

THE FACULTY VOICE

HUNTER COLLEGE FACULTY NEWSLETTER

VOL. VIII

MAY, 1997

NO. 4

Presidential Faculty Awards

Our congratulations go to our colleagues who are the recipients of the 1997 Hunter College Presidential Awards for Excellence. At the suggestion of the FDA, awards for Excellence in Teaching were given to meritorious adjunct (as well as full-time) faculty for the first time this year. Awardees received their recognition at the Annual Honors Convocation on March 26th:

•For Excellence in Teaching:

Robert Salmon, Professor of Social Work
Richard Burke, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Music; and, Elinor Richter, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Art.

•For Excellence in Scholarship:

JoAnn McNamara, Professor of History

Congratulations one and all!

College Calendar for Fall

Senior Registrar Yechiel (Jerry) Rosenrauch has announced that the Hunter College academic calendar for the forthcoming Fall 1997 Semester has been approved, and the highlights are noted below so that faculty can begin to make plans for the term ahead:

- Sept. 1 Labor Day, College Closed
- Sept. 2 First Day of Classes, Fall '97
- Oct. 1 Classes Follow a Friday Schedule, and, No Classes after 4 p.m.
- Oct. 2, 3 & 11 No Classes
- Oct. 10 No Classes after 4 p.m.
- Oct. 13 Columbus Day Observed College Closed
- Nov. 25 Classes Follow Thursday Schedule
- Nov. 27-28 Thanksgiving Recess, College Closed
- Dec. 15 Last Day of Classes, Fall Semester
- Dec. 16-23 Final Examinations

Dec. 24 Winter Recess Begins, No Classes
Dec. 24, 25, & 31 College Closed

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day, College Closed
- Jan. 19 M.L. King Jr. Day, College Closed
- Jan. 29 Winter Commencement
- Jan. 31 First Day of Classes, Spring '98

FDA and Senate Legislative Testimony

On March 14th, the Chair of the New York State Assembly's Standing Committee on Higher Education held an open hearing at Hunter College on Governor Pataki's proposed 1997-1998 Higher Education budget. The Honorable Edward C. Sullivan, 69th Assembly District, heard testimony from several constituencies of the College, including the Hunter Senate and the Faculty Delegate Assembly. Given the importance of the forthcoming CUNY budget for the faculty and staff of Hunter College and for the students we serve, we present here a summary of the presentations by our constituent bodies for your review.

Professor Maria Rodriguez (SEEK) presented the following testimony on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Hunter FDA: "Governor Pataki's 1997-98 budget proposals for higher education are not an anomaly in the recent budget history of New York State higher education. Hunter and other CUNY colleges have had to grapple with several years of budget cuts, followed by fiscal exigency and retrenchment in 1995. The Hunter community has yet to heal from the scars of previous budget reductions--increased class sizes, decreased number of course sections, fewer faculty and support staff. The current proposals, if implemented, would cause irreparable damage to the Hunter College community and jeopardize its mission of access and excellence.

Just to illustrate the point, from Fall 1994 through Fall 1996, Hunter sustained a net loss of 64 of its 567 lines, or 11% of its faculty. Added to that number were 33 net instructional losses incurred among SEEK and library faculty, College Laboratory Technicians and Higher Education Officers. A recent assessment of the possible impact of the 1997-98 Executive Budget Recommendations paints a more serious reality. If Hunter College were to assume its proportionate cut from the Governor's current budget proposal, the scenario may lead to a 4% reduction in enrollment, a revenue loss of \$1,824,623 and a total reduction of \$10,027,623. The consequences of implementing such a scenario would be that at least 112 full-time faculty and staff lines would be eliminated and the number of course sections for students would be reduced by 743 or 13%.

Students would be impacted even more. An estimated 67,129 CUNY students will be affected by the proposed financial aid changes and of these students, 12,488 will lose TAP eligibility. Further, the Governor's budget proposal will disproportionately affect low-income students of color and women. At Hunter, the majority of students (73.6%) are women, over half of the students (57.5%) are minorities and more than half of the students (51.5%) attend part-time. Our students already perform juggling acts attempting to balance family, college, and work responsibilities, and they do so because they hope for a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. If this budget proposal is enacted, that hope will be greatly diminished for many. The shortsightedness of these proposals would also have negative consequences for New York City and New York State communities. A college education today is a necessity for this generation of students to effectively compete in our global society.

The Executive Committee of the General Faculty and Faculty Delegate Assembly of Hunter College urge the restoration of the proposed reductions to higher education. We urge the removal of any tuition increase and to have those funds restored. We urge the elimination of both the funding reductions and changes in eligibility requirements for

the Tuition Assistance Program. The proposed cuts would be disastrous to the future of public higher education in New York City and New York State. We feel strongly that a portion of the projected surplus in the New York State budget be allocated for this purpose--an investment in our youth and therefore in our future. Hunter and CUNY students deserve to have a future that includes a genuine opportunity for a college education. We appeal to you, our legislators, to fight on our behalf and pledge to work with you for the support of public higher education in New York State."

Professor Barbara Hampton (Music) presented testimony excerpted below on behalf of the Administrative Committee of the Hunter College Senate: "Since 1871, Hunter College has established a tradition of high-quality instruction and successful graduates who have made notable contributions to every area of human endeavor. In the past seven years, however, Hunter College has lost 18% of its full time faculty, including the dramatic 11% reduction since 1994. To meet the needs of students and fill the gaps left by these cuts, part-time faculty were hired and now teach 44% of the classes, overall. This percentage varies by division and department; in some divisions it is as high as 61% and in some departments as high as 100% in basic, introductory courses. These figures bring us dangerously close to the 50% overall maximum permitted by the Middle States Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, the major accreditation association for the college. In other words, we are 7 percentage points away from losing accreditation. Under the Governor's budget proposal 84 additional full time faculty will be lost, making this a real possibility.

For students, this has meant more than overcrowded classrooms, closed class sections, and an insufficient number of available courses necessary for timely completion of the degree. Under the Governor's proposed budget, there will be 743 fewer class sections. It has also meant fewer faculty to support the counseling and advisement functions as well as post-graduation placements. It has meant less exposure to junior faculty who are blazing new trails in their disciplines, because today only 40% of the faculty are under age 50, or in the

mid-career range. While students continue to reap the benefits offered by established senior faculty and stellar researchers, hiring freezes and few reappointments, compelled by budgetary pressures, have precluded the gradual replenishment that solid, long-term plans for natural attrition require. This portends a disaster of major proportions. Moreover, we will be unable to offer new programs as national and local demands for professionals in the various disciplines change.

The operating budget provides professional support services, including that of librarians, technicians and counselors. There has been a 23% loss of such professionals since 1990. Librarians perform a vital function for the college. Along with the conventional services, today they introduce students to the use of multi-media resources, CD-ROM data bases, and on-line research techniques. Given the current technical demands on students by every discipline and the associated computerized functions in which graduates must be proficient, we can not afford to compromise this aspect of a college education. Laboratory technicians facilitate the training of scientists. They, along with faculty, ensure that large numbers of students are safe in the laboratory. A decline in their numbers has meant radical adjustments, but further decline may mean fewer lab sections or even closing the laboratories. According to a study reported by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, the optimum ratio of instructional faculty to support professionals should be 1:7 in a college. This ratio is met in many public higher education institutions, including those of California, Texas, Michigan, Indiana and Massachusetts. At Hunter College the ratio has fallen to 1:2.

The operating budget provides support materials, such as laboratory equipment, computers, other instruments and tools, and library books. According to the American Association of Research Librarians, the library budget of a college should be maintained at 6% of the college's total budget. Since 1994, we have been unable to maintain this standard. With the Governor's proposed cuts, we will lose \$1.5 million in the OTPS budget which provides such materials.

To summarize, the budget cuts since 1994 have affected the college's ability to provide the range of instruction needed, the level of advising that can be offered to students, and the ability of each department and program to meet the goals of the college and the university. Budget cuts have driven students out of college, yielding a drop in enrollment at Hunter College from 19,662 in 1994 to 18,250 in 1995, after the last tuition increase, to 18,770 in 1996. The 1996 figure indicates an incomplete recovery from that increase thus far on the part of students, half of whom have incomes of less than \$22,000. And the proposed cuts will drastically affect the capacity of the college to meet national professional needs within the job market and meet the technical and professional resource needs of New York City and New York State.

Our students will contribute their share to the economy of the city and state, if given the opportunity. We ask nothing more than your recognition of their potential and your help to restore to the operating budget \$33 million, to fund the mandates, and to cover the costs of inflation. We ask that you rescind the \$400 per student tuition increase by restoring the \$24 million to the base budget that it is intended to cover and to retain TAP with unchanged eligibility criteria. Most important, we ask that you recognize the promise of the students and the obligation that all of us have to help them realize that promise."

Library Departmental Liaisons Named

Chief Librarian Louise Sherby has established a list of Hunter College Library Department Liaisons to each academic department and program of the College. Faculty who have questions about our library collection in their area or have requests for purchases may contact their liaison noted below at the Hunter College Library in this regard. Faculty with other questions can feel free to contact Professor Sherby directly at x 4143, or lsherby@hejira.hunter.cuny.edu.

Anthropology Polly Thistlethwaite (x4181)
Art Steven Kowalik (x5054)
Asian-American Studies Mee-Len Hom (x4182)

Biology Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Black Studies Madeline Ford (x4184)
Chemistry Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Classics Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Communication Sciences Vera Conant (481-4326)
Communications Pamela Wonsek (x4190)
Computer Science Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Community Health Education
Marie Tomlinson (481-5117)
Dance Robert Laurich (x7076)
Economics Kathleen Conahan (x4176)
Education Robert Laurich (x7076)
Energy Policy Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Environmental and Occupational Health
Marie Tomlinson (481-5117)
Geology/Geography Elliott Kaback (x4699)
German Patricia Woodard (x4137)
Government Documents Danise Hoover (x4108)
Health Sciences Vera Conant (481-4326)
Hebrew Elliott Kaback (x4699)
History:
European Polly Thistlethwaite(x4181)
African Mee-Len Hom (x4182)
Asian Mee-Len Hom (x4182)
Western Hemisphere
Julio Hernandez-Delgado (x4149)
Jewish Studies Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Latin-American Studies
Julio Hernandez-Delgado (x4149)
Library/Information Science Danise Hoover (x4108)
Mathematics Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Medical Laboratory Sciences
Marie Tomlinson (481-5117)
Music Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Nursing Vera Conant (481-4326)
Nutrition Marie Tomlinson (481-5117)
Philosophy Linda Dickinson (x4183)
Physical Therapy Vera Conant (481-4326)
Physics Elliott Kaback (x4699)
Political Science Patricia Woodard (x4137)
Psychology Lee Sellers (x4172)
Puerto Rican Studies
Julio Hernandez-Delgado (x 4149)
Reference Danise Hoover (x4108)
Religion Linda Dickinson (x4183)
Romance Languages:
French Rolando Perez (x4181)

Italian Patricia Woodard (x4137)
Spanish Rolando Perez (x4181)
Russian/Slavic Languages Tatiana Kalinin (x7076)
Social Work Robert Laurich/Tatiana Kalinin
(x7076)
Sociology Wendy Tan (x4173)
Special Collections Julio Hernandez-Delgado
(x4149)
Theatre Robert Laurich (x7076)
Urban Affairs Madeline Ford (x4184)
Women's Studies Barbara Foster (x4182)

1997-1998 FDA and General Faculty Meetings

Delegates please note that we shall continue to hold our Faculty Delegate Assembly and General Faculty meetings generally on the third Wednesday of each month from 1:15-3:00 p.m., according to the following schedule; and unless otherwise notified, meetings will be held in Room 709 West:

Fall Semester

Wednesday, September 17--General Faculty

Wednesday, October 15--FDA

Wednesday, November 19--FDA

Wednesday, December 17--General Faculty

Spring Semester

Wednesday, February 18--General Faculty

Wednesday, March 18--FDA

*Wednesday, April 22--General Faculty

Wednesday, May 20--FDA

*Date is tentative

Candidates for OICIT Director

The three finalists for Director of Hunter's new Office of Instructional Computing and Information Technology were on campus during the week of April 7th and gave a brief presentation on the subject of "The Future of Technology at Hunter College." They are, alphabetically:

Marc A. Eichen, Director of Academic Computing Services at Hunter College since 1990. He served as Supervisor of User Services from 1983-1990 at the Academic Computer Center of Queens College. He holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Clark University.

Denise M. Ondishko, Project Manager of the Systems Engineering Unit at Applied Theory Communications, Inc., in New York City for the past year. She previously was Acting Director of the Telecommunications Division at the University of Rochester. She holds a Ph.D. in Music Composition from the University of Rochester.

Robert R. Pescinski, Director of the New Brunswick computing Service of Rutgers University until 1996. He previously was Director of the Academic Computer Center at Queens College from 1986-1994. He has an M.S. in Computer Engineering from Rutgers University.

The Search Committee, co-chaired by Provost Laura Schor and Vice-President Evangelos Gizis, has made its recommendations to President Caputo who will make a selection from among the finalists put forward by the Committee.

June Commencement

Faculty should mark their calendar for the exciting graduation ceremonies scheduled for **Wednesday, June 4th** (Humanities & Arts, Sciences & Mathematics and Education) and **Thursday, June 5th** (Social Sciences, Health Sciences, Social Work and Nursing), both in the Assembly Hall at 3:00 p.m. Several honorary degrees and awards will be granted on these occasions.

On June 4th, the degree of Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, will be awarded to **Paul LeClerc** and **Wendy Wasserstein** (who also will be the Commencement Speaker). As members of the Hunter community will remember, Dr. Le Clerc served as President of Hunter College from 1988 to 1993, when he left to become President of The New York Public Library. A renowned Voltaire scholar, he had served as the Provost of Baruch College before coming to Hunter in 1988. **Wendy Wasserstein**, a celebrated author and playwright, has won national recognition for "The Sisters Rosenzweig" as well as for "The Heidi Chronicles," which won the Pulitzer Prize.

At the ceremony **Marion Wilson Starling** will receive the Hunter College President's medal (posthumously) in acknowledgement of her lifelong scholarship in the field of African-American history. A 1928 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Hunter College and a professor at Brooklyn College for 31 years, Dr. Starling was the author of the landmark study, **The Slave Narrative: Its place in American Literary History**. **Barbara Gray**, a high school counselor and college advisor at Richmond Hill High School, will receive Hunter's "Outstanding High School Counselor Award" at the ceremony as well.

On June 5th, honorary doctoral degrees will be awarded to **Kevin Cahill**, **Bob Herbert** and **Dorothea Zucker-Franklin**. **Kevin Michael Cahill, MD** is President-General of the American Irish Historical Society and will receive a University Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree. **Bob Herbert** has been a national correspondent for NBC and became the first African-American appointed City Editor at **The New York Times**, specializing in politics, social trends and urban affairs.

Dorothea Zucker-Franklin, MD is a Professor of Medicine at New York University and only the second woman in history to be elected President of the American Society of Hematology. President and Valedictorian of the Hunter College Class of 1952, Dr. Zucker-Franklin is a nationally recognized expert in electron microscopy.

Hugh B. Price, formerly Senior Vice-President of WNET-Channel 13 and currently President and CEO of the National Urban League, will be the Commencement Speaker.

Director of Urban Outreach

Last fall President Caputo appointed a Search Committee to seek candidates for a new position at Hunter College---Director of Urban Outreach. This director will: work directly with the President as a liaison to appointed and elected urban officials; create new opportunities for internship and cooperative programs in both the public and private sectors; coordinate and expand Hunter's existing urban efforts; and, help to develop a comparative urban perspective for colleges in America and abroad.

After reviewing a considerable number of resumé's, and then interviewing eight persons selected from among the many applicants, the Search Committee has recommended six persons for the post to the President for his consideration. They are, alphabetically:

- **Barbara Chocky** is currently a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and until 1996, was chairperson of Manhattan Community Planning Board #8. Previously, Ms. Chocky was director of the NYC Office of the NY Secretary of State. She holds an MPA from Baruch College.

- **Ronald Hayduk** presently is faculty coordinator of the CUNY Internship Program in Government and Politics at CCNY. He has been an adjunct lecturer at five CUNY colleges (including Hunter) and served as coordinator of the NYC Voter Assistance Commission. He has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the CUNY Graduate Center.

- **Angela Jenkins** is executive director of the NY State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators in Albany. Prior to that appointment,

Ms. Jenkins served as graduate fellow, research analyst and chief-of-staff in the office of NY State Assembly member Albert Vann. She holds an MPA from New York University.

- **Jerylle Kemp** has been senior vice-president and counsel to the State of New York Mortgage Insurance Fund and secretary to the NYS Mortgage Agency board of directors. Previously, she was an administrative assistant in the NYC Mayor's Office and an admissions officer at CUNY. She has an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from Harvard University.

- **Kenneth Reardon** currently is an assistant professor of urban and regional planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he is also principal investigator of an action research project at a community outreach partnership center in East St. Louis. Previously, he was director of a NYC field study program at Cornell University. He holds a MUP from Hunter College and a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University.

- **Mitchell Silver** presently is an associate for community-based planning at the firm of Abeles Phillips Priess & Shapiro. Previously, he served with the NYC Department of City Planning, and as a deputy director in the office of the Borough President of Manhattan. Mr. Silver has taught part-time at several colleges, including Brooklyn and Hunter, and holds an MUP degree from Hunter College.

The Search Committee has been chaired by Professor Nicholas Freudenberg (Health Sciences) and included Ms. Iris Aroyewun (Student Services), Professor Eugenie Birch (Urban Affairs), Professor Juan Flores (Black & PR Studies), Ms. Cindy Heilberger (President's Office), Professor Paul Kurzman (Social Work), Dean Bogart Leashore (Social Work), Professor Janet Poppendieck (Sociology), Professor Kenneth Sherrill (Political Science), and Ms. Mary Wills (Honors Program).