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Anonymous Donor Gives $5 Million to Hunter

Hunter In Top 10 National ‘Best Value’ Ranking of Public Universities

Hunter College is the nation’s #8 “Best Value” public college, according to “Best Value Colleges for 2009,” a ranking released by The Princeton Review and USA TODAY.

The Princeton Review selected its “best value” institutions for 2009 based on surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 public and private colleges and universities. The selectors examined more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, costs of attendance, and financial aid. Tallies were made using data from each institution for its 2007-08 academic year. Of the 50 schools chosen in each “best value” category (public and private), the top 10 are ranked in order, and the remaining 40 are listed alphabetically.

Noted The Princeton Review: “For many New Yorkers seeking a college degree, Hunter College within the CUNY system offers the best, most affordable option available. It is in the first choice among many applicants… Hunter has a lot to offer beyond its miniscule tuition. The school’s faculty is a huge asset, for one. Students agree that professors are expert and that they work hard to accommodate undergraduates. Location is another major plus, as New York City is a virtually limitless source of valuable internship opportunities.”

“We are proud to be on this list,” said Hunter President Jennifer Raab. “particularly because it proves the ongoing success of Hunter’s mission to provide an outstanding education at a price you can afford. Especially during the current economic crisis, it is a privilege to lead an institution where the American Dream still comes true.”

Indeed, many concur that the present economy will bring greater attention to this year’s “Best Values” list than to those in years past.

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McGovern, whose fifth novel just hit the bookstands (page 12).

The achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni have not gone unnoticed — certainly not by President Obama (page 4), by the mystery donor behind our $5 million contribution (page 3), or by the Community Trust, whose $40 million gift for our new School of Social Work building in East Harlem is the largest single gift in CUNY history (page 11). Add to that the forthcoming grand re-opening of Roosevelt House, where our Institute of Public Policy at Hunter College will continue its many popular discussions, seminars, and series (page 8) — not to mention the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College — and it is clear that Hunter is set to become one of the world’s premier 21st-century public colleges. It just goes to show: A lot can happen in eight years. A mystery donor has given Hunter College $5 million — one of the largest gifts in the College’s history. The donation arrived from an anonymous source along with a handwritten letter asking that $4 million be used to fund scholarships for underrepresented minority students and Jennifer Raab’s discretionary fund. That money will be used for a number of improvements to the library. Adam Martin, who graduated from Manhattan Hunter Science High School (MHSHS) in June, will attend Hunter on a four-year scholarship made possible by the anonymous gift. “That’s a lot of money for a mystery person to donate,” Martin said. “I’m very grateful!”

The gift will also fund a four-year, merit-based scholarship for Stayaway High School graduate Jennifer Budhan, who will enter Hunter in the fall. “It’s a big relief,” said Budhan. “Economic times are difficult. I wouldn’t be able to attend Hunter if it weren’t for this scholarship.”

It was only after news stories began to appear about similar anonymous gifts that officials realized that Hunter is part of a larger philanthropic program.

According to national news reports, more than $70 million has been given by an unnamed donor to 11 colleges and universities from coast to coast. All of the recipients are institutions headed by female presidents. The story has been covered by ABC News, The Associated Press, The New York Times and others, and is slated to air on “The Today Show.”

One stipulation attached to the gift was that no effort be made to determine the identity of the benefactor. President Raab said that, though she is happy to respect the request, she hopes the donor knows “how truly grateful everyone at Hunter is for this unprecedented contribution.”

“It will literally change students’ lives,” she said. “ ‘Thank you’ hardly begins to express our appreciation.”

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Indeed, many concur that the present economy will bring greater attention to this year’s “Best Values” list than to those in years past.

In the eight years since I became the president of Hunter College, it has been my extraordinary privilege to preside over Hunter’s resurgence as one of the finest public institutions of higher education in the country. To be ranked #8 on the Princeton Review’s list of the nation’s “Best Value” public colleges is an achievement we can all be proud of — especially at a time when “value” means more than ever before. I guess the Chinese culture is right: eight is a very lucky number.

But it isn’t luck that has made Hunter College what it is today. As you can tell by browsing through this edition of At Hunter — itself just a snapshot of the College’s abundance of compel-ling stories, people, and events — we are propelled by a daily commitment to excellence and a dedication to the Hunter mission of inclusion and opportunity for all.

Since my appointment, we have made student and faculty recruitment top priorities. We have become increasingly competitive; only one in three applicants is now accepted. Average SAT scores have gone up over 100 points during my tenure and are now 87 points above the national average. Despite — or because of — the current economy, applications have skyrocketed, and this fall Hunter was the first choice of CUNY college of 12,000 applicants. Through all this, we have maintained our renowned diversity. To get a sense of the wide range of our students’ backgrounds, just meet our three Class of 2009 valedictorians (page 7).

Our world-famous faculty is just as varied and includes everyone from Guggenheim- winning historian Benjamin Hett (page 23) to internationally best-selling author Colm McCann, whose fifth novel just hit the bookstands (page 12).

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President Barack Obama has appointed Hunter alumnus Adolfo Carrión Jr., Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs. This newly created office is charged with developing a strategy for metropolitan America and to ensure that all federal dollars targeted to urban areas are effectively spent on the highest-impact programs. Carrión, who received his master’s in urban planning from Hunter, is an expert in income disparity, low-wage labor markets, and poverty issues. During the Clinton Administration, from 1995 to 1996, he was deputy chief economist for the Department of Labor. Bernston says: “A major goal is to open federal funding for stem cell research. Bath was a pioneer in taking a laser probe through the eye to clean cataracts. She was the first African-American female doctor to patent a medical device — a laser probe used in cataract surgery.”
Solis said she was proud to represent the Obama Administration at Hunter and was impressed with the graduates. "You represent the future of this planet and the future of America. We need to work to protect people who don't have a voice," she said.

"It's all about ideas, innovation, technology, and $500 million for health care careers and information technology, and $250 million for education of dislocated workers," President Raab said. "It's about ideas, innovation, and education," she said. "We want Hunter College to be right in the center of this. Hunter College Class of 2009, I have great expectations for you," Solis added.

Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab conferred an honorary doctorate of laws on Sheila Birnbaum (BA ’60, MA ’62), a corporate lawyer named one of the best attorneys in the United States and one of the most influential women in business in New York City. Birnbaum, the daughter of Russian immigrants, grew up "on the streets and the factory union workers in her home state of California." When Solis graduated high school, a counselor told her mother she "was not college material," and she should consider becoming a secretary.

"I never thought I'd be so happy" to have the title, said the Labor Secretary. Solis announced President Obama’s $31 billion in assistance for dislocated workers, $250 million for health care research and information technology, and $500 million for creation of “green collar” jobs. "It’s about ideas, innovation, and education," she said. "We want Hunter College to be right in the center of this. Hunter College Class of 2009, I have great expectations for you," Solis added.

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The official dedication of the renovated Roosevelt House is scheduled for the fall, but even in advance of that historic occasion, several major events have taken place under its auspices — and some generous contributions have arrived to underwrite future events.

One of the most significant gifts is a grant of $250,000 to fund a two-year series of public policy programs. The gift comes from two prominent New Yorkers who are longtime friends of Hunter, Charles Bronfman and Diana Taylor.

The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College will continue to rely on donations to support its programs of panel discussions, lectures, films, undergraduate studies, and scholarly research. Several contribution levels have been established to give alumni and friends of the college a choice of ways to support Roosevelt House.

In May, a second discussion, moderated by CBS’s Lesley Stahl, brought together Daniel Gross, Felix Rohatyn, and Robert K. Steel to explore the role of financial institutions in the ‘90s. Steel is a former CEO of Wachovia and former undersecretary of the Treasury who served as chair of the National Economic Council during the Clinton Administration.

Two Evenings of Conversation. “Did We Get Here? The Roots of the Economic Crisis.” 

In May, the presidential advisor David Gergen, who serves as chair of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Program, introduced the movie to Roosevelt House.

Roosevelt House, located at 47-49 East 65th Street, has been an integral part of Hunter since 1943, when Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated it to the college.

For the next five decades it was a center of Hunter since 1943, when Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated it to the college. When its current renovation is finished, it will reopen as an institute dedicated to honoring and sustaining Roosevelt’s legacy of advancing public policy and public service. Roosevelt House will serve as “the domestic version of the Council on Foreign Relations.”

To make a contribution to Roosevelt House, click on the “Support Us” box at www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu or contact Faye Rosenfeld at frosenfeld@hunter.cuny.edu.

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To kick off its collaboration with the Creative Coalition and Hunter College, the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter hosted a screening of director John Sayles’ 2007 film Honeydripper. It was the first of a series of policy-related films that two organizations will bring to new audiences at Hunter. Sayles and high-production partner Maggie Renzi, introduced the film and participated in a post-screening question and answer session with Robin Bronk, executive director of the Creative Coalition, and Robert Baruc, president and CEO of the Creative Coalition. "Honeydripper chronicles the early career of a small-town blues club owner trying to keep his club alive in the rock ‘n roll millenium. It was filmed with Sayles’ and Bronk’s own money and shot in five weeks. There was nothing new for Sayles, who to many has become the ‘godfather’ of independent cinema after making his first film, Return of the Secaucus 7 in 1979. Since then, Sayles has directed 15 feature films and written or acted in many more. His most original screenplay is for Passion Fish, for which he won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. "

The next film, Honeydripper, is the “domestic version of the Council on Foreign Relations.” In front of its downstairs fireplace.

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Hunter Students Reach for the Sun: Initiative Designed To Tap Solar Power

Hunter College is at the forefront of an effort to capture the vast potential of the sun and bring pollution-free, low-cost energy to New York City. A group of Hunter undergraduate and graduate students, in departments ranging from physics to art, is driving the Hunter Solar Project, an initiative to install a solar energy system on the North Building rooftop and, with it, an educational program: the system will plug into the college’s electrical grid and gather data on solar energy potential in New York City.

“We wanted to do something that will have a lasting effect,” said Hunter junior Noah Ginsburg, a leader on the committee of 20 students spearheading the project. The main goal is to provide an educational tool for Hunter students, Ginsburg said.

With support from Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab, Hunter's Auxiliary Enterprises Board, Undergraduate Student Government, and the Hunter Sustainability Council, the Solar Project raised $35,000 and plans to install the solar power panels this summer. Through the Clinton Global Initiative, the Project also received a $4,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation. Students will be hired to serve as guides to the solar energy system, where they can run lab tests and collect data. The panels will be placed on the 16th floor rooftop, near the Weather Station, which is operated by the Geography Department. The solar power system and the educational program around it will help prepare Hunter students for leadership roles in the emerging green economy. They will have skills and knowledge that other students don’t have,” Ginsburg said.

Environmentalists estimate that New York City could get as much as one-third of its energy from the sun by 2022. But the potential remains largely untapped today, according to a 2009 report by the City University of New York City Center for Sustainable Energy. When the weather is sunny, the panels can generate up to 3 kilowatts of power for Hunter. This is equal to the energy consumption of 100 30-watt light bulbs, Ginsburg said. The panels are expected to last 40 years, he added.

Geography graduate student George Pingeon, a bike tour guide and member of the Hunter Solar Project, is mapping the solar potential of New York City rooftops for his graduate thesis. The project is part of CUNY’s Million Solar Roofs Initiative, launched in 2005 in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy. CUNY has set a target of 500 solar roofs installed citywide by 2010. The initiative is being led by Allan Frei, a specialist on snow cover and climate change.

“The solar panels will offset Hunter’s energy use and, therefore, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions,” Frei said. “It’s a demonstration project. Educationally, hundreds of students every semester will use firsthand an alternative energy source and how it works.”

The city needs more data on its solar potential, Frei said. “Nobody has published a calculation on how much energy New York City could get from solar power. This won’t completely answer that question, but it’s a start.”

The student-run Solar Project plans to install solar panels on top of the North Building to harvest as much solar radiation as possible. Hunter student Sophia Leung (‘11) created this rendering.

The architectural firm Cooper, Robertson & Partners’ design for the future Silberman School of Social Work.

School of Social Work Moving to State-of-the-Art Facility

Hunter’s School of Social Work celebrates its 50th anniversary with exciting news. Thanks to the largest single gift ever made to CUNY, $40 million from the Community Trust, the School of Social Work is moving into a broad new, environmentally friendly, tech-enhanced building in East Harlem.

The new $135 million building will be located between 115th St. and 119th St. on 3rd Avenue. The N.Y. State Legislature provided an additional $86 million for construction.

The state-of-the-art building will feature twice the current number of classrooms, as well as research space. The new CUNY School of Public Health and the library at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies (CENTRO) will also relocate to the building.

Jennifer J. Raab, Moving to East Harlem will provide the school with a unique opportunity to expand our mission. We are more than up for the challenge. As ‘the social work school for New York,’ we continue to provide outstanding practitioners, community leaders, and researchers.”

Some 97 percent of the school’s students come from New York City, and most work in the city after graduation, Mondros said.

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“ar are many tall buildings and so much shade that it is hard to calculate these things automatically,” Pingeon said. “Solar is the most promising green technology for New York City. It’s expected to grow. There’s a huge opportunity here.”

Hunter’s weather system already gathers solar radiation data on a daily basis. With Hunter’s new system, students will calculate how much energy is produced when radiation hits the panels in varying pollution and weather conditions.

Allan Frei, Deputy Director for the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities and associate professor of geography, is the group’s faculty advisor. Frei was a contributing author to the most recent scientific report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former Vice President Al Gore. Frei is a specialist on snow cover and climate change.

“The solar panels will offset Hunter’s energy use and, therefore, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions,” Frei said. “It’s a demonstration project. Educationally, hundreds of students every semester will use firsthand an alternative energy source and how it works.”

The city needs more data on its solar potential, Frei said. “Nobody’s published a calculation on how much energy New York City could get from solar power. This won’t completely answer that question, but it’s a start.”

The student-run Solar Project plans to install solar panels on top of the North Building to harvest as much solar radiation as possible. Hunter student Sophia Leung (‘11) created this rendering.

The architectural firm Cooper, Robertson & Partners’ design for the future Silberman School of Social Work.

School of Social Work Moving to State-of-the-Art Facility

Hunter’s School of Social Work celebrates its 50th anniversary with exciting news. Thanks to the largest single gift ever made to CUNY, $40 million from the Community Trust, the School of Social Work is moving into a broad new, environmentally friendly, tech-enhanced building in East Harlem.

The new building is scheduled to open in September 2011. The school will be renamed the Lois W. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College after the project’s benefactors, who also built and own the current 16CSW building on 70th Street. The new $135-million building will be located between 115th St. and 119th St. on 3rd Avenue. The N.Y. State School of Social Work Dean Jacqueline Mondros called the move “perfect for the school,” whose national prominence has risen along with its reputation for training top-flight social workers. The community will benefit from the presence of the school, Mondros said, while the school will benefit from Harlem.

“IT’s a chance to live our mission,” Mondros added. “Social work is all about enhancing communities and the people in them. To have a community in which to work, that needs us and wants us, and which we need and want — it’s a synergistic moment. We’re very excited about it.”

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“We’re not an ivory tower. We’re interested in being good neighbors and good partners. ”

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Happenings At Hunter

Celebrating the publication of MFA Professor Colum McCann’s new novel, Let the Great World Spin, are (l–r): film producer Peter Newman; noted author and executive director of Hunter’s MFA program in creative writing Peter Carey; casting director Antonia Dauphin; and McCann. The book was named Amazon’s “Best Book of the Month” for June 2009.

NYS Board of Regents Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch speaks at the launch of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies’ Electronic School House Initiative.

Women United in Philanthropy honored 12 women who made “a significant, lasting impact on their communities through philanthropic giving, advocacy, and volunteerism.” With philanthropist/fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg (2nd from right), who gave the keynote address, were honorees (l–r) Debra Carey, CEO, University Hospital of Brooklyn; Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab; and Hunter alumna Debra Fraser-Howze, vice president of Government and External Affairs, OraSure Technologies.

WNYC’s Brian Lehrer (c) moderated a heated debate on “Leadership and the Economic Crisis,” sponsored by Roosevelt House. Generating the heat were Niall Ferguson (l), professor of history at Harvard, and Jeff Madrick, director of policy research at The New School.

Philip Gourevitch (l), editor of The Paris Review, and novelist Salman Rushdie were among the many distinguished figures at the book party for Colum McCann.

Iranian video artist and filmmaker Shirin Neshat (r) talks with Hunter alumna Florence Howe before the screening of Neshat’s short films at the Lang Recital Hall. Thanks to a grant from The Winston Foundation, Neshat taught a master class to Hunter Film students as a visiting artist.

McCann welcomes Niall Burgess (l), Counsel General of Ireland, and his wife, Marie, to his book publishing party.

McCann welcomes Niall Burgess (l), Counsel General of Ireland, and his wife, Marie, to his book publishing party.

Photo: maryannerussell.com
Shirley (’56) Scott, Raab visit with sisters Barbara (’53) and Shirley Whitney (’59) and President 35 years.

Members of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing Class of 1974 reunite after arrive together at the Birthday Luncheon.

Young alums Alicia Siebenaler (’39), Mary Kate Cudahy (’41), and Don O’Keefe (’49) enjoy seeing one another at the Luncheon.

Harriet Gruber (’51) and Edith Karliner (’39) enjoy seeing one another at the Luncheon.

Young alums Alicia Siebenaler (’39), Mary Kate Cudahy (’41), and Don O’Keefe (’49) review a copy of their yearbook and reminisce about the Class of ’39 with Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.

Erwin served as secretary on Hunter’s Board of Trustees from 1960 to 2007, serving as chair in 2007.

The practical applications of Goldsmith’s award-winning research extend from computers to space stations. The scientist graduated from Hunter cum laude, with honors in chemistry, when the computer chip was only five years old. He began working for RCA as a chemist and developed manufacturing methods for silicon still in use by the industry. In 1973 he won the RCA Laboratories Outstanding Achievement Award. Goldsmith helped develop a cleaning method that dramatically improved the yield of computer chips. The discovery remains the cornerstone of a degree in political science, she has worked vigorously to motivate her classmates to maintain a class identity and to encourage support for Hunter. She initiated the first major three-day reunion for a Hunter College class.

After Erwin graduated from Hunter, she worked in advertising and earned a master’s degree in public law and government at Columbia University. She began working at Hunter in the late 1960s, overseeing the Centennial Fund, after which Robert Cross, the Hunter College President at the time, appointed her as his assistant. Erwin left Hunter to serve as chief development officer for the Columbia University College of Pharmacy. She attended the Harvard University Institute of Educational Management before returning to CUNY in various posts, eventually becoming vice president for finance and administration at Brooklyn College.

Erwin served as secretary on Hunter’s Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. She was a member of the Hall of Fame Committee from 1985 to 1987 and from 2005 to 2007, serving as chair in 2007.

The Hunter College Alumni Association honored Rose Cannistraci Erwin (BA ’59) with the Award for Distinguished Service to the Association and the College for her exemplary commitment and performance as a class leader. In the five decades since Erwin graduated with a degree in political science, she has worked vigorously to motivate her classmates to maintain a class identity and to encourage support for Hunter. She initiated the first major three-day reunion for a Hunter College class.

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Norma Alexander Abdalah (BA ’43) has dedicated 50 years as a teacher, union organizer, and activist to advancing the interests of African-Americans. She led the way in teaching English as a second language and taught kids with mental and emotional challenges. Abdalah helped launch the United Federation of Teachers, the Freedom Now New York City Labor Party of New York City. In 2005, she was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

By combining talents in physics and law, C. J. Weiss spent 34 years engaged in patent procurement, client counseling, and litigation support for the international law firm of Fish & Richardson. She worked domestic and international patents for inventions in carbon nanotubes, spectroscopy systems, liquid crystal displays, and medical devices. Her areas of expertise include preparation of infringement, non-infringement, freedom-to-operate opinions, and due diligence reports for clients.

M. Diane DeFranco (BSN ’75) is a cardiovascular disease specialist whose career culminated at the Jewish Social Service Agency of Metropolitan Washington (JSSA), during her 25-year tenure as executive director. JSSA opened a hospice; created a Department of Jewish Vocational Services; expanded services for the elderly, children, and teenagers; and initiated a “Hiker’s Huts” program.

Edward J. Gallo (BSN ’74) is president of Gallo Consulting Group, one of the leading firms in the sports industry and finance business. Before forming GAL, Gallo was a co-founder and managing director, and head of the Lehman Brothers’ Sports Advisory & Finance Group, responsible for corporate finance and advisory functions related to the sports industry. Key clients include owners and managers of the Mets, Nets, Giants, and Yankees.

A pioneer in the field of proteomics, in Cold Spring Harbor (BA ’80) holds a Hunter Hall of Fame certificate in physics and math. When he was working as an assistant professor of pharmacology at the Rockefeller University in New York, he joined the faculty of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1988 to study the early nuclear functions of disease and health at the cellular level. Cold Spring Foundation and chief scientist officer of PowerMed Medical Products, Inc. His team discovered tests for early detection of breast cancer and early diagnoses of Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and AIDS.

Norma Norman Heston (BA ’35) has been the voice for pediatricians in Detroit for more than three decades. Before serving on the staff of the Department of Pediatrics for Model Neighborhoods, she was the first seven years of her career as a teacher-in-room. She is widely published and appears on radio and television to talk about Fabulon. She has won many awards, including three Service Awards from the American Diabetes Association.

Gary Shintag (BA ’02), the great-grandson of Russian writer Nikolai Gogol, was born in Leningrad and came to the United States when he was seven. His debut novel, The Russian Debutante’s Handbook, was praised as an hilarious observation of the immigrant experience, and was named a New York Times Notable book and a “best book of the year” by The Washington Post and Entertainment Weekly. In 2009, his second novel, The Success of Failure, was chosen as one of The New York Times Best Books of 2006. His work has appeared in New York Times and other magazines.

President of the Roslyn Tag Literary Agency, Roslyn Tag (BA ’84) is a force in the literary world and has brought the work of modern American authors to European readers for over 10 years. After graduating from Hunter, she worked for the literary agency of Frank J. Berch, where she specialized in foreign publication contracts for American authors including J.D. Salinger and John Updike. After many successful deals, Tagh bought the agency and became its president in 1999. She has helped many famous American authors and successful titles.

James Winkler (BSN ’78) has demonstrated leadership as a clinician, administrator, and entrepreneur. After a stint in the military, Winkler’s work as the New York City Firefighter during the 1970s. He entered the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing. He became a renowned leader in diabetes education and corporate management. His first novel, FastLunch (2009), is a novel of the fast-food industry, and a second, Both Worlds (2010), is a novel of the fast-food industry. He is a member of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing.


First screen of her career as a teacher-in-room and permanent resident at Rockefeller Hill High in Queens. Later she taught at all boys junior high school in Harlem and a junior high school in Brooklyn. She also served as a junior high school mathematics coordinator for the Bureau of Curriculum Development. Winkler’s novel, The Healer of the Shtetl, named her Woman of the Year in 2002 for her numerous contributions beyond the classroom. Winkler was inducted into the Hunter Hall of Fame a week before her death.
1920s
Ethel Garfunkel Bert (BA ’27) celebrated her 102nd birthday on May 1. For 47 years, from 1927 to 1974, Bert was a professor in Hunter’s Department of Educational Foundations & Counseling Programs, and a practicing psychologist in New York City.

1950s
Geneticist Winifred Doane (BA ’58) was one of eight honored for “commitment to the achievement of equity for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics” by the Association for Women in Science. Doane is a professor emeritus at Arizona State University and is credited with finding the “skinnier gene,” a gene that researchers believe spurs obesity or thinness.

Helene Berman (BA ’52) was featured in a one-woman art show at the public library in East Meadow, N.Y. Berman’s award-winning paintings have appeared on a variety of magazine covers and have been shown in galleries throughout the country.

Harriet E. Phillips (BA ’52) received a plaque signaling her new status as an honorary member of the Society of Animal Artists, Inc. The plaque recognizes Phillips for many years of outstanding service as a signature member and officer of the Society.

1960s
Artist Linda Francis (BA ’63, MFA ’69) exhibited new paintings at Muses Space in Brooklyn in February. She presented a group of paintings conceived as a single work. Francis has exhibited nationally and internationally in solo and group shows.

Steven R. Gerbman (BS ’67) has been nominated to stand for election as a director of the Federal Signal Corporation’s board. Gerbman is a principal of Gerbman Partners, a company providing consulting, management, and investment banking services that has participated in $22 billion in corporate finance deals.

Robert Toth (BA ’67) was featured on Total Career Success, an Internet radio show on VoiceAmerica Talk Radio Network. He shared career lessons and advice on how to stay above the financial fray. Toth is senior vice president of TriStar Financial, an investment adviser, and a former attorney.

Edwardsville, Ill., family law attor- ney Elizabeth Levy (BA ’66) was elected as an associate judge in the Third Judicial Circuit of Illinois.


Alan Axelrod (BA ’72) is the recipient of the Frances Black Humani- tarian Award in Healthcare. The award was granted in recognition of Axelrod’s efforts to improve health care services and promote healthy living. He is the leader of Princeton Healthcare System’s community outreach program.

Linda Tothine (BA ’75) has been named fullbright Distinquished Chair in American Political Science at California State University. She will be in residence in Canberra until spring 2000.

Michelle C. Rodolfa (BA ’68) is a professor of HealthPolicyOnline, an online business devoted to continuing education in the field of behavioral medicine and health psychology.

Susan Chevlowe (MA ‘87) is the chief curator and museum director of the Derfner Judaica Museum at The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, in the Bronx. The Museum’s art coll- ection includes works by Chagall, Matisse, Picasso, Kandinsky, Shahn, Calder, and Stella.

Jay Coogan (MA ’82) has been elected president of the Minne- apolis College of Art and Design. Coogan had served as provost at the Rhode Island School of Design from 2001-2008. An accomplished visual artist, he creates sculptural objects and installations as well as functional works. He has car- ried out public commissions for cities such as Boston, Providence, and Green Bay.

Blue Hive Strategic Exhibits and Events of Worcester, Mass., added Gary Fredriksson (MFA ’72) to its sales team. Fredriksson has 20 years of experience in the trade show industry.

Arun Peter Lobo (BA ’80) won a special award at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Vienna’s Kunsthalle and Venice’s Biennial, and the Art Basel Miami. His exhibition Kemptins received the Calder Prize in 2007.

Malika Schwartz (BA ’44) has moved to Jackson, Miss., to work at the Institute of Southern Jew- ish Life, where she is establishing a Social Justice Department to engage Southern Jewish commu- nities in community service. She will be completing her law degree from Cardozo School of Law as a visiting student at the Mississippi College School of Law.

Ilana Seidel (BA ’04), a medical student at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, was recognized by Columbia Who’s Who for dedication, leadership, and excellence in her medical school studies with an emphasis on holistic healing. Seidel previously served as a non-commissioned officer in the Israel Defense Forces.

Jolynn Kryostosk (MA ’62), a mowed-media sculptor and painter, was the first resident artist of 2009 at the Lux Art Institute in San Diego.
BOND: Hunter, not James
Grads Excited About Giving Back

Tania Borrero was graduating from Hunter and heading to graduate school at Princeton when she realized that she loved Hunter and wasn’t ready to break the bond. She wanted to give back to the college community that had given her so much.

But at that time in 2006, Hunter lacked an organization linking young alumni with their alma mater. So Borrero and a group of graduates launched BOND (Bridge Our Next Decades), a chapter of the Alumni Association targeted to new and young alumni. BOND already boasts 300 members and a mailing list of 4,000 graduates.

The group plans social gatherings and happy hours and recently sponsored a circus among other activities.

“We know that recent graduates typically aren’t in a position to give a lot of money,” said Borrero, BOND president. “But every dollar counts. It’s a wonderful feeling to give back and to know that you are helping Hunter provide current students the same great opportunities it provided you.

We want to help engage graduates and keep them involved so that 10, 15 years later, when they are ready to give and support the financial needs of the College, they already have that connection,” she said.

BOND organizers include graduates from the classes of 2003 to 2008. Borrero is currently pursuing a master’s in public policy. Though now a Princeton graduate student, “I’m still a Hunter girl,” she said.

People are coming on to what an amazing college Hunter is,” Borrero said. “Members of BOND feel we get a quality, affordable education with a diverse student population and an amazing faculty. The culture and the mentality really gave us a leg up.”

IN MEMORIAM...

Sarah Neumark (BA ’53)

In April, Hunter College lost one of its most beloved and inspiring alums, Sarah Cohen Neumark. For more than eight decades, Neumark had a continuing and supportive relationship with her alma mater. Always active in alumni activities, she took the lead in planning and organizing both her 70th- and 75th-class milestones. During her life she also served several terms on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and for a time served as the Milestone Chair, assisting all the reunion groups. Her service to Hunter was recognized with election to the Hall of Fame in 1982.

At college she majored in Spanish with minors in French and German. She also spoke fluent Yiddish. She loved to travel, the world but was most proud of the fact that she and her husband had visited all 50 states. Professionally, Neumark enjoyed many years as a teacher of commercial subjects and Spanish, and at the time of her retirement was a registered representative of the New York Stock Exchange.

During her later years, Neumark was a “guiding light” at the Williams Residence in Manhattan. At Williams she founded the Yiddish Club and was the Salvation Army’s coordinator of Jewish activities — a role unique to her. She is survived by her sister, several nieces, and their families.

Maria LoFrumento (BA ’45)

Beloved educator Maria Aguilera LoFrumento died January 26, 2009, in her home in Pompton Plains, N.J., at the age of 84. The former principal of Hunter College High School, LoFrumento was born in Almeria, Spain, and immigrated to New York City with her family at the age of six. After graduating from Hunter College and obtaining a master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia university, she taught French at Hunter College High School. She devoted her entire career to Hunter, serving as chairman of the Language Department and then as principal from 1972 to 1994, when she retired. She was survived by her husband of 53 years, Anthony LoFrumento, their three children, and six grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Hunter College Foundation, 695 Park Avenue, Room E3133, New York, NY 10065.

Barbara Stern (MA ’65)

Barbara Stern, one of the first students to earn a doctorate at the City University of New York, died Jan. 25 at the age of 69. Stern’s doctoral committee consisted of only two students: Stern and Daniel Robinson, who is now a philosophy professor at Oxford University. Stern was pregnant when CUNY awarded her a PhD in English, and CUNY scheduled the graduation early so that it would take place before she gave birth.

From Forest Hills, Queens, Stern entered Cornell University at the age of 15 and majored in political science. She then studied English literature at Hunter and earned her PhD at the age of 26. She told The New York Times at that time, “I’ve been lying about my age for years...to make myself older.”

Stern also received an MBA in marketing from Fordham University and joined the faculty of Rutgers University in 1986, where she was chair of the Marketing Department from 1998 to 2005 and vice chair from 2006 to 2008.

Stern conducted research in marketing and published more than 16 articles, books, and reviews. She served on the editorial boards of numerous journals. Stern is survived by her mother, Rose Bergenfeld, her sister, Carolie, and her daughters, Leslie and Wendy. Her mother and one of her daughters are also Hunter alumnae — Rose earned her BA in 1955 and Wendy received her MSW in 2002.

Lilian Bemus (BA ’52)
Sarah Helen Borden (BA ’38)
Alice Charlton (BA ’38)
Deborah Conrad (BA ’76)
Sharon Daniels (BA ’75)
Raymond H. Dash (BA ’71)
Lynne Santamaria Etkins (BSN ’59)
Esther Sentzicky Marcus (BA ’42)
Pauline Herzkowitz Menes (BA ’45)
Anastasia Murphy (BA ’40)
Dorotha Giustina Rudelman (BA Y ’06)
Nora O’Neill (MS ’65)
Frances Keyes Porter (MSW ’37)

Beloved Professor Anders Emile
In the last issue of At Hunter, we misidentified Anders Emile, the former chair of the Hunter Music Department. We apologize for the error. We want to thank all the alumni who wrote to us about Professor Emile. It is nice to know that his memories live on in the hearts and minds of so many of his Hunter students!

Hunter Everywhere, Show Us Where
You Are!

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

Did You Work on the Hunter Arrow? Alan Richman (BA ’72) is organizing a reunion of the newspaper’s staff. Contact Richman at ar@optonline.net.

Class of 2009 Presents $1,000 Gift to Hunter at Commencement

Macaulay Honors College graduate Lushenna Warner presented President Flachs with a check at graduation. The Legacy Gift Committee raised the money for the purchase of a charging station in the library, which will enable students to recharge iPods, laptops, and other electronic devices. Warner said the gift was the Class of 2009’s way of expressing its appreciation to Hunter.

HUNTER REMEMBERS...

Lynne Santamaria Etkins (BSN ’59)
Rose Resnick Feiner (BA ’34)
Virginia Abrantes Fries (BA ’57)
Helen Landas Hayes (BA ’42)
Gail Jaffe (BA ’68)
Esther Sentzicky Marcus (BA ’42)
Pauline Herzkowitz Menes (BA ’45)
Anastasia Murphy (BA ’40)
Dorotha Giustina Rudelman (BA Y ’06)
Nora O’Neill (MS ’65)
Frances Keyes Porter (MSW ’37)
Theresa Glyaks Radov (BA ’89)
Dianne Duggan Ryan (MS ’79)
Elrina T. Rarr (BA ’44)
Penner Turina (BA ’44)
Heleane Warnem (BA ’42)
Rosalden Taub Wofry (BA ’41)

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In the annals of Hunter alumni achievement, consider this: Two young women with only $1,500 in the bank launched a $2 billion industry.

In 1952, two years after graduating, Barbara Holdridge and Marianne Mantell pooled their meager earnings to establish Caedmon Records. From an inauspicious beginning—their office furniture was recovered from a dumpster—sprouted the audio-book industry. Many of the original recordings have been released in digital form.

Holdridge and Mantell received an Alumnae Profile Award of Excellence from the Audio Publishers Association, recognizing the record label that they had created Caedmon (named for the first poet recorded) in 1945. Holdridge and Mantell's first recording was the 1948 reading by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas of his story “A Child’s Christmas in Wales,” which became one of the most beloved recordings of the 20th century.

It was a “Child’s Christmas in Wales,” and Thomas’s reading became one of the most beloved recordings of the 20th century. That day began a new era in the recording industry which until then had primarily confined its output to classical music. The partners went on to capture some of the greatest writers of the 20th century: James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, T.S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Judaica Wolfe, and Ezra Pound. Not every relationship was cordial. During a session with Pound, the poet heaved a salami at Holdridge. “Poetry was an erotic man,” Holdridge said.

And Ernest Hemingway refused to record. However, his widow, Mary Hemingway, after the writer’s death, presented Caedmon with tapes he had made.

Caedmon touched many a famous name. The partners’ first shipping clerk (and second employee) was Hunter Hummingbird poet Eileen Myles. The partners went on to capture some of the greatest writers of the 20th century: James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, T.S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Judaica Wolfe, and Ezra Pound. Not every relationship was cordial. During a session with Pound, the poet heaved a salami at Holdridge. “Poetry was an erotic man,” Holdridge said.

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Education and the arts are focal points of Patty C. Baker’s life, the passions she developed while studying at Hunter. Institutions fortunate enough to develop an association with this member of the Hunter College Foundation Board have benefited greatly from her leadership and generosity.

After Patty and her husband, Jay H. Baker, settled in Milwaukee, they became involved in the city’s Repertory Theater, co-chairing its “Campaign to Create the Future” and raising more than $10 million. The Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex was named in honor of their $3 million gift.

The Bakers have been equally active since their move to Naples, Fla. Patty serves on the board of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Naples Players, and the Style Council for Gulf Shore Magazine. The couple has provided support for the Patty and Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art, the Naples Community Hospital, and the Naples Philharmonic. The Bakers have also established the Patty and Jay Baker Foundation to support charities. With all of this work, Patty still finds time to serve on the board of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland.

Patty, who graduated from Hunter summa cum laude in 1982, developed an abiding interest in the arts as an honors student studying theater, art history, and French. She was particularly inspired by the late Marvin Seiger, a professor of theater whom she describes as “fantastic — a classic curmudgeon with a soft heart under that demanding exterior,” and by Mira Felner, who gave her a deep interest in theater history.

Patty has been equally strong and generous in her support of education. When a friend, the late Helen Galland (’45), suggested she renew her association with Hunter, Patty responded by joining the Foundation Board last year.

“I’m still finding my way around,” she says with characteristic good humor, “but I want to play as big a role at Hunter as I possibly can. I truly love the school. I loved being a student there — it changed my life — and I am deeply impressed by today’s students and faculty.” Patty showed up for her first Foundation Board meeting with a Hunter sweatshirt on under her coat while waiting to be introduced to fellow board members.

The Bakers are strong supporters of Jay’s alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania, having donated a total of $21 million. “We believe in giving while we’re alive so we can see the benefits that scholarships and support can give,” Patty said. For Patty Baker, helping to ensure the future of students who never thought they could afford college, or supporting an idea that has blossomed into a successful organization, not only brings joy to the students whose lives she has touched, but also brings great pride and joy to her own life.