

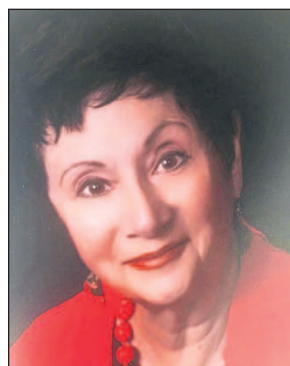
OUT & ABOUT

Grandparents and Special Persons Day at St. Bernard

Friday, May 10, was the annual Grandparents and Special Persons Day at St. Bernard School in Enfield. Several hundred guests joined their loved ones at St. Bernard to enjoy a tour, lunch, and spring musical sneak peek. This event is one of the major highlights of the school year. Pictured top right from left are Sheila Graham, Montreque Shepard, Novella Wilder, and Dupree Wilder. Bottom right, from left, Hannelore Allen-Savoie, Guy Savoie, and Romy Allen-Schubert. Below, from left, Julianna Halpert and Polly Leduc enjoying lunch.



Dream comes true for Manchester resident



On May 21, Beverly Russo-Byk of Manchester will receive her undergraduate degree with honors from Eastern Connecticut State University. Russo-Byk started her journey at 18 years old as a freshman at the State University of New York-New Paltz, but left school after her second year to raise a family. She returned to Mercy College years later with hopes of becoming a veterinarian, but again, personal reasons caused her to leave school. Over the years, she has been an active volunteer for several organizations and charities and owned and operated a number of successful businesses. She is also a writer and a published poet. With the unending support of her husband, Herb, and children, David and Hilary, Russo-Byk will finally walk in her cap and gown during Tuesday's ceremony. In addition to spending more time with her family, Beverly looks forward to putting the school books aside and going back to playing her mandolin, heading out to the golf course and writing her memoir.

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USJ honors professors at 84th commencement

During its May 13 commencement ceremony at the XL Center in Hartford, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) recognized two professors who have made profound impacts on the campus community. Receiving the Rev. John J. Stack Teaching Excellence Award was Jennifer Cote, Ph.D., associate professor of history, for her outstanding work in the classroom. Receiving the Sister Mary Ellen Murphy Scholarship Award was Elijah Nealy, Ph.D., assistant professor of social work and equitable community practice, for his recent publications. Nealy's dedication to social justice is evident throughout his career, both in his social work practice and in his community involvement. As an ordained minister, Nealy dedicates his time to improving community life as a whole.



Manchester native earns Army medal for civilian service

Dr. William (Billy) Barry, a recognized international thought leader in artificial intelligence and education, has been awarded the Department of the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service. Barry was cited for his patriotic service while serving as a civilian visiting professor of philosophy and ethical reasoning at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for the 2018-19 academic year. Barry is a former award-winning Connecticut educator. He served as a middle school teacher in East Lyme, a vice principal at South Windsor High School, and a principal at Putnam High School before becoming a university professor of philosophy. He is the son of Manchester residents of 40 years, William and Jean Barry.



Asnuntuck students join international honor society



The Gamma Phi Chapter of Epsilon Pi Tau, the international honor society for professions in technology, in conjunction with the College of Technology and the Community Colleges of Connecticut, held their initiation ceremony on May 3. Students from Asnuntuck

Community College inducted include, back row, left to right: Matthew Reynolds, James Rosado, Kevin Blair, Jeremy Hernandez, Samuel Driscoll, Meghan Gagnon, Paul Janaitis, Kareem Lawson, Samuel Yuzefovich and Jovanny Santiago-Feliciano. Front row, from left to right, kneeling, Katherine Kristensen, Nathan Ferrington, Matthew Bungard, Christopher Lyons and Brian Rivera. Missing from the picture: Samuel Beltancourt, Jake Chlastawa, Joey Dewees, Brandon McKenzie, Brendan Clarke, Carson Vujs, Samuel Girona, Michael Kapustinski, Matthew Rideout and Samuel Yuzefovich.

STCC helps shelter residents train for new careers

Shirley Burgos was unemployed and living in a shelter in Holyoke with her daughter when she learned about an opportunity to obtain training through the Workforce Development Center at Springfield Technical Community College and potentially get hired as a mechanical or electrical assembler at CRRC MA Corp., where rails cars are assembled. Burgos was one of 24 students who enrolled in classes taught by STCC instructors on campus between February and May. Students learn how to connect wires and complete circuits, as well as read basic blueprints and engineering drawings, among other tasks that will give them the skills needed to get hired and assemble subway cars. If they pass the class after 75 hours of training, they are guaranteed a job interview with CRRC. The newly trained students may also be qualified to work at other companies looking for assemblers. The training program is a partnership between STCC and the New England Farm Workers' Council, a human services agency dedicated to improving the quality of life for thousands of low-income people throughout the Northeast. Pictured at top are representatives from STCC, CRRC Ma Corp. and the New England Farm Workers' Council with students who are training for assembler positions at CRRC. Pictured at bottom, Shirley Burgos, left, and Caroline Giraldo, who are two of 24 people who trained at STCC to obtain skills needed for positions at CRRC MA Corp.

