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Rita & Burton Goldberg
Establish an MFA in Playwriting

E ven though her major was social work, Hunter alumna Rita Goldberg ’46 always found herself taking electives in the theatre and literature departments. Now, more than 60 years after graduating, Goldberg and her equally arts-smitten husband are funding a program of their own: the Rita and Burton Goldberg MFA in Playwriting at Hunter College.

Thanks to their substantial gift, New York City will gain another much-needed playwriting program. The Hunter program will be one of the most innovative of its kind in the country, owing to a unique set of requirements including staged readings and full productions of every student’s work. Acclaimed playwright and professor Tina Howe will head curriculum development.

One of the few other existing programs owes much of its success to the Hunter Art Galleries, which was curated by Joachim Pissarro, Hunter’s Bershad Professor of Art History and director of the Hunter Galleries.

Yet another first came on October 23 when we held the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees’ inaugural gala. Two outstanding alumni — Abe Raven, president and CEO of A+E Television Networks, and Joel A. Katz, the nation’s foremost entertainment-industry lawyer — received our new Bridge to Achievement Award. The funds raised by this exciting event will help hundreds of Hunter students cross their own bridges to achievement.

The Gala will become an annual event — one that celebrates Hunter’s commitment to excellence and innovation in higher education.

The President’s Perspective

E ver since its founding in 1870 as one of the first institutions of higher learning in America dedicated to the education of women, Hunter College has been an innovator. This great tradition endures as we continue to establish more “firsts.”

One of these firsts is the public artwork Infinite Light that was installed on September 25 on the exterior of the pedestrian bridges that connect our main buildings. Created by the French artist Laurent Grasso, the piece consists of the words day for night repeated several times and illuminated in fluorescent neon tubes. The neon’s blue tint is similar to the filters filmmakers use to simulate nighttime during the day.

Infinite Light was installed in connection with a special exhibition at the Hunter Art Galleries, titled “Contemporary Representations of the Night.” The exhibit was curated by Joachim Pissarro, Mara Hoberman and Julie Moreno. That, in turn, coincided with a widely praised exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art, Van Gogh and the Colors of the Night, which was curated by Pissarro. Hunter’s Bershad Professor of Art History and director of the Hunter Galleries.

Inaugural Gala Held

The Gala will become an annual event — one that celebrates Hunter’s commitment to excellence and innovation in higher education.

Theatre is the best possible way to understand the human condition — Burton Goldberg

country. When Rita and Burton joined us in this dream, we were off and running. Sustained by their faith and enthusiasm, we’ll be able to offer the next generation of playwrights an unheard of opportunity — an affordable MFA under the guidance of the most exciting artists working in the theatre today.

Hoping young playwrights is nothing new to Mrs. Goldberg, a founding board member of the Lark. Play Development Center, which provides resources and support for American and international playwrights. And after 60 years of marriage, four children, and six grandchildren, the Goldbergs may yet carve themselves new careers in the theatre. At a recent event celebrating their donation and the dedication of a new
NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL FOCUSES ON HEALTHIER CITIES

Dr. Kenneth Olden envisions the proposed CUNY School of Public Health, to be housed at Hunter, as an “epicenter” of urban public health research. “When people think about the leaders in public health, I want them to think of Hunter and of the City University of New York,” said Olden, a renowned cancer researcher who has worked as a nurse at Planned Parenthood and in hospitals and schools. “I’m building a school that’s going to be here for a long time. It’s going to be here for generations.”

Olden said that the proposed school is poised to turn out graduates in public health who will meet the challenges of the aging of baby boomers. “The public health undergraduate curriculum would address the nexus of these three issues,” he said. His appointment by CUNY’s Board of Trustees was made at the recommendation of Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Hunter College President Chancellor Goldstein and Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab.

Under Dr. Olden’s leadership CUNY and Hunter College are well positioned to establish a world-class School of Public Health given our strong existing programs in the field and the University’s great strengths in the natural and social sciences that underlie public health,” President Raab said.

“Under Dr. Gebbie’s leadership, Hunter College is positioned to graduate the nursing professionals who will be the leading care-givers, administrators and researchers of the future,” she said. “The CUNY School of Nursing will benefit greatly from Dr. Gebbie’s health policy expertise.”

I’m building a school that’s going to be here for a long time. It’s going to be here for generations. — Kenneth Olden

PROUD ALUMNA ESTABLISHES NURSING DEANSHIP

Joan Grabe (’60) says that her five years at Hunter College High School and Hunter College were transformative. “Hunter took a girl from the Bronx and gave her a first-class education,” she said. “I really do bleed (Hunter) purple.”

That allegiance led Grabe to endow a deanship at Hunter’s School of Nursing, in honor of the children she and her husband, Bill, have in recent years to focus their philanthropic efforts in two areas: cancer research and education. “We felt we could do more by concentrating on specific things,” said Grabe, who has worked as a nurse at Planned Parenthood and in hospitals and schools. In 2005, the four Grabe children endowed Hunter Mother’s Day Scholarship in honor of their mother. Gebbie has requested that their gift go to developing HIV/AIDS policy for the monolithic way that nurses are portrayed on many prime-time medical dramas. “The nice thing about a nursing degree is how flexible it is,” she said. “You can work in a hospital or you can do research, you can move up in hospital management; you can work as a visiting nurse or for a public health department or at a school… It’s very intellectually demanding.”

Gebbie comes to Hunter from Columbia University, where she has worked since leaving the White House. Most recently, she served as Columbia’s Elizabeth Standish Gill Professor of Nursing and the director of the University’s Center for Health Policy. In recent years her research has focused on the emergency preparedness and the response protocols of the public health workforce.

Prior to being appointed the Federal AIDS Coordinator, Gebbie was a member of the Department of Health for the State of Washington and before that, served as a public health administrator for the State of Oregon. She was a member of the first Presidential Committee on AIDS, formed in 1987 by President Reagan, and has chaired the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on the Prevention of HIV Infection.

“Under Dr. Gebbie’s leadership, Hunter College is positioned to graduate the nursing professionals who will be the leading care-givers, administrators and researchers of the future,” said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. “The School of Nursing will benefit greatly from Dr. Gebbie’s health policy expertise.”

Gebbie holds a bachelor’s degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., a master’s degree of nursing from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a doctorate of public health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Gebbie said she’s been impressed by the Hunter community. “The students ask probing, forward-looking questions,” she said. “I don’t think it’s a school that’s going to be backward or forward to an even stronger school.”

Dr. Gebbie with her former boss, President Bill Clinton

NURSING DEAN’S PRODUCTIVE JOURNEY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO HUNTER

There’s a nationwide nursing shortage—and Hunter is heed- -ing the call to graduate more nurses to serve as health care workers, administrators, teachers, and researchers. This fall, Hunter established its School of Nursing as an entity separate from Hunter’s Schools of the Health Professions, which had long housed its nursing programs.

At the helm of the repositioned school is its acting dean, Kristine Gebbie, who has been influential in developing HIV/AIDS policy for more than two decades—serving under President Clinton from 1993–1994 as the nation’s first AIDS coordinator. “The recreation of the School of Nursing sends a message that Hunter takes nursing seriously,” Gebbie said. “This is an exciting opportunity to work with a school that is committed to the City of New York and to the 21st century.”

Join Joan Grabe (’60), who graduated from Hunter College High School and went on to earn a bachelor of science in nursing at Hunter, endorsed the nursing deanship (See story, p. 4). In her new role as the acting Joan Grabe Dean of the Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing, Gebbie plans to incorporate more of the latest health sciences technology into the curricu- leum, and to groom Hunter’s nursing programs. “There isn’t any area of nursing practice that has enough nurses,” she said. The challenge is not getting people interested in the field—Hunter is receiving record numbers of highly qualified applicants to its nursing pro- gram, she said. The challenge is to find ways to accommodate more faculty, specialized teaching labs and students.

In addition, Gebbie said she wants to increase the number of nursing graduates with bachelor’s degrees who go on to graduate-level health sciences studies, and to increase the diversity of the student body. “We felt we could do more by concentrating on specific things,” said Grabe, who has worked as a nurse at Planned Parenthood and in hospitals and schools. “We felt we could do more by concentrating on specific things,” said Grabe, who has worked as a nurse at Planned Parenthood and in hospitals and schools.

“I don’t think it’s a school that’s going to be backward or forward to an even stronger school.” — Kristine Gebbie

Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who has worked as a nurse at Planned Parenthood and in hospitals and schools. “Dr. Olden is a distinguished scientific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Olden is a distinguished scien- tific leader and cancer researcher who dispels an answer a commitment to public health. He brings us into the heart of the National Institutes of Health.
Hunter’s iconic pedestrian bridges are aglow — thanks to the arrival of the largest public art installation in the College’s history. Massive neon letters that repeatedly spell out the phrase day for night adorn the exterior of the College’s third-floor glass walkways. The phrase refers to a movie-making technique used during daylight hours to produce the illusion of a nighttime scene.

French artist Laurent Grasso’s installation, called Infinite Light, was put up in connection with to: Night — Contemporary Representations of the Night at Hunter’s art galleries. Showcasing 80 mostly contemporary works depicting the nighttime theme in disparate ways, the exhibit was mounted at Hunter’s Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Art Gallery on East 68th and at the College’s Times Square gallery.

Grasso was recently awarded the prestigious 2008 Prix Marcel Duchamp. The award is given annually to a promising young artist; the winner receives prize money and additional funding for an exhibition to be held at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

“We are pleased that, in addition to bringing this sculpture to the residents and visitors of the Upper East Side, we are also bringing important public attention to Hunter College’s role as a cultural force in the city, as well as to our phenomenal art program,” Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab said during the September 25 opening reception of the show and inaugural lighting of Infinite Light. “At Hunter, we are proud to train the next generation of artists, art historians, and curators — at a fraction of the cost of other graduate programs around the city.”

Joachim Pissarro, Hunter’s Bershad Professor of Art History and Director of the Hunter College Galleries, curated the show with Mara Hoberman and Julia Moreno. Hoberman is a master’s student in art history at Hunter, and Moreno is working toward her PhD in art history at the Sorbonne in Paris.

In an essay published in the to: Night catalog, Pissarro wrote, “Were van Gogh alive today, how would he conceive of the nocturnal reality, and through what kind of media would he investigate it? Over forty artists provide elements of the answer to this particular conundrum.”

In advance of the to: Night opening, Grasso, speaking about his installation and its Lexington Avenue backdrop, told The New York Times: “The transparency of the bridge for me is very interesting, because it’s like the letters are in suspension with the sky behind.”

At the opening celebration, held in front of Hunter’s West Building, college staff handed out popcorn and glow-in-the-dark bracelets and necklaces. The Hunter College Jazz Ensemble entertained the hundreds of people who came out to see the lighting, and then many in the crowd boarded open-air buses headed to Hunter’s Times Square gallery.

The pieces that made up to: Night employed a wide range of media. Artwork included a suspended fiberglass sphere by Russell Crotty, an oil painting of Times Square by Yioune Jacquette, a four-minute film by Marc Swanson and Neil Gust, and a series of black-and-white photographs by Jon DeHokko. But it was Infinite Light — manufactured at a Tribeca neon studio — that garnered the most attention.

“Although the neon is turned on 24 hours a day, it really begins to glow around dusk,” Hoberman said. “If I am leaving the office around 6 p.m., I always see students and passersby stopping to look up and admire the neon.”

She added: “The amount of time and effort that it took to mount Laurent Grasso’s Infinite Light on the Hunter bridges means that the school is dedicated to the arts and to sharing its artistic projects with the community.”

We are bringing important public attention to Hunter College’s role as a cultural force in the city.

— Jennifer J. Raab

NYC Councilman Dan Garodnick with Professor Joachim Pissarro at the to: Night opening.
media studies
at hunter

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PROFESSORS GIVE HUNTER JOURNALISM STUDENTS AN EDGE

T hose who dream of a career in journalism need the technical proficiency to navigate the proliferating new media. Yet they must also be grounded in old-fashioned newsgathering — reporting, interviewing, investigating and writing. The fundamentals still apply.

That’s where Hunter journalism students have an advantage over competitors. Not only does the College offer an extraordinary range of media courses, but, in addition, its professors include two Pulitzer Prize winners: Bernard L. Stein and Karen Hunter.

Stein is the publisher emeritus of the Riverdale Press, the Bronx weekly for which he won a Pulitzer for editorial writing in 1990. A former editorial and publisher of that paper, he has his experience in — and dedication to — community journalism to thank in his work. Under his editorship, Stein’s students produce a free weekly newspaper, The Hunter Post Express, which covers what he describes as “one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city, maybe in the nation.” The underlying concept that Stein feels every community needs is a paper to cover local issues. The result: a bright, hopeful neighborhood that he would normally support a newspaper now has its own first-hand source of essential information.

“Sometimes they write so well about a story before I turn it, but they don’t give me the credit for having gotten to the roadand, and they are imbued with a strong sense of social justice.” Stein.

Hunter win her share of a Pulitzer in 1999 while a member of the Daily News editorial board. That same year she and her colleagues captured journalism’s other top prize, the Polk Award, for “double fault.” She was also the first African American woman

Hunter has co-authored five books since the time she and her colleagues captured journalism’s other top prize, the Polk Award, for “double fault.” She was also the first African American woman

...see how fast the paper

flies

The Express

Hunts Points clearly appreciates

the readership, and they are imbued

with a strong sense of social justice.

— Greggory Morris, an assistant professor of film and media studies at Hunter, who teaches a class on multi-media ethics reporting, was invited by New York Media to attend the convention with several students. Morris said she was impressed by the professional-quality work that his students completed at the convention, “I believe this trip opened new vistas for teaching journalism to students, as the real world of journalism is radically changed,” he said.

MEDIA STUDIES STUDENTS TAKE HISTORIC REPORTING TRIP

He

unter student journalist Kisha Allison was issued a press pass that provided her access to the Democratic National Convention, held in August at Denver’s Pepsi Center. But it was the time that she spent outside of the political center — speaking with Americans who traveled hundreds of miles to commemorate Barack Obama’s historic nomination, or to air their grievances about everything from veterans’ benefits to gay rights — that Allison will remember as the highlight of the recent reporting trip she made with two of her Hunter classmates.

“The most interesting part was getting to find out what people want from their president — what they think Barack Obama can provide, and what they think he can’t provide,” said Allison, a 21-year-old senior. Allison, one of her Hunter peers — journalists Jacqueline Fernandez, 20, and Jonathan Mena, 25 — were assigned to cover the Democratic Convention for The Hunter Word, a campus-based online magazine. The three media studies majors, worked almost around the clock, posting stories to the site, writing web log entries, reporting podcasts, and editing and uploading video feeds.

“A lot of the most interesting teachings Professor Stein left me with is this: Everyone is interesting, and everyone has a story to tell,” Stein said. “I think about this often, especially when I’m lacking in a story.”

Karen Hunter won her share of a Pulitzer in 1999 while a member of the Daily News editorial board. That same year she and her colleagues captured journalism’s other top prize, the Polk Award, for “double fault.” She was also the first African American woman

Hunter has co-authored five books since the time she and her colleagues captured journalism’s other top prize, the Polk Award, for “double fault.” She was also the first African American woman

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...winning prize-winning professor Karen Hunter with Reverend Sharpton
Hunter Honors Outstanding Alumni At Inaugural Gala

More than 500 guests filled the ballroom of The Plaza on October 23rd to celebrate the recipients of the Hunter College Foundation’s inaugural “Bridge to Achievement Awards.” Abbe Raven (MA ’77) and Joel Katz (BA ’66) were honored for their commitment to education and their phenomenal accomplishments in their fields. The awards gala, which will become an annual tradition, raised more than $800,000 to support Hunter College students.

Katz thanked Hunter for “accepting the challenge of providing excellence in education to students with great minds, great desires, and great dreams.”

“Hunter College inaugural gala was a great success, both in terms of money raised and as a wonderful and entertaining event of its own,” said President Jennifer J. Raab. “We celebrated Hunter with music, video, and the honoring of two of its outstanding alumni — Abbe Raven and Joel Katz. The benefits will last far longer than a single evening, and we look forward to building on our success at next year’s gala.”

Hunter alumna Klara Silverstein, chair of the Gala and chair of the Hunter College Foundation, began the evening by acknowledging President Raab and the Hunter “renaissance,” as well as the pride she takes in her own two Hunter degrees. President Raab then took the stage to welcome the guests and to introduce a new video documenting the human and academic diversity of Hunter.

A. Katz Scholarship Fund at Hunter

Both Raven and Katz were honored for their commitment to historic preservation. Raven has built some of the most powerful brands in television, including A&E and the History and Bio channels. In 2007 she received the prestigious Preserve America Award from First Lady Laura Bush for her outstanding commitment to historic preservation. Raven provides Hunter students with valuable internships at A&E, inspiring them with her own story of working her way from the bottom to the pinnacle of her profession. “What my Hunter and my New York public school education gave me was experience in the real world,” said Raven as she accepted the award. “It shaped me as a leader and as a person. It has been the key to my success.”

That is why this girl from Queens is so proud to be a Hunter graduate,” Joel Katz is Chair of Global Media and Entertainment Practice at the prestigious law firm Greenberg Trau- rig, LLP, and is consistently ranked as one of the most influential lawyers in America. In 2005, he endowed the Joel Katz Scholarship Fund at Hunter for students struggling academically due to financial circumstances. In introducing Katz, Rev. Al Sharpton, his friend and client, described how he first heard about the famed lawyer: “James Brown … told me when I was very young, ‘There’s a man named Joel Katz. You can trust him. He gives law- yering a good name,” said Sharpton. After thanking his friends, family, and colleagues, Katz thanked Hunter “for giving so many students the op- portunity to study and to learn with so little financial cost and for accepting the challenge of providing excellence in education to students with great personal testimonies from friends and colleagues. President Raab also singled out several outstanding stu- dents and alumni, including past and current Joel Katz scholars and A&E interns. Other notable gala attendees included soprano Martina Arroyo, Republican strategist Ed Rillem, and Ambassador William vanden Heuvel. Country western singer and songwriter Phil Vassar provided the night’s musical entertainment.
**Happenings At Hunter**

- Sopranos star Dominic Chianese greets film professor Annette Insdorf at the Hunter College Foundation’s Inaugural Gala. (See pages 10 & 11.)

- Gala award presenter Rev. Al Sharpton with NYC Comptroller Bill Thompson

- Gala guests Ed Rollins and Shari Scharfer-Rollins get ready for the main event

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representative Carolyn Maloney spoke about their recently published books, careers and women’s progress in general at a discussion hosted by Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.

- Author and historian Robert Schlesinger reads from his new book at an event sponsored by the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute.


- JFK Jr. walkers Julia Moreno (l), Joachim Pissarro, and Maxa Heberman (r) give a private tour of the exhibition to MOA president emerita Agnes Gund.

- Dr. Johnetta Cole (l) and Professor Lani Guinier lead a “Conversation on Diversity” at the Kaye Playhouse.

- for Night curators Julia Moreno (l), Joachim Pissarro, and Maxa Heberman (r) give a private tour of the exhibition to MOA president emerita Agnes Gund.
Gregory Smulewicz-Zucker: Change of Plans en Route to Cambridge

When applying to college, Manhattan native Gregory Smulewicz-Zucker (’08) said his main criterion was attending a school in New York—and enrolling in Hunter allowed him to do so. Smulewicz-Zucker, 24, planned on transferring to another school after a couple of semesters, but once he “discovered all that Hunter had to offer,” he changed his mind. And he was incredibly supportive of my application to Cambridge. Of his Hunter classmates, he added, “Hunter also has some of the most intellectually committed and socially conscious students I have ever encountered. Ideas matter to Hunter’s faculty and students. It was exciting to share the classroom with those people.”

Upon completion of his master’s degree, Smulewicz-Zucker plans to work toward a PhD at Cambridge or at another university.

Taina Borrero: Princetonian Shaped by Hunter

Hunter not only prepared Taina Borrero (’06) to excel at the renowned Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton, it also gave her a leg up on many of her graduate school classmates who attended elite private colleges, she said. “In addition to the rigorous academics that Hunter and CUNY provide, I was surrounded by people of different ages, cultures, and religions,” she said.

“It provided some of that real world experience that is necessary for graduate school and the workforce. I’m at a huge advantage.”

While attending Hunter, where she studied political science, Borrero interned in Senator Hillary Clinton’s press office. After graduation, she spent two years working as the external affairs coordinator in the office of Hunter College President Jennifer Raab. “The combination of working in Senator Clinton’s office and in President Raab’s office on higher education policy-related issues had a huge influence on me,” Borrero said.

After she completes her master’s degree in public affairs in 2010, Borrero hopes to get a job working for the City of New York. She’s also considering law school, and she hasn’t ruled out a run for elective office.

Tasha Branford: Studying Law at Stanford

Hebrew native Tasha Branford (’06) spent most of her life traveling by subway. Now she gets across town—and across the leafy Stanford University campus—on her bicycle. Branford, who studied political science and religion at Hunter, is now a first-year law student at Stanford, in Palo Alto, CA. There, she said she is encountering some of the same material introduced to her in Hunter’s international studies professor Walter Volkmann’s law class.

Choosing Hunter for her undergraduate education made sense, according to Branford. “I got a high quality education at a fraction of the cost of private school, she said. “Hunter brought me where I am today—and I’m happy where I am.”

Branford, 27, said that after law school, she plans to become a criminal prosecutor.

Carolyn Ly: From Best Buy to Yale, via Hunter

After completing some course work at the University of Minnesota, Carolyn Ly (’07) took time off from school to reevaluate her career path. She accepted a job as a manager at the electronics chain Best Buy. She worked there for three years before deciding to finish her undergraduate studies. Ly, now 28, said she chose Hunter because it offered strong liberal arts programs at a price that she could afford.

A sociology major, Ly said she was encouraged to pursue her doctorate in the field by one of her Hunter professors, Erica Chito Childs. “She was a mentor and role model who helped to change the course of my life,” she said. Ly, who graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, said her Hunter education prepared her well for graduate work at some of the world’s most prestigious universities.

Carolyn Ly is focusing her studies in such areas as race and ethnicity, ethnography, and issues related to inequality and urban poverty. Upon completion of her PhD, Ly said she hopes to work as a sociologist who inspires critical thinking. She also wants to be the kind of mentor to her students that Chito Childs was to her. Ly said she hopes to work as a sociologist who inspires critical thinking. She also wants to be the kind of mentor to her students that Chito Childs was to her. Ly said that Hunter and CUNY provide, I was surrounded by people of different ages, cultures, and religions,” she said.

said his undergraduate education has proven invaluable at Harvard, where he is working toward his PhD in physics. “Under the mentorship of Hunter Professor Nergis Mavalvala,” said Tempel, 25, “I was introduced to many methods and advanced concepts that have helped me jump into the program here at Harvard.”

Neera has shown me that it is possible to be brilliant and driven in your work, but still be a warm, caring and wonderful person,” he added.

Tempel’s grandmother went to Hunter and his mother is a Hunter alumni. “My mom was a brilliant and driven in your work, but still be a warm, caring and wonderful person,” she said.

Carolyn Ly

Choosing Hunter for her under-graduate education made sense, according to Bradford. “I got a high quality education at a fraction of the cost of private school, she said. “Hunter brought me where I am today—and I’m happy where I am.”

Bradford, 27, said that after law school, she plans to become a criminal prosecutor.

Tasha Branford

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Governor David A. Paterson and the New York State Board of Regents have approved a historic restructuring of the way CUNY awards doctoral degrees in the sciences, and the changes will bring Hunter College added prestige and new sources of funding for research. The restructuring, which is part of CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein’s Decade of Science initiative, empowers Hunter to grant doctoral degrees in the sciences jointly with the University. Previously all PhDs throughout the CUNY system were granted by the University’s Graduate School and University Center.

“As a PhD-granting institution, Hunter will extend its influence as a national leader in the sciences and public health,” said Hunter Provost Vita Rabinowitz. “Our new status is a tribute to the extraordinary research conducted by our faculty and graduate students whose cutting-edge achievements in biology, chemistry, physics, biochemistry and public health are transforming Hunter into a renewed authority in these increasingly critical fields of study.”

City College will receive the same status as Hunter. CCNY and Hunter, which together educate more than 50 percent of CUNY’s doctoral students, will grant PhDs jointly with the Graduate Center in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and public health. Additionally, Hunter will offer a joint PhD in public health. It is expected that other senator colleges, including Brooklyn, Queens and the College of Staten Island, will participate in the joint-degree doctoral program as they strengthen their commitment to high-level sciences.

One of the major benefits of the new joint-PhD plan is that it enhances Hunter’s ability to showcase its work to government and private funders. The college will now have access to federal research grants, for example, that are available only to PhD-granting institutions. In explaining the impetus behind the restructuring, William P. Kelly, president of the Graduate Center, said that Hunter and the other senior colleges “have built the lakes, hired faculty and used their resources to support doctoral students, but they have received no formal credit because of the way the system was set up in the 1960s.” The initiative brings with it another important benefit for Hunter and its graduate students. Governor Paterson and the Regents approved significant new financial support for science doctoral candidates, including 90 new fellowship packages offering free tuition, $24,000 stipends and health benefits over five years.

Chancellor Goldstein’s Decade of Science initiative, which was launched in 2005, includes $1 billion in capital construction to modernize and build campus science facilities. The initiative also makes it possible to hire more than 100 new science faculty across the University. After Albany gave the plan its approval, Chancellor Goldstein said “This is a historic moment for this University. We are giving our faculty the tools they need to attract really first-rate students. We are hiring more first-rate faculty from many of the most extraordinary institutions. This makes CUNY colleges truly competitive on a national level.”

The changes will not affect Hunter’s graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences, and PhDs in those fields will continue to be granted by CUNY’s Graduate Center. However, Hunter’s graduate programs in the humanities and social sciences, and PhDs in those fields will continue to be granted by CUNY’s Graduate Center. This “conceptual approach” will remain in place, Graduate Center President Kelly explained, because it “has worked well”, CUNY doctoral programs in the humanities and social sciences are regularly ranked among the best in the nation.

This is a historic moment for this University. We are giving our faculty the tools they need to attract first-rate students. — Chancellor Matthew Goldstein

I have had many fine professors at Hunter, but my favorite was Vincent Kite, who taught music history. During my senior year, he suggested that I study for a master’s degree with the outstanding musicologist Alfred Einstein. Dr. Einstein had managed to get out of Germany in time to escape Hitler’s persecution, and was teaching at Smith College. Since I could not afford to attend a private institution, Professor Kite suggested that I apply for a fellowship. I did, and obtained the funds. Dr. Einstein directed my work on French Renaissance music, and recommended me for further studies, and for financial help from various sources. And so I became a musicologist. — Isabelle Czarny ’45

While at Hunter, I enrolled in Italian literature courses, and was there that I met Professor Joseph Tobin. His lectures had a grand Thomian performance. He would captivate the class with his presentations, making the pages of Hunter’s Athenian comedy come to life in our minds and hearts. I can still recall running from swimming class with my wet hair up to follow a single moment of his instruction.” — Anna Verrilli Villacara ’64

I have fond memories of a very drop-dead, kind professor named Emil Anders, who directed the Hunter College choir when I was an undergraduate. I sang in the choir from 1955-1962. Professor Anders arranged exchange concerts with schools such as West Point, Juilliard, Bryn Mawr, Harvard, Hamilton, and many other all-male schools. He taught as a singing well, but he also imparted many Outside World masters and ideas.” — Frances Robertelli Giedt ’62

“Communications Professor P. Pollen Ross took a group of us and brought us into the world of cáchological debate. Our team, with its shrinking budget, would face teams whose members had years of experience and, so it was said, debate scholar- ships. But Dr. Ross wouldn’t allow us to quit. He insisted that the basis of debate — thinking on our feet and learning to analyze policy — was essential to life itself. We knew virtually nothing about debate when we started. In the end, when we unexpectedly won a New York state championship, we learned life lessons that would stay with us far beyond our years at Hunter.” — Gabo Miller ’66

“Sociology Professor Erica Chiles Childs — Enthusiastic, she was our years at the very family class — too big to be particularly influential. She explained herself very well, and was always willing to help afterward. She even volunteered to be my mentor as I prepare to apply for PhD programs in sociology at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and other schools.” — Blanca Roblero ’09

I majored in art, and one of my painting professors, Valerie Jaudon, was very helpful. She guided students with constructive criticism, and she encouraged peer feedback. Even in the basic classes, she gave us the freedom to dossier our own subjects. Professor Jaudon had been commis- sioned by the city transit department to create artwork for city subway sta- tion. She was inspirational. I thought of if she made it, maybe I could, too.” — Laura Spencer ’01

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The Chancellor’s Decade of Science initiative empowers Hunter to grant PhDs in the sciences.
The Secret of the Great Pyramid, a new book co-authored by Egyptologist Bob Brier (BA ‘94), was published by Collins. The book, which presents a new theory on the construction of the Great Pyramid of Giza, inspired a National Geographic Channel special. Brier, a senior research fellow at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, will appear in the television special.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting named Susan Dave Zelman (BA ’44) senior vice president for education and children’s content. Since 1999, Zelman served as Chief Supervisor of Public Instruction. She also serves as an advisory board member of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching and is a founding member of the Ohio Council of Professors of Education Administration. She earned a PhD and a master’s in education from the University of Michigan.

Joseph Rutkowski (Advanced Certification ’87) is the director of instrumental music for Great Neck North Secondary Schools on Long Island. Since 1991, he has conducted the school’s Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Band at venues including Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center.

Josephine M. C. Segar (MA ’37) has joined the law firm of Troutman Sanders LLP as a partner in its Zoning and Land Use Practice Group.

Marc Chern (MSW ’70) was a recipient of the University of Pittsburgh’s Institute of Politics Coleman Award for Excellence in Community Service. The Coleman Award recognizes outstanding community leaders for their contributions to the Western Pennsylvania region. Chern has been the director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services for 20 years.

Nancy Rabasto-Nichols (BA ’97) was recently named to the board of directors of The New York Pops, an independent symphonic pop orchestra. Nichols is the senior vice president of external affairs at the public relations firm Weber Shandwick.

The National Council of State Boards of Nursing appointed Myra Broadway (BS ’67) executive director of the Maine State Board of Nursing. Broadway served in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps on both active duty and in the Reserves, retiring as a Colonel in 1988.

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Hawaiian native Timothy Edwards was working at a Home Depot in Honolulu when he decided to follow his dreams and study dance in New York City. It was a long way to come and a challenging journey, but thanks to a generous gift from Jody Gottfried Arnold to Hunter College’s Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund, Edwards is realizing his goals. The highly successful Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund has raised $1.8 million for full scholarships since it was founded in 2004. Hunter launched the program as a way for children and grandchildren of honor graduates of mothers who attended Hunter in pursuit of higher education and personal and career development.

Arend, a dance instructor, created a scholarship for dance students in honor of her late mother, Lomora Marcus Gottfried (’35). Susan Delenzo Nestler and her sisters Linda, Lisa and Anne created a scholarship in honor of their late mother, Dorothy DeRenzo (’47). The scholarship was granted to Jennifer Milosavljevic, who will graduate in June 2009 and plans to attend law school.

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Helen Galland, whose career in retail blazed a trail for other female executives, died September 2 at age 83. Upon graduating from Hunter, where she earned a degree in psychology, Galland became a sales assistant and buyer for Bonwit Teller. She joined Bonwit Teller as a millinery buyer — working her way up to senior vice president and general merchandise manager by the time she left the company in 1975. She went on to serve as the helm of Wamsutta Trucraft Home Fashions before returning to Bonwit in 1980 as its president. During her tenure, the store, which has since closed, gained traction with career women. In 1989, she left to open Helen Galland Associates, a marketing and consulting firm.

Galland maintained close ties with her alma mater. She was a founding member of the Hunter College Foundation and was a longtime benefactor of the school. In 2006, she was among two alumnae honored for their gifts to renovate the school’s library. She also founded the Galland In-ternships program, which provides grants to Hunter students allowing them to work over the summer in the public or nonprofit sector for organizations that would be otherwise unable to pay them.

Louise Mead Tricit ’58

Athlete and sports historian Louise Mead Tricit, an inductee of the Hunter Athletic Hall of Fame, died on September 30 at the age of 73. While at Hunter, the Bronx native was a member of the field hockey and track and field teams. She also competed in running events at the 1959 U.S. Pan-American Games, where she set a national, indoor record for the 400-yard dash.

Tricit was a long-time advocate for high school track and field programs for girls. She wrote two books, American Women’s Track and Field, 1875–1970 and American Women’s Track and Field, 1981–2000. She led a successful campaign to get rid of the “no false start” rule that disqualified athletes for a single false start. At age 64, the lifelong sprinter completed her first and only marathon.

Sylvia Bassin ’60

A longtime administrator for the New York City Housing Authority, Sylvia Bassin died June 15, 2007, in Lake Forest, CA. She was 88. The Bronx-born Bassin attended Hunter College, but financial constraints forced her to leave school so that she could work full time as a dental assistant. During World War II, Bassin went to work for the Veterans Administration, first in Washington and later in New York.

Bassin ultimately re-enrolled at Hunter, and earned her bachelor’s degree in geography in 1946. She worked for the city’s Housing Authority for 25 years — retiring as a manager of the Vladeck Houses in Lower Manhattan.

Joseph Shenker ’62

Joseph Shenker, a Hunter alumnus who also served as an acting president of Hunter College, died on September 20. He was 68. In 1979, he became the acting president of Hunter, succeeding Jacqueline Greiman Wester. Shenker served in this role for about a year — until Donna Shalala was appointed the college’s 20th president.

For nearly two decades, he was an administrator at CUNY’s community colleges. In 1997, at the age of 29, he was named acting president of Kingsborough Community College in Brooklyn, and a year later he became the founding president of Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College in Queens. While there, he founded two high schools in the borough, and served as the dean of community colleges for CUNY.

In 2005, Tolbert worked on Mayor Bloomberg’s reelection campaign as a liaison to various religious, cultural and ethnic groups. He had also served as the New York state director for John Edwards’s 2004 presidential campaign, and as the Nevada state director for America Coming Together.

Tolbert previously worked as chief of staff for Harlem Democratic Assemblyman Keith L. Wright. He is survived by his wife, CUNY Trustee Freda Foster-Tolbert.

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The Scholarship & Welfare Fund celebrates its 60th Anniversary

By Helene D. Goldfarb
President of S&W

The Scholarship and Welfare Fund of the Alumni Association will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2020! We have come a long way from our beginnings in 1949 when ten alumnae got together and each contributed $100. At that time, Hunter charged no tuition and books were free, but many students still found it difficult to pay for room and board.

The majority of students we help are undergraduates who apply through the Financial Aid Office. This past fall, 400 students each received $500 for the first semester and will receive another $500 for the second semester if they continue to meet the requirements of the Fund. This October, we welcomed 20 new students into the Hunter Scholars Program. Some were also lucky enough to receive dormitory scholarships.

We do not forget our graduating seniors. At the end of their lower semester, all eligible students can apply for scholarships for graduate work at any school in the world. Our grant recipients are pursuing advanced degrees in law, medicine, environmental science, nursing, mathematics and accounting. If a student starts at Hunter as a Hunter Scholar, receives four years of tuition assistance, followed by support for the first year of graduate school with little or no debt, then that is an amazing accomplishment.

S&W also provides assistance to students who did not attend Hunter but who wish to pursue their master’s here. We have established 11 scholarships for the first year of graduate study in education, arts and science, social work, nursing and public health. We also provide aid to students working toward their MFA in creative writing, fine arts, and integrated media arts.

If you would like to help, call us at 212.772.4092. I invite you to visit the Wall of Honor on the third floor in East Building to view the names of those who have endowed scholarships. I urge you to consider joining that very distinguished list.

If you weren’t teaching at Hunter, do you think you would be doing?
I would be working for a nonprofit organization on social justice issues — specifically, labor issues and issues of gender and justice.

What do you like most about teaching at Hunter?
I’m always impressed with the students. They are incredibly astute, and they have a sophisticated understanding of the world around them. They have taught me to clearly explain complex concepts without compromising the complexity of the issues that I am teaching.

What are some lessons that you try to impart to your students?
I teach them to always question, to remember history, and to believe that they can participate in creating a more just world.

How do you balance your academic career with your social life?
It’s easy to get so wrapped up in your academic pursuits that you take over your entire life. My family and friends have kept me grounded and given me an incredible perspective on what is real.

What do you like to do when you’re not teaching?
Research takes up a significant amount of my time. When I do get some time, I work with collectives engaged in social justice issues, such as helping construction workers to organize. I also enjoy meeting friends and watching movies.

As the director of Hunter’s Women and Gender Studies Program, what do you see as the greatest challenges facing women in contemporary American society?
Even today, women are paid less than men, and there is staggering violence against women — usually from within the home. Women’s labor, paid and unpaid, continues to be taken for granted. More broadly, the terms of the debate about women in the United States (as evidenced by the elections) and around the world (as evidenced by debates about Muslim women) are so remarkably narrow.

What can be done to overcome these challenges?
We need a fuller, more vibrant and rigorous debate about what and whom is served by keeping the terms of the debate so narrow. There needs to be a commitment to fundamentally challenging misogyny in this country. Any serious effort to address these issues, I firmly believe, begins at schools and colleges.

What are you currently working on?
My new project looks at the creation of special economic zones in India. I am concerned about economic policies that disenfranchise people of their land and livelihood.

What brought you to America?
I grew up in different cities in India, including New Delhi, Bombay, and Hyderabad. I came here in 1985 to go to graduate school, but I go back frequently. Like most immigrants, I am a product of two cultures. When I’m in New York, I miss everything about India — the signs, the smells, the people, the landscape, and the newspapers. When I’m in India, I miss everything about New York.

What’s one thing that your students might be surprised to learn about you?
I am afraid of roller coasters. I don’t like scary movies.
Anshu Prasad, a member of the Foundation Board of Trustees since October, 2007, says his Hunter College High School education was “a gift.”

“People pay a lot of money for the exceptional education we received just by virtue of getting through the entrance process,” said Prasad, who graduated from high school in 1993, and went on to earn degrees at Cornell and Oxford Universities. “Now I’m paying for that privilege of attending Hunter with my time, and with whatever resources I can bring to the board.”

Prasad serves on the Board’s Hunter College Campus Schools Cabinet Committee, which is working on starting an endowment for Hunter College Elementary School and Hunter College High School. Interest from the endowment could go toward capital projects and enable the schools to hire additional educators, he said.

Prasad brings with him substantial business skills: He is a director in the consulting firm A.T. Kearney’s Procurement and Analytics Group. Previously, he helped to grow a start-up consulting business — opening and managing the company’s offices in London and Paris. During the course of his career, Prasad has worked with consumer product firms in Latin America, heavy manufacturing firms in Europe, and retailers in Asia Pacific.

He said that joining the board has given him a newfound appreciation for the range of issues that college presidents and trustees encounter — from fundraising to working with the city, state, and federal government, from attracting new faculty to developing long-term strategic plans.

Prasad is married to Sayu Bhojwani, a philanthropy consultant. They live in Manhattan with their 3-year-old daughter, Yadna.

I’m paying for that privilege of attending Hunter High School with my time and … resources.

— Anshu Prasad