



# Staten Island Advance

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## Wagner College DaVinci Society to host scholarship dinner, honor 7

The Wagner College DaVinci Society will host its 11th annual scholarship and awards dinner on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield. Eleanor Conforti is the chairwoman. Tickets for the event are \$150 per person (\$75 tax-deductible.) For information or reservations, contact Betty McComiskey or Jenny Kelly at 718-390-9333 or email [specialevents@wagner.edu](mailto:specialevents@wagner.edu). To purchase tickets with a credit card, use this link to Wagner's secure website: <http://bit.ly/sidavincidinner2014>.

Community Service Awards will be presented to Vincent D'Antuono, Elissa Montanti, Jeffrey Palmese, Vienna Profeta and John Vento.

**Vincent D'Antuono**, owner of Pastosa Ravioli in West Brighton, was the first president of the Forest Avenue Business Improvement District. He and his family have generously supported many community organizations. He has been honored by Meals on Wheels, the New York City Council, and received the Louis Miller Business Award and NYC Neighborhood Small Business Award.

**Elissa Montanti** founded Global Medical Relief Fund, a nonprofit that has helped more than 170 children from more than 17 countries, bringing them to the U.S. for treatment and prosthetic services. She has received many awards and been featured on "60 Minutes" and in "People" and "Parade" magazines.

**Jeffrey Palmese Sr.**, the owner of Brown's Fuel, has been a volunteer in the community and has supported many charitable organizations including the CYO, but particularly Camp Good Grief, for children who have suffered the loss of a parent. He also has been a , and has been a volunteer in the community.

**Vienna Profeta** is founder and president of Staten Island Friends for Hospice Care and the senior vice president of the Eger Foundation/Eger Lutheran Homes and Services, and Addeo Hospice House is a testament to her vision and hard work. She has received many awards and was named an Advance Woman of Achievement in 2002.

**John J. Vento**, president of an Island-based CPA firm and Comprehensive Wealth Management Ltd., a certified financial planning firm, is a financial advisor and advocate for financial literacy. He is an adjunct professor at St. Francis and Wagner colleges, and has been a lecturer in the New York Public Library system and area high schools and colleges.

Michael Walsh will receive the Renaissance Award.

Attorney **Michael Walsh** is member of the Richmond County, New York State and American bar associations. He is a volunteer member of the Richmond County Bar Association's judiciary, membership and young lawyers committees, has served on the boards of the Staten Island chapter, March of Dimes; St. Patrick's Society of Staten Island and the Boy Scouts of America, and helped raise funds for St. Joseph Hill Academy and the Reali Family Foundation.

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to John Fusco.

**John Fusco** retired as a New York State Supreme Court Justice in 2013, after an estimable judiciary career. He joined the staff of Borough President James Oddo as general counsel in 2014. An Army veteran, he earned his law degree from New England School of Law and upon going into practice, became active in the Republican Party, serving as law chairman of the Richmond County Republican Party. He has been actively involved in the San Bernardino Society, Meals on Wheels, Knights of Columbus, American Heart Association and Staten Island University Hospital, among others. He has been honored for his community interest and volunteer efforts by the American Red Cross, Staten Island Lions Club and Richmond County Bar Association.