

Faculty News@Hunter
March 2009
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News and Announcements

The Department of English will hold a memorial for Prof. **Gail Gordon** on May 13, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. in Room 1242 West. All are welcome. Professor Gordon passed away earlier this month.

Her family has asked that donations be made in memory of Gail L. Gordon to the Hunter College Foundation. The Department of English will be working closely with the College to create a scholarship. Checks made payable to the Hunter College Foundation should be forwarded to Room 1313 East.

Tony Award nominated playwright **Tina Howe**'s (Theatre) new comedy, *Chasing Manet* starring Jane Alexander, Vanessa Aspillaga, Lynn Cohen, Jack Gilpin, Julie Halston, David Margulies, and Robert Christopher Riley will open on Apr. 5 at Primary Stages, 59E59 Theaters, Theater A, 59 East 59th Street. It is currently in previews. *Chasing Manet* tells the story of an unlikely bond between a rebellious painter from a distinguished Boston family and a Jewish woman, and their plot to escape from a nursing home where they both reside. Howe is best known for *Coastal Disturbances* and *Painting Churches*.

Hold the Date – Commencement is scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2:00 p.m. at Radio City Music Hall

Excerpts from “*Dracula the Vampire Play in Three Acts*” were performed by **Eric Bogosian** and introduced by renowned Gothic Horror and Dracula expert Professor **Richard Kaye** (English) on Mar. 8, at The Acorn Theater at Theatre Row.

Welcome, New Faculty

Mattia J. Gilmartin	Associate Professor, School of Nursing
Lorraine B. Sanders	Associate Professor, School of Nursing
Peggy Schuber	Assistant Professor, School of Nursing
Helen Werner	Assistant Professor, School of Nursing

Spotlight: Faculty Awards and Presentations

Suzanne Babyar-Rothbart (Physical Therapy) has been awarded the Burke Clinical Research in Stroke Award in recognition for her "efforts to quantify and treat" lateropulsion, which is found in 10% of stroke victims and characterized by pushing toward the weak side during static sitting or standing.

The U.S. Department of State announced on Mar. 2 that **Ellen Chesler** (Eleanor Roosevelt Initiative on Women and Public Policy) will be one of the four public delegates to the 53rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Susan E. Rice, will also be participating in CSW, providing Cabinet-rank representation to the Commission. For more information, visit <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/03/119931.htm>

Candice Jenkins' (English) book, *Private Lives, Proper Relations: Regulating Black Intimacy* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007) was awarded the Williams Sanders Scarborough Prize by the Modern Language Association (MLA) for an outstanding scholarly study of African American literature or culture. A photo of Jenkins receiving the award appears on the cover of the spring 2009 MLA Newsletter.

Beatrice Krauss (Center for Community and Urban Health) presented "Adolescent Males, Peer Pressure and Sexual Risk: Everyone Talks about Peer Pressure but Nobody Does Anything about It" on Mar. 9 at The New York Academy of Sciences. For more information, please visit <http://www.nyas.org/events>

Jeffrey Mongrain (Art) received the Silver Prize in the Korean Biennale, the leading international ceramic exhibition and competition attracting the world's largest group of fine quality ceramicists.

Tom Sleigh's (English) essay, "The Deeds" which appeared in the *Virginia Quarterly Review* (Summer 2008) has been selected for inclusion in the next *Best American Travel Writing*, (Houghton Mifflin, Oct. 2009) guest-edited by Simon Winchester.

In Print and On Air

In **Philip Alcabes'** (Urban Public Health) editorial in *The Washington Post*, "5 Myths about Pandemic Panic" (Mar.15), he disputes the hyped fear of an influenza pandemic. The five myths are: "1) Infectious diseases are spreading faster than ever. 2) To learn how to prevent a pandemic, look to the past. 3) We should brace ourselves for another Spanish flu. 4) The annual flu season is nothing compared to a pandemic. 5) There's no such thing as being too prepared."

Kelly Anderson (Film and Media Studies) and **Tom Angotti** (Urban Affairs and Planning) co-taught the class "Media, Community Advocacy and the Urban Environment," where they worked closely with their students -- one of whom, Sarah Friedland, was ranked #1 on the film magazine *The Independent's* list of "ten filmmakers to keep an eye out for in 2009." This class is part of Hunter's IMA/MFA program.

Jack Caravanos (Environmental Health) was quoted by Reuters on Feb. 18 in "Hunt Begins for World's Most Polluted Places," an article that describes the work of researchers in more than 80 developing countries to assess many of the world's dirtiest sites. Caravanos praises the work of Blacksmith (the New York-based nonprofit institute) "as doing what no other governmental

organization, NGO or nonprofit has ever even attempted.” He goes on to say that “having knowledge of the inventory is a first step in prioritizing the clean-up of waste sites.”

In *The New York Times* article “Calming the Voices that Scream ‘Shop!’” which focuses on the initially unseemly timing of the just-released film “Confessions of a Shopaholic” **Rebecca Connor** (English) believes that “It may seem like a bit of fluff, but it actually expresses a great deal of the ongoing cultural preoccupations and anxieties that have surrounded women and women’s association with consumption and shopping.” Connor goes on to say that “Right up to the present day, we have a culture tacitly or overtly encouraging women to shop in order to strengthen the economy. At the same time, we’ve always had male commentators denigrating women for their love of trinkets and their wasteful expenditures.”

Nancy Foner (Sociology) and students in her “The Peopling of New York” class were profiled in *The New York Times* (Mar. 16) and on NPR (Mar.17) in the article “Family Stories as Secret Text for Immigrants.” The students discussed learning about the sacrifices that their parents and relatives made for them when they came to the United States for better opportunities.

Marnia Lazreg’s (Sociology) book *Torture and the Twilight of Empire: From Algiers to Baghdad* (Princeton University Press, 2007) has been favorably reviewed in numerous publications, including the *Financial Times* (May 30, 2008); *Dagens Nyheter*, the Swedish equivalent of *The New York Times* (Mar. 10, 2008) and *Al Jazeera* (Apr. 16, 2008). By tracing the psychological, cultural, and political meanings of torture at the end of the French empire, Lazreg sheds new light on the United States and its recourse to torture in Iraq and Afghanistan. Lazreg, who was the keynote speaker at the 25th meeting of the Association of Third World Studies in Oct. 2008, was also filmed in New York by the Swedish Educational Television UR for a program that will air in Nov. 2009.

Julie Miller (History) was quoted on Feb. 16 in *The New York Times* article, “NYC Agency Plans to Mark 140 years of Adoptions,” which describes the sometimes painful evolution of child welfare and marks the history of the Foundling, the eminent organization that has arranged for more than 10,000 adoptions over the years. According to Miller, “The city and some religious groups ran similar institutions ... but the Foundling was notable for its willingness to take in any baby left on its doorstep.”

In the *U.S. News & World Report* article “Media Images of Alcohol Can Drive You to Drink, Scenes in Films, TV Commercials have Measurable Impact, Study Finds” (Mar. 4) **Jeffrey T. Parsons** (Psychology) responded to the findings of the study, conducted in Canada and the Netherlands, with: “It’s one of these things the majority of people have assumed to be the case, but it’s nice to have the empirical evidence.” He continued, “It (the study) was done just with young men, and there are a lot of differences in the role of gender and alcohol. It’s also a Dutch study that used American movies. Part of me wonders if it’s just bad American movies that make people drink.” And, he added, “The study isn’t the only new troubling data coming out on alcohol and alcohol abuse.”

It was reported in *The New York Times* (Mar. 13) that **Joachim Pissarro** (Art History) will write the introduction to the catalog of Sotheby’s upcoming exhibition, “Revealing Women Once Kept

Private.” Initially, the catalog was to be given only to top Sotheby clients; however, there is now a possibility that some copies may be for sale. The show, on view from April 2 to 14, in the 10th floor galleries at Sotheby’s headquarters on York Avenue, is a selected group of paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and photographs depicting women from the private collection of Steven and Alexandra Cohen of Greenwich, Connecticut. Open to the public and free of charge, the exhibition will feature works of such artists as Van Gogh, Matisse, Picasso, Modigliani, Rauschenberg and Lucien Freud.

Andrew Polsky (Political Science) was quoted twice in *The New York Times*, once in the article “Amid Gloom, Obama Pledges a Recovery” (Feb. 24) and once in “Obama Expected to Deliver a ‘Sober’ but Hopeful Address” (Feb. 25). He was also quoted in the *International Herald Tribune* as saying that “Despite his (Obama’s) overall popularity, President Obama faces deep skepticism about his programs among the American people. They see hundreds of billions of dollars being committed to stimulate the economy and prop up the financial sector, but they fear that the programs won’t work, and that they are rewarding many of the very culprits responsible for the mess.”

Diana Reiss (Psychology) was interviewed by Robert Krulwich, for Charles Gibson’s evening report on ABC World News, where she discussed her research on dolphins. The show, *Dolphins’ Delight: Bubble Fun*,” aired on Mar. 11.

William Solecki (CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities at Hunter College) was quoted in the *New York City Government Report on Climate Change That Predicts Higher Temperatures and Rising Sea Levels for New York City* as saying “In the coming decades, our coastal city will most likely face more rapidly rising sea levels and warmer temperatures, as well as potentially more droughts and floods, which will all have impacts on New York City’s critical infrastructure. Taking steps now to adapt these impacts will reduce their potential consequences in the future.”

Joseph Viteritti’s (Urban Affairs and Planning) commentary, “School Choice: Beyond the Numbers” published in 2000, was one of 15 featured in a 25-year archival review that appeared in *Education Week* on Feb. 25. The 15 chosen commentaries marked “the long progression of ideas” associated with various aspects of school reform over the past 25 years.

On the topic of the future of city schools and mayoral control of city schools, Viteritti (Urban Affairs and Planning) was quoted in

The Wall Street Journal article (Mar.9) “For More Mayors, School Takeovers Are a No-Brainer” as saying, “There’s no compelling evidence that mayoral control improves performance. Still, the arrangement can spark needed change in a troubled system.”

WNYC (Mar. 3) with Beth Fertig on “Fewer New York City Schools on State Watch List”

WXXI in Rochester, NY (Jan. 27) with Bob Smith on whether the Rochester schools should switch to mayoral control.

Must Reads: Faculty Publications

Philip Alcabes' (Urban Public Health) book *Dread: How Fear and Fantasy Have Fueled Epidemics from the Black Death to Avian Flu* will be published by Public Affairs Books in Apr. 2009. The book is a history of the response to epidemics in western society and an examination of the way we think about epidemic threats.

Victor Bobetsky (Music) is the author of *The Magic of Middle School Musicals: Inspire Your Students to Learn, Grow and Succeed*. Published by Rowman & Littlefield Education (December 2008), the book provides step-by-step approaches to planning and producing musicals.

Note: In the previous issue of Faculty News@Hunter, it was erroneously reported that Victor Bobetsky was a co-author of this book.

Bobetsky will be presenting a workshop for New York City music teachers, sponsored by the UFT and the Music Educators Association of NYC on helping teachers develop strategies for choosing and arranging choral music for middle school voices, with special attention on dealing with boys' changing voices. The workshop will be held from 5-7 pm at the United Federation of Teachers headquarters, 52 Broadway.

Jennifer Dowd (Urban Public Health), in collaboration with colleagues, has just had two articles published: "Early Origin of Health Disparities: Burden of Infection, Health and Socioeconomic Status in US Children" in *Social Science & Medicine* (Feb. 2009) and "Socioeconomic and Race/Ethnic Patterns in Persistent Infection Burden among U.S. Adults" in the *Journal of Gerontology* (Feb. 2009).

Lynne Greenberg (English) explores living with chronic pain in her new memoir, **The Body Broken** (Random House, Mar. 2009) in which she describes the incredible challenge of coping with constant pain and her remarkable spirit and resiliency. She appeared on ABC News, "Good Morning America" on Mar. 24. *The Body Broken* has been excerpted in *USA Today* (Jan. '09) and favorably reviewed in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* (Mar.22.)

Lina Newton's (Political Science) book "Illegal, Alien, or Immigrant: The Politics of Immigration Reform" has recently been published by New York University Press (2008). In her book, Newton carefully dissects the political debates over contemporary immigration reform. Beginning with a close look at the disputes of the 1980s and 1990s, she reveals how a shift in legislators' portrayals of illegal immigrants—from positive to overwhelmingly negative—facilitated the introduction and passing of controversial reforms.

In her new book, *AIDS, Sex, and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in Southern Africa* (Wiley-Blackwell, Feb. 2009) **Ida Susser** (Anthropology), who grew up in Africa, examines the impact of the AIDS epidemic on women on that continent.

Around Hunter: Upcoming Events

Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute - Public Programs, spring 2009

Aspen at Roosevelt House

“Leadership and the Economic Crisis: Two Evenings of Conversation”

Moderated by Leslie Stahl, correspondent for 60 Minutes and CBS News.

Speakers to be announced.

Tuesday, April 21 and

Monday, May 18

Program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Hunter College Assembly Hall

For information and to RSVP, email rhrsyp@hunter.cuny.edu (This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it or call 212-772-4007).

Co-sponsored by the Aspen Institute and the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College

“Building a New Health Care Program for America: A Public Forum on Health Care Reform”

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Reception 6:00 p.m., program begins 6:30 p.m.

Faculty Dining Room – West Building, 8th Floor

Speakers:

Ron Pollack, Founding Executive Director, Families USA

Dr. Kenneth Olden Founding Dean, CUNY School of Public health and Acting Dean, Schools of the Health Professions, Hunter College

Karen Ignagni, President and CEO, America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

Dr. John McDonough, Senior Advisor for National Health Reform, Office of Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Moderator: Dennis Rivera, former head of 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East and current leader of SEIU’s campaign for health care reform

For more information and to RSVP, please call 212-772-4007 or email rhrsyp@hunter.cuny.edu

Co-sponsored by the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute and the League of Women Voters - NYC

Spring 2009 Distinguished Writers Series

All readings take place in the Faculty Dining Room, Eighth Floor, West Building. Readings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Mary Karr

April 6

Known for her best-selling memoir, *The Liars Club*, Karr published a sequel, *Cherry*, and four volumes of poetry: *Abacus*, *The Devil's Tour*, *Viper Rum* and *Sinners Welcome*.

Mark Strand

April 20

Strand is an award-winning American poet, essayist and translator. He served as Poet Laureate of the United States, and his prizes include the Bollingen, the Pulitzer, three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Edgar Allen Poe Prize and several fellowships including a Fulbright. His many poetry collections include *Man and Camel* and *Blizzard of One* (Pulitzer Prize winner).

MFA Graduate Student Reading

May 4

Kamila Shamsie

May 6

A Pakistani novelist, Shamsie has written four novels: *In the City by the Sea*, *Salt and Saffron*, *Kartography* and *Broken Verses*. Her novels have won widespread critical acclaim and prestigious awards in the UK and Pakistan.

The announcements in this bulletin are drawn from faculty submissions to Hunter College Communications at News@Hunter.cuny.edu and do not necessarily reflect all of the activities, publications and awards of Hunter College faculty. Please submit future information to News@Hunter.cuny.edu