4  The Arts Flourish at Hunter

8  Student Develops Prize-Winning App for Microsoft

19 Hunter Mourns the Loss of Evelyn Lauder
Honorng Anita Hill, 20 Years Later

When Anita Hill took the stage at Hunter College on October 31, 2011, the capacity crowd cheered and stood for a moment. More than 2,000 strong, the audience was filled with activists, scholars, students and creative artists. They had gathered for a conference titled “Sex, Power and Speaking Truth,” and their standing ovation was reminiscent of the reception Hill received at a conference held 20 years ago.

In its coverage of that 1991 gathering—the New York Times described the participants as a “Who’s Who of political activists, intellectuals, advocates and writers.” The Times also reported that a conference group led by Congresswoman Barbara Jordan had immediately begun a petition drive to put women in public office.

At the conference that morning, last fall, President Jennifer Raab paid special tribute to the late Hunter alumna forever famous for her service in the U.S. Congress and her leadership in the movements for peace, equality and human rights. At Hunter, the conference of 1991 was remade. At the time, President Raab said: “It is my deep pleasure to welcome you back!” She particularly thanked Hunter students and creative artists as Ai-jen Poo of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Joan N. Smith of Girls for Gender Equity.

A strong start to the day included remarks by veteran feminist activist and author Letty Pottin Pogrebin, who co-chaired the event. Immediately afterward, participants heard from a panel of legal experts moderated by Dorothy Samuel of The New York Times, and then from such present-day activists as co-founders of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Joan N. Smith of Girls for Gender Equality. Following Hill’s appearance, Ms. Magazine co-founder Gloria Steinem and What Comes Next?” An evening with Columbia law professor Patricia Williams after testifying that Th...
Another Opening, Another Show: Students Take Center Stage at Hunter Galleries

Only at Hunter are exhibitions regularly created by students in graduate seminar classes under the tutelage of art history and studio art faculty. And students completing Hunter’s graduate and undergraduate studio programs in the fine arts always present their thesis work in the College galleries.

“Creativity and scholarly research mutually enrich and enhance each other,” Pissarro said. “What is most gratifying for all faculty members is to see students in constant dialogue with their MFA peers.”

Last fall, in a seminar taught by Pissarro, Weisheyer and her class studied the work and legacy of the artist, composer, and writer John Cage. Their coursework was the basis for a major spring exhibition, Visions: The Cage Effect Today. The show was curated by Pissarro together with Michelle Yoon, curator of the Hunter College Art Galleries, artist Bils Calderaro; and Julio Grinblatt (MFA ‘10), Michelle Yun, curator of the Hunter College galleries.

“Both the new professorship and the students’ personal access to important works were made possible by a generous gift from Fundación Cisneros/Collection Patricia Phelps de Cisneros. That gift provided Hunter with $1 million for funding, along with special utilization of the Cisneros collection for the teaching and exhibition of Latin American art.”

Joachim Pissarro, Bershad Professor of Art History and director of the Hunter College Galleries. “The collection is best known for its focus on geometric abstraction, but its breadth and diversity actually reach far beyond this,” said Montgomery, an expert in modern and contemporary art from Argentina, Cuba, Mexico, the Latin U.S. and other Hispanic cultures of the Western Hemisphere. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses, and is actively working to build Hunter’s Latin American art collection.

“Both art history and studio faculty give curatorial shape to their own research and visions, in close collaboration with curators and gallery owners, reaching out to potential lenders, meeting with curators and gallery owners, and finalizing loan agreements. She has also been working on sections covering the design of the exhibition’s logo, catalogue and signage. "It's so satisfying," she said about the experience of seeing the concrete results of her research and creative work. She added that the best thing about participating in Hunter’s exhibitions has been "the bonding experience among students — the collaboration process. As we work together, students are guided and inspired by the creative and intellectual teamwork of their professors.”

“Both history and studio faculty can see the concrete results of their work directly,” added Hunter’s MFA and BFA program director. “The weekly seminar keeps the students engaged and the studio faculty in close collaboration with students. It is a great way to promote interdisciplinary learning.”

Hunter’s MFA and BFA programs in studio arts are moving downtown to a new 24,000-square-foot facility in nearby Tribeca. The move to a four-story customized space at 505 Hudson Street in Tribeca will take place in 2012. It will allow Hunter’s art programs to more fully integrate themselves into New York’s flourishing art scene and provide greater opportunities for developing and showcasing student projects.

The studio art faculty. Their collective vision of a school fully equipped for creative endeavors in the 21st century, including digital photography and video, projects an emerging and fast-changing media, performance-based art, and innovative collaborative ventures across genres and disciplines. The airy new Manhattan studios will attract even more applicants to Hunter’s graduate students in art history, further cementing Hunter’s reputation as one of New York’s top training grounds for young curators and art historians as well as artists.

Cisneros Visiting Artists and Critics Program, a new series that recently brought the Mexican-educated, Barcelona-based artist Erick Britgn and the Buenos Aires-based critic Victoria Noortamon to Hunter for a discussion on the 11th Lyon Biennial. And she works with colleagues like Joachim Pissarro, Bershad Professor of Art History and director of the Hunter College Galleries, to include Hunter’s Latin American art in exhibitions of Latin artists and critics in Hunter’s programs and exhibitions.

A striking product of this collaboration is the installation currently on view in Hunter’s West Lobby. It is an exhibition of Latin American art, curated by the Argentinean artist Jesus Sotolongo. The installation is a deliriously colorful celebration of Latin American art, from a tattooed maestro to a high-modernist maestro. The installation also includes a collection of works by Hunter students and Hunter staff, including Hunter faculty members.

The new space, particularly the studio and art history faculty offices, will attract even more applicants to the existing program, and will add prestige to a program already based in the private viewing of works by the Cisneros collection. The exhibition is currently on view in Hunter’s West Lobby. It is an exhibition of Latin American art, curated by the Argentinean artist Jesus Sotolongo. The installation is a deliriously colorful celebration of Latin American art, from a tattooed maestro to a high-modernist maestro. The installation also includes a collection of works by Hunter students and Hunter staff, including Hunter faculty members.

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At Hunter Arts Across the Curriculum (AAC), an ambitious, wide-ranging curriculum (AAC), an arts-infused symposium commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. President Jennifer J. Raab introduced the idea trying to tap the riches all around us—unique geography.”

The possibilities are limitless, because as Meyers-Kingsley noted, “the vast cultural resources of New York are just a walk or a subway ride away.”

Muse Scholar Program Supports Young Artists

Muse Scholar Program has had an inspirational inaugural year launching full, the initiative provides an extraordinary college experience for a select number of incoming bright, talented and diverse students. The possibilities are limitless, because as Meyers-Kingsley noted, “the vast cultural resources of New York are just a walk or a subway ride away.”

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Muse Scholars also receive a full in-state tuition scholarship, free admission to museums, theaters and concert halls, invitations to gallery openings, and a host of other offers to participate in the city’s cultural life. Program director Cara Meyers-Kingsley teaches a freshman seminar that promotes the students’ engagement with the arts and includes rigorous writing and creative assignments addressing their experience and study of the city’s artistic life. Class trips this year have included music, dance and theater performances at Carnegie Hall, La Poisson Rouge and New York City Center; exhibitions at the Guggenheim Museum and the Center for Book Arts; and a behind-the-scenes tour and drawing session at the Society of Illustrators, a new cultural partner of Hunter College. Also part of the program, co-sponsored last September by Hunter’s Center for Book Arts, an arts-infused symposium commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. President Jennifer J. Raab introduced the idea trying to tap the riches all around us—unique geography.”

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As a Muse Scholar, she especially leveraged joining her classmates in exploring the visual and performing arts citywide, and appreciates how

The Steins Collect: Matisse, Picasso, and the Pursuit of Perfection

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The Steins Collect Features Essay by Hunter Distinguished Professor Braun

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T
en-year-old Cerys Milligan, who lives in Ardglass, a village in Northern Ireland, was thrilled to learn that a man who was born in her hometown and was the founder of a major college in New York City.

Because Cerys was so impressed by the accomplishments of this adventurous educator and the college he founded—and she then had a wonderful opportunity to write about these accomplishments—the name of Thomas Hunter and the college he created

name for the development and wrote a wonderful story about their choices.

Cerys (whose name is Welsh for “love” and is pronounced “Kerri”), continued her mother, “learned about Thomas Hunter from Michael Howland, a local shopkeeper/owner who was related to my husband, Alwyn, and is a fast of information about the village and its history. Michael mentioned Thomas Hunter to Cerys and me a number of years ago, and the name stick in her memory. When the street-naming competition was announced in school, she immedi-

Cerys Milligan (c) with Eamon Fitzsimons (l), the principal of her school, and Megan Burns of the Ardglass Association

Northern Ireland Village Gets “Hunter’s Way”

The nation’s capital called on his talents for the last three years, and in 2011, he interned for the Empire State Development Corporation in develop-

was a voucher for purchases in a local store and a certificate, and the school received a tree for their eco-garden. Hunter’s Way consists of 26 homes, can be traced back to around 2000 B.C., and has been a thriving part for more than 2000 years. It is a seaside resort, has eight archaeological sites,

He founded Hunter College in New York City in 1869. It was a school for girls only; it was known for its earnest, religious, educational, cultural, and social values. The college has a long history and is considered one of the most valuable assets of the City University of New York, one of the world’s largest urban universities. Ardglass, Northern Ireland, is a village of about 3,000 people and was named after Thomas Hunter. The village and its history. Michael Howland, a local shopkeeper/owner about Thomas Hunter from Michael said, “to influence the department’s talents for the last three summers. In 2011, he interned for the State Depart-

and the college he founded—is Hunter College junior creator—and the winner of a $2,500

A Senior Dedicated to Making “Real and Lasting Change”

Everyone is compiling a list of young leaders, and the name of David Weinberger. The Macaulay Honors College senior is just 21, yet his record of accomplishments would make someone twice his age envious.

David Weinberger was recently named a New York City School Fellow for 2013. In this highly selective program, he will work in city government, complete an intense seminar series exploring urban issues, and travel to Albany and Washington, D.C. to meet

North Central Committee and served as a liaison fellow for the Roosevelt Cen-

He was previously a senior fellow for the Energy and Environment Policy Center’s national leadership program. He also sat on the International Board of Directors for the NLRC, and was president of the Hunter chapter of the Roosevelt Institute Campus Network, the nation’s first and only student-led public policy think tank.

David Weinberger

Mike Minifie, director of the MTA’s Urban Fellows program, “It was a true ‘man’s Harvard’ and I believe it. I am so happy to be in college with a great

Mike Minifie

sophomore in New York City since childhood. She made her Broadway debut at the age of 13 in The Pillowman and most recently appeared as David Hyde Pierce’s wayward daughter in the Manhat-

Cerys’ mother, Louise Milligan, “The story began about a year ago,” related Cerys’ mother, Louise Milligan, “When Ardglass Association of Belfast, which was building a new housing development in Ardglass, asked the principal of local school of the children could help name the development and write an explanation of their choice.”

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Dancing for Joy at Hunter’s 204th Commencement

Heather Watts, the internationally acclaimed ballerina, danced into the commencement audience’s hearts as she accepted an honorary degree from President Jennifer J. Raab. Telling the cheering graduates, “You rock!”, Watts gave an emotionally uplifting acceptance speech in which she called the Hunter honor “beyond thrilling for me.”

Referring to her close association with the renowned choreographer George Balanchine during her 25-year career with the New York City Ballet, she urged the graduates to seek out their own mentors who can be, as Balanchine was for her, “a life-changer.”

President Raab called Watts the “perfect honorary degree recipient for Hunter, where our programs for artists and performers are more popular than ever.” She added, “Like our graduates, Heather succeeded by doing it her way and following her own path.”

Watts is already deeply involved in Hunter’s rapidly growing dance program, teaching ballet master classes and serving on the College’s Dance Advisory Board. The bond grew even stronger when President Raab announced that the College is creating a Heather Watts Scholarship for students in the new five-year BA/MA dance program. The scholarship is made possible by a generous gift from Jody and John Arnhold, the leading supporters of dance at Hunter.

The theme of dance ran strongly throughout the commencement ceremony: Two graduating seniors were asked to help Watts don her doctoral hood, and each had her own special story. Ashley Ortiz, although only 22, has been teaching dance at a Brooklyn high school since 2009 and last year founded her own dance company. She is returning to Hunter in September to earn her master’s in dance education.

Sara Kappraff will enter medical school at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in the fall, in preparation for her second career. Before coming to Hunter, she spent 12 years as a ballet dancer, performing around the world with such companies as Ballet Hispanico.

And among the graduates singled out for special mention was Tiffany Geigel, 27, who was given little chance of survival at birth because of a severe spinal disorder. Inspired by loving parents, and despite seemingly hopeless odds, she took up dance at the age of 5 and eventually became a dance teacher. A video went up on the Assembly Hall’s two giant screens showing Geigel auditioning for the hit TV series So You Think You Can Dance. Her grace, skill and athleticism drew gasps from the Hunter audience, and then a prolonged ovation.

“Standing near so many graduating students who have worked tirelessly towards this amazing achievement is completely humbling, as well as beyond thrilling for me.” — Heather Watts

Luis A. Ubiñas, president of the Ford Foundation, delivered the January commencement address, in which he urged the graduates to achieve their full potential, have a voice in the direction of their lives, and contribute to society. Ubiñas has a strong connection to Hunter — his aunt is a proud alumna and his wife, Deborah Tolman, is a professor at the Silberman School of Social Work.
**Happenings At Hunter**

- President Raab (l) and FDR Visiting Fellow and interim director of Roosevelt House Jonathan Fanton joined civil leader Aminah Bjuni at Roosevelt House in March, where Bjuni spoke about her work as an arts advocate.

- The New Yorker's Patricia Marx (l) and Pulitzer Prize winner Elizabeth Strout (r) were among the acclaimed authors honoring novelist Meg Wolitzer at the second-anniversary celebration of Hunter College's Writing Center, directed by Lewis Frumkes.

- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan met with Hunter students after a discussion on campus in May.

- Husain Haqqani, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, (with economist and philanthropist Marie-Josée Kravis and Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab) spoke at Roosevelt House in September about Pakistan's role in the war on terror.

- Artist/author/musical legend Patti Smith introduced her exhibition *9.11 Babelogue* at Hunter's Leubsdorf Art Gallery in September.


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**David Steiner Returns as Dean of School of Education**

And he proceeded to reverse the state requirements for teacher education, raising those changes partly on appeal—preaches already taken at Hunter.

One major advance was the use of digital video to assess student teaching. Under the leadership of President Raab, and supported by a $1 million gift from Bolivia’s New Frankfurt (SF), Hunter has become a pioneer in the development of this evaluative tool. The faculty of the School of Education now uses video to analyze the content delivery and classroom techniques of all graduating students.

Starting in 2014, every student teacher in the state will undergo this. At Hunter, after the video is returned jointly by the student and a supervising faculty member, it is indeed by content, level, technique and pedagogical purpose, and then archived in a searchable online database.

“We have created the largest video library of this type in the world. And we have developed new performance rubrics that are being used in many national initiatives,” Dean Steiner said recently.

Using videos is just one element of the School of Education’s increased emphasis on developing and refining the classroom skills and practice of every student, and on putting the individual student at the center of their student teaching. Steiner and his colleagues have seen the many options available in graduate studies in education.

“We especially look forward to working with New Visions and the New York Hall of Science to expand our residency program in high school math and science because we need to address the critical shortage of effective teachers in those subjects,” said Dean Steiner.

“It’s all very exciting. As we continue to raise the quality of our support programs, deepen our relationship with the public schools, and refine our curriculum, we are building on a position of tremendous strength and experience of all graduating students.”

He continued, “We have a responsibility to our students to ensure that they are absolutely ready to teach on day one in the classrooms of New York, and a responsibility to the students of the New York City public schools to help provide them with the best teachers we possibly can. I know the Hunter College School of Education is up to the task.”

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**School of Education Alumna ChampionsFrankfurt Digital Video Project**

Sarah Rorimer (MA ’09) earned her graduate degree at Hunter during the inaugural days of the Frankfurt Digital Video Project. Rorimer was enrolled in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program, and her class was one of the first to meet an added degree requirement: that all students record a video of a lesson they teach in a New York City classroom, and then consult with a supervisor to analyze and learn from that video. Afterward, students excerpt short clips that illustrate particular skills or challenges, and submit those clips to an online library accessible to all faculty members at the School of Education.

Rorimer quickly became a huge fan of video as a tool for evaluation and improvement. “It’s all very revealing,” she said on a recent day off from her job at P.S. 33 in Manhattan. “Teaching is such a dynamic process, and so many things can happen in an instant. You benefit from being able to view it and break it down.”

She also commented on how important it is to be in an academic community where there is trust and a common belief that the videos will be used for reflection and learning, not to judge. Because the School of Education is such a community, Rorimer said, she and her classmates were happy to use the new technology “to become more aware of what our teaching habits were, and how we could work with them or change them.”

Rorimer was also happy with the tool, she introduced it to colleagues at Long Island City High School, where she taught last year. Under the guidance of Laura Rachez, assistant professor of TESOL at Hunter, she organized a video-based group in which membership was voluntary; everyone was expected to be nonjudgmental during discussions, and participants received professional development pay for their time. “Teachers often work in isolation,” she said. “We use video as a window into our teaching. When someone is struggling with a classroom management issue or with motivating students, working with others to analyze a short clip from a lesson can turn a closed environment into a very open one.”

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**Graduates Launch Careers in Education as Teach for America Pioneers**

Sarah Rorimer and her elementary school students at P.S. 33.

“Teach for America is more of a movement than anything else,” Rorimer said. “I would recommend it for anyone thinking of changing children’s lives.”

Bodine, before graduating cum laude with a major in political science, she had served as president of Hunter’s Undergraduate Student Government. And she became an instant leader in her new profession.

Recognizing Zannikos’s talent at imparting the fundamentals of reading to pre-K students, the principal assigned her to train other teachers in methods of instruction. Even a local TV station took note, airing a story about how thrilled the principal was with the young teacher’s arrival.

Zannikos hopes to become a principal herself, and this summer she will start pursuing an education in administration. “I want to help provide them with the best teachers we possibly can. I know the Hunter College School of Education is up to the task.”

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**“We have a responsibility to our students to ensure that they’re absolutely ready to teach on day one in the classrooms of New York.”** —David Steiner, Maria and Larry Silverstein Dean of the School of Education
Dance

Anon. Bobetsky, in particular, is trained and well prepared to address those challenges. At Hunter College, in New York City, he is educating home-grown teachers of Mandarin. You’re serving an amazing purpose, he says. 

A broad course of study and practice in the theory and practice of dance, students include a viola player with an interest in African music, a percussionist, a jazz trumpet player, and several choral specialists — two with a love for musical theater and another who spent several years teaching in South Korea. 

Grades of Hunter’s Music Education Program receive an MA in music education and New York State certification in music (Pre-K-12). They will form professional teaching music and — or direct schools, addressing challenges that have been identified and expressed by educators. The program emphasizes practical skills as well as educational theory. When they arrive at a school, they already have a very good idea of what to do in front of a class.

Those Who Can, Teach: Mastering the Teaching of Dance

Chinese

Public schools are facing a huge demand for Chinese classes, but the pool of educators qualified to lead those language classes is small.

Because of the shortage, many states rely on teachers from abroad, who experience culture shock. They don’t understand the American education system, don’t know how to teach students, and can’t communicate with parents,” said Professor Qin Lin Chao, director of Hunter’s Chinese Division and the MA program in teaching of Chinese. “Hunter is educating home-grown teachers of Mandarin.

At the same time, those Hunter students are being trained by professors who are specialists in Chinese pedagogy. So rather than focusing narrowly on their own knowledge, the aspiring educators become versed in the historically proven methods of teaching a difficult language. Hunter’s focus on pedagogy stands out among this country’s Chinese teacher certification programs. As a result, Professor Qin Lin Chao said: “Our teachers are better trained and better prepared, and our program is a national model.”

Elena Gutkova, a member of the Thomas Hunter Honor program, is a future MD who has been helping to develop new synthetic methodologies in organic chemistry. Future astronomer Vivienne Baldassare, a Macaulay Honors College student, was just awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She has been studying brown dwarfs — star-like objects that, unlike stars, lack an energy source in their core. Two of the seven students are psychology majors: Kelissa Shillingford, a Macaulay Honors College student, was just awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. She has been studying brown dwarfs — star-like objects that, unlike stars, lack an energy source in their core.

Future MD/PhD, Top Neuroscientist

McNulty Family Helps Women Advance in the Sciences

Hunter has a proud history of sending women into the sciences. Besides being the only college in the world with two women graduates who have won the Nobel Prize in medicine, it is one of the top 10 schools in the nation to graduate women who become members of the National Academy of Sciences.

This distinction records precious moments to get more women, thanks to the John P. McNulty Scholars Program for Excellence in Science and Math, which supports high-achieving science and math students, not only with full scholarships, but also with paid laboratory research internships, mentoring and professional development.

“We are looking for those young women who dare to be the best,” notes Anne Well Mcnulty, who is generously supporting this program in honor of her late husband, John P. McNulty, both a scientist and a philanthropist. “Our graduates continue to find her cultural roots. They don’t under- stand the American education system, don’t know how to teach students, and can’t communicate with parents,” said Professor Qin Lin Chao, director of Hunter’s Chinese Division. “They are challenging, New York City continues to maintain some first-rate music programs taught by wonderfully talented and dedicated teachers,” Bobetsky said.

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Happy Mother’s Day

For the past eight years, proud families have honored the Hunter alumnae in their lives and benefited new generations of students by contributing a total of more than $3 million to the Hunter College Day Scholarship Fund. Every Mother’s Day, Hunter places a full-page ad in The New York Times naming the major donors and honorees. This year, the fund received a record number of gifts. For more information, contact Elka Fruia at 212.396.8566 or motherday@hunter.cuny.edu.

Samantha Bass thanks her Mother’s Day Scholarship donors, George and Joanne Bundeschu (S8).

Hunter students (l to r) Hanna Kim, Anne Chen and Anicie Buite meet their Mother’s Day sponsors, Robert, at a reception honoring Hunter women. Also attending was Shikuan Hunag, (third from left), whose scholarship donor, Joseph Blank, has been contributing to the Fund since 2007 in memory of his late wife, Blanche O Blank (W).

Evelyn Lauder, Distinguished Humanitarian, Generous Alumna

Lauder focused on supporting students and faculty as well as classrooms and labs. Among her many activities was her service on the College’s Visioning Board and the Leadership Committee of the high school’s endowment campaign. After being diagnosed with breast cancer in 1991, she became an ardent supporter of the search for a cure. She established the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center, a diagnostic and treatment facility at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, which has raised more than $350 million so far. She also co-founded the Pink Ribbons campaign, now the worldwide symbol of breast health.

Characteristically, she made certain that Hunter was a part of the search for a cure through her generous support for the College’s breast cancer research lab. And she and her husband, Leonard A. Lauder, were generous contributors to a long succession of Hunter projects and programs.

She was born Evelyn Hausner in Vienna in 1926. Soon after Austria’s annexation by Germany in 1938, her parents fled to England to escape the Nazis, eventually making their way to New York.

During her freshman year at Hunter, she met her future husband on a blind date. He was a son of Estée, Lauder, the famed founder of the international cosmetics company. Evelyn’s introduction to her future mother-in-law was startling, to say the least. It was only Leonard and Evelyn’s second date, but Estée insisted that Evelyn serve as hostess for a birthday party she was giving her son. “What could I do?” Evelyn later said. “She was like a steamroller.”

Evelyn clearly succeeded in impressing this formidable matriarch, because soon after her marriage in 1956, she was brought into the family firm to serve as an executive alongside her husband (who is now chairman emeritus of Estée Lauder Compa- nies). It was an era when few women entered the business world, but Evelyn skillfully managed the demands of raising her sons, William and Gary, while handling a series of increasingly important positions.

Years later she told The New York Times, “I was very strong. Having had a childhood like the one I had, I was much tougher than a lot of people. I was one of the few people who spoke their mind to Estée.”

Evelyn Lauder was inducted into Hunter’s Hall of Fame in 2002.
Submit a Class Note at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni

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CLASS NOTES

1930s

Rosalyn Kane (’35) is a professor emerita of environmental science at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She is also the author of the textbook Biology for Survival.

Audrey Felberbaum (BA ’37) and Hunter College Foundation Chair Kira Apat-Steilstein (BA ’34, MA ’36) enjoy coming back to campus for the annual holiday party.

1940s

Beatrice Mintz (BA ’42), a professor and the Jack Schultz Chair in Basic Science at Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, received the Ninth Annual American Association for Cancer Research Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research. Mintz’s pioneering work involving chimeric and transgenic mice, stem cells and tumor microenviroments has had a profound effect on cancer research.

1950s

Philadelphia mayor Michael Nutter named Sonia Sanchez (BA ’55) the city’s first official poet laureate. Sanchez, a playwright, author, and former professor, will hold the title for two years.

In her new book, African American Women Chemists (Oxford University Press, 2011), Jeannette Brown (BA ’50) focuses on the contributions of African Americans to the field of chemistry.

Jeffrey S. Senzer (BA ’54) was installed as president of the New York County Dental Society, the largest division of the New York State Dental Association, serving approximately 2,300 members.

Domenic Domenich (BA ’92) has been named to the Board of Trustees of CNA, a not-for-profit analysis organization. Domenich is also the executive director of the American Association of School Administrators.

1960s

Smithsonian’s Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum has appointed Lindsey Lindberg (BA ’05) as its new head of school. Discussing her appointment, she said, “Our school is positioned to partner with researchers, educators and administrators throughout the nation to support the development of design-centered learning experiences for students at all levels.”

Nancy Lane (BA ’81) has been named executive producer of CBSNews.com, where she will oversee all editorial work for CBS News’ digital platforms, social media, and mobile applications. Previously, Lane was vice president and news director of CNNU S.

The Bell, the Flower and the Wash, a freestanding series of abstract sculptures, was created by Ian Averbuch (MA ’64) to accompany the renovation of Fire Station No. 1 in Scottsdale, Ariz. A portion of the sculpture is made of recycled stones from New York bridges. The work was installed in December 2011.

Kurt Mimmelmann (MA ’77) has published his seventh poetry collection. This is his second book (Dios Madres Press, 2011). He has also written several essays and book-length literary studies on medieval, modern, and postmodern poetry.

Wendy Li (BS ’88) has joined City National Bank in the private client services department as a senior vice president and senior relationship manager. Before moving to City National, Li spent more than a decade with J.P. Morgan, most recently as a senior private banker. She was also an institutional sales marketer in the Global Credit Derivatives Group at J.P. Morgan’s investment bank.

1970s

Artist Alan Sonfist’s (MA ’76) current project, Ancient Olive Grove, is being created on a five-acre plot in Florence, Italy. Sonfist, who planted a grove of trees in the shape of an olive leaf, recently completed a 5,000-year timeline to replicate the look of an ancient Tuscan forest.

Earl Brown, Jr. (MA ’73) has joined Livingston College to establish the school’s study abroad program, which seeks to increase minority participation in overseas educational opportunities.

Phillip P. Rosenthal (BA ’73) has joined the Jewish Guild for the Blind as chief television show officer. Rosenthal first worked for the Guild in the mid-1990s as a teacher and then as coordinator of mental health.

1980s

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The Stevens Cooperative School in Hoboken, N.J., appointed Alati (MS ’08) as its new head of school.

Margaret Aguilera (BA ’93) is the newly appointed director of El Museo del Barrio, the Latino cultural institution in East Harlem. She comes to El Museo by way of Christe’s, where she was vice president and senior specialist in Latin American art.

Andrew Nowick (BA ’93) has been named to the Board of Directors of The Bertillette (N.J.) Area Education Foundation, which provides support to local educators and administrators.

Lillian Agyemang’s (MPH ’95) first book, Speaking My Daughter’s Mind: A Memoir of My Last Five Years as a Nun, is now available. A nun for 30 years, Agyemang has written a memoir of growing up as a young Catholic and seeing her mother’s actions as seen through a mother’s perspective.

Freedom from Want, an exhibition of new paintings by Aaron Johnson (MFA ’96), was featured at The Stux Gallery in New York City this fall. This is Johnson’s second solo show at The Stux, and his fifth in New York.

Lindsey Lindberg (BA ’95), also known as Mama Lou, was named one of the 59 strongest women in the United States by More Magazine. Since 2009, she has developed her strength performing as a trapeze artist.

Josua Jarpa (BA ’06) produced his first feature film, Keep the Lights On, which premiered at the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals this winter.

Maia Efron (BA ’15) is the editor of a new group blog for Jewish high school students.
CLASS NOTES CONTINUED

Join Us to Celebrate Hunter’s 412th Birthday


$95 in advance, $125 at the door

For further information, please email alumniofhunter@gmail.com or call 212.396.6537.

HUNTER REMEMBERS...

Prof. Alex E. Alexander, head of the Russian and Slavic Studies program from 1974 to 2010, died on January 10, 2012. A member of the Hunter faculty for 45 years, he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and students. His family held a memorial service at Hunter on March 30, and has set up the Professor Alex E. Alexander Memorial Fund, which welcomes donations to benefit the College and honor his life’s work. Please go to www.hunter.cuny.edu/donatenow and select the Prof Alex E. Alexander Memorial Fund as the Designation to make a contribution.

Jacqueline Wexler, the visionary president of Hunter from 1975 to 2010, died on December 31, 2011, in her 70s. She was a graduate of Hunter College and the University of New Hampshire. Wexler’s path to Hunter was as extraordinary as she was. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brandeis University and the first woman president of New York University, she was a groundbreaking leader in the Jewish community and a tireless advocate for education. Wexler was passionate about Hunter and its students, and she worked tirelessly to ensure that the College remained a dynamic and vital institution. She believed in the power of education to change lives, and she was committed to making Hunter a place where students could thrive and succeed.

Wexler was a force of nature, and her legacy lives on at Hunter today. The College has established the Jacqueline Wexler Fund, which welcomes donations to benefit the College and honor her life’s work. Please go to www.hunter.cuny.edu/donatenow and select the Jacqueline Wexler Fund as the Designation to make a contribution.

Jacqueline Wexler, Leader of Hunter in the '70s, Lasting Legacy
Ada Peluso (BA ’60) has enjoyed a uniquely fulfilling life and made extraordinary contributions during her 50-plus years at Hunter College – from undergraduate to professor of mathematics (starting in 1966 after earning her PhD from NYU), to chair of the Math and Statistics Department from 1999 to 2010, to Hall of Fame inductee in 2001, to member of the Foundation Board of Trustees since 2010.

How does she see her beloved alma mater today, and how does she assess its progress over the decades she has dedicated to ensure its growth and success? “Hunter has always been great,” she said emphatically, “but this is its greatest era. The leadership is more dynamic, the academic opportunities are more diverse, and the students are more dedicated.”

She shares something in common with many of the students: an immigrant childhood. Her father was an Italian diplomat posted in Antwerp, Belgium, during WW II, and the family was in frequent danger from the heavy shelling of the city. When the Pelusos arrived in America in 1948, she did not know a word of English.

Technically, Peluso is retired. In fact, she is as busy as ever, serving at President Raab’s request on several college committees as well as the Foundation Board, working at both Manhattan Hunter Science and Hunter College High Schools on programs to inspire students in math, and organizing the first of the College’s new Soup and Science seminars.

Reflecting on Peluso’s extraordinary background, Klara Silverstein (BA ’54/MA ’56), chair of the Hunter Foundation Board, said, “With her amazing history as a top-flight mathematician, a caring and brilliant teacher, and a dedicated and farseeing supporter of the College, Ada brings to the Foundation a combination of vision, energy, and devotion that will unquestionably help propel this College – which she so deeply loves – to ever greater heights.”

Ada and her brother, Romano Peluso, are among Hunter’s most generous supporters. She has funded a visiting math professorship in her name. The Pelusos’ joint endowment provides scholarships in mathematics and statistics. They underwrote the Wexler Library’s circulation desk and the new faculty center that will be installed when the library’s modernization is completed. Their recent gift to Roosevelt House supports programs and facilities and honors their parents, Assunta and Ignazio, with a permanent plaque. Romano is a member of the Roosevelt House advisory board as well as a regular contributor to the Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund in Ada’s name. “I’ve turned him into a member of the Hunter family,” she said with a laugh.

Asked what inspires such generosity to Hunter, she paused to reflect on the college that has been central to her life for more than half a century and that has done so much to shape her personally, intellectually and professionally, and then she replied simply, “It’s a joy to give back to Hunter and to work with a great president like Jennifer Raab.”

The Pelusos’ philanthropy extends well beyond Hunter. They have given the Metropolitan Museum many art objects and acquisition funds, endowed the museum’s research journal and contributed to the installation of a new Venetian Gallery. The New York Society Library’s skylight and exhibition gallery have been restored, thanks to Ada and Romano. The gallery now bears their names as well as those of their beloved parents. Ada has been a trustee of the library since 2010.