



# HUNTER

SUMMER '09

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*THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE*

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

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

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

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

The achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni have not gone unnoticed—certainly not by President Obama [page 4], by the mystery donor behind our \$5 million contribution [page 3], or by the Community Trust, whose \$40 million gift for our new School of Social Work building in East Harlem is the largest single gift in CUNY history [page 11]. Add to that the forthcoming grand re-opening of Roosevelt House, where our Institute of Public Policy at Hunter College will continue its many popular discussions, seminars, and series [page 8]—not to mention the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College—and it is clear that Hunter is set to become one of the world's premier 21<sup>st</sup>-century public colleges.

It just goes to show: A lot can happen in eight years.

# Anonymous Donor Gives \$5 Million to Hunter

A mystery donor has given Hunter College \$5 million—one of the largest gifts in the College's history.

The donation arrived from an anonymous source along with a bank letter asking that \$4 million be used to fund scholarships for under-represented minority students and



▲ Scholarship recipient Adom Martin, MSHS '09, will enter Hunter in September.

Jennifer J. Raab's discretionary fund. That money will be used for a number of improvements to the library.

Adom Martin, who graduated from Manhattan Hunter Science High School (MHSHS) in June, will attend Hunter on a four-year scholarship made possible by the anonymous gift.

"That's a lot of money for a mystery person to donate," Martin said. "I'm very grateful."

The gift will also fund a four-year, merit-based scholarship for Stuyvesant High School graduate Jennifer Budhan, who will enter Hunter in the fall.

"It's a big relief," said Budhan. "Economic times are difficult. I wouldn't be able to attend Hunter if it weren't for this scholarship."

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

According to national news reports, more than \$70 million has been given by an unnamed donor to 14 colleges and universities from coast to coast. All of the recipients are institutions headed by female presidents. The



▲ Rendering of the future Hunter Library reading room designed by ROGERS MARVEL ARCHITECTS. The renovation will be funded in part by the anonymous gift.

story has been covered by ABC News, The Associated Press, *The New York Times* and others, and is slated to air on "The Today Show."

One stipulation attached to the gift was that no effort be made to determine the identity of the benefactor. President Raab said that, though she

is happy to respect the request, she hopes the donor knows "how truly grateful everyone at Hunter is for this unprecedented contribution."

"It will literally change students' lives," she said. "Thank you" hardly begins to express our appreciation."

# Hunter In Top 10 National 'Best Value' Ranking of Public Universities

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

*The Princeton Review* selected its "best value" institutions for 2009 based on surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 public and private colleges and universities. The selection criteria covered more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, costs of attendance, and financial aid. Tallies were made using data from each institution for its

2007-08 academic year. Of the 50 schools chosen in each "best value" category (public and private), the top 10 are ranked in order, and the remaining 40 are listed alphabetically.

Noted *The Princeton Review*: "For many New Yorkers seeking a college degree, Hunter College within the CUNY system offers the best, most affordable option available. It is the first choice among many applicants... Hunter has a lot to offer beyond its minuscule tuition. The school's faculty is a huge asset, for one. Students agree that professors are expert and that they work hard to

accommodate undergraduates. Location is another major plus, as New York City is a virtually limitless source of valuable internship opportunities."

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

Indeed, many concur that the



▲ The *New York Post* applauds Hunter's #8 ranking.

present economy will bring greater attention to this year's "Best Values" list than to those in years past.

# Obama Appoints Hunter Alumni To Key Government Posts

## ADOLFO CARRIÓN (MUP '90) NAMED DIRECTOR OF URBAN AFFAIRS



Photo: The White House/Pete Souza

▲ President Obama meets with Adolfo Carrión in the Oval Office on March 2, 2009, regarding the creation of the Office of Urban Affairs.

President Barack Obama has appointed Hunter alumnus Adolfo Carrión Jr., Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs. This newly created office is charged with developing a strategy for metropolitan America and to ensure that all federal dollars targeted to urban areas are effectively spent on the highest-impact programs. Carrión, who received his master's in urban planning from Hunter, will report directly to the president and coordinate all federal urban programs.

Before his appointment, Carrión served two terms as Bronx Borough President and one term as the President of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Carrión said Hunter was a strong launching point for his career. "Hunter's urban planning program prepared me to be where I am today, working with President Obama to strengthen America's cities and

metropolitan areas. Looking back, I can appreciate the depth and breadth of the experience there, and its impact on my career decisions in politics and public service." Hunter's practice of engaging students in internships and workshops "gave me a leg up," he added.

As Bronx Borough President, Carrión oversaw the creation of 40,000 new units of housing in seven years, 50 new schools, \$7 billion in capital and infrastructure expenditures, and over \$400 million in new parks and parkland renovation. Prior to serving as Borough President, Carrión was elected to the New York City Council, worked as an urban planner at the NYC Department of City Planning, and taught in New York City public schools.

## JARED BERNSTEIN (MSW '86) IS BIDEN'S CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR

Vice President Joseph Biden has named Jared Bernstein (MSW '86) as his chief economic policy advisor.

"Jared Bernstein is an acclaimed economist and a proven, passionate advocate for raising the incomes of middle-class families," Biden said. "His expertise and background in a wide range of domestic and international economic policies will be an invaluable asset to the Obama-Biden Administration."



Bernstein is an expert in income disparity, low-wage labor markets, and poverty issues. During the Clinton Administration, from 1995 to 1996, he was deputy chief economist for the Department of Labor.

Bernstein says he has great memories of Hunter. "Some of my most meaningful and lasting experiences came from the casework and group work I did," Bernstein wrote in an email. "I vividly remember my first cases, and while I fear I didn't help [the clients] much, I can absolutely assert that they helped me learn, firsthand, about the social and economic injustices they faced."

"Today, I'm amazingly fortunate to be able to address those injustices at the highest level of government. I wouldn't be here had I not started on this path at the Hunter School of Social Work."

Bernstein said he fondly recalls Professor Emeritus George Getzel and the late Professor Roselle Kurland. "The values they imparted are with me today," Bernstein said.

"HSSW was where I first started making connections between micro and macro, between the challenges less advantaged people face in their everyday lives and the larger policy environment in which they live. My professors were consistently interested in both. The models we learned about were never person-centric, but they never got too abstract, leaving the person behind."

A CNBC commentator, Bernstein has written *Crunch: Why Do I Feel So Squeezed? (And Other Unsolved Economic Mysteries)* and *All Together Now: Common Sense for a Fair Economy*.

## LORELEI BOYLAN (BA '98) CHOSEN FOR TOP LABOR DEPT. POST



▲ Lorelei Boylan (l) stands with her boss, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

Citing a distinguished record of fighting for the rights of low-wage workers, President Obama nominated Lorelei Boylan for Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division in the U.S. Department of Labor.

"She is awesome," said Secretary of Labor and Boylan's new boss Hilda Solis, speaking at Hunter's graduation in May. Boylan, who is originally from Peru, previously held positions at the New York State Department of Labor, where she supervised a special unit investigating worker exploitation and spearheaded

the Bureau of Immigrant Workers' Rights. She also served as a New York assistant attorney general after graduating from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

"I really loved my time at Hunter," she said. "It was expected that we would work hard for our degrees, and that we were capable. It is a place ripe for learning."

"Hunter represents what New York City is about. It's a place where you go to work hard. If you work hard, you will meet your goals."

## JOHN SEPÚLVEDA (BA '77) TO SERVE AS ASST. SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Photo: Emerson Sanders/Veterans Administration

President Obama selected John U. Sepúlveda to serve as Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the second-largest federal agency. The Senate confirmed the nomination in May.

Sepúlveda will advise Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki on human resources policy. A major goal is to open

jobs in the agency to women, minorities, people with disabilities, and veterans themselves.

"The veterans we serve are, indeed, diverse, and we need a department that is equally diverse, and sensitive to the needs of that diverse community," Sepúlveda said.

Sepúlveda served as deputy director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management during the Clinton administration. Early in his career, he taught political science at Hunter and at Yale, where he earned two master's degrees.

But, Sepúlveda said, "Hunter is where I developed my love for public service." It is also where he met his wife of 28 years, Awilda Rodriguez-Sepúlveda.

"Hunter is where it all started."

## HUNTER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL



Photo: The White House / Chuck Kennedy

▲ Dr. Patricia Bath (BA '64) stands behind President Obama as he signs the Stem Cell Executive Order and Presidential Memorandum of Scientific Integrity, lifting the ban on federal funding for stem cell research. Bath and several other renowned scientists were invited to the White House for the historic March 9th signing. "It was a singular and momentous honor to meet our President," she said. Bath is the first African-American female doctor to patent a medical device — a laser probe used in cataract surgery.

# Hunter Celebrates Its 199<sup>th</sup> Commencement



▲ U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis told Hunter graduates to dream big.

At Hunter's 199th Commencement ceremony on May 28th at Radio City Music Hall, U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis urged the 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students to work hard to pursue goals and to find a passion in life, a "fire in the belly," that inspires them. "The best things in life are the ones you work the hardest to get," Solis said.

Solis said she was proud to represent the Obama Administration at Hunter and was impressed with its graduates. "You represent a new light, a new hope for the planet," she told the packed crowd.

Solis talked about her parents, factory union workers in her home state of California. When Solis graduated high school, a counselor told her mother she "was not college material," and said she should consider becoming a secretary.

"I never thought I'd be so happy" to have the title, said the Labor Secretary.

Solis announced President Obama's \$31 million in assistance for dislocated workers, \$250 million for health care careers and information technology, and \$500 million for creation of "green collar jobs." "It's all about ideas, innovation, and education," she said. "We want Hunter College to be right in the center of that. Hunter College Class of 2009, I have great expectations for you," Solis added.

Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab conferred an honorary doctorate of laws on Sheila Birnbaum (BA '60, MA '62), a corporate lawyer named one of the best attorneys in the United States and one of the most influential women in business in New York City.

Birnbaum, the daughter of Russian immigrants, grew up "on the streets of the Bronx." She was the first in her family to attend college and says she never met an attorney, but wanted to

become one. "I learned here at Hunter that I could do it," she said. She encouraged the graduates: "We are counting on you to make a difference. It's time we rededicate ourselves to public education and public service."

Also honored at the ceremony was Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, who received the President's Medal.

"The world has become what CUNY is," Stringer said. "People have struggles. You are the future of this planet and the future of America. We need to work to protect people who don't have a voice."

City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said it is a critical time for graduates to enter the workforce. "Our city needs your talents and your tenacity as much as ever," Goldstein said. "Don't be discouraged. You are tougher and made of sturdier stuff. Dig deep to create your own path. Embrace the responsibility. You will always have the support of this great university behind you."



▲ Skadden Arps law partner Sheila Birnbaum (BA '60, MA '62) receives an honorary doctorate of laws.



▲ Hunter Foundation Trustees Carole Olshan (l) and Klara Silverstein (r) join President Raab and CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein at graduation.

## Heads of the Class



▲ Valedictorians of the Class of '09: Jorge Baquero (l), Corinne Vidulich, and Alex Kohen

They are from New York, San Francisco, and Colombia. Among them, they graduated with seven majors, from biology to political science to environmental studies. One will earn a medical degree, another a law degree, and the third a PhD. They all took wildly different paths to get to Hunter, but they are leaving with one thing in common: the title of Class of 2009 Valedictorian.

Jorge Baquero, Corinne Vidulich, and Alex Kohen each earned a 3.983 GPA — and no matter how many efforts were made to break the tie, it simply could not be done. But, as President Jennifer J. Raab said at commencement, "the more the merrier," so all three graduates were recognized equally for their outstanding success.

For any immigrant with limited English skills, earning a degree from

an American college is an enormous achievement. But for Baquero, becoming valedictorian was nothing new. After his parents sent him as a child to the U.S. to escape political unrest in Colombia, he attended a high school for non-English-speakers, and there too he graduated first in his class. At Hunter, still struggling with imperfect English, Baquero majored in both chemistry and environmental studies, and he will pursue a PhD in biochemistry en route to becoming an optometrist.

Vidulich was standing tall as a professional ballet dancer when, at age 25, insurmountable injuries brought that dream to a sudden end. Starting again from scratch, she came to Hunter, wondering what to do with her life — until a biology class she took to fulfill a basic science prerequisite provided an answer. She soon became one

of Hunter's top young scientists and was invited to conduct cancer research in faculty labs. She will continue her research until she applies to medical school next year, with plans to become an immunologist or an ob/gyn.

Kohen is a graduate of Hunter College High School as well as Hunter College — and he would likely be headed to Hunter College Law School if such a place existed. Instead, he will start his first year at NYU Law School in the fall, where he is sure to add to his record of success. A Macaulay Honors student, Kohen was also a rare triple major, excelling in his fields of political science, urban studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies, all while serving in the Undergraduate Student Government, including a term as president.

## Ugly Betty's "Dad" Inspires Hunter Grads



Actor Tony Plana made a surprise visit to address Hunter graduates and their families at Hunter's commencement. The Cuban-born actor, who stars as Ignacio on ABC's *Ugly Betty*, said his life's story reflects the stories of so many Hunter graduates. Plana immigrated to the United States from Havana as a child, spoke little English, and struggled through school.

Plana, who drew laughs from the crowd, said the fear of eating SPAM for the rest of his life "propelled me to great heights." He became a straight-A student and decided he would like to pursue a career in acting. He said his parents wanted him to pursue a more traditional profession and pleaded with him, "¿Por qué, por qué?"

"Dare to dream," Plana told the 3,000 graduates. "Dream big, dream difficult, dream challenging. Find something that makes you want to get up in the morning."

# As Opening of Roosevelt House Nears, Programs Are Already Up and Running

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

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

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

The depth and seriousness of

Roosevelt House's up-and-running programs were on prominent display during the spring in a series titled "Leadership and the Economic Crisis: Two Evenings of Conversation."

The first event, held in April, saw WNYC's Brian Lehrer moderating a discussion between Niall Ferguson, who holds professorships in both history and business at Harvard, and Jeff Madrick, a senior fellow in economic policy analysis at the New School and a visiting professor at Cooper Union. Their topic: "How Did We Get Here? The Roots of the Economic Crisis."

In May, a second discussion, moderated by CBS's Lesley Stahl, brought together Daniel Gross, Felix Rohatyn, and Robert K. Steel to explore the question, "What Next? Bringing the American Economy Back to Life." Gross is a senior editor at *Newsweek*. Rohatyn is a financier who played a

prominent role during New York City's fiscal crisis of the mid-'70s and served as U.S. ambassador to France in the '90s. Steel is a former CEO of Wachovia and former undersecretary of the Treasury who serves as chair-

man of the Aspen Institute, which collaborated with Roosevelt House in sponsoring this series.



▲ Neil Janovic and Tracey Riese, Foundation Board Members, don hard hats for a tour of Roosevelt House, currently under construction.

man of the Aspen Institute, which collaborated with Roosevelt House in sponsoring this series.

The month of May also brought a discussion about health care reform in America. Labor leader Dennis Rivera served as moderator, and the participants included Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA; Kenneth Olden, acting dean of Hunter's School of Health Professions; Karen Ignagni, President and CEO of America's Health Insurance Plans; and John McDonough, a senior advisor on health issues to Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

The spring 2009 programs sustained the high standard set by

presidential advisor David Gergen.

Roosevelt House's fall 2009 and spring 2010 events are still being organized, but a significant academic program for undergraduates has already been announced. The Hunter faculty has created a new interdisciplinary curriculum in public policy that will enable Hunter students to earn a minor, or more advanced certificate, in the field. The Program in Public Policy at Roosevelt House has been approved by the New York State Education Department and expects to begin enrolling students in spring 2010. The faculty is also developing a similar interdisciplinary curriculum



▲ (l-r) Blanche Wiesen Cook ('62), Sheryl WuDunn, Richard Goldstone, and Rita Hauser ('54) at a discussion marking the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

leading to a minor or certificate in the field of human rights. The Human Rights Program is expected to be up and running by fall 2011. These academic programs are inspired by Franklin Roosevelt's deep interest in public policy and Eleanor Roosevelt's long and courageous support for human rights.

Roosevelt House, located at 47-49 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, has been an integral part of Hunter since 1943, when Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated it to the college. For the next five decades it was a center for social and academic events, and many Hunter students were married

in front of its downstairs fireplace.

When its current renovation is finished, it will reopen as an institute dedicated to honoring and sustaining the Roosevelts' legacy of advancing public policy and public service. In the words of President Jennifer J. Raab, it will serve as "the domestic version of the Council on Foreign Relations."

To make a contribution to Roosevelt House, click on the "Support Us" box at [www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu](http://www.roosevelthouse.hunter.cuny.edu) or contact Fay Rosenfeld at 212.650.3154 or [fay.rosenfeld@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:fay.rosenfeld@hunter.cuny.edu).



▲ (l-r) Dennis Rivera, Karen Ignagni, John McDonough, and Ron Pollack address the current state of health care reform.

## Roosevelt House Launches Film Series

To kick off its collaboration with the Creative Coalition — the premier nonprofit, non-partisan social and political advocacy organization of the entertainment industry — the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter hosted a screening of director John Sayles' 2007 film *Honeydripper*. It was the first of a series of policy-related films the two organizations will bring to new audiences at Hunter. Sayles and his long-time production partner, Maggie Renzi, introduced the film and participated in a post-screening discussion, led by Robin Bronk, executive director of the Creative Coalition, and Robert Baruc, president of Screen Media Films, the distributor of the *Honeydripper* DVD.

*Honeydripper* chronicles the struggles of a 1950's Alabama blues club owner trying to keep his club alive in the rock 'n roll era. It was filmed with Sayles' and Renzi's own money and shot in five weeks — nothing new for Sayles, who to many became the "godfather" of independent cinema after making his first film, *Return of the Secaucus 7*, for \$40,000 in 1980.

Since then, Sayles has directed 15 feature films and written or acted in many more. His original screenplays for *Passion Fish* and *Lone Star* earned him Academy Award nominations. He is also a published author of fiction, with three novels to his credit.

"Movies are a part of the conversation — or should be. The first 50 years of motion pictures were really bad for race relations — full of underlined and exaggerated racial differences and stereotypes." But, he added, things improved. "I don't think you get Obama winning the presidency without a good 20 or 25 years of white kids growing up with heroes both in sports and movies who are African-American. It's a matter of just getting used to the idea of a black man being the boss of white people."

For Sayles and Renzi, the current state of moviemaking is defined by paradox. "It's cheaper than ever to make a movie," said Sayles. "It's more democratic, the equipment is cheaper. But it's almost impossible for most of those movies to get a theatrical distribution, or any distribution at all. It's a really bad time if you're a second- or third-time filmmaker, but it's a really good time if you're a first-time filmmaker and nobody on your movie expects to get paid."

Despite their ambivalence, Sayles and Renzi still view moviemaking as



▲ (l to r) Robert Baruc, Jennifer J. Raab, Maggie Renzi, John Sayles, Robin Bronk, Michael Frankfurt ('57)

full of the potential to open minds. Institutions like the Creative Coalition and Hunter College play a valuable role in keeping movies alive and spreading the word, according to Renzi.

"Hunter is an incredibly important institution. We have lots of friends who graduated from here, and we can't wait to see Roosevelt House. Eleanor Roosevelt is a magic name," Renzi said.

The next film in the series, *Mary Lambert's 14 Women*, is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

To purchase a *Honeydripper* DVD, go to [www.Screenmediafilms.net/hunter](http://www.Screenmediafilms.net/hunter). A portion of the proceeds will support Roosevelt House.



▲ *60 Minutes* correspondent Lesley Stahl hosts an economic forum with Felix Rohatyn (l), Robert Steel, and Daniel Gross (r).

# HUNTER STUDENTS REACH FOR THE SUN: Initiative Designed To Tap Solar Power

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

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

With support from Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab, Hunter's Auxiliary Enterprise Board, Undergraduate Student Government, and the Hunter Sustainability Council, the Solar Project raised \$35,000 and plans to install the solar power panels this summer. Through the Clinton Global Initiative, the Project also received a \$4,000 grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation. Students will be hired to serve as guides to the solar energy system, where they can run lab tests and collect data. The panels will be placed on the 16th floor roof terrace, near the Weather Station, which is operated by the Geography Department. "This solar power system and the educational program around it will help prepare Hunter students for leadership roles in the emerging green economy. They'll



▲ The student-run Solar Project plans to install solar panels on top of the North Building to harvest as much solar radiation as possible. Hunter student Sophia Leung ('10) created this rendering.

have skills and knowledge that other students don't have," Ginsburg said.

Environmentalists estimate that New York City could get as much as one-third of its energy from the sun by 2022. But the potential remains largely untapped today, according to a 2006 report by the City University of New York Center for Sustainable Energy.

When the weather is sunny, the panels can generate up to 3 kilowatts of power for Hunter. This is equal to the energy consumption of 100 30-watt light bulbs, Ginsburg said. The panels are expected to last 40 years, he added.

Geography graduate student George Pigeon, a city bike tour guide and member of the Hunter Solar Project, is mapping the solar potential of New York City rooftops for his graduate thesis. The project is part of CUNY's Million Solar Roofs Initiative, launched in 2005 in partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy. CUNY has set a target of 500 solar roofs installed citywide by 2010. The program is managed by the Center for Sustainable Energy at Bronx Community College. Pigeon is using airplane images to map the city's rooftop area to determine potential

locations for solar panels.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legislature provided an additional \$80 million for construction.

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

about enhancing communities and the people in them. To have a community in which to work, that needs us and wants us, and which we need and want — it's a synergistic moment. We're very excited about it."

Some 97 percent of the school's students come from New York City, and most work in the city after

an art gallery, and an Internet café.

The new facility will allow the school to increase its current enrollment of 850 master's students and 100 doctoral candidates.

"We are grateful to CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, whose leadership and support made this building possible," said Hunter President

*HUNTER  
ON THE MOVE*



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

The new building is scheduled to open in September 2011.

The school will be renamed the Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College after the project's benefactors, who also built and own the current HCSSW building on 79th Street. The new \$135 million building will be located between 118th St. and 119th St. on Third Avenue. The N.Y. State

School of Social Work Dean Jacqueline Mondros called the move "perfect for the school," whose national prominence has risen along with its reputation for training top-flight social workers. The community will benefit from the presence of the school, Mondros said, while the school will benefit from Harlem.

"It's a chance to live our mission," Mondros added. "Social work is all

graduation, Mondros said.

"We're not an ivory tower. We're interested in being good neighbors and good partners."

The new building will use natural light to enhance energy efficiency. Its facilities will surround an inner courtyard and include patios and gathering spaces. The ground floor will be designed to engage the community with sidewalk access,

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

# HAPPENINGS AT HUNTER

SPRING '09



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



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



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



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



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



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

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



# Alumni Birthday Luncheon

May 2, 2009



▲ (l-r) Rose Polay, May Wallace, Bernice Pincus, and Helen Siegel review a copy of their yearbook and reminisce about the Class of '39 with Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.



▲ Members of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing Class of 1974 reunite after 35 years.



▲ Harriet Gruber ('51) and Edith Karliner ('39) arrive together at the Birthday Luncheon.



▲ Young alums Alicia Siebenaler ('99), Mary Kate Cudahy ('04), and Don O'Keefe ('99) enjoy seeing one another at the Luncheon.



▲ Shirley Whitney ('59) and President Raab visit with sisters Barbara ('53) and Shirley ('56) Scott.



▲ Singer Elaine Sternfeld Bernstein ('59) regales the group with "God Bless America."



▲ Robert Kuhner (l) and Allen Klein (r), both members of the Class of '59, flank President Raab.

## ➤ Hunter Hall of Fame MVPs ➤



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

After Erwin graduated from Hunter, she worked in advertising and earned a master's degree in public law and government at Columbia University. She began working at Hunter in the late 1960s, overseeing the Centennial Fund, after which Robert Cross, the Hunter College President at the time, appointed her as his assistant.

Erwin left Hunter to serve as chief development officer for the Columbia University College of Pharmacy. She attended the Harvard University Institute of Educational Management before returning to CUNY in various posts, eventually becoming vice president for finance and administration at Brooklyn College.

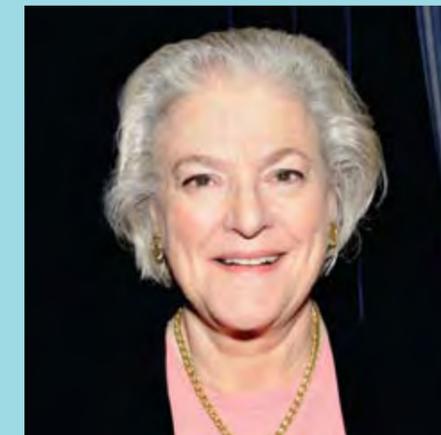
Erwin served as secretary on Hunter's Board of Directors of the Alumni Association. She was a member of the Hall of Fame Committee from 1985 to 1987 and from 2005 to 2007, serving as chair in 2007.



**Norman Goldsmith's (BS '59)** career in scientific research has helped bring about many technological innovations that enhance our everyday modern world, including HDTV. For his outstanding contributions in research and technology, he was honored with the Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement.

The practical applications of Goldsmith's award-winning research extend from computers to space stations. The scientist graduated from Hunter *cum laude*, with honors in chemistry, when the computer chip was only five years old. He began working for RCA as a chemist and developed manufacturing methods for silicon still in use by the industry. In 1973 he won the RCA Laboratories Outstanding Achievement Award.

Goldsmith helped develop a cleaning method that dramatically improved the yield of computer chips. The discovery remains the cornerstone of the computer chip cleaning process, known as RCA Clean. For his innovation, Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International awarded him the SEMI Award, the industry's equivalent of the Oscar, in 1997. RCA Laboratories became Sarnoff Corporation in 1987. Goldsmith remains there and has no intention of retiring. Among the many projects he has managed is the development of the essential features of HDTV and DirecTV. He holds five patents in the United States.



**Theodosea Hejda Silas (BA '59)** was honored with the Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Community Service. Since she graduated *cum laude* with a degree in art, Silas has worked in New York as a teacher, writer, and magazine editor. She was a board member of the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy and a governor-appointed member of the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

Silas was one of the founders and the first president of what is now the Price Tower Arts Center. She continues to serve as a trustee and co-chair of the Center's acquisitions committee. Silas also helped to establish the OK Mozart International Festival, a 10-day summer music festival now in its 20th year.

She has been active on the boards of numerous organizations in her hometown, including the Allied Arts and Humanities Council, The Bartlesville Civic Ballet, and Women and Children in Crisis. She served on the founding board of directors of the Bartlesville Public School Foundation. Along with her husband, Pete, a retired chairman and chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Company, Silas established the Silas Foundation in 1991 to support arts and education.

Silas received the Decoration of Merit in Gold from Austria for her work with OK Mozart. Together with her husband, she received the Bartlesville Allied Arts and Humanities Council's Distinguished Community Service Award in 1994 and the Governor's Arts Award – Special Recognition, in 2000.

# SEVENTEEN HONOREES ARE INDUCTED INTO THE 2009 Hunter Hall of Fame

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

By combining talents in physics and law, **Sandra D. Brown (BA/MA '94)** has engaged in patent procurement, client counseling, and litigation support for the international law firm of Jones Day. She seeks domestic and international patents for inventions in carbon nanotubes, spectroscopic systems, liquid crystal displays, and mechanical devices. Her areas of expertise include preparation of invalidity, non-infringement, freedom-to-operate opinions, and due diligence for patent licensing. In 2000, Brown became the sixth African-American woman to earn a PhD in physics from MIT.

**Joan Glade de Pontet (MSW '77)** is a charismatic community service leader whose career culminated at the Jewish Social Service Agency of Metropolitan Washington (JSSA). During her 15-year tenure as executive director, JSSA opened a hospice; created a Department of Jewish Vocational Services; expanded services for the aging, children, and teenagers; and initiated a Holocaust survivors' program.

**Salvatore Galatioto (BA '74)** is president of Galatioto Sports Partners (GSP), one of the leading firms in the sports advisory and finance business. Before forming GSP, Galatioto was founder, managing director, and head of the

Lehman Brothers' Sports Advisory & Finance Group, responsible for corporate finance and advisory functions related to the sports industry. Key clients include owners and managers of the Mets, Nets, Giants, and Yankees.

A pioneer in the field of proteomics, **Ira Goldknopf (BA '67)** holds a Hunter degree in chemistry with minors in physics and math. When he was working as an assistant professor of pharmacology at Baylor College of Medicine, Goldknopf and Harris Busch made the earliest proteomic discovery, revealing the Ubiquitin Conjugation System, now known to play a major role in regulatory functions of health and disease at the cellular level. Goldknopf is founder and chief scientific officer of Power3 Medical Products, Inc. His team discovered tests for early detection of breast cancer and early diagnosis of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and ALS.

**Charles Norman Inniss (BA '58)** has been the voice for pediatricians in Detroit for more than three decades. Inniss served as chief of the Department of Pediatrics for Model Neighborhoods, the first federally funded HMO in Michigan. He served as a consultant for the National Institutes of Health and sat on the Board of Directors at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan. His many awards include a Meritorious Award for service to the pediatric department of Mt. Carmel Hospital and a National Defense Medal from the U.S. Navy.

**Marc Kaminsky (MSW '79)** is a psychotherapist in private practice and an accomplished poet and writer. The founder and former co-director of the Institute on Humanities, Arts and Aging at the Brookdale Center on Aging, and the founding director of the Artists and Elders Project at Teachers and Writers Collaborative, he has received many fel-

lowships and grants, and was writer-in-residence for the National Endowment for the Arts. His long narrative poem, *The Road from Hiroshima*, aired on National Public Radio; the production won the 1983 Art of Peace Award.

After graduating from Hunter, **Maureen O'Shaughnessy Kennedy (BSN '71)** worked in Bellevue Hospital's Emergency Department. Through the years, she has worked as a clinical nurse specialist, taught as an adjunct, and developed educational programs and conferences. She is now editorial director for the American Journal of Nursing, the leading nursing journal worldwide. In 2008, AJN was awarded second place by the Association of Health Care Journalists for reporting on violence in nursing. The publication has won many distinctions under Kennedy's leadership.

**Nettie Sherr Kitzes (BA '40)** has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a foreign-language teacher in public high schools in Wisconsin, New Jersey, Ohio, and Maryland. In the 1940s, Kitzes taught French, Spanish, German, Latin, English, and Morse Code. Kitzes graduated from Hunter *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa. She was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study the teaching of French at the Sorbonne. She was awarded her degree with "Mention Très Honorable."

Musicologist **Chana Gordon Mlotek (BA '46)** played a central role in the revival of Yiddish music in North America. She is currently music archivist at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Mlotek and her late husband, Joseph Mlotek, pioneered the restoration of Yiddish music and poetry, tracking down scores and lyrics and providing historical accounts. They discovered

Hasidic and liturgical pieces, ballads, shtetl songs, theater music, and operettas. The novelist Isaac Bashevis Singer dubbed them the "Sherlock Holmeses of Yiddish folk songs."

**Henry Johnson Pruitt (BA '56)** has made extraordinary contributions to the field of education as a public school teacher and principal, a college instructor, and a community leader. From 1976 to 1994, he was a middle-school principal in the Englewood Public Schools, and he has taught at City College and Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is a mentor for aspiring principals at the New Jersey Department of Education, and the president of the Teaneck Board of Education.

**Julie Ross (BA '83)** has had an extraordinary career in law and corporate finance. She was a partner at Morrison & Foerster LLP, an international law firm, and a director at UBS Warburg. She co-produced the Tony Award-nominated Broadway revival of *Damn Yankees*, starring Bebe Neuwirth, and was instrumental in founding the Hunter College Pre-Law Advisory Program, in which undergraduates work for top legal practitioners. Ross and her husband, Mark Ladner, established a fellowship for students interested in working for nonprofit or government agencies.

A nationally recognized leader in diabetes education and clinical management, **Jane Jeffrie Seley (MSN '98)** is a nurse practitioner at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell. She was appointed in 2006 to the National Academies of Practice as a Distinguished Practitioner of Nursing. Seley has mentored countless nurses and teaches at New York University and Hunter-Bellevue Schools of Nursing.

She is widely published and appears on radio and television to talk about diabetes. She has won many awards, including three Service Awards from the American Diabetes Association.

**Gary Shteyngart (MFA '02)**, the great-great-grandson of Russian writer Nikolai Gogol, was born in Leningrad and came to the United States when he was seven. His debut novel, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, was praised as an hilarious observation of the immigrant experience, and was named a *New York Times* Notable Book and a "best book of the year" by *The Washington Post* and *Entertainment Weekly*. His second novel, *Absurdistan*, was chosen as one of *The New York Times* Best Books of 2006. His work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and other magazines.

President of the Roslyn Targ Literary Agency, **Roslyn Targ (BA '48)** is a force in the literary world and has brought the work of modern American authors to European readers for over 50 years. After graduating from Hunter, she worked for the literary agency of Franz J. Horch, where she specialized in foreign publication contracts for American authors including J.D. Salinger and F. Scott Fitzgerald. After many successful deals, Targ bought the agency and became its president in 1970. She has published many famous and successful authors and titles.

**James Winkler (BSN '78)** has demonstrated leadership as a clinician, administrator, and entrepreneur. After a stint in the military, Winkler was a New York City firefighter during the 1970s. He entered the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing and went on to the burn unit at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. Over time he specialized in burn care, published scholarly papers, and presented at academic conferences globally. Winkler and his wife, Mary, operate a health care data-processing business.



▲ (l-r from top) 1. Norma Alexander Abdulah 2. Sandra D. Brown 3. Joan Glade de Pontet 4. Salvatore Galatioto 5. Ira Goldknopf 6. Charles Norman Inniss 7. Marc Kaminsky 8. Maureen O' Shaughnessy Kennedy 9. Nettie Sherr Kitzes 10. Chana Gordon Mlotek 11. Henry Johnson Pruitt 12. Julie Ross 13. Jane Jeffrie Seley 14. Gary Shteyngart 15. Roslyn Targ 16. James Winkler

**Bertha Osheroff Weiss (BA '29)**, who earned a degree in mathematics and physics when she was 19 years old, died in early May at age 98. Ever the proud Hunter alumna, she asked to be buried in her favorite purple suit. At the time of her graduation, few women went to college and the job market was bleak. Weiss married a family doctor, had two sons, and taught math to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders in New York City public schools for 50 years, writing math textbooks that are still being used in classrooms today. Weiss spent the

first seven years of her career as a teacher-in-training and permanent substitute at Richmond Hill High in Queens. Later she taught at an all-boys junior high school in Harlem and a junior high in Brooklyn. She also served as a junior high school mathematics coordinator for the Bureau of Curriculum Development. The Bay Harbor, Fla. chapter of Hadassah named her Woman of the Year in 2001 for her numerous contributions beyond the classroom. Weiss was inducted into the Hunter Hall of Fame a week before her death.



## Cohn Inducted Into National Women's Hall of Fame



The National Women's Hall of Fame has inducted biochemist Dr. Mildred Cohn (BS '31). Named to the prestigious group in March, Cohn has published over 160 scientific articles, covering research on isotopes, ATP, and oxidative phosphorylation, and advanced the understanding of how metabolism works. She worked in the laboratories of six Nobel laureates, co-authored scientific papers with them, and was among the first to apply electron spin and nuclear magnetic resonance to investigate metabolism. Born in 1913, Cohn graduated from high school at 14. She was the first woman appointed to the board of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, and served as the editor for ten years. She is a recipient of the National Medal of Science and holds honorary doctorates from nine universities.

## CLASS NOTES

### 1920s

**Ethel Garfunkel Berl (BA '27)** celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday on May 1. For 47 years, from 1927 to 1974, Berl was a professor in Hunter's Department of Educational Foundations & Counseling Programs, and a practicing psychologist in New York City.

### 1950s

Geneticist **Winifred Doane (BA '50)** was one of eight honored for "commitment to the achievement of equity for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics" by the Association for Women in Science. Doane is a professor emerita at Arizona State University and is credited with finding the "skinny gene," a gene that researchers believe spurs obesity or thinness.

**Helene Berman (BA '51)** was featured in a one-woman art show at the public library in East Meadow, N.Y. Berman's award-winning paintings have appeared on a variety of magazine covers and have been shown in galleries throughout the country.

**Harriet E. Phillips (BA '51)** received a plaque signaling her new status as an honorary member of the Society of Animal Artists, Inc. The plaque recognizes Phillips for many years of outstanding service as a signature member and officer of the Society.

### 1960s

Artist **Linda Francis (BA '65, MFA '69)** exhibited new paintings at Mi-

nus Space in Brooklyn in February. She presented a group of paintings conceived as a single work. Francis has exhibited nationally and internationally in solo and group shows.

**Steven R. Gerbsman (BS '67)** has been nominated to stand for election as a director of the Federal Signal Corporation's board. Gerbsman is a principal of Gerbsman Partners, a company providing consulting, management, and investment banking services that has participated in \$2.2 billion in corporate finance deals.

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

Edwardsville, Ill., family-law attorney **Elizabeth Levy (BA '69)** was elected as an associate judge in the Third Judicial Circuit of Illinois.

### 1970s

**Karen C. Altfest, PhD, CFP (BA '70)**, vice president of L.J. Altfest & Co., recently offered financial advice to the *New York Daily News*, *Money Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *ABC World News with Charles Gibson*.

**Alan Axelrod (BA '72)** is the recipient of the Frances Black Humanitarian Award in Healthcare. The award was granted in recognition of Axelrod's efforts to extend health care services and promote

healthy living. He is the leader of Princeton HealthCare System's community outreach program.

**Linda Totino (BA '75)** was one of 26 educators and school administrators honored at the Second Annual Education Banquet of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. She is a religion coordinator for St. John Neumann Regional School in Lilburn, Georgia.

**Amy Mallet (BA '79)** of Fair Haven, N.J., won a seat on the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

### 1980s



**Jay Coogan (MFA '82)** has been named president of the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. Coogan had served as provost at the Rhode Island School of Design from 2005–2008. An accomplished visual artist, he creates sculptural objects and installations as well as functional works. He has carried out public commissions for cities such as Boston, Providence, and Green Bay.

Artist **David Bailin (MA '84)** is showing his work at the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Science in Sioux Falls, S.D. The show features Bailin's large-scale drawings, many of them as large as 14 feet by 8 feet.



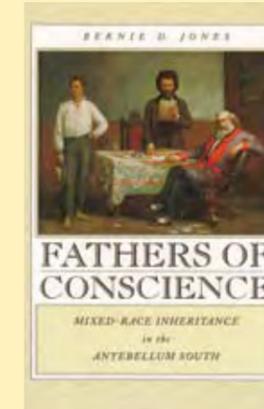
**Diana Dwyre (BA '86)**, a political science professor at California State University, has been named Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Political Science at Australia National University. She will be in residence in Canberra until spring 2010.

**Michelle C. Rodoletz (BA '86)** is the founder of HealthForumOnline, an online business devoted to continuing education in the field of behavioral medicine and health psychology.

**Susan Chevlowe (MA '87)** is the chief curator and museum director of The Derfner Judaica Museum at The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, in the Bronx. The museum's art collection includes works by Chagall, Matisse, Picasso, Warhol, Shahn, Calder, and Stella.

Blue Hive Strategic Exhibits and Events of Worcester, Mass., added **Gary Fredriksen (MFA '87)** to its sales team. Fredriksen has 20 years of experience in the trade show industry.

**Arun Peter Lobo (BA '87)** was honored in March with a Sloan Public Service Award, presented each year to outstanding New York City civil servants by the Fund for the City of New York. Lobo is the City Planning Department's deputy director of the population division.



**Bernie D. Jones (BA '89)**, an assistant professor in the Legal Studies Department at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, has written *Fathers of Conscience: Mixed-Race Inheritance in the Antebellum South*.

### 1990s

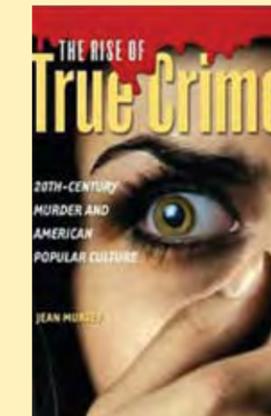
**Lawrence Rinder (MA '90)** is director of the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. He recently curated the show *Galaxy: A Hundred or So Stars Visible to the Naked Eye*.

Arcadia Publishing recently released *Bayside*, a detailed history of Bayside, Queens, by **Alison McKay (MA '91)**. McKay is the archivist at the Bayside Historical Society.

The Brooklyn Museum announced that **Catherine J. Morris (MA '91)** has been named curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art. As curator, she will organize a wide range of special exhibitions and oversee the Center's permanent collection.

**Rachel Phipps (MSW '91)** is running for a seat on the Kennebunk, Maine, Board of Selectmen. She served as the Kennebunk/Kennebunkport youth services coordinator until June 30.

**Tim Madden (MA '96)** teaches social studies at Great Neck South High School and in May ran for a seat on the Northport School Board.



**Jean Murley's (BA '97)** first book, *The Rise of True Crime: 20th Century Murder and American Popular Culture*, has been nominated for an Edgar Allan Poe Award from the Mystery Writers of America.

### 2000s

**Mark Benerofe (MA '02)** has been named president of CampGroup LLC, an owner/operator of summer camps. In his new post, Benerofe will aim to provide resources, expertise, and leadership to camps located in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, New York, New Jersey, and Michigan.



Artist **Zilvinas Kempinas (MFA '02)** is exhibiting his work "Tube" at this summer's Venice Biennale. His work has been exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Vienna's Kunsthalles Wien, and the Art Basel Miami exposition. Kempinas received the Calder Prize in 2007.

**Malkie Schwartz (BA '04)** has moved to Jackson, Miss., to work at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life, where she is establishing a Social Justice Department to engage Southern Jewish communities in community service. She will be completing her law degree from Cardozo School of Law as a visiting student at the Mississippi College School of Law.

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

**Jolynn Krystosek (MFA '06)**, a mixed-media sculptor and painter, was the first resident artist of 2009 at the Lux Art Institute in San Diego.

## Beloved Professor Anders Emile

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

## Hunter Is Everywhere. Show Us Where You Are!

Send us a picture of yourself alone, or with family and friends, wearing Hunter T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats (any Hunter gear will do) as you are out and about: visiting the Seven Wonders of the World, vacationing on an island, or hiking near a volcano — you name it! We'd love to feature Hunter alumni showing off their Hunter spirit around the world. Email photos to: [publications@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:publications@hunter.cuny.edu). Please make sure photos are high-resolution jpegs.

## Did You Work on the Hunter Arrow?

Alan Richman ('60) is organizing a reunion of the newspaper's staff. Contact Richman at [arkr@optonline.net](mailto:arkr@optonline.net)



## BOND: Hunter, not James Grads Excited About Giving Back

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

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

BOND already boasts 300 members and a mailing list of 1,000 graduates. The group plans social gatherings and happy hours and recently sponsored a cruise around Manhattan.

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

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

BOND organizers include graduates from the classes of '03 to '08.

Borrero is currently pursuing a

master's in public policy. Though now a Princeton graduate student, "I'm still a Hunter girl," she said.

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



▲ BOND 007s: Ahmed Tigani ('07), Lindsay Weisbart ('07), and Ankur Mangalagiri Nanda ('07)

BOND plans to raise funds for a special project or scholarship and to provide postgraduate mentoring for current students. Social networks like Facebook allow the group to reach out to new members.

Maintaining connections in today's competitive economy is key, said Ahmed Tigani, BOND vice president

and former president of the Undergraduate Student Government. Tigani now works for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

"At Hunter I learned a lot outside the classroom because of my connection with students, and I wanted to keep those connections," Tigani said. "I didn't want graduation to be my endpoint at Hunter. I really enjoyed

my time at Hunter because of the community experience.

"It would be selfish not to give back."

To add your name to the mailing list or learn about meetings and events, email [BONDchapter@gmail.com](mailto:BONDchapter@gmail.com), or join the Facebook group.

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



Macaulay Honors College graduate Lusheena Warner presented President Raab with a \$1,000 check at graduation. The Legacy Gift Committee raised the money for the purchase of a charging station in the Library, which will enable students to recharge iPods, laptops, and other electronic devices. Warner said the gift was the Class of 2009's way of expressing its appreciation to Hunter.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Sarah Neumark (BA '31)

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

At college she majored in Spanish with minors in French and German. She also spoke fluent Yiddish. She loved to travel the world but was most proud of the fact that she and her husband had visited all 50 states. Professionally, Neumark

enjoyed many years as a teacher of commercial subjects and Spanish, and at the time of her retirement was a registered representative of the New York Stock Exchange.

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



### Maria LoFrumento (BA '45)

Beloved educator Maria Aguilera LoFrumento died January 26, 2009, in her home in Pompton Plains, N.J., at the age of 84. The former principal of Hunter College High School, LoFrumento was born in Almeria, Spain, and immigrated to New York City with her family at the age of six. After graduating from

Hunter College and obtaining a master's degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, she taught French and Spanish at Hunter College High School. She devoted her entire career to Hunter, serving as chairman of the Language Department and then as principal from 1971 to 1984, when she retired. She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Anthony LoFrumento, their three children, and six grandchildren.

Contributions in her memory may be made to the Hunter College Foundation, 695 Park Avenue, Room E1313, New York, NY 10065.



### Barbara Stern (MA '61)

Barbara Stern, one of the first students to earn a doctorate at the City University of New York, died on Jan. 15 at the age of 69. Stern's doctoral class consisted of only two students: Stern and Daniel Robinson, who is now a philosophy professor at Oxford

University. Stern was pregnant when CUNY awarded her a PhD in English, and CUNY scheduled the graduation early so that it would take place before she gave birth.

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

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

Stern conducted research in marketing and published more than 160 articles, books, and reviews. She served on the editorial boards of numerous journals. Stern is survived by her mother, Rose Bergenfeld; her sister, Carole; and her daughters, Leslie and Wendy. Her mother and one of her daughters are also Hunter alumnae — Rose earned her BA in 1935 and Wendy received her MSW in 2000.

## HUNTER REMEMBERS...

Lilian Bemus (BA '42)  
Sarah Helen Borden (BA '38)  
Alice Charlton (BA '38)  
Deborah Conrad (BA '73)  
Sharon Dandes (BA '75)  
Raymond H. Dash (BA '71)

Lydia Santamaria Etkins (BSN '59)  
Rose Resnick Feiner (BA '34)  
Virginia Abinanti Fiore (BA '57)  
Helen Landau Hayes (BA '44)  
Frieda Hollander (BA '42)  
Gail Jaffe (BA '68)

Esther Senitzky Marcus (BA '42)  
Pauline Herkowitz Menes (BA '45)  
Anastasia Murphy (BA '40)  
Dorothea Grottola Nudelman (BA '61)  
Nora O'Neill (MS '46)  
Frances Keyes Porter (MSW '37)

Theresa Gladys Rakow (BA '30)  
Diane Duggan Ryan (MS '73)  
Elvira R. Tarr (BA '44)  
Penina Turner (BA '44)  
Helene Wareham (BA '42)  
Rosalind Taub Wofsy (BA '41)

## TWO GUTSY GRADUATES MADE HISTORY BY RECORDING IT

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

In 1952, two years after graduating, Barbara Cohen Holdridge and Marianne Roney Mantell pooled their savings to establish Caedmon Records. From an inauspicious beginning — their office furniture was recovered from a dumpster — sprouted the audio-book industry.

Holdridge and Mantell had no idea

The idea was hatched after Holdridge and Mantell attended a reading by the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas at the 92nd Street Y. Their first attempts to reach Thomas were rebuffed. A friend advised the duo to seek out the poet at the Chelsea Hotel, where he lived. The three hit it off immediately, in large part because of a shared affection for puns.

“During our Hunter days, Marianne and I had become great punsters,” Holdridge recalled, “and he was a punster, too. He



▲ The early days, captured by Rollie McKenna, the photographer famous for her portraits of Dylan Thomas and other literary giants

they were making history when they created Caedmon (named for the first poet to write in English). Inspired by a love of literature acquired as Hunter humanities majors, they set out to record poets and authors reading their own work.

loved that part of our relationship.”

Thomas arrived at the studio with enough material for one side of a record. Desperate to fill Side B, the pair asked what else he could think of. The poet pondered before recalling a piece he'd written for *Harper's Bazaar*.



▲ Barbara Holdridge (left) and Marianne Mantell (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with Caedmon recording artists Julie Harris and Claire Bloom at Caedmon's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 1972

It was “A Child's Christmas in Wales,” and Thomas's reading became one of the most beloved recordings of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

That day began a new era in the recording industry, which until then had primarily confined its repertoire to music. The partners went on to capture some of the greatest writers of the 20th century: James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, T.S. Eliot, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, and Ezra Pound.

Not every relationship was cordial. During a session with Pound, the poet heaved a salami at Holdridge. “Pound was an erratic man,” Holdridge said.

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

Caedmon touched many a famous name. The partners' first shipping clerk (and second employee) was a young man by the name of Mike Nichols. He went on to work with Elaine May as a comedy team before becoming a renowned stage and film director.

“He only lasted one week,” Holdridge recalls now. “He said he was getting ulcers from the work, but we think he needed more time working on his act.”

Holdridge said Hunter was a great influence. “Our Hunter education gave

us the literary resources we needed,” she said. “We brought an understanding and love of [the writers'] work to our conversations. e.e. cummings



said after his session with us that there were ears listening to him, not just people making a recording. We became great friends.”

In 1970, Holdridge and Mantell sold Caedmon to D.C. Heath. The firm was resold to HarperCollins where, under the name of Caedmon Audio, it still flourishes as part of the audiobook industry. Many of the original recordings have been released in digital form.

In 1992, Caedmon received a Peabody Award for contributions to American arts and literature. In 2002, Holdridge and Mantell received an Audie Award for lifetime achievement from the Audio Publishers Association.

## 10 QUESTIONS FOR...

### Benjamin Hett

Associate Professor of History

In April, Benjamin Carter Hett won a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, awarded to scholars “who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.” Hett, an associate professor of history at Hunter and the CUNY Graduate Center, is a former trial attorney who earned his PhD from Harvard. His research on criminal law in modern Germany, the history of popular culture, and the history of Berlin contributed to his 2008 book, *Crossing Hitler: The Man who Put the Nazis on the Witness Stand*, which won the Fraenkel Prize for an outstanding work of contemporary history. It describes the 1931 trial of four Nazi soldiers, an event known as the Eden Dance Palace Trial.

- 1 What would your students be surprised to know about you? I was in school for a long time for various things and wasn't always diligent. In college, and even more in law school, I often cut classes, was late with assignments, and looked for shortcuts. So I tell students I know all the tricks, because I pulled them! Let me hastily add that I reformed when I went to graduate school.



- 2 When you're not at Hunter, what are you doing? Browsing in bookstores, where that is still possible (like the Strand). I used to enjoy browsing CD shops. I miss the old Tower Records at 4th and Broadway.
- 3 What's on your iPod? I like to have music while I am working, so I go through a lot of music. My iPod (which by the way is the greatest technology yet devised, in my opinion) runs heavily to Miles Davis (virtually complete works) and Beethoven, especially the piano sonatas (I have the last Alfred Brendel box set on there).
- 4 You used to be a trial lawyer. What inspired you to enter academia? Quite simply, I hated my job, and I believed that life was too short to go on living like that. After four years of practicing law, and avidly reading European history in whatever free time I had, it finally hit me that history was where my passion lay.
- 5 What was your least favorite thing about being an attorney? Unlike television, most of the day-to-day work of lawyers is very, very boring, and yet it is stressful because you are always under pressure to do excellent work very quickly. Junior associates at big firms are under great pressure to generate billable hours, so you have to be working all the time at this boring and stressful stuff. I remember when I pulled all-nighters at the firm... the place would be humming at 3 a.m. That's a bit sick.
- 6 Compare Harvard, where you earned your doctorate, to Hunter. Harvard is a great institution, and it was a privilege to be there. But maybe because I am descended in part from working-class New Yorkers I believe very strongly in the mission of a public college. I like Hunter students very much. They have no problem challenging you in class or coming to your office to say something like, “I'm not happy with you, professor.” I get a kick out of that. I find that [Hunter students] who are particularly good at history are also more genuinely curious than students at Harvard. Students regularly ask me questions like, “How was Hitler possible?” That never happened when I taught at Harvard.
- 7 What do you wish more students would do? I think many students don't realize how difficult and competitive the world they are moving into is going to be. So they need to get more involved in their education. No matter where you are studying, the quality of education you get is mostly up to you.
- 8 You've written much on World War II. Do you foresee a WWII? One thing we can be certain of is that there will never be something like WWII again. Such a war now would take about half an hour.
- 9 What's your favorite thing to do in New York City? I have been a jazz fan since I was a teenager, so to be able to live here, where the music happens more than anywhere else, is a dream come true. I get out to hear live jazz as much as I can, which is never as much as I would like. I also love to see the art museums.
- 10 What are your favorite restaurants? I really like an Indian restaurant called Devi, on 18th street. I used to love Florent in the Meatpacking District, which closed last summer. Where I live, in Jackson Heights, there are any number of fantastic Indian and Thai places. New York must be the best place to eat in the world. It's a miracle I don't weigh 400 pounds.

# HUNTER

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## Foundation Board Member **Patty C. Baker:**

*Crusading for the Arts, Education...and Hunter*

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

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

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

Patty, who graduated from Hunter *summa cum laude* in 1982, developed an abiding interest in the arts as an honors student studying theater, art history, and French. She was

particularly inspired by the late Marvin Seiger, a professor of theater whom she describes as "fantastic — a classic curmudgeon with a soft heart under that demanding exterior," and by Mira Felner, who gave her a deep interest in theater history.

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

"I'm still finding my way around," she says with characteristic good humor, "but I want to play as big a role at Hunter as I possibly can. I truly love the school. I loved being a student there — it changed my life — and I am deeply impressed by today's stu-

dents and faculty." Patty showed up for her first Foundation Board meeting with a Hunter sweatshirt on under her coat while waiting to be introduced to fellow board members.

The Bakers are strong supporters of Jay's *alma mater*, the University of Pennsylvania, having donated a total of \$21 million.

"We believe in giving while we're alive so we can see the benefits that scholarships and support can give," Patty said. For Patty Baker, helping to ensure the future of students who never thought they could afford college, or supporting an idea that has blossomed into a successful organization, not only brings joy to the students whose lives she has touched, but also brings great pride and joy to her own life.