

Staten Island Sunday Advance

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BREAKING & LOCAL NEWS AT silive.com

Island native receives Wagner's Distinguished Educator Award



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There's perhaps no greater joy for a parent than to witness their children's growth and prosperity, watch them excel and ultimately climb the ladder of success.

The **Laurias** — that's **Laura** and **Mark**, distinguished community leaders in their own right — have had the distinct privilege of watching that dream turn into reality. And insomuch as their three daughters, **Dr. Jennifer Lauria**, **Christina Lauria Badalamenti** and **Tricia Lauria Flood**, all have thriving careers, several weeks back their daughter, Dr. Jennifer Lauria, was presented with the Distinguished Educator Award as a Wagner College Professor in Foundation Hall at Wagner College, during a reception hosted by **Carin Guarasci**, director of New Educat



Laura and Mark Lauria, seated, with daughters, from left, Christine Lauria Badalamenti, Tricia Lauria Flood and Dr. Jennifer Lauria, who received the Distinguished Educator Award.

at Wagner (NEW).
The ceremony translated into the Fifth Annual Wagner College Distinguished Educators Awards Ceremony honoring exemplary teachers and school leaders as a way to celebrate educational excellence.

In accepting the award, the Staten Island native noted: "After so many years, teaching still holds such a special place in my heart. The privilege of being able to inspire others and help foster a love of learning has been a blessing in my life, which has brought me a tremendous amount of joy throughout my career."

She went on to explain experiencing the journey of discovery along with her students and witnessing fascinating transformations as students begin to believe in themselves and value their own worth as unique individuals, has been rewarding beyond measure.
As an educator, Dr. Lauria has been engaged in years of classroom teaching in challenging elementary school settings within the city public school system, serving diverse learners — prior to joining the faculty at Wagner College in 2001.

As an associate professor in the department of education, she teaches undergraduate and graduate students in Wagner's childhood education, grades 1 through 6, dual certification programs, and graduate students in their Literacy B-6 Master's program.

Says Dr. Lauria: "I've spent the last 15 years sharing my professional expertise and practical classroom experience in preparing UG/GRAD teacher candidates training to serve diverse student populations in grades 1 through 6 at the College, and supervising teacher candidates in their professional field placements in New York City public schools."

Her mission? To help develop future educators who are compassionate, competent, and confident teachers who believe in themselves as true educational leaders and positive agents of change.

Dr. Lauria served for 10 years on the Board of Trustees at the Staten Island Children's Museum to support high-quality educational programming for young children. She was on the planning committee for the Museum's annual fundraising Science Carnival, she volunteered each year at the event by facilitating a "Wagner College Cool Scientists" Booth where she conducts science experiments with young carnival participants to ignite students' curiosity about science concepts.

She served as faculty adviser for Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education for seven years and started a student

chapter of the Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Development, where she continues to serve as faculty adviser to help teacher candidates become more actively involved in their own professional development, civic engagement, and community service endeavors.

In April, Dr. Lauria was recognized at the ASCD annual conference in Atlanta for 13 years of service as faculty adviser for Wagner's ASCD Student Leadership Team. And recently, she spent time in elementary classrooms through some grant work. She has worked with two local public schools to develop chemistry lessons in first- and fifth-grade classes to promote positive attitudes toward learning science.

The outstanding educator has dedicated her career to helping children discover there's absolutely nothing "wrong" with them because they may learn differently from others or from the way schools expect them to learn.

"I aim to help learners embrace their uniqueness, develop growth mindsets, believe in themselves, and to discover how truly special they are," she said.

CELEBRATIONS: JULY 10-11

Happy birthday Sunday to **Donny Kehoe, Joe Lamberti, Megan Seton, Gene Forman, Scott Barnickel, Terry McHugh, Ann Marie Dancear, Mike LaSalle, Camille Klein, Peg Ferrara, Adrienne Paccione and Christopher Steven Costa.**

Happy wedding anniversary Sunday to **Annmarie and Jim McGinley.** Monday is birthday time for **Mike Azzara, Pat Driscoll, Thomas Reilly, Ayden Paul Roschfska** who turns 4, **Marina Nancy Bilotti, Gerard Tait and Frank McConville Sr.**

Happy wedding anniversary Monday to **Helen and Terry McCorry.**