Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor came to Hunter on April 7 for an extraordinary “Aspen at Roosevelt House” discussion about the delicate balance of constitutional power between U.S. presidents and the nation’s highest court.

Justices Breyer and O’Connor talked about the tension that has existed between the Supreme Court and the White House since the days of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, through the Lincoln, FDR, Truman, and Nixon eras and right up until today — with controversial rulings on the Bush-Gore 2000 election and the rights of accused terrorists held at Guantánamo Bay.

Hunter alumna Ruth Newman (’54) and her husband, Harold, have given an extraordinary $2M gift to the School of Arts and Sciences.

The record-breaking donation — the highest in Hunter history — will establish and permanently endow the deanship as the Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of the Hunter College School of Arts and Sciences and will support some new school programs, such as a Seminar for Civic Understanding Initiative.

Ruth Newman graduated from Hunter cum laude with a BA in Spanish. A member of the Hunter College Visioning Cabinet and the Hunter College Foundation, she has also been actively involved with the Hunter College Mentoring Program.

In addition, the Newmans have been generous and supportive donors to the Hunter College Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund by funding student scholarships in honor of Ruth.

“My wife’s relationship with the school was resurrected after 50 years when we met Jennifer [Raab] through a mutual friend who mentioned that Ruth was a Hunter graduate,” said Harold Newman. “Jennifer is a very wonderful and persuasive person. We were impressed with her goals and forward-thinking vision, and we wanted to support them.”

continued on page 8

continued on page 5

Breyer, O’Connor Hold Court at Hunter

Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Sandra Day O’Connor at Roosevelt House discussion.
Happenings at Hunter

Spring 2008

Dancer-winning actress Jane Fonda came to Hunter in March for the second “Doupes at Roosevelt House” discussion, featuring Pulitzer-Prize-winning author Taylor Branch and Stanford Law professor Kathleen Sullivan.

Emily Rafferty, president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with Stefano Carboni, curator and administrator of the Met’s Department of Islamic Art, at Hunter’s Landerford Gallery. Hunter partnered with the Met on the exhibit, “Re-Orientations: Islamic Art and the West in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries”, which gave Hunter art history graduate students the opportunity to curate their own show with art from the Met.

Two stars from the hit CW Network show Gossip Girl, Jessica Szohr and Chace Crawford, visited Hunter in March. Szohr, Crawford, and other popular actors from the show shot scenes for a Gossip Girl episode about taking SATs right here at Hunter while adoring fans looked on.

Author Frank McCourt — who won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for his best-selling memoir Angel’s Ashes — spoke at Hunter in March as part of the College’s Distinguished Writers Series.

About Alice

Hunter Alumna Ruby Dee Hailed by Hollywood

Famed Hunter alumna Ruby Dee (HCHS ‘39, HC ‘44) received an Academy Award in recognition of her supporting role in the film American Gangster. It marks the first Oscar nomination in the long and varied career of the legendary actor, who graduated from Hunter College High School and then from the College with a BA in French and Spanish.

Dee was also named winner in the best supporting actress category at the Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony, held in Los Angeles on January 27, for her American Gangster role as Mama Janie, the mother of a Harlem drug kingpin played by Denzel Washington.

“What an exciting time to be an actress,” said Dee — who grew up in Harlem — as she accepted her Screen Actors Guild trophy. “It’s a film that took place where I was born, with some of the very streets…part of the feature came from that place and that place came from me.”

For Dee, it was the culmination of a remarkable career of more than half a century in which she has played memorable roles in films, on television and in more than 50 movies such as The French Lieutenant’s Woman and A Room in the Sun. She has also been honored for her work as a writer and a social activist.

“Ruby Dee is not just a great name in the entertainment world, she is a great alumna of Hunter,” said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab.

Dee recently returned to Hunter to present an exclusive preview screening of American Gangster, which won two Golden Globe nominations, including Best Performance by a Supporting Actress and Best Original Score.

New York Congressman Charles Rangel met with the Hunter College Model U.N. Team, which came away with nine awards — more prizes than any other school — during a three-day, 11-college CUNY Model U.N. competition. The students are part of a new initiative launched this year and taught by Political Science Professor Pamela S. Falk.

Tom Sleigh (l) and Peter Carey.

Peter Carey, executive director of Hunter’s MFA Program in Creative Writing and Tom Sleigh, MFA Director, recently won honors for their work.

Carey was named a CUNY Distinguished Professor by the CUNY Board of Trustees in recognition of his outstanding scholarly and professional achievements. One of the most talented and prolific writers of our time, Carey has won the Booker Prize twice as well as numerous other major awards and distinctions. This past winter he published his tenth novel, His Illegal Self which The New York Times Sunday Book Review praised as "outstanding.

Since coming to Hunter in 2003, Carey has dramatically transformed Hunter’s MFA program, where he is both an administrator and an inspiring teacher and mentor for some of the country’s finest young writers.

Sleigh is the winner of this year’s prestigious Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. An $100,000 prize is the largest in the nation for a mid-career poet. Sleigh was honored at a ceremony on April 15 at Claremont Graduate University where he read from his winning collection, Space Walk.

He is the author of seven books of poetry, a book of essays, and a translation of Euripides’ Andromache. He has won numerous grants and awards, including the Poetry Society of America’s Shelley Award and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Writer-humorist Calvin Trillin spoke at Hunter in April during the Seccar Jones in Culture and Society Lecture Series, Trillin, whose essays in The New Yorker and elsewhere often poignantly reflect Jewish life in America, has also written the best-selling memoir Avoed Avoed.

Tom Sleigh (l) and Peter Carey.

The President’s Perspective

In this issue of At Hunter, you will read about the upcoming reopening of Roosevelt House and the exciting events leading up to it. Roosevelt House — the double townhouse on East 66th Street that was Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt’s New York home, and that Hunter acquired in 1942 — has long been a Hunter College “hidden” resource. But with the official launching of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute this fall, the venue will be open. The House, which has lain dormant for 16 years, will become an active center of policy education, research, and dialogue.

Already events sponsored by the Institute have brought to campus such luminaries as Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, television journalist Tom Brokaw and Bruce Williams, renowned author Anna Quindlen and Donnie Keesee Goodlett, and many more. As an anticipatory note, we are currently guided by Franklin and Eleanor’s deep commitment to education and opportunity for all, regardless of class, race, ethnicity, or gender. Hunter, the Roosevelts and the Institute have long been partners in this endeavor. Indeed, they believe that there would be nothing more rewarding in advancing these values. We encourage you all to join us in continuing their dream by becoming regular visitors to the Institute and participating in its many classes, lectures, and other events. Together we can make the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute an integral part, not only of Hunter, but of all New York.

MFA’s Peter Carey, Tom Sleigh Honored

Tom Sleigh (l) and Peter Carey.

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Peter Carey’s Oscar and Lucinda (1988) was nominated in May for The Best of the Booker. This competition — based on voting open to the public — will select the most outstanding novel to have won the Booker Prize since it was first awarded in 1969. To cast your vote for Peter Carey, go to: http://www.themanbookerprize.com/vote/
Cynthia López Found Her True Passion at Hunter

A little girl, Cynthia López (BA ’89) dreamt of growing up to become a doctor because she wanted to help people change the world. Now she is accomplishing that as one of the most prominent voices in the world of independent documentary filmmaking. López was the producer of "Jasper, Texas — A$arr, his own personal secretary for 12 years, was a woman who truly changed the lives of people in New York City."

"I was a very self-centered high school student," López said, "but I became a feminist while living in New York. I started going to Hunter pre-med programs. Concerned about the cost of a college education, López rememberes

"I take the media classes as electives, but decided I loved them and realized I could pursue a career in the media."

"I decided to major in American History and机能 communicate."
‘07 Grad Goes Far in the Peace Corps

At 6 ‘07 Grad Goes Far in the Peace Corps

opportunity to observe, and often partici-
in the Peace Corps, living every day fully
who has lived and worked with her husband, John, in
Eve Brown-Waite holds her daughter in Uganda.

A chance to be useful.

That’s what the best was to improve a Peace Corps
Brown-Waite with husband John at Hunter graduation.

I really did have a wonderful experience and
found myself well-equipped when I got out there —
wasn’t really a fish-out-of-water memoir,” says Brown-Waite,

And Writes a Book About It

It's a fish-out-of-water memoir,” says Brown-Waite,

If there is a movie, she wants Sarah Jessica

But to see more excitement than the beauty of Macedonia

But even more exciting than the beauty of Macedonia

I think anyone with an open mind, a taste

I think anyone with an open mind, a taste

Not much running water. And there was an ongoing

She talked about other Hunter professors she says were

She was inspired to join the Peace Corps by two people

That tells her life story.

“I was recently chosen to give a nationally

She was inspired to join the Peace Corps by two people

But after a year or so they missed John, her Peace

As an adjunct professor in Health Sciences — for advice about

I was just finishing up at Hunter, and didn’t even speak a word of Macedonian.

I think anyone with an open mind, a taste

At Hunter College doesn’t award a prize

At 6 ‘07 Grad Goes Far in the Peace Corps

When she arrived, and at 56 Sally Lindover became the oldest

If you look hard enough in any part of Macedonia,

The couple spent the next three years living in a

It was beautiful,” she recalled, “but it was a little bit far out for us. Like the Wild West. No electricity.

She was the first person who said: ‘These are

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I really did have a wonderful experience and

But to see more excitement than the beauty of Macedonia

Brown-Waite with husband John at Hunter graduation.

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Alumna’s Long Lost Diary Comes to Life in New Book

Author Lily Koppel with Florence Wolman Hecht.

From 1929 to 1954, Florence Wolman Hecht (BA ’34) faithfully wrote in her diary each day all about her life and experiences as a student at Hunter College. Now, that long-forgotten diary—from a tattered old notebook to one entry scratched in black ink marks—has been rewritten all having to be read—it was silly.”

The diary, newly 2,000-entries talk about how bored she was in art and literature at Hunter, became editor-in-chief of the literary journal The Echo and they debido many of the young woman’s most important friendships throughout her social life. “Not finally landed in!” one entry scrawled in black ink marks. “It was just a dream that she was actually delighting about that I didn’t care. He’s the leader.”

That boy was Nat Howitt, whom he happened to meet in the library while she was a student in literature. He writes about fascinating conversations with people at Hunter—many of them told her in their interviews about the women’s movement. One of them was a well-respected Hunter math major named Sophie Wollstonecraft. “They were never accepted as a serious humanist.”

The diary was given to Florence, a gift her family for her 146th birthday in 1929. Her father was a doctor and her mother owned a costume dress shop in Madison Avenue. Identified as a moderately gifted young woman, she began auditioning Hunter at the age of 15. Her last entry in the diary was made in 1934, and the forget her after that. The diary’s resurrection began two years after Koppel stepped into the Manhattan apartment building where Florence once lived. Discussed-old entries in the apartment’s basement were being thrown out, including the diary. Intrigued by the contents and an inscription reading “This book belongs to Florence Wolman.” Keppel tracked Florence down—which led to the book about her diary. An entry published in the New York Daily Times helped keep the other Hunter students from that era. Florence went on to study English at Columbia University, but she says she learned from her literary trademark as the go-to older. She gave birth to her two daughters, Valerie and Karen, and dedicated much of her time instead to playing tennis, bridge, and the stock market.

Reading her passages in the diary again after all this time, she said: “I couldn’t believe it. Just couldn’t believe it.”

“He knows that I think Florence was on a mission to get a purpose—a mission to get a purpose. It’s like a dream, it’s fantastic. It’s like a dream.”

“It’s all true,” said Dean Clay Scott. “It’s all true.”

Newmans’ $2M Gift to Hunter

continued from page 1

Harold Newman received an MBA from the Harvard Business School, an MA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BS from the University of Oklahoma. He began his business career at Goldman Sachs and is a Managing Director of Neuberger Berman, now a part of Leliman Brothers. He is on the Board of Trustees of the

“The Newmans...commitment to public service and public education renders them not simply beneficiaries of the School of Arts and Sciences, but also exemplars of its aims.”— Dean Sharon Clay Scott

Albany—and lead the fight for needed aid. “You can’t cut funding for students in a neighborhood where it costs 900 dollars just in its language,” he said.

“Transferring to Hunter, Tran found a new passion, basketball. She graduated a chemistry major with a minor in mathematics and a 3.9 GPA. She will continue to pursue her passion for science by attending a master’s and continuing his scientific research.

Jeffrey Sachs Tells Grads: You Can Fix Our World

Top international economist and health expert Jeffrey Sachs delivered the keynote address at Hunter College’s 200th Commencement on Tuesday, April 24, urging the 1,200 graduates to help them gain a higher world by winning the battle against poverty and disease.

“It is possible to end extreme poverty on the planet by 2050” said Sachs, a professor of health policy and management at Columbia University who serves as special advisor to the UN, and who is widely considered to be the world’s most prominent development economist. “Our problems are man-made, and therefore they can be solved by man.”

He also said that much of the malaria throughout the entire continent of Africa could be eradicated simply by spending $1.5 billion to $3 billion per year, adding that the Pentagon currently spends $87 billion per day on its operations. “I want the Pentagon to take next Thursday off,” he quipped.

Sachs told the graduates that Hunter, with students from 150 different countries, “apportiates the very best of the world. That is what the world can be. A world of so much diversity and so many talented people pulling together to accomplish so many remarkable things.”

He was awarded a President’s Medal from Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab after delivering his keynote address.

Also honored during the commencement ceremony were Alumna’s Long Lost Diary Hunters Alumna Artie Petter (’86), now a professor of mathematics and physics at Duke University whose theory of gravitational lensing has made him the founder of the field of mathematical astronomy; and Jonathan Bing, a member of the New York State Assembly who has worked tirelessly for his constituents on the East Side of Manhattan and has been a strong voice and supporter of Hunter.

“Hunter epitomizes the very best of the world...a world of so much diversity and so many talented people pulling together to accomplish so many remarkable things.”— Jeffrey Sachs

Students Honored for Extraordinary Success

Alyce Hope traveled many miles from her home in Wisconsin to teach Hunter — and even greater distance personally. She ran away from home at 17 and arrived in New York with just $80. She drifted aimlessly for several years until she enrolled atHunter — where she turned her life around.

After finishing the Hunter fine arts program, she emerged as an exceptional painter with a unique style that earned her a one-woman show at a major gallery — a rare feat for a newcomer. She earned a BFA from Hunter and summa cum laude in 2004 and an MFA in Studio Art at the winter graduation. She found something else at Hunter, too — her husband, Josh Wolman.

Jose Vasquez was born with a severe hearing disability in the Dominican Republic, where there were no services for the hearing impaired. Everyone except his mother demanded his dreams of getting an education. Besides a lack of money, he had two hurdles to overcome: learning English, then learning American Sign Language.

Dr. Petters was the recipient of a Doctorate of Science.

Alumna’s Long Lost Diary

“The Newmans’ wide-ranging personal interests—poetry, science, the arts and literature at Hunter; became editor-in-chief of the literary journal The Echo and they debido many of the young woman’s most important friendships throughout her social life. “Not finally landed in!” one entry scrawled in black ink marks. “It was just a dream that she was actually delighting about that I didn’t care. He’s the leader.”

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EastWest Institute, the Manhattan Theater Club and the

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1940s
Arenas painter and devoted concertgoer Anna Gay (BA ’40) is the author of The Hunter College Alumnae, which seven women’s musical achievements from the dawn of the arts, the first of whom was a “living legend” of the world.

Eugenie Clark (BA ’42), one of the world’s leading experts on sharks, was born with the congenital deformation of the spine. As a result, she had to be operated on at the age of 11. She later discovered a “living legend” of the world.

A remarkable woman, she changed your life.

1950s
A remarkable woman, she changed your life.

At Hunter

Is there anything you would want to share a favorite Hunter memory?

We Want

To Hear From You

Have a comment on an article you read in At Hunter?

How’s the weather where you are today?

At Hunter

Tell Us About Your Favorite Hunter Professor

Is there anyone you would like to thank him or thank her at Hunter?

What do you want to tell us about all of it?

Send your memories to: "My Favorite Professor"

At Hunter

509 Park Avenue, Rm. E1301

New York, NY 10065

Or email to: publications@hunter.cuny.edu

We Need to Hear From You

Please keep in mind — and your fellow alumni — that you can contact the Hunter alumni association and Hunter College, and Hunter College alumni.

Tell us about your experiences as a student at Hunter.

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Olshan: Olshan always wanted to be a schoolteacher. “From childhood on, I had dreamed of working with young people and helping to change lives,” the Hunter alumna says. “It was the wonderful education I got at Hunter that made my dream come true.”

New Olshan is repaying Hunter in many ways. She has been a member since January 2007 of the Foundation Board of Trustees. She serves on the Gala Committee. And she is a generous supporter of the Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund, which she describes as “a wonderful way to personally give back to Hunter what it had done for me and my generation.”

After graduating in 1959, Olshan realized her childhood ambition, teaching in an elementary school in East Harlem — El Barrio, as it was more often called then — for 16 years. Along the way, she carried a master’s in educational administration from Hunter as well as a master’s in the teaching of reading from CUNY, and she served as a United Federation of Teachers chapter chairman.

She is especially proud that when the Board of Education published a pamphlet about teaching in New York, she and many of her fellow Hunter alumnae were featured in the photos. “We really were dedicated and hard working and good at what we did,” she says. “Because we had been so well trained during our student-teaching days at Hunter. It was a phenomenal experience.”

The years she taught, through the 1960s and ’70s, were a time of upheaval in New York’s schools — and in American society. “We went through school desegregation and the introduction of community school boards,” she says. “It was very difficult, very challenging, but we never lost our focus on teaching, and despite the turmoil, we did make a difference in our students’ lives.”

In addition to her contributions to Hunter, Olshan has been active in several community-service organizations. She is a board member of the United Jewish Appeal of Northern New Jersey and serves on the board of the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. She was a member of the Committee to Visit the College at Harvard and the Harvard Parents Fund.

“Business mogul, Morton, is a prominent New York real estate developer and a principal owner of the New York Yankees. Their daughter Andrea and son Michael both graduated from the Victoria Manus School and Harvard. Andrea and Michael were presidents of the Harry Pudding Club.” Olshan notes, “and they are almost certainly the only sister and brother in Harvard’s history who both served in that office.” “I am,” she adds with a motherly smile, “rather proud of that.”

10 Questions For...

Nicholas Freudenberg
Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health

Nicholas Freudenberg has spent three decades working tirelessly to improve public health conditions — most recently by launching a website called Corporations and Health Watch, http://www.corporationsandhealth.org, which takes aim at corporate influence for causing many of our most daunting health problems.

A graduate of Hunter (BA ’75) who went on to get his PhD at Columbia, Freudenberg has also done extensive work in the realm of public health teaching.

In the early 1980s, several of my Hunter public health students were involved in the first New York City AIDS clinics and the first community-based research in New York City. Before the AIDS epidemic, there were no public health agencies in New York City to do research on AIDS prevention or to work with homeless and community groups to prevent other public health problems.

The founder and longtime director of the College’s Center on AIDS, Drugs, and Community Health, he has been called “the most influential individual in the U.S. in the field of health promotion for disadvantaged urban populations.”

1. If you weren’t teaching at Hunter, what do you think you might be doing for a living?

I have two alternative careers: a field biologist or a journalist. I’ve always admired the nineteenth-century biologists who spent their time observing nature and making conclusions based on their observations. As a journalist, I’d write about ways that public policy affects ordinary people.

2. Tell us about a memorable moment in the classroom.

In the early 1980s, several of my Hunter public health students were involved in the first New York City AIDS clinics and the first community-based research in New York City. Before the AIDS epidemic, there were no public health agencies in New York City to do research on AIDS prevention or to work with homeless and community groups to prevent other public health problems.

3. Accomplishment you’re most proud of?

This past June, the state legislature passed a law making it easier for people leaving jail and prison to get Medicaid, thus allowing them to continue to get care and medicines for HIV, tuberculosis and diabetes. My research played a small role in making it easier for people leaving jail and prison to get Medicaid after release from jail was associated with lower rates of incarceration.

4. What do you like to do when you’re not teaching?

My research and teaching bring me to crowded, noisy, complex urban scenes like city jails, high schools, low-income neighborhoods and Hunter’s crowded hallways. For relaxation, I look for more solitary activities like running, kayaking or hiking.

5. What books have you just finished reading?

To escape from work, I read at least one mystery a week. I recently finished Michael Conaway’s The Cigarette Century, a well-written thriller that also gives one of the most balanced pictures of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that I’ve read. Now I’m reading The Cigarette Conspiracy by Allan Brandt, a history of how cigarettes and the tobacco industry shaped the 20th century.

6. Favorite recent movie?

I really liked Paul Laverty’s, a film that weaves a child’s fantasy world (great special effects) with the end of the Spanish Civil War. It showed the psychological costs of political violence in a very personal and upsetting way.

7. Guilty pleasure junk food?

One of my recent public health crusades has been against the junk food that’s making so many Americans overweight, sick and at risk of early death. Luckily for me I don’t like it much, so avoiding it has not been hard. On the other hand, ice cream….

8. Favorite sport or team?

Under the influence of my son (a Hunter College High School graduate), I became an ardent Mets fan. Things are looking a little rocky right now, but we’ve been here before and I have high hopes for the summer.

9. What are some of the things you’ve been able to do in the field of public health at Hunter? When I started teaching at Hunter in 1979 we had small undergraduate and master’s programs. Now we’re the largest and oldest public health program in the metropolitan area, our graduates are leading many of the city’s health agencies, we’ve opened a new doctoral program in public health this past September, and we’ve started a CUNY School of Public Health in the city’s health agencies.

10. Now having been a member of the Hunter faculty helped you in your work?

Everywhere I go people admire and respect Hunter — because their mother, grandmother, son or daughter went to school here or are going to. It makes it much easier to develop partnerships of real worth than if we were affiliated with an elite university with a more problematic history.