

# At

# HUNTER

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2004

## In this Issue:

- Happenings at Hunter 2
- The President's Perspective 3
- Hunter Welcomes 49 New Faculty 3
- Four Extraordinary New Grads 4
- Track Stars Leap Over Cultural Divide 5
- Top Scientists and Future Scientists 6
- Introducing College Science to High Schoolers 8
- Closing Gaps in the Health System 9
- Alumni News 10
- Class Notes 11
- Foundation News 12

## The Sciences at Hunter: On the Leading Edge

**H**unter College is one of the most outstanding science institutions in the nation, thanks to its stellar faculty. Hunter's science professors not only initiate and conduct groundbreaking research, but also teach and mentor their students with extraordinary dedication and brilliance—and reflect and foster the diversity that is one of Hunter's greatest assets.

Because of the abilities and determination of both faculty and students—and also because of the programs Hunter offers to support science students, especially those from minorities underrepresented in the sciences—Hunter's science graduates go on to prestigious doctoral programs and from there to promising careers in both academia and industry.

These aspiring scientists are fully prepared for top-level careers, for their Hunter education has taken place in a first-rate, highly productive scientific environment. Hunter's researchers carry out significant, cutting-edge investigations; major professional journals publish articles about their discoveries and experiments; and their projects receive ever-increasing grants from private sources as well as major government bodies.

In addition to training research scientists who will expand the frontiers of knowledge, Hunter is also preparing the men and women who will enter such professions as nursing, medical technology, and other science-based fields that play an essential role in maintaining individual and national well-being. Hunter's programs in these fields, which have long been nationally recognized, are now needed more than ever, owing to the personnel shortages in these areas.

Hunter also conducts innovative programs, in cooperation with the New York City public school system, which introduce qualified high school students to college-level science education. Turn to pages 6-9 for more on Hunter's exceptional science programs, scientists, science students, and graduates.



The many labs found throughout the Hunter campuses provide a vibrant research environment for undergraduate and graduate science students, who are actively involved in all facets of the faculty's research.

## Hunter Confers Degrees On 1,270 Graduates at January Commencement

**I**n a jam-packed Assembly Hall on January 21, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer addressed 1,270 graduates and their families and friends at Hunter's 188th commencement and received a President's Medal from Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab for his "relentless pursuit of reform."

Speaking to the graduates about corporate and personal accountability, Spitzer quoted three recognizable sources—the ancient Greek philosopher Homer, the cartoon character Homer Simpson, and the rock group The Talking Heads—earning laughs and applause.

Spitzer's message was direct. "Use your education, work hard, and be ambitious, but also do not be afraid to question the system," he said.

During the commencement exercises, President Raab also conferred an honorary degree on William J. vanden Heuvel, a distinguished international lawyer and human rights supporter. A former special assistant to U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, vanden Heuvel served as U.S. Ambassador to the European office of



Headliners at the January 2004 commencement were (l. to r.) President Jennifer J. Raab, New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, and Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel.

the United Nations and is currently the co-chair of the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

In introducing Ambassador vanden Heuvel, President Raab spoke of his dedication to honoring and promoting the Roosevelt legacy and of his efforts to help Hunter restore Roosevelt House, Franklin and Eleanor's home on East 65th Street, as the Hunter College Public Policy Institute.

(continued on p. 4)



# HUNTER

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# Happenings at Hunter

To see a list of the upcoming Spring 2004 events at Hunter, go to [www.hunter.cuny.edu/news](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/news)



Former Democratic presidential candidate General Wesley Clark spoke before a standing-room-only crowd at Hunter on October 14 where he called for a voluntary civilian reserve program that would be activated in time of need. The Democratic hopeful had announced his candidacy a month before his appearance at Hunter. The General subsequently dropped out of the race on February 11, 2004.



Celebrating the opening of the newly renovated clinic at Hunter's Center for Communication Disorders were (l. to r.) President Jennifer J. Raab; Dava Waltzman, director of the communication sciences program; Laurie N. Sherwen, dean of the Schools of the Health Professions; Marilyn Auerbach, director of the School of Health Sciences; and Donald Vogel, clinic director.



*The New York Times* hosted "The Legacy of Martin Luther King" at The Kaye Playhouse in October. Featured speakers (clockwise from upper left): Princeton Professor Cornel West; author Drew Hansen; Congressman John Lewis (GA) and *The New York Times* editorial page writer Brent Staples.



Hunter has opened a state-of-the-art biological anthropology lab which will enable students to gain hands-on experience examining fossils and other materials used in the study of primate evolution. Participants in the ribbon-cutting ceremony in December were (l. to r.) Professor John Oates (Anthropology); President Jennifer J. Raab; and Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields, whose office provided financial support for the new lab.



*The New York Times* Washington Bureau Chief Jill Abramson moderated a panel discussion, "JFK and the Assassination: 40 Years Later," featuring *The New York Times* journalists Robert B. Semple, Jr. (center) and Anthony Lewis (right).



Art critic Robert Hughes discussed—and signed—his acclaimed new book *Goya* at a panel discussion held December 2. The event was a part of the Hunter College Distinguished Writers Series.



Dennis Kodner, the new Rose Dobrof Executive Director of the Hunter School of Social Work, is joined by Iris Mule, policy analyst for Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz; Joanne Froelich, member of the Brookdale Center on Aging's Board of Overseers; and Lois Aronstein, New York state Executive Director of the AARP, at a lecture Kodner presented on urban aging.



Broadcasting from Hunter this fall were WWRL AM Radio hosts Rabbi Shea Hecht and Karen Hunter, a visiting assistant professor at Hunter, who interviewed President Jennifer J. Raab live on air.



Professor Emeritus Vincent Longo, whose distinguished teaching career spanned some 35 years at Hunter, led students and faculty on a tour of the show *Vincent Longo: Reflections on Abstraction, Five Decades of Paintings and Prints* at the Hunter College/Times Square Gallery. Art professor Lisa Davis (left) attended the show along with George Cochrane, an MFA student who helped organize the retrospective with the show's curator, art professor Anthony Panzera (not pictured).

# The President's Perspective



**“Our flagship science programs would not be possible without the help of our alumni.”**

In this issue of *At Hunter* we turn the spotlight on our acclaimed science programs. Science is an area where Hunter's motto—*Mihi Cura Futuri* (the care of the future is mine)—comes to life. Students are working with world-class faculty on cutting-edge research that will find cures for diseases and advance scientific knowledge in areas ranging from neurobiology to sound-wave technology. Health professions graduates are filling much needed positions in nursing and at prominent laboratories—and caring for the health of our citizens. And this year we opened a promising new path to Hunter's science programs with the launch of the Manhattan/Hunter Science High School, a collaboration with the New York City Department of Education, which is partially funded by the Gates Foundation.

Our flagship science programs would not be possible without the help of our alumni and other donors. The support of those who share our commitment to excellence has provided the funding for state-of-the-art labs and equipment, new initiatives in secondary education, and faculty hiring.

One of our most important efforts is to ensure that our alumni experience today's dynamic Hunter environment firsthand. We'll get the ball rolling at our Alumni Luncheon on April 24, where you will see and hear stellar faculty teach the arts of memoir writing and acting—and discuss new research. You will also learn from Hunter honors students about the CUNY Honors College experience. You'll have the opportunity to join a new mentoring program that pairs alums with our fantastic students. And there will be many reasons to visit campus this spring: We will be hosting a reading by Toni Morrison, a major public address by former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, concerts by jazz luminary Maria Schneider, and exhibits by Hunter art faculty and graduating students in our art galleries. These are a few of the many ways to connect with Hunter, and we hope you will play an active part in all that is happening.

## Hunter Welcomes 49 New Faculty



Peter Carey

**H**unter welcomed 49 highly promising new faculty members this year, all of them boasting stellar academic credentials as well as impressive records of scholarly and creative accomplishment. Eighteen of them either got their degrees, taught, or did research at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, and Columbia, while others came to Hunter from such top-ranking schools as Cornell, Michigan, The Wharton School, Johns Hopkins, and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Among the 49 are artists and anthropologists, chemists and classicists, poets and physicists—and experts in urban affairs, urban planning, and urban public health. Their experience spans the globe—and beyond. They have taught and conducted research in every major country in Europe as well as in Australia, China, Egypt, Israel, Japan, and South Africa—and one comes to us from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Two of the new faculty members have been appointed directors as well as professors. Prizewinning author **Peter Carey**—a native of Australia who has lived in New York since 1990—joined the Hunter faculty as director of the MFA program in creative writing and a professor of English. Among his novels—all praised for what one critic called their “extravagant imagination”—are *Oscar and Lucinda*, a 19th-century “antiromantic romance” which won Britain's prestigious Booker Prize and was later made into a film starring Ralph Fiennes and Cate Blanchett; *True History of the Kelly Gang*, which won both the Booker Prize and the Commonwealth Writer's Prize; and *Jack Maggs*, also awarded the Commonwealth Writer's Prize. Carey's most recent novel, *My Life as a Fake*, was defined by one critic as “truth, beauty and comedy wrapped in one sprightly package” (*Newsday*), while a review in *The New York Times* called the new book “ingenious,” “vigorous,” and an example of “the amply demonstrated brilliance of its author.”



Dennis L. Kodner

In addition to his novels, Carey has published nonfiction, short-story collections, and film scripts. He has been awarded three honorary degrees and has taught at Barnard, Columbia, New York University, New School University, and Princeton.

Another new director is gerontologist **Dr. Dennis L. Kodner**, appointed the first Rose Dobrof Executive Director of Hunter's Brookdale Center on Aging and a professor of urban public health. Acclaimed for his contributions to the field of home- and community-based long-term care and for devising innovative programs for the elderly, Kodner was the founder and head of DLK Care Strategies, an international consulting firm specializing in eldercare planning, policy, and research. In addition, he has taught at New York Medical College, the New York University Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, the McGill University Faculty of Medicine in Canada, and the Maastricht University Faculty of Health Sciences in the Netherlands.

As the senior vice president of research and innovation at Metropolitan Jewish Health System, Kodner created a unique “laboratory” for geriatric and gerontological research and practice, led the development of a new home-based managed-care program for the frail elderly, and developed various education and training programs in aging, long-term care, and caregiving for patients and professionals.

Kodner received a BA from Queens College/CUNY, a master of science in planning from Pratt Institute School of Architecture, and a PhD in health policy and aging from the Union Institute Graduate School.

Welcoming the 49 new faculty members, President Jennifer J. Raab predicted that “their work will unquestionably make an impact on the world.”

For a list of all of the new faculty members, please go to <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/news/newfaculty.shtml>.



## Two Graduates Overcome Obstacles to Fulfill The American Dream



(continued from p. 1) Ambassador vanden Heuvel's remarks to the graduating class were inspiring. After quoting from a speech that Eleanor Roosevelt gave in which she spoke about having "the courage to face yourselves," vanden Heuvel gave this charge to the members of the Hunter College community: "Never stop dreaming. Just remember the realization of your hopes is generally related to hard work, that success rarely comes without failures and disappointments along the way and that when the final measure of our lives is taken, make sure that you have enjoyed the journey."

Addressing his classmates, valedictorian Ivan Zadunaisky recalled how difficult it was for him to make the transition to New York from his home in Argentina, but, he said, he believed that his native country had given him the tools to succeed.

"One of the best things about studying in New York is that we get in touch with people from all over the world. We have the opportunity to experience all kinds of different perspectives. In these troubled times of war it is important for all of us, Americans and foreigners alike, to learn from each other," said Zadunaisky.

Zadunaisky's advice to his peers was astute. "Whatever you do, don't forget that we have had the privilege to get an education. Not everybody in this world has this chance. There is a lot of ignorance out there; and this is the origin of most evils. We have all heard that old cliché, that knowledge is power. Use it wisely. Now comes the time for us to give back to society."

Hunter awarded degrees to 829 undergraduates: 779 within the School of Arts and Sciences; 42 within the Schools of the Health Professions; and eight within the School of Education. Four hundred forty-one students received graduate degrees: 48 within the School of Arts and Sciences; 137 within the School of Education; and 158 within the School of Social Work.

The commencement ceremony concluded with a burst of confetti streaming down onto the graduates amid resounding cheers. Faculty, administrators, graduates, family and friends then recessed to the music of "Celebration," a fitting end to a festive afternoon.

**"Never stop dreaming. Just remember that the realization of your hopes is generally related to hard work, that success rarely comes without failures and disappointments along the way and that when the final measure of our lives is taken, make sure that you have enjoyed the journey."**

Ambassador  
William J. vanden Heuvel

One of the extraordinary members of the class of January 2004 was **Chiso Nwokafor**, who came to the United States from Nigeria after his high school graduation in 1998. Nwokafor was looking forward to two things when he came to New York: being reunited with his mother and older sister who came here from Africa in 1990 and continuing his education. When he arrived, he was greeted with a shock that could easily have shaken his optimism. His sister, whom he hadn't seen in eight years, was suffering from sickle cell anemia.

Nwokafor started school at Hunter and simultaneously found work to help with his sister's medical expenses. He was determined to major in science and conduct research to help find a cure for his sister's disease. Nwokafor was admitted to Hunter's Minority Biomedical Research Support program where his work in Professor Akira Kawamura's chemistry lab produced research on proteins that Nwokafor presented at a national biomedical research conference last October.

Nwokafor plans to enter a doctoral program next fall, where he will continue to work toward a breakthrough in the understanding and treatment of sickle cell and other diseases. His sister is his driving force, but many others will also benefit from his devotion, intelligence and skill.



Class of 2004 graduate **Madalina Obogeanu** was raised in Rumania, a country markedly different from America, but ever since she was a small child her mother spoke to her about going to the "land of opportunity." Obogeanu's mother died and left her daughter with a big dream—a dream of going to America where freedom and opportunity would be hers. Or, as her mother put it, "where you could start out as a dishwasher and become a millionaire." Obogeanu latched onto that dream, and dedicated herself to making it come true with hard work. In 1997, at age 19, she grabbed the chance to come to New York on a cultural exchange—and never looked back.

She also never took the easy route. Obogeanu came to Hunter and was invited to join the Hunter College Honors Program, pursuing a double major in political science and German. She supported herself by working nights and weekends waiting on tables in restaurants.

"Down time" was not part of Obogeanu's life. Maintaining a 3.9 GPA, she still had time to win a German Academic Exchange Service scholarship that allowed her to spend the summer of 2002 in Germany at three different universities. As her goal of a career in international business crystallized, she also found time to be a United Nations intern for two summers, one as a UNICEF volunteer and one with the U.N. Economic Development Office working on a paper on globalization.

## THE RACE TO THE FINISH LINE



Ivan Zadunaisky's  
3.98 GPA edged  
out Chamion  
Thomas' 3.96.

For many students a Hunter diploma is the ultimate prize. However, for two members of the class of 2004, a diploma was not enough.

For these two, the race to the finish had to end in capturing the top spot—valedictorian of the class. The race was a tight one, with IVAN ZADUNAISKY (left) battling CHAMION THOMAS (right) until days before graduation. With a 3.98 GPA, Zadunaisky, a triple major in special honors, archaeology and art history, edged out statistics major Thomas whose GPA was a perilously close 3.96. Unlike former president Jimmy Carter, who once remarked, "My reduced grades saved me from having to make a valedictory speech," Zadunaisky did have to make a speech. The Argentinean-born valedictorian spoke to the graduates and their families during commencement. Salutatorian Thomas, who hails from Trinidad, opened Hunter's graduation ceremony by welcoming all the guests.



## Diverse Duo Lead Hunter Cross-Country and Track Teams to Victory

If it weren't for Hunter's cross-country team, Omri Holtzman and Kamal Dahib would be running in very different circles. Holtzman, a native of Tel Aviv, and Dahib, who comes from Casablanca, led Hunter College's men's cross-country team to its third consecutive CUNY Athletic Conference Championship this fall. Before entering college, neither one had any competitive running experience.

**"You can't judge someone just because of where he comes from or his religion," said Dahib.**

The two student athletes have become fast friends, running and training together in spite of their cultural and religious differences.

"Kamal is my first and only friend that I have from Morocco. He is Muslim and I am a Jew and we don't care about it. When we are together we just care about the team and about our running. We don't try to solve the problems in the Middle East," said Holtzman.

"You can't judge someone just because of where he comes from or his religion. When you know a person that's how you judge him and Omri's a great guy," said Dahib.

The two men each get up early in the morning to run in Central Park, work full time and attend classes in the evening. Holtzman, a sophomore with a double major in computer science and economics, enrolled in Hunter after serving six years in Israel's army. Dahib is a senior, hoping to teach high school when he graduates in June.

Holtzman has been the top runner in the conference all season long. He won the CUNYAC individual championship for the second straight year and received gold medals at the Bard Invitational and Stevens Tech Invitational meets this fall. Dahib won the City Tech Invitational after finishing 10th in the Bard Invitational meet the previous day.

Last year Holtzman helped lead Hunter to a rare "triple crown" as the team won Conference championships in cross-country and indoor and outdoor track and field.

The duo is now focused on indoor track and field as well as their course load for the spring semester. In the long run, Omri and Kamal would like to stay in New York and give something back to the city they say has given them so much.



Omri Holtzman



Kamal Dahib

## In Memoriam

Hunter has lost two influential and beloved leaders in the past year. We miss them very deeply, not only because of their great contributions to the college, but also because of the warmth they brought to the Hunter community. We send our condolences to their families.

### Blanche D. Blank

Blanche Davis Blank, a longtime leader of the college as well as a loyal alumna, died on December 19, 2003, at the age of 80. Dr. Blank, who served as Hunter's acting president from 1993-1995, had earlier been a professor of political science and dean of the division of social sciences. An alumna of Hunter College High School as well as a 1944 magna cum laude graduate of the college, she was a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees and established a number of academic awards and scholarships at Hunter, including the Blanche D. Blank Endowed Chair for Public Policy. The first holder of the chair is one of Dr. Blank's former students, Joseph P. Viteritti.

Dr. Blank, who received an MA in public administration from Syracuse and a PhD in American political institutions from Columbia, wrote several books in her field, most recently a report for the Fund for Peace, *It Takes Two to Tango: International Perspectives on the United Nations*. An earlier book, *The Not So Grand Jury: The Story of the Federal Grand Jury System*, was the result of her own two-year stint on a federal grand jury.

Hunter held a memorial service for Dr. Blank on January 22. Some 250 people attended the service, held in the auditorium of the School of Social Work.

### Harold Lewis

Harold Lewis, dean of the Hunter College School of Social Work from 1970-1990, died on July 19, 2003. He was 83. Renowned in his field, Dr. Lewis made significant contributions to social work research, social work education, child welfare, and the ethics, theory, and practice of social work. The second dean of the social work school, he started the first doctoral program for a professional school in the CUNY system, advanced educational concepts that were adopted as models by social work schools nationwide, and was instrumental in making Hunter's school one of the leading graduate social work schools in the nation. Dr. Lewis was a founder and co-editor of *The Journal of Teaching in Social Work* and was on the editorial boards of several other professional journals. He wrote more than 100 papers and articles and a classic text, *Intellectual Base of Social Work Practice: Tools for Thought in a Helping Profession*.

A graduate of Brooklyn College, Dr. Lewis got a master's from the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, where he taught for 10 years. Immediately prior to coming to Hunter, he was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Palo Alto.

Hunter held a memorial service for Dr. Lewis on September 4. The service was held in the School of Social Work auditorium, which was named the Harold Lewis Auditorium in 1994.



# The Sciences at Hunter:

Following are a few members of the faculty who are helping



Jill Bargonetti

Early in her career, Associate Professor **Jill Bargonetti** (Biology) made breakthrough discoveries that not only expanded basic scientific knowledge about cellular activity but also had important implications for cancer treatment. Sought after by many prestigious research institutions, she chose Hunter, both because of the research support Hunter offered and, she adds, “because I felt that at Hunter I could make a real difference in students’ lives. I felt I could be an important role model and mentor to minority science students.”

Bargonetti continues to conduct pioneering research while also nurturing the talents of the next generation of scientists. Her current research focuses on cell growth and cell death and how these are regulated by the tumor suppressor protein p53; she has been instrumental in determining that p53 has the ability to bind to specific DNA sites and suppress the growth of tumor cells. In addition to mentoring her students directly, says Bargonetti, “I also want them to look at my example and realize that it’s possible to be black, female, and even a mother—I show them pictures of my children—and make it in the world of science.”



Steven Greenbaum

Professor **Steven Greenbaum** (Physics) has long been recognized at Hunter as a first-rate mentor, but last year he got national recognition. In a ceremony held at the White House, he was one of 10 individuals to receive the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics, Science and Engineering Mentoring.

Greenbaum points with pride to the positions now held by some of his former students: professor at Duke University, senior scientist at DuPont’s research and development laboratory, researcher at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Sciences, research fellow at Lucent Technologies, postdoctoral fellow at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

And while he mentors aspiring scientists, Greenbaum continues to conduct his research, which focuses on the structure of certain materials at the atomic level. These materials convert chemical energy into electrical energy and, says Greenbaum, “hold great promise as environmentally benign sources of electricity.”



Marie Filbin

Distinguished Professor **Marie Filbin** (Biology) has received international recognition for her work, which centers around a crucial fact in neurobiology: the central nervous system in adult mammals does not regenerate after injury. Filbin’s research team has ascertained that one agent that inhibits regrowth is a molecule in the brain and spinal cord called myelin-associated glycoprotein (MAG); MAG is found in the myelin membrane, which forms a sheath around nerves and insulates them. Filbin is seeking to discover exactly how MAG produces its inhibitory effects, and her team is now mapping the site on MAG responsible for inhibition. They have also found that if a neuron’s level of a molecule called cyclic AMP (cAmp) is raised, the agents in MAG that inhibit regeneration will be overcome. Filbin’s investigations, which have been called groundbreaking, could lead to innovative therapies for those with spinal cord injuries.



Godfrey Gumbs

**Godfrey Gumbs** (Physics, department chair), the Maria A. Chianta and Alice M. Stoll Professor, has been exploring the application of surface acoustic waves (SAWs)—i.e., sound waves—to security screening and detection of infrared light. His approach, which is innovative, has significant implications for such procedures as airport passenger screening, the detection of explosives and other hazardous materials, and the security of aircraft and satellites. Detectors that are based on SAWs and utilize nanocircuits (channels one-millionth of a meter in width) are expected not only to be highly sensitive as detectors but also resistant to mechanical stresses and electromagnetic interference. Gumbs is currently on sabbatical at Cambridge, where his work includes investigations that are expected to lead to the development of a new, and highly superior, generation of computers. Gumbs has made seminal contributions in theoretical condensed matter physics, including his pioneering work on single-electron transport in semiconductors. His publications, which include about 200 refereed articles and 125 conference proceedings, are widely cited.

## Students, Grads Make Their Mark in the Scientific World

*The extraordinarily able and dedicated men and women profiled below are among Hunter’s many outstanding graduates and current students. All are scientists or future scientists, all honed their talents with the aid of Hunter’s faculty, and all benefited from either the MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) or MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support) program (or both), two of Hunter’s programs designed to aid minorities underrepresented in the sciences.*



New Haven, Connecticut is a long way from her home in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, but **NAIRA REZENDE** doesn’t mind. The Hunter junior is eagerly looking forward to working in Yale professor David Schatz’s immunobiology lab this summer. Working in a lab is not a new experience for Rezende. She spent the summer of 2003 in an MIT Summer Research Program where she focused on the use of biochemical and molecular biology techniques to study the Lon protease of *E.coli* and DNA damage response in bacteria. When not in biology and chemistry classes (her respective major and minor), Rezende can be found in Hunter biology professor Peter Lipke’s lab examining the protein Als5. A Tukman Scholar, Rezende is already thinking about the PhD programs in molecular biology she wants to apply to.



**RANDY ARROYAVE**, a junior majoring in biology, dropped out of college in Florida so he could work and take care of his ill mother. When she recovered he moved to New York and entered Hunter to pursue his dream of becoming a scientist; thanks to the aid he receives from MARC, he no longer needs to work and can concentrate wholly on his studies. In his current experiments in a Hunter lab—where, he says, he feels “part of a family”—he is seeking to learn the mechanisms through which a particular part of DNA affects gene activity. His GPA is an impressive 3.7, but he says grades are “just a byproduct; I give myself soul, mind, and body to my studies and the grade comes by itself.” Arroyave, who plans to go on for a doctorate, continues to support his mother.



A Thomas Hunter Honors student who graduated with a 4.0 GPA, **VANESSA RUTA** (’00) is now in the doctoral program in biomedical sciences at Rockefeller University. She works in the lab of Dr. Rod MacKinnon, winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The project Ruta is working on is part of a long-term effort to visualize the three-dimensional structure of a class of proteins—the voltage-gated ion channels—that are responsible for our nerve impulses, muscle contractions, and heartbeats. These channels, says Ruta, “are basic to the functioning of all multicellular life.” Ruta has been an author on three papers published in the journal *Nature*, and was the first author on one of them.

# On the Leading Edge

to make Hunter's scientific achievements possible.



Hiroshi Matsui

Another faculty member working on the frontiers of science is Associate Professor **Hiroshi Matsui** (Chemistry). Matsui's specialty is nanotechnology, a burgeoning area that involves particles of no more than one-billionth of a meter in size and explores issues as diverse as bioterrorism, computer efficiency, and the most effective ways of delivering medications directly to the patient's affected organ. The field is rapidly becoming important both scientifically and commercially.

Matsui is currently working on creating a nanosized component that will enable sensors to detect poisons in the air and in foods and help make computer circuit boards smaller and faster.

For Matsui the college's diversity is a powerful asset. "At Hunter," he says, "my Asian background is just something natural—as is someone else's Hispanic or African-American or European origin. In my research group, everyone is part of one team, working together to solve a set of problems. It's a great way to work and learn, and excellent career preparation for students."



Maria Tomasz

Distinguished Professor **Maria Tomasz** (Chemistry) studies the actions of drugs that bind to DNA as their target. She is particularly interested in the mitomycins, which are important anticancer agents that attach themselves to essential DNA elements. Among her main research goals, she seeks to explain the chemistry of the interactions between drugs and DNA in cancer cells, to detect specific DNA sequences targeted by the drugs, and to understand the resulting alterations of DNA structure. This information serves to clarify the molecular basis of the biological effects of the mitomycins, such as the repair of damaged DNA, inhibition of DNA replication, and selective toxicity to cancer cells. (A drawback of many anticancer drugs is that they are *not* selective: they kill healthy cells as well as cancerous ones.) Tomasz's research leads to the design and synthesis of new drugs.



Benjamin Ortiz  
(second from left)

Assistant Professor **Benjamin Ortiz** (Biology) is investigating novel DNA sequences that appear to regulate gene activity through the alteration of chromatin structure. (Chromatin is the natural "packaging environment" in which genes normally reside. Most of the DNA sequences that play a leading role in gene regulation do not function well in chromatin.) Ortiz's work advances understanding of the development of complex organisms such as humans, and it will also further the application of gene therapy to disease. Ortiz, a Hunter graduate, says he initially went to college only to get a job skill "and escape [his] inner city neighborhood," but at Hunter his professors encouraged him to explore the possibility of a career in research. Thanks to his professors' support—and the financial assistance of MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers)—Ortiz pursued science studies enthusiastically and went on to earn a doctorate in immunology at Stanford.



Victoria Luine

Distinguished Professor **Victoria Luine** (Psychology) was the first scientist to suggest and demonstrate that estradiol, an estrogenic hormone, could influence learning and memory and might help to delay, treat, or prevent Alzheimer's disease. She is also currently conducting research to enhance understanding of the interaction between genes and the environment.

Luine has been director of MBRS (Minority Biomedical Research Support) since 1996, and she lavishes praise on both the program and the students. "Hunter has a number of students with the potential to become fine scientists," she says, "but many of them come from impoverished backgrounds and know very little about professions in the sciences; often they can't even imagine that they might become researchers or university professors."

But, she continues, many students "develop a real passion for research and go on to doctoral programs at world-class universities."

Luine fosters her students' abilities by giving them lab assignments that are part of genuine research projects. "By doing this work," says Luine, "they not only learn how to do scientific tasks; they also learn what it's like to be part of a productive research community."



**ARLIE O. PETERS ('86)**, who says that he would be picking fruit in his native Belize if it weren't for Hunter, is a professor of mathematics and physics at Duke University. He is the first African-American to gain tenure in Duke's math department—and the first African-American to hold a joint appointment in math and physics at Duke. He had previously been an assistant professor of mathematics at Princeton.

Multiple honors are nothing new for Petters. At Hunter he earned both a BA in physics and a BA/MA in mathematics in an accelerated program for exceptional students. He has a PhD in mathematics from MIT.

Petters's research is on gravitational lensing, which deals with how light is distorted by the warping of space and time. He has been a pioneer in establishing the field as an area of research in mathematical physics. His awards include an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship and a National Science Foundation Early Career Award. Petters has also received several community-service awards for mentoring minority students.



**ERICH JARVIS ('88)**, an assistant professor of neurobiology at Duke University Medical Center, is worlds away from the Harlem neighborhood where he grew up. His father, once a promising chemist and pianist, fell victim to drug use and schizophrenia and abandoned the family. His mother raised her four children—and always encouraged them to strive for excellence.

Jarvis initially wanted to be a dancer, but a longtime interest in science led him to Hunter. A biology and math major, he studied genes that control protein synthesis and, while still an undergraduate, authored several papers that were published in professional journals. From Hunter he went to Rockefeller University, where he got a doctorate in neurobiology and then a postdoctoral fellowship.

In 1998 Jarvis joined the faculty at Duke. He has received the National Science Foundation's Alan T. Waterman Award, a \$500,000 award that supports his work on the molecular biology and evolution of vocal learning. Jarvis is director of minority recruitment for his department—and still finds time to take dance classes.

## Hunter Leads in NIH Funding

Hunter has received extraordinary recognition and support from the National Institutes of Health. Hunter not only receives more NIH support than any other CUNY school, but it also receives more NIH funding than any other school in New York without a medical school.

NIH funds many different Hunter programs—including those that highlight the College's status as a minority institution with

distinction in the sciences. Over the years Hunter has received more than \$48 million from the NIH for MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers), MBRS/RISE (Minority Biomedical Research Support/Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement), COR (Career Opportunities in Research and Education), and RCMI (Research Centers in Minority Institutions).

# The Sciences at Hunter:

## Introducing College Science To High Schoolers

### Two Future Pathbreakers

The two students pictured here—now freshmen at Hunter—are among the 11 talented, energetic "graduates" of Hunter's Summer Institute who received full scholarships to Hunter because of their excellent records in high school and at the Summer Institute (see article at right). It is your generosity to Hunter that has made their scholarships possible—and started them on the road to exciting, productive careers.



**Abigail Asare** thought that the chemistry course she took at the Summer Institute "was really great, because the labs went hand in hand with the classes. That really helped us understand the material." She also appreciated the individual attention from the teachers, who "spent a lot of time with each of us and answered all our questions." A graduate of Frederick Douglass Academy in Manhattan, Abigail plans to major in either English or economics and hopes to attend law school.



**Adeepa Singh**, who graduated from Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics High School, remembers thinking that her physics course at the Summer Institute was "so challenging, and I struggled through the class, but it made me respect physical science—and it influenced my decision to go into medicine." Adeepa hopes to enter a premed program at Hunter, then go to medical school and eventually specialize in dermatology.

*Both Abigail and Adeepa are Student Ambassadors at Hunter, where they take prospective students, parents, and high school teachers on tours through the college and answer their questions.*

Hunter's science faculty is training the next generation of biologists, biopsychologists, chemists, and physicists. Because most Hunter students come from New York City public schools, Hunter depends on these schools to prepare their pupils to take college-level courses. At the same time, Hunter feels a responsibility to help equip high school students for college work. To help ensure that today's high school students have the background to become tomorrow's scientists, Hunter has launched two science-related initiatives for high school students: the Manhattan/Hunter Science High School and the Summer Institute in Science and Mathematics. Both reflect Hunter's conviction that public education can no longer be viewed as grades K-12, but must be a K-16 continuum.

The **Manhattan/Hunter Science High School** is an exciting, innovative school that focuses on the sciences and provides a first-rate education for students who have a strong desire to go to college and build careers in science. A collaborative effort that brings together the resources of Hunter College and the New York City Department of Education, the school is funded in part by a \$400,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The new school, which opened in September 2003, is located at the Martin Luther King Jr. Campus on Manhattan's Upper West Side. It is an "early college" high school where students can take college-level courses and apply the credits for those courses toward their bachelor's degrees after they enter college. One of the school's special features is that it uses a curriculum in which two or more subjects are integrated in one class. For example, students take a double science period where they study biology and chemistry together. The students also have an integrated English and humanities curriculum, which allows them to examine several different aspects of literature and history simultaneously. Another special offering of the new school is a research skills class in which students learn how to conduct research and use logical methods to pursue scientific and other investigations.

Hunter's wide-ranging expertise is being integrated into all aspects of the high school. Hunter math and science professors are mentoring the high school faculty and supporting their efforts at developing an innovative and sophisticated curriculum. Hunter science and education faculty serve alongside high school faculty on the school's strategic planning committee, which is currently identifying college-level courses that are appropriate for high school students. The Hunter College School of Social Work has provided the school with an intern—a social work student—whose duties include



counseling services for students. Professors from Hunter's School of Arts and Sciences develop extracurricular programs for the students. And in the fall a group of students from the School of Nursing will give a presentation on the nursing profession which will include information on the science courses a future nurse needs.

Manhattan/Hunter Science High School opened with 93 ninth-grade students. A new entering class will be admitted each year until there are four classes, grades 9-12.

### Science in the Summer

Thanks to another collaborative effort, for the past two summers New York City public high school students with a penchant for science have donned lab coats and goggles in chemistry labs, attended physics and statistics lectures, and participated in biology tutorials at **Hunter College's Summer Institute in Science and Mathematics**.

Last summer 87 students from 26 high schools earned college credit for the introductory-level biology, chemistry, physics, and statistics courses they took with Hunter professors. The students, eleventh- or twelfth-graders, attend public schools that offer strong science curricula.

In addition to taking science classes and laboratory sessions, Summer Institute students visited the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island where they toured the facilities and learned about current research from eminent scientists. The students also attended workshops on college admissions, study skills, test-taking techniques, and financial aid sponsored by Hunter's Office of Student Services.

Eleven students who completed the 2002 Summer Institute have been awarded full scholarships to Hunter because of their excellent records in high school and in the Summer Institute, and are currently freshmen at Hunter. (See "Two Future Pathbreakers" at left.)

The institute is now gearing up for its third season.

## Supporting Scientific Excellence



**Melvin Tukman**

Hunter's outstanding achievements in the sciences would not be possible without the contributions of our alumni and other friends. We are deeply grateful for their commitment and pleased to list a few of these dedicated supporters.

**Melvin Tukman ('61)** sponsors the Tukman Summer Research Residency Program, which offers high-achieving women and minority students at Hunter the opportunity for summer research and study at major research universities. Since the program was launched, more than 30 Tukman Scholars have participated in summer research projects at prestigious institutions including Brown, Columbia, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, MIT, Princeton, and Tufts.

The **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** has given a \$400,000 grant to the new Manhattan/Hunter Science High School. The grant is part of the Gates Foundation's effort to sponsor early-college high schools nationwide.

The **Shifrin family** has funded the recently opened Viola S. Shifrin, RN, Advanced Practice Nursing Laboratory, a state-of-the-art nursing lab at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing. Viola Shifrin was a faculty member at the nursing school.

**Marie Hesselbach ('36)** established the Marie Hesselbach Chair in Biological Sciences, now held by Professor Laurel Eckhardt.

**Alice Stoll ('38)** established the Maria A. Chianta and Alice M. Stoll Chair in Physics and Chemistry, currently held by Professor Godfrey Gumbs (Physics). Chianta and Stoll, both scientists, were lifelong friends. Chianta died in 1995.



At the ceremony inaugurating the Viola S. Shifrin, RN, Advanced Practice Nursing Laboratory were (l. to r.) Diane Rendon, director, Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing; President Jennifer J. Raab; and Shelley and Loren Ross, members of the Shifrin family.



# On the Leading Edge

## Closing Dangerous Gaps In the Health System

At the same time that Hunter is training brilliant research scientists, it is also educating enormously skilled nurses, medical technologists, and other professionals who are acutely needed by New York City's hospitals, laboratories, and medical research institutions—and will play leading roles in these institutions.

Trained health professionals are always greatly in demand, but because there is a severe shortage of these workers, that demand has now been enormously magnified. Hunter's Schools of the Health Professions—which has long been acclaimed for its commitment to serve the city as well as its expertise—is responding to the demand.

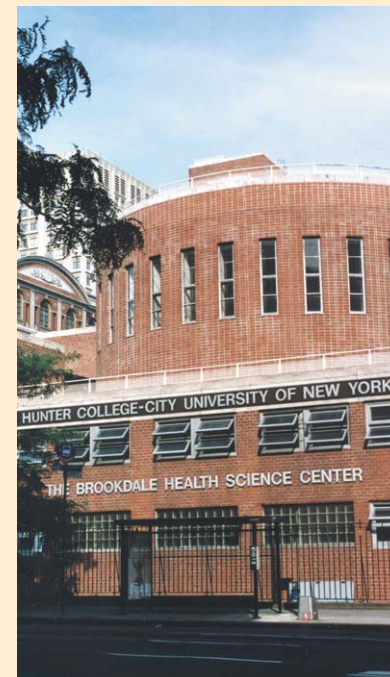
The Schools of the Health Professions includes the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, which trains nurses on both the undergraduate and graduate level; and the School of Health Sciences, which trains medical technologists and many other health professionals, including physical therapists, audiologists, and public health specialists.

**Trained health professionals are always greatly in demand, but because there is a severe shortage of these workers, that demand has now been enormously magnified.**

The Nursing School is currently tackling a massive challenge. New York City is experiencing an acute shortage of nurses, but the need for nurses goes far beyond the Hudson River; it is nationwide. Right now, 126,000 nurses are needed to fill vacancies in the country's hospitals, and by the end of the decade a million nurses will be needed. The projected numbers for the next 15 years are even more staggering.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the shortage has arisen because hospital-based nursing programs are closing and enrollments in existing nursing programs are declining.

Hunter is working to reverse this dangerous trend; the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing has been able to hire additional faculty and admit more students to this year's entering class. As a result, Hunter will be even better able to supply hospitals—and the entire community—with desperately needed nurses. Closing the gap,



**ABOVE:** A view of Hunter's Brookdale Campus, home of the Schools of the Health Professions.  
**LEFT:** Future medical lab technologists work out a problem in microbiology.

however, will take many years—but just as nurses work to meet their patients' needs, so will Hunter-Bellevue work to meet the city's needs.

Medical laboratory technology is another science-related field facing an alarming shortage of highly trained professionals, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the shortage will continue. Hospital laboratories, private diagnostic labs, academic research organizations, pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, and even organizations such as the Police Department urgently need more medical technologists and research assistants: trained men and women who can examine tissues and cells, analyze blood samples, identify pathological processes, utilize computers in their analytic work, and perform the many other technological functions that are central to 21st-century health care and medical research.

The Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in Hunter's School of Health Sciences trains its students to perform these high-tech functions, and its graduates are sought after by the most prestigious medical and diagnostic institutions in the New York City area. Because of the shortage of educated, skilled lab workers—and because of Hunter's first-rate reputation in this area—a number of prominent laboratories and other research organizations have joined forces with the Hunter program to help train more technologists.

The challenge is daunting, but the need is urgent—and Hunter has a long history of successfully facing extraordinary challenges.

**Hunter's graduates are sought after by the most prestigious medical and diagnostic institutions in the New York City area.**



**Students at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, one of the most challenging and respected nursing schools in the nation, practice their professional skills on a mannequin.**

# Alumni News

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday  
May 19, 2004  
at 7:00 pm

Faculty Dining Room  
Hunter College  
West Building  
8th Floor

At the Association meeting on January 21, 2004 the Nominating Committee presented the slate of directors for the term starting June 1, 2004, and ending May 31, 2007. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2004.

The Nominees are:  
Elizabeth Ainsley  
James Davis  
Eve Haberman  
Catherine Healey  
Barbara Janes  
Leo Marshall  
Joan Masket

## New Executive Director of Development and Alumni Affairs



President Jennifer J. Raab recently announced the selection of Betsy Bowman as Hunter's new executive director of development and alumni affairs. Ms. Bowman comes to Hunter with a wealth of leadership, management, financial, and development skills.

"I am thrilled to have Betsy at Hunter," says President Raab. "Her talents in management, strategy, and finance will add considerably to our fundraising efforts."

Ms. Bowman has extensive experience in finance and rose to the senior management level at several large corporations including Price Waterhouse and Chase Manhattan Bank, where she was a senior vice president. For eight years she worked abroad in Europe and Latin America.

Several years ago, Ms. Bowman decided to apply her many skills to fundraising. Most recently she served as the director of development for Dress for Success in Fairfield County. Dress for Success is an organization that helps low income women transfer into the workforce.

"I am really committed to helping people achieve the American dream," says Bowman. "And there is no greater place to do that than at Hunter."

Ms. Bowman is determined to get the message of Hunter's needs not only to alumni, but also to employers throughout the New York City metropolitan area. "I'm confident that if they understand more about Hunter, they will be highly supportive of our mission."

Ms. Bowman has a BA in accounting and economics from Albertus Magnus College and an MBA in management from the Stern School of Business at NYU. From her years living abroad, she is conversant in Dutch and Spanish. She also continues to be active in causes that help disadvantaged women and girls in Fairfield County, Connecticut.

## Scholarship and Welfare Fund

The Scholarship and Welfare Fund thanks all who have contributed to aiding Hunter students. The importance of this assistance is capsulized in these words from a student: "At a time when cost of living and education is on the rise, and the state of the economy makes it difficult to make ends meet, this is a truly welcome and appreciated gift. I will be the first in my family to graduate from college."

In the fall, S & W will be inaugurating a new scholarship program for first-year graduate students who are coming to Hunter with baccalaureate degrees from other institutions. They will be studying in the areas of arts and sciences, education, social work, and the health professions.

To contact S & W, please call 212-772-4092.



Five members of the School of Nursing Class of 1962 gathered in New York City last summer to reminisce about Hunter and update one another about their lives and careers since their school days. They are: (front, l. to r.) Elaine Gross Yeoman and Barbara Herskovits Fleischer; (back, l. to r.) Rita Barclay CheMponda, Myrna Jacobs Shampianier, and Joanne Dell'Aquila Matzer. If you would like to attend the next reunion of the Nursing '62 class, please contact Barbara Fleischer at 732-842-4644 or bfeischer@att.net.



Among those enjoying the Alumni Association's holiday party in December were (left to right) Omar Folkers, Glendon McLeary, Alicia Noel, Leo Marshall, Alumni Association President Jacqueline Wilson, and Jim Davis.

## THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HUNTER COLLEGE

*cordially invites you and your guests to celebrate*

## The 134th Birthday Celebration of Hunter

Saturday, April 24, 2004

All Morning Spotlight Series—featuring some of Hunter's most exciting programs and professors!  
11:00 am Milestone Class Reunions  
12:30 pm General Reception  
1:00 pm Luncheon  
3:30 pm Afternoon Reception

SHERATON NEW YORK HOTEL AND TOWERS  
Seventh Avenue and 53rd Street, New York, NY 10021

Seventy-five Dollars R.S.V.P.  
For more information please contact the Alumni Association at (212) 772-4087 or alumni@hunter.cuny.edu

This is your only invitation unless you are a member of a milestone class.

1924	1934	1944	1954	1964	1974	1984	1994
1929	1939	1949	1959	1969	1979	1989	1999

\_\_\_\_\_ Ticket Number \_\_\_\_\_ Table Number

134<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON April 24, 2004

Last Name	First Name	Name at Graduation
Address	City	State
Class	Phone	Seat me (us) with Class/Chapter/Group

Enclosed is my check payable to:

The Alumni Association of Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

for \$\_\_\_\_\_ to cover \_\_\_\_\_ reservations at \$75 each.

*If received after April 13th, tickets will be held at door.*

Please select one:  Chicken course preferred  Fish course preferred

*On a separate sheet I am listing the names and classes of other guests included in the reservation.*

*At This Year's Birthday Luncheon  
Hunter College invites you to enjoy*

## THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES

- Learn about the fantastic students in the CUNY Honors College at Hunter
- Hear top professors teach the arts of memoir writing and acting—and discuss new research
- Meet great students, learn about their challenges and achievements at Hunter
- Get an update on the fabulous renovations at Roosevelt House
- Find out how you can become a student mentor, and much more!

For more information,  
please contact the Office of Alumni Relations:  
(212) 650-3162 or erica.rios@hunter.cuny.edu

## CONSTITUTION

### Article XII-B-Section Two

Nominations other than those made by the Nominating Committee may be presented by sending to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, at least four weeks before the annual meeting, a petition signed by at least twenty active members of the Association containing the names of the proposed candidates, together with a statement of the office or directorship for which these people are nominated, and the assurance that each candidate is willing to serve if elected.

# Class Notes

Please keep us—and your fellow alumni—informed about your accomplishments by sending your news to: Class Notes, *At Hunter*, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021. Owing to space limitations, we cannot publish all submissions, but please visit our Web site at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni) for these and other class notes.

## 1940s

**Jean E. Moore ('47)**, a social-welfare authority, educator, radio host, and longtime civil rights leader, received the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, presented by the National Holiday Committee of Upper Merion Township (Pennsylvania). Moore has been active for more than 40 years in the Fair Housing Council of Suburban Philadelphia, which works on behalf of minorities, single mothers, and the disabled.

## 1950s

**Morton Hoffman ('55)**, a professor of chemistry at Boston University, has been elected chair of the Division of Chemical Education of the American Chemical Society. He will serve as chair-elect during 2004 and become chair in January 2005. Hoffman also delivered the annual Arthur Sweeny, Jr. Memorial Lecture at Lehman College/CUNY; his subject was "General Chemistry: A High School Chemistry Clone or a Brave New World?" Sweeny, who died in 2001 at the age of 94, taught chemistry at Hunter and Lehman.

## 1960s

**Carol M. Poteat-Buchanan ('63)**, president of the Florida West Coast Chapter of the Hunter College Alumni Association, was an honoree at a "Women in Power" luncheon given by the Sarasota-Manatee section of the National Council of Jewish Women. Poteat-Buchanan is also a past president of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

**Linda Oliphant Stanford ('67)** is assistant provost for academic services and university registrar at Michigan State University.

**Bernie Bandman ('68)** was featured in the documentary film "The Boys of 2nd Street Park." Shown at the 2003 Sundance Film Festival, the film has received numerous awards including the Audience Award for Best Documentary and the Jury Award for Best Documentary at the 2003 RiverRun International Film Festival.

**Daniel Domenech ('68)** was recently named senior vice president of urban markets at McGraw-Hill Education.

*Revelations on the Road: A Pilgrim Journey*, by **Lynn W. Huber ('68)**, has just been published by Woven Word Press. Huber's first book, *Revelations* is based on the author's own life experiences as well as on Biblical works and the lives and writings of others. For information on the new book, visit: [www.wovenword.com/revelations\\_on\\_the\\_road.htm](http://www.wovenword.com/revelations_on_the_road.htm).

## 1970s

A feature article by **Karen C. Altfest ('70)** titled "A Full Financial Planning Plate: Kids, Parents and Retirement" recently appeared in the *AALI Journal*, published by the American Association of Individual Investors. Among her other recent activities, Altfest, who is vice president of the New York financial and investment advisory firm L. J. Altfest & Co., taught a series of classes on "Handling Financial Affairs After a Personal Tragedy" at New School University. The series was a special initiative for families of 9/11 victims.

**Dolores Morris ('70)** was the supervising producer of the HBO Family documentary "Through a Child's Eyes: September 11, 2001," which won an Emmy for outstanding children's program. Morris is the vice president of HBO Family.

Retired New York City policeman **Michael Fandal ('71)**, who has a second career as a clown, is featured in a chapter on "Good Clowns/Bad Clowns" in *The Wolf Files: Adventures in Weird News* by Buck Wolf. Cited as a "good clown," Fandal works at a facility for troubled youths. He started performing while still in the police force.

Calling **Jack Levine ('71)** "Florida's leading advocate for children and their families," an editorial in the *Fort Pierce Tribune* (Florida) said that "the progress that the state has made in improving the health, safety and education of its children has been due in no small measure to Levine's passionate commitment." Levine, a longtime leader of the organization Voices for Florida's Children, is stepping down from his post as president of the organization to become a consultant on social-service issues.

*Tracks* magazine, a new publication aimed at music buyers over 30, has named **Anthony DeCurtis ('74)** its executive editor. A contributing editor for *Rolling Stone* magazine, DeCurtis has addressed music issues on television, online, and in a host of books and articles.

**Camille Polimeni ('74)** has been named Customs and Border Protection (CBP) area director at JFK International Airport in New York. CBP, a new agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was formed by merging Customs, Immigration and Agriculture inspection, and the Border Patrol. Polimeni had been serving as interim director and has been overseeing the transition to the new agency.

In an article in *The New York Times* (December 21, 2003), Justice **Eileen Bransten ('75)** reminisces about some well-known relatives—her mother, Ruth McKenney, author of *My Sister Eileen*; and her aunt, Eileen McKenney, the title character of the famous book, movie, and musical. Justice Bransten serves on the New York State Supreme Court.

## 1980s

An exhibition of works by **Peter Hristoff ('83)**, "Turkish Prints and Works on Paper," was mounted at the Port Art Gallery in Gocek, Turkey, last summer.

The Jentel Artist Residency Program has awarded **Beverly M. Post ('84)** a fellowship that will enable her to spend four weeks in a quiet rural setting designed to allow artists and writers to focus on their creative work. Jentel is located on a cattle ranch in the Lower Piney Creek Valley some 20 miles from Sheridan, Wyoming. Post, a nonfiction writer, will be using her time at Jentel to complete a collection of personal essays titled "Postcards from Places I've Never Been."

## 1990s

**Renee Piechocki ('94)** is part of an artistic team called Two Girls Working that has traveled across the country to gather information for their project "Trappings," which explores the complex relationships between power, identity, and women's feelings about the clothing they wear. The result is an installation including still images, audio works, and video whose next venue will be the Jersey City Museum (September 2004-January 2005). For more information on the project, visit [www.twogirlsworking.com](http://www.twogirlsworking.com).

After two successful years as public policy director for her area's city councilman, **Mabel Law ('97)** has been named the first executive director of the Flushing (NY) business improvement district. Law played a leading role in the BID from the time of its formation in January 2003.

## 2000s

Future pediatrician **Cody Conklin ('00)** prescribed hundreds of doses of highly effective non-medical help this Christmas when she spearheaded a toy drive in Bethlehem. Conklin, a third-year medical student in Israel, enlisted more than 50 of her fellow students—Christian, Jewish, and Muslim—who ultimately succeeded in attracting donations from around the world and giving out 700 new and used toys and countless home-baked cookies. Conklin is a student in a program at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev which works in collaboration with the Columbia University Medical Center.

A record shop in Omaha recently featured an art exhibit created by **Lori Tatreau ('01)**, who reprised the show she presented as her MFA thesis at Hunter. Titled "The Lonely Hearts Club"—an allusion to the Beatles album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"—the show represents a record shop (fabricated in New York, but a reality in Omaha) containing bins of albums that customers can flip through. The "albums" are blank record jackets that serve as the canvases for Tatreau's abstract paintings.

**Wendy Wisner ('02)** took first place in the 8th Annual Amy Awards, a poetry competition open to women under 30 who live in the New York City metropolitan area and on Long Island. The awards were established in memory of Amy Rothholtz, a poet/actor who died in 1983 at the age of 25. Wisner's first collection of poems, *Epicenter*, is to be published this year. While at Hunter she won the Academy of American Poets Prize.

## Alumni Association Activities

### APRIL

The Long Island Chapter will hold its next membership meeting on **Wednesday, April 21, at 1:30 pm**. The meeting will take place at Bloomingdale's, Roosevelt Field-Garden City, on the lower level (in the cookware section), next to the Human Resources Office. The chapter's annual membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16, in the evening, location to be announced. For more information please contact Rhona Goldman at 516-599-2719 or [RhonaGoldman@earthlink.net](mailto:RhonaGoldman@earthlink.net).

### GET INVOLVED

Hunter alumni, active throughout the nation, have established chapters and interest groups to support their alma mater. For more information, please call the Office of Alumni Relations at 212.650.3162. And remember to check [www.hunter.cuny.edu](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu) for updates on chapter events and contacts.

## Hire the Best!

Are you an employer?  
Need to fill a position?  
Hire the best!  
Hire a Hunter graduate  
or student.

Contact the Hunter Career  
Development  
Services office today.  
Call 212.772.4850 or  
e-mail  
[career@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:career@hunter.cuny.edu)

## Author Seeking Information on Alumna Alice Kober

British novelist Alison Fell, currently researching the life of classical scholar Alice Kober ('28), would welcome information from Hunter alumni. If you have reminiscences, correspondence, or any other information about Kober, please write to [erica.rios@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:erica.rios@hunter.cuny.edu).

## IN MEMORIAM

**Wilma Greber ('41)**, who had been a legal secretary, died November 27, 2003, at the age of 84. She is survived by her husband, Norbert J.; her daughter, Adele; two sons, Randolph and Terrence; her brother, Henry; and four grandchildren.

**Margaret Johns ('71)** died in October 2003 at the age of 75. Dr. Johns entered Hunter in her thirties and went on to earn a PhD from the Institute of Animal Behavior at Rutgers. She did groundbreaking research on pheromones that led other scientists to question long-held beliefs about the substance in humans.

**Nellie Penttila Luoma ('54)**, an alumna of Hunter College High School as well as the college, died recently. A longtime supporter

of Hunter, she is survived by her husband, Robert W., and two children, Robert J. and Irja J., a 1972 graduate of Hunter High School.

**Margaret Rowley ('38)** of Atlanta, an author and historian, died recently. She was a member of the Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

**Paula Schwartz ('45)** died on December 21, 2003. A member of the Hall of Fame, she wrote 36 novels in the Regency Romance series under the pen name Elizabeth Mansfield.

**Anastasia Van Burkalow ('31)**, professor emerita of geography and geology, died on January 14 at the age of 92. She was a member of the Hall of Fame.

# Foundation News



Dr. Susan Bershad

## Board Elects Bershad and Oppenheim

Klara Silverstein, chair of the Hunter College Foundation, announced that **Dr. Susan Bershad** ('75) and **Jane Oppenheim** ('47) were elected to the Board of Trustees at the board's October meeting.

"I am excited to work with Susan Bershad and Jane Oppenheim," said Ms. Silverstein. "They are extraordinary women who will bring a great deal of energy to the foundation board."

Dr. Bershad received her medical degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, where she currently teaches. She is an expert in adolescent skin disorders. She was named "Teacher of the Year" at Mount Sinai and was selected by the American College of Physicians to develop an online acne program. Dr. Bershad is on the board of directors of the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund and is a founding member of the Dermatology Foundation.

A dedicated and active volunteer, Jane Oppenheim serves Hunter through her membership on the board of the Hunter College Foundation Trustees, the Alumni Association and the Scholarship and Welfare Fund. In addition, she has served on the boards of the University of Scranton, Scranton Area Foundation, World Union for Progressive Judaism, Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the United Way. Ms. Oppenheim was inducted into the Alumni Association's Hall of Fame in 1992.



Jane Oppenheim

## Hunter Supporters Give Significant Gifts

President Jennifer J. Raab and the Hunter College Foundation Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the following donors for their generosity and vision: **The Charles B. Wang Foundation** gave \$30,000 to the Hunter College Learning Laboratory.... **The Joseph C. and Clare F. Goodman Memorial Foundation**, headed by Joyce Eichenberg, contributed \$20,000 in support of Hunter's MFA program in creative writing....**The Louis and Rachel Rudin Foundation** pledged \$25,000 to the

Hunter College High School and \$50,000 for a collaborative program between Hunter College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.... Thanks to a \$10,000 gift from the **Frederick Loewe Foundation**, led by **Floria Lasky** ('42), an introductory theatre class with several hundred students attended a performance of *Drowning Crow* at the Manhattan Theatre Club. Members of the cast then joined the students back at Hunter for a stimulating discussion.... **Gladys Brownstein** ('41) gave \$100,000 to Hunter's Urban Health Program....With a gift of \$25,000, **David Chapnick** established the **Goldie Kraft Chapnick Scholarship** honoring his mother, who graduated in 1930.... **Miriam Inman** ('39) bequeathed \$57,000 for unrestricted purposes.

If you are interested in supporting the college with a gift to the Hunter College Foundation, please contact: John J. Brundage, director of development and annual giving, at (212) 650-3774 or by e-mail: john.brundage@hunter.cuny.edu.

## Evelyn Kossak Endows Art Professorship

One of our most generous alumni, **Evelyn Kranes Kossak** ('42), has pledged \$544,000 to establish the **Evelyn Kranes Kossak Endowed Professorship in Art History**. This generous gift will enable the college to further strengthen one of its highly regarded departments and continue to attract top art history students. The first recipient of the Kossak Chair will be announced this spring.

Ms. Kossak and her late husband, John, financed the Kossak Foundation, which supports the arts and medical research. Hunter has been the beneficiary of Ms. Kossak's and the Foundation's generosity several times. Evelyn Kranes Kossak is a member of Hunter's Hall of Fame.

## New Executive Director Energizing Hunter Communications



Deborah Sack

"I want to raise awareness of how fantastic Hunter is; I want people to know how it is turning students' lives around, giving them first-rate courses and topflight professors, educating them to be tomorrow's scientists, writers, health professionals, artists, civic leaders, educators, urban planners, social workers—and knowledgeable citizens.

"I also want to make sure that we use integrated, up-to-date communications tools to strengthen our own sense of community. Hunter is made up of many elements—students, faculty, alumni, and staff—but we're all part of one college."

When Deborah Sack—Hunter's new executive director of communications and marketing—speaks of "tools," of course she means Web sites, news releases and newsletters, e-mail, pamphlets, and the like—but she also brings to Hunter an impressive set of her own tools: a host of marketing and communications skills, personal dynamism, and experience in the dotcom world, traditional business, and politics.

Sack's wide-ranging career might have been foreseen when she was a student at Pomona College in California, where she majored in government and minored in art history.

"I originally wanted to be an architect," says Sack—who continues to be an art enthusiast— "but my courses in government and politics awakened a new interest in me. I made my first real career decision when a journalist who covered the White House spoke to our class; I decided then that I wanted to do something in government or journalism."

Following her college graduation, Sack, who was born in

Brooklyn and grew up in Westchester, went to Washington, where she worked in government and politics, specializing in writing, public relations, and other areas of communications.

"I was excited by the people I met as well as the political process," says Sack. "One of my most exciting experiences was working as deputy press secretary on Senator Frank Lautenberg's 1988 reelection campaign, when James Carville was campaign manager and Paul Begala was press secretary."

Returning to New York, Sack started her own marketing and communications consulting firm. From there she went on to become vice president of marketing and communications for a unit of MasterCard, a job which "took me to Australia, all over Europe, Latin America, Mexico, South Africa, and Taiwan"—and honed yet another skill that she brings to Hunter: the ability to understand and work with people from a broad array of backgrounds.

Sack's most recent job before coming to Hunter was with DealTime.com (now shopping.com), a comparison shopping service where, as vice president for marketing and communications, she helped launch the Web site and oversaw advertising and public relations.

"I'm eager to bring to Hunter all my experience: in media relations; in marketing; in technology; and in all forms of communications," says Sack. "This is a world-class college, and President Raab has a far-reaching vision of what it can and should be.

"I want to help communicate that vision."