

# THE FACULTY VOICE

## Hunter College Faculty Newsletter

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### EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING IN A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

The following remarks were delivered by Professor Deborah Blocker, School of Health Sciences, at The New Faculty Orientation held on September 2, 1992. Professor Blocker was the recipient of 1992 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"I would like to welcome you to Hunter College. You are about to begin an exciting adventure. Hunter is a wonderful place to teach because of the tremendous diversity of our student body and our college's commitment to providing each student with the best possible educational experience. As a black woman and a native New Yorker, this is especially significant for me. Hunter College and The City University of New York provide the only hope of attaining a college education for most of our students, many of whom are making major sacrifices to attain their goals.

I am honored to be this year's recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. I cannot think of a more meaningful academic honor, because I feel strongly that as faculty, our highest calling is the instruction and mentoring of our students. For me, teaching is my number one priority and my classes and students come first. I do not mean to imply that one neglects other essential academic responsibilities, such as research and service, because active participation in these activities helps to make us better teachers.

I have been teaching at Hunter College for the past five years. I began as a substitute Assistant Professor in September 1987, and the following semester was appointed as a full-time faculty member. When I started, I had no prior teaching experience and had no coursework in education methods. However, I had extensive experience as a student, and began teaching from that perspective. I remembered those teachers from my past who were most successful in stimulating student learning and their example formed the basis of my teaching style.

I would like to share with you some specific principles of teaching excellence that I have followed during my years at Hunter. First of all as an instructor, one must be very knowledgeable about the subject one is teaching. One should research the subject thoroughly and always review the most recent literature. One must spend time in lesson preparation, looking for opportunities to present information in creative ways that facilitate active learning on the part of the students. It is essential that one must love one's discipline. Students can always tell if one is just going through the motions. One should constantly modify and update lecture notes and lesson plans. Each time one teaches the same course, one needs to present a fresh approach, incorporate new knowledge, and show evidence of having benefited from one's previous experience with the course.

Earlier I mentioned the marvelous student diversity at Hunter College. This diversity is probably one of our greatest strengths at the present time, but it also presents a challenge in teaching. In the classroom, one should try to create an atmosphere that enables each individual stu-

dent to learn. Encourage inquiry and critical evaluation of what they are learning; encourage curiosity; and promote each student's ability to think.

As an instructor, one must have high expectations of one's students. Find ways of presenting complex materials in an understandable way. Students want to be challenged and want to know that the teacher expects them to learn and succeed, no matter how difficult the subject. Students should be encouraged to stretch their abilities beyond what they thought was possible. As faculty, we must always strive to be fair and equitable to every student. Each student must be treated with respect and be allowed to express views in a respectful manner. Accessibility is another important trait of an excellent teacher. Students should have access to their teachers for advice and academic counseling. It is important that one keeps scheduled office hours, appointments, and be available by telephone.

In summary then, an excellent teacher is one who makes teaching a top priority, prepares well for each class session, creates a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning, holds high expectations for students, and is fair and accessible to each student. At Hunter, one has the opportunity and privilege to make a real difference in the lives of students."

### NEW MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

The Executive Committee of the The General Faculty welcomes the following new full-time faculty to Hunter:

Roseanne Bar, Sociology  
Suzanne Baybar, Health Sciences  
Sema Brainin, Curr. and Teaching  
Emily Frances Braun, Art  
Richard Burke, Music  
Mary Clancy, Nursing  
Nancy Clark, Health Sciences  
Gerald Creed, Anthropology  
Laurel Eckhardt, Biology  
Joanne Edey-Rhodes, BI. and PR Studies  
Mark Goldberg, Health Sciences  
Karen Goldman, Health Sciences  
Hailu Habtu, BI. and PR Studies  
Pamela Hayes, Nursing  
Keith Heyen, Economics  
Jonathan Kalb, Theatre and Film  
Mary Kopola, Educ. Foundations  
Kenneth Krepp, Library  
Osumaka Likaka, History  
Maria Munoz-Kantha, Social Work  
Bernadette O'Brien, Curr. and Teaching  
Maura Ryan, Nursing  
Marcia Schlarmitz, Computer Science  
Janet Schoepflin, Health Sciences  
Wendy Tan, Library  
Sylvia Tomasch, English



## IMPORTANT DEADLINE FOR FULL-TIME MEMBERS OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

The deadline for submitting applications for PSC-CUNY Research Awards is October 15, 1992. New faculty may however delay their application until December 1. For more information, contact Mrs. Priscilla Price, Research Administration, Room 1424E, EXT 4020.

### TENURE SCHEDULE FALL 1992

- ☐ Candidates' vitae due in personnel, and Divisional recommendations forwarded to the President by September 25.
- ☐ President's report to Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee and notification of candidates by Departmental Chair by October 6.
- ☐ Appeal to President by candidates not recommended by Divisional Personnel and Budget Committee for submittal to Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee by October 16.
- ☐ Announcement of the names of all appellants by the President to Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee by October 20.
- ☐ Vote on appeals by Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee by November 10.
- ☐ Final Vote by Faculty Personnel and Budget Committee by November 17.

### PROMOTION SCHEDULE FALL 1992

- ☐ Nominations to Departmental Personnel and Budget Committee and requests for consideration beginning November 23, and no later than December 4.
- ☐ List of candidates for promotion submitted to the President by December 11.
- ☐ Preliminary review of credentials and notification of candidates by Departmental Personnel and Budget Committee by December 11.
- ☐ Final Departmental P&B recommendations and supporting material to Divisional Dean and notification of all full-time members of the Department by February 16, 1993.

### 1992-93 GENERAL FACULTY AND FDA MEETING SCHEDULE

General Faculty or Faculty Delegate Assembly meetings will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m., according to the following schedule:

- ☐ Wednesday, October 21, General Faculty-Room 709W
- ☐ Wednesday, November 18, FDA-Room 709W
- ☐ Wednesday, December 16, General Faculty-Room 217W
- ☐ Wednesday, February 17, General Faculty-Room 709W
- ☐ Wednesday, March 17, FDA-Room 709W
- ☐ Wednesday, April 21, FDA-Room 709W
- ☐ Wednesday, May 19, General Faculty-217W

## AU REVOIR TO OUR FACULTY RETIREES

Retirement was on the minds of many Hunter College employees during the Spring semester. The early retirement option was a topic for discussion at most of meetings held on this campus and elsewhere in the C.U.N.Y. system. Yet as the August 7, irrevocable sign-up date drew near, many of our colleagues experienced indecision, uncertainty, and anxiety which a major life event, such as retirement, can evoke. However on that date, twenty-one full-time Hunter College faculty, joined 350 CUNY instructional staff who accepted the retirement offer, one which is not expected to be available again during this century.

Below is a final listing of our faculty who accepted the latest incentive:

Frank Bonilla\*, Professor, Centro  
Marcia Brody, Professor, Biology  
Naomi Cohen, Professor, History  
Elliot Derfler, Assoc. Prof., Health and PE  
Calvin Edwards, Assoc. Prof., English  
Milagros Garcia, Asst. Prof., Academic Skills  
Christopher Hamilton, Sr. CLT, Biology  
Richard Havel, Professor, Health and PE  
Paul Kirshenbaum\*\*, Assoc. Prof., Economics  
Sam Korn\*\*, Professor, Psychology  
Marilyn Manley, Lecturer, Academic Skills  
Gregory Massell, Professor, Political Science  
Naomi Miller, Professor, History  
Robert Montesi, Professor, Music  
Vladimir Nahirny, Assoc. Prof., Sociology  
Russell Oberlin, Professor, Music  
Esther Quinn, Professor, English  
Barbara Russo, Assoc. Prof., Nursing  
Stanley Segal, Professor, Educ. Found.  
Robert Thompson, Professor, Psychology  
Sinai Waxman, Professor, Curr. and Teaching

We wish each of our colleagues a most successful retirement experience and hope that they will maintain their long-standing association with the Hunter Family.

\*Effective January, 1993

\*\*Effective December 1992

THE FACULTY VOICE is published by The Office of The General Faculty and The Faculty Delegate Assembly. Executive Committee Members: Margaret Magnus, President; Paul Kurzman, Vice President; Maria Rodriguez, Secretary; Marnia Lazreg, Treasurer; Christina Taharally, Day Session Faculty Rep.; Jean-Jacques Strayer, Evening Session Faculty Rep.; and Cecile Insdorf, Part-time Faculty Rep. We encourage a more active exchange of ideas, news, views, and opinions among our faculty. Write us letters, send us information and articles which you would like to have included in forthcoming issues. Let us hear from YOU!!