

STATEN ISLAND

DaVinci Society to laud 9 for community service

By Claire Regan

regan@siadvance.com

The Wagner College DaVinci Society will hold its 12th annual scholarship dinner on Thursday, beginning at 6 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

The DaVinci Society is led by Chairman Ralph J. Lamberti, 12th borough president of Staten Island, and Honorary Co-chairman Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College.

Eleanor Conforti, former chairwoman of Community School Board 31 and a 1977 Staten Island Advance Woman of Achievement, is the chairwoman for the annual dinner.

Nine Staten Islanders will be recognized at the event.

Receiving Community Service Awards are Daniel J. Messina, president and CEO of Richmond University Medical Center; Inez Palladino, a leading figure in the Staten Island Republican Party; John Piazza, a chiropractor since 1996 with a commitment to health and wellness; Joseph Ponzi, a retired chief investigator for the

King's County District Attorney's Office, and Dr. Joseph Suarez, a retired orthopedic surgeon who was in practice with Dr. Albert Accettola.

Renaissance Award recipients are John Dunne, an FDNY battalion chief in Greenwich Village; Donna Proske, a senior administrator at Staten Island University Hospital, and Mark Zawisny, an attorney and an active member of the Staten Island Pulaski Day Parade Committee.

Vincent Bellafore, an educator and a member of Community Board 2, will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award.

As a Wagner College affinity group, the DaVinci Society promotes greater understanding of Italy and Italian-American contributions, and awards scholarships to Wagner students.

Tickets for the fundraising dinner are \$150.

For information and reservations, those interested can contact Betty McComiskey at Wagner College 718-390-9333 or email specialevents@wagner.edu.