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## They're Fighting the War on Cancer



Evelyn Lauder (fourth from left) with Professor Jill Bargonetti (center) and her research team in the Hunter laboratory.

**H**unter Professor Jill Bargonetti has received a major new grant for her pioneering research against breast cancer.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation – founded by Hunter alumna Evelyn Lauder – awarded Dr. Bargonetti and her team of researchers \$197,055 this past October to support their groundbreaking work with p53, a protein which assists in the suppression of growth of breast cancer tumor cells.

The new award comes on top of a previous \$100,000 grant given to Hunter by the Foundation in 2005 to support breast cancer research by Bargonetti – a professor of molecular biology renowned nationwide as a leader in the fight against cancer and an innovator in the education of minorities in science.

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## On 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, President Raab Looks to the Future

**J**ennifer J. Raab celebrated her fifth anniversary as president of Hunter College this past year.

Under her leadership, Hunter has gone through a remarkable transformation – ushering in a new era of dramatic improvements in academic excellence; faculty and staff; upgrades of outdated facilities; accelerated fundraising efforts; and recruitment of some of the best and brightest students.

All of these accomplishments have restored a sense of pride in Hunter as one of New York City's – and the country's – most prestigious educational institutions.

For President Raab, an alumna of Hunter College High School, it has truly been a labor of love.

She talks in this issue of *At Hunter* about her first five years as president – and about her vision and goals for Hunter's future.

**See pages 6 & 7 for interview with President Raab**



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# Happenings at Hunter

To see a list of upcoming events at Hunter, go to [www.hunter.cuny.edu/events](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/events)



Hunter alumna Rhea Perlman ('68) delighted a group of young students at the Hunter College Elementary School library by reading to them from her new book, *Otto Undercover: Born to Drive*. It's one of a series of children's books written by the *Cheers* actress.



Legendary New York newspaper columnist Jimmy Breslin was a guest lecturer at a journalism class taught by *Village Voice* investigative reporter Tom Robbins (right), this year's Jack Newfield Visiting Professor. "It's the best way to earn a living in the world," Breslin told the students. The professorship honors the legacy of Newfield, the award-winning journalist and Hunter alumnus who died in 2004.



Salman Rushdie and his wife, Padma Lakshmi, with Hunter alumna Susan Hertog '65 (center) at dinner celebrating the MFA Program in Creative Writing and the Hertog Fellows Program. The Hertog Program pairs up MFA students with prominent writers, such as Rushdie, who act as mentors.



Former New York City Mayor David Dinkins - an avid tennis enthusiast - congratulates members of the championship Hunter tennis team at a recent College gathering. The Hawks won their seventh straight CUNYAC women's title this past season.



The Hunter College Dance Company's spring performance included several high-energy works choreographed by Hunter dance students.



Acclaimed Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami visited Hunter in March to hold a unique film production master class in which he worked closely with selected students from the Department of Film & Media. During the intensive nine-day workshop, students produced their own short films under the mentorship of Kiarostami. His visit was made possible through the generosity of Carole and Richard Rifkind.



# The President's Perspective



The lifeblood of any great educational institution is its teachers – and in this issue of *At Hunter* you will read about some remarkable members of the Hunter College faculty. There is Distinguished Professor of Art Roy DeCarava, who was awarded the prestigious 2006 National Medal of Arts at the White House in November for his groundbreaking career of more than 60 years as a photographer. Renowned molecular biologist Jill Bargonetti, whose innovative research work in Hunter laboratories has put her on the front line in the battle against breast cancer. Professor of English Michael Thomas and former Hunter instructor and alumnus Gary Shteyngart, whose novels have received rave reviews. Assistant Professor of Film and Media Andrew Lund, whose own exciting movie work wins filmmaker awards at the same time he teaches media students here. And Dr. Godfrey Gumbs from our Physics Department, an extraordinary scientist who has been named a CUNY Distinguished Professor in recognition of his lifetime of contributions. The achievements of these faculty members are as wonderfully different and diverse as the students they teach in their classrooms, and I congratulate them all for helping make Hunter the special place it is today.

## Godfrey Gumbs Named CUNY Distinguished Professor



Dr. Godfrey Gumbs of the Physics Department has been named a CUNY Distinguished Professor. The honor is for his lifetime of contributions to theoretical physics, including research into some of the most complex problems of condensed matter.

The Distinguished Professorship is the latest in a series of well-earned honors for Dr. Gumbs. Last year, he was named a Fulbright Senior Scholar and he received the American Physical Society's highest prize, the Edward A. Bouchet Award.

A member of the Hunter faculty since 1992, Gumbs served as chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Hunter for five years. He has also made outstanding contributions to many college programs, including efforts to recruit and support minority students.

## Professor Roy DeCarava Honored at the White House

Hunter College's Roy DeCarava was awarded the prestigious 2006 National Medal of Arts by President Bush at the White House on November 9.

DeCarava, a Distinguished Professor of Art at Hunter, has devoted more than 60 years to an extraordinary career as a master photographer and a pioneer in the art of photography.

During a presentation ceremony in the Oval Office with the President and First Lady Laura Bush, DeCarava – a member of the Hunter faculty since 1975 – was hailed for a lifetime of inspiring contributions to the arts.

"In the midst of the Civil Rights movement, his revealing work seized the attention of our nation while displaying the dignity and determination of his subjects," DeCarava's citation read.

The Medal of Arts is awarded each year by the National Endowment for the Arts to recognize individuals for their excellence and contributions to the arts in America. It is the nation's highest award for artistic achievement.



Roy DeCarava with the President and First Lady Laura Bush.

But DeCarava didn't even tell his colleagues at Hunter about the great honor until he walked into a meeting after the White House ceremony with his medal. "What is that?" they all wanted to know.

Later, at a reception in President Jennifer J. Raab's office – where Raab praised him as a "true national treasure" – DeCarava talked about how grateful he was for the opportunities Hunter had given him over the past 30 years as a creative artist and teacher.

"I always wanted to be a teacher, and my experience at Hunter has been a joyous one," he said. "How many colleges do you know that encourage art like Hunter? Not only have I taught, but I have learned so much. The atmosphere at Hunter is truly remarkable."

Living and working primarily in New York City, DeCarava has been widely praised as the first photographer "to devote serious attention...to the black experience in America" and for his affection for the people and places of his hometown of New York, so evident in his work.

DeCarava has been the subject of 15 solo exhibitions. His work is in collections at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.; the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York; the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. He was also the first African-American photographer to win a Guggenheim Fellowship.

The most comprehensive exhibition of DeCarava's groundbreaking work came in 1996 when nearly 200 of his black-and-white photographs were displayed at the Museum of Modern Art.

"Roy DeCarava: A Retrospective" featured a variety of subjects shot by him between 1949 and 1994, ranging from pictures of daily life in Harlem to the civil rights protests of the early 1960s to studies of nature.

This exhibit also included many of DeCarava's historic and remarkable jazz photographs, which captured such legends as Louis Armstrong, John Coltrane, Billie Holiday, and Milt Jackson at their peak musical form. The exhibition later traveled to major museums in the United States.



# Bonnie Fuller Tells Grads: You Are the Real Stars!



Hunter Professor Emeritus Erwin Fleissner, who received an honorary Doctor of Science degree, and award-winning poet Sonia Sanchez, who was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters, flank President Raab.



Fuller addresses the Winter 2007 graduating class.

Graduates got some celebrity dish along with their diplomas at the Winter 2007 Hunter College Commencement ceremony.

Bonnie Fuller – the chief editorial director of American Media, who edits *Star* magazine – said she’d just come from picking pictures of Brangelina and Britney; checking out details of Lindsay Lohan in rehab; and trying to find out more about Justin Timberlake’s new girlfriend.

But she said she was even more excited about getting the opportunity to speak at Hunter’s 194th Commencement on January 18.

“I’m happy to put the spotlight on the real stars today,” Fuller told the 1,200 graduates and their families in the Assembly Hall. “Today we are inundated with celebrities. But what makes a star? Someone who has a profound impact on the world. Graduates, you are the true stars.”

Fuller is one of the biggest success stories in magazine publishing. Hailed by many as the creator of the celebrity newsweekly phenomenon, she oversees numerous other publications in addition to *Star*. She earlier gained fame as editor of *Us Weekly* as well as other top magazines such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Glamour*, and *Marie Claire*.

Also, this past year she published her first book titled,

appropriately enough, *The Joys of Much Too Much: Go for the Big Life – The Great Career, The Perfect Guy, and Everything Else You’ve Ever Wanted*.

Fuller urged the graduates to follow that advice and reach for the stars with their own lives.

“It is up to you to make your dreams happen,” she said. “Look for something that makes you excited to get up every day. That is a treasure!”

Also honored during the Commencement ceremony were Hunter alumna Sonia Sanchez, an award-winning poet who is recognized as one of the most important figures in African-American literature today; and Erwin Fleissner, Hunter College professor emeritus of biology and a former dean of sciences and mathematics.

Sanchez was the recipient of the Doctor of Humane Letters degree, and Fleissner, the recipient of the Doctor of Science degree.

Sanchez – a longtime activist in the anti-war and civil rights movements – read an eloquent poem to the graduates urging them to make the world they were going into a better place.

Fleissner – hailed for making important contributions to cancer research and science education – talked about the impressive achievements made by so many Hunter science alumni over the years.

“Growing up as a shy, awkward girl in Canada, I was far removed from the New York publishing scene...It’s all about finding your passion. Having a career that inspires you.”

— Commencement speaker  
Bonnie Fuller



Four graduates singled out for their extraordinary achievements: (left to right) Sharada Veerubhotla, who has been blind since the age of 12 and plans to teach visually impaired students; Sean Kivlehan, who also worked full-time as a paramedic and wants to become a doctor; Paola Castellanos, forced to leave her homeland of Colombia because of violence when she was 17 and now will go to dentistry school; and Jean Pierre Kamwa, who had to live in a homeless shelter after he fled political persecution in the Republic of Cameroon – and will work with humanitarian groups to help other immigrants.

## A Long Road to Success...

There were countless extraordinary stories among the graduates – many of whom traveled long and often perilous paths to get to Hunter.

Like class valedictorian Yevgeniy Vaynkof, who came to New York with his family when he was eight years old to escape violent anti-Semitism in Ukraine. Although he spoke no English then, Vaynkof graduated at the top of his class with a 3.972 GPA as a biology major.

He will now go on to medical school to become a doctor. His role model has been his mother, Polina, who first enrolled in Hunter after their family fled Ukraine — and graduated cum laude from nursing school.

Then there was class salutatorian Barbora Halouzskova, who proves that you can be both beautiful and brilliant. A stunning former fashion model in the Czech Republic who fell in love with the U.S. on a visit here, she worked hard to learn English, came to Hunter after earning top high school grades, and graduated right behind valedictorian Vaynkof with a 3.919 GPA in classics and religion.

And the fairy tale doesn’t end there. Along with her diploma, Halouzskova also received a wedding present from Hunter. That’s because she and her new husband eloped and spent their honeymoon in Hawaii right after she completed her final exams.



Salutatorian Barbora Halouzskova and valedictorian Yevgeniy Vaynkof are both émigrés who excelled at Hunter.



# Hunter Grad Hits High Note as Broadway Leading Lady



**H**unter alumna Jeannette Bayardelle (BS '02) has become a big star on Broadway – belting out songs on stage as the leading lady in the hit musical *The Color Purple*.

That surprises many who knew the Bronx-born and raised Bayardelle back in her days at Hunter as a hard-working, dedicated medical laboratory sciences student.

But the actress/singer says the years she spent studying science at Hunter were a wonderful experience that helped her advance in her show business career.

“My father is a doctor,” she explains. “My sister is a pediatrician. My other sister is a registered nurse. Going to school was very important in my house. My parents were very supportive of my performing career. But they wanted to make sure I had a good education and something to fall back on.”

Bayardelle took over as the star of Oprah Winfrey’s production of *The Color Purple* at the Broadway Theatre last November. She had understudied that role and the parts of 10 other actors since the show began its run on Broadway in late 2005. She moved into the role of Celie, a woman who triumphs over adversity, when leading lady LaChanze – who won a Tony – left the show.

In February, Bayardelle left the Broadway cast of *The Color Purple* to join the national touring version of the show – which opens in Chicago this spring.

While at Hunter, Bayardelle was so committed to her studies that she didn’t perform, except for singing at church on Sundays. “No one at Hunter knew,” she says of her show business aspirations. “I didn’t really talk about my other performing life.”

But soon after graduation her career skyrocketed. She landed a starring role off-Broadway and signed a contract as an R&B singing artist. Since then, in addition to performing in *The Color Purple*, Bayardelle has gone on tours of *Sister Act*, *Big River*, and *Rent* – and she released her own CD of gospel music titled “Praise Report.”

Despite all this success, Bayardelle looks back fondly on her days as a science student at Hunter. “I always had a real sense of peace when I was in the laboratory,” she recalls. “When I was at Hunter, I worked in a diagnostic lab. That’s so much different than what I do now.

“I loved the intimacy of the classrooms,” she adds. “There weren’t a lot of us. The professors knew more than just our names and our social security numbers. We had relationships.”

She also praised the staff and faculty, including program director Regina Linder. Bayardelle says Linder encouraged her to get A’s and B’s at Hunter, telling her, “I don’t want you to be average.”

Linder admits now that she was thrilled and surprised when she first heard about her former student’s show business success. “I went to see the show. I was amazed to see Jeannette command the stage in a role that reflected the calm young lab student I remember.”

Bayardelle graduated from Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts.

Looking to the future, Bayardelle – who still sings in church every Sunday – says that what she really wants to do most in the future is become a “full-time gospel singer...a full-time minister” for God. “This is my calling,” she says of her gospel singing. “God has blessed me with this gift and I want to use it to serve Him and help bring people closer to Him.”

With all of her success in show business, Bayardelle was asked if she had any advice for current students at Hunter who hoped someday to follow in her footsteps. “Pray to God and make sure it’s what He wants you to do,” she says. “Then don’t let ‘no’ stop you. Persist and persist.”



**Oprah Winfrey, who brought *The Color Purple* to Broadway, with Jeannette Bayardelle.**

**“No one at Hunter knew. I didn’t really talk about my other performing life.”**

— Jeannette Bayardelle

## Memories from My Roosevelt House Wedding

**In the last issue, we asked alumni who were married at Roosevelt House to share their reminiscences. Here, one Hunter graduate tells the story of how Roosevelt House made her wedding day so special:**

By Mary Raymond Baginski (MA '82)

On the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, May 24, 1981, my husband and I exchanged vows in the living room of Roosevelt House in front of our dearest friends and family.

It was a beautiful sunny warm day. As you can see from the photo, it is as if Eleanor is smiling on us, the bride and groom, and I can’t help but wonder if she deserves part of the credit for our many full rich years of married life.

The building was ours for the day – we enjoyed a Champagne toast in the paneled study and a luncheon buffet in another of the rooms, which I believe was a double parlor. We were entertained by a string quartet, and all were delighted by the opportunity to visit this historic landmark.

The warm day made stepping out on the terrace quite inviting, which created quite a stir on the street below. Passersby wondered what and whom this big event was for. Little could they guess it was but for a lowly graduate student and the love of her life. It truly felt like a home wedding, even if the home wasn’t ours.

I had a part-time job then in the Alumnae Relations Office, which was located in Roosevelt House. I loved working in the magnificent building with all its tremendous history – and was captivated by the story of the Roosevelts. Back then, I even named my dog’s puppies Eleanor and Franklin.

And so I was overjoyed when I became engaged and discovered that – as a Hunter student – I could have my wedding at the Roosevelt House facility.

Ken and I have been happily married now for nearly 26 years, and we have been blessed with three healthy children.

One other Roosevelt House memory: We once toured the Roosevelt family home at Hyde Park with our children. The following week my 6-year-old daughter shared the outing with her class. The teacher was quite impressed when my daughter explained to the class that we were actually related to the Roosevelts, but they just never seemed to be home when we visited. How did she ever get such an idea? Well, it was because of our Roosevelt House wedding pictures that she was so familiar with!

Hunter College not only provided me with an excellent educational foundation for a satisfying and successful career, but with a wonderful venue, Roosevelt House, to begin a happily-ever-after life. What more could one possibly wish for?

**Restorations to Roosevelt House are expected to be completed by late 2008. Once the home of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, the new Roosevelt House will also be available for many more happy wedding ceremonies like the one described here.**



**Mary Raymond Baginski and husband Ken on their wedding day.**



# A Vision f



PHOTO BY DANNY BRIGHT

**“One of our greatest assets has always been our stellar faculty.”**

## Jennifer J. Raab Talks About Her Five Years as President



**Former President Bill Clinton – who came to Hunter to host the Presidential Public Leadership Program – is just one of many prominent figures from government, science, the arts, literature, law, sports and journalism who have visited the campus in the past five years.**

### **When you took over as president of Hunter in 2001, what were some of the biggest challenges you faced?**

Our infrastructure was antiquated and inadequate to serve our growing student populations. We had minimal support for faculty development and lost too many scholars to other institutions. We had a Master Plan for growth, but no strategy or money to implement it. And there was very little in the way of significant fundraising.

Hunter College has always had an incredibly talented student body that mirrors the diversity of New York City. We have always had a respected and prolific faculty. We have always had a campus in the heart of one of the most exciting cities in the world. But Hunter had not fully leveraged these outstanding qualities to transform itself into a dynamic 21st century university.

### **What was one of your immediate priorities?**

Improving the academic standards at Hunter. Declining academic standards throughout CUNY had started to take their toll on us. Admission standards dropped while enrollment levels soared. As a result, an unacceptable number of students did not meet the minimum standard for college-level work. In fact, a full 21% of the entering freshman class in 2000 was ill-prepared for college.

We began actively recruiting students who could take full advantage of a Hunter College education. We formed strong

partnerships with the more successful public and parochial schools in the city to create pipelines to the college. We introduced hundreds of high school students to our classes, many of whom later enrolled and found great success here. We even created our own new high school, Manhattan Hunter Science High School, to begin training the Hunter student in 9th grade.

We also secured CUNY's permission to freeze enrollment at the 2001 level – a not insignificant 20,500 students. Without the pressure to continually grow, we could then focus on the programs best suited for our students and professors. We needed to recapture the status of a Hunter education in the New York community.

### **The results?**

Hunter is more competitive than ever, accepting 1 out of 3 applicants. This past summer, only 7% of incoming freshmen were in our remedial program, as compared to 21% five years ago. We are the only CUNY campus to end the remedial Prelude to Success program, and now use those resources to support our incoming freshmen.

We are extremely proud that in the last 5 years, the average freshman SAT score has increased by 92 points. Our SAT scores are 65 points above the nation's average. In 2005, 71% of Hunter's freshmen had SAT scores of 1000 or higher, as compared to only 51% in 2001.

All in all, we've made remarkable progress in a short time, with the School of Arts and Sciences advancing in the *U.S. News and World Report* college rankings from 82 in 2001 to 50 in 2005. One of our students was quoted in the *Princeton Review's Best Value Colleges* as saying, "Hunter offers an excellent education without the ridiculous and uncalled for elitism or cost." I certainly agree.

### **What other problems did you face?**

One big issue – because of our size – was a lack of adequate resources for the students. Over and over students told me they simply could not get the classes that they needed – and many complained of problems such as incomprehensible course requirements.

In general, the lack of technology and communication tools were leaving an information vacuum instead of an efficient information highway. There also were simply not enough counselors for students and not enough support for advising in the different departments.

Nor were we doing everything we could and should to support our students – helping them find the right jobs, scholarships and graduate schools to realize their dreams after graduation.

### **How has that changed in the past five years?**

At the suggestion of the Hunter Senate's leadership, I appointed a presidential committee to address these problems. I am proud to say that almost all of the recommendations from this committee have been implemented.

We now take enrollment management seriously. Using technology, we have identified the unmet student demand for courses and spend a million dollars a year to address this need. We are adding and building more classrooms. We have more than doubled the amount of student computers. The number of smart classrooms and lecture halls continues to grow. We've added more advisers and spent more on career counseling programs. We are also proud of the \$600,000 grant we received from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to study ways to improve our undergraduate curriculum.

I could go on and on, but we realize that this is just a start. There is still much more to do.

### **How do you rate the Hunter faculty?**

One of our greatest assets has always been our stellar faculty. Hunter has invested significantly in this faculty recently, aggressively recruiting outstanding scholars in every field of study. We have added a net of 43 new scholars to the faculty in the last five years. Such hires include many high profile scholars and authors such as two-time Booker Prize-winner Peter Carey, who has taken our creative writing MFA to new heights. We've recruited two Pulitzer Prize winners and well...there are simply too many superb hires to name. We've also worked hard to retain the scholars that we have.

### **What other people have you brought to Hunter?**

After exhaustive national searches, we recruited three outstanding new deans who have helped Hunter recapture its place as an



# for Hunter

academic leader in the city, the nation and beyond. They are David Steiner, The Klara and Larry Silverstein Dean of the School of Education; Shirley Clay Scott, Dean of Arts and Sciences; and Jacqueline Mondros, Dean of the School of Social Work. All have brought new energy and passion to their schools.

## Many of the complaints about Hunter from students and faculty have concerned the physical condition of the buildings. What have you done to improve that?

When my first meetings with faculty, staff and students were dominated by discussions about the cleanliness of the bathrooms, malfunctioning elevators and escalators, broken window blinds and similar matters, I realized the basic systems need to be fixed so that educators and administrators could focus on their responsibilities. I am proud to say that we have made dramatic improvements in this area. We don't complain constantly about bathrooms and elevators anymore. Faculty and staff believe it is possible to get new computers, carpets and blinds. Although we realize there is more to do, we are pleased with the progress so far.

## Fundraising is at an all time high. How have you managed to get so many people interested in providing financial support to Hunter?

Hunter lacked a meaningful history of fundraising and had not maintained contact with its alumni and other potential supporters. We've made significant progress over the past five years in creating a viable culture of philanthropy and are attracting new support to the college. Not only is Hunter investing heavily in its students, faculty and physical resources for the first time in a long time, but others also are investing in us.

Prior to my tenure, Hunter had only received a single million dollar gift, and that was 12 years ago. In just the last two years, Hunter has secured six \$1 million gifts and is close to securing one more. We raised 37 gifts of \$100,000 or more, including a recent \$350,000 grant from the Skirball Foundation to support science education. And we have broken the million-dollar-barrier with two \$2 million gifts. I am also proud to report that we have raised over \$20 million so far in our ambitious \$50 million, 5-year capital campaign.

## You've also established a number of innovative new programs to encourage support from alumni and others. Tell us about some of them.

One is the "Visioning Cabinet," chaired by Lew Frankfort, the CEO of Coach, and Evelyn Lauder, senior corporate vice president and director of Estée Lauder, Inc. This group has helped recruit some of our most prominent alumni to play a role in the revitalization of Hunter College.

Our "Mother's Day" campaign has brought the college over \$800,000 in new scholarship funds – in honor of mothers who went to Hunter – and the idea has already been copied by at least one other college. One of those mothers, Klara Silverstein ('54 & '56), wife of developer Larry Silverstein, is now chairing a revitalized Hunter College Foundation Board. Through their efforts we have been bringing alumni back into the fold.

People are talking about Hunter College again. In the *Princeton Review's Best 361 Colleges for 2007*, Hunter was ranked No.5 in the nation in diversity and was singled out for its "stellar faculty," "many tremendous assets" and "fantastic learning opportunities." This tangible buzz has contributed greatly to our ability to turn around fundraising.

We've accomplished a lot. But challenges lay ahead.

## What can we look forward to in the future?

For many in the Hunter community, the restoration of Roosevelt House now underway is a dream come true. For 10 years, this historic building sat empty and unused. Now, with over \$15 million in capital support from CUNY and \$1 million from the City Council, it stands as a symbol of Hunter's revitalization. When it opens in 2008, it will provide an elegant setting for a new public policy curriculum and exciting public programs.

To address the needs of our flourishing arts programs – which

include film, dance, theater and music as well as the fine arts – we are working with the Seventh Regiment Armory Conservancy to secure space in the Armory next door.

## One of your biggest goals for the years ahead is a new science and public health facility. Why is that so important for Hunter?

Hunter's record in training science professionals – particularly women and minorities – is nothing short of amazing. But Hunter is in danger of losing this momentum because our facilities are inadequate for 21st century research. The North Building, which houses our science programs, was built in 1939 and was never intended to serve as a major research center or house the kinds of laboratories that today's scientists and students require. The need for a new science and health professions building remains our most pressing problem.

## Tell us about your plan for a proposed new building adjacent to the Hunter campus:

A brand new, state-of-the-art facility would be constructed on Second Avenue between 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Streets, currently the site of the Julia Richman Educational Complex. In return, we build another brand new, state of the art facility for the Julia Richman students on the site of our Brookdale campus. This is definitely a "win-win" situation for everyone. Julia Richman will get a brand new school for free and we will be able to consolidate our science and health programs in our new building. If approved, this could all be accomplished by 2011.



## So the Hunter public health programs now located at Brookdale would also move to the new East 68th Street facility?

Yes, you will note that this is called a science and health professions building. One of the most exciting aspects of this plan is that it includes a new facility for our health profession programs in close proximity to our 68th Street campus. For the first time in Hunter's history, these superb programs – which train the best health professionals in the country – will be fully integrated into Hunter College. And for the first time in their history, these programs will have facilities commensurate with the excellence. Plans for the building include a state-of-the-art nursing school to train more nurses and also the new CUNY Graduate School of Public Health – offering a doctoral program – to be housed there.

## As President of Hunter, what has been the most gratifying part of the job for you?

The students. Our students are a reflection of this city and the opportunities that it provides. I look forward to every new milestone, every new groundbreaking, and to every new Hunter graduate that leaves here knowing that we did everything possible to give them the education they deserve.

Together, we have ushered in a new era at Hunter and I am confident that the years ahead promise to be some of the most exciting and successful in our history.

**"We have made significant progress over the past five years...not only is Hunter investing heavily in its students, faculty and physical resources, but for the first time in a long time others are investing in us."**

**President Raab with Schools Chancellor Joel Klein (to her immediate left), CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and other dignitaries at the ribbon-cutting for the Manhattan Hunter Science High School.**

**"The need for a new science building remains our most pressing problem."**



# Fighting Cancer in a Hunter Lab

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A few weeks after the prestigious grant was announced, top officials of The Breast Cancer Research Foundation toured Bargonetti's cancer research lab at Hunter and came away extremely impressed by the remarkable things being accomplished there.

"I was delighted to visit the Hunter College laboratories and see first hand the impressive work that Professor Bargonetti and her research team are doing in the life and death battle against breast cancer," said Lauder, the Foundation's founder who is also Senior Corporate Vice President of The Estée Lauder Companies.

"Our mission at The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is to continue providing support to gifted researchers such as Professor Bargonetti until we achieve the goal we all believe is attainable in our lifetime – a world without breast cancer."

Lauder was accompanied on the visit to Hunter by BCRF's President Myra Biblowit and Deputy Director Margaret Mastroianni.

At one point they were given the opportunity to look through microscopes at actual breast cancer cells that Bargonetti and her research team had grown in culture dishes for the lab's work.

Foundation President Biblowit called it a "privilege to actually see the fine scientists we support at work...and meet the students.

"It was extraordinary to see actual cancer cells under a

microscope, a powerful and frightening experience that was balanced by the immense satisfaction of knowing that they are being studied by such a brilliant, engaged and truly international research group," said Biblowit.

Bargonetti's groundbreaking research into the p53 suppressor protein in breast cells focuses on its links to estrogen – and explores possible dramatic new approaches for breast cancer prevention and combination drug treatment.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation grant she received enables Bargonetti to conduct her pioneering research while also nurturing the talents of up and coming scientists. Her current research team includes Hunter PhD student Angelika Brekman and research associate Kathryn Talbott, both of whom, according to Bargonetti, are indispensable to her research. There are also two undergraduate students and four other graduate students.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation, begun in 1994, funds grants in laboratories and institutions nationwide where scientists like Dr. Bargonetti are hard at work in the battle against all types of cancer. The Foundation now supports 115 top scientists around the world, including Dr. Bargonetti. In October 2006, the Foundation awarded nearly \$25 million in recent grants at its annual Symposium and Awards Luncheon.

"The BCRF support of my laboratory is fundamental for allowing my group to focus on the p53-Mdm2



Studying cells in the laboratory.

pathway links to estrogen-mediated tumor promotion," Bargonetti said.

Lauder has long been a leader in the fight against breast cancer. She led a massive fund drive to raise more than \$18 million for the Evelyn H. Lauder Breast Center at Memorial Sloan-Kettering. The center opened in 1992 as the first breast cancer diagnostic and treatment center under one roof – a model throughout the world.

## Researchers of Tomorrow



Patricia Rockwell

In addition to playing a key role in cancer research, Hunter College is also a leader in turning out students who are prepared to take on challenging jobs in research laboratories.

This is done by an innovative program known as the Biotechnology Workshop.

The Biotechnology Workshop is headed by Patricia Rockwell, an associate professor of biology. She came to Hunter after years as a senior scientist performing groundbreaking cancer research in private industry with ImClone Systems and says:

"My class is designed to teach seniors in the Medical Laboratory Sciences and MA students in the Biological Sciences state-of-the-art laboratory procedures in recombinant DNA techniques and basic scientific principles underlying each technique. Students who successfully complete the workshop are entitled to internships with local biotechnology or biomedical research laboratories."

Begun in 2001, the workshop has been expanded to nearly double its original size.

And it was recently awarded a major new grant – from the New York City Workforce Innovation Fund, in collaboration with SUNY Downstate Medical Center – to provide more graduates for the biotechnology work force in the future. This makes Hunter the training center for SUNY Downstate Advanced Biotechnology Park facilities and other local research institutions involved in the project.

With biotechnology a rapidly growing field in New York City, many Hunter graduates are already employed at places like Cornell Medical Center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Columbia.

## Looking for a Cure – and Teaching Others Too

A professor of molecular biology at Hunter since 1994, Jill Bargonetti today is on the front lines of the war against cancer.

Bargonetti says it is her students at Hunter who "help drive my passion [for research]."

"Did you cure cancer today?" she has said her young son sometimes asks her. "Unfortunately, I always answer no. But if it's not me, I have hope that one of my students may hold the key."

Bargonetti was awarded the prestigious Presidential Early Career Award in 1997 by President Bill Clinton, the highest honor that can be bestowed by the United States government on a young scientist.

Since then, she has received numerous research grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health as well as grants from the American Cancer Society and the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program.

Among her many other honors are a New York City Mayor's Award for Excellence in Science and Technology; the New York Voice Award, given to those who have made a significant improvement to the quality of life in New York City; and the Outstanding Woman in Science Award from the Association for Women in Science.

*Working Mother* magazine has profiled her as one of the nation's "Stellar Moms;" *Pink Magazine* cited her as one of the top nine women in cancer research; and she has served as a member of the Institute of Medicine National Cancer Policy Board.

Bargonetti earned a BA in biology from SUNY College at Purchase in 1985 and holds a PhD in molecular biology from New York University. She was a post-doctoral fellow at Columbia before coming to Hunter and a visiting professor at Rockefeller University while on sabbatical.



Dr. Bargonetti briefs Evelyn Lauder and Myra Biblowit of the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.



# Hunter Twice as Nice for Twins

No, you're not seeing double – Melissa and Melinda Ball are twin sisters who have both achieved great academic success at Hunter.

Melinda is a pre-med student with a 4.0 GPA – majoring in psychology with a minor in chemistry. She will be applying to medical school this summer.

Melissa recently graduated from Hunter with a 3.6 GPA in political science and economics. She is currently studying at the London School of Economics for a masters degree in European Political Economy.

For these two remarkable 25-year-old students, it was a long road to get to Hunter (they're from the South and first came to New York City to model!) – but both Melinda and Melissa told *At Hunter* it was twice as rewarding being able to attend college together.

Not that being twins didn't cause a few problems at times, of course.

"Melinda and I were always confused for one another," Melissa recalls. "I would have her professors and advisors come up to me and ask questions. I'd say: 'I'm sorry, I'm not her. I am her twin. Her name is Melinda, I am Melissa.' They would be puzzled at first. It was lots of fun!"

Of course, the same thing happened to Melinda.

"Even though Melissa doesn't go to Hunter anymore, I still get confused as her," Melinda says. "People start talking about classes and I'm racking my brain how I might know them. Pretty soon, I figure out they know my sister, not me. I'm always afraid they don't realize we are twins and just think I'm snobby when I don't speak to them."

Melissa and Melinda are actually fraternal twins, although they look identical. Born and raised in Chattanooga, they spent their first few semesters of college at the University of Georgia. While there they were discovered as fashion models and left school for two years to model in New York, Milan, London, Paris and other exciting spots.

"It was a great way to see the world," says Melinda, "but I missed school. I read any book I could get my hands on while I was away just to stay educated."

Both Melissa and Melinda eventually decided to enroll at Hunter – Melissa first, followed by her twin sister.

"There was never much competition between us," says Melissa, who graduated this past September. "Melinda wants to be a doctor and takes chemistry and biology courses. I'm pursuing the social sciences. We do laugh about how we might work together one day."



Melinda (she's the one on the left) and Melissa Ball.

"Melissa actually introduced Hunter to me," Melinda remembers. "She was here first and it was through her that I discovered the excellent science program."

Melinda says she has always wanted to be a doctor – and was inspired by their mother who is a nurse. She works as a volunteer once a week at St. Vincent's Hospital and has a research position in Psychology Professor Regina Miranda's lab studying depression and suicide. She is also in Honors Biology II. "I work at night to support myself and pay for school so I keep really busy and exhausted," she adds.

**"Melinda and I were always confused for one another. I'd say: 'I am not her. I'm her twin.'"**

— Melissa Ball '06

Melissa praised her professors at Hunter – especially professor of political science Donald Zagoria – for helping her to do so well academically that she was able to get into the prestigious London School of Economics. "I'm studying transitional economies, privatization policies and social welfare," she says. "Ultimately, I want to work within government and on foreign policy issues."

Meanwhile, the twin sisters maintain a mutual admiration society.

"Advantages to having Melinda as my sister?" Melissa says. "I do not even know where to begin. She is my best friend, my voice of reason at times and my greatest supporter. We have always been each other's greatest supporters."

"Melissa is more than a best friend," says Melinda. "She is part of me. I wouldn't be who I am if it weren't for her."

## Student Wins Journalist Award

Hunter Media Studies student Kelle Jacob has been chosen as a recipient of the Romona Moore Scholarship,



an award honoring the life of a young Hunter student who was murdered in 2003.

Jacob received the scholarship, which benefits

minority students who excel academically, at the New York Association of Black Journalists' 19th Annual Scholarship Banquet on February 15.

Currently in her junior year at Hunter with a 3.8 GPA and a major in film and media studies, Jacob is the Vice Chair of the Hunter College Senate and a Junior Senator in the Undergraduate Student Government.

In 2004, her modeling ambitions led her to audition for "America's Next Top Model," in which she placed 6th out of 18,000 young women who tried for the title.

# Faculty Authors Get Rave Reviews

Two Hunter College alumni, Michael Thomas and Gary Shteyngart, have won rave reviews for their new novels.

Thomas' first novel, *Man Gone Down*, was featured on the front cover of the *New York Times Book Review* on Sunday, February 4.

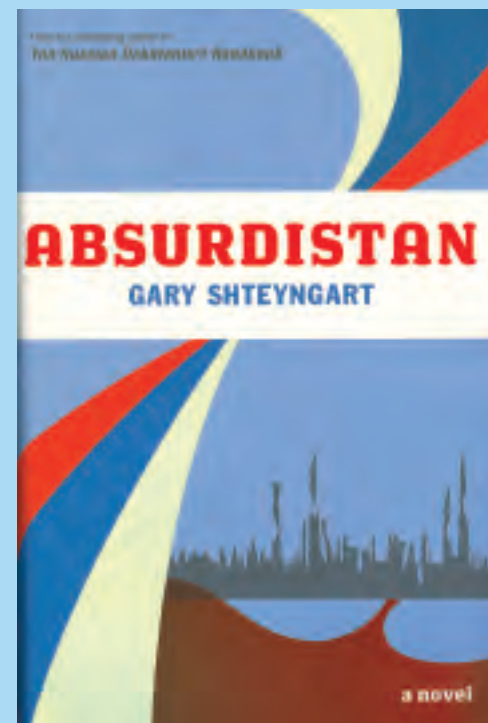
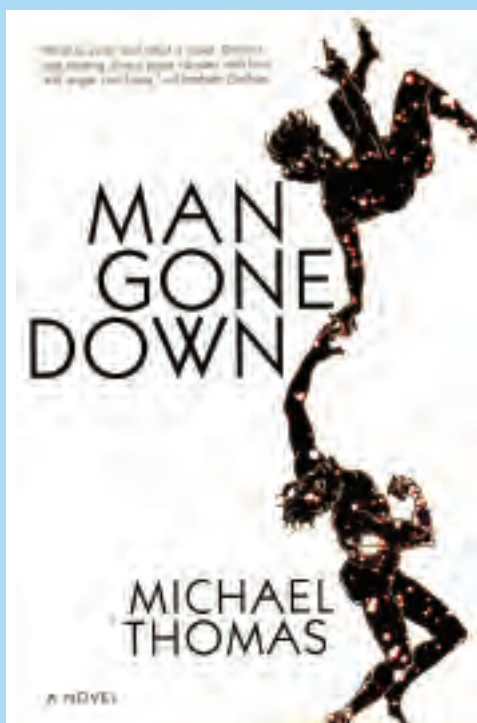
*The Times* called the novel – about a struggling young black father in Brooklyn trying to claim a piece of the American Dream – an "impressive success" and praised Thomas for his "exceptional eye for detail, and the poetry of his descriptive digressions."

Thomas received his BA from Hunter and an MFA from Warren Wilson College. He is a professor of English at Hunter.

Shteyngart's novel, *Absurdistan*, made the *New York Times* Top 10 list recently. The book – a cultural and political satire, filled with references to Hunter College, and set both in Russia and New York City – was on Amazon's Top 50 list of recommended books for 2006 and received a starred review in *Publishers' Weekly*.

His debut novel, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, also won wide praise and numerous fiction awards – including the Stephen Crane Award for First Fiction and the National Jewish Book Award for Fiction.

Shteyngart received his MFA from Hunter in 2002 and has also taught here.





## Calling the Class of '34

If you are a member of the Class of '34 – or any other Hunter class that graduated during the Great Depression – journalist Lily Koppel is looking for your help. Koppel used a diary kept by Florence Wolfson ('34) about her Hunter years as the basis for a *New York Times* article, "Speak Memory," that ran July 16. Now Koppel is collecting material on what it was like to be a Depression-era student in New York City. If you'd like to add your memories to Koppel's research, you can reach her by contacting Julie Wolpov, Director of Alumni Relations, at (212) 772-4085.

## Save the Date

The Annual Meeting of the Scholarship and Welfare Fund will be held on June 19 at 2PM in the Faculty Dining Room. Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab will be the guest speaker. For more information, please call the S&W office at 212-772-4092.

## Get your New Alumni ID Cards Now!

Call the Alumni Office (212) 772-4087 to update your record; then go to the Welcome Center (Room 100 North Bldg) with your photo ID. They will issue your card to you. For more information please e-mail at: [alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu)

# Alumni News

## A Century of Strong Hunter Women

Memories of Hunter from 80 years ago are as vivid to Amelie Spiegel Rothschild, Evelyn Rose Perlman, and Ethel Garfunkel Berl as though they happened yesterday.

In the 1920s, when these centenarians were undergrads, Hunter College was a single building, a dramatic four-story Gothic structure located on Park Avenue between 68th and 69th Streets.

"Hunter was quite a place," said Mrs. Rothschild, who graduated from the College in 1926 and will be turning 102 this year. "It was wonderful. I received such a good education, and nothing was taken for granted."

"I enjoyed a poetry class under Helen Gray Cone, a little frail spinster lady," she remembers. "I'll never forget her teachings or Robert Browning's poetry. I had a revelation in that class."

Perlman and Berl also have golden memories of those days they spent in Hunter classrooms.

"I met two girls and we became lifelong friends, forever and ever," said Mrs. Perlman, a graduate of the class of 1928 who turns 100 this year. "We took part in everything at Hunter and we just loved it. We used to go down to the basement and there would be tea and crackers and we would socialize."

"I got to know everybody," said Dr. Berl, who will celebrate her 101st birthday this year. "I knew students, professors, the janitor, the elevator operator. All my friends were all around me."

Berl, Perlman, and Rothschild all went on to become educators, with Berl, who graduated in 1927, returning to Hunter the day after commencement and teaching in the School of Education at the College for over 40 years.

"The President called me the night of graduation and the next day I was teaching a class full of my friends," Dr. Berl laughed. "I was terrified. They were all teasing me and joking...I loved Hunter. It has been my life's work."

Perlman became a teacher at P.S. 13 in the Bronx, and recalls the fulfillment of instructing first graders.

"Once you teach a child to read, the whole world opens up for them," she said. "I had quite a few children whom I would meet in different places afterwards and be very happy to find out that some of them did so well."

Rothschild became a great proponent of public education. She was on the School Board of Scarsdale, N.Y., during the McCarthy Era in the 1950s, when an attack was launched on the freedom of schools. She fought on the side of academic freedom in what became known as "The Battle of the Books."

"I felt a determination to protect our public schools," she said. "I guess you could say that Hunter was the bedrock of my interest in learning."



Amelie S. Rothschild



Evelyn R. Perlman



Ethel G. Berl

## In Memoriam

### Judith Vladeck '45



Judith Vladeck  
1923-2007

Judith Vladeck, a pioneering lawyer who fought against sexual discrimination and unfair labor practices in a series of landmark cases, died on January 8 at the age of 83.

Because she graduated near the end of World War II when women were being denied jobs to make room for returning veterans, Vladeck developed a lifetime sensitivity to employment discrimination. She felt the sting personally when she and 25 other women graduating from Columbia Law School in 1947 were told by the dean they were just taking work away from men coming out of the Army.

In 1957, she joined her husband, Stephen, at his law firm, Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard. Over the next four decades, she became a specialist in discrimination litigation – and a feared opponent for some of the largest firms in the nation. One of her early victories was in 1973 against, ironically, CUNY for salary discrimination against female faculty members. She won a multimillion-dollar settlement. She also won or settled major cases against industrial and financial giants like Union Carbide, Western Electric, Chase Manhattan and Shearson Lehman Brothers.

Hunter College honored Judith Vladeck on January 29 with a memorial service in the Danny Kaye Playhouse. During her remarks, President Jennifer Raab hailed Vladeck's achievement in changing workplace standards and called her a personal role model.

Vladeck is survived by her sons Bruce and David and a daughter, Anne, who is a partner in her mother's law firm and herself a prominent labor lawyer.

### Esther Lederberg '42



Esther Lederberg  
1922-2006

Esther Lederberg, who was renowned for advancing the frontiers of microbiology while breaking down barriers for women in science, died on November 11 at the age of 83. Her discoveries in the early 1950s changed the understanding of how genes work. Some of the research methods she developed turned time-consuming laboratory work into a process as routine, one admirer said, as a rubberstamp.

She was a pioneer for women's rights, demanding and receiving a professorship at Stanford University after arguing that there were no women on the faculty. Throughout her career, she fought for women's recognition in the male-dominated world of science. Her first husband, Joshua Lederberg, won the 1958 Nobel Prize in Medicine and her discoveries made significant contributions to his work.

Born Esther Zimmer, she enrolled at Hunter planning to major in French or literature – but switched to microbiology. She earned her Masters from Stanford in 1946 and her doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1950. She returned to Stanford in 1959 and retired in 1985 as professor emerita in immunology and microbiology. She and her first husband divorced in 1966. In 1989, she married Matthew Simon, a Stanford engineer who shared the love she developed late in life for renaissance and baroque music.

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL TO:

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HUNTER COLLEGE  
Room 1314 East Building, 695 Park Avenue,  
New York, NY 10021

### Annual Spring Alumni Birthday Luncheon

The Alumni Association of Hunter College is pleased to announce the Annual Spring Alumni Birthday Luncheon on Saturday, April 28, 2007, at the Grand Hyatt.

Please send an invitation to the Spring 2007 Alumni Luncheon to:

Last Name

First Name

Date of Graduation

Address

City

State Zip

Phone Number

e-mail

Additional Name

Last Name

First Name

Date of Graduation

Address

City

State Zip

Phone Number

e-mail



# Class Notes

Read about the wonderful life events happening with all of our esteemed Hunter College alumni. Please keep us—and your fellow alumni—informed about your accomplishments by e-mailing your news to [alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu). Or you can update your contact information and submit a Class Note at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni). Share your stories with us and the greater Hunter College community. You can even post a picture of yourself!

## 1940s

**Pearl Selinsky ('49)** published two volumes of poetry, *Love and Other Complaints*, and *Vic & Me*.

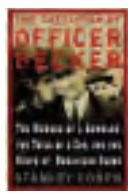
## 1950s

**Margarita Duncan Tomko ('50)** was honored for her efforts on behalf of educators as she received the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the AFT Women's Rights Committee "Living the Legacy Award: Gold Recognition." Tomko was recognized for forty years of exceptional leadership and union advocacy.

**Gerald Cafesjian (BA '50)** founded a new lobbying organization, U.S.-Armenia Public Affairs Committee (USAPAC). The organization complements existing Armenian-American advocacy groups and matches their considerable influence in Washington.

**Robert Burch ('55)** was honored by the Fayette County Public Library for his work as an author. Burch has written 19 books for children and young adults, most of them set in his native state of Georgia.

**Stanley Cohen (BA '55)** wrote *The Execution of Officer Becker*, recently published by Carroll & Graf. His book tells the story of the only New York police officer ever executed for murder.



**Allen Klein (BA '59)** has published three books by Gramercy Books; *Parentlaughs: Quips, Quotes, and Anecdotes about Raising Kids*; *Teacherlaughs: Quips, Quotes, and Anecdotes about the Classroom*; and *Worklaughs: Quips, Quotes, and Anecdotes about Making a Buck*.

## 1960s



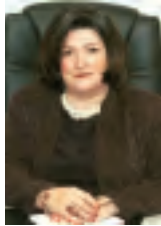
**Henry Grinberg (MA '60)** a retired professor of literature and writing at City College and Yeshiva University, has published his first novel. Entitled *Variations on the Beast*, it tells the story of a brilliant, but corrupt orchestral conductor during the rise of Nazi Germany. Grinberg, who taught for 42 years, is also a licensed psychoanalyst. He is married to poet and playwright Suzanne Noguere.

**Robert Davila (MSEd '65)** was named interim president of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. Davila, a Gallaudet alumnus, is the past CEO of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute for Technology and an assistant secretary at the Department of Education.

**Ira B. Korman (BA '67)** was appointed senior vice president of operations and strategy at Cirrus Health. Korman is responsible for facility and physician development, operational management and strategic planning for current and future organizational growth.

## 1970s

**Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez (BA '75)** was appointed by Governor Eliot Spitzer to the position of Secretary of State. Cortés-Vázquez was formerly the head of the Hispanic Federation and most recently, vice president of government and public affairs at Cablevision Systems Corp.



**Stuart J. Sigman (BA '75)** became the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Naropa University, the only fully accredited Buddhist-inspired university in the United States.

**Sara E. Wermiel (MUP '77)** published *Lighthouses: A Norton/Library of Congress Visual Sourcebook*.

## Hunter Remembers...

Anne Gottlieb, 1928

Rose Resnick, 1928

Eileen Amdur, 1929

Rosalind Milman, 1930

Rose Segal Kiesler, 1932

Elsie Engel, 1933

Pearl Ain, 1934

Blanche Rubin Goldberger, 1934

Pearl Crystal Scher, 1934

Gertrude T. Bassler, 1937

Florence Lurie Knox, 1937

Ruth Israel Brody, 1938

Anna Barber, 1939

Ruth Clark Duff, 1939

Edna Grey, 1939

Ruth Honig Zeff, 1939

Serena Winer, 1939

Gladys S. Kleinman, 1940

Adele L. Lenrow, 1940

Anita Glick, 1942

Shirley C. Jennings, 1942

Maxine Rosenberg, 1943

Gladys Green, 1945

Joyce E. Holsey, 1946, 1951

Beverly Friedman Mednick, 1946

Lillian Rosenthal, 1949

Margaret Benson, 1950

Virginia Sargent, 1950

Barbara F. Medina, 1952

Evelyn Ortner, 1952

Rose Meltz, 1957

George Sadek, 1958

Mary A. Kelly, 1962

Carol T. Savage, 1966

Gabor "Gabe" Dalmath, 1967

Alexander Cieslak, 1971

Joan Levin, 1972

Ruana Starer Weitzen, 1974

Milagros A. Matos, 1978

Julia L. Smith, 1978

Suzanne Kreisler-Cooley, 1979

Sarah C. Burke, 1984

Jennifer R. Sachs, 1990

## 1980s

**John Dilleuth's (BA '82)** exhibition, "Fringe & Fancy," was recently featured at the Southwestern College Art Gallery in San Diego.

**Maria Brennan, (MSW '84)** Vice President/Chief Nursing Officer, Patient Care Services at St. Joseph's Healthcare System, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Organization of Nurse Executives of New Jersey (ONE/NJ) for a two-year term. ONE/NJ is the premier professional organization for nursing leaders in New Jersey.

**Juliet Alexander (BA '86)** has been appointed Managing Director of First Republic Bank, a leading provider of wealth management and private banking services. Prior to joining First Republic, she worked for U.S. Trust as Vice President and Relationship Manager, serving individual and business clients.

## 1990s

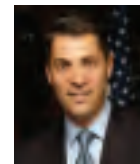
**Russell Ferguson (MA '94)** was appointed professor and chair of the Department of Art at UCLA. Ferguson was formerly chief curator and deputy director of exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum at UCLA and will continue to develop new projects for the museum as an adjunct curator.

**George W. Contreras (MPH '94)** was named one of the *Daily News'* 50 Unsung New York Heroes. Contreras is the Director of Emergency Management at NYU Medical Center. He teaches staff about preparing for major disasters, works on weekends as a paramedic at several hospitals; teaches graduate courses in emergency services and travels to Kenya and Ecuador, where his parents are from, to help develop EMS programs.

**Felix A. Urrutia Jr. (MS '96)** has been appointed the new executive director of the Police Athletic League (PAL). PAL is New York City's largest, nonprofit, independent youth organization.

**Sally Resnik Rockriver (MFA '96)** was featured in *The News & Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.) about her artwork in the medium of glassblowing and the studio, Thermal Lab, which she owns and operates.

**Andrea Moody (MA '97)** was appointed the curator of the Abby Williams Hill Collection at the University of Puget Sound. Most recently, she was the owner of Andrea Moody Fine Art Appraisals.



**Roger Manno (BA '98)** was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in November.

## 2000s

**Lise Lemeland (MFA '01)**, an associate professor of painting in the School of Art & Design at Alfred University, is one of 25 artists selected as a recipient of a Painters & Sculptors Grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation. Lemeland, who joined the faculty of the School of Art & Design in 2005, said the grant will allow her to "further my artistic career."

**Michelle Sokolowski (BA '03)** is working as a stage manager for International Creative Management. She also does modeling on the side.

**Dina Alvarez (BA '05)** co-founded *Somos Padres*, the first and only free bilingual publication for Latino families in New York City. The publication focuses on providing much needed resources and information for immigrants raising children in a new environment, as well as first and second generation Latinos looking to hold on to their cultural roots. Alvarez is also the winner of the 2005 Latino Rising Star Award and the Anna Maria Arias Business Fund Award given to Latina entrepreneurs.

**Alison Fox's (MFA '06)** work was exhibited at Mitchell-Innes & Nash in Chelsea in December and January.

**Robert Graziano (BA '06)** turned his job working as a hot dog vendor at Giants Stadium into an opportunity to write a weekly column for [fantasyfootballinsiders.com](http://fantasyfootballinsiders.com). Graziano has also started his own sports blog, [grazianimal.blogspot.com](http://grazianimal.blogspot.com).

## Alumni Association Events

For information on all alumni events, please check our Web site at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni)

### NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

The National Capital Chapter will have their Annual Scholarship Luncheon on June 2.

Location: TBA

For more information, contact:

Joan Krauthamer at 301-424-0033 or e-mail Sylvia McCollum at [smccollum@bot.gov](mailto:smccollum@bot.gov).

### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

The Northern New Jersey Chapter will have their Spring Luncheon on May 10 at Armando's Restaurant in Fort Lee at 12:30PM.

For more information, contact:

Grace Krajcovic at 201-440-3173.

### SOUTH JERSEY CHAPTER

The South Jersey Chapter will have their next luncheon on June 8th (tentative date).

Location: TBA

For more information, contact:

Roz Sietz at 856-428-5845.

### QUEENS CHAPTER

The Queens Chapter will have their next meeting at the home of Miriam Meadow on May 1.

James Davis, a member of the chapter, will speak on interesting facts about U.S. presidents.

On June 2, the chapter will hold their Spring Luncheon at Pasta Lovers Restaurant on Queens Blvd. Tickets for the luncheon are \$30.

There will be entertainment as well as door and raffle prizes.

For more information, contact:

Shirley Zimmet at 718-68-7278 or Helene Goldfarb at 212-517-3144 or [hdgoldfarb@aol.com](mailto:hdgoldfarb@aol.com).

### ROCKLAND CHAPTER

The Rockland Alumni Chapter will have their Spring Luncheon at Del Arte Restaurant in Orangeburg, NY on May 10, at 12:30PM.

Nancy Lowe-Hogan, Associate Provost of L.I.U., will speak about "Women in Politics: a Personal View."

If interested, mail a check for \$30 to Viv Levenson, 521 Piermont Ave., Apt. 201, Piermont, NJ, 07675.

For more information, call:

845-365-2727.

### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

The San Diego Chapter will have their Spring Luncheon on May 19, featuring the return of the San Diego Symphony Quartet.

For more information, contact: Rhoda Leopold at 858-613- 9022 or [rho4realestate@aol.com](mailto:rho4realestate@aol.com).

### STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER

The Staten Island Chapter will have their Annual Spring Luncheon on May 17 at 6PM at the Downtown Danoi Restaurant in Fort Wadsworth.

Guest speaker will be Justice Barbara Panepinto.

For more information, call:

Dolores Celentano at 718-981-4916.

### WISTARIANS CHAPTER

The Wistarians Chapter will have their next meeting on June 16 at 1PM.

Helene Goldfarb, President of Hunter's Scholarship and Welfare Fund, will discuss foundations.

Location: TBA.

For more information, call:

212-772-4087.



# Foundation News

## Harriet Gruber Named to Hunter College Foundation



**H**arriet Gruber (BA '51) has been named to the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees. Gruber hopes to continue to use her love for the theater to help Hunter students. After she made a generous gift to the Theater Department in 2005 for a new rehearsal space, she established a theater scholarship in memory of her late sister. More recently, she contributed \$100,000 towards the renovation of the Loewe Theatre and has made a \$500,000 planned gift in support of Hunter's theater department.

"I am so impressed by the people in the theater department," she says. "I want to encourage more people to go into theater arts here."

For Gruber, it took a long time to return to her roots at Hunter. Married at 19 while still attending college as a political science major, she moved to California after graduation.

Her husband, Alan, was a nuclear engineer turned entrepreneur who ran a consortium of insurance companies. They eventually moved back to New York where she worked with the Jewish Board of Family and Children Services and then for 20 years in residential real estate sales. Gruber has three children – James, a pulmonologist in Montreal; Steve, an investment banker in New York; and Marian Gruber Montgomery, a family therapist/social worker in New York – along with nine grandchildren.

After retiring and moving to Arizona, she returned to New York a few years ago and re-connected with Hunter. "Everyone at Hunter had lost touch with me because of all my moves," Gruber recalls. "Then someone from my husband's college approached me for money and I decided I wanted to give back to my own instead."

That has given her the chance now to combine her love for the theater with her desire to become actively involved again with her alma mater. "I'm not an actress, but one of my close friends at Hunter – Elaine Kussack ('50) – was and is. Through Elaine, I've gotten even more involved in theater. I would like Hunter to become more well-known as a school of theater art."

## Nursing School Gets \$300,000 Grant to Maintain Its Leading Edge in Technology

**H**unter's nursing students will soon be learning how to work with patient records through state-of-the-art technology, thanks to a \$300,000 grant to the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing.

The three-year grant will enable the nursing school to modernize the curriculum for teaching students to work with high-tech information systems in hospitals and home-care settings. Students will learn the latest techniques in reading and updating patients' electronic records and in using cutting-edge technology to communicate the information to other health-care workers.

The grant comes from the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, an arm of the Barbara and Donald Jonas Family Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund. "This program provides nursing students the unique opportunity to develop literacy in electronic patient information systems – and will benefit patient care," said Executive Director of the Jonas Center, Dr. Marilyn A. DeLuca, Hunter alumna ('71).

Dr. Kathleen Nokes, director of the program, and Dr. Donna Nickitas, co-director, will work in partnership with the New York Harbor Health Care System of the city's Department of Veterans Affairs and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York.

## Honor the Great Hunter Woman in Your Life



**Joan H. Grabe (right) of the Class of '60 describes her delight at having a Mother's Day Scholarship endowed in her name by her four children as nursing student Sharon Zuniga, the first recipient, listens. The Mother's Day Scholarship Fund is the College's increasingly popular program for honoring Hunter alumnae while helping promising students. Those interested in contributing should contact Karin Paredes at (212) 650-3741 or mothersday@hunter.cuny.edu.**

# 10 Questions For...

**Andrew Lund, Assistant Professor of Film and Media**



**A**n award-winning filmmaker himself as well as a teacher, Andrew Lund taught at the University of North Carolina and at Columbia before joining Hunter in 2004.

He received his MFA in film from Columbia and has written, directed and produced feature and documentary films. Lund also has a law degree from Columbia.

In this regular series in *At Hunter* spotlighting Hunter faculty, Lund answers 10 questions that were put to him:

**1. If you weren't teaching, what might you be doing for a living?**

I've toiled as a gallery assistant, music library manager, ghostwriter, bartender, tennis instructor – and in corporate law. Teaching at Hunter surpasses all of these.

**2. What do you like to do when you're not teaching?**

I do things intensely, like sample croissants from all 18 Paris quarters in one day, or kayak all the way around Deer Isle, or walk the length of Broadway.

**3. Accomplishment you're most proud of?**

Leaving a lucrative job at a Wall Street law firm to pursue my passion. The other lawyers all thought I was crazy. Now, many of them are calling for advice on how they can free themselves from the golden handcuffs of corporate law.

**4. What book have you just finished reading?**

*Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, by Marisha Pessl and *The Lost Painting* by Jonathan Harr. I highly recommend them both.

**5. Guilty pleasure TV show?**

A close friend who shot my first two films has been the cinematographer of the NBC sitcom *Scrubs*. After watching an episode, I get the inside scoop about the production from my friend – it's like having my own personal commentary track.

**6. Guilty pleasure junk food?**

Growing up, I used to sneak Captain Crunch cereal into our 100% organic home, and it was always a staple at sleepovers.

One of my favorite wedding gifts was a set of Calphalon cookware with boxes of Captain Crunch hidden in each pot. On the rare occasion that I buy some of this unnaturally crunchy comfort food, I still feel an illicit thrill (and it still tastes great).

**7. What movie has inspired you the most in your own work?**

On my first day of graduate school, I answered this question with *Local Hero*. The film (and my opinion of it) have stood the test of time. *Local Hero* made me laugh, cry, and think, a good recipe for a film.

**8. What film projects are you working on now?**

My film *Snapshot* continues to play in film festivals (it recently won the top prize at the 33rd New England Film Festival), and it will soon be featured on PBS. My latest film, *Finders Keepers*, has already screened as a work in progress at two festivals.

**9. Tell us the best thing about Hunter for a filmmaker – and any advice for students who dream of being Martin Scorsese?**

Hunter is like a microcosm of New York City itself – filled with energy, vitality and opportunity. For the same reasons filmmakers from all over the world are drawn to New York, I have found Hunter to be an incredibly fertile environment in which to work. My advice: Make as many films as you can. Don't be afraid to fail. An imperfect film is much better than no film at all.

**10. Tell us something about yourself that your students might be shocked to find out?**

They might be surprised that I used to wear a suit and tie everyday, that I played competitive sports at a high level, and that I never took one film class as an undergraduate. What might shock them is how much I learn from them, how much they inspire my work and how much I brag about them behind their backs.