of the Eastern Campus’ Student Veterans Association, I know that many vets are truly appreciative of the value of their education at Suffolk.”

“Suffolk County Community College is offering a great program for returning veterans and service members,” says Captain Lou Delli-Pizzi, Commander, Army National

“We realize that our returning veterans possess skills and experiences that can help them succeed in a wide array of careers.”

**– Dr. Shaun L. McKay,
President of Suffolk County Community College**

Important Resources for Returning Veterans:

Suffolk County Community College

Brentwood, Selden and Riverhead
(631) 451-4100

www.sunysuffolk.edu/vets

Suffolk County Veterans Services Agency Thomas Ronayne, Director Hauppauge, NY

(631) 853-VETS / Riverhead,
NY (631) 852-1410

Helps veterans file for benefits, compensation, pension and education benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Also assists

veterans with enrolling for medical services, tax exemptions, and state education benefits. Contact this agency with any questions and if they cannot answer it, they will refer to the appropriate source.

Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center Northport, NY / (631) 261-4400

www.northport.va.gov

NYS Division of Veterans Affairs 1-888-VETSNYS

www.veterans.ny.gov

Veteran's Business Outreach Center (VBOC)

Farmingdale, NY / (631) 370-8891

VBOC provides targeted business training, counseling, and mentoring to help veterans start and grow small businesses.

www.nyvetbiz.com

GI Bill

1-888-442-4551

www.gibill.va.gov

Guard, Bravo Company 1/69th Infantry (The Fighting 69th) in Farmingdale. "Suffolk has become an enabler for the community and business world to dip into an already proven and dedicated job pool that can accomplish anything. They are helping to build and recognize our next great generation."

Employers Value Military Service and Education

Many potential employers view military service as an asset that can translate into efficient, resilient management. The ability to "adapt" and "innovate" are often cited as key attributes. Some specific industries, like manufacturing, may even seek military experience in potential employees. According to statistics from the Apollo Research Institute, manufacturers expressed great interest in hiring military personnel because many veterans have the technical and trade skills that lead to success in the sector.

SCCC offers both academic and workforce training programs for manufacturing. "Our associate degree in Manufacturing Technology affords graduates opportunities for employment in manufacturing industries related to everything from electronics to biomedical supplies to 'green' consumer products and parts for the aerospace industry," says John Lombardo, SCCC's Associate Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development. "What's more, our Advanced Manufacturing Training Center (AMTC) can provide immediate training to returning veterans who are seeking to move



quickly into the job market." Through the AMTC, students are able to receive national credentials and work-ready skills in areas including advanced welding, machining, quality control, mechanical assembly, blueprint reading and more.

While many employers hold military service in regard, they value education even more. According to this past January's *Talent Management* magazine, employers said that they would be more likely to hire candidates with a college degree and 10 years of military experience

than those who had served in the military for 20 years but lacked a degree – 60% to 13%. More than 7 out of 10 respondents shared that "...possessing a degree was more important to employers than a specific major."

Enjoying a Full College Experience

With 70 degree and 30 certificate programs of study, and upwards of 100 clubs and organizations across all three campuses – including local chapters of Student Veterans

Association (SVA), SCCC provides returning veterans with a complete college experience.

Perhaps most importantly, the College's VETS office will bring together the administrative and support structures of both academic and student affairs to provide a comprehensive, one-stop shop model of services for student veterans. In addition to facilitating the application process, it will:

- Assist veterans in applying to and transitioning into SCCC;
- Assist veterans in applying for and managing educational benefits;
- Serve as a liaison between the V.A. Regional Processing Office and college offices;
- Serve as a resource and referral source for the county and state veterans offices;
- Provide referrals for mental health services.

In all, SCCC's VETS office will draw upon the experience and expertise of a multitude of offices across the College, including Academic Advisement, Admissions, Career Services, Counseling, Financial Aid, Registrar, Workforce Development and more to provide student veterans with the most comprehensive and efficient educational experience possible. As Dr. McKay states, "These returning veterans are our residents – they are our friends, family members and neighbors. It's the least that we can do to ensure that they receive a quality education and streamlined services in return for what they have done for us."

Sibling Revelry: The Martinez Family

By Drew Fawcett

Did you hear the one about the family with the CPA, the nurse, the hospital executive and the pediatrician? It goes like this...they all graduated from Suffolk County Community College and lived happily ever after.

Sound a bit like a fairy tale? It's a reality for the Martinez family – four individuals hailing from East Setauket who have earned a right to revel in the success that they have enjoyed professionally because of the preparation that they received academically at Suffolk. With more than 100,000 graduates, it may be no surprise that some Long Island families have had more than one member who attended Suffolk County Community College. However, in the case of the Martinez clan, the decision to choose SCCC truly turned out to be a family affair.

Lauren Martinez Cromer, the eldest sibling, is a benefits

administrator at Griffin Hospital, an award-winning healthcare facility serving the southwestern region of Connecticut. She is extremely proud about her decision to start her education at SCCC and her fulfillment has evidently rubbed off on her own kids. "I don't think I'd be where I am without Suffolk. Even though I now live in Connecticut, I sent my daughter to Suffolk where she also had a tremendous experience. She eventually transferred to Stony Brook and just earned a Masters in Education from Hofstra and is now a teacher at St. Anthony's High School."

Next up was **Paul**, who transferred from SCCC to SUNY Stony Brook where he earned both a B.S. in biology and an M.D. from the medical school. He is a pediatrician and is currently specializing in pediatric critical care at Miami Children's Hospital. "For so many reasons, Suffolk was the best school that I attended. I am so proud to represent Suffolk because it was a great experience that set me on my path and changed my life forever."

Eric graduated from SCCC with a degree in accounting and moved on to earn both a B.B.A. in business, as

well as a J.D. from law school. He is now a partner at Grassi & Company, one of the largest accounting firms in the region. "When I think about Suffolk, the first thing that enters my mind is the personal attention and dedication demonstrated by the faculty," he says. "High school students should give Suffolk very high priority when determining where they want to attend college. The professors at Suffolk are outstanding and there is no doubt that the experience I had helped prepare me for the career that I have now."

Little sister **Chrissy Martinez Williams** rounds out the family legacy. A graduate of SCCC, she is a former school psychologist and is currently a registered nurse at Mather Hospital in Port Jefferson. "The nursing program at Suffolk was truly challenging," she says. "It drives students to be the best that they can be and creates outstanding healthcare professionals. With affordable tuition and recognized programs, it presents a true opportunity for families in our region."

Graduates of SCCC who would like to re-engage with alumni or learn about new programs and initiatives at the College are encouraged to visit SCCC's Online Alumni Community at www.sunysuffolk.edu/alumni. "We have many families who have multiple alumni at Suffolk," says Ted Klubinski, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs at SCCC. "Our Online Alumni Community presents an opportunity to reconnect with old classmates, attend special events, join discussion groups, network and even post résumés." More alumni-related information can be found by calling 631-451-4100 or visiting www.sunysuffolk.edu/CareerFocus.

(Left to right) Chrissy, Eric, Lauren and Paul Martinez have earned a right to revel in their respective successes!



Paralegal Studies Propels Students into Exciting Careers

By Mary M. Feder

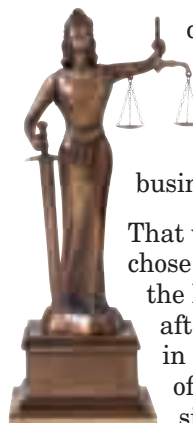
A Paralegal Studies degree does more than provide opportunities in the field of law. Many other industries need paralegals, including real estate, insurance companies, nonprofits and health care systems. According to the Department of Labor and Industry, paralegals and legal assistants are in high demand for the New York Metro area, and the education provided by Suffolk County Community College's Paralegal Studies program is exactly what is needed to enter this exciting career.

Started in 1978, SCCC's program is the only one in Suffolk County that is approved by the American Bar Association, the same organization that accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and assists lawyers and judges in their work and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public. The College's Paralegal Studies program is comprised of students of all ages, educational backgrounds and career goals. Classes are offered day, night and online. Some obtain this degree on their way to becoming lawyers and others find career opportunities right out of school.

"At any one time, we have between 225-240 students enrolled in the program," said Ron Feinberg, Ph.D., Esq., Professor of Business Law and Paralegal Coordinator at SCCC. "A third of our students go directly into the workforce as paralegal professionals; a third go on to law school and a third use this background as a springboard for careers in other areas of business."

Changing Careers with a Paralegal Studies Degree

Cynthia Scesny, an SCCC graduate came from a family of attorneys. Her father practiced, as do her brother and sister. However, as a young adult she wanted nothing to do with the law. Then, she experienced a house fire and all the



difficult legalities it involved. At her mother's urging, she enrolled at SCCC in Paralegal Studies and got hooked on the family business.

That was the second time Cynthia chose SCCC. She had enrolled in the Liberal Arts program shortly after high school and graduated in 1975 with honors. At the time of the fire in 1988, she was a single mother who earned a living by cleaning houses. She had previously worked in the Suffolk County Clerk's Office and was again ready for professional employment. So following her mother's advice, she enrolled in Paralegal Studies.

"Coming into the field of paralegal as an adult took over my life," said Cynthia. "I loved the classes, the teachers, the campus, and the whole experience. Suffolk prepared me completely to make the jump into work without question." In 1990, Cynthia again graduated with distinction from Suffolk, this time with a Paralegal Studies Certificate and as a member of Pi Alpha Sigma.

She immediately found employment in the law office of Spota, O'Rourke and Ammerman as the Paralegal Office Administrator. Soon after, she decided to continue her education in the evenings at New York Institute of Technology and graduated *summa cum laude* in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies.

In 2002, Cynthia became the Confidential Assistant and

Legislative Liaison to Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas J. Spota. Her duties in this office, which employs almost 500 people, include scheduling, budgeting, confidential casework, communications and media relations, among others.

Cynthia serves on SCCC's Paralegal Advisory Board and has participated in several American Bar Association site visits to the Paralegal program on the Ammerman and Michael J. Grant campuses. She also returns to campus to speak to students in the College's paralegal club, known as the "Legal Society". "The college has a way of fostering in its students the value of giving back to the community," she said.

Sophia Perna's life also changed as a result of SCCC's Paralegal Certificate program. Having graduated *summa cum laude* from St. Joseph's College in 2008 with a BA in Social Sciences, Sophia decided to enroll in SCCC's Paralegal Certificate program because she knew she wanted to be in the legal field. After completing the Paralegal Certificate program, Sophia not only got a job in the field, she is currently in her second year of law school.

"Suffolk's paralegal program made a huge difference in my first year at law school. In the first few days and weeks, I could tell that I would be ahead of the other students because of the background I had from my paralegal experience," Ms. Perna says.



SCCC Paralegal Studies Program Facts

- Approved by the American Bar Association
- Flexible course schedules meet your needs
- Online classes available
- Transfer agreements with St. John's University make it easy to transfer credits toward a bachelor's degree.

She also touts the many activities that the Legal Society offers, including Paralegal Studies Symposiums and trips to Washington, D.C. "The trip to Washington, D.C. includes a visit to, among others, the United States Supreme Court to hear oral arguments. The opportunity to add real life experience to my classroom education has been a tremendous enhancement that is not offered everywhere."

Sophia will always remember SCCC as her gateway to a legal career. "It was through my mock interview at Suffolk, when we were preparing for interviews in the 'real world' that I got my current job at Silverman Acampora LLP in Jericho, New York. I researched the firm, prepared a professional résumé, dressed for the interview and when the time was right, asked for a job. Although I didn't get it that day, a few months later they remembered me and reached out and asked me to come work for them, she recalls fondly.

For more information about the Paralegal Studies Program, please call 631-451-4100 or visit www.sunysuffolk.edu/CareerFocus.



Dafny Irizarry, (lower left in the white jacket) Chairwoman of the College Board of Trustees, celebrates the recent Paralegal Symposium: "From Classroom to Courtroom" with members of SCCC's paralegal department.

How to Survive a Bad Boss

Keep your job and your sanity even if your boss is a doozy

A bad boss can turn an otherwise good job into a miserable experience. But that doesn't mean you're helpless. From general strategies to specific tips for dealing with different managerial personalities, you have tools at your disposal.

For example, some bosses fall neatly into one of the following categories:

THE MICROMANAGER



"They ask you to do a job, but then you have to run it by them before you actually do it," said Kathi Elster, president of K Squared Enterprises and coauthor of "Working for You Isn't Working for Me."

One way to work with a micromanager is to have a conversation about what will help you do your job better—making it clear that you both have the same goals.

"Tell the boss, 'I want to perform well,'" says Scott Berkun, a management consultant and author of "Making Things Happen." Then explain that having to give constant status updates is actually making your performance worse.

THE CRITIC



Some people "really see every mistake," Elster says. "This is a very tough one to live with, but you have to say back to them, 'Thank you, I'm going to make that change. Now how about a congratulations for what I did right?'"

THE SPINELESS BOSS



This is the person who "will never go to bat for you," Elster says. Someone who doesn't stand up for his or her employees probably doesn't have much power in the organization. So find another manager who does, and try to get input and help from that person.

THE YOUNGER FORMER COLLEAGUE



It can be awkward when a colleague is promoted to be your boss, or you are assigned to work for someone much less experienced than you are—both.

"You each have something to learn from one another," Elster says, but remember that the dynamic in your relationship has changed. "It's a new beginning: They have power over you now; they can fire you."



Leaving a job to avoid a conflict with the boss is an extreme step. Try to keep in mind that it's a temporary situation, that you're not trapped in that job with that boss forever.

Not every problem boss fits one of these profiles. You can also use more general strategies to improve the situation.

For example, if you find yourself having repeated conflicts with your boss, try to analyze why. "Sometimes it can be patterns that are being repeated from families or other relationships, and there's something about this boss that's triggering that," says Mia Ocean, a Counselor at Broward College in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Remember, too, that communication is key to improving any situation. As tempting as it may be to go directly to your boss' boss, this is not a good strategy.

"The last thing you want to do is jump over the person's head," says Victor M. Ramos, a Student Development Advisor at Daytona State College in Daytona Beach, Florida. "If speaking to the boss doesn't work, then that's when you go to the next level."

In some extreme cases, you may need to leave a job if conflict with the boss threatens your health or workplace rights.

"Try to keep in mind that it's a temporary situation, that you're not trapped in that job with that boss forever," Ocean says. And remember that your current job is a stepping stone toward your larger goals. If possible, you should stick it out and try to make things work with your boss.

Finally, although it may be too late for your current job, make sure to consider the boss when looking at future positions. Salary, title and the commute are important, but they may not make up for a miserable experience with your boss.

"A mistake that many people make is that they focus too heavily on the job and not heavily enough on who their boss is going to be," Berkun says.

Shaping Young Lives

Careers with Early Childhood Education Programs



By Mary M. Feder

If you love working with children and you're looking for a job where you can make a difference, Suffolk County Community College's Early Childhood Education Program is an excellent place to start. With a combination of classroom instruction and supervised hands-on experience, the program prepares students for direct entry into a variety of early care and education positions. It also provides students headed toward a bachelor's degree with a convenient, affordable way to get started with the knowledge that their work at SCCC can transfer seamlessly to some of the top Early Childhood Education Programs on Long Island.

An Evolving Curriculum

When originally launched years ago, SCCC's program mainly focused on how to be an effective caregiver. Today, it's about more than day care - it's about teaching students how to effectively educate young children.

"We're evolving as both the New York State licensing requirements for early childhood teachers and needs of early childhood education change," says SCCC Professor Darlene Hochman, Program Coordinator.

As a result, SCCC now offers two associate degree programs - an A.S. Degree in Early Childhood Education and an A.A.S. in Early Childhood Education. Students who



are interested in a transfer program and are planning to continue their educational pursuit of New York State Early Childhood Teacher Certification (birth through second grade) with the goal of becoming a head teacher in a Public School Pre-K through second grade class are encouraged to pursue the Early Childhood A.S. Degree Program. The Early Childhood A.A.S. degree, on the other hand, is for students wishing to immediately enter the work force in Nursery School, Head Start or Day Care or for those who wish to open up their own Day Care facility or become a Teaching Assistant in a public or private Pre-K, Kindergarten, or Special Education classroom.

The programs provide students with an overview of child development and the fundamentals of early childhood education. Students

acquire knowledge of the developmental stages and needs of the young child and how young children learn. Across the nation, there is awareness and recognition of the importance and value of quality early childhood education to improve children's future learning and lives.

"Children between the ages of birth through 8 years of age are at a critical stage in their development," Professor Hochman says. "Children need the support, opportunities and age-appropriate experiences to become active, curious life-long learners. Early Childhood teachers build upon children's unique learning skills and styles while teaching them to accept themselves and respect others."

Research shows that children with early language and literacy experiences are more likely to be effective readers and succeed in later years. In fact, most reading difficulties faced by adolescents and adults have been shown to be the result of problems that could have been prevented through developmentally appropriate learning strategies in their early years.

"Positive long-term educational outcomes start with birth and early childhood. Effective learning experiences during these formative years are critical to a child's success," says Hochman. "SCCC's programs are about teaching our students the strategies along with the knowledge they'll need to

prepare the children under their care for success later in life."

Bridge to a Bachelor's Degree

Because part of SCCC's mission is to increase access to higher education for students throughout Suffolk County, the transferability of the Early Childhood Education Program's A.S. degree makes it an excellent choice for students who are looking for a practical, cost-effective way to begin their college careers. SCCC currently has articulation agreements with Dowling College and Long Island University at Riverhead to allow Suffolk graduates to transfer seamlessly into the B.A. Early Childhood and B.S. Childhood Education Programs, respectively.

"The A.S. Early Childhood Education Program is new at Suffolk, with its first class starting in fall 2011. I believe that, as people realize the quality of the program that's in their backyard here at SCCC, we'll see the number of people taking advantage of this program to build a bridge to their bachelor's degree in the early childhood education field growing," says Hochman.

Nicole Flores, who graduated the program in the spring of 2011 and is planning on attending St. Joseph's College to study special education said, "At Suffolk, the program represented the most current Early Childhood Education curriculum. With the small class settings and experienced professors, it really made a difference in my learning experience."

Flexibility and Affordability

Because the program offers a variety of flexible scheduling options, it's also an excellent choice for students who have family or work obligations that would make starting a traditional bachelor's degree program difficult to manage. Classes for both associate degree programs are offered day and night and on all three campuses in Brentwood, Selden and Riverhead.

For more about the Early Childhood Education Program, please call 631-451-4100 or visit www.sunysuffolk.edu/CareerFocus.



More Choose Community Colleges

Benefit from the Advantages of a Community College Education

By Drew Fawcett

Community colleges are experiencing a rising enrollment - and for good reason. With an associate degree, individuals are entering in-demand careers and preparing for four-year colleges or universities, all while saving tuition dollars.

Excellent Faculty

Community colleges have top-notch instructors who devote much of their time to teaching and helping students achieve their educational goals. Many faculty not only have excellent credentials, including doctorates, but they have expertise from working in the field for several years.

Small Class Sizes

No 100-person lecture halls here - community colleges pride themselves on their commitment to keeping classes small. That means more individual attention per student and a better relationship with your instructor. Average class size at Suffolk County Community College is 23 students.

Lower Tuition Saves Money

According to the non-profit College Board, the average yearly national cost for in-state tuition and fees at a four-year public university in 2011 was \$8,244. That cost jumps to \$28,500 per year for a private four-year university. In contrast, full-time annual tuition and fees to attend SCCC for county residents is approximately \$4,600.

Start Some Careers in Two Years, Not Four

An associate degree enables you to start a career in a variety of areas, including culinary arts, automotive technology, manufacturing technology, paralegal studies, HVAC/R, paramedic, and nursing, among others. You'll save time and money in preparation for your career. What's more, certificate courses can help you "learn and then earn" even faster. SCCC offers 30 certificate programs, including



accounting, fire investigation, hotel and resort management, information technology, paralegal studies and many more.

Joint Admission Agreements

Many community colleges have agreements with four-year colleges and universities, making it easier for students to transfer and obtain their bachelor's degree. SCCC has agreements with many SUNY and private colleges, including Adelphi University, Dowling, Long Island University, Molloy College, St. Joseph's College and Stony Brook University, to name just a few.

Special Programs

Since community colleges offer courses and services for all members of the community, they are the place to go for specialized programs not offered in a traditional college setting. SCCC offers English as a Second Language (ESL) and General Education Development (GED) classes; Adult Learning programs that provide credit for life experience; and even Early College and Excelsior programs that make it easy and affordable to earn college credits while still in high school.

Set Your Own Schedule

Community colleges serve many different types of students, including

Fast facts about community colleges:

- Between fall 2008 and fall 2010, community college enrollment increased by over 1 million students.
- Total credit and non-credit enrollment is close to 12.5 million people.
- There are more than 1,160 community colleges in the United States.
- On average, more than 800,000 associate degrees and certificates are awarded annually.

Sources: American Association of Community Colleges; Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government; The College Board

parents and working professionals; therefore, it is essential that course offerings are flexible and convenient. Two-year schools provide many options that fit the needs of all types of students, some of which are not found in a traditional college setting.

Suffolk offers early-morning, evening, weekend and online courses to meet hectic schedules. Classes are offered at our campuses in Brentwood, Selden and Riverhead, as well as downtown centers in Sayville and Main Street, Riverhead.

Social Benefits

Community colleges offer robust social opportunities and plenty of school spirit. Many students participate in student clubs,

athletics, theater and student government. At SCCC, students of all ages can explore more than 100 student clubs, recognized athletics programs, intramural sports, music ensembles and more - expanding individual experiences and allowing students to become active members of a thriving college community.

For more information about Suffolk County Community College, please call 631-451-4100 or visit www.sunysuffolk.edu/CareerFocus.

Make Financial Aid Work for You

Quick tips to help the process go smoothly

By Drew Fawcett

Getting free money for college doesn't have to be a difficult process. It's all in the details. Here are a few guidelines to follow:

Apply Early — Don't Wait Until the Last Minute

It's important to apply for aid as soon as possible. The first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It can be found at www.fafsa.ed.gov and it's best to complete the application in January of each year for the following fall term. The application may be completed any time throughout the year, but don't wait until the last minute because some monies may no longer be available. All institutions receive a set amount of some funds from the federal and state government, and after that's gone, you may have to find other resources. Federal Pell grants are always available for those who qualify.

It's worth noting that the Department of Education randomly selects students for Verification, therefore it is beneficial for you to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when filing the FAFSA application. This allows financial aid applicants and their parents to retrieve, directly from the IRS, certain income and other information they had reported on their federal income tax returns and to automatically transfer that information to their FAFSA application. Financial Aid Offices are no longer allowed to collect your Federal Tax Return. If you are selected for verification and do not use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool you will be required to obtain a Tax Transcript directly from the IRS.

Be in Good Credit Standing

If you've been a student before and had student loans, it's important to be in good standing. There is a check through a government database for previous loans to see if you may

have failed to repay. If you are in default of a previous federal loan, you will not qualify for federal aid.

Get Good Grades

Failure to make satisfactory progress in your courses can hinder your future eligibility for aid.



It's important to apply for aid as soon as possible. The first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Attempted credits means all courses registered. Withdrawing or not completing courses will impact your financial aid eligibility.

Make Sure Your Social Security Number Matches Your Name

When filing the FAFSA use your legal name as it appears on your social security card. Names that don't match with social security numbers cause problems and delays. If a woman gets married and doesn't change her name with the Social Security Administration, that will raise questions during processing of the FAFSA. Be sure to change your name and update all your personal information with any changes. This may also raise questions regarding your citizenship, and you may have to produce other documents proving citizenship.

Register with Selective Service

All males 18 years of age must register with Selective Service. This is another check that occurs during the processing of the FAFSA. Failure to do so will hold up your application.

Apply for Scholarships

Suffolk County Community College, through its Foundation, has donor resources to issue upwards of 300 scholarships to assist you with paying for your associate degree and even has scholarships toward your bachelor's degree.

Search for Other Sources of Aid

Scholarships are available from a number of community organizations and other groups.

Local businesses and community organizations may offer scholarships, though you will have to do some checking to find out. Statewide and national scholarship programs also are available.

For more information, please visit www.sunysuffolk.edu/scholarships and review the Student Scholarship Opportunities. You may also contact the office directly:

SCCC Offices of Financial Aid

Ammerman Campus
Ammerman Building – Rm. A16
(631) 451-4072

Eastern Campus
Peconic Building – Rm. 112
(631) 548-2525

Michael J. Grant Campus
Caumsett Hall – Rm. 33
(631) 851-6712

Feature

Music Program Finding Your Voice at SCCC

By Drew Fawcett

Professor Craig Boyd knows a thing or two about finding one's "voice" in the world. A former student at Suffolk County Community College, who is now also the Academic Chair and College-Wide Coordinator of Music, he understands firsthand how to help students find themselves, academically, personally and musically. "Suffolk taught me how to learn – how to get the most out of myself," says Professor Boyd. "Suffolk gave me the opportunity to gain confidence and pursue my passion. It cultivated my mind. It's the kind of experience we strive to provide for everyone who walks through our doors."

Perhaps it's no surprise that SCCC's music department has established itself as one of the leading community college music

programs in the country. With course offerings and other opportunities that rival many four-year programs, students enjoy a unique learning environment that focuses on preparing them for a career in music. Graduates of the program have gone on to become successful in a variety of music fields, including education, conducting, composition, performance, therapy, arranging, law, songwriting, and audio recording.

"Our students are able to develop a musical dialect that is needed to progress in the industry," says Professor Boyd. "The foundation that I received at Suffolk gave me the chops to transfer to Berklee College of Music." While many SCCC students who graduate with an A.S. degree have followed in Professor Boyd's footsteps, others make seamless transfer to such recognized institutions as: Ithaca College, LIU Post, Mannes College: The New School for Music, Queens College, SUNY Fredonia, SUNY Potsdam: The Crane School of Music,

Stony Brook University, and Westminster Choir College.

One aspect about the SCCC experience that elicits particular enthusiasm is the Applied Music Program. Open to music majors through an audition, it provides private one-on-one vocal or instrumental instruction during each semester of study. At the end of each semester, students are adjudicated and receive comprehensive feedback about their performances. As a result of this dynamic attention, music students are better prepared and more poised to reach the next level of success.

In all, there are more than 100 music majors at SCCC and upwards of 1,000 students taking music classes at any given time. The College features 10 ensembles – including an array of vocal and instrumental ensembles – which

are open to all students with participation even counting toward unrestricted electives. The program also includes 8-10 free public performances each year, as well as a valuable and vibrant "Performing Arts Series" that brings in renowned performers and professionals from all facets of the music industry to play for -- and interact with -- SCCC music students. What's more, SCCC's Excelsior Program also affords area high school students the opportunity to take SCCC music classes right at their own high school – including piano, theory and aural skills!

For more details about SCCC's music program, visit www.sunysuffolk.edu/CareerFocus or call 631-451-4100.



Christine Goerke: From SCCC to the Met and Beyond!

Soprano Christine Goerke is a proud graduate of SCCC's music program who has appeared in the major opera houses of the world including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Washington National Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Paris Opera and more. She has also appeared with the leading orchestras of the world, including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra, Duluth Symphony and Sydney Symphony.

Why did you choose SCCC?

I began my studies at SUNY Fredonia. I was planning to be a music education major, and my instrument was clarinet. I never really sang, and found out when I was there taking my placement exams that my voice might have had what it takes to sing professionally. This was a huge bump in the road for me and I decided that I needed

to come back home to Long Island to figure things out after only one semester away. I didn't want to waste any time with my education, and I knew that I could do all of my core work at SCCC. It's why I decided to come to SCCC, but in the end I found that the school had so much more to offer than just core classes.

How was SCCC's music program beneficial to you?

I will say that when I began at SCCC I didn't expect much from the music department. I mean, it's a community college... how good could it be? I was SO wrong. The staff is remarkable. They have an ability to adapt to students of every level and give them what they need to challenge them to learn in the way that is most beneficial to them. I continued to play my instruments (I even learned to play a few new ones while I was there), and began to study singing in earnest. I was able to continue my music theory and music history studies, along with ear

training, choral singing, orchestral playing, etc. The old saying "Never judge a book by its cover" certainly applies to this department.

What have been the proudest moments of your career?

That's a very hard question to answer! I will never forget making my Carnegie Hall solo debut with the Orchestra of St. Lukes when I was 24 years old with the great Robert Shaw conducting. I will never forget my Metropolitan Opera debut not one year later in John Corgliano's "The Ghosts of Versailles" with James Levine on the podium, nor my debut at the Paris Opera or at Teatro alla Scala in Milan. More recently, I sang the title role in Strauss' Elektra in Madrid at the Teatro Real with Maestro Semyon Bychkov. I was double cast with one of my idols, Deborah Polaski. Knowing that I was sharing the stage with someone who was as well known as she is for that particular role, and then having had a great success with it?



It's undoubtedly one of the proudest moments in my career thus far.

Are there any other thoughts to share with our readers?

Yes..if you don't know where life is leading you, try EVERYTHING that interests you. Once you find what it is that you love, hang on to it with both hands and don't give up. My road has not always been easy, and I nearly quit singing at one point; but if I had done that, I would have regretted it for the rest of my life. The things that we love are worth fighting for, and that includes – and MUST start with – the right education.

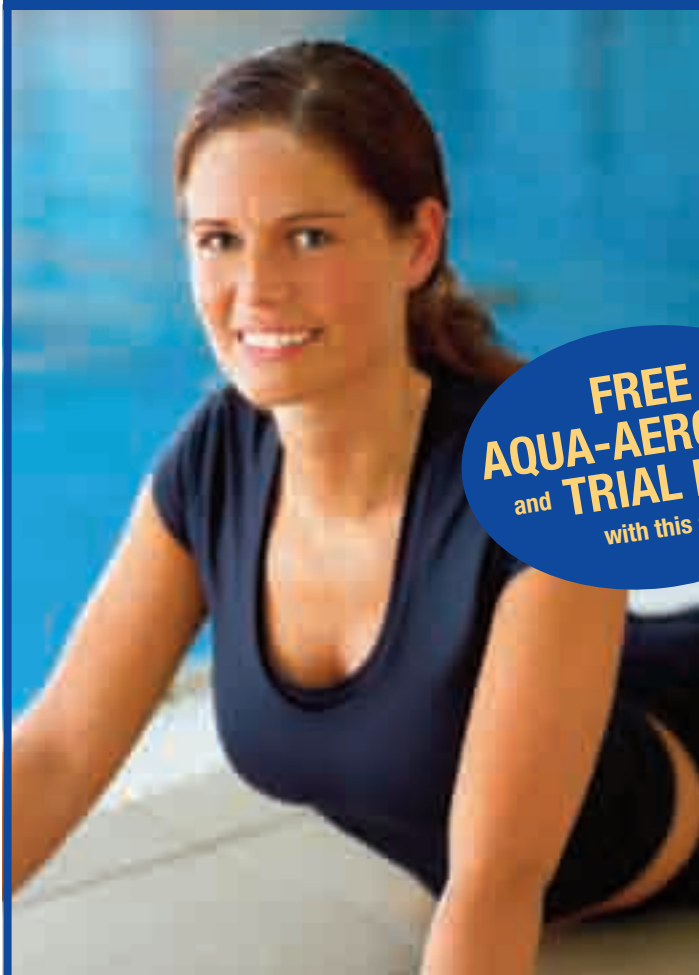


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*Eric Martinez
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