

The Closing of Southampton College



Personal Reflections and Stories

Compiled by the students of
“ENV 205: Sustainable Cities”

Edited by Prof. Scott Carlin

Quotes from Student Interviews¹

As a pristine jewel sitting there untouched for education and affordable education. That being gone, Southampton has lost something really special. The South Fork has really lost something special. --Thomas R. Tartaglia

I've been with the college 36 years...If anyone was to say one thing in particular that you appreciate about Southampton College it is the feeling of camaraderie [and] community. We work very closely together to create the program that we currently have. --Captain Don Getz

Well there won't be any college kids around anymore. This place will be even more abandoned in the winter. -- Wesley Wojcik

Well, the college has been a major cultural influence since it provided a locus for the art community of the East End. We have had many well known artists teach in various ways for us including, Chuck Close, Roy Lichtenstein, Larry Rivers, Eric Fischl, and so on. We also have a successful small gallery that has had the kind of exhibitions you don't normally get in commercial galleries and even in museums. We have a somewhat different take on things in that you can do a small one-person exhibition of an emerging artist from Manhattan and introduce people to that artist. You can have a lecture series to go along with it and a lot of things that are on the educational side. In terms of the arts as a community activity, I think it brought a great deal to this area. -- Prof. Roy Nicholson

Lots of the students do winter rentals and [the closing] also affects [the] employment [of] part timers. And I know some of the kids [who] have graduated have stayed in the community because they like the area and have started businesses of their own. --Carol Thomason

The term 'Publick House' was chosen to be a metaphor for the idea of being a place of community...The college is a big part of our Monday to Friday business, 9 months a year. I for one will sorely miss. And I don't know if there is any thing that's going to fill that vacuum, in the sense of that day-to-day foot traffic off the campus. -- Donald Sullivan

There will be a lot of businesses at a loss. Some of the businesses in the Town of Southampton depend on the students for part time work. Service businesses hire college students to come and work for them. The residents of the area won't have the opportunity to take classes at the college. It will also have a cultural impact on the community, mainly because during the summer, people from the community were invited to take part in the activities that were available on campus. -- Barbara Raynour

Businesses and outlets will lose a lot of winter workers. Some businesses will maybe even lose stores because the students and staff are the ones who support them most. -- Cassie Arroyo

[LIU] could have made it clearer to the student body, faculty, alumni and community that they were thinking of closing Southampton. Building a new library and telling everyone about the improvements planned for the campus is not a way to prepare for a school closing. -- Jillian Staib

¹ These quotes are brief excerpts from the full interviews in the pages that follow.

Students bring a particular kind of life to a town. The Southampton students are from all over the world. -- Peggie Staib

At one point President Steinberg came out and spoke to us and the Provost spoke to us as well. He told us that we have the Board's reassurance that ... we may lose money before we make money. They told us they were committed to sticking with us and proof of this commitment, were Chancellors Hall and the new library. -- Laurie Ridgway

I think the community is going to lose out in two ways: (1) from the business point of view, 1,200 students plus faculty and staff, pump a lot of money into the economy of the east end whether it be restaurants or housing or gas or bars, or whatever, that to a great extent is going to go away ; (2) I think the people who came to the college for the cultural events , the plays, the piano-fests, the book fairs, the writers' conference, all of that: I think they're going to miss it significantly and next winter when there's nothing to do because the College doesn't exist I think it's going to hit home. I think there will be a significant loss on the part of many people in the community. -- Robert Gerbereux

The state-of-the-art library was going to set an example for east end construction, or for educational instruction, and I think people would have looked at that building as a start to have more sustainable buildings or environmentally sound buildings, and now that it's never going to open and it will never be a showcase, is also going to have a negative effect. -- Robert Gerbereux

The effect of relocating the undergraduate program will cripple the local economy because many Southampton College students represent a good portion of the Hamptons' economy, especially during the winter season. -- Raymond Clendenin

The community will suffer a loss of culture: youth culture. They will lose workers, waitresses, sales clerks, and assistants. They will lose capital. Students buy food in the local shops at local pizzerias. They rent houses over the winter, which is good for real estate. -- Giovanna Gizzo

I think that education is important and it should stay open. -- Annabelle Ward

A lot of students work out here and some become teachers. Who is going to fill those jobs now? -
- Robert Rossetti

Well a lot of stores close for the winter or at least close during the week. I don't think it will have that big of an impact. -- Eric Warnken

The closing of Southampton College, for me, is going to be a catastrophe. A catastrophe financially, emotionally, and educationally. I have invested over seven years of my time and energy in this college....Like many people who come around the college for the first time and see our facilities, I was appalled when I first walked into the classroom, and this is going back to '94, '95. The fact that there was limited space, we didn't have enough tables and chairs. My first thought was "how good could this be?" Then I began working with the professors and I realized how good it could be. It was better than good. It was superb. . -- Prof. Helen Mendes

The richness of all the cultural activities, the plays, the seminars, and things like that, that are all open to the public are going to be sorely missed. As far as the business community, they're going to miss all those students that they could hire part time, that's going to be gone. The housing as well, most of the people live off campus. Those are winter rentals. -- Prof. Keith Serafy

Introduction

By Prof. Scott Carlin

The following pages are filled with interviews, personal comments, and facts concerning the closing of Southampton College. The students of Environmental Studies 205: Sustainable Cities compiled this information over the past month. Having spent some time this semester reading about and discussing the importance of sharing stories as a tool for learning about the world we live in, the students elected to focus on the closure of Southampton College for a class project. There are thousands and thousands of people who would want Long Island University to hear their story of how Southampton College has touched their life. So this report barely scratches the surface of this topic.

I came to Southampton College in 1993 under no illusions. One look at my office, then in the Montauks, was all that I needed to know that Southampton College had serious financial problems. My colleagues were never shy about reinforcing that fact on a regular basis. While the problems were obvious, the campus also had an air of invincibility. We were all here to educate and one way or another, the money would be found to keep things going. But the forecasts grew dire as time went on and the efforts to overhaul the campus became more and more aggressive and, perhaps, unrealistic.

What has been most disturbing is that the University decided to close the College without involving the Southampton and alumni communities. The problems were too severe, LIU argued. No further negotiations were necessary.

My own feeling is that the cultural divide that separates the East End from the rest of Long Island also separated the College from LIU. We never really understood each other, and, in my mind, that made it a bit easier for LIU to just cut Southampton College loose.

There are plenty of visions of what Southampton College can and should still become. I think it is quite likely that the College will transfer into new institutional hands. I only hope that the next partnership is more aware of the College's local context and more successful in building upon its obvious and numerous strengths.

My own vision is to see the College emerge as a critical regional leader in the area of sustainable development, which quietly continues to extend its reach into higher education. This fall, Harvard University made a new commitment to join scores of other colleges and universities around the world to make their institutions more sustainable. Southampton College already has several legs up on most other schools because of its obvious strengths and visibility in the areas of marine and environmental science.

Southampton College also has an important 10-year Greenprint legacy, unique on Long Island, to build a more environmentally sustainable campus. Had the College been able to continue its operations, in coming years the College may have opened several LEED certified buildings, beginning with the new library, that would independently attest to the buildings' high level of energy efficiency and environmentally aware design.

In 2003, Greenprint established an ambitious plan to expand recycling, reduce energy consumption, enhance campus landscapings, advocate for a new campus master plan, and monitor and audit campus wasteflows. These and many other exciting projects would have been integrated into staff positions, student clubs, and classroom curriculum. Along with the campus

wind turbine, there could have been a dozen or more learning stations on the campus that would be a focus of student research and education².

This year the freshman class has engaged in an intensive study of the Peconic Estuary and has designed approximately 30 different education and outreach projects to enhance public awareness of the bay and reduce pollution. It is certainly conceivable that this kind of research can be a model for the campus as a whole where classes worked regularly on local environmental, social, and economic problems, including the inter-relationships among those three systems.

The stories in this report are meant to inspire. They are meant to remind us of just how many thousands of ways Southampton College positively influences this region each year through the thousands of lives it touches. Long Island University has chosen to end undergraduate studies in Southampton, but this decision now requires us to examine why LIU's model failed, and it requires that we all dedicate ourselves towards developing an institutional and educational model that will now succeed.

² You can read more about these plans at: <http://www.southampton.liu.edu/greenprint/whitepaper.html>.

Student Introduction **By Amy Guditus**

"We are very pleased with the outcome of these negotiations, because our students always have been of paramount concern," -Dr. David Steinberg, President of Long Island University

"Southampton College is not a business operation, it is a critical cornerstone of the cultural and intellectual life of the East End of Long Island. Closing it down is not an option we should be willing to accept." -Professor Scott Carlin

"With the stroke of a pen, LIU has shattered our dreams and aspirations for the future."
-Southampton student, Lindsay Sargent

"Dr. Avram said he believes the village and the town will take an economic hit in addition to suffering a cultural casualty if no steps are taken to try to make use of the Avram theater and make sure productions continue to light up the stage."
-Pat Rodgers, Southampton Press, ARTS. November 11, 2004.

"Southampton College campus can serve but only one purpose, to be continued as an educational site that will continue to serve the educational needs of the East End as well as the state." -State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

Following the announcement on June 16, 2004 about Southampton's relocation due to fiscal problems, there has been a lot of confusion, distress and unanswered questions about this let down. Anyone involved with this college's operation, and even outside the campus has been affected. This college has brought over forty years of memories, dreams and good education to every graduate since its commencement. In 1963, Long Island University founded the Southampton campus. It is a private liberal arts college with small class sizes, and excellent hands on learning. They have interrupted people's lives and our community based on the board of trustees final decision. Each student and/or faculty member has his or her own story to tell and new headaches to deal with. Even though Long Island University officials like President David Steinberg, are trying to accommodate everyone, it just does not seem to be helping much at all. Most community members ask, "how can a college do this?" or "have you ever heard something like this happening before?"

Having a college campus on the eastern end of Long Island is very important for the area. The college atmosphere itself is something culturally unique. Southampton College is involved with the surrounding community, welcoming locals to come to events like concerts, festivals, and productions held by the theatre program. Already, the location of the campus is in a interesting environment in itself. By having a college atmosphere in the area just makes things more diverse than average. Southampton Town welcomes all different kinds of people from all different kinds of places. Diverse students create diverse communities. The every day social interactions with different people brings healthy vibes to the surrounding area.

No one even wants to think about what will happen to some of the industries once the college becomes empty in August. Some local businesses that could possibly be affected include the local restaurants, bars and clubs, and taxi companies. The relocation of Southampton College will hurt the local economy once there are no more students and faculty who would normally be frequent customers. Students who do not live on campus, often rent housing elsewhere in the community. The real estate market, especially for winter rentals are going to be negatively impacted by the loss of interest. Also, college students are hired by the local employers

throughout the East End. When there will not be willing and able students looking for jobs, the businesses are going to lose out. These circumstances have the possibility of ruining business owners livelihood. What is to come in the futures for those community members, we won't know. It's truly unfair that they have to prepare for the worst outcome.

Theatre productions and the art gallery that are located at Avram theatre on campus will have to close its doors. They bring a special aspect of our culture to the campus and community that would not be around if they did not exist. Art and beauty are developed into the campus culture. So much time and effort is put into every theatre production by the Southampton Players, this loss falls heavily on the ones intensely involved in the program. On June 21, 1990, the theatre was reopened after be revamped through donations made by Brooklyn's alumni Dr. Morrell M. Avram. The Avram theatre is one of Southampton's only performing arts center around. Not having an operating performing arts center will really negatively impact the local community's cultural and artistic vitality. The Southampton Players production's brought together students and community actors. Thus creating a special bond between the campus community members and the local community members.

Future plans?

Southampton Town Supervisor Patrick Heaney has proposed a moratorium on the 110-acre campus and the surrounding Shinnecock Hills area. The proposal for the moratorium will be brought up at the November 23rd Southampton Town board meeting. This would slow the pace on any development of the campus and surrounding area for a certain amount of time. Some people are worried about the campus's future and that Long Island University may put the property up for sale, or have it become subdivided. Long Island University's President David Steinberg, says that it is not the Board of Trustees intentions and they would like to see it sold as an educational institution. This proposal made by the town supervisor is important for the college's chance to come alive in the future.

There are a lot of options for the future solutions of our campus. Some are harder to achieve, but they all should be considered. The collaborating group of people involving students, former and present faculty, local community members, politicians and alumni are called "Save Southampton College inc." They have come up with a couple of solutions and have submitted them to the Long Island University officials. Whether the trustees will actually notice any of them as important to us is questionable. One of the most popular solutions to all this is have the State University of New York education system take over the whole school. This is a popular choice because Southampton would still be able to keep its unique features and students would still be located in the founding area. So far, SUNY Stony Brook will take over the Marine Science program per year lease. Some people think this initiative will make it seem like everything is fine, but there is still all the other programs that wish to be seen. Its important that all programs get the same treatment they deserve.

With the relocation of a college community, the qualities of life will denigrate. Students from the college volunteer their time to positively impact the local community. For class projects, students do local science research on important topics affecting the area, as well as help clean up the beaches, educate younger children on the environment, and promote the use of green buildings. People like Dr. Avram and Robert Sillerman donated to our college because they believed in the college and its students. A once energetic atmosphere coming every September, as new freshman and returning students enter the campus, will never be as it was. Life around the Shinnecock Hills won't be the same for a while. We have been giving no clear answers and have been left to figure out everything on our own. Whatever happens, Southampton College's relocation will impact the region and the populace on several different levels.

Interview with Prof. Keith Serafy
Southampton College
By Zephyr Jost

Q: How will the closing of the college impact you personally?

It's basically devastating – [that] is what it is. Taking what I've loved doing, going on 26 years now, I mean right now I am scheduled to go to [the] Brooklyn [campus] in the city. I live in Sag Harbor. That's a two and a half hour commute by train every day. I feel like I have absolutely nothing in common with my colleagues there. And I am trying to get switched to C.W. Post where I could tolerate it. At least it's a residential campus of some sort, where I could possibly teach some of my courses. There are woods in the back. There are parks near by. But what am I going to do in the city. It's extremely depressing and it will greatly impact my job. I can't imagine enjoying my job anymore. I'm basically going to be counting the days until I can take retirement. Which is very frustrating.

Q: What sort of effect do you think it will have on your associates and the surrounding community?

Well I think it will have similar effects, most people are going to Post, and if I were going to Post I would be a little more optimistic. Still not happy, you know, I think this place is great, and I have loved working here and I'm a marine biologist on the ocean, what am I going to be there, in NY city, on the 13th floor of some building some where? But I think most of my colleagues feel similar. They're not quite as down as I am. They are going to Post, where most of us were told we we're going. Some people want to go to Brooklyn and that's fine but most of the people going to Brooklyn don't want to go there.

Q: What sort of effect do you think the closing will have on this community?

Well, I think that the richness of all the cultural activities, the plays, the seminars, and things like that, that are all open to the public are going to be sorely missed. As far as the business community, they're going to miss all those students that they could hire part time, that's going to be gone. The housing as well, most of the people live off campus. Those are winter rentals. People that own houses with the idea that they are going to rent them to students are now going to find themselves with a greatly reduced pool of renters, and a lot of them are going to be sitting on a house, that they have mortgages on, with nobody to rent them. The business community is going to suffer, and the landlords are going to suffer. Overall the entire community, as far as cultural events, is going to [suffer] a very negative impact. It is a very big loss.

A lot of students come here, they realize what a fantastic place it is, and they never would have known that had they not come here to go to college. And they end up spending the rest of their life here. My wife is an example. She came here as a freshman in marine science back in 1978, the same year that I came. She graduated and then went to Stony Brook and got her Masters and then came back, and has taught as an adjunct here and at Suffolk Community and is still here and living on the East End and she came here from Connecticut.

Q: How do you feel about the decision they've made with the marine bio student being able to go to Stony Brook whatever that really is?

Well, it's not the greatest. I'm disappointed that they didn't...well obviously I would have liked them to say "we'll just take all the students and the faculty and we'll keep it here on campus and bring other things out to this campus as well." That's the way it was sort of portrayed at first. It was sort of like this great thing. And now as it's turning out, they have offered one person a job and none of the jobs that they are going to offer are going to involve tenure. Some of them don't even involve tenure track positions. Which mean you don't even have the opportunity

to try and get tenure. It's just like a temporary job. I'm not even going to apply for it because I would have to give up my tenure at LIU and all that goes with that to maybe take a chance at getting a job that might last a year or two or whatever. And I would find myself out on the street. I've got family to support and all that, I just can't make that decision and few people are. I think the only ones that are planning on applying are people that don't have tenure here anyway and so they may as well take their chances with Stony Brook. They've got nothing to lose. So basically it's just taking whatever students they can find and leaving the faculty behind. ...I think there is a lot more [to Marine Science] than just a list up in Albany listing these courses for this degree. Much of the program was the faculty and the students and you're getting not even half of that. Many of the students are not transferring, so you're losing a large pool of students that are going to go else.

Q: What would you ideally like to see happen to the college?

Well, I personally, think that the best thing for the College, assuming Southampton College is totally out of the picture, I would rather see it be a SUNY campus having nothing necessarily to do with Stony Brook. It would be SUNY Southampton. It could have a marine science program utilizing the facilities. It could have a connection with Stony Brook, which we already have. We have an accelerated program where a Junior, who wants to go on and do there their graduate work at Stony Brook, with a high enough grade point average, can commit to taken courses in a accelerated masters program. We already have those programs. So it doesn't have to be a branch of Stony Brook. I think it should be a small, liberal arts college within the SUNY system.

Interview with Captain Don Getz³
Southampton College Marine Station
By Todd Abenante

Q: What is your name and what is your position at Southampton College?

My name is Don Getz. I'm an assistant administrator at the Southampton College Marine Science facility. And my title is Captain of the research vessel *Paumanok*.

Q: What impacts will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

My future employment is uncertain. I do not know whether Stony Brook has plans on taking on the Marine Station staff at this time. That's the major impact. Of course I empathize with the students and faculty on how they will be impacted by this transition period, and the relocation of our undergraduate programs to CW Post.

Q: What impacts will closure have on your associates?

Well, basically, the staff at the Marine Station and the faculty who are my associates are in the same precarious situation that I'm in and we don't know about our future employment status.

Q: What would you like to see happen at the college?

The best scenario would be for the state to take over the entire campus and we would continue to function as an undergraduate facility under the supervision of New York State.

Q: Do you think the sense of community at Southampton College will be affected?

Most definitely, that's what's unique about Southampton. I've been with the college 36 years, and that's the most significant thing. If anyone was to say one thing in particular that you appreciate about Southampton College it is the feeling of camaraderie [and] community. We work very closely together to create the program that we currently have.

Q: Do you live in the Hampton's area?

Well, yes.

Q: How will the closing of the school affect your community?

For sure. Obviously the economic impact will be quite severe. Staff, fellow administrators and faculty reside in the town of Hampton Bays, where I do. [Will] they will remain residents? Continue to shop in the area and spend monies? [Will] residents [be able to] take advantage of the college's undergraduate, graduate, and fine arts programs? Yes that will definitely have a vast impact on the local community.

Q: How do you feel the students have acted in response to the closing of the school?

The students have reacted appropriately. There are a lot of questions. They are given the option, at least if they're marine science students, to transfer to Stony Brook. The Marine science Juniors are in a more difficult position. Where as the Seniors can graduate this spring. The Juniors will have to take additional courses probably this summer and hope that they can get enough credits to graduate. The undergraduates students not in the marine science program came to Southampton College because of the unique location we're in, the small class size, and the instructor to student ratio. I figure that a substantial number will probably opt not to transfer to

³ This interview took place on 11-12-2004 at 10:30 am at the Southampton College's Marine Station.

Post and may move on to other colleges or universities that may be closer to their particular location or may be economically more viable for them.

Q: With the loss of the undergraduate program how do feel about the diversity of students that will be lost?

Well, I'm of course upset about that, because we have such diversity of students from different walks of life, different backgrounds, different states, different countries, and this will be greatly missed.

Q: How do you feel about Stony Brook taking over the marine sciences department?

Well I think for the students it'll be a win-win situation. For the faculty and staff, once again that remains to be seen. But I am buoyed by the fact that the marine science program Ral Welker started in 1965 will continue and will survive and will still remain the country's pre-eminent marine science program under the State University of New York system.

Interview with Prof. Roy Nicholson
Southampton College
By James Albinson

I recently interviewed Roy Nicholson, a national known artist and teacher at Southampton College. The subject of the interview was the proposed relocation of undergraduate studies from Southampton to C.W. Post.

Q: How did you come to teach at the college?

That's a long story. My wife was the curator at the Parrish Art Museum, which is why we moved out here in 1977. I was an independent artist selling reasonably well. I also have a background in art administration and gallery work. I had done some adjunct teaching at the College and then was hired to teach and be the director of the Fine Arts Gallery. I ran the gallery for about seven years and then gave that up to concentrate more on my teaching.

Q: How do you feel about the college relocating?

Well, I'm not happy about it. This is a wonderful institution that shouldn't be going out of business, so...

Q: How is it going to affect you?

It doesn't affect me as much as it does many other people. One of the sad things is how many people's lives are going to be disjointed and upset. For many it will be a major change. Not having a connection with the place I have invested a great deal in is, of course, upsetting. I would miss the students most of all.

Q: Are you thinking about going over to C.W. Post?

Yes I have the possibility of going to Post; I haven't had the exact offer yet, so I'm not quite sure what I am going to do until I have that.

Q: How do you think its closing will affect art in the Hamptons?

Well, the college has been a major cultural influence since it provided a locus for the art community of the East End. We have had many well known artists teach in various ways for us including, Chuck Close, Roy Lichtenstein, Larry Rivers, Eric Fischl, and so on. We also have a successful small gallery that has had the kind of exhibitions you don't normally get in commercial galleries and even in museums. We have a somewhat different take on things in that you can do a small one-person exhibition of an emerging artist from Manhattan and introduce people to that artist. You can have a lecture series to go along with it and a lot of things that are on the educational side. In terms of the arts as a community activity, I think it brought a great deal to this area.

Q: Have you heard anything new about the Parrish Art Museum moving to the campus?

It's still in the cards. It's up to them and they are still evaluating the situation.

Q: Would that have helped the arts at the college?

Well, the sad thing is that the college was about to expand and go into a new kind of curriculum. The exciting thing was going to be having the Parrish Museum on the campus. It would have made all kinds of connections in terms of the art program. We could have had lectures that overlapped. We could have re-introduced our Arts Management program. There are all types of options and possibilities that would have happened but now even if it does happen, there's no educational institution to back it up, at this point anyway.

Q: Do you know how many people the arts program employs?

It's not just the full time faculty. You also have the adjuncts, the people who are employed in the community to do various things for the department. I really don't know, I have no idea.

Q: What about the students and job placement?

One of the things about having an educational institution on the east end is that we place students elsewhere for internships, co-ops all kinds of things where they are out working for various aspects of the community. Even just to the point of summer jobs such as working in a store. There's a great resource for the local trades people for students for employment. On the educational level, using the graphic design companies, the museums and from the art programs point of view, there's activity and liveliness that the student body brings to the east end and if that's gone things will be duller.

Q: Do any of the local galleries hire your students?

Yes, local galleries hire them. Sometimes they'll do a co-op with a gallery or with the museums. A lot of our students have done internships in the city for instance. This gives them a broader experience. They also get the possibility of going abroad in the number of programs that the college offers. I set up the Winchester School of Art exchange program and one of our students is going this semester and one of theirs is coming next semester, and so it's continuing right down to the bitter end.

Q: I noticed that you have students from all over the world.

That's true. Right now, I have two Korean and one Swedish student in my class. So there is a range, you know.

Q: I understand the art program here is quite extensive. Can you expand on that?

Yes, I think we treat the program, starting with the basics, very well. We do well teaching basic drawing and painting and then we move in a more creative level in the advanced classes. The really great thing we do that not very many other colleges do is have a BFA show where the student has a one person show. It shows them how to be in the public arena and how to function in setting up their own exhibition. They have to do everything from arranging the house guard to the hanging of the work and the opening. That is an experience they don't normally get at another institution.

Q: Will you miss teaching at this campus if it is relocated?

Yes, definitely. You know it's not just the art department but you have people in other fields doing interesting work. There is an interaction between some of the other departments even though you may not think there always is. One of the things I valued the most about this institution is being able to talk with a physicist. It's great. I shall miss that.

Interview with Robert Gerbereux
Director of the Library
By Kasey Jacobs

Q: What is your name and title?

My name is Robert Gerbereux. I'm the Director of the library. This is my 39th year here at the college.

Q: How do you feel about the new library not opening because of the closing?

We were very much looking forward to the brand new building this past September, and we were excited about it. We thought it was going to be a spectacular building for both our campus students and faculty. We think it would have improved recruitment and retention. We think the way it was designed it would have been a destination for students other than its needs for studying and its resources, like the cyber-cafe and computer lab. We thought it would get a lot of use. We were hoping to bring the community in and have a "Friends of the Library" group that would enhance contact with the community and bring in resources and funding from the outside. We were really looking forward to it. Obviously we are very sad we came within 100 days of its completion. We started plans probably 20 years ago and went through a sequence of different designs but never had the money. We were very pleased probably about five years ago when Bob Sillerman offered to put up 5 million dollars towards the 10 million dollar cost and over a period of a couple of years additional funds came in. So as far as we knew, the ten million was pretty well in the bank, so to speak. When the news came on June 15th that we were closing it was a devastating blow because we had just prepared to order the carpets and the furniture, the paint had been picked out, we were pretty well set, and we were starting to talk about how to move the collection and so on. It was very disappointing.

Q: What effect does the closing of the college have on you personally?

Nobody expected this to happen at this time. I was looking forward greatly to the new building, I felt it had great potential and would take several years to reach that potential. We were hoping to stress the fact that it would going to be the first green LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] approved building possibly in NY State for an educational institute. We were going to expand the use of the library to the community. It's a great disappointment to me to see that we're not going to have that capability of working in the new building. I enjoy assisting students. I've also been thinking about possibly teaching in the Palmer Graduate Library School with some of the knowledge I've gained over the 39 years of librarianship. I've thought about taking a sabbatical and doing some research because the library field is constantly changing.

And finally, I've also thought about retiring just in terms of the fact that after all these years doing something I love, it's going to be disappointing to not have it work out the way I had hoped to for the last three or four years of my career. The staffing of the existing library will not be the staff that I've worked for a long, long time. The building will be somewhat redesigned, hours will be changed. So considering the different type of work, the different lifestyle, the different people, it just may be time for me to move on and do something else with my life. Right now I'm taking it one day at a time and trying to see what's best. The thought of leaving is very distressing because of, as I said, the people and the students, and the work that I enjoy doing. At times things change; you don't have control over it. You do what's best for yourself, so at this point I'm uncertain and hopefully within the next couple of months, and LIU comes out with concrete plans with what they're doing then I'll make up my mind. It's going to be sad to see the place change from what it's been because it's been a very enjoyable 39 years.

Q: What drew you to the area of the east end?

Basically the water. I lived in New York City in the Bronx when I was growing up. While I was going to college and to graduate library school I came out here for some summers, made a lot of friends, and liked the area. I actually worked here in the summer of '65 when the college was basically two years old. I worked in the library while going to school trying to get a feel for the profession. When I graduated in 1966, it really wasn't a choice; I wanted to come out here. I knew people, I loved the area, and you know the beaches and water sports. Looking back, I never regretted it.

Q: What effect do you think the closing of the college is going to have on the community?

I don't think that the community realizes the extent of the effect. I think they don't even understand what the ramifications of the undergraduate moving to Post and grads remaining here are. I don't think they understand its 1200 students that are moving, 200 that are staying, but in a totally different way. Graduate students come to class and they leave. There's no need for dorms, cafeteria, gyms, student union, etc. I think the community is going to lose out in two ways: (1) from the business point of view, 1200 students plus faculty and staff, pump a lot of money into the economy of the east end whether it be restaurants or housing or gas or bars, or whatever, that to a great extent is going to go away ; (2) I think the people who came to the College for the cultural events , the plays, the piano-fests, the book fairs, the writers' conference, all of that: I think they're going to miss it significantly and next winter when there's nothing to do because the college doesn't exist I think it's going to hit home. I think there will be a significant loss on the part of many people in the community.

Q: Our class deals with Sustainable Cities, which is why we decided to target how an educational facility will have an effect on the community. Do you think with the college gone or changing the quality of life on the east end will be considerably different?

I think in many ways. The information that was generated through our programs: environmental information, the studies of the wetlands, the environmental studies program, the marine science program all brought information that the town officers could use in terms of studies of the impact of development on the environment and I think that's going to be a valuable resource that there no longer going to be able to have. Who knows what's going to happen to this property if down the road the University decides the graduate program is not financially viable and if this property becomes developed in terms of real-estate, and housing, and co-ops obviously your population density increases, your traffic increases, the whole nature of these 88 acres is going to change and it will have an effect, no question. Personally, I think there will be a negative effect on it.

The state-of-the-art library was going to set an example for east end construction, or for educational instruction, and I think people would have looked at that building as a start to have more sustainable buildings or environmentally sound buildings, and now that it's never gong to open and it will never be a showcase, is also going to have a negative effect.

Q: What potential do you think the school had?

I always felt that this school had great potential and could continue indefinitely with modifications. I think the greatest cause of our demise was the lack of support for the construction of facilities. You know, "if you build it they will come." I felt we were moving in the right direction in the terms of the facilities. I always thought the programs and faculty were top-notch and if we could get the students on campus, again it was a family and I think we're seeing that now with the students who feel very strongly about the campus and don't want to leave. I think it had great potential especially with the new core and the majors. It even seemed like we were turning it around. The registration was going to be going up for this past September

before they made the announcement, and I think over a period of three or four years we could have gotten to the numbers that they wanted. We just needed three or four or five years to do that, and we didn't get it. I do think it's always had great potential and personally, I think considering what we were working with due to the dedication and commitment of people on campus we did pretty darn well.

I think the announcement was premature. They came to us a few years ago and said if you do x,y, and z we will give you three to five years to get over the deficit and to bring in new students and we'll support you with new buildings, etc. From that point of view they didn't give us three to five years they gave us basically one or less than two, so I think it was premature. And I do think based on the enrollment figures now that they're saying at Post, which are much higher than they anticipated, even at Brooklyn, that they could have absorbed the deficit for another year and I think we would have started turning it around next year and reducing the deficit slowly. It was not the right time to close and maybe a year or two premature, and I think that's what hurts the most is that they had given us hope, they had given us encouragement, we did what we needed to do and then they closed before we had the time to turn it around.

It's tough for me to even talk about it.

Interview with Prof. Helen Mendes
Southampton College
by Zephyr Jost

Q: How does the closing of the college affect you personally?

The closing of Southampton College, for me, is going to be a catastrophe. A catastrophe financially, emotionally, and educationally. I have invested over seven years of my time and energy in this college. I am a former alumna of this college.

I took my education courses with Dr. McCann and many other really wonderful professors and fell in love with the College when I came here. Like many people who come around the college for the first time and see our facilities, I was appalled when I first walked into the classroom, and this is going back to '94, '95. The fact that there was limited space, we didn't have enough tables and chairs. My first thought was "how good could this be?" Then I began working with the professors and I realized how good it could be. It was better than good. It was superb. Dr. Macann is a true educator and really gave our class a great deal of joy in being an educator and confirmed my decision that that's what I wanted to do with a good portion of my professional life.

The fact that we've been abandoned, I really consider it to be an abandonment and a betrayal, by the Board of Trustees, by the leadership of LIU, is a heartbreak. It's something that if you've come to any of the meetings you know provokes a tremendously emotional response. On my part, I have said some very strong things, and I stand behind them and I would not retract a word. We have been betrayed. We have been stabbed in the back.

In 1967, the same situation went on where Brooklyn Campus was running a financial deficit and our college and C.W. Post were running on a surplus. The very same comments were used... "that because of the deficit at the Brooklyn center we could no longer keep the [Brooklyn campus] college open because it was siphoning funds from Southampton and Post and this wasn't fair. Now there is an eerie similarity to what we're hearing now from Dr. Steinberg and the management and the Board of Trustees. Who did not even deign to come out and speak to us personally, after we were assured that they would be coming to speak with us last Wednesday. Which also showed the absolute lack of respect for us as professionals, the lack of respect for us as students, the lack of respect and care for the staff.

One of the staff pointed out to me, that during October, when there was an opportunity for the Board of Trustees to come out and play golf at the Shinnecock Hills Golf Course, they all made time for that. They all came out to play golf course... The closure of this campus is something that I don't accept, will not accept, and I'm working with the Save Southampton College Group to see it reversed.

Q: How do you think that the closure of the campus is going to affect the community?

Well, this is going to be an enormous void in all of our lives. As we know, we have the writer's conference that is held here every summer. Happily, I hear, that for now, that is going to be going on this summer. I cannot tell you how many people I have spoken to who have taken a class here. There are elders that come to the CCR room, the Community Outreach room. There are students that come here and do not want to leave their hometown. They want to be able to live at home and attend college. There are many people who are directly and indirectly connected to the College. They may be renting their house to a student, from September to May and then turning it around and renting it to tourists. This is going to have a huge ripple effect that obviously LIU either has not considered, or has no concern over.

Interview with Prof. Michael Disher⁴
Southampton College
By James Carleton.

Q. Would you please tell me your name, and your relationship with Southampton College?

My name is Michael Disher, and I'm a professor in theater here, oddly enough I do not fall into the faculty union. I was hired as an administrator, and theater director, which does not carry an academic contract, even though I teach more students than full time faculty.

Q. What impacts does the closure of the College here at Southampton have on you?

Losing employment throws me literally into a tailspin. I live in Amagansett, which means that even if I were offered a job at C.W. Post, the commute would be hours long each day. I am a home owner, and have dedicated over ten years to the development of this theater program and its discipline. Looking for a career change at fifty years of age is not something I anticipated.

Q. What would you like to see happen in the future here to this campus, to this property?

Obviously I would love to see the campus remain a campus. To me it doesn't matter what name it is under. This has always been a small liberal arts college, where people like yourself can come to me and say "I know your face, I know your name - can we go outside and talk for a few minutes?" You just don't get that at larger universities. Here you're not a social security number; you're a name and a face. I think that's probably one of the greatest assets this campus has to offer. It's not about buildings and location. It's about teachers and students and our relationships. Quite honestly, a good teacher can teach in a pile of mud, as long as he has students that want to learn. I do not want to teach social security numbers, I want to know who I am talking to. As I get older I become dependant upon these students to run this country. I want to know that the world is in good hands, and teaching is my contribution to that.

Q. How do you feel about a larger institution coming here adding larger buildings, and increasing energy consumption, and the impacts that would have on the community out here?

If a larger campus developed on this beautiful piece of landscape, I think it would be comparable to a small business getting run out of town for another Wal-Mart. We don't need another strip mall, nor a larger campus. What we need is the personalization, and the individuality, and the individual attention that a small liberal arts campus provides. Southampton has provided that for years. I think what may be done here will damage not only our physical landscape, but our social landscape as well. I don't think people realize how detrimental this could be to our community.

Q. What do you think the College failed to do? What do you think are the main reasons why this college is shutting its doors?

I really can't speak about people and things that I do not know much about. I think aside from getting into specifics and individuals, you have to look at the situation. I don't see how any business can be run adequately by people ninety minutes away. How can you keep track of your inventory, and your customers if you're not around? It's kind of similar to being an absentee landlord. I don't think it's anything personal; it's just an unfortunate scenario that should have never happen. This should have been an individual institution from the get go.

Q. How do you feel about the effects the closure of the campus will have on the Southampton Players?

⁴ This interview took place on 11/22/04.

Obviously, a huge effect. This has been a student run organization outside of myself and a couple of adjuncts, so if we are to cease production and cease giving theater to the community, then basically you will have no performing arts center from East Hampton to West Hampton. When you consider that the Hamptons is such a culturally rich area, I think that would be an amazing blight upon the landscape.

Q. What do you think about the effects this will have on the local community and local economy?

If you subtract 1,000 to 1,500 students, plus everyone who works here, plus their families, and you start discounting that from grocery stores, service stations, local restaurants, and movie theaters, the consequences will be severe. I don't think people really understand how much this will impact the east end economically. People do realize however how much of a positive impact this campus has had on the local community economically, ecologically, socially, and culturally.

Q. How do you feel about such short notice given to all students and faculty regarding the closure of the campus?

Considering that up until June many of us here thought there was a great amount of momentum to further develop the campus, not just the new library, but the promises of a sixty million dollar building campaign, a new core curriculum that many of us here worked very hard on, and many positive changes that were in the works, to suddenly abort all of those efforts came as a big shock. With the mere fact that the college was not working out, maybe we should have tried to phase it out rather than aborting so quickly. Was it well thought through? I don't think anybody can answer that question until whatever fate occurs. Hindsight is always twenty twenty. Right now we're in the eye of the storm; it is very hard to see where the storm is going to go, and how much damage will be caused.

Interview with Ryan Tamashiro⁵
Southampton College student
By James Carleton

Q. Would you please tell me your name and your relationship with Southampton College?

My name is Ryan Tamashiro and I am a junior here at Southampton College.

Q. What made you decide to receive your college education at Southampton College?

I was under the impression that Southampton College could offer me an outstanding education, and I was promised a chance to receive a degree here at this campus. I have lived on Long Island for most of my life, and have been familiar with the east end's community and its surrounding natural resources for a long time. The question for me was not why would I decide to attend Southampton College, the question was why wouldn't I attend such a promising university? Let me remind you that I was not only committing years of my life to this college, but also to the community of Southampton which I have called my home for the past two years.

Q. What impacts have the closure of the college had on you?

When I heard about the closure of the campus I realized that the future of my education has been uncertain. I have been living in this region for two years, and had no intentions of moving out anytime soon. Since my arrival here at Southampton I have received a chance to work and make money. I work full time in this community, go to school full time in this community, and rent a home year round in this community. When I was told that all of this will be lost if I want to continue receiving an education, I felt betrayed by the board of trustees. The same people who promised me a chance at a degree are now forcing me to leave the life I have created, and start over again in an unfamiliar environment. The unfamiliar environment I am talking about is C.W. Post. The credits I have obtained at Long Island University at Southampton College do not transfer to every S.U.N.Y. school. Therefore I feel forced to apply to L.I.U. schools. I cannot afford to lose any credits I have earned. We students do not get reimbursed for any lost credits while transferring to another university, so our options are slim. We are practically forced to transfer to another L.I.U. school.

Q. How do you feel about those in charge of L.I.U.?

I cannot trust them anymore. The faith and integrity is gone. I wouldn't even think about going to another L.I.U. school, and the thing is they trap you into transferring to their other campuses because some of your credits will not transfer anywhere else. I call it faulty advertising when you promise students a chance to graduate if they enroll at your university and then you close the doors on such short notice. To me Mr. Steinberg and the board of trustees are liars, and obviously unable to manage a university properly. The closure of the campus is their fault and the student population has to suffer. That's what I think about those in charge at L.I.U.

Q. How do you feel the closure of the campus will affect the east end community?

The community surrounding the college has thrived on students looking for employment, not to mention the money spent by students in this community. The workforce will be affected in a negative way. Many business owners are going to have to look for new employees. The Southampton community has given students a chance to work. Relationships have been made, now those relationships will be lost, and that is sad.

⁵ This interview took place on 11/21/04

**Anonymous
College Employee Interview
by Zephyr Jost**

How will the closure of the college impact you personally?

The College office I work in is really like a family to me. That doesn't mean that it's not professional, because it is. It's a very supportive environment of people I have known, some for 15 years and some for 7 years. So that's a loss, those connections. The other is that I love what I do. The students that I work with are pretty incredible people and there is a loss there of being around young people and helping them to pursue their dream. Personally, I will be losing my job as far as I know. The option of being unemployed is very real. Lastly, I used to live on the South Fork, which is where I want to live, it's kind of like another nail in the coffin, in that I got priced out about a year ago and I moved to the North Fork, which is not where I want to live. And now I'm not going to be working where I want. So in terms of the area that I have grown to love, I think this is an absolutely huge power change in a negative direction. Young people energize a culture and the lack of young people is going to make this a more homogenous community, which I think is detrimental to everything.

How do you think the closure will affect the community?

I think it would affect up to some 200 homeowners who have been renting houses to college kids. I don't know how much the students shop; I'm going to guess not that much. College students aren't that wealthy. The major loss will probably be in employment. Places like Kmart bus in employees from Patchogue. We're killing a local environment which is small and supportive. We're teaching young people the wrong lessons. I think one of the reasons we are closing [is that] every single person I have run into has expressed their deepest sympathy about the college closing, [but] I would say 90 % have never put their toe on campus. We have not been able to bring the community in and have them invested in this community in a really long time.

What would you like to see in the future for the college?

I would like it to become a SUNY Southampton that would be devoted to marine science, environment science, allied health, and peace. I think we should use the 2% transfer tax to [have Southampton Town] buy the campus. I believe that is one way we could get the money to keep this place open. We need local community control. We should allow the community to become more involved. Like offering tuition remission to people who offer services that we need.

Interview with Barbara Raynour⁶
Southampton College, Athletic Department
By Danielle Thomas

Barbara Raynour is a secretary for the athletic director. She has been an employee here for 18 years. She's a very hard worker and she does whatever it is that needs to be done for the student-athletes here at Southampton College. She makes sure that the athletes have the proper transportation to get to and from their away games. She is very committed to her job.

Q: How did you happen to come to Southampton College?

Well, one day I was sitting at home watching television. I was relaxing, so I decided to play around on the Internet. I was visiting different college websites to see if there were any secretary positions available. As I searched the web, I found nothing that I was interested in so I decided to check my email. I received an email saying that there was a secretary job available in the athletic department at Southampton College, and here I am.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

The closing of the college will definitely affect my plans on retirement. I've been at this college for the last 18 years of my life and I was planning on retiring soon. Now, I won't be able to enjoy the 4 weeks vacation that I had. Through the years, I've formed relationships with the employees who work here in the athletic department. I also have to worry about finding another job.

Q: What impacts will the closure of the college have on your associates?

I really don't know. I think that the main thing that everyone is worried about is their job. You have people who have made Southampton their home. They've changed their lives because of their job, and now they have to worry about finding another job and moving their family.

Q: What would you like to see happen at the college?

I would really like for the college to stay open. I think that if the college were to stay open, it would benefit the faculty and the students. I would like to see the college stay open as a 4-year school, or if that doesn't work, a 2-year undergraduate program.

Q: What impact will the college have on your community?

It will have an economic impact. There will be a lot of businesses at a loss. Some of the businesses in the Town of Southampton depend on the students for part time work. Service businesses hire college students to come and work for them. The residents of the area won't have the opportunity to take classes at the college. It will also have a cultural impact on the community, mainly because during the summer, people from the community were invited to take part in the activities that were available on campus.

Q: What did you like the most/least about Southampton College?

I liked working here at the college. The atmosphere is wonderful. Southampton is a nice quiet place and I enjoy the view of the ocean. It has very nice work conditions. I enjoy working with the student body, and it is also my residents. The only thing that bothered me here at the college was the communication between the employees.

Q: What was your reaction when you heard about the closing of the college?

I was very shocked because, I couldn't believe that the college was actually closing. I was very sad because, this college has been a big part of my life for 18 years. I also had a lot of anxiety.

⁶ Interviewed on November 9, 2004.

Interview with Cassie Arroyo⁷
Southampton College Athletic Department
By Danielle Thomas

Cassie Arroyo is a Southampton alumna; she was a member of the Softball team from 1994-1998. She was one of the toughest players in the school's history. Cassie graduated in the spring of 1998 and became the assistant coach of the softball team from 1998-2000. In 2000, she became head coach and in 2001 she became the Assistant Sports Information Director, Director of Intramurals, and Head Softball Coach.

Q: How did you happen to come to Southampton College?

In high school, I played softball, and I knew that I wanted to further my career. I wasn't very sure what college I was going to attend, but I wanted to be a part of the softball team. In 1994, I was recruited by Cindy Corwith to come play softball at Southampton College.

Q: What impact with the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

The closure of Southampton College will have a big impact on me. I've been a part of this college for 10 years now. I graduated from the college, and decided to make Southampton my home. Now, I will probably have to move and find another full-time job. I was very comfortable with the area, and I had a very nice relationship with the employee's and those students here.

Q: What impact will the closure have on your associates?

The closure will probably change some of my associate's lives forever. Cindy Corwith, Director of Sports Information, built her career here. She has been employed here for 25 years, and now she has to worry about the closure of the college that she has made her home. Mary Toppings, who is the Athletic Director here at Southampton College, has also been here for 25 years. She's made Southampton her home. She enjoys working with the student-athletes here at the college. Now, she has to worry about the athletic program closing.

Q: What would you like to see happen at the college?

I would like to see Southampton College stay open ... [and] become SUNY Southampton. It's a very nice area out here, and I think that the program will thrive if it's run properly.

Q: What impact will the closure have on your community?

Businesses and outlets will lose a lot of winter workers. Some businesses will maybe even lose stores because the students and staff are the ones who support them most.

Q: What did you like the most/least about Southampton College?

I like Southampton because it is a small school. You know the faculty and students, and you have a good relationship with them. There is a very good student/teacher ratio, and everyone gets the proper education. People work here because they love it here, not for the financial part. I don't like the way Southampton College is managed. I don't think that the college should be closing because of Long Island University. I think that they could find a way to keep the college open.

Q: What did you do when you heard about the closing of the college?

When I heard about the closing of Southampton College, I was working security at the U.S. Open. I stood in shock for 5 minutes, and I cried for the next 3 hours because I made Southampton a big part of my life.

⁷ Interviewed on November 15, 2004.

Interview with Laurie Ridgway
By James Ridgway
November 22, 2004

This interview was done with Laurie Ridgway a 46-year-old graduate of Southampton College of Long Island University in 1990, finishing her B.A. in English. After working in insurance for a short while, she applied for an opening at the Southampton College library as a cataloguing assistant and has been working there for 13 years.

Q: Are you a local of Southampton?

I have lived here since 1981.

Q: Do you have other relatives that have any connection with Southampton College?

In my family there is a big tie to Southampton College. My brother Jimmy was a Southampton College graduate. Actually, when he graduated from Southampton College that is when I met my husband to be. My mother-in-law worked at Southampton College, my husband's aunt, who now takes care of my 7-year-old son worked at Southampton College as well. My sister-in-law graduated from Southampton. My brother in law worked there and another of my brother's went there for a year. My brother who graduated from Southampton College now works at Inter Science, an east end group, as an environmental planner. The owner of Inter Science is also a graduate of Southampton College. As of now one of my sons is attending the college and one graduated last year.

Q: You also live close to the College?

We are very close neighbors to the college living ... west of the campus.

Q: How do you feel about the possibility of the undergraduate program at Southampton College closing?

I feel like it is inevitable right now. All sorts of emotions. I'm mad, angry, sad, depressed, overwhelmed, and betrayed.

Q: What do you think of the presence of Southampton College and the presence of the students in the community?

It adds a huge work force to the community. Many of the kids rent off-campus housing. And the college is a huge employer of the local community.

Q: Have you been offered a job by Long Island University at C.W. Post?

No, I have not. If I wanted to work at C.W. Post, I believe I could get a job there, I believe they would give me a job although not the same position as I am here. But you have to understand that C.W. Post is a long ways from here, it's a nasty drive on the LIE. It is a quality of life issue. I don't have it in me to spend 3-4 hours a day commuting.

Q: What are your plans and preparations after Southampton closes?

It's a huge deal to lose your job. It's depressing to go to work, and to do work for the university. You question why you are doing what you are doing and who cares that you are doing it. But after I found the college was going to close, I immediately enrolled in the Library of Science masters program with the thought that even if I couldn't get a full time job with health benefits that I may be able to get a part time or two part time jobs that would pay more so I could pay for health insurance and earn enough money so my husband and I can support our family.

Q: What is the emotion and feeling around your colleagues?

There is a ton of distrust towards the university and anger towards the administrative department of Long Island University and the Board of Trustees.

Q: How do you think the administrative department of Long Island University and the Board of Trustees could have told the students and employees of Southampton College about the closing of Southampton College, while making you believe that they truly are trying to help you and not betraying you?

We were told many times that the school was having financial difficulties while Tim Bishop was provost and he told us that it was getting down to the wire and that there were thoughts of closing the school. About three years ago, there began talks of revamping the curriculum. This was completed last year. During this time there were rumors of the closing of the school.

At one point President Steinberg came out and spoke to us and the provost spoke to us as well. He told us that we have the Board's reassurance that they understood that there was going to be a change and that the change may not sustain itself and we may lose money before we make money. They told us they were committed to sticking with us and proof of this commitment, were Chancellors Hall and the new library. We were assured of this by the Board Of Trustees through Dan Rhodas and Steinberg came out and said to us, "Don't worry I'll be gone before you are." Those are his exact words. And after we heard that the school was closing and found out that he was not resigning and was looking out for himself it became very apparent that there was not going to be any good feelings and that there was going to be no honor in the way they were going about this ordeal. Complete honesty is the only way to not have felt betrayed and to keep trust.

Q: What do you believe Southampton College is going to be in 5 years?

I believe Southampton College continuing, as an education facility is a pipe dream. I think there is a strong possibility that some building developer or corporation will buy the land and develop it and someone will become very rich from this land.

Q: What do you think would have helped to save Southampton College?

I think the best thing that could have happened would have been if Southampton college could have done was to separate itself from Long Island University. I believe that we have been on different wavelengths for quite some time.

Q: Do you think they pulled the rug out from under Southampton College?

I think it most definitely did and the way they did it was very unfairly done. I think one thing that isn't mentioned that should be is that Steinberg tells us that we, Southampton College, are taking so much money from the Brooklyn students who are so poor and borrowing money for their education. No student or staff member and very few faculty members are asked how to run the business part of the University so when these are the answers they come up with it makes us feel they are inefficient at running this business and we are being asked to pay the price for the inefficiency. The library they built is a shell of a building that money was sunk into, now just sitting there, and the effort that went into the new curriculum and now are useless is just asinine. The rug being pulled out from under us is mildly put.

Interview with Carol Thomason⁸
Owner of Morris Studio
By Jacqueline Sherman-Smith

Q: How long have you lived or worked in the Southampton Community?

I have lived in Sag Harbor full time since '72. I have worked at this store for 25 years.

Q: Do you have family, friends, or any relationships with Southampton College?

I took courses at Southampton College for fun and our employees have gone to Southampton.

Q: What drew you to this community?

I lived with grandparents in a house in North Haven. I like the ocean, though the small town atmosphere is a double edge sword, the good with the bad, being a resort community.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

Personally it affects me because I did try to go to some of the lectures at the college. If you're a resident the area was trying to get a degree audit from the college to go back to school. Thinking of my son it could be an alternative because he isn't really sure what he wants to study. I finished college and went to NYU and went to work and took night courses and if I had ever gone to NYU right after high school I probably would've been home.

Q: What impact will the closure have on your associates?

At the store we have had part timers and [we] worked around their schedules and have done co-ops and they will be missed. As far as the business part of it I don't really see it as being a big loss because the students go to the city or get materials from professors but I don't see it as a horrendous loss in business part of it. But, we will definitely miss the people.

Q: Have you ever gone to Avram Theatre or the Children's School?

No, but my son went to the summer camp up there, the regular summer day camp for 2 or 3 years. But, Dave (fellow employee) has gone to Avram theatre performances.

Q: Do you think the closure of Southampton College will impact environmental aspects of the Southampton community?

I'm more worried about it being developed and sold for millions of dollars.

Q: What would you like to see happen at Southampton College?

I would like it to stay because I think the marine science program is very good and the art program is good. I enjoy going to lectures up there. I think it's a good alternative for some of the local students to be able take a couple of courses to keep in academic involvement up there until they figure out what they want to do.

Q: If it was going to become a SUNY school would you like that?

I would be ok with that. I did read the letter in the paper saying that it wouldn't be the same. The marine station was open all the time and could go down there whenever they wanted to though at Stony Brook it would be different. From my viewpoint, [it would be easy] for my son to go up there.

⁸ Interviewed November 11, 2004

Q: How will the school closing affect your community?

I think that they're going to feel it in the rentals. Lots of the students do winter rentals and [the closing] also affects [the] employment [of] part timers. And I know some of the kids [who] have graduated have stayed in the community because they like the area and have started businesses of their own. For example, David Kornrumpf, a graduate working at Morris Studios, stayed in this area - along with many others of his graduating class. Generally he is against the whole thing as well as [the College] being developed.

Q: What do you know about Southampton's Colleges situation at this time?

Right now leasing to SUNY for marine science part of it and other students are going to have to go up to C.W. Post.

Q: Do you feel this is fair to the students?

Myself, if I was a student, no! For freshmen I feel the process will be especially hard to reapply to schools.

Q: Do you value continuing education?

Yes! I would have taken more courses.

Q: How will Southampton's College closure affect your own quality of life?

Except for the fact that I'm going to have to work more, because we have the part timers we will have to work more, having to hire people who walk in the door and high school students who are unreliable.

Q: How did you feel about the closure being announced in June, after all the students had gone home for the summer?

That didn't bother me as much as thinking about in June the kids; freshmen, sophomores, and juniors too, that were incoming are going to really have to be running around to get their lives in order.

Interview with Donald Sullivan⁹
Owner of Southampton Publick House
By Jacqueline Sherman-Smith

Setting: In bar sitting with beverages and music in background

Q: How long have you lived or worked in the Southampton Community?

I have lived here seasonally or year round since 1980 and ... have had year round residence since 1987, give or take a year. I have worked at Publick House since it opened in June of 1996.

Q: Do you have family, friends, or any other relationship to the college?

I have developed friends that have either worked there in the past or are still employed, ranging from Wally Smith, the current managing director at LIU Radio to Tim Bishop ex-Provost. I know a whole host of administrative people about a dozen or more over the years.

Q: What drew you to this community?

The beach, as a high school student, in 1979 you could rent a house in the summer with high school and college students believe it or not. I got a job 2 days later and have been stuck here ever since.

Q: What values do you have in your own life that would correlate to the Southampton College, or education, the theatre or the community?

It's funny you mention the theater, Avram. I have facilitated through Mike Fisher an annual event involving the Parrish Art Museum, of which I am a trustee. We have had a business council event held in October, an annual comedy night at the Avram. [It] was one of those events [where] 2 major institutions in the community combine their resources and help each other out. We would pay for Avram for the night and they could provide a forum for an event to bring a couple hundred people. Which Parrish couldn't capacitate. As a trustee of the Parrish I was very excited thinking of the Parrish building their own museum on the acreage. Well now it's completely tied up due to the announcement of LIU. Listen I'm a trustee and I'm the one of the guys who'd write the check and I don't know. Right now we are in limbo until there is a clear direction about what is going to happen to the campus the Parrish and the museum will not make a definitive offer to buy the 9-10 acres. We are prepared to buy it and we just took a vote in January to allocate and commit upwards of 40 million dollars for the property and build the building. That is in complete disarray. So when you mention the effects of this decision by LIU to disconnect it has major ripple effects that will take years and years for people really to feel.

You mentioned values. My children have gone to the summer day camp. I have an eight year old and a six year old. For four years I sent my children from 1998 through the ensuing 4 years. They both went to the summer camp, which was administered by Laura Lions to Marge Hultberg who past away, God bless her. Publick house hosted three major fundraisers for the Children's School dating 1997- 2000 with Kathy Bishop. We would do annual donations to office dollars, gift certificates, alumni offices, a venue for alumni brunch before ceremonies, alumni discount for weekends, [and for] parent weekends we would do offers to families to dine here at discount. The athletic office, from the days of Sidney Green [who] was the basketball coach men's, women's basket ball, girls volley ball, field hockey - we provided upwards of \$500-1000 dollars a year in sponsorship. So if there is a small business that worked the college so to speak and worked for the college it was us. Both through student level and through

⁹ Interviewed November 15, 2004

administration and faculty. To me it's going to be a blow. Not a day goes by that we don't have someone with some connection to the college either day to day or peripherally from day to day table two for lunch.

Q: What impact will the closure have on you personally?

Well my business is personal obviously. I think we would lose upwards of half a dozen specific dinners, meetings, events, we would host end of year departmental events, and we would host either athletic or particular department meetings both formal and informal. We hosted just the athletics' programs teams, women's volleyball, women's basketball, men's basketball not every year but often end of season dinner would be held here that was almost annual. One year we did the whole athletic department end of the year award program. Even the adult-ed classes often the administrative people would be here. We're similar to the restaurant/bar that is usually on a campus or right next to the campus in a more traditional environment. Where that much foot traffic flows off the campus into the restaurant. We ended up being that type of establishment quickly. I mean we're only been open for 8 years but it happened fast because of my staff's relationships with Bishop, John McCrudden, Laura Lions... [and] a whole host of people.

Q: Do you think the college helps balance out the winter season?

The term 'Public House' was chosen to be a metaphor for the idea of being a place of community. So, off season we do a lot of hustling I call it, networking with community groups and institutions, and that is town hall, the hospital, the college, the school district personnel, administrative personnel those are the things that are here Monday to Friday and arguably to 45 to 52 weeks a year. That's what keeps us open. Whether the college is a small college or a less-than-capacity college the fact is the college is a big part of our Monday to Friday business, 9 months a year. I for one will sorely miss. And I don't know if there is any thing that's going to fill that vacuum, in the sense of that day-to-day foot traffic off the campus.

Q: What would you like to see happen with Southampton College?

I'd like for the current facilitators, the LIU trustees as well as elected officials who are involved in negotiations to realize the long-term impact and really commit to maintaining an educational facility. Whether that means Stony Brook or SUNY I would prefer to see Stony Brook because SUNY has a strong presence on the island already. If they can either bring in another third agent to the campus and by third I mean The Parrish Art Museum being a new agent to the campus and come up with some way to further utilize the infrastructure of the campus. I mean the population base here is not enough to probably support a traditional thriving campus, but there's no reason we can not come up with a commercial enterprise that is either nonprofit or semi-public to help capitalize on what's there as opposed to carving it up piecemeal some private, some public, some development. It seems to be, as always when there's a logjam, it's seems to be more personality involve than administrative duress. That was brought to the floor by Newsday and when you read the articles of Newsday this past summer it was pretty coherent in it's time line. And it made a lot of sense. Whether all of it is true or not though at this time it's irrelevant the fact is we are going to have a major hole in the community and no one seems to have reasonable solution. Ken Laval talked about a quick expedient solution and here we are 5 month later.

Q: What do you think about the timing of the announcement in June?

I'm not knowledgeable enough to know but I think that it was probably not a case of timing in terms of trying to communicate a message with a strategy. I think that people either turned a blind eye you could've made a difference over the years or it just snowballed on them so quickly that they did not put up the appropriate strategy to combat the severity of their problems.

I'd like to know why our new county executive Steve Levy is not day-to-day involved in this. I mean they talked about the State; the State has got bigger problems, but a new county executive he wants to make a difference. We have a new eastern legislature, who is Jay Scheiderman and I haven't heard boo from Jay Scheiderman and he [was] elected to represent this district from Moriches to Montauk. And all he's talking about is a trivial tourist action. This should be on his front plate, front door, front burner like nothing else. You can quote me on that. Steve Levy and Jay Sneiderman, if anyone could get something done it would be those two working with our federal congressman Tim Bishop. Congressman Bishop seems to be in touch with what's happened and I'm sure his heart is in the right place.

Q: What do you know about Southampton College's situation at this time?

Too little! *Laughter* I mean that's somewhat comical. The info comes out in dribs and drabs other than the bombshell they dropped. You know there was a sense of energy initially with the elected officials and like everything else with elected officials it goes into a tortoise like time frame and the clock [is] running fast. They owe you. They owe the students. They owe the faculty. They owe the community. That's the LIU Trustees that owe you. They owe people who have made commitments, made decisions, took student loans, bought homes have mortgage payments, and employed people, paid the taxes. That's [the] people they owe.

Q: How do you think it will affect the students?

I would think nothing but negatively. How do you talk about commitment and do diligence and ethics when you were blindsided as a student? Where does the student go now? I'm surprised that there hasn't been some type of initiative by the parents or students, that there has not been some collective group formed, because it's not the students frankly. The student can recover, but the family of the student is making sacrifices. They are re-mortgaging homes and taking out loans. They're doing what they have to do. To have that monkey wrench thrown into your family economics - there aren't that many families that can easily shift those assets, saying "oh it is ok you loose 6 to ten credits, oh and I can switch or change". That's one thing I'm surprised there hasn't been more of a coordinated parental message. You should contact the Southampton Business Alliance because I'm on that board as well. The Director's name is Ann LaWall. I think the Business Alliance should be more vocal about the effects [this is] going to have on the mom and pop type of businesses we have.

Interview with Wesley Wojcik¹⁰
Peconic Beverage, Southampton
By Patrick Fenlon

Q: How long have you lived or worked in the Southampton area?

I moved down here a little over three years ago from Maine.

Q: What have you heard about Southampton College's closure thus far?

Well, not much other than the fact that it's closing after this year.

Q: What drew you to this community?

It's beautiful out here. The summers are great and I have family out here also. Who wouldn't want to live out here?

Q: How does Southampton College's closure affect you personally?

Personally I guess it really doesn't have a huge impact. I don't really know anyone that works there or anything like that.

Q: What impact will it have on your associates?

We currently have three people that go to Southampton College working for us. One just graduated. They all have worked out here for the summer as well which is the busiest time out here, which was really helpful. We'll be forced to hire new employees other than the college kids when the school shuts down.

Q: What would you like to see happen at the Southampton College?

I think it definitely should stay a college. It should be made into SUNY Southampton. I think enrollment would go up if it became a SUNY school. The tuition would go down which would help out getting more students as well. It makes sense to do something like that.

Q: Do you think it will have an economic effect?

No. The summer is the time everyone out here makes their money.

Q: How will the school closing affect your community?

Well there won't be any college kids around anymore. This place will be even more abandoned in the winter.

Q: Do you value continuing education?

Yeah, it's important.

Q: How will Southampton College's closure affect your own quality of life?

I'm not really sure if it will really affect it too much. We're just going to have to scramble around and find new workers to help out when the college shuts down.

¹⁰ Interviewed November 18 2004

Interview with Thomas R. Tartaglia¹¹
Suffolk Community College
By Todd Abenante

Q: Good afternoon, can you please give me your name and title here at Suffolk Community College?

My name is Tom Tartaglia. I am a counselor at Suffolk Community College. My specialization in counseling is that of the transfer coordinator. I help people get out of Suffolk and into a four year school.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

Me personally, probably not a hell of a lot to me personally. Meaning, so I'll feel bad for the people I know who go to Southampton as a graduate or graduated from Southampton. And although I know it is like a jewel in Long Island, I'm not sure that personally I will be impacted by this or affected by this whatsoever. I doubt if that is what you're looking for, but personally I'm being honest.

Q: Do you know any alumni from Southampton College?

There are a number of people that I've known that have gone through there [Southampton College] because of my position here at Suffolk. People like yourself (Todd), who have graduated here, kind of moved on and done their thing. But nobody [that I know] personally - no friends, no family, or anything like that. So, it's really just been my function here as the transfer person [at Suffolk Community College].

Q: What impact will the closure have on your associates here at the College?

And that would be quite different. Professionally, the closing of Southampton College really does impact me as well as Suffolk Community - West. Southampton College was kind of taking up a real niche. There aren't many schools that can have that niche. And so it takes away an option, certainly which was really special.

My [oceanography] colleagues, are people who are very happy to recommend Southampton College, and have a relationship with Southampton College. And the closing of Southampton College has an impact on them. So when I'm often speaking with them about, "what can I do with this student? Do you have any contacts, or a program here or there?" Well, Southampton's not an option for them anymore. And since that was the jewel of Long Island for marine sciences, that really hurts our science and marine biology programs.

Students at the Riverhead Campus, where we have a marine science technology program, are not going from there into Southampton College anymore. So it directly impacts more on our Riverhead Campus. That is closer to Southampton College and that is where we have specialized programs in marine science. And so that is a real big impact.

Q: Do you think that a sense of community will be affected?

Will that community be affected? Without question in many different ways: first as a pristine jewel sitting there untouched for education and affordable education. That being gone, Southampton has lost something really special. The South Fork has really lost something special. There's a problem here. More to the point, development is a problem! And man, when that community has to deal with Southampton either being sold or being developed, or the actual property being taken away and being used for other purposes that is going to ruin Southampton College. It's going to ruin the whole community.

¹¹ This interview took place 11-12-2004.

Q: With the loss of the undergraduate program, how do you feel about the diversity of students that will be lost?

Southampton College catered to a pretty specific population, so I can't say how much diversity was there. However, that [campus] was a very diverse part of LIU. LIU, I believe has five campuses and when that part of LIU closes. Now LIU has lost a great part of the diversity, because I know what LIU looks like in general. Southampton College really added to that. So the diversity of LIU is certainly changing because of Southampton College's closing. On the campus itself I'm really not certain how it's impacting on the diversity there.

Q: Do you feel this will have a big impact on the sustainability of the community itself, as a whole?

No, I think the community will pull through. There will always be a community out there. Southampton College isn't the community. Southampton College is a great part of it. But that community will thrive regardless. It will change. The face of it will change, depending on what happens to Southampton College. If it's taken over by developers, you're going to get a lot more traffic out there. Traffic sucks as it is. You're going to have some serious problems with the community.

When people say we should be afraid of the earth, you know, let's save the earth. I often think of George Carlin's view. "We want to save our own ass, the earth is going to be fine. It's going to keep on traveling with or without us and it's our own ass we're concerned about not the earth." So is it really Southampton College or is it our own ass we're concerned about?

Q: How do you feel about Stony Brook taking over the marine sciences department?

I'm well versed in Stony Brook's departments and what they're capable of and their affiliations with the University hospital, one of the things that make their sciences programs really special. Stony Brook will do a good job with this, but right now Stony Brook is having their own financial difficulties - SUNY is having its own problems. Stony Brook has its hands full as it is. The population is really strong right now. Are they going to increase enrollment because they took on a new program? I'm not so sure about that. Are they going to let more international students in? I know that's not happening for a fact, because I know international students are getting pushed out. So is Stony Brook going to look at things and programs and people the same way [as Southampton College]? Not a chance. Stony Brook will probably do it okay it's never going to be the same.

**Interview with Jillian Staib
Southampton College Student
By MaryKathryn Scott**

Q: Please, introduce yourself.

My name is Jillian Staib. I live in Jamesport NY with my family. I have always resided on Long Island near Southampton College. I am currently attending Southampton College. I will be graduating in December 2004 with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration.

Q: Why did you decide to go there? What drew you there?

Out of about ten schools I applied to during my senior year of high school, Southampton College was not one of my choices. I decided to go to school at Loyola College in Maryland. While at freshman orientation in the end of July I realized the school was not the right fit for me. Since it was so close to the beginning of fall semester I had to find another place to go. The other colleges I applied to were no longer accepting any new freshman. So my choice to go to Southampton College was made because I could go there for one semester, live at home and then transfer to a school out of state, which is exactly what I did. I transferred and attended Salve Regina University for 3 semesters. My decision to return to Southampton was based on experiences I had seen among classmates at Salve who were graduating. It worried me that the majority of them had never had an internship and most had no job lined up after graduation. I knew from various sources that Southampton College had a good internship department and that was something that was very important to me. I did not want to graduate and have no direction. I felt Southampton College could give me the direction I needed.

Q: What good things happened to you because you went to Southampton College?

The best part about attending Southampton College was the career and co-op placement support I was given. Upon returning to Southampton College, I met with Vee Bennett who really helped me to find an internship that I could learn from as well as make valuable connections. I was placed in an internship at Naturopathica, which is an all natural luxury skin care line and spa based in East Hampton. The career placement office proved to be vital contact that I needed to secure an internship that I would have otherwise not been exposed to.

Q: If you did not get this job what do you think you would be doing after college?

If I had not gone back to Southampton College I can imagine that I would not know what I was going to be doing after graduation. I am in a good position now because I have been offered a job with the company I have interned with. Even if I was not to take a job with the company I am currently with, I have options because of the contacts I have made through my job. I learned more about the business world through my internship than I did in most of my business classes. Colleges often claim that their job is to fully prepare a student for the workforce through education in the classroom. Southampton College gave me a better education because they allowed my job to be my classroom.

Q: How do you feel about the college closing?

While I understand the financial reasons the college is closing, it still bothers me that the college will not stay open and at least allow those already enrolled to continue their education and receive their degrees from Southampton. This financial problem at Southampton College did not happen overnight. They could have made it clearer to the student body, faculty, alumni and community that they were thinking of closing Southampton. Building a new library and telling everyone about the improvements planned for the campus is not a way to prepare for a school closing.

Q: Will it affect your life in any way?

The college closing will not directly affect my own life in any way since I will have already graduated. It will however, directly affect the lives of members of my family. My sisters are graduating from high school this year and had planned on attending Southampton College. They are disappointed that Southampton College is no longer an option.

Q: What would you like to see happen to the college after it closes?

I would like to see it taken over by another educational institution.

Q: How do you think the college closing will affect Southampton town's businesses, culture, etc.?

Since the area is so seasonal, I think the college closing will have a negative impact on the town throughout the winter months. The rental business for real estate offices and homeowners will be much different next year. While in the past the rental market for winter rentals in Southampton and the surrounding area has been greatly dependant on students there will be none here next year. The students of Southampton also contribute to the workforce throughout the year. Many businesses not only rely on the students as a customer base but also rely on them as staff.

Q: When you are an alumna would you or do you think that contributions should be made to save the college and would you donate?

Contributions would help the college stay open. However, I do not think that large contributions are easy to get. Southampton College is a liberal arts college that does not produce a vast number of high-income earners such as a school that specialized in investment banking. Investment banking tends to yield alumni who make money and are in the financial situation to donate to the school that they went to. People also like to donate to colleges that look nice. While Southampton is located on a beautiful piece of real estate, the college itself is worn and outdated. Would I personally donate to the college? If I felt the college administration was being fiscally responsible and making positive changes toward future growth I would consider donating.

**Interview with Peggie Staib
Connetquot School District
By MaryKathryn Scott**

Q: Please, introduce yourself.

I am an alumna [of Southampton]. I am a mother of four and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at the Connetquot School District.

Q: Why did you decide to go there? What drew you there?

Location, location, location! I needed to raise my family and I wanted to educate myself, so without a school so close it would not have been possible.

Q: What good things happened to you because you went to Southampton College?

I went to Southampton after having four children. The schedule was flexible enough for me to acquire my Bachelor's and Master's degrees without compromising my family. I would not be the Asst. Supt. without the start I got at Southampton.

Q: How do you feel about the college closing?

I think it's terrible. The option of attending college close to home is gone. My daughters were planning to apply to the college that their uncle, mother, and sister attended! How sad!

Q: Will it affect your life in any way?

It will affect the lives of my children; therefore it affects mine. My twin daughters will be graduating [HS] soon and they were thinking about going to Southampton College.

Q: What would you like to see happen to the college after it closes?

I would love to see SUNY come in and take it over so that it can continue to be an option for college-bound students.

Q: How do you think the college closing will affect Southampton town's businesses, culture, etc.?

Students bring a particular kind of life to a town. The Southampton students are from all over the world. They will no longer be a presence; therefore, diversity will decrease.

Q: As an alumni would you or do you think that contributions should be made to save the college and would you donate?

I have donated to the college.

Q: Any comments or recommendations you may have?

Consider forming partnerships with school districts/other institutions of higher education in order to be able to continue offering college-level courses.

**Interview with Gina Cariello
Freelance Photographer
By MaryKathryn Scott**

Q: Please introduce yourself to me.

I graduated in 2002 with a Bachelor in Fine Art concentration in Photography. I am a 25yr old, freelance photographer, from Riverhead. I currently work a few mornings in NYC for "The CBS Early Show", and I also work part time in a photo store in Mattituck. My goal is to have enough work in my field and keep learning more about today's technology in photography. My field has changed drastically in the past 10 years.

Q: Why did you decide to go there? What drew you there?

I originally wanted to go there, as a freshman. First reason was the old photography professor was excellent. Second it was 10 minutes from my house. After going away for two years at a "purest" art college, SUNY Purchase, I needed a more up-to-date, learning environment. I needed to know about Photoshop, digital, lighting, & work environments for artists, which my first College was not teaching me.

Q: What good things happened to you because of attending Southampton College?

I learned a lot about photography, history of photography, and Photoshop. I had good relationships with my professors; I still keep in contact with two of them. I did my "CO-OP" with Julie McConnell and she still hires me every now and then to assist her in her Studio. I had my first Gallery show at the Avram Gallery in May of 2002. My GPA went up to a 3.96 because I was so interested and loved the way that each class was a small group so we can all learn about each other's art and were able to have conversations about it on a personal level.

Q: How do you feel about the college closing?

I think it's BULL...Truthfully; it makes me feel like my degree will be looked upon as a joke, which it shouldn't. The College provided so much, and I know it's not going to be available, [like] Study aboard [programs], going on a boat for months at a time [Seamester], Drama Club, The litho courses, etc.

Q: Will it affect your life in any way?

I could never go back for any courses because of my busy schedule. Now I will have to go to Suffolk Community, which to me the courses aren't up to par.

Q: What would you like to see happen to the college after it closes?

If it is going to be a college for Grad students, it better have a very exclusive program and the tuition should not go up. I would like to see also some type of Marine studies for the public. Since Southampton is known for marine studies, that program should not be forgotten.

Q: How do you think the college closing will affect the town's businesses, culture, etc.?

Well I think it will definitely hurt business in town. The art supply stores will lose business, Dunkerley's, Morris Studio, the pizza place, and bagel place will lose out and so will the bars and restaurants. The population of people who lived in the dorms alone will hurt the town of Southampton. The busy college student who has to get school supplies in a jam, and then grabs a small bite, and after a long day go out with a few friends.

Q: As an alumni would you or do you think that contributions should be made to save the college and would you donate?

If it was to save the college, yes!

Interview with Raymond Clendenin
Southampton College Student
By Ivan Krevolin

I'm an Undergraduate student in the BS/MS of accounting program at Southampton College. I live on the Shinnecock Indian Reservation. I've lived on the reservation for 7 years.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

I won't be able to finish school and get my degree. I would have to travel to another college and it will affect me and my scholarship, which is called the MANDISH scholarship. This scholarship is ONLY offered by Southampton College and not anywhere else. Also, I don't have a car so I depend on Southampton College because it's about five minutes from where I live and C.W. Post is in Nassau County and about 65 miles west of me.

Q: What impact will the closure have on your associates?

This will affect some members of the Shinnecock Nation because they work on campus as maintenance and campus faculty/staff.

Q: What would you like see happen at the College?

I would like to see SUNY take over Southampton College because they can attract and promote this college with its Marine Science, Education and Creative Writing programs. Also the cost of attending this college would drop significantly, which would attract more students to attend.

Q: What effect will the closure of the College have on the community?

The effect of relocating the undergraduate program will cripple the local economy because many Southampton College students represent a good portion of the Hamptons' economy, especially during the winter season. Many businesses will suffer and some businesses depend on the students. Not only the fact that we spend money but because many [students] work for the local businesses. For example, Atlantis Aquarium in Riverhead is mainly volunteers of Southampton College students. Some stores at Bridgehampton Commons are run by students themselves. They open and close the store for their managers. In Hampton Bays, many homeowners rent out their houses to students for off-campus housing. Now they will have to look elsewhere for people who are willing to live in their houses.

Q: What is your most memorable moment at Southampton College?

My most memorable moment at Southampton College would be working in the cafeteria. Meeting new people and getting to know them was very cool. That shows how much of a small school this really is. I spent four years working in the cafeteria and at one point I was seriously quitting but I stayed because everybody felt comfortable having me there.

Interview with Giovanna Gizzo
Future Southampton College Alumni '05
By Ivan Krevolin

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

I am worried that the end of Southampton College is going to make keeping in contact with professors and friends difficult. I am also worried about my academic record being lost. (That happens all the time without all of this drama)

Q: What impact will the closure have on your associates?

As far as keeping in contact with colleagues: this will be a difficult change. This will disperse groups all over the country. Culturally the closure of the college is going to affect the population of Southampton town more than they realize. College students make a lot of the town's work force.

Q: What would you like see happen at the College?

I would like to see a new 4-year college, a state school. I think the facilities will be wasted otherwise.

Q: What effect will the closure of the College have on the community?

The community will suffer a loss of culture: youth culture. They will lose workers, waitresses, sales clerks, and assistants. They will lose capital. Students buy food in the local shops at local pizzerias. They rent houses over the winter, which is good for real estate.

Q: What attracted you to this school?

The art program attracted me. The professors are knowledgeable. They are able to help students meet people and help with valuable networking. The location is great for the arts. Two hours from NYC, the art capital of the world. Many famous artists live on the East End of Long Island.

Q: What is your most memorable moment at Southampton College?

My best experience at Southampton LIU was this past summer. My professor was able to let me experiment with materials for the entire summer semester. This valuable time to let me get to know myself, and my work was necessary in letting me know what I needed to know for my BFA project and, believe it or not, life.

Interview with Annabelle Ward
Southampton Taxi Driver
By Fulvio Traglio

Q: How long have you been living in Southampton or the nearby area?

My husband, another cab driver, and me have lived here a lifetime.

Q: How long have you been driving a cab?

I've been driving a cab for 10 years.

Q: Do you know anyone who has attended Southampton College?

One of my nieces went to school there 5 years ago, she enjoyed her time there.

Q: Do you know that the campus is closing?

Yes I read about it this summer in the Southampton Press. It was a surprise, but sometimes businesses close, and this is another example of mismanagement.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

It really won't have an effect on me personally. I think the students should be worried about their future. My kids already went to college, so they are not going there anyway. The campus has always been a part of Southampton, but the closing affects others worse than me.

Q: Do students use your services often?

Have you seen the parking lot? It's filled with cars, everybody drives. There is one professor named Charles that I bring and pick up twice a day from Oak Street. He seems like a really nice guy. If it wasn't for him then I wouldn't drop off anybody at the campus.

Q: What about late at night on weekends?

Like I said, they have cars, they don't need me. During the summer young people take my cab but I don't think they're students at the College.

Q: What do you think about the Students?

I feel sorry for them, but what can you do.

Q: Do you think the closing of the college will have an impact on Southampton Village?

I don't know, it might. It seems like a small school but I'm sure a lot of students have jobs off campus. That could be a problem.

Q: What would you like to see happen to the College?

I think that education is important and it should stay open.

Interview with Robert Rossetti
Taxi Driver
By Fulvio Traglio

Q: How long have you been working in Southampton?

I was born out here, so it's been a long time.

Q: Do you know anyone who has attended Southampton College?

No, I never went to college but I did go to high school with Tim Bishop. I think he is getting a lot of flack for the closing, but I think he is a good guy and did his best.

Q: Do you know that the campus is closing?

I think everybody knows it is closing, it was a big deal this summer, at least out here.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

Well like I said I'm a local and I went to high school with Tim Bishop. It hurts me to see him being called out in the papers. I wish the campus would stay open and I think it's important that it does. I think the whole thing has been a little shortsighted. It deserves to be taken seriously and I feel bad for the students who have to move. Why close something that's a necessity? The college belongs out here.

Q: Do Students use your services often?

I'd say sometimes, usually during the weekend at night. Our company gives students a discount. We give them these stickers that save them \$2 off their fee. It's a good deal for them.

Q: What do you think about the students?

I've never had any problems with them that I can think of. I think that they bring youth to Southampton and that's important. During the wintertime it gets pretty dead out here, a lot of businesses depend on the students for business.

Q: Do you think the closing of the College will have an impact on the Hamptons?

Of course I do. A lot of students work out here and some become teachers. Who is going to fill those jobs now? Me, I'm too old.

Q: What would you like see happen to the College?

Obviously I'd like it to stay open. I hope they can solve the financial problems they are facing and allow the students to continue their education. They should keep it as an education center. Weren't they building a new library? What's going to happen to that?

**Interview with Eric Warnken
Manager of Job's Lane Deli
Fulvio Traglio**

Q: How long have you been working at the Deli?

I've been working here for five years.

Q: How long have you been living in Southampton?

My whole life, I was born out here.

Q: Do you know anybody personally who has attended Southampton College?

Yeah a couple of my friends graduated from there. I still have some friends that go there and they are pretty angry about the whole situation. They have to transfer to a new school and leave their homes and find new jobs, it's going to be tough for them. It just seems that they came to a decision without giving much warning.

Q: What impact will the closure of Southampton College have on you personally?

I think that being born here I never like to see things go bad for the community. The College is important to the Village. And again it puts a lot of stress on some of my friends who go there.

Q: Do any of your employees attend the College?

Yes, a girl named Amanda Barret worked here for three years, but she left this summer.

Q: Did she do a good job?

She was a hard worker that never caused any problems. She really helped us out.

Q: Do students come here often to buy sandwiches or other products?

Yes they usually come to get breakfast sandwiches and coffee. Sometimes they come for lunch but it's mostly breakfast.

Q: What impact will the closure have on your associates?

Well a lot of stores close for the winter or at least close during the week. I don't think it will have that big of an impact.

Q: What would you like to see happen to the College?

I would like to see SUNY or Stony Brook take it over. I think that if managed well the College could be a success. I don't want to see the campus closed.

Interview with Liz
Buckley's Irish Pub, Southampton
By Patrick Fenlon

How long have you lived or worked in the Southampton area?

Seven years. I went to the College and then I stayed out here; [I] graduated in 2001.

How did you hear about Southampton College?

They were one of the only colleges that had my program, advertising and PR. I don't know how I found that out but I did.

What drew you to this community after you graduated?

Well I started working out here and made friends.

What impact will the closure of the Southampton College have on you personally?

I'll probably never get my diploma, I still haven't gotten it.

What impact will it have on your associates?

Well here, we get a lot of our employees from the college in the winter and a lot of our costumers are from the College. Occasionally someone stays for summer classes but for the most part the people that work here in the winter are college students.

What would you like to see happen at the Southampton College?

I think it should stay a college. I never really thought about what it's going to be, I don't really know what their talking about. I thought it was staying as a graduate school. It's all kind of weird, it is a nice campus. So I'm sure it will be broken down and built up, but it would be nice to see the campus stay.

How will the school closing affect your community?

Well I think the college itself does bring in people to this area in the winter. As far as people going out to restaurants, working, and in general. A lot of the college kids that live out here stay out here.

Do you think it will have an economic effect?

I don't think it will have a huge impact but it will affect smaller places, places like this where local people come to hang out. Here we have wing-night, all college kids. The rich people aren't coming to wing-night.

What do you know about Southampton College's situation at this time?

All I knew is that they said that they were losing money and that the graduate program was going to remain open and the rest was rumors.

How will Southampton College's closure affect your own quality of life?

I won't be able to find workers. That affects me and I'm going to have to work more. That's going to be a pain in the neck for me because I have small kids.

Some College History
By Peter Hansen

Mrs. McCarthy and her first husband, named Tucker, bought the 60-acre Claflin estate and mansion in 1949 for \$20,000. It had been built by the wealthy textile merchant, Arthur B. Claflin (who helped start the Shinnecock Golf Club) who left it to seven heirs. Mrs. McCarthy, also mentioned to me that Arthur B. Claflin established the Shinnecock stop of the Long Island railroad, where “they would all get off and go up to the Shinnecock Club.”

When the Tuckers bought the estate, the elaborate mansion (now the much pared down Administration Building) had been disused and boarded up for some dozen years. Real estate innocents, the Tuckers, then living in a Greenwich Village loft, were captivated by the situation and reopened the estate as a resort hotel, [and named it the] Tucker Mill Inn, after the antique windmill, which is still on the property. Their guests included international luminaries such as Rita Hayworth (then Princess Ali Khan) and the Gabor sisters. The Tuckers persisted until ill health dogged and finally extinguished Mr. Tucker. Shortly afterwards Long Island University made an acceptable offer and moved in March 1963. Mrs. Tucker repaired to a Victorian house on South Main St. and remarried the proprietor of Herb McCarthy’s Bowdoin Square Restaurant (which those of us over 40 may remember). (Mrs. McCarthy’s son (or step-son) was a classmate of George W. Bush at both Andover and Yale and was invited to W’s inaugurations.)

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Southampton Press (Western Edition)

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Southampton College Facts

- ◆ First-rate marine science program
- ◆ 34 Fulbright scholars
- ◆ The Cooperative Education Program
- ◆ The Internship Programs
- ◆ The Honors Program
- ◆ Travel Programs:
 - SEAmester Program- a complete semester of college at sea!
 - The Friends World Program
 - The Environmental Studies in Australia Program
 - Exchange Programs
 - Tropical Field Studies in Biology and Environmental Science
 - Australearn: Tropical Marine Ecology
- ◆ GreenPrint
- ◆ Unique seaside location in the Hamptons of New York
- ◆ Private liberal arts based college with small class sizes
- ◆ Community Service and Outreach by the students:
 - Southampton Players Outreach Theater
 - World Affairs Council, Marine Science and “Writers Talk” lectures
 - Southampton Children's Intervention Center
 - The Long Island High School “Brain Bee”
 - Student volunteer projects (tutoring, Big Brother/Big Sister, beach clean-ups)
 - Richard J. Hagen Jr. High School Business Case Competition
 - Center for Creative Retirement
 - The Children's School

Financial Fact Sheet¹²

Net Operating (Loss) – in millions

FY00	(\$3.3)
FY01	(\$4.7)
FY02	(\$5.9)
FY03	(\$6.9)
FY04 – Projected	(\$8.6)

Net operating loss is shown before special one-time gift of \$3.5 million credited as follows: FY01 - \$536K; FY02 - \$958K; FY03 - \$1.956mm.

Enrollments

1999	1,312
2000	1,198
2001	1,211
2002	1,276
2003	1,120

Fall FTE census, exclusive of the 'Friends World' program - administered from offices located at Southampton College.

Discount Rate

FY00	33.4%
FY01	34.6%
FY02	35.3%
FY03	35.5%
FY04	35.9%

Total institutionally-funded scholarships as a percentage of total tuition and fee revenue. (FY04 comparisons: Brooklyn campus – 11.4 %; C.W. Post campus – 13.8%)

Endowment

\$1.4 million

Market value as of 6/30/03 of Endowment Fund restricted by donors for Southampton College. (Market value of total Long Island University Endowment Fund - \$40 million.)

Outstanding Debt

\$7.1 million

Outstanding debt as of 8/31/03. Proceeds of debt used primarily for construction of Chancellor's Hall. Debt matures through 2026.

¹² Reprinted from http://academic.liu.edu/sh_alumni/factsheet.html

WEB LINKS

- ◆ Save Southampton College
<http://savesouthamptoncollege.blogspot.com>
- ◆ Save Southampton College Yahoo Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SaveSC/>
- ◆ Save Southampton Alumni
<http://southamptonalumni.blogspot.com/>
- ◆ Tidewater Bound
<http://collegenuts.blogspot.com/>
- ◆ Save Southampton College
<http://www.savesc.org>
- ◆ Financial fact sheet
http://academic.liu.edu/sh_alumni/factsheet.html
- ◆ Southampton College
<http://www.southampton.liu.edu/>

Appendix

August 1, 2004
Avram Theater Forum

Community Comments on Closing Southampton College

County Representative Jay Schneiderman:

[The College is] something very important to the community, and gives back to the community. It (Southampton College) helps define, "What is the Hamptons?"

Ben Zwern:

Rep. to [County Executive] Steve Levy, and parent of a Southampton College student. We would like to see a 4-year school. The county executive got in early on so that this does not end up as a housing development... We intend to remain engaged in the debate. There is a lot of pressure to develop this property. You cannot kill an institution of learning that easily. ("Son – do you want to transfer?" "No, Dad, I love it here!").

Elizabeth Haile:

As a young person I felt it was a miracle that there was a college here within walking distance to the Shinnecock land. It looks to me as though we are about to go backward in time...If there is no college then what are we to do? We ... Shinnecoeks [are] interested in the College. We want to be included in the future of the College.

Shinnecock Nation Chairman, Lance Gumbs:

Thanks to the Save Southampton's College organization. Shinnecock Nation failed to be included in previous discussions. Shinnecock Nation was not included in US Open. My mother at 59 took courses here and finished Magna Cum Laude in 3 years. This issue directly affects Shinnecock Nation. (Scholarship disappears). We are adamantly opposed to the sale of the land except for use as an institution of higher learning. Any sale of this land would push the Nation into the biggest land lawsuit in NY State history.

I don't see Southampton Town running to save this institution. The Shinnecock Community has the answer – through our gaming we would fund this institution. The Shinnecock Native Studies and we do have the means.

Nora Detweiler:

What Southampton College means to me. I am a non-traditional student (39 years old and mother of two teenage sons). Motto – Caring for Students who Care for the World – "empowerment".

Sharon Wallen:

Class of 1996 - lived and taught in Southampton ever since. I am able to give back what I was given here. Because of Southampton's College I was taught by role models. This is more than a piece of land, full of memories and history for all students who have said "yes" to Southampton's College. My plea is to keep Southampton's College alive.

Congressman Tim Bishop:

This is a place that still matters. We need to focus on where we go from here. I will tell you where my interests lie -- seeing that this property remains a 4-year educational institution. This represents the unanimous opinion of the elected officials. I believe that the State University represents the best opportunity. LIU decision - earliest in October.

Shirley Ratzter

Why was this decision to withdraw the undergraduate divisions such a surprise? Was Southampton College not privy or present at LIU administration meetings? What development projects are being formulated to build a stronger, richer, fuller college program? We must take a good look at ourselves to be sure all has been done to provide the very best in a college program, e.g. fund-raising, student activities, scholarships, community programs, summer programs, etc.

S. Storch

A vision for the future of Southampton College: An environmental studies college with practical hands-on work for landscape, agriculture, turf...that all affects the surrounding waters and groundwaters. To live in a beautiful place with polluted groundwater and polluted bays, what a shame. The College has been an under-utilized resource for the community and has been overlooked. The college has, as well, been under-voiced. The college should also have marine studies, including boat-building and maintenance, etc....

Linda Kallansrude

I retired from Southampton College in May after 23 years. I was not heartbroken because I felt Southampton College would always be here and I could visit any time. To hear of the possible closing, I was devastated. This college has meant so much to me. It was family. It is family to so many. To tear it asunder would be a tragic mistake to this community.

Beckey Wiseman

Southampton College must use this opportunity as a time to re-invent itself to better serve the educational needs of the students today.

Ashley Pherson

I talked to an accepted transfer student to Southampton College. She received a letter from the College saying she would have to take classes at the C.W. Post campus starting in the fall. Is this letter going out to all new students? Is this why our enrollment is low?

Jordan Fenster

Heartfelt pleas, while emotionally evocative, do little to sway the behemoth political machine. Find out what tangible actions can be taken other than stories and allegory relating the emotional value of the College.

Letcher Johnson

Grew up in Southampton and have utilized this campus for multiple reasons. I want to write about these issues on my website so that everyone in the community can keep up-to-date with the developments to save this campus.

Rev. Paul J. Jahm

As a neighbor of Southampton College, I wish to affirm all attempts to maintain the college for undergraduate education. The college property must never be sold off to developers. Education and educational facilities are not for sale to the highest bidder. The college has a great value to our community. We must unite the community to preserve this wonderful institution.

Edythe on Gregain, Rn.

Although I have relocated to N.C. as my place of retirement, my heart remains in Southampton. I am a Native American, a member of the Shinnecock Nation and I have always been proud of Southampton College, and I truly pray that it will remain open. As a tribal member, I hope one will have the opportunity to maintain it.

Professor Helen Mendes

We cannot allow this “gem of a college” to become a sacrificial lamb for LIU – if we continue to protest and organize, then fundraise – we will be victorious. We must not lose hope.

Gerrie Nussdorf, Ph.d.

The Southampton Trustees spent close to 100 million dollars fighting the Shinnecock Indian Nation. The money would be better spent to save Southampton’s College.

Some of the Following are Anonymous Comments:

Why should the taxpayers of New York State pick up the tab of \$10,000,000 annually to keep a “Southampton College” up and running?

The comment urging the Southampton Town Board to re-zone this property to educational use must be a priority.

The Forum Group needs to organize and get PR coverage immediately. Advertise all through town about meetings, forums, etc. Suggestions about [asking the] Chronicle of Higher Ed to get hold of [this] situation and ask for help is a good and doable one. Students, faculty, staff throughout L.I. can get involved as well. As one participant said, this is a precedent-setting situation – addressing greed vs. education. Is higher education a value of a democracy or not??

Question: why at the 11th hour? – LIU has talented, intelligent faculty – were they called upon for input during the past years? The LIU dean of Business [at] Brooklyn was head of Citigroup – and I am sure she is not the only asset available. Were other 4-year colleges asked to partner in some of the programs? Let’s move!

Southampton’s College is a very important part of our community’s educational, cultural and environmental fabric. It would leave such a hole in our community to lose this college.

As a former adjunct faculty member, as an active community member involved in encouraging pursuit of higher education for its intrinsic value to human development, as well as for equipping people to perform as workers, parents, consumers, citizens, I support and strongly urge the continuation of undergraduate, graduate, continuing education and such special programs as Center for Creative Retirement, Center for Women and Finance at the Southampton College site. Surely, my personal background as a Shinnecock Indian, well-educated in the traditional knowledge and values of my people and in some of the best “Western” institutions – “Smith ‘69, NYU Law ‘74, drives me to have a special interest in developing academic excellence in a center where Native American Studies and Marine Environmental Studies will be based. So many

riches, so many opportunities, may we use our many efforts together to Save Southampton's College.

Please use leaflets and a phone tree to gain a greater audience at the next forum. Provide an opportunity to donate to an endowment fund. Can our congressman, Bishop, hold these funds in trust?

One suggestion I have is for groups of people supporting the college to congregate on Montauk Hwy. in front of the LIU gates each day from 7-7 with signs, banners, leaflets, so that we are more visible to the community. People should agree to a couple of hours weekly to be on a shift to do this. Also, there should be a large group visible at the All for the Sea (W. Post –ha, ha) concert.

The college must continue – the incredible work of so many over 40+ years cannot end short and not be eradicated due to internecine fighting at the Board level. Where is the social and fiscal policy and managerial responsibility of the Board? Why was the college staff/students & community blindsided without due notice and an attempt to save the place with a concerted effort by all of the above? Where has the fundraising staff been? The admissions people are a disaster and have failed everyone. LIU has shot itself in the foot (proverbial) and will suffer greatly on all fronts as a result of this fiasco. Bless Tim Bishop and many others for heroically working with this insane Board of Trustees. Somehow the College will survive despite the LIU Board's incompetence.

