Hunter alumna Evelyn Lauder ('58)—an internationally renowned figure in the fight against cancer—received an honorary degree from her alma mater at the spring commencement exercises, where she expressed her gratitude at being honored for “doing something that my inner voice told me needed to be done.”

The graduation ceremony—Hunter’s 189th commencement—was held June 8 at Radio City Music Hall. More than 1,700 students received degrees.

Lauder, a graduate of Hunter College High School as well as the College, is senior corporate vice president of the Estée Lauder Companies and has been a widely admired cosmetics-industry leader for more than 30 years.

However, it is for her role in the battle to defeat breast cancer that she is best known. She led the fund-raising drive that established the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center, a diagnostic and treatment facility at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and she launched the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, which supports research into the causes and treatments of breast cancer.

Lauder also spearheaded the Estée Lauder Companies Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, a worldwide effort that includes the distribution of the now-famous pink ribbons that have so effectively raised awareness about the disease.

In her address at the commencement ceremony, Lauder deplored the upsurge in white-collar crime—“We seem to know an awful lot of people who are in jail, out of jail, about to go to jail, or deserve to be in jail, and that is just not acceptable”—and contrasted today’s “different kind of morality” with her own school days, when she and her classmates “shared the moral high ground.”

But, she stressed, she was certain that Hunter’s new graduates—“you are the brave”—would triumph over today’s challenges and “hold up the value of the Hunter College name.”

Reverend Dr. Calvin Butts, III, delivered the keynote address at the commencement and received a President’s Medal for his community activism. Another President’s Medal recipient was Dennis Walcott, New York City deputy mayor of policy.

For more on graduation, go to page 4.

Technology at Hunter: Opening New Doors to Learning

Technology is changing all aspects of life at Hunter College. Professors and students alike—taking full advantage of the enormous capabilities of computer hardware and software and the countless sources of information available on the Internet—are teaching, learning, and conducting research in ways undreamed of only a decade ago. Here are some examples:

- No more dusty blackboards: professors now teach classes using Blackboard, a Web-based system for conducting courses. Teachers can post lecture notes and assignments, and students and teachers can interact on discussion boards—all online.
- Becoming multilingual through multimedia: Hunter students learn languages—including correct pronunciation—with multimedia tools.
- Researchers go to the library at midnight—without leaving home. Students query a professor at 2 am—without waking her up.
- Not just play: computer games serve as effective teaching devices, illustrating abstract concepts in ways that bring ideas to life.
- Computing instead of commuting: students with full-time professional jobs save time through online courses that enable them to travel to Hunter via their home computers instead of the subway.

Please turn to pages 6 and 7 to see more on how technology is shaping the lives of students and faculty at Hunter.
Happenings at Hunter

To see a list of the upcoming events at Hunter, go to www.hunter.cuny.edu/events

President Jennifer J. Raab presented actress Cynthia Nixon with the Hunter College High School's 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award at the high school's graduation in June. Nixon (Class of 1984) told graduates she missed her own graduation because she was appearing in a Broadway play.

As the 2004 Presidential Public Leadership Program speaker, former UN Ambassador Andrew Young gave a public address in which he spoke of the current U.S. administration, the war in Iraq and life under President Jimmy Carter. While at Hunter, he also took part in two political science seminars and participated in a panel discussion on the relevance of the United Nations.

At the Hunter College School of Social Work's June commencement, New York City Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta addressed the graduates and received an honorary degree, presented by Social Work Dean James Blackburn.

Playwright/actor Wallace Shawn performed a staged reading of his politically charged play The Designated Mourner to a sold-out audience at the Kaye Playhouse. Joining Shawn onstage were his longtime friends Larry Pine and Deborah Eisenberg.

Canadian poet/author Anne Carson, one of the speakers in Hunter's Distinguished Writers Series, captivated her audience as she read from her work and later signed her books.

Vita Rabinowitz, co-director of Hunter’s Gender Equity Project (left), joined (l. to r.) New York Times columnist Lisa Belkin, ABC News correspondent Cynthia McFadden and Elise crane McCabe, president of the Museum for African Art, for a dynamic panel discussion titled “Beyond the Glass Ceiling: Women and Work in the 21st Century.”

New York Times photographer Chester Higgins Jr. presented portraits of the elderly, taken from his recent book, Elder Grace, in which he celebrates the aging process as reflected in his distinguished subjects.

The Sharing the Legacy Dance Concert in April featured Hunter dance students performing “Pond,” a work choreographed by the late modern dancer Alwin Nikolais.

As part of the spring 2004 Distinguished Writers Series, Toni Morrison visited Hunter and read from Love, her latest novel.

Canadian post/author Anne Carson, one of the speakers in Hunter’s Distinguished Writers Series, captivated her audience as she read from her work and later signed her books.

Metropolitan Opera star Regina Resnik (Hunter ’42) regaled the audience at a Presidential Roundtable with stories about her extraordinary life and career.
The President’s Perspective

In this issue of At Hunter we focus on technology and its impact on the College. While Hunter’s mission has remained the same since the College was founded, technology has given us a completely new and dynamic set of tools to carry forth that mission. Long lines in the gym have been replaced by online registration, computers are available throughout the campuses, and professors use an online system called Blackboard to assist their teaching. Each year we add to our roster of “smart classrooms,” with completely updated audio systems and new lecterns, projectors, screens, VCRs and DVDs. Every student has a Hunter e-mail address, so we can communicate important information electronically. A completely redesigned Hunter Web site— which will be a great way for you to stay connected to Hunter—will be launched soon.

To continue providing students with the latest technology—and to support a wide array of other projects—the CUNY colleges with support and guidance from CUNY Chancellor Goldstein are embarking on a capital campaign to raise much-needed funds. Your support is crucial to the success of this effort. You will be hearing more from me soon about the many opportunities for you to participate.

Your support is also crucial to the success of another important project we’ve undertaken: the restoration and revitalization of Roosevelt House. Work is underway to transform Franklin and Eleanor’s city home—acquired by Hunter in the 1940s—into the Hunter College Public Policy Institute. Polshek Partnership, the architectural firm that designed the Clinton Library and the Rose Planetarium, envisions wonderful spaces with state-of-the-art equipment for presentations, conferences and other public programming, and offices with the latest computer technology to support faculty research. Exhibit space and apartments to house visiting faculty and guests of the College are also planned. We have a solid base to begin construction with a $15 million capital allocation from CUNY and $1 million from the City Council. We are moving through the public approval phase, and full-scale construction will begin in June 2005. Soon we’ll be inviting you to see the plans and encouraging you to come back to visit the restored house.

We hope you’ll take the opportunity to see firsthand the way your alma mater is enhancing all aspects of college life—for teachers, researchers, and, most of all, students.

In his influential book Choosing Equality, published in 1999, Professor Viteritti helped transform the national debate on school choice from a discussion on economic markets to one of social justice.

New Faculty
Joseph P. Viteritti Comes Home to Hunter

We are pleased to welcome back one of our own. This fall Joseph P. Viteritti was appointed professor in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and was named the first recipient of the Blanche D. Blank Endowed Chair in Public Policy. Blanche D. Blank, who died in 2003, was Hunter’s acting president from 1993-1995 and a former dean of social sciences and professor of political science. It is particularly fitting that Viteritti was named the first Blanche Blank Professor since Blank was Viteritti’s mentor at Hunter. Viteritti comes to Hunter from Princeton University where he was a visiting professor in the Department of Politics.

“It’s great to be back in the classroom. I’ve got tremendous affection for Hunter students. They are the most interesting students I’ve ever encountered anywhere,” said Viteritti. “I’m honored to occupy the chair named for my former professor and dear friend.”

A frequent commentator on education, New York City government, and politics, Viteritti has an extensive record of public service. He served as special assistant to the Chancellor of the New York City public schools from 1978-1981 and as a principal advisor to the superintendents of schools in Boston and San Francisco. He was a member of State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer’s Advisory Panel on Nonpublic Schools and advised the mayoral transition teams of Edward Koch, David Dinkins, Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg.

Viteritti is a prolific author on education policy, state and local governance, public law and criminal justice. His essays have appeared in social science journals, law reviews and other publications. Among his more widely cited books are Choosing Equality: School Choice, the Constitution, and Civil Society (Brookings Institution Press); Across the River: Politics and Education in the City (Holmes & Meier); and Making Good Citizens (Yale University Press), which he edited.

Viteritti earned his master’s degree from Hunter in 1973 and a PhD in political science from the CUNY Graduate Center in 1978. He was named to the Hunter Alumni Hall of Fame in 2001. Viteritti previously taught at New York University for 16 years, and prior to that, at Harvard University and SUNY-Albany.
As sisters, Thera and Sanatha Alexis have shared many things—clothes, an apartment, laughs—but on June 8, 2004, they shared an experience they’ll never forget. The two sisters graduated alongside each other onstage at Radio City, both earning top honors. Thera, the older of the two, was a member of the Honors Science Research Program at Hunter and graduated with a BA in biology, while Sanatha, a Golden Key International Honor Society member, graduated with a BA/MA in economics.

The sisters, who grew up helping their parents and their seven siblings tend the family’s small farm in Grenada, came to New York in 2000 to attend Hunter. “I know what it is to work hard in the garden in the heat,” said Thera. “I want to get an education and a good job so my mother won’t have to work so hard.”

While at Hunter, Thera worked in Professor Peter Lipke’s lab, studying the biogenesis of the cell wall. Although she was deeply involved in her own research, she always found time to mentor junior minority scientists.

Thera began a PhD program in molecular biology at Columbia this fall and Sanatha is planning to pursue a doctoral program in economics. Hunter hasn’t seen the last of the Alexis family. Another sister, Leslie-Ann, is currently a junior at the College and will surely follow in the footsteps of her successful big sisters.
Sylvia E. Fishman, who served Hunter for nearly four decades as a professor, administrator, dean, and vice president, died on June 5, 2004, at the age of 66. She retired from her longtime post as Hunter's dean of students and vice president for student affairs in 2002, but continued to be involved with the College.

Fishman joined the Hunter faculty in 1964 as an instructor in the Department of Health and Physical Education. She soon became the department chair, and in 1979 she was named dean of students and vice president for student affairs.

Vice President Fishman was instrumental in creating a host of new programs and facilities to benefit students, including the Children's Learning Center, the Access Center for Students with Disabilities, new programs in wellness education, and the Student Center, a facility dedicated to academic advising and program planning. Under her direction the Office of Student Services, one of the College’s busiest and most essential sectors, grew constantly in scope and responsibility.

Always ready to step in when needed, Fishman served as acting vice president for administration during 1995/96.

In presenting the medal, President Jennifer J. Raab called Fishman a “true citizen of Hunter College” and a “true champion of students.”

Fishman had three degrees in education: a BS from Tufts University, an MS from Hunter, and a doctorate from Columbia University Teachers College. Before coming to Hunter she taught at Tufts and at the Riverdale Country School.
A Multimedia Approach to Learning Chinese

Hunter students can now use multimedia technology to study Chinese, thanks to an innovative online computer program developed by Professor Der-lin Chao of the Department of Classical and Oriental Studies. Geared to Western students, the program focuses on the most important 1,000 characters in the 50,000-character Chinese lexicon. Using the program’s software, students can call up a page for each of the 1,000 characters, view the character’s brushstrokes, and learn the word’s root and meaning. In addition, because most Americans find Chinese difficult to pronounce, the program allows students to hear the characters pronounced by a native speaker.

Pam Weiss, a recent Hunter graduate who majored in Chinese, served as Professor Chao’s teaching assistant, and helped build the multimedia Chinese program, says the program is “particularly good for Western students. Instead of viewing the characters as abstract pieces of art, students learn the meaning of each character’s individual components. It’s an analytical approach that’s well suited to Western students.”

Professor Chao created the program with support from a Hunter Presidential grant and a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. She also benefited from the state-of-the-art facilities available at the Leona and Marcy Chunin Language Center at Hunter, a modern language teaching and learning center for Hunter’s language students featuring specialty software programs, access to online language resources, and an extensive foreign-language film collection.

Professor Chao understands that learning Chinese can be a challenge: “Chinese can be a difficult language to learn,” she says. “I wanted to create a program that would let students use technology to understand the many components that go into building each Chinese character.”

Technology at Hunter:

ICIT Director Leads Hunter Into the Future

Over the past five years, Hunter College has markedly expanded its technological capabilities. Hunter now has a long, reliable data system that facilitates a wide range of communications and provides students and faculty access to a broader array of hardware and software. Leading this expansion effort is Anand Padmanabhan, who heads Instructional Computing and Information Technology (ICIT), the 150-person Hunter division that develops, upgrades, and services technology on all of Hunter’s campuses.

Padmanabhan has a bachelor’s degree in electronics and telecommunications engineering from Madras University in his native India and an MS in computer engineering from Louisiana State University. He came to Hunter in 2000, after working at NASA Center for Educational Technologies, and then at Seton Hill University, where he was named executive director for information technology while still in his 30s, and Tennessee State University, where he was chief information officer and director of IT.

He joined the Hunter staff as executive director of ICIT and was recently promoted to assistant vice president.

Soon after arriving at Hunter, Padmanabhan revised the technology strategic plan for the College with a view to providing faster, more efficient technology throughout the College community.

With the improvements Padmanabhan and his team have put in place, students can now access data needed for their research far more quickly and efficiently, they can discuss coursework and research online with one another and with their professors, and they can carry out administrative tasks—such as registering for classes online—with much greater ease. Faculty, for their part, can teach more effectively by incorporating technology into their classrooms, conduct interactive online discussions with one student or an entire class, and exchange ideas with fellow Hunter professors as well as researchers all over the world.

Padmanabhan has also instituted programs to teach faculty and staff how to use new technology—and to learn which systems will be most useful to an individual class or office.

One of Padmanabhan’s major goals for the future is to increase the Hunter community’s knowledge and understanding of the new technologies. He also has personal goals: he is working toward a doctorate in computer science at the CUNY Graduate Center; and he and his wife, Aiyshwariya Padmanabhan, who is also a technology professional, are going to be the parents of twins in January.

ICIT Director Leads Hunter Into the Future

Above: This page, from the new online program that teaches Chinese, shows the Chinese character guó, which means country, state, or nation. Below: With Professor Der-lin Chao of the Department of Classical and Oriental Studies (2nd from left) is the team that worked with him to develop a pioneering online program to teach Chinese. Team members are (l. to r.) Hunter graduate Pam Weiss; Shoumad Samadd, information systems specialist; Clifford Irizarry, acting director, Leona and Marcy Chunin Language Center; and Cody Ouk, information systems assistant.

Library Takes Quantum Leap

Libraries everywhere—including Hunter’s—have changed more in the past 10 years than they did in the preceding half-century, says Dr. Louise Sherby, Hunter’s chief librarian.

“Because of the revolution in technology,” says Sherby, “library users now have a far wider range of resources at their fingertips, and they can access these resources at speeds they once couldn’t imagine.”

For example, to determine what information sources exist, library users once had to go through one or more printed indexes page by page; now, with a computer they can move quickly through one, two, or more of the 115 specialized databases (in math, science, literature, philosophy, history, etc.) available at Hunter. To learn which resources were in the Hunter library, researchers used to let their fingers do the walking through a card catalog; today their fingers walk much more quickly through the online catalog CUNY+, which lists what is available throughout the CUNY system.

Still another change is that students and faculty can now use the library even when it’s closed, owing to remote access possible.

Library staff as well as users now operate in new ways. “We always offered workshops in how to use the library,” says Sherby, “but now we show students how to use our Web page to explore our resources; we also direct new researchers toward the specialized databases most relevant to their subject. It’s important that beginning researchers learn how to narrow a search down rather than go into Google where they might be directed to 10,000 sites.”
Opening New Doors to Learning

A Technology Pioneer at Hunter

Sociology Professor Manfred Kuechler is a pioneer in using technology to teach classes. Kuechler, who came to Hunter in 1988 "when some people were still using punch cards on mainframe computers," realized early on that the Web could be a first-rate teaching and learning tool. In 1995, he began putting material for his classes up on the Web and provided class-specific discussion boards for his students. Now, several hundred Hunter faculty members are following his example, using Blackboard, a Web-based course management system available to all faculty CUNY-wide.

"New technologies have opened up enormous new avenues for today's students, including using new devices in the classroom that make learning more interactive and using the Internet to conduct original research," says Kuechler. "Instead of doing library research summarizing what five researchers have said, students can actually go to the primary sources, such as government agencies, courts, and legislatures, and collect information." Kuechler cited the example of a student who did research on the "No Child Left Behind" Act, using current Internet sources to track the history and implementation of this legislation, a controversial topic in the recent presidential election campaign.

Using Internet research presents today's students with challenges as well as opportunities. "Students and instructors alike have to do much more work," says Kuechler, who teaches his students to evaluate the validity of Internet resources critically and to learn how to document these sources properly. "You need to teach students how to separate the good sources from those that cannot be trusted," Kuechler stresses.

Teaching Girls to Create With Computers

Students and Technology

Technology is an essential part of college life today. Here is how two of our outstanding students live in an environment of computers, digital media, and the Web.

Jarah Moesch, who is pursuing an MFA in integrated media arts, wanted a career where she could "do something that matters"—and found what she sought at Hunter. "I'm exploring how we can use technology to create community, to bring people together through the many avenues of communication possible on the Web," Moesch is excited about the opportunities to use video games as information tools. In "GluttonNY," a game she has developed, the player goes through Hell's Kitchen in New York picking up trash—and along the way learns about waste, sanitation, the homeless, and other social issues.

Alex Neustein, a sophomore in the CUNY Honors College at Hunter, "discovered computers at the age of 8," taught himself computer graphics, and was a graphic designer for Goldman Sachs at 19. At Hunter he is "utterly dependent on technology for everything I do—getting my news, my livelihood, pursuing academic questions, expressing myself creatively." In one class, he was part of a group of students that made a video as their final project. "We did everything digitally, from using a digital camera to giving it to the professor on a DVD. Technology has really revolutionized education."

Professor Takes Education Online

Online education came to Hunter in 1996 when Professor Anthony Picciano realized that many of the students in his "Contemporary Issues in Education Administration" class had a problem. All of his students were working full time as teachers and administrators, and many of them found it difficult to spend hours commuting to and from Hunter while already carrying very heavy work schedules and taking care of their families. Picciano came up with an innovative solution: let students work online from home. He developed an online course in education administration—Hunter's first fully online course—which met with the approval of students, CUNY, and the New York State Department of Education.

This course is now part of a 30-credit educational leadership program in the School of Education that prepares students to be school principals and administrators. Many of the courses in this educational leadership program are totally or substantially online.

Picciano predicts that "blended learning," combining face-to-face and online instruction, will evolve into the most popular format for course delivery in the future, especially for adult student populations.

The RAPUNSEL team uses figures like these to teach new ways of teaching computer programming to girls.
The mood was festive and the smiles were big as over 750 Hunter alumni headed back to their alma mater for Alumni Weekend on April 23-24, 2004. At least 15 different classes were represented at this year’s reunion festivities.

While alumni flew in from all across the country, internationally renowned sculptor Pearl Perlmuter, Class of 1935, traveled the farthest, coming from Amsterdam to visit with her friends and classmates. Perlmuter, a member of the Hunter Hall of Fame, was not, however, at age 89, the oldest alumna to return. Several nonagenarians, including Bel Kaufman, Class of 1934; and Margaret With Blaha, Edna Sills, and Johanna Takaroff, all from the Class of 1929, were at the reunion.

The largest turnout was from the Class of 1954, celebrating its 50th reunion, and boasting an attendance record of more than 250 alumnae. Among those who came to the reunion were class leaders Phyllis Glantz, the recipient of this year’s Award for Distinguished Service to the Association and the College; noted photographer Arlene Alda; Foundation Trustee Judith Zabar; and Foundation Chair Klara Silverstein.

The popular annual event, sponsored by the Alumni Association, began with an induction ceremony and reception for new members of the Hall of Fame in the Hunter West Building.

National Leaders in Varied Fields Named

Alexander Aledo (BA ’80), a practicing physician, teacher of future doctors, and researcher whose chief focus is cancer in children and adolescents. He received his MD from NYU School of Medicine, teaches at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, and is an attending physician at New York Presbyterian Hospital—NYU Weill Cornell Center. He is also a consultant at the Hospital for Special Surgery and director of the Oncology Program at the Children’s Blood Foundation.

Alvin Goldfarb (MA ’73), president of Western Illinois University, is a theater historian. The sum of Holocaust survivors, he writes and lectures extensively about Holocaust drama and literature and also about the art of theater. Before joining Western Illinois, he served Illinois State University as chair of the theater department, dean of fine arts, and provost and academic vice president. Goldfarb’s bachelor’s degree is from Queens College and his PhD is from CUNY.

Hildegard Bachert (BA ’54) is the director of the Galerie St. Etienne in New York, which has represented Klimt, Kokoschka, Kollwitz, Grandma Moses, Schiele, and other major artists. She lectures in the United States and abroad, in the author or co-author of numerous art publications, and has curated exhibitions for the Guggenheim Museum, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian, the Galerie St. Etienne, and important venues in Europe and Asia. Bachert left Nazi Germany with her family in 1936.

Richard J. Lord (BA ’50) launched his own advertising agency in 1967. The firm—ultimately named The Lord Group after several mergers—quickly became one of America’s most successful agencies. Clients included Tiffany, The New Yorker, Steinway, Elizabeth Arden, Coach, Movado, NBC, IBM, The Wall Street Journal, and The New York Stock Exchange. Now retired and writing two books, Lord has been named one of the top 100 advertising people of the century by Advertising Age and Adweek.

Paul F. Kagan (BA ’58) is the founder of Kagan World Media, a communications research firm internationally renowned as the preeminent provider of data on both the traditional and new-media industries. The first stock analyst to pay serious attention to the newly launched cable companies in the 1970s, Kagan developed formulas for appraising not only cable but the broad spectrum of media industries. Where Kagan World Media was acquired by Primedia, Inc., in 2000, Kagan was named vice chairman of Primedia Ventures.

Geraldine Clark’s (BA ’40) four-decade career as a librarian and library administrator included highly responsible positions with the New York City Board of Education, culminating in her appointment as citywide director of School Library Services for the Board. She is a graduate of both Hunter High School and the College and has an MA from NYU and a master’s in library services from Columbia. A dedicated alumna, she is now president of the Alumni Association’s Wistarians Chapter.
While Creating New Ones

During the reunion, alumni were treated to a lively discussion on race relations during the 1960s presented by history professor Jonathan Rosenberg.

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The popular annual event, sponsored by the Alumni Association, began with an induction ceremony and reception for new members of the Hall of Fame in the Hunter West Building.
Mentoring Program Launched

Hunter College students determined to compete and succeed in today’s work force now have an added edge: the newly launched Hunter College Mentoring Program. The program, led by the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, the Office of Student Services, and the Alumni Association, was run as a pilot project in spring 2004 and is now in its first full year of operation.

The new program, which pairs Hunter students with alumni and friends of the College, is designed to help students choose career paths and prepare for graduate school, while also giving Hunter alumni and friends the opportunity to offer career and life guidance to students.

Alumna Rose Brossan (’73), who served as a mentor during the pilot phase, calls her mentoring stint “a very rewarding experience” which she looks forward to repeating. “I really enjoyed working with my student and helping her get to where she needed to be,” says Brossan, who notes that her student hopes the program will continue “so other students will have the same opportunity she had.”

To learn more about the Mentoring Program, or if you or someone you know is interested in becoming a mentor, please contact Cynthia Bellantuono, assistant director of alumni affairs and annual giving, at 212-772-0087 or cbellantuono@hunter.cuny.edu.

Looking for an alum...

Writer Timothy C. Parrott is trying to get in touch with alum Richard Devine (Class of 1963). If you know Mr. Devine, please ask him to contact Mr. Parrott at 1120 Spruce Street, Iowa City, IA 52240-5723; or 319-330-5150; or timoal@adl.com.

Mr. Parrott is writing a biography of John S. Parrott, who served with Mr. Devine in the Peace Corps in Kenya in 1965.
Please keep us—and your fellow alumni—informed about your accomplishments by sending your news by e-mail to: alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu. Due to space limitations, we cannot publish all submissions, but please visit our Web site at: www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni for these and other class notes.

1950s

Sonja Sanchez (BA’59), a widely published poet and playwright, received an honorary degree from Havardford College (PA) last spring. Sanchez, whose writings cover liberation, the black experience, and feminism, is a professor of English and women’s studies at Temple University. Her works include the award-winning poetry collection Mangoes & Bandannagoods.

1960s

Lita Friedman (BA’61) is the author of the recently published biography Maria Robilotta: Fighter for Human Rights (Aspen Pown). Written for young adults, the book tells the story of Iceland’s first woman president, who later became the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

National University in La Jolla, CA, recently named Robert R. Davila (MA’68) chairman for technology and the adultlearner. Davila had previously been a professor and a vice president at Gallaudet University in Washington, DC, a leading school for the deaf. Davila earned his bachelor’s at Gallaudet, a master’s in special education from Hunter, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Syracuse University.

Louis Frankfort (BA’67), chairman and CEO of Gouch, the leather-goods company, was honored by the American Jewish Committee, which presented Frankfort with its 2004 National Human Rights Award.

Dennis Callas (BA’68) has been appointed president of SUNY/Delhi. Callas had been the college’s vice president for academic affairs and services.

Majesco Holdings Inc., a leading publisher and distributor of interactive entertainment products, has named Louis Lipschitz (BA’88) to its Board of Directors. Lipschitz recently served as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Toys “R” Us Inc. in Los Angeles. Susan T. Zelman (BA’80) was the subject of a recent cover story in The Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine (Cleveland, OH). Titled “Making the Grade: Ohio’s Superintendent Susan T. Zelman navigates state politics to ensure Ohio does right by its kids,” the article details Zelman’s accomplishments as Ohio’s superintendent of state instruction.

1970s

Gelman Corporation, which develops medical treatment systems, recently appointed David J. Braithwaite (BA’72) as senior vice president for product development. Braithwaite, who earned a PhD from the University of Connecticut, previously held an executive position for academic affairs and services.

Ana M. Villegas (MA’73) received an award for distinguished research in teacher education from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Villegas, a professor of curriculum and teaching at Montclair State University (NJ), has a doctorate from New York University.

Harry Forbes (BA’74) is the new director of the Office for Film and Broadcast Arts of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who was the principal drama critic of the New York community weekly The Village Voice, has also written for Black Stage and Time Out New York and was a public relations executive at PBS for many years.

Tufts University has named Eileen Kennedy (BA’74) dean of the university’s Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Kennedy is a former deputy undersecretary for research, education, and economics at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Thandie May C. Peebles (BA’76) is about to start her new position as the city of Minneapolis’ school superintendent. Peebles, who began her teaching career in the classrooms of Harlem, is moving to Minneapolis from her post as regional superintendent of the Cleveland Municipal School District.

William T. Smith (MSW’76), president and CEO of the Bronx-based organization Aging in America, received the 2004 Sharing in Mission award from the St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Yankees (NY) for making a commitment to the nursing home’s mission. Smith, who was Cabrini’s executive director for 13 years, is also chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Smith has a doctorate from New York University.

1980s

Carol A. Gallina (BA’82) is vice president of a new Westchester-based business, Practice Development Associates, which helps health professionals build independent practices.

Roger S. Guy (BA’84), who has been at Texas Lutheran University since 1997, just promoted to associate professor of sociology. He has a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The Riverwalk Gallery in Hightstown (NJ) displayed photographs by Mark Ludkin (MAF’84) last spring. Titled “Requiem for Heavyweights,” the exhibit focused on abandoned machines, tools, and objects once used in heavy industry.

Gerard Savard (BA’85), who earned a law degree from the CUNY School of Law at Queens College, received the Public Interest Distinguished Service Award from the law school’s Class of 2004 at the school’s graduation ceremony in May. Savard is a criminal defense attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Queens.

Atlantic Development Group LLC, a New York City affordable-housing developer, has named Ronald W. Schulman (BA’90) its executive vice president.

Hammond Dimaya (BA’87) was appointed principal of Borden LLP, an accounting and advisory firm in Jersey City (NJ). Dimaya is responsible for helping clients choose employee benefits plans.

OfficeNation College named Stephanie L. Wiles (BA’85), the John G. Cooks Director of the college’s Allen Memorial Art Museum. In addition to leading the museum, Wiles will be an associate professor in the college’s art department.

Under the headline “Health Care Heroes,” the Atlantic Business Chronicle carried an article featuring Carolyn F. Helmer (MSW’98), executive director of the Wellness Community of Atlanta (GA), which provides emotional and social support to people with cancer.

1990s

Lawrence R. Rinder (MA’90), who was the curator of contemporary art at the Whitney Museum of Contemporary Art for four years, became the dean of graduate studies at the Catholic University of the Arts in San Francisco last spring. He will remain connected to the Whitney, serving as an adjutant curator.

Noam Shalev (MA’93) is one of Israel’s most prominent documentary film directors. His films, which seek to show varied aspects of Israeli life to the world at large, have aired on the History Channel, the National Geographic Channel, and a British channel, as well as local Israeli outlets.

Jessica V. Toppan (BA’94) recently joined Ameriprise, Poliniemer & Mattia, a New York/New Jersey-based accounting firm, as a senior accountant.

After a four-year stint at the hip-hop magazine The Source, where he was associate editor and then culture editor, Anslem B. Samuel (BA’98) joined a new high-tech publication, The Core, as editor-in-chief.

More than 200 people turned out for the luncheon that New York University Downtown Hospital gave for its Board of Directors. Lipschitz recently retired as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Toys “R” Us, Inc. in Los Angeles. Susan T. Zelman (BA’80) was the subject of a recent cover story in The Plain Dealer Sunday Magazine (Cleveland, OH). Titled “Making the Grade: Ohio’s Superintendent Susan T. Zelman navigates state politics to ensure Ohio does right by its kids,” the article details Zelman’s accomplishments as Ohio’s superintendent of state instruction.

2000s

In her new post as a transportation planner for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Ramona Moss Burns (MUP’02) works with community groups to help them identify transportation needs. Burns held a similar post in Adlington County (VA), where the goal was to work toward a more pedestrian-friendly urban landscape.

Be More Chill, the just-published (June 2001) novel by Ned Vizzini (BA’02), has been optioned by Miramax for a movie. The Wiz Brothers, who directed and produced the American Pie movies, are developing the book for the screen.

For information on additional alumni events, please visit: www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni/events.shtml
Mehrota and Santry Join Foundation Board of Trustees

Klara Silverstein, chair of the Hunter College Foundation, announced that Avinash N. Mehrota and Suzanne R. Santry were recently elected to the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees.

“I look forward to working with both Avi and Suzanne,” said Silverstein. “Their talents and experience will be of enormous benefit to the College and the Foundation.”

Avinash (“Avi”) Mehrota is a managing director of Goldman Sachs & Co. A member of the firm’s Investment Banking Division, he focuses on mergers and acquisitions in the technology, media and telecommunications sectors. He is also extensively involved with the firm’s recruiting, training, and mentoring programs. Before joining Goldman Sachs, he held various positions at Intel, Morgan Stanley, and McKinsey & Company. Committed to the Hunter College mission, he is active on the Foundation’s Finance Committee and recently joined the College’s new mentoring program. Born in India, he grew up in Queens and currently lives in Mamaroneck (NY) with his wife and their two children. He holds an MBA from Stanford and a BS in electrical engineering from Cornell.

Suzanne Santry launched and directed public affairs programs at three of the country’s leading medical institutions: Mount Sinai Medical Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and Harvard Medical School. She has also been a consultant on issues related to biomedical research and health care delivery for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, University of Texas, Washington University and the Nobel Foundation. She serves on the advisory boards of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation and the St. James School on New York’s Lower East Side and is a member of the Council of Friends of the Institute of Fine Arts. In addition to supporting Hunter through her activities on the Foundation Board of Trustees, Santry also serves as co-chair of the Board of Overseers of Hunter’s Brookdale Center on Aging.

Hunter Hawks Team Up With U.S. Olympic Softball Gold Medalists

Most softball players are pleased when they get to “take a base.” The Hunter College Women’s Softball Team was ecstatic when they actually got a base—an autographed one, that is, from the U.S. Olympic Softball Team.

This past summer the Hunter Hawks hosted a training session in Central Park for the U.S. Olympic Softball Team. Team USA toured the country before heading to the Olympics in Athens. Team USA called upon Hunter softball coach Belize Hippke, a member of the NYC 2012 Committee, to help them arrange a practice while they were in New York City.

Hippke called her Hunter softball team to help out. Outfitted in full Hawk uniforms, the Hunter team secured Heckscher Field in Central Park and set it up with bases, chalk lines and orange cones. Approximately 2,000 spectators “happened” by to watch the team practice.

For the Hunter team, talking with the members of the Olympic team and watching the team practice was highly inspirational. “Meeting Team USA was like meeting rock stars,” said Hippke. “It was like a basketball player meeting Michael Jordan.”

Three weeks after Team USA left New York, the team sent a special thank-you gift—an autographed base signed by every member of the Olympic softball team. “I was really touched that they sent it to us,” said Hippke.

The U.S. Olympic Team went on to win the gold medal, much to the delight of the United States and, in particular, the Hunter softball team.

Hunter Supporters Give Significant Gifts

President Jennifer J. Raas and the Hunter College Foundation Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the following donors for their generosity and vision.

Olga Simonovic (‘35) bequeathed her cooperative apartment on the Upper East Side to Hunter College. The Estate has placed the apartment for sale, with the proceeds of the sale, estimated at $350,000, to be given to Hunter. • With a gift of $150,000, Alexander Klayman has established the Norma R. Klayman Scholarship Fund in memory of his wife, Norma Rostral Klayman (‘40). Klayman, who taught Romance languages in New York City high schools for many years, was an active member of the Queens Alumni Chapter and an avid supporter of the Hunter College Library and the Leona and Marcy Chamin Language Center. This memorial scholarship will continue her commitment to the students of Hunter College.

If you are interested in supporting the College with a gift to the Hunter College Foundation, please contact Betsy Bowman, executive director of development and alumni affairs, at 212-772-8085 or by e-mail: betsy.bowman@hunter.cuny.edu.

Agee Named Kossak Professor of Art History

William C. Agee, a widely renowned art historian and critic and longtime member of Hunter’s faculty, has been named the first Evelyn Kranes Kossak Professor of Art History. The endowed professorship is supported by a gift of $544,000 from Mrs. Kossak (‘42), a member of Hunter’s Hall of Fame and one of Hunter’s most generous alumni. Before coming to Hunter, Professor Agee was associate curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art and director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, and he has lectured at all those museums as well as other major venues in the U.S. and Europe. A graduate of Princeton with an MA from Yale, he writes regularly for the world’s most prestigious art journals.