



HUNTER

SUMMER '10



Felix and Elizabeth Rohatyn were all smiles after receiving honorary degrees from Hunter at the newly restored Roosevelt House. With them, at left, is longtime friend Barbara Walters. [Page 10](#)



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THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Hunter's ranking by *The Princeton Review* and *USA Today* as the No. 2 Best Value Public College in the nation is welcome recognition of the extraordinary distance the College has come in the past decade. Judging by surging applications and rising SAT scores, the word is getting out.

Total applications for the fall 2010 freshman class rose by 6,500 from just one year ago — yet still only one in four were accepted. Applications from the city's best and brightest to the Honors College increased by nearly 6 percent. And the average SAT score of enrolled freshmen continues to increase: 1132 this year, up 28 points from last year.

Our reputation grows along with our campus and our great mission of public service. Construction continues on the Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work building in East Harlem, soon to be the center of some of the most important social work research and training in the nation. The building will also be the home of the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College, the only school of public health in the nation to focus on 21st-century urban public health issues, such as the prevention and management of chronic diseases, healthy aging, and the reduction of health disparities.

But the most exciting development of the past several months has been the reopening of the magnificently restored Roosevelt House, now the site of Hunter's new Institute of Public Policy. Already, some of the foremost figures in public life have come to Roosevelt House to discuss the urgent issues of our day. We have bestowed honors on the Dalai Lama and the New York financial hero Felix Rohatyn, conversed with Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz and former U.N. ambassador William vanden Heuvel, and welcomed former president Bill Clinton — who, after I introduced him to the crowd, responded, "Thank you, *Madame President*." Pause. "I still like the sound of that."

The successful, years-long restoration of Roosevelt House mirrors the revival of the entire College. Whether acknowledged in publications like *The Princeton Review*, or celebrated by organizations like the League of Women Voters of New York — which recently honored Hunter by honoring me as a higher education advocate — Hunter is now recognized as a 21st-century institution of incomparable quality and value. As I said when accepting the League's "Woman of Distinction" award, the honor truly lies with the inspired achievements and dedication of Hunter's students, alumni, faculty, and staff. So let me say again, "Thank you, Team Hunter."

Jennifer J. Raab



▲ Another award for Hunter: the plaque from the League of Women Voters of NY honoring President Raab — and the College



▲ CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and President Raab at the League of Women Voters Award Luncheon

Elena Kagan Goes From HCHS to SCOTUS

When the news broke on May 10 that President Obama was nominating Elena Kagan — Hunter College Elementary School Class of '71 and Hunter College High School Class of '77 — to the U.S. Supreme Court, it ran through both Hunter schools like a bolt of electricity. As eighth-grader Melissa Moy, 13, told the *New York Daily News*, "It's uplifting — it makes me feel like I can do anything now!"

The Kagan connection to Hunter runs deep. Her mother, Gloria, was a beloved teacher in the elementary school until her retirement in 1991, and a brother, Irving, is a social studies teacher in the high school whose

specialty — constitutional law — now has a new resonance. His students got a personalized lesson on the subject on the day Kagan's nomination was announced: Hunter arranged for them to watch a live television broadcast.

Kagan is well-remembered by her classmates. One, Justene Adamec, said: "At a time when most of us did not know what we were going to do, she was sure she wanted to be a lawyer." And indeed, in one of her yearbook photos, Kagan posed wearing judicial robes and hefting a judge's gavel.

Not only did she pursue her vision, she did it brilliantly: BA from Princeton, law degree from Harvard, law profes-



▲ President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden applaud as Solicitor General Elena Kagan moves to the podium.

sorship at the University of Chicago, dean of Harvard Law School and, most recently, U.S. solicitor general under President Obama, a friend and colleague from her Chicago days.

Kagan has another friend in a prestigious position: Hunter President

Jennifer Raab was a schoolmate at Hunter High School and again at Harvard Law School.

In 2003, Kagan received Hunter High School's Distinguished Graduate Award, which "in my family was better than getting the Nobel Prize," she said.

Family's \$1 Million Gift Creates Scholarships for Part-time Students

A \$1 million gift in honor of a remarkable Hunter alumna and her equally remarkable husband will make a difference for some of Hunter's most hard-pressed students — those who attend part-time. The gift from the family of Beatrice and Raymond Liebesman establishes the Liebesman Completion Fund, whose scholarships will enable part-timers to reduce their working hours and increase their course load, bringing once far-off graduation dates suddenly within reach.

The new fund is the only one at Hunter for part-time students, and one of only a handful in the nation. Sixteen undergraduates have received Liebesman scholarships for the spring semester, and the grants are already beginning to change their lives.

I had more time for study instead of work. And as a full-time student I enjoyed the Hunter experience in a way that was never possible before.

— Aliksandra Somoila, 26, a native of



▲ Beatrice and Raymond Liebesman

Belarus, who graduated in June with a BA in medical laboratory sciences and an MA in biotechnology.

Beatrice Liebesman '39 was a self-made woman of many talents. The child of working-class immigrants, she made her way to Hunter through sheer determination. After graduation, she developed a passion for antiques, taught herself the business, started a store in the family's basement flat in the Bronx, then opened a shop called Bee-Hive Antiques. Her self-education continued, and she qualified as a certi-

fied appraiser and antiquarian.

Liebesman then went back to school to earn a teaching certificate and became a sixth-grade teacher in a South Bronx public school located in a converted bowling alley. Many educators thought her impoverished students were unteachable. Liebesman proved them wrong, winning awards for teaching math, economics, and other complex subjects. Many students went on to successful careers, and many were still in touch years later.

After retirement she remained active, working with the Arizona Cancer Center in Tucson, where she moved after her husband's death. She and Raymond were married for 66 years, and when she died on May 6, 2009, she was the mother of two, grandmother of three, and great-grandmother of five.

Earning this scholarship means that I can finally see a diploma in the near future. Without it, I was only able to take one class a semester.

— Patricia Fico, 30, a senior majoring

in studio art and minoring in biology, who plans to become an environmental scientist.

Like his wife, Raymond Liebesman struggled to get his start in life. His father died while Raymond was still young, and even though he was the middle son of three, he emerged as the family supporter. He worked his way through City College and became a successful certified public accountant. Although accounting was his profession, bonsai and art were his passions; he became a dedicated, talented sculptor.

Beatrice and Raymond Liebesman knew what a difference education can make in one's life. The scholarship fund in their names is a fitting tribute to their memories.

I worked up to 40 or so hours a week. The Liebesman scholarship helped me to cut down on that oppressive workload and spend more time on my studies.

— Michael Parillo, 30, a senior majoring in English literature who plans to teach at the college level.

School of Social Work Building On Schedule for 2011 Opening



▲ Wielding ceremonial shovels are (from left) Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell IV, Lois V. Silberman, NY Secretary of State Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, President Raab, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, Vice Chancellor Iris Weinshall and City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito.

Hundreds gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College in East Harlem. The new building will be named in honor of the Silberman family's record \$30 million gift toward construction of the building, which will also house the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College, the archives and library of Hunter's Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, and Hunter's

Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity. "We should all be proud that one of the country's top public social work schools is located right here in New York," said Governor David Paterson to the assembled crowd of students, CUNY administrators, elected officials, East Harlem residents and community leaders, and more. "Moving the School of Social Work to East Harlem will give its students and faculty — as well as those at the new CUNY School for Pub-

lic Health — the opportunity to engage with a vibrant, diverse, and growing population in need of the vast array of services Hunter offers." CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein also spoke about the widespread influence the project will have on Hunter and New York alike. "Life-changing careers for students and pioneering research will emanate from this enterprise, bringing multiple educational, economic, and societal benefits to the neighborhood, to the

city, and to our state," he said. The new eight-story, 147,000-square-foot "green" building, located on Third Avenue between East 118th and 119th Streets, is being funded by a \$101.3 million allocation from the State Legislature, along with the Silberman gift. In addition to classrooms and faculty offices, it will include an auditorium, library, and café, and state-of-the-art technology. Construction is on budget and on schedule for the



▲ Gov. David A. Paterson issued a proclamation to the Silberman family in celebration of the groundbreaking of the Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work. He is joined by (from left) President Raab, Lois V. Silberman, and Jayne Silberman, vice chairwoman of the Silberman Fund.

building's opening in September 2011. The design and location of the building will allow the School of Social Work, the oldest publicly sponsored graduate social work program in New York City, to expand its mission and be a force for change in East Harlem, where Hunter plans to establish partnerships with community-based social service providers.

"We have countless alumni, many of whom live or work in East Harlem," said Jacqueline B. Mondros, dean of the School of Social Work. "The chance to live our mission there is priceless."

The complex will also be home to CUNY's new School of Public Health. Slated to open with master's and doctoral programs in 2010-2011, it will be the only school of public health in the nation with a primarily urban lens, focusing on new ways to prevent and control health problems in urban populations and training practitioners to implement these solutions in New York City and other urban centers. Attracting students who live and work in the communities it is designed to serve, the School of Public Health will produce graduates with the knowledge and skills to grapple with the serious chronic diseases that disproportionately threaten the poor, minorities, and immigrants.

Because East Harlem has long been a center of Puerto Rican life and culture, the building is likewise an appropriate site for the library of Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños — the Center for Puerto Rican Studies, or CENTRO — which has

served New York's Puerto Rican community and the students and faculty of CUNY and Hunter College since its inception in 1973. The location of the building will also enable the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity to more efficiently serve the urban aging community and to more directly turn research into practice.

The building's benefactors and namesakes have had a rich history with Hunter College and, specifically, the School of Social Work. Samuel Silberman, a businessman and philanthropist, believed strongly in the abilities of trained social workers to change lives and of public institutions to teach them. Since his death in 2000, his wife, Lois, and daughter, Jayne, have worked to ensure that his vision would continue.

Samuel Silberman's dedication was described perfectly by Lorie A. Slutsky, president of the New York Community Trust, who said, "He had a passion to ensure that there would be a first-rate public social work school for the city of New York."

"We are incredibly grateful to the Silbermans for making this transformative project possible," said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. "It is a testament to the storied legacy of the Hunter School of Social Work and to the confidence shared by the governor, the mayor, chancellor, the CUNY Board of Trustees, and everyone at Hunter that it will play a vital and essential role in the city's future."

HUNTER IN EAST HARLEM

New Home in El Barrio Fits CENTRO's Mission

Moving its library and archive into the Silberman School of Social Work Building next year will be a milestone for CENTRO, Hunter's Center for Puerto Rican Studies. An institution that is renowned as a treasure house of Puerto Rican history and culture will at last have a presence in El Barrio, the historic center of the Puerto Rican community in New York.

CENTRO's director, Edwin Melendez, sees the move as a perfect opportunity to expand the center's role. "We want to forge new partnerships with the community leaders of El Barrio as well as with the city's political officials and policymakers," he says. "One goal is to foster community development, create economic growth and help residents with the problems of their daily lives. An equally important goal is to educate young people of the neighborhood about their culture and heritage," which he said would help them achieve a sense of identity and pride.

Centro de Estudios Puertorriqueños, its Spanish name, was established at Hunter in 1973 with the mission of collecting and preserving resources that document the history and culture of Puerto Ricans. The Archives of the Puerto Rican Diaspora, as they are formally known, include books, newspapers, periodicals, audio, films, manuscripts, photographs, prints and recorded music, all of which are available to the general public as well as the scholarly community. While the library and archive will be housed in the new SSW home, CENTRO's classrooms and administrative offices will remain in the East Building.

Playing an important part in helping CENTRO carry out its mission is the center's newly formed Advisory Board, whose members include: Ronald Blackburn-Moreno, president and CEO, Aspira; Taina Borrero, graduate student; Tonio Burgos, president, Tonio Burgos & Associates; Susana Torruella Leval, former director, Museo del Barrio; Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, president, Hispanic Federation; Madelyn Lugo, president, Puerto Rican Day Parade; Luis Miranda, principal partner, The Mirram Group; Arcadio Diaz Quiñones, professor, Princeton University; Dennis Rivera, president, SEIU Healthcare; Jose Luis Rodriguez, president, HITN; and Ninfa Segarra, senior advisor, Tonio Burgos & Associates.



▲ Edwin Melendez

Historic Day for Hunter: 200th Commencement

Hunter College observed a milestone on January 21 — its 200th Commencement Exercises. A cheering audience of graduates and their families and friends filled Assembly Hall for the historic ceremony, at which 1,300 degrees and certificates were conferred.

Commencement speaker Kerry Kennedy was caught up in the spirit of the occasion, breaking off from her prepared text midway through the 20-minute speech to tell the enthusiastic audience, “I love this crowd — you’re just great.”

Kennedy is one of the nation’s foremost human rights activists. She established the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights in 1988 in memory of her father, and she has led more than 40 human rights delegations around the globe. She has campaigned for other major causes as well, including women’s rights, children’s rights, freedom of speech, judicial independence, and the environment.

In introducing Kennedy, President Jennifer J. Raab described her as “committed to upholding the great Kennedy tradition.”



▲ Commencement speaker Kerry Kennedy urges the Class of 2010 to fight for the causes they care about.

“Then and now,” Raab said, “the Kennedy family name is at the heart of American politics and culture. When you grow up with the most famous last name in America, the eyes of the world are upon you. But today, as one of the country’s leading international human rights activists, it is Kerry Kennedy’s eyes that are upon the world. And the world is a better place for it.”

Drawing on her long experience as an activist, Kennedy urged the graduating students to remember that “determined people can change the world.”

She spoke of her first job after graduating from Brown University, an internship at Amnesty International. “I found myself surrounded by Davids who stood up against a world of Goliaths,” she said. “They were people who were armed only with determination, but

they never stopped fighting to make the dream of human rights come true.”

She noted how far the world has come since the 1970s and ’80s, when the Soviet Union was intact, Latin America was dominated by military dictators, and South Africa was ruled by an apartheid regime. One measure of the progress, she said, is that 183 nations have ratified CEDAW (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).

Despite such gains, she added, millions of people still are denied basic freedoms. Because the struggle goes on, she concluded, “We all have to speak out against injustice.”

The personal history of the class valedictorian reinforced Kennedy’s theme. Renata Vaysmen was seven years old when her parents gave up

their careers — her father was a physics professor and her mother was a nurse — in their native Ukraine so the family could live in the United States free from religious persecution.

As a result, Vaysmen made it her cause at Hunter to address human rights violations. She was president of the United Nations Student Association and was the founder of Stand, a genocide awareness club. She also served as a psychology statistics tutor and an intern at Mount Sinai and Maimonides Medical Centers, working with autistic and obese children.

Even with all these volunteer efforts, Vaysmen still managed to graduate in just three-and-a-half years with a double major in psychology and political science and a perfect 4.0 GPA.

In keeping with her interest in



▲ Valedictorian Renata Vaysmen

human rights, Vaysmen will enter a PhD program in clinical psychology at SUNY/Albany and then pursue a career working with immigrants and impoverished populations in the United States and abroad.

Jonases Get President’s Medals At January Commencement



▲ Donald and Barbara Jonas’s generosity benefits many causes, including the Nursing School.

Hunter has awarded President’s Medals to many outstanding individuals. Rarely, however, have they gone to a married couple. But as President Raab observed in introducing the January 2010 honorees Barbara and Donald Jonas, “Few New Yorkers have lived up to the Hunter motto as literally and wholeheartedly as the Jonases. They are committed to caring for the future by solving one of the most urgent issues of our day — the shortage of qualified nurses in our city’s clinics and hospitals.”

In 2005, the Jonases raised \$44 million for charity by selling works from their art collection. Among the results, President Raab said, was “a now-invaluable New York institution: the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence.”

Raab added, “Thanks to a \$300,000 grant from the Jonas Center, Hunter’s Nursing School has been able to bring crucial cutting-edge technology to its curriculum.”

In receiving his award, Donald Jonas, a prominent retail executive, paid the graduates a personal tribute.

“After hearing about all these wonderful students,” he said, “I wonder if I’m too old to enroll at the age of 80. I live not too far away, and I would love to be part of Hunter.” He praised President Raab and Kristine M. Gebbie, acting dean of the Nursing School, for “their strong leadership.”

Barbara Jonas was equally warm in her remarks, telling the students, “I know you will do extraordinarily well.”

The Jonases’ generosity extends to many areas. Donald Jonas started New York’s Read to Feed Program in New York City public and private schools and continues to work with its sponsor, Heifer International, which battles hunger and poverty worldwide.

Barbara Jonas, a retired therapist, is founder of the Barbara Jonas Center for the Study and Treatment of Children at Risk at the NYU and Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centers and was a board executive for the city’s Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services. She has also held leadership positions at a number of cultural institutions.

A Long and Winding Road to A Hunter Degree



For Francesca Corbacho, it’s been a long and winding road to get her Hunter degree.

Francesca was raised as a latch-key child by a hard-working single mother who always urged her to go to college. She enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley, but had to drop out when her mother was permanently injured in a car accident. To support herself and her family, Corbacho spent the next decade working as a bicycle messenger, electrician, animal rescue specialist, and scuba dive master in East Africa.

Corbacho still dreamed of returning to college, but didn’t think she could afford it. Then, in her mid-30’s she found Hunter. While studying full-time, she worked non-stop, this time as an accountant for a local union. After blowing the whistle on fraud in accounting, she became the union’s financial director, the first woman ever to hold an executive position with the union.

Corbacho also found time to intern at a human rights organization. A double major in Thomas Hunter Honors and political science, she graduated in January with a 4.0 GPA.

Corbacho’s next step is NYU Law School, where she has been awarded the Root-Tilden-Kern scholarship for public service.

Determined people can change the world.

— Kerry Kennedy

Hunter is #2 “Best Value College”



Hunter College is the #2 “Best Value Public College for 2010,” according to *The Princeton Review* and *USA Today*. This is the second year in a row the College has landed in the top 10.

The Princeton Review noted that “for many New Yorkers seeking a college degree, Hunter College (within the CUNY system) offers the best, most affordable option available. In

many ways, a Hunter education is a no-frills experience... Hunter has a lot to offer beyond its miniscule tuition. For one thing, the school’s faculty is a huge asset. Professors are very often experts in their fields, and they work hard to accommodate undergraduates. Location is another major plus, because New York City is a virtually limitless source of valuable internship opportunities.”

The Princeton Review selected its “Best Value” choices for 2010 based on surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 public and private colleges and universities. The selection criteria covered more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, cost of attendance, and financial aid, and used the most recently reported data from each institution for the 2008-2009 academic year.



▲ Hunter students and professors on a Sunday morning visit Marina Beach in Chennai, India. Students from the theatre department study-abroad trip to Kerala led by Professor Claudia Orenstein and the urban planning trip to Mahabalipuram led by Professor Laxmi Ramasubramanian met up in Chennai for a weekend of cultural activities.



▲ Fishing is one of the important activities in Mahabalipuram. The 2004 tsunami destroyed fishing villages and boats. Foreign aid has helped restore livelihoods. Photo by Melanie Bower.

Two Hunter Classes Travel Separate Paths To India to Learn Some Vital Lessons

Talk about a class trip! In January, 11 Hunter graduate students traveled almost half-way around the world to the southeast coast of India to launch an urban planning project for a small local town. Among the most memorable of their many unforgettable experiences was a get-together with a group of 21 Hunter theatre students who were in the region to study Indian performing arts.

While no official record exists for such a category, it may have been the largest gathering of Hunter students and faculty at the greatest distance from the campus (8,366 miles) in the College's history.

The students traveled under the

guidance of Laxmi Ramasubramanian, a professor of urban affairs and planning who was returning to the region where she was born and raised and began her academic training. She holds degrees in architecture from Madras University and Anna University in India as well as a master's from MIT and a PhD from the University of Wisconsin. Joining Dr. Ramasubramanian were professors Jill Simone Gross of the urban affairs and planning department and Jochen Albrecht of the geography department.

The destination was the coastal town of Mahabalipuram (official population, 12,345) in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The goal was to begin a

long-term plan for the town that will strengthen its social and economic development and make it more resilient to climate change. Ramasubramanian sees a 20-to-25-year horizon for the plan, although the first step was to create a medium-term plan for the next three to five years.

The theatre students traveled under the leadership of Claudia Orenstein, an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and a specialist on Asian theatre. Their destination was the Kalamandalam Performing Arts Academy in the state of Kerala, and their goal was to spend five strenuous hours a day training with master teachers in the Indian dance-drama form known as

kathakali. This was the second year Orenstein has led such a trip.

Because their professor's many interests range from interculturalism to puppetry, the periods of relaxation for the 21 undergraduate, MA, and PhD students included trips to see shadow puppet shows, snake rituals, and a variety of other traditional Indian performing arts.

Most of the participants from both groups returned to Hunter at the end of their expeditions, but three of the graduate students in urban planning did not. Morgan Campbell, Tanya Rodriguez, and Jessica Hecker stayed on-site in India as their part of the class's planning project. They were

able to do this thanks to Skype, which allows people to speak to and see one another through their computers.

A recent visit to Ramasubramanian's classroom was, therefore, a revelation in what is possible in the modern classroom. The faces of Campbell, Rodriguez and Hecker were visible on a large screen placed high on the wall behind the professor's camera and speaking into its microphone, the three were able to share information and exchange opinions with their teacher and fellow students almost as easily as if they were in the room.

There was one complication, however: The southeast coast of India is 9 hours and 30 minutes ahead of New York, so the late-afternoon class for students sitting in the North Building of Hunter was a middle-of-the-night session for the three in India. The project

gave "all-nighter" a new meaning.

Students on both ends of the conversation agreed that their time in the town of Mahabalipuram had taught them lessons not available in any textbook. Jose Pillich said, for example, that Indians have a recycling system for trash that is so thorough that virtually nothing goes to waste. "Americans could learn a lot from them," he observed.

Student Melanie Bower said she was struck by the Indian approach to urban planning — "a different paradigm," she called it. "Our ideas about how a city should be planned are subjective. How, for example, do you define 'social responsibility,' and how do you achieve it? The Indian approach is entirely technical and therefore very specific. Our backgrounds are in the liberal arts; theirs are in engineering."

For the students still in Tamil Nadu, the learning experience continued every day. Tanya Rodriguez noted



▲ Hunter geography professor Jochen Albrecht (2nd from left) and Professor S.P. Sekar, head of the planning department at Anna University School of Architecture and Planning, discuss land use and planning with Hunter graduate students.

that gathering information in India is a very personal business. "To find out something," she said, "you can't go to some source, you need to go to the right person. But that person will give you only part of the information you need and direct you to someone else, who will direct you to a third person. It's all about relationships, and you must learn to develop them. It's hard work, but it can be very satisfying."

Rodriguez added that one very important lesson they had to learn is that people in the state of Tamil Nadu often shake their heads gently from side to side when they are listening. "But it's just their habit — it doesn't mean they are saying no," she said, to appreciative chuckles from her classmates on both sides of the world.

Roosevelt House



▲ Hunter students (from left) Bsuf Alemu, Drewpattie Kallu, Kacy James, and Inna Brayer participate in the ceremony honoring the Rohatyns.

Award Ceremony Reopens Hunter's Restored Treasure

One of Hunter's crown jewels, Roosevelt House, is open again in its new incarnation as an institute devoted to the study and development of public policy. The elegant townhouse on East 65th Street that Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt once called home, which was closed for repairs in 1992, has undergone a spectacular \$24 million restoration. It now contains conference rooms, reception areas, seminar spaces, a museum, offices, a new auditorium and two top-floor apartments for visiting fellows.

The lead-off event on February 23 was a splendid mixture of the seriousness and ceremony expected at Roosevelt House in the years to come. An audience of some of New York's most distinguished citizens gathered in the auditorium to watch President Raab bestow honorary degrees on Felix and Elizabeth Rohatyn.

Felix Rohatyn was honored for a lifetime of public service, most famously his role in helping to rescue

New York City from bankruptcy in 1975-76. He was also cited for his record as one of the city's foremost financiers, his service as U.S. ambassador to France from 1997 to 2001 and his unswerving support for cultural and educational causes. President Raab called him "a New York hero."

In honoring Elizabeth Rohatyn, President Raab drew a parallel with the College's founder, saying, "Like Thomas Hunter, you have transformed the educational system of your day by opening the doors of success to everyone with a desire to achieve it." President Raab cited Mrs. Rohatyn's role in establishing Teaching Matters, an organization devoted to closing the achievement gap between rich and poor students, and her success in promoting Franco-American cultural exchanges.

The restoration of Roosevelt House was led by James Polshek, one of the nation's foremost architects. Polshek made few changes to the original 1908 layout, choosing

to modify the building's interior only where alterations make movement easier among the upper-floor rooms. His one great addition is a handsome auditorium installed where the cellar and backyard once were. The auditorium is an architectural marvel, creating in what is actually a rather small area a feeling of great light and spaciousness.

The buff-colored brick and limestone exterior of the house has been cleaned, bringing out its simple, elegant design. Inside, unobtrusive lighting, eggshell-white walls and polished wood floors make the rooms warm and welcoming. The first-floor parlor displays one of Roosevelt House's newly acquired treasures, an original set of Norman Rockwell's iconic Four Freedoms posters, which were inspired by a speech Franklin Roosevelt gave before Congress in 1941. The posters are a gift from Leonard Lauder, chairman and former CEO of Estée Lauder Companies and husband of Evelyn Lauder '58.



▲ Roosevelt House

Roosevelt House Wins Preservation Award

The New York Landmarks Conservancy awarded one of its coveted Lucy G. Moses Preservation Awards to Hunter College for its restoration of Roosevelt House. On April 21, 2010, President Jennifer Raab accepted this award, given in recognition of the extensive work that was done to restore the building. Under her leadership and the professional assistance of the noted architectural firm Polshek Partnership, architects, engineers and craftsmen undertook a multi-year effort to combine the best in preservation and restoration with the modernization needed for a 21st-century college building.



▲ Jonathan Fanton with Kate Roosevelt Whitney, FDR's granddaughter

The top floor of Roosevelt House is divided into two apartments that will serve as residences for a new position at Hunter: the Franklin D. Roosevelt Visiting Fellow. The first two fellows, Jonathan Fanton and John E. McDonough, share, therefore, a historic honor: they are the first regular residents of the house since 1933 when Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt left for the White House. The fellowships are one-year positions.

Fanton's long and distinguished career in academia and public affairs includes serving as associate provost of Yale, president of the New School, president of the MacArthur Foundation and chairman of Human Rights Watch.

He is enthusiastic both about being at Roosevelt House, which he calls "the perfect venue for a public policy institute," and about being a part of Hunter,

Roosevelt House's First Visiting Fellows

Jonathan Fanton

whose teachers and students he describes as "right up there among the very best."

Equally important to him is the association with Franklin Roosevelt — "the greatest president of the past century" — and Eleanor Roosevelt, whom he met as a student at Choate. Mrs. Roosevelt spoke at the prep school during the late '50s and then invited Fanton and a few other students to lunch at Val-Kill, her home in the Hudson Valley. Fanton says, "I felt the need to write to her from time to time after that, and she always answered. That was an inspiration to me."

Drawing on his background at Human Rights Watch and the MacArthur Foundation, Fanton's focus at Roosevelt House is on international justice. He is inviting public officials and veteran figures in the field to teach classes, conduct roundtable discussions and give public lectures. Even before taking up residence, he brought in Hassan Bubacar Jallow, prosecutor for

the Rwandan genocide tribunal, for a luncheon roundtable.

Fanton also gives guest lectures in classes that deal with human rights-related issues, consults with faculty and students on research projects — and talks up Hunter among his friends and colleagues in New York. "I am so impressed with the quality of the teachers and students," he says, "I see outreach as a major part of my role."

Fanton believes Roosevelt House fills a surprising gap in the city. "Interestingly," he says, "New York does not have as many venues as one would expect to bring people together to discuss the major issues of our times. It is always important for students who plan to pursue careers in public policy and human rights to have a chance to meet people who are on the front lines, to question them and to learn from their experiences."

John McDonough

Hunter's commitment to solving New York's public health crises and becoming a national leader in the field of urban public health has been recognized and strengthened with the inauguration of the Joan H. Tisch Legacy Project, a \$1.2 million gift from Laurie, Steve, and Jonathan Tisch, named in honor of their mother. A major component of the five-year grant is the annual sponsorship of a visiting public health scholar, responsible for teaching students, conducting faculty seminars, and serving as a scholar-in-residence for the Hunter community. In February, the first Joan H. Tisch Distinguished Fellow in Public Health, Dr. John E. McDonough, moved into one of the two apartments set aside for resident scholars at the newly restored Roosevelt House, and he has already set the bar high for his successors.

Less than 24 hours after his arrival, McDonough began teaching a graduate course on public health policy and legislation. He quickly initiated other projects, including a series of faculty seminars exploring teaching and research opportunities, and arranging events at Roosevelt House that link FDR's legacy on health care to current events.



▲ Joan H. Tisch with John McDonough, the Joan H. Tisch Distinguished Fellow

McDonough knows public health like few others. He understands it from a political perspective, having chaired the public health committee during his 14 years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. He also understands the field from an advocacy perspective, having played a key role, after his retirement from office, in leading the state's successful efforts to adopt statewide health care in 2006. McDonough hopes to open his students' eyes to both perspectives.

"Whether they realize it now or not," he explained, "their careers will involve them in politics as well as

policies, so they need to understand how both areas work."

McDonough eventually transferred his talents and expertise to the office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy, where for 20 months preceding the senator's death he helped devise the Senate's historic health care reform legislation.

His start in health care came largely by chance. As a legislative candidate in 1984, he backed the eventual winner in a fight over the House speaker-ship. The grateful winner offered him any committee assignment he wanted and he chose the health panel because no one else from Boston was on it.

"At the time," he says now with a laugh, "I didn't know the difference between Medicare and Medicaid. But I fell in love with the subject and have been with it ever since." He earned a master's in public administration from the Kennedy School at Harvard and a doctorate in public health from the University of Michigan, all while serving as a representative.

McDonough has had little trouble making the transition to New York from Boston via Washington. "Being at Hunter has been a joy," he said. "I love the diversity of the school, and I love the students. It's a privilege to give them ideas and help them come up in life."

HUNTER COLLEGE GALA HONORS ROOSEVELT HOUSE

Roosevelt House



▲ Anna Eleanor Roosevelt (2nd from left), co-chair of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI), shared memories of visiting her grandparents at Roosevelt House. With her are Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab (left), FERI co-chair Dick French, and his wife, Cristina.



▲ Ambassador William vanden Heuvel, chairman of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, views one of Norman Rockwell's Four Freedoms posters. Prints of all four were donated to Roosevelt House by Leonard Lauder.



▲ Lew Frankfort '67 (right), chairman and CEO of Coach, Inc., greets New York Senator Charles Schumer.



▲ Hunter Board of Trustees member Carole Olshan '63 and her husband, Mort, read from Eleanor Roosevelt's personal letters.



▲ Philanthropist and art collector Leonard Lauder (left) gives a hearty welcome to investor Leon Cooperman '64.



▲ Laurie Tisch and Larry Silverstein congratulate President Raab on the successful gala.



▲ Gathering under the portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt are (from left) Joan Helpert '47, Shirley Scott '56, Judith Zabar '54, and Barbara Scott '53.

THE STARS ARE OUT AT ROOSEVELT HOUSE



▲ Welcoming President Clinton to Roosevelt House is Hunter senior Leandro Delgado, who is headed to Harvard Law School.



▲ Clinton talks with Ted Sorensen, JFK's speechwriter, and his wife, Gillian, advisor to the UN Foundation.



▲ Panelists at the first Tisch health forum are (from left) John McDonough; White House aide David Blumenthal; James Roosevelt Jr.; and March of Dimes President Jennifer Howse.



▲ An education panel features (from left) Hunter's Joe Viteritti, WNYC's Beth Fertig, and Georgetown law professor James Foreman Jr.



▲ Kenneth Roth, head of Human Rights Watch, speaks at the inaugural forum on international justice.



▲ President Raab with former Congressman Harold Ford (left) and Jonathan Tisch at the Tisch Forum.

Health and Human Services Secretary Pays a Visit To Talk Health Issues



▲ Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, describes challenges facing the nation while students aiming for health services careers listen intently.

The nation's top health official, Kathleen Sebelius, came to Hunter to meet students and faculty, and came away deeply impressed. "You are doing a marvelous job of preparing the next generation of medical and public health professionals," the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services said during a conference hosted by President Jennifer J. Raab. "The nation is better off because of you."

The mid-January conference covered a variety of national concerns, from the need for improved health delivery to the secretary's campaign to encourage people to get H1N1 flu vaccinations to the inadequacy of the system for producing and distributing vaccines.

President Raab took the opportunity to announce a special H1N1 vaccination program for the Hunter community that included 1,000 free shots paid for with money from the president's discretionary fund.

Despite the seriousness of the occasion, the conference had its lighter moments. At one point, Nicholas Freudenberg, distin-

guished professor of public health, introduced a group of his students to Sebelius, adding, "Your successor is among them."

Without missing a beat, she replied, "That may be sooner than you think." The room erupted in laughter. It was an exchange with historical resonations, since a previous Hunter president, Donna Shalala, held the post of Secretary of Health and Human Services with distinction for the eight years of Bill Clinton's presidency.

At another point, President Raab took note of how many members of the Hunter faculty have been recruited from the National Institutes of Health, a major arm of Sebelius's department, and observed with a twinkle, "When you've finished your seven years of service in Washington, we would like to talk with you about the opportunities here."

Sebelius smiled broadly at the assumption that the Obama administration would be returned for a second term – and that she would remain a part of it – but discreetly made no commitment.

The conference gave several members of the faculty the opportunity to meet and speak to the secretary, including Kenneth Olden, dean of the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter; Kristine Gebbie, the Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of the School of Nursing; Professor Freudenberg, and Neal Cohen, distinguished lecturer in the School of Social Work and former NYC health commissioner.

When their turn came to question Sebelius, Hunter students proved themselves well-informed and outspoken. One student challenged the secretary's assertion that the H1N1 vaccine was "safe and secure" – she provided facts and figures to assure him it is – and another student wanted to know what steps were being taken to make sure the vaccine was getting to immigrants and other hard-to-reach groups.

Sebelius was clearly impressed. Almost invariably she began her response to each student by saying with obvious sincerity, "That's a very good question."

A Partnership Keeps Flu at Bay



▲ Some smiled, some winced.

For more than two months, a partnership between the Office of the President at Hunter College and the chain store pharmacy Duane Reade made free H1N1 vaccinations available to the entire Hunter community. Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff members took advantage of the opportunity.

"I was delighted that the College provided access to the shot," said Acting Chief Librarian Clay Williams. "It was easier than getting it through my doctor, and the price was right."

The College fully funded the vaccine program. From January 13 to the end of March, a Duane Reade store near the College's 68th Street campus and another near the Brookdale campus set aside vaccines for anyone who presented the pharmacist with a valid Hunter ID and voucher. President Raab was among the first to participate.

"We were glad to help the Hunter community, particularly our students and those at greatest risk, get vaccinated easily and affordably," said Eija Ayravainen, dean of students.

President Raab announced the program during National Influenza Immunization Week, which also brought U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to Hunter. In her talk urging students to get the vaccine, Secretary Sebelius praised Hunter and Duane Reade for the innovative partnership.

Arnholds' \$1 M Gift Creates New Dance Programs

Jody Gottfried Arnhold wants dance to be part of the education of every child in New York City, and to help make this dream come true she and her husband, John, are donating \$1 million to Hunter's Dance Program.

Said Arnhold, "It is so important that CUNY provide programs in dance and dance education. Thanks to the vision of President Raab, Hunter is taking the leadership role and will launch three new graduate programs in dance and dance education, which will create a pipeline for certified dance educators of the future. Many of these teachers will stay in New York and teach in our city schools. There are currently fewer than 200 certified dance educators in our public schools and there are over a million kids. That is simply not enough. Dance should be a part of every child's education. There should be a dance educator in every school. It's important

for children and for the art form."

A former public school dance teacher and now one of the city's leading dance advocates and innovators, Arnhold believes that all children deserve the benefit of dance in their K-12 education.

But three decades after the city's fiscal crisis devastated arts education in the public schools, a serious shortage of dance teachers remains.

When Arnhold learned in 2007 that Hunter was developing programs to train dance teachers, she approached President Raab to volunteer her assistance. That led to the formation of Hunter's Dance Advisory Board, which now includes representatives from the Department of Education, major city cultural organizations, leading dance philanthropists and prominent dancers, including Heather Watts, former principal dancer with the New York City Ballet, and Tina



▲ Jody Gottfried Arnhold and Hunter dance major Timothy Edwards

Ramirez, founder of Ballet Hispanico.

The Arnholds' gift will help renovate Hunter's dance studios and launch new programs, including a five-year BA/MA, a two-year dance education MA, and a dance MFA. After completing this program, which will be jointly run with the School of Education, graduates will be certified to teach dance in NYC public schools.

Arnhold, who chairs Ballet Hispanico, is vice chair of the Center for Arts Education and teaches dance at the 92nd Street Y's Dance Education Laboratory, which she founded.

Arnhold first began supporting Hunter in 2008 when she sponsored two dance students through the Mother's Day Scholarship program in honor of her mother, Lenora Marcus Gottfried '35.



▲ Celebrated dancer Heather Watts teaches a ballet master class to Hunter dance students.

Dancing With the Stars in Broadway's FELA!

While a dance major at Hunter, Elasea Douglas '07 remembers watching one of her colleagues perform to "Water Get No Enemy," a song by Fela Kuti, renowned Nigerian musician and political activist. Captivated by the beat of the lush 1975 track, a blend of jazz, funk and West African rhythms, Douglas thought, "Wow, I really like this music. Who is this guy?"

Little did Douglas know that two years later, she would be making her Broadway debut as part of the 26-member cast of FELA!, the smash Broadway musical that celebrates Kuti's life as a revolutionary as well as his groundbreaking Afrobeat music.

Douglas's road to Broadway began during her childhood in Queens when her mother first signed her up for dance

classes. In junior high and high school, Douglas sampled many different styles of dance, including Indian classical, hip-hop, jazz, and salsa. Since she was 11 years old, Douglas has performed in her church's liturgical dance group. After high school, she enrolled in the fine arts program at Queensborough Community College, where she studied theatre, dance and painting for two years.

Although she'd been dancing for years before transferring to Hunter, her experiences here were pivotal. The Hunter program marked her first exposure to technique classes, and her experiences gave her a great foundation in backstage etiquette and professionalism. But most importantly, it was at Hunter that Douglas's budding confidence began to surface, thanks to encourage-



Photo: Peter Dressel

ment from faculty member Kathleen Turner. "It was the first time I really owned my ability to dance," she explains.

During a winter workshop, one of her colleagues pointed out that Douglas's dancing reflected a unique spiritedness. She says, "I realized, 'I do have something that no one else has' — so I ran with it."

Douglas hasn't looked back since. An ensemble member and the understudy for Sandra Isidore, the lead female role, Douglas is enthusiastic about the possibility of touring with the show. On her days off, she's busy recording "Rainbow Heart," her solo album, which is a fusion of jazz, house, and R&B. An avid reader, Douglas aspires to writing and producing plays as well as acting in movies. Of nurturing her many talents, Douglas says, "Everything will have its turn."

◀ Elasea Douglas

Tapping Their Way Through Hunter

While most undergraduates are all too familiar with the hectic balancing act that goes along with leading full lives — filled with school, family, and work obligations — a select group of Hunter students have taken this notion of "balance" to a whole new level. Dancing, kicking and twirling their way through school, they are simultaneously performing on the glittery stage of Radio City Music Hall as members of the legendary Rockettes.

It might sound like a glamorous day job, but, in fact, being a Rockette is "more demanding than your average nine-to-five," according to Melissa Sybil '03, who successfully fulfilled the dual role of student and professional dancer during her years at Hunter. For Sybil, who transferred to Hunter in the spring of 2000 after her first season touring with the Rockettes, the rigorous training and performing schedule complemented her course load as a creative writing major with a minor in secondary education.

"Since I was in the cast that performed at night, I was able to take courses in the morning," she explains. Looking back over her tenure as a



▲ An applause-winning way to help pay tuition bills: dancing with the famed Rockettes

student, from Portland, Oregon, KT Wilson, a psychology major, has been scheduling her classes during the spring semester instead of trying to take courses during the Rockettes' busiest time, from September through December.

When September rolls around, Rockettes need to be in prime shape, which requires year-round training, including taking ballet, tap, jazz and yoga classes in the off-season — and the discipline pays off.

As Wilson notes of the required athleticism, "Being a Rockette is really hard work — making it through a whole season is one of the greatest accomplishments in itself."

For both women, their involvement with the Rockettes has been nothing short of a dream. Sybil says, "I grew up on Long Island and used to watch the Rockettes perform in the Christmas parade. All I ever wanted to be was a Rockette."

This aspiration led Sybil, who, like Wilson, has been dancing her whole life,

to stand in line 11 years ago, with hundreds of other hopeful dancers, waiting for the lengthy audition process to begin. Not only do prospective dancers have to learn combinations in the different genres of ballet, tap and jazz — but they also have to meet the height requirements, since chorus line members need to be between 5'6" and 5'10."

Wilson participated in a similar process, driving to Los Angeles to audition. No matter what the outcome, she was planning on moving to New York City as soon as she graduated from high school. As a result of her determination and hard work, Wilson was invited to tour with the Rockettes.

The major upside? "I get paid to dance," says Wilson, "which has always been my goal."

But graduation is the ultimate goal of the dancers' academic pursuits. Given Wilson's part-time schedule, she's not sure when she'll complete her studies, although she's certainly enjoy-

ing the journey. "Every class I've ever taken, I've loved," she says.

When Sybil graduated, she traveled crosstown to Radio City to join her Hunter colleagues for the ceremony, which, because of the venue, was especially sweet. "That was one of my favorite all-time moments," she says of walking across the stage she knows so well. "It was like coming full circle, a perfect culmination."



▲ KT Wilson



▲ Melissa Sybil

Rockette, Sybil adds proudly, "The only two times I've ever missed a performance were for Hunter finals — and it was well worth it."

Other dancers have handled the work-school conundrum differently, albeit just as gracefully. Current Hunter

A Call for Alumni Email Addresses:

Interested in receiving advance notice about upcoming alumni events and the latest exciting news at Hunter? Please send your name, class year and email address to alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu. We look forward to hearing from you.

Honoring Hunter Women On Mother's Day

Every May, husbands, sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, partners and friends pay tribute to the special Hunter women in their lives by making a donation to Hunter's Mother's Day Scholarship Fund.

The Fund provides scholarships to some of Hunter's finest and most deserving students — many of whom are first-generation Americans and often the first in their families to attend college.

Gifts of \$2,500 or more were acknowledged in Hunter's full-page ad in *The New York Times* on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9. These gifts enable the College to honor or memorialize Hunter alumnae with scholarships in their names.

It's never too early to make a donation. Contact mothersday@hunter.cuny.edu for more information.



CLASS NOTES

1940s

Marjorie Gordon (BA '40), the president and general director of the Piccolo Opera Company in Boca Raton, was recognized in September by Cambridge *Who's Who* for her accomplishments as a lyric-coloratura soprano and star of opera and chamber music. She made her solo debut with the New York Philharmonic and her operatic debut with the New York City Opera Company.

Estelle Feineman (BA '45), a retired statistician for the Milk Dealers Association and the current president of the Grass Valley Duplicate Bridge Club in California, celebrated her 64th wedding anniversary on Dec. 9 with her husband, George, a graduate of Brooklyn College.

Blanche Krubner (BA '49) joined the Board of Directors of the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, a group working to protect New Jersey's pine forests. She previously served as vice president of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions.

1950s

Dorrieth Leipziger ('52) recently celebrated her 80th birthday in South Florida, where she has lived for the past 44 years. She maintains her membership in the Florida Bar. Dorrieth asks her fellow alumni who took English with Dr. Irene Samuel to contact her by email: dolino@earthlink.net, to help create a scholarship fund in Dr. Samuel's memory.



Michael Frankfurt's ('57) law firm, Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz, was ranked No. 16 in the exclusive "Best Places to Work 2009" by *Crain's New York Business* in December. "Attorneys don't often describe law firm life as 'fun and creative,' but that's probably because they don't work with Michael Frankfurt," *Crain's* reported.

1960s

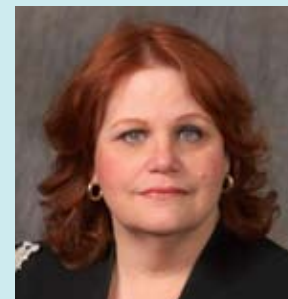
Marjory Gordon (BS '61, MS '62), nursing professor emerita at Boston College's Connell School of Nursing, was named a "Living Legend" by the American Academy of Nursing. Gordon is known for her development of the Eleven Functional Health Patterns, an assessment framework that has provided generations of nurses with a format for patient diagnosis.

Joan A. Laredo-Liddell (BA '61, MA '70) appeared in Cambridge *Who's Who* in October for leadership and excellence in chemistry instruction. During a 51-year career, Laredo-Liddell taught high school and college chemistry. She coordinates National Chemistry Week for the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, and is a member of the Society of Chemical Education.

Herb Landau (BA '63) was appointed executive director of the Lancaster Public Library in Lancaster County, PA. Landau was previously executive director of the Milanof-Schock Library, named the Best Small Library in America in 2006 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and *Library Journal*.

1970s

Kevin Sheehan (BS '75), CEO of Norwegian Cruise Lines, has been named chairman of the executive committee of the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association, the cruise industry's primary association and liaison for legislation, tourism development, ports, safety and security across the Caribbean and Latin America.



Charlotte A. Biblow (MS '76) has received the *Long Island Business News*' "Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business Award," which recognizes Long Island's top women professionals for business acumen, mentoring, and community involvement. Biblow leads the environmental practice group at the law firm Farrell Fritz, LP.

Glenn Dong (BA '78) was named vice president and corporate treasurer of Michigan's Cooper-Standard Automotive, a global automotive supplier.

Thomas A. Dern (MSW '79) and **Stephen E. Freeman (MSW '75)** were promoted in October to the positions of co-chief operating officers of the YAI Network, a not-for-profit in New York City for agencies working to assist people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Dern and Freeman most recently served as associate executive directors of the YAI Network.

Michael Glier (MA '79), a professor at Williams College, published a book of paintings and photographs, *Along A Long Line*, in September. The book chronicles Glier's journey from the Arctic to the Equator.

1980s

Classical guitarist **Stephen Funk Pearson (MA '81)** released his third album, *Artists Around the World*, featuring his songs performed by artists from the Americas, Australia, Europe, and the Middle East on guitar, flute, mandolin, violin and marimba.



Belinda M. Conway (MSW '82) was named executive deputy commissioner for operations at New York City's Administration for Children's Services.

Theresa Hackett's (MA '84) paintings and mixed-media works were exhibited at Bloomsburg Univer-

sity's Haas Gallery in November. She was awarded a 2009 fellowship in printmaking, drawing and book arts from the New York Foundation of the Arts.



The town of Dangriga, Belize, named a street in honor of **Arlie Oswald Petters (BA/MA '86)** in recognition of Petters' contributions to Belize. The Duke University professor founded the Petters Research Institute in Dangriga in 2005 to train students in math, science and technology.

Olga Sanchez (BA '86) directed *Canta y no llores*, an original bilingual play, in November at Miracle Theatre Group in Portland, OR, where she is artistic director. Her short story "La Calaca," was published in the *Rio Grande Review*, Spring 2009.

Linda Lausell Bryant (MSW '89), executive director of Inwood House, was appointed in August by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to the New York City Panel for Educational Policy. The panel approves policies, budgets and contracts for the NY Department of Education.

1990s

Marie Bresnahan (MPH '94) was named director of training and consulting services for the Center for Urban Community Services, a national nonprofit, in September.

Dean Efkarpidis (BA '95) joined Pivot, Inc., a software company, in August as vice president of finance and administration.

Meredith Leigh Taylor (MUA '95) joined the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington, D.C., non-profit, as chapter coordinator. Previously Taylor was program director for PlaNYC and special projects manager for Friends of the High Line.

Stephen Grimaldi (MSW '97) joined Yorkville Common Pantry as executive director. Previously, Grimaldi was deputy executive director of Urban Pathways.

Constance Chase (MA '98), a professional lyric soprano, performed a chamber concert in August with members of the U.S. Military Academy Band in Trumbull, CT. Chase directs the West Point Academy Cadet Glee Club.

Kin-Kee "Henry" Chung (MA '98), a developmental and behavioral pediatrician, joined the Affinity Center in Montgomery, Ohio, to provide pediatric consulting and work with children with autism spectrum disorders. Chung works at the Primary Pediatric Center of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Michelle J. Dyett-Welcome (MSEd '99) published *Excuse Me! Let Me Speak: A Young Person's Guide to Public Speaking*.

2000s

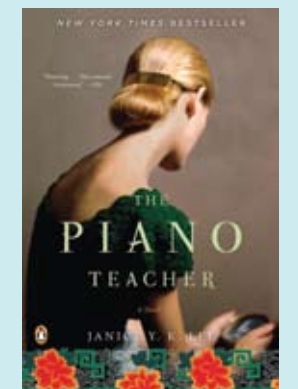
Mindy Fernandez-Sheinbaum (MSW '00) is director of alumni affairs at Teach for America in the mid-Atlantic region. She works with more than 600 teachers on

national educational and leadership issues, career counseling and education reform.



Robina Niaz (MSW '01), founding director of Turning Point for Women and Families, which helps Muslim victims of domestic violence, was named a 2009 CNN Hero in September.

Gerard P. Scharfenberger (MA '01), the deputy mayor of Middletown Township, NJ, was named "2009 Public Servant of the Year" by the Northern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce.



Janice Y.K. Lee's (MFA '02) *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Piano Teacher* was a *Times* Editor's Choice, and has appeared on the bestseller lists of *Publisher's Weekly*, the *L.A. Times* and *The Denver Post*, and was chosen to be a part of Barnes and Noble's "Discover New Writers" program.

Alumni Giving Is Vital to Hunter's Continued Success

As we approach the end of our fiscal year on June 30, please consider giving to Hunter's Annual Fund. This Fund supports student scholarships, Hunter's superb faculty, state-of-the-art labs, the latest technology, and other immediate needs of the College. Your gift, no matter what the size, makes a daily impact on Hunter. If you wish to give online, please visit: <https://onlinedonation.hunter.cuny.edu/> or write a check to The Hunter College Foundation and mail it to The Hunter College Foundation, 695 Park Avenue, Room 1313A, New York, NY 10065. Thank you for your support.

Hunter Is Everywhere. Show Us Where You Are!

Send us a picture of yourself alone, or with family and friends, wearing Hunter T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats (any Hunter gear will do) as you are out and about: visiting the Seven Wonders of the World, vacationing on an island, or hiking near a volcano — you name it! We'd love to feature Hunter alumni showing off their Hunter spirit around the world. Email photos to: publications@hunter.cuny.edu. Please make sure photos are high-resolution jpegs.

Correction

In a photo from the Alumni Birthday Luncheon in the Summer 2009 edition of *At Hunter*, we failed to identify Shirley Sandell in the photo showing members of the 70th Anniversary Class of 1939. Sandell is seated second from the left, in the top photo on Page 14. We regret the error.

CLASS NOTES CONTINUED

Paul Tomashosky (BA '02) was named executive chef at the Phoenix Bar and Grill in Snowmass Village, CO.

Justin Stack (BA '03) was named head coach for the women's volleyball team at Hostos Community College. Stack led the Hunter Hawks volleyball team to two CUNYAC Championships, was CUNYAC Tournament Most Valuable Player and a three-time Hunter College Most Valuable

Player. He was a Gold Medalist at the USA Nationals in 2005.

Tim Maloney (MS '04) joined Baylor University as director of basketball operations. He recently served as associate head coach at the University of Massachusetts.

Julie M. Murphy (MS '04) joined the Philadelphia law firm Stradley Ronon as an associate.

Emmanuel Palatulan (BA '08) is

now head coach for the women's volleyball team at SUNY Maritime College. He was formerly assistant men's volleyball coach at City College, and competed on Hunter's men's varsity volleyball team for four years.

Elvis Radgman (BA '08) joined the Tobago House of Assembly — the local government of the island of Tobago — as dance coordinator, Division of Community Development and Culture.



◀ It's a Hunter family affair for brothers Marc Migliozi '10 (c) and Peter Migliozi '06 (r), who met up with Don O'Keefe '99 (l) and other Hunter alumni and students at a BOND bowling party in January. BOND (Bridging Our Next Decades), a new chapter of the Alumni Association, targets new and young alumni in an effort to get them reengaged and involved with the College.

A Message of Love Written Large

Marna Levin Gold '51 received a one-of-a-kind gift for her latest wedding anniversary. Her husband, Cliff, hired a billboard on Route 46 in Fort Lee, NJ, to tell her — and the world — that after 60 years of marriage she is "still the center of my heart."

Marna never saw the billboard, only a photograph, since the couple now lives in Florida. The impact was still strong. "I was extremely flattered to receive such an expression of love," she said. "But I also felt like crawling under a table."

"I should have known," she added. "He did the same thing for our 50th anniversary. He loves a surprise."

The passage of six decades has in no way dimmed Marna Gold's warm memories of Hunter. "I majored in textile design, she said recently. "It wasn't easy to find work in those days, but I went out with my Hunter degree and was able to get several jobs. I loved the Hunter experience."



IN MEMORIAM



Amelie S. Rothschild (BA '26), a driving force for public education,

died on March 3 at the age of 104. She was on the School Board of Scarsdale, NY, during the McCarthy Era and fought on the side of academic freedom in what became known as "The Battle of the Books." Rothschild credited Hunter with inspiring her interest in learning. She was one of two New York State representatives at President Eisenhower's White House Conference on Education, and served as president of the League of Women Voters in Scarsdale and the associate director of the New York Civil Liberties Union. She is survived by her two sons, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Mildred Cohn (BA '31), a pioneer for women in chemistry and physics

who earned the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest science award, died on October 12, 2009, at age 96.

Despite being banned from a lab because she was female, Cohn made major contributions in the application of physics and broke ground in the field of nuclear magnetic resonance.



Sylvia Schur (BA '39), a creative powerhouse in the food industry, died

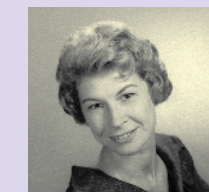
on September 2, 2009, at age 92. Schur's test kitchen developed such food products as Clamato clam-tomato juice cocktail, Cran-Apple juice and Metrecal, one of the first diet drinks. She created menus and consulted for The Four Seasons in Manhattan, Burger

Born to Russian immigrants, Cohn entered Hunter at 14 and graduated in three years. At Columbia, where she received a master's in physical chemistry, she was not allowed to study chemical engineering or become a teaching assistant because the programs were open only to men.

After graduate school, Cohn worked at the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, the forerunner of NASA, where she was the only female. In 1939, she became a chemistry professor at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1964, she became the only woman to receive the American Heart Association's Lifetime Career Award. She also was the first woman on the editorial board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, where she served as editor for 10 years. In 1983, President Reagan honored her with the National Medal of Science. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2009.

King, and Campbell's Soup, among others. She developed recipes and wrote a cookbook for one of the first microwave ovens.

Schur's many friends included James Beard and Andy Warhol, with whom she worked at *Seventeen* magazine. In 1978, *Parade* magazine announced Schur as its food editor with a full-page ad in *The New York Times* proclaiming, "Is this too much power in the hands of one woman?" She also developed recipes for the fictional-chef columnists Betty Crocker and Ann Page.



Constance Karros Doctorow (BA '53), the retired deputy

executive director of the South Bronx Mental Health Council, died on March 16 at the age of 83. Doctorow was instrumental in developing services for the mentally ill and their families in the Bronx. She began her work with the Council when she joined Lincoln Mental Health Services in 1966. She and her husband, Jarvis Doctorow, gave extensively to the arts and mental health causes. They established the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation to issue grants to mental health and arts institutions. Prior to her work in the Bronx, Doctorow was a family therapist at the Wiltwyck School for Boys and a senior clinical psychologist at Rockland State Hospital.

She taught at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University and New York University. Doctorow has bequeathed \$75,000 to Hunter College.



Betty D. Fox (HCHS '50, BA '54), a television executive and real

estate broker, died at age 76 on August 27, 2009, from complications following a fall.

Fox had a long career in broadcast media before entering real estate. In the 1950s and 1960s, she was an analyst for A.C. Nielsen and then managed a TV station in Las Vegas. She returned to New York as a corporate director of sales for Fox Broadcasting.

On the South Fork of Long Island, Fox was a TV producer and managing partner of two Long Island oldies radio stations. Before moving to Long Island permanently, her real estate business focused on downtown Manhattan and East Hampton.

Fox was active in Hunter's Alumni Association, serving as president from 1966 to 1969 and organizing the 10th anniversary reunion for the Class of 1954. A Hunter Hall of Fame member, she was honored in 1989 with the Award for Distinguished Service to the Alumni Association and the College. She established an eastern Long Island chapter of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association.

HUNTER REMEMBERS...

Florence O'Neill Adams '54
Harriet Adler '42
Grace Riordan Blaber '49
Helen Katherine Blount '33
Joan Teahan Briody '55
Connie Cannella '46

Nina Cavallero '36
Helen Miller Clark '38
Molla Corson '28
Florence Brady Donohue (HCHS '35, BA '41)
Marilyn Faden '45

Evelyn Riley Gannon '55
Carolyn Strauss Jaffe '44
Geraldine "Jeri" Johnson '42
Appolonia Mayer '59
Sonia Brody Prezant (HCHS '47, BA '51)

Rita Ruben '45
Margaret Ruhlmann (HCHS '46, BA '50)
Phyllis Levine Small '56
Jacqueline Williams '70
Ruth Diane Williams '74



New York Daily News photo by Mark Bonifacio

▲ Hunter student Andrew Rice (left) joins Arthur Lee Porter as Porter strums on his prized new bass guitar.

Student's Musical Gift Changes Three Lives

“People sometimes have terrible lives,” said Andrew Rice, “and it shouldn’t be that way. So when I saw how bad Butch felt, I wanted to help him out.”

“But all I wanted to do was help him get a new guitar; I never expected this!”

Rice is a 20-year-old Hunter student, and “Butch” is Arthur Lee (Butch) Porter, a 51-year-old musician who once played on hit records and accompanied hit singers, but found himself jobless and homeless after a string of very bad breaks. In desperation, he hocked his bass guitar to buy food, and the loss of his beloved instrument left him visibly depressed.

Rice and Porter met at a small Staten Island café where they both worked, and Rice, who also plays bass, under-

stood how dejected the older man felt without his guitar. So he set about trying to replace the instrument — and, to his great astonishment, ended up reuniting Porter’s family and seeing his story in the *New York Daily News* and on numerous websites.

To find a guitar for Porter, Rice posted a message on TalkBass.com asking if anyone had a used instrument to sell.

“I didn’t know if we’d get much response,” he relates, “but within a week we got 150,000 views, and the story got put on other sites. Then people offered to donate, which at first I didn’t want — I didn’t want people to think this was a scam — but we worked things out, and we soon had enough money to buy Butch a brand-new SX5 string bass.”

Porter was overjoyed, but the story doesn’t end there. Andre Porter of Monterey, California, who hadn’t seen his older brother since 1969, saw the online thread, as did Altranise Porter-Harris of upstate New York, who hadn’t spoken to her father in years and feared he was dead. Unfortunate circumstances had separated the family, and what Andre called “some sort of miracle” reunited them.

The story was also spotted by the *Daily News*, which ran an article about the Porters, the guitar, and Rice on February 16.

The instigator of the “miracle”— who prefers not to use such terms — is an upper sophomore who plans to major in either English or history and become a high school teacher. “I like

to read and I like learning,” he says, “and I liked teaching kids when I was a Boy Scout leader; it’s a great feeling to know that you can affect their future.”

Rice also affects peoples’ present lives, for in addition to going to Hunter, he plays in a band — and is a cook and caterer. He began by working as a busboy to earn some much-needed additional money, then learned to cook, and went on to work as a freelance caterer and a restaurant cook.

Butch Porter says that getting a new guitar was “like getting his arm back,” and he calls the Hunter student “a god,” but Rice rejects such comments, saying simply, “People have helped me out — and we should all help each other out.”

10 QUESTIONS FOR...

Joseph Viteritti

Chair, Urban Affairs and Planning

A Hunter graduate, Joseph P. Viteritti is the Blanche D. Blank Professor of Public Policy, chair of the Urban Affairs and Planning Department, and principal architect of the undergraduate Public Policy Program at Roosevelt House. Prior to coming to Hunter, he taught at Princeton, NYU, Harvard and SUNY/Albany. He recently published his tenth book.



1 What is your fondest memory from your student days at Hunter?

Once we decided to put on a rock concert in the Hunter auditorium. A student in our crowd had a part-time job with Ron Delsner, the entertainment producer. So one Friday evening The Doors came to Hunter to give a live performance. John Sebastian and the Lovin’ Spoonful were the warm-up act. Tiny Tim was there for comic relief, but he performed from his seat in the balcony.

2 What made you decide to pursue urban affairs?

I am the result of an urban affair. My parents met and married in Brooklyn. I grew up there. Over the years, I either lived in or had close ties to every borough of the city. Even after moving out, I kept coming back. I have lived and worked in other cities. Cities are the soul of civilization; they demand attention.

3 What is the greatest challenge in cities today?

The growing disparity in wealth between the rich and the poor. It has distorted everything — politics, neighborhood life, cultural activities, sports, you name it. I am also deeply concerned about education and our inability to close the learning gap defined by race and class. The two issues are intertwined.

4 Do you have a favorite book or movie?

Martin Scorsese’s *Gangs of New York*. As a rule I don’t like violent films. Aside from some historical inaccuracies, Scorsese managed to reproduce the physical and social landscape of 19th-century New York as no one else has. It is haunting to watch. Daniel Day-Lewis played a frightening and mesmerizing character.

5 What is your favorite thing about Hunter?

Three things: The Students...The Students...and The Students. I spent most of my career away from Hunter, so that my only connection over the years was as a former student. I still identify with them. They are New York, in all its pain and glory. You cannot spend 14 weeks with a bunch of them without learning something about the city or yourself.

6 Tell us about a memorable moment in the classroom.

I am a strong believer in interdisciplinary study. The world, after all, is not divided into artificial fields. My “Governing the City” course includes material from history, law, sociology, political science, and economics. I have recently begun to add readings from literature. Social scientists aggregate data, but they often miss the human

dimension of city life. Good writers can communicate the feelings of people and the struggles they face. So in addition to the usual menu of assignments, we spend time with writers like Joan Didion, John Steinbeck, E.B. White, Langston Hughes, and James Baldwin.

7 What is your greatest hope for the new undergraduate program at Roosevelt House, which is one of the few programs of its kind in the country?

My hope is that we equip students to develop informed opinions of their own about the big issues of the day. While such programs typically attract students from political science, economics, and sociology, the program would benefit from having students who major in the sciences, the humanities, and the arts — all of which can be tied to policy. Students should be exposed to a range of perspectives and viewpoints. They have a lot to gain by participating in the public programming, which will bring in scholars, writers, and newsmakers from around the world.

8 You convened the inaugural Roosevelt House Faculty Seminar. What did you hope to achieve?

Hunter has an extraordinary faculty that is doing fascinating work in many areas. The main point of the seminar was to introduce them to each other and allow them to exchange ideas. In this way we can develop a community of scholars who have a common interest in public policy and hopefully encourage future collaborations across departments. This can be done in different formats with different people.

9 Do you have a hobby?

I enjoy wine and travel. Wherever wine is produced, you usually find good food and a beautiful countryside. So for me a perfect day ends in an unpretentious open-air restaurant in the wine country someplace, where I can enjoy the local produce with local people at an affordable price.

10 What accomplishment are you most proud of?

I am pleased that some of the things I have written have had an influence on the national education debate. Last year *Education Week* identified 15 essays published over the past 25 years that can serve as intellectual markers on the road to school reform. I was very happy to see one of mine included.

HUNTER

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Foundation Board Member **Lisa H. Witten:**

From Uncertain Undergrad to Educational Leader

Lisa Witten was intimidated when she first arrived at Hunter College in the late 1970s. “I had been in an all-girls school in Albany,” she says, “and although I was already married, I was still nervous about attending coeducational Hunter. What’s more, I had never been a very good student, so my expectations weren’t very high.”

All that changed once she settled in. The diversity of the student body and the stimulation of the classrooms proved to be “a wonderful growing experience.” And, she adds, “Hunter taught me to be a student — it inspired me to realize what I was capable

of doing.” She learned the lesson well. She graduated summa cum laude in 1981 with a BA in audiology and speech and language therapy.

Witten is repaying Hunter for enriching her life many times over. She serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Foundation Board of Trustees. She and her husband, Richard — a retired partner at Goldman Sachs and a trustee of Columbia University — have donated \$1 million to endow scholarships in Hunter’s Honors College.

Education has been a major part of Witten’s life. After graduation

from Hunter she earned a master’s in elementary education at Columbia University Teachers College, then taught first- and second-graders in two schools in Westchester County. She later trained as a reading specialist, again working with second-graders.

Her love of teaching children continues to this day. She is enrolled in a year-long training program to become a docent for first- and third-graders at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Doing good works comes naturally to both her and her husband. They have established

the Richard and Elizabeth Witten Family Foundation to fund social-service organizations and educational initiatives. The couple supports a clinic in Durban, South Africa, for HIV patients. And she is a member of the board of the Fresh Air Fund, a not-for-profit agency that provides free summer vacations to New York City children from low-income communities.

The Wittens have three children: Annie Hopkins, who follows in her mother’s footsteps teaching second-graders in a Brooklyn charter school; Alex, a financial trader; and Jeffrey, who just graduated from Columbia.