“Our interdependent world is far from an integrated world,” said Bill Clinton in a wide-ranging address to the Hunter community that President Jennifer J. Raab called “the hottest ticket on campus in Hunter’s history.”

The former U.S. president came to Hunter May 6, met with 20 students, delivered the public lecture, and left as “Professor Clinton.” He was at the college under the auspices of Hunter’s Presidential Public Leadership Program, sponsored by alumnus Mel Tukman ('61).

Clinton participated in three events during his visit. In addition to making a public address to over 2,000 students who packed both the Assembly Hall and the West Lobby, where an overflow crowd saw him on closed-circuit TV, Professor Clinton also served as guest lecturer in a political science seminar. Afterwards, he attended a reception in his honor, hosted by Hunter’s President Jennifer J. Raab and Hunter alumnus Mel Tukman ('61), sponsor of Hunter’s Presidential Public Leadership Program, which brings prominent public figures to campus. [See page 2.]
Tukman Sponsors Leadership Program

Hunter graduate Mel Tukman (’61) is the generous sponsor of the Presidential Public Leadership Program. Conceived to expose students to prominent public figures, this program has, for the past two years, brought distinguished political leaders to Hunter College. Prize programs have featured Senator George J. Mitchell and former New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo.

Tukman, a member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame, earned a BA in English from Hunter and an MBA from Harvard. He is the president of Tukman Capital Management, a California-based money management firm. Tukman also sponsors the Tukman Scholarships to aid students in the Summer Research Residence Program, which offers high-achieving Hunter minority students the opportunity for summer research and study at major research universities. The scholarship program has aided more than 30 students since it was launched in 1993.

“Important as the Public Leadership Program has always been, it is even more important in the wake of current events,” Tukman noted during his visit. “I hope that this program helps to influence the next generation of young leaders.”

As part of the Presidential Public Leadership Program that brought Bill Clinton to campus, a former member of Clinton’s team also came to Hunter. Michael Waldman, who was special assistant for policy coordination and director of speechwriting for Clinton, spoke on “The Presidency in a Time of Crisis.”

Taking a major step toward cracking the glass ceiling for women in the sciences, the National Science Foundation has given Hunter College an ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award worth an estimated $3.75 million over a five-year period. The award, which became effective June 1, is intended to ensure fuller participation and advancement of women faculty in science and engineering at U.S. colleges and universities. Hunter is one of only nine campuses nationwide to receive this award and the only one on the East Coast.

The four Hunter College scientists who collaborated on the proposal are Virginia Valian, a cognitive psychologist; Vita Rabinowitz, chair of the Psychology Department and a social psychologist who specializes in gender issues; Ann Cohen, Hunter’s former acting provost; and Shirley Raps, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. Hunter scientists will work to improve the institutional practices that affect the hiring, retention, promotion, salary, and professional development of Hunter’s women faculty in the natural and social sciences.

“Hunter is the only college in the world to have two women Nobel Laureates among its graduates—and both were scientists,” says President Jennifer J. Raab. “Through this award, we hope to become a model for CUNY and other urban public universities that are strongly committed to helping women scientists on their faculties develop their fullest professional and career potential. Ultimately, all of American society will benefit—including students, who are the next generation of Nobel Prize-winners.”

Over the five-year period, Hunter’s scientists will design and implement an ambitious program. They plan to develop and disseminate measures for identifying indicators of gender inequity and help to correct unintended institutional practices that work against the advancement of women scientists. In addition, they intend to educate administrators and others about biases affecting their evaluations of women, and advise about strategies for change. A sponsorship program will be developed to link senior women scientists and junior and mid-level women scientists, with the senior women rewarded through departmental initiatives.

According to Dr. Valian, “We can use science to remove the unintended obstacles that institutions and organizations place in women’s way.”

Hunter Receives Major National Science Foundation Award

On Monday, May 6, at 10:40 am, 19 sweaty-palmed undergraduates, myself included, sat around a conference table in the Hunter North Building anxiously sipping our complimentary orange juice and coffee. We were told he was on his way and, sure enough, a few minutes of nervous pencil tapping later, in he walked, right on time, former President William Jefferson Clinton.

A few months earlier I was invited to take a seminar course on Clinton’s presidency which would conclude with the class meeting the former president face to face. We met weekly throughout the semester. The catch was, nobody knew when the big day would come. Estimates of the actual date varied wildly, so we waited.

Once the date was announced, there was time to fantasize about Secret Service sweeps of our classroom and to practice standing in front of the mirror saying “Good morning Mr. President.”

As the semester wore on, my research and writing began, and the reality of meeting Clinton seemed distant. I was certain I wouldn’t be star-struck, assuring friends and coworkers I’d seize my opportunity to ask the former president tough questions. I practiced my question on free-trade policy in my head every free minute I had. I had several dozen versions in my arsenal.

The day came—I don’t remember a formal announcement that he had arrived, but he was on time and suddenly everyone stood up around the table and clapped as he entered the room. He seemed almost embarrassed at the applause. He got right to business, announcing he’d open up with a five-minute introduction, and then go right to our questions. He kept his word, delivering a quick “how-to” on running for president.

Then he began to field questions. As Clinton responded frankly, and casually, the tension in the room seemed to dissipate. In fact, I felt like I knew him so well after 20 minutes, that when it was time for my question, “Mr. President” seemed too formal to get out of my mouth. As far as leaving grill marks on the president with my ferocious journalistic inquiry, well, I was just glad to get the question out.

He answered six or seven questions during the meeting, and as the Q&A went on, his answers became more in-depth, and spontaneous. He had us laughing a number of times, humanizing the presidency with behind-the-scenes anecdotes iced with his Southern slang. Over all he ended up speaking more candidly and going into more detail than I ever thought he would.

It was the consensus among my classmates that the event was a success. He answered more questions than we expected and he gave us remarkably thoughtful answers. We were incredibly fortunate to get a few intriguing peeks into the inner workings of the presidency of the United States.
The President’s Perspective

I have been an extraordinary year. When I began my tenure as the 13th president of Hunter College last June, I realized that I would face many challenges. Little did I know that I had come to Hunter at a time when momentous events would test New Yorkers’ legendary reputation for resiliency in the face of adversity.

On September 11, Hunter students, faculty, and staff reacted with calmness and, soon after, with an outpouring of generosity towards others affected by the tragedy. Now, we are united in our resolve to participate in the recovery and rebuilding of New York. To this day, I remain deeply proud of the Hunter community’s strength in the face of this enormous and unprecedented challenge.

Through this newly, I have also learned about the remarkable dedication of our community to the great city that has long influenced Hunter College’s identity and mission. Just hours after the attack, Professor Sean Ahearn, director of our acclaimed Center for the Analysis and Research of Spatial Information (CARSI), was asked by City Hall to help map Ground Zero—the only mapping operation during that critical time. Working around the clock, and using CARSI’s highly detailed geographic database on New York City, Professor Ahearn and his students played a critical role in protecting the lives of rescue workers.

An historical marker of this eventful year was the visit of President Clinton to our campus on May 6. (See stories, pages 1 and 2.) The energy and excitement that our former president generated was palpable. Through the Presidential Public Leadership program, generously funded by alumna Mel Turkman, Hunter students had the opportunity to participate in Senate Clinton in a small class and, later, in the standing-room-only Assembly Hall, where the president delivered his news-making address.

Another milestone for me was the May 3 induction ceremony for the Alumni Hall of Fame—celebrating its 30th anniversary this year—and the annual Alumni Luncheon, going strong since 1910, held the following day. The breadth and diversity of achievements among our Hall of Fame members is astonishing. What other college can boast two female Nobel laureates among their graduates?

One of the 15 new Alumni Hall of Fame members is neurobiologist Erich Jarvis ’86, a Fellow at Duke University. Like a good number of our students, Jarvis triumphed over poverty and family tragedy. After graduating from Hunter, he earned his residence and postgraduate degrees at Rockefeller University. This spring, the National Science Foundation gave him the Alan T. Waterman Award—his highest honor for a young scientist, which includes a research grant of $500,000. Erich Jarvis represents the best of Hunter, past, present and future.

Our 185th Commencement at Radio City Music Hall on June 6 was a wonderful way to cap my first year as president. It was a privilege to present New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg with a President’s Medal for his leadership of the city, for his commitment to improving the public schools, and for the courage to say he will be held accountable for their success. He is truly the “Education Mayor.” Addressing a sea of 2,000 purple-robed graduates, along with 3,000 faculty, family and friends, Bloomberg declared, “One thing has not changed at Hunter, and that is the importance of education as a vocation and a value.”

Actress Rhea Perlman, who graduated from Hunter in 1968 with a B.A. in theatre, was honored with an honorary doctor of fine arts degree. An Emmy winner, a television and movie producer and an advocate for children’s charities, “Doc” Perlman, as she said she would now like to be referred to, spoke to the class of 2002 from her heart, telling them, “No matter what you do, make sure that it makes you happy.” The audience, eating up every word, cheered, “Carla! Carla!” In addition, an honorary doctor of science degree was given to Hattie B possess, director of the ethnical minority fellowship programs at the American Nurses Association. A President’s Medal was given to the Tony award-winning star of The Producers, Cad Hurman, who closed out Commencement with her show-stopping rendition of “Life is a Bowl of Cherries,” wowing the crowd.

For me, one of the most gratifying aspects of being president has been getting to know our incredible students. A few of them are highlighted in this issue. They range from our Fulbright scholar, Imran Chowdhury, an immigrant from Bangladesh, to our valedictorian, Carol Knopf, who gave up an international dance career in her thirties to pursue her passion for education. Through their brilliance, dedication, and diversity, these graduates embody both the city itself and the continuing excellence of Hunter College.

Congratulations on your commitment to your alma mater and our exceptional students. Thank you for a memorable first year!
Gonchigdorj, an economics major, has attended Hunter since age 16 and entered Hunter immediately after high school. He held two part-time jobs during the day (elevator operator and deejay) and attended class at night. Although Jacome was a top student in Ecuador, he didn’t excel at Hunter and dropped out to attend computer school. He went on to hold a variety of jobs in the fashion industry.

Jacome vividly recalls the turning point that brought him back to Hunter. “I was looking at photographs of myself as a child in Ecuador, holding a flag. In Ecuador, the child who is the best in the class is chosen to be the flag bearer. It’s a great honor. I realized there was unfinished business in my life and that I had a responsibility to fulfill that child’s promise.”

After taking a “Brain and Behavior” course at Hunter, Jacome entered the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program, where he conducted research under Distinguished Professor Victoria Laine, studying the effects of estrogen on rats’ brain activity. Jacome has presented his research at scientific conferences nationwide and has received both a Hunter award for research and the Endocrine Society Award for Excellence in Endocrinology Research. The soft-spoken Jacome, who recently married, paints in his spare time and works hard to balance all that is important in his life: his marriage, his art, and his abiding passion for science.

Carol Knopf, Valedictorian

At the age of 9, Carol Knopf was receiving training in classical dance at the American Ballet Theater. By age 12, she was performing professionally in a career that would take her worldwide.

Hunter’s vibrant valedictorian, who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA, was tutored at home by her teacher-parents and never attended high school. Only when she was in her thirties did Knopf apply for a General Equivalency Diploma.

“By then, there was a war going on inside me,” says the Bronx native. “I was living the language of dance, but I desperately wanted to learn about other languages.” When she enrolled at Hunter in spring 1996, Knopf felt “great relief.”

Majoring in special honors and English, with a minor in Russian, Knopf immersed herself in the study of language and literature. “I feel more complete now,” says Knopf, who continues to perform professionally a few times a year and to choreograph her own work.

She plans to apply to graduate schools for a PhD program in comparative literature. “My goal is to teach and to develop my own approach to dance, creating pieces that combine dance and literature,” she says. “Everything I have learned, I keep—the knowledge becomes part of the continuum of my life.”

Zhi Qiu

Qiu, a native of China, worked with Robert Thompson, professor of mathematics and statistics, for the past year on a project that was part of the National Science Foundation Scholarship program. He was also the recipient of the Joseph A. Gillet Memorial Prize given by the Alumni Association to a student in the math department who demonstrates outstanding scholarship and proficiency. Qiu’s GPA in his major was 3.9.

Fatima Johnson

She began conducting advanced research at Hunter while still enrolled at Medgar Evers Community College. Her grades and ability earned her acceptance into three prestigious programs: Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS), and the Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP).

Johnson conducted summer research by President Raab, where he met with faculty, alumni, and students. And as a lecturer he was able to bring a rare firsthand perspective to the class: the course was Professor Andrew Polsky’s seminar on “The Clinton Presidency.” (See student essay on page 2.)

Clinton continued from page 1

In his public address, which ranged over foreign affairs, the American and the global economy, education, health care, and the environment, Clinton adjured the United States to use its powers for good, to “build a world with more partners and fewer enemies.” The great conflict of the 21st century, he said, would be “between the forces of integration, harmony, diversity, and scientific progress” and the “forces of disintegration, chaos, terror, and racial, religious, and tribal hatred.”

Pointing to Hunter as an example of the positive forces he cited, Clinton said: “Hunter celebrates diversity. Its students come from many countries and create a global community. But this is very different from the way people have generally thought and behaved.” Only in recent years, he said, has humanity “had the opportunity to make the world look like this auditorium.”

The former president called on his audience to make sure that the world “is a home for all of its children,” adding: “As educated people, you can spread the facts to counter misperceptions that impede harmony among nations.”

Clinton applauded President Raab for her leadership of the college and her commitment to New York, and he extended thanks to Hunter for its efforts to bring healing to the entire city, as well as within its own walls, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

He also praised Mel Tukman—as did President Raab—for “giving back” to his alma mater by sponsoring the Presidential Public Leadership Program.

President Raab, adding a historical note during her introduction of the former president, pointed out a parallel between Clinton’s speech and an address by one of his predecessors in the White House. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt cut the ribbon on the stage of Hunter’s Assembly Hall in 1940, she said, he urged students “to be active in civic and political life”—just as Clinton did, moments later.

Media coverage of Clinton’s visit included a story transmitted worldwide over the Associated Press newswire; articles in all major metropolitan-area daily newspapers—the New York Times, New York Post, Daily News, and Newsday—and segments on CNN and on New York-area TV channels 5, 9, and 11.
Happenings @ Hunter

Hunefly recently inaugurated its Public Policy Forums, a series that is part of the plan to rebuild Rassool House and transform the landmark structure into a public policy institute.

The first forum — “Human Rights, Terrorism, and the United States” — brought together distinguished scholars and advocates who have grappled with the relationship between human rights and national security. Those playing key roles were (l. to r, from top) John R. Wallach (Political Science), who organized and moderated the forum; Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union; 1. Michael Turner (Latin American and Caribbean Studies); Margaret Cahan (History); and President Jennifer J. Raub.

At the second forum, “The Safety Net and the City,” the central question addressed was: Amid the talk of rebuilding Lower Manhattan and the recovery of the city, what does the future hold for the poorest New Yorkers and for the nonprofit social welfare agencies that serve them? Presenters were Mimi Ahmanovitz (Social Work), pictured left, and Janet Poppendieck (Social Work). The heads of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and the New York Coalition Against Hunger responded.

President Jennifer J. Raub served as “Principal for a Day” at the Life Sciences Secondary School in Manhattan. Visiting with students in classrooms and labs, she spoke about how their futures can be shaped by attending college, and about the advantages and excellence of Hunter. “Principal for a Day” is an annual event sponsored by the not-for-profit organization PENCLIL (Public Education Needs Civic Involvement in Learning).

A major event held during Honors Week (April 8 - 12) was the TIAA-CREF Outstanding Faculty Lecture, presented by Virginia Valian (Psychology), pictured right. Valian’s topic was “Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women,” which is the subject of her most recent book.

Hunter nursing students Rhbin Laid, Sherinian Marcini and Simone Bascom (not pictured) hold the posts of president, second vice president, and secretary/community health director, respectively, in the Nursing Students’ Association of New York State.

Hunter students, faculty, and friends gather around Betty Gotbaum, New York City’s recently elected public advocate, following an address she gave at a celebration of Women’s History Month at the college. The city’s highest ranking female elected official, Gotbaum discussed current issues affecting women in New York.

Speakers in the Presidential Roundtable spring lecture series provided insights into mapping Ground Zero; the art of photography; sociocultural questions in Sweden and other Western nations; and political and social issues in Asia. Speakers included (clockwise, from top left) John L. Longstreth (Geography), Roy DeCarva (Art), Anders Lindeborn (Political Science), and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sheryl WuDunn.

Faculty News & Notes

Philip Alcaves (Urban Public Health) is coauthor of a paper on research ethics in medical science published in the Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law and Ethics.

Elia Aryavainen (Provost’s Office) was prominently featured in a special issue of Community/04 magazine dedicated to education reform. Aryavainen was responsible for establishing College Now at Hunter. The program attracts high school students to CUNY campuses to take courses.

The Hunter chapter of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) recently received the organization’s growth award, given to the chapter showing the most membership growth. Victor Boberetsky (Music) helped students form the chapter and is its adviser.

Emily Braun (Art) has been chosen to be a fellow at The New York Public Library for Community Scholars and Writers. Center fellows do research or creative writing in an environment that guarantees access to the collections of the humanities and social sciences library.

Howard Chernick (Economics) heads the economic steering group of the New York City Recovery Project, a research project established by the Russell Sage Foundation to document and assess the city’s recovery following September 11.

Rose Wiesman Dobroel, longtime faculty member of the Hunter School of Social Work, founding director of the Brookdale Center on Aging, and now Brookdale Professor of Gerontology, has received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College. She also received an award from the National Association of Social Workers for her contribution to her profession and the field of gerontology and a Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cunard and Center for the Black Aged.

Michael Fabricant (Social Work) is cochair of Settlement Houses Under Siege: The Struggle to Sustain Community Organizations in New York City, which examines nonprofit social services through the prism of the settlement houses.

Fabricant was interviewed by New York Times reporter Sam Roberts on NY1 and by Brian Lehrer on WNYC.

Marie Fiblin (Biology) was recommended for a $1.3 million Jacob Javits Award for her spinal cord regeneration research. The Javits Neuroscience Investigator Awards are conditional seven-year research grants given to scientists selected by the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council.

Lou Massa (Chemistry and Physics) wrote a review for Chemical & Engineering News about James D. Watson’s new book, Genes, Girls and Gamow: After the Double Helix.

A National Science Foundation career grant was recently awarded to Hiroshi Matsui (Chemistry). The award is for outstanding young faculty to integrate teaching and research.

A photograph by Ann McGowan (Continuing Education) was included in the exhibit “Life of the City,” which was in the Museum of Modern Art until May 21, when the museum closed and moved to Long Island City while the famous structure in Manhattan undergoes expansion and rebuilding.

Lynn Roberts (Health Sciences) directed a two-semester educational outreach project involving Bronx Lebanon Hospital and students at William Howard Taft High School in the Bronx. The students developed an anti-tobacco campaign that included original surveys and a skit they performed for fifth-graders.

Yiddish Theater Celebrates Centenary

Hunter’s Assembly Hall was the site of a gala program — “Jewish Heritage New York: 2002” — celebrating 100 years of Yiddish theater in New York and one of New York City’s treasures, the Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre. Hosting the event was Governor George E. Pataki, who presented a check from the state to the Folksbiene Theatre. Accepting the check on behalf of the theater are Elektron Reissu, the Folksbiene’s artistic director, and Zalmen Mlotek, the theater’s executive director, as Edward I. Koch, former mayor of New York, joins in the celebration.

The Reading/Writing Center celebrated 25 years of service to Hunter students. Pictured left are Professors Charles Pensky (1) and Ann Raimes, co-founders of the center, and James Traib, the center’s first supervisor.

The Impact of Wealth on Nonprofit Service Application
Scholarship and Welfare Fund

Hadassah Winer Gold
President

Each Hunter Commencement brings a great sense of satisfaction to everyone associated with the college, but those of us who have made a commitment to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund feel a special pride. We know that, every year, a number of the best students marching proudly across the stage to claim their diplomas are there largely because of S & W’s help.

They have gained that triumph, of course, chiefly because of their own abilities and hard work, but as one student—echoing the thoughts of many others—wrote us, “your generosity has enabled me to devote more time and energy to...the very serious business of undergraduate scholarship.” Without that bonus of time and energy, we know that the road to graduation would be much more difficult for many of our students—and perhaps too difficult for some of the most overburdened, despite their talents and dedication.

Nor are our grants helpful only because they provide financial support. Students thank us also for showing “good faith” in them; for providing “a morale booster [that] added positive coloring to a wearing sixteen-week period”; “for understanding my situation and for caring about my future.”

Since 1949, when the Scholarship and Welfare Fund was founded, we have provided more than 20,000 grants and scholarships. That number is impressive indeed, but it becomes still more impressive when we realize that many of those grant recipients have become educators, social workers, health professionals, scientists, government officials, and others who have bettered the lives of tens of thousands of men and women—and virtually all have become educated citizens who have contributed to the betterment of our society.

For the sake of future students, the future of Hunter College, and the future of our nation, please give generously to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund.

Alumni Association

Ursula Mahoney
President

College reunions are a time for memories, and this past Birthday Luncheon brought back many recollections as we shared our stories.

Edith Miller shared her story about Professor Ruth Weintraub. Edith had married while she was still in college and was off with her new bride for a weekend honeymoon in the Poconos. As she unpacked her suitcase and unloaded several textbooks, her new husband asked, “What’s with the books?” Her reply was, “I have Professor Weintraub’s class on Monday and she won’t tolerate coming to class unprepared.”

A few months ago, during a particularly difficult moment, I spent an after-noon reminiscing with some Hunter alums about our college days. My friend Maureen O’Neill was losing her battle with lung cancer but that afternoon she had rallied. Her brother Gene was there, as was her neighbor Fran. The four of us—all Hunter alums—sat around recalling some of the good moments we had shared at Hunter.

I remembered a class in which the professor asked all the students, one after the other, to recite the same poem; our eyes really glared over when we got to number ten. But in a moment of epiphany, the teacher’s strategy became clear. It wasn’t enough simply to commit a poem to memory. You really had to understand it, in your head and heart, in order to get the poet’s message.

The poem, Robert Frost’s “Wild Grapes,” was about letting go and that was basically what we were doing that afternoon. Maureen died two days later. But during that afternoon we were able to retreat to a time when we were young, full of hope, and convinced we could do anything.

I am not sure what memories our recent graduates will recall, given the complexities of trying to earn the diploma while balancing jobs and families, and choosing from so many different career possibilities.

But when I attended the Celebration Ceremony for the Public Service Scholars at City Hall I realized that we really had much in common. Emmanuel Alexandre Jr., one of the graduates, said: “During my internship I met with state senators, Council members, commissioners and so on. The program opened up all kinds of opportunities. It is not every day a young man such as myself gets a chance to work in such important places and be taken seriously. This is a model for schools all over America, in inner cities where young-sters full of passion could get involved.”

Emmanuel will remember many of his moments as a scholar and an intern. So will Eleanor Velasquez, another Public Service Scholar, who has won the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Fellowship that will enable her to work for a year on Capitol Hill. How satisfying it is that Hunter can give students so many gifts to treasure. How lucky we are to be alumni of this college.

Wilson Elected Alumni Association President

Congratulations and welcome to Jacqueline G. Wilson, the new president of the Hunter Alumni Association. A longtime Hunter leader, Wilson has been chair of the Friends of the Hunter College Library for the last three years and has served the Alumni Association as a vice president, assistant treasurer, Board member, and chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. She is also an officer of the Wistarians Alumni Chapter.

Wilson retired from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she was deputy regional administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration. During her years with HCFA and, before that, the Social Security Administration, she received many awards, including the Commissioner’s Citation (the top award bestowed by the SSA), the HCFA Administrator’s Leadership Award, and the Health and Human Services Secretary’s Superior Service Award.

A 1951 graduate who majored in history, Wilson was inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame in 1979. We offer her our very best wishes for a successful presidency.

At the same time that we welcome the new president, we also extend our sincerest gratitude to Ursula Mahoney, who is now concluding her term as president of the Alumni Association. Mahoney, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate (’54) with a major in English, has served her alma mater as chair of the alumni mentoring committee of the Public Service Scholar Program—a post she has held for 12 years—and as a member of the boards of the Alumni Association, the Hunter Foundation, the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, and the Hunter Symphony. Her career in photography and journalism has included positions with the Saturday Evening Post and the New York Times magazine, Week in Review, and Travel section, where she was photo editor until her retirement last summer.

Mahoney was named to the Hunter Hall of Fame in 1972.
Class Notes

1910s

The Staten Island Advance profiled Lillian Simon Welkowitz ('16), a 105-year-old resident of the borough, on January 17.

1930s

Felicia Shpritzer ('33) recently retired from the New York City Police Department after 34 years of service. She was a lieutenant when she retired.

1940s

Gloria Hobbs ('45) has been appointed president and CEO of the Community Bridge Home in Cambria Heights, Queens (NY).

1950s


Gloria Spivak ('56) has been named to the Alfred University Board of Directors.

1960s

An exhibit of oil paintings by Margo Trout ('61) was featured at the Norfolk (VA) Library this spring.

Linda Lucia Lubrano ('63) is a professor of international affairs at the School of International Service at American University (Washington, DC). She was recently appointed director of the school’s Graduate Research Center on Europe, located in Trento, Italy.

Paul Saueracker ('63) was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Mineral Technologies, Inc., a technology company with corporate headquarters in New York.

Mireya Perez Bustillo ('65), who teaches Spanish at the College of New Rochelle (NY), has been promoted to full professor.

Greenberg Traurig, a New York law firm, has appointed Joel A. Katz ('66) executive management counsel to the recording industry.

Rae M. Fallon ('68) has been promoted to full professor.

Patricia Lyons Johnson ('69) is professor of computer science at University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth.

1970s

Herbert S. Agin ('70) is the newly appointed chairman of the board of directors of TCN Worldwide, a real estate agency located in New York.

Joseph Zarcherman ('70) is the principal of PS 23Q, of Port Chester, NY. He and his wife, Esther Luttan Balsam ('38), were represented. Among those celebrating were (l.) members of the Milestone Class of 1942 (l. to r.) Ethel Baum Kutner, Naomi Block Stern, and Gladys Cranes Weissberger.

Eloise Morgan, a New York-based advertising agency, has named Nicholas J. Ferrari ('76) its chief executive officer.

Richard J. Zaino ('76) is a new member of the board of governors of Our Lady of Consolation Nursing and Rehabilitative Care Center.

1980s

Michael Carmine ('80) is an assistant professor of film and television and the director of camera studies at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. He has also directed photographic teams for several TV series, including “Friends,” “Everybody Loves Raymond,” and “Mad About You.”

Linda E. Ebrahim ('81) has been appointed a vice president on the Municipal Bond Research Team of Prudential Securities.

The Queens (NY) Museum of Art recently appointed Thomas M. Finkelpearl ('83) as its executive director.

1990s

Larry Rinder ('90), chair of contemporary art at the Whitney Museum, told Newsweek in its March 4 issue how a new exhibit there is breaking down traditional boundaries of art. On February 20, Newsday profiled Nisar Ahmad Zari ('91), who is returning to his native Afghanistan to publish a newspaper.

2000s

Margaret K. Sorenson ('90) recently won a one-year National Science Foundation fellowship to pursue her research in biology.

Gary Shetyngart ('92), a graduate of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, was profiled in a lengthy New York Times magazine article on June 2. His first novel, The Russian Debutante’s Handbook, has received glowing reviews from literary critics at the Times, New York magazine, and other media.

Alumni Luncheon

More than 800 Hunter alumni celebrated their alma mater’s 132nd birthday at the Birthday Luncheon held May 4 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, where Milestone Classes from 1927 to 1997 were represented. Among those celebrating were (l.) members of the Milestone Class of 1942 (l. to r.) Ethel Baum Kutner, Naomi Block Stern, and Gladys Cranes Weissberger. Ms. Stern, a member of the Alumni Association’s Hall of Fame, is chair of the Class of 1942. (2) Ethel Garfunkel Bel, a member of the Milestone Class of 1927, discusses Hunter past and present with President Jennifer J. Raab. Ms. Bel, who received the President’s Medal in 2001, is a member of the Hall of Fame. (3) Special recognition was paid to the 14 alumni newly inducted into the Hall of Fame—and to Augusta Straus Thomas ('34), recipient of the Alumni Recognition Award for Service to the Alumni Association and the College; and Clive Calender ('58), who received the Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement. With Ms. Thomas (l.) and Dr. Callender are President Raab and Alumni Association president Ursula Mahoney.

Alumni Luncheon

Antonia Pantoja ('52), of New York. An advocate for people of Puerto Rican origin, she founded Aspira, a nonprofit organization that now has offices in six states and Puerto Rico and provides some 50,000 Latino students with career and college counseling, financial aid, and other assistance. She also established organizations in Puerto Rico that work to develop housing and provide economic assistance to small businesses in poor rural areas. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1996 for her efforts to provide educational and economic opportunities for Puerto Ricans. Last year she received the Hunter Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award.
March 14. Computer science major Ned Vizzini, the author of Teen Angst? Nuahah... received coverage of his book in the Daily Variety on January 9, the Daily News on January 28, and The Hour (Norwalk) on February 25. The book has been optioned by Miramax for a possible TV project.

On February 1 and 2, The Associated Press and newspapers nationwide carried coverage of Sean Ahearne’s (Geography) “Mapping NY” exhibition (right), on view in a SoHo gallery. Ahearne was also interviewed by New York’s WB11-TV about his exhibit on February 20.


EXHIBITS IN THE NEWS