

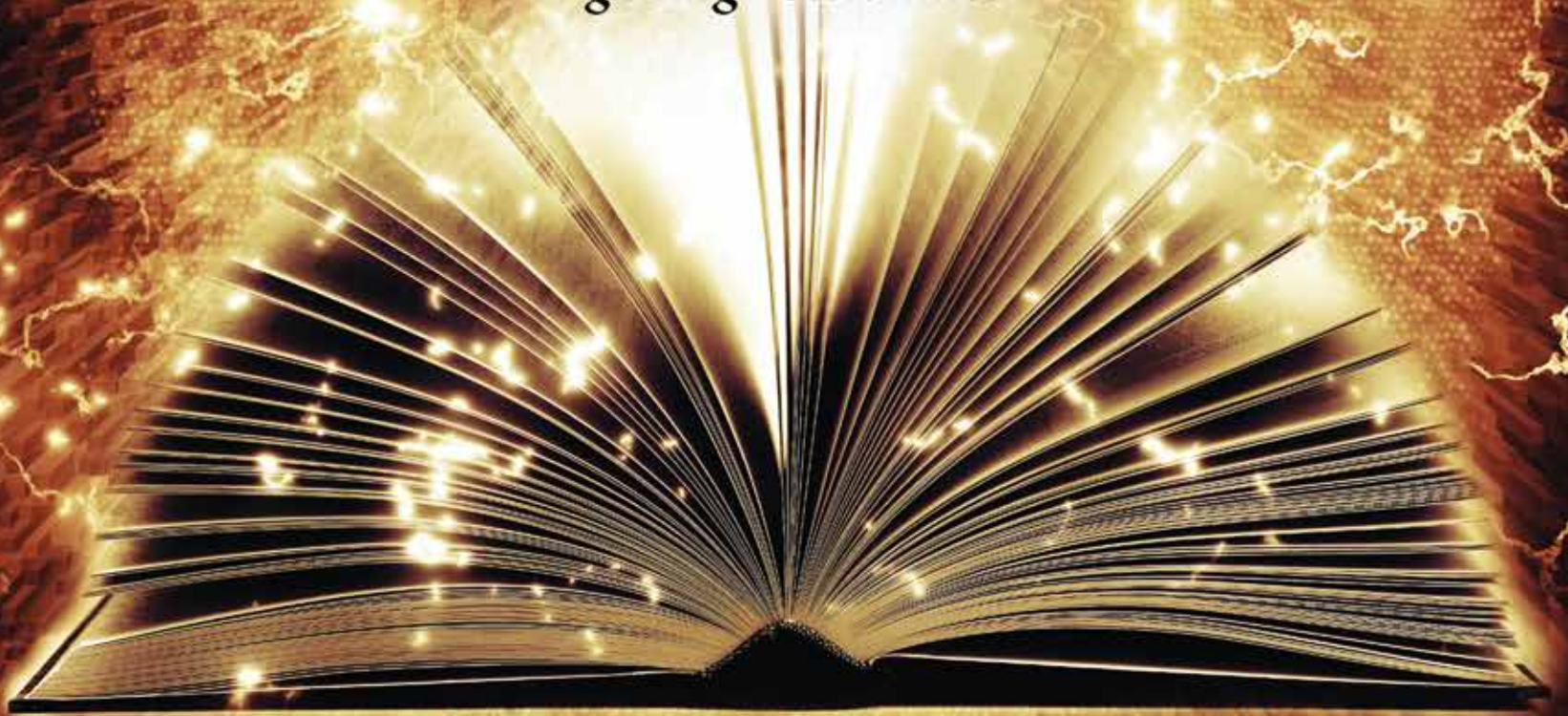
Volume 5 | Number 1

# B

Brooklyn College Magazine

## **BEYOND THE PAGE**

*The Liberal Arts—  
Transforming Tradition,  
Igniting Possibilities*



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During her seven years as president, Karen L. Gould initiated capital projects, increased international engagement, and improved student retention.

**From the President's Desk**

As president of Brooklyn College for the past seven years, I have had the great fortune to lead one of the most exciting, inspiring, and diverse academic institutions in the country. As I prepared for retirement I have reflected fondly on the many people I have worked with and the many outstanding qualities of the campus community.

Since my arrival in 2009, we have improved the conditions for student success, which is our core responsibility as an institution of higher learning. More of our students are graduating as a result of our focus on degree completion, and we have supported and promoted the exceptional research and scholarship of our faculty to foster academic excellence and enhance the reputation of Brooklyn College.

The impact of private philanthropy through the Campaign for Success has expanded funding for student scholarships, study abroad, and paid internships. Coupled with significant funding from the Office of the Borough President, New York City Council, the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, and the New York State Senate, private support has helped create the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema and construct the much anticipated Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts. Moreover, thanks to the exceptional generosity of Murray Koppelman '57 and other alumni, the Murray Koppelman School of Business has been named and will soon be the only accredited school of business in Brooklyn. Devoted alumni have also enabled the college to name seven new endowed chairs since 2009, provide substantial new support for the library, and fund travel for our athletic teams.

I am deeply appreciative of our dedicated alumni, major donors, foundation supporters, borough, city, and state stakeholders, and community partners, all of whom understand how their support can vastly improve the quality of a Brooklyn College education.

This edition of *B* magazine focuses on our liberal arts tradition and how our students are engaged in active learning "beyond the page." From the Listening Project, an interdisciplinary, oral history community project, to the student-organized TEDx CUNY conference, you will read about a broad range of scholarly activities that explore the power of liberal arts training and connect liberal arts disciplines to contemporary urban life.

Soon I will be reading about Brooklyn College from a distance—in my home state of California—but I will continue to take great pride in the future accomplishments and inclusive excellence of the college. I will miss the energy and ambitious spirit of Brooklyn College students, the impressive achievements and commitment of the faculty, and the tremendous dedication of the college staff and senior leadership team.

I am pleased to welcome Michelle Anderson as the 10th president of the Brooklyn College. I have no doubt that President Anderson will build upon the many strengths of the college and provide thoughtful, effective leadership in the years ahead.

Thank you for ongoing interest and support of the college, for your advice and feedback over the years, and for your friendship.

↑ INCREASE OF 10% IN ENROLLMENT SINCE 2010



35% INCREASE IN TRANSFER STUDENTS SINCE 2010

7 NEW ENDOWED CHAIRS

TOW PERFORMING ARTS CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



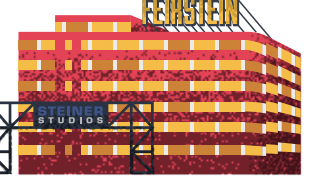
NEW ATHLETIC FIELD RIBBON CUTTING

\$100 million in fundraising



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“...one of our challenges is to remind the world of the importance of the humanities and social sciences—not merely from an academic standpoint, but also in regard to skills and habits imparted.”

## The Benefits of a Liberal Arts Education by Dean Richard Greenwald

We're in a unique space, economically and socially. The economy has changed so much. Students understand this even if they haven't thought it all the way through; they are likely to change jobs and careers multiple times. If they want to prepare themselves for those future challenges and opportunities, they can't focus on just one specialty anymore. They have to know how everything interconnects.

I think one of our challenges is to remind the world of the importance of the humanities and social sciences—not merely from an academic standpoint, but also in regard to skills and habits imparted.

I was afraid to tell my father that I actually liked history and wanted to be a history major because often the follow-up question was: “What can you do with that?” It never occurred to me that there were lots of things you could do with that, that you don't have to think of a major as a vocation. So our job is to let students know that there's a life outside of the major; that the skills one learns in these majors open doors. We must find a way to give them the confidence to pursue their passions.

One of the things that the humanities and social sciences are in a unique position to [help us] do is to build bridges connecting the various parts of the college.

In HSS, we are doing a grassroots “mission and vision” effort. We're developing a strategic plan that involves lots of conversations and town halls to get faculty to reach a consensus about our school's values so that they can speak to students about what we can offer them.

### Humanities Rewards

A \$100,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation will support the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in providing transfer students with structured mentorship and research opportunities.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded \$100,000 to the **SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HSS)** to fund a special program designed to target the often overlooked transfer-student population, and provide them with unique academic research and mentorship opportunities.

Launched in the spring of 2016, the Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program is a result of collaboration between Distinguished Professor of Political Science Jeanne Theoharis, Associate Professor and Deputy Director of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Alan Aja, and Associate



### Scoring a Theatrical Revolution

Sean Patrick Flahaven '03 M.F.A. realizes a long-cherished dream as the associate producer of the cast album for Tony Award-winning play *Hamilton*.

Composer and musical producer **SEAN PATRICK FLAHAVER '03 M.F.A.** credits his success to a performing arts education that included a strong dose of liberal arts.

“What's truly gratifying is to work with artists as talented as Lin Manuel Miranda,” says Flahaven about the writer and star of *Hamilton*, with whom he has worked for three and a half years, even before they were able to stage the now-famous hip-hop opera on Broadway. Together, they won the Grammy for Best Music Theater Album and *Hamilton* itself won 11 Tony Awards out of the record-setting 16 for which it was nominated.

As the associate producer of the cast album and Miranda's music publisher, he worked with Alex Lacamoire, Questlove, and the other *Hamilton* producers to create something he found artistically adventurous, well crafted, and commercially successful.

A Minnesota native, Flahaven had already earned an M.F.A. in musical theater writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts when he chose to obtain his M.F.A. in performing arts management from the Brooklyn College Theater Department, a degree that helped him focus on the fiscal nuts and bolts of theater production. “The college provided me with the skills I needed in contract negotiations, budgeting, marketing, fundraising, and other areas,” he explains.

Today, Flahaven works as a senior vice president of theater and catalog development for Warner/Chappell Music (WCM), the global music publishing arm of the Warner Music Group, one of the three largest music companies in the world. The company represents songwriters of all genres.

As a composer and musical producer, his work has been performed in New York and Dublin. He has worked on many shows with composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim for the past 15 years, as well as arranging a symphonic work, *A Sondheim Suite*, in honor of the composer's 80th birthday. He was an arts journalist and editor for 13 years, writing for the *Sondheim Review*, *Show Music*, *Playbill*, and the former *Broadwayonline.com*

In addition to producing more than 100 shows, concerts, workshops, and readings from major Broadway and off-Broadway companies, Flahaven has been part of the NYU-Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program since 2002.

“I'm a big believer in arts education,” Flahaven says. “I started with voice and trombone very young, and continued with that, plus acting, writing, and music composition in high school, college, and graduate school. I believe a liberal arts education, with a strong performing arts component, is vital to one's development as a person and as a citizen.”

Before joining WCM, Flahaven was the director of development at the off-Broadway York Theater, managing director of the Melting Pot Theatre, and general manager for Theatrical Rights, a licensing agency.

—Ernesto Mora

Professor and Director of American Studies Joseph Entin, with support from HSS Dean Richard Greenwald.

To be eligible to participate in the program, transfer students must be in good academic standing and name a professor at the college who will apply and work with them. A pilot project, the program is limited to about 40 students. Once accepted into the program, both the student and faculty member receive stipends to produce a joint research project. Guided by weekly meetings with their faculty members, students make interdisciplinary connections. At the end of the project, students will have the chance to teach other students, as they will be required to give an oral presentation on their findings.

One such successful partnership can be found between Africana Studies senior Dominick Braswell and Professor Jeanne Theoharis, author of NAACP Image Award-winning biography *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks*. Together, they are working to assemble a bibliography

and syllabus on welfare reform, which can be used as a resource tool by educators teaching this topic.

From a January meeting with a number of top national poverty and welfare scholars, a plan emerged to hold a series of related events in August 2016, which is the 20th anniversary of President Bill Clinton's signing of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). Along with assisting Theoharis, Braswell, who transferred to Brooklyn College from LaGuardia Community College, will be working on an article about the privatization of public housing. After graduation, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in history and believes the experience he's gaining from the Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program is invaluable. “Working on this project is very exciting, particularly because I'm interested in racial politics and this work speaks to the racialization of poverty and social welfare policy.”

—Robert Jones, Jr.

## Sarah Benson '04 M.F.A. Wins \$50,000 Vilcek Foundation Theater Arts Award

The prize is awarded to immigrants for outstanding contributions to the arts and sciences in America.

**SARAH BENSON '04 M.F.A.** won the prestigious Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Theatre in February. Each year, the Vilcek Foundation awards the prize—which comes with a \$50,000 gift—to immigrants who have demonstrated excellence in the American arts and sciences. “Such a wonderful group of artists have won this prize in the past,” says Benson. “This is the first year that it has been awarded to theater artists, and I’m just so happy to be one of them.”

Benson came to the United States from England in 2002, via the Fulbright Scholarship, to pursue her master of fine arts in directing at Brooklyn College. She says the Vilcek Prize will allow her the financial freedom to devote more time to and think rigorously about her art—an art, Benson said, that Brooklyn College helped her to cultivate. “My time at Brooklyn College was hugely important in nurturing relationships with other artists,” says Benson. “I encourage students to really relish all of the rich possibilities.”

Benson is known for her directorial work on Sarah Kane’s *Blasted*, David Adjmi’s *Elective Affinities*, Lucas Hnath’s *A Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About the Death of Walt Disney*, Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’s *An Octoroon*, and *Futurity*, a new musical by Cesar Alvarez and the Lips. She is currently working with director/playwright



At SoHo Rep., Sarah Benson '04 M.F.A. directs the cast of the critically acclaimed play, *Blasted*, written by Sarah Kane. (Credit: Simon Kane)

Richard Maxwell on his experimental play *Samara*, and is in the beginning stages of a theater project with playwright Jackie Sibblies Drury that examines society in the age of increased government surveillance.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



Playwright and screenwriter **AMY FOX '05 M.F.A.** says that the idea for *Equity*, which premiered in July and opens nationwide September 2, came out of conversations she had with actor-producers Sarah Megan Thomas and Alysia Reiner about the lack of strong roles for women, namely that of female protagonists, in what they call “Wall Street thrillers.” Fox would go on to write a screenplay that countered this narrative.

## A Woman’s Worth

Brooklyn College alumna Amy Fox '05 debuts a thriller that follows an investment banker as she rises to the top in the world of Wall Street finance.

Written, directed, and produced by women, *Equity* stars Anna Gunn of AMC’s *Breaking Bad* as Naomi Bishop, an investment banker jockeying for the top position at a Wall Street firm. Suspense underpins Bishop’s attempts to shepherd a controversial IPO in a post-financial-crisis world. Thomas and Reiner (both recently of Netflix’s *Orange Is the New Black*) play Bishop’s put-upon deputy and a driven prosecutor for the U.S. attorney’s office.

“As the project progressed, I became interested in what it’s like for women to really have the type of ambition surrounding managing hedge funds and the like,” says the Boulder, Colorado native. “I interviewed women on Wall Street and found there were lots of reasons they got into the financial business, and they were not apologetic about those reasons.”

Fox, who graduated cum laude from Amherst College with a bachelor’s degree in English in 1997, came to Brooklyn

College after several years of success as a playwright—she has more than a dozen theater productions to her credit. “I wanted to teach at a university level, and I wanted a new challenge,” says Fox. “So I went into the M.F.A. program in fiction writing.” Fox began writing a novel (on which she is still working) while earning her master’s degree. Today she is on the faculty of the NYU/Tisch Graduate School of Film and Television.

“What’s been very meaningful,” says Fox, “is that *Equity* works as a financial film that is also very feminist in nature. I’m really gratified that we were able to remain true to both of those ideas.”

—Audrey Peterson



## Uncovering the Ancient Past, with Support from the Magner Career Center

Anastasia Danilova’s journey to South Dakota to study prehistoric marine fossils enabled her to work with renowned experts and cement her passion for exploration.

When **ANASTASIA DANILOVA '16** returned from a ten-day paleontological dig in South Dakota, made possible through a Magner Career Center stipend, she knew that she would soon be meeting with Marge Magner '69 to share her discoveries. Danilova could not find the words to express her gratitude to the center’s namesake, so she presented Magner with one of the fossils she’d unearthed at the research site. “She provided me with something extremely amazing,” Danilova says. “Bringing back a fossil was the least I could do. There are not enough people like her in the world. I hope that one day I’ll be able to do for others what Marge Magner did for me.”

Danilova traveled to South Dakota with scientists from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) to collect and study the fossilized remains of ammonites, carnivorous aquatic creatures that lived on Earth approximately 240 million years ago. Much of the work was conducted on the property of South Dakota ranchers who granted the researchers permission. She was also able to spend some time with Neal L. Larson, president of Larson Paleontology Unlimited, and Neil Landman, Ph.D., curator-in-charge of the Department of Paleontology at AMNH, with whom she was able to view the fossils of a new species of triceratops.

Most important for Danilova was the ability to connect her study of these ancient creatures to contemporary concerns. “These organisms went through a period of stress and didn’t make it. So we’re looking at the conditions then, in atmosphere and climate, and comparing them to conditions now. You gain an entirely new perspective about what might happen to current species—including us—and how we might prevent catastrophe.”

Danilova, originally from Moscow, was a transfer student from New York University majoring in earth and environmental sciences and mathematics. Her academic path was that of a nontraditional student, coming back to college after having taken some time off to raise a family. She is the mother of a three-year-old girl, but has had the support of her husband and entire family. Danilova is so impressed with her academic experiences at Brooklyn College that she plans to apply to graduate school at the college. “I really like the [earth and environmental sciences] department. Everyone is very welcoming. They really want students to flourish.”

—Robert Jones, Jr.



Danilova displays a fossilized scaphite, an extinct species of cephalopod that thrived in an underwater, methane-rich environment millions of years ago.



An assemblage specimen containing several fossilized ammonites.

FOR OVER A DECADE, THE MAGNER CAREER CENTER HAS BEEN PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO GAIN THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES FROM THE COMPETITION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAGNER CAREER CENTER, GO TO [WWW.BROOKLYN.CUNY.EDU/WEB/ACADEMICS/CENTERS/MAGNER.PHP](http://WWW.BROOKLYN.CUNY.EDU/WEB/ACADEMICS/CENTERS/MAGNER.PHP)

## Music Without Borders

Conservatory of Music Professor Arturo O’Farrill ’96 Wins Fourth Grammy Award.

Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music Professor **ARTURO O’FARRILL ’96** scored another victory for his band, the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, burnishing his father’s (and his own) legacy in the process. At the 58th Grammy Award ceremony in Los Angeles, O’Farrill was presented his fourth such award, this time in the Best Instrumental Composition category for his “Afro Latin Jazz Suite,” a track on his 2015 album *Cuba: The Conversation Continues*. Last year, he received the Grammy in the Best Latin Jazz category for *The Offense of the Drum*.

“The academy’s recognition of the ‘Afro Latin Jazz Suite’ is deeply meaningful to me,” says O’Farrill, who joined the Brooklyn College faculty in 2014. “This music is my interpretation of jazz; it’s the idea Dizzy Gillespie first proposed when he said there was no difference between Latin and jazz, just a music he called universal. The suite is musically multilingual, drawing from Africa, Peru, Cuba, India, and the United States. It is a nod to the past, performed now, yet firmly rooted in the future.”

Originally commissioned by the Apollo Theater for its 80th anniversary, the “Afro Latin Jazz Suite,” which features noted alto sax virtuoso Rudresh Mahanthappa, also commemorates the 65th anniversary of the “Afro Cuban Jazz Suite,” a melody composed by O’Farrill’s father, Chico O’Farrill, a Cuban jazz legend, whose 1941 recording featured sax legend Charlie Parker.

O’Farrill and his Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra have previously received Latin Grammys in the Best Jazz Album category for *Song for Chico* and *Final Night at Birdland*. An educator at heart, O’Farrill, who has taught at several institutions, also established the Afro Latin Jazz Alliance in 2007 as a new institutional support for his orchestra and to promote this genre of music through a



comprehensive array of performance and educational programs.

“Coming to Brooklyn College to study in the conservatory within a liberal arts setting was important to my development,” says O’Farrill. “There is nothing more important than public university humanities-based liberal arts education to prepare thoughtful human beings to enter their professions aware of a larger sense of the society we live in and of their place in it.”

—Ernesto Mora

## Paul Beatty ’89 M.F.A. Receives National Book Critics Circle Award

The *Sellout*, Beatty’s most recent novel, has also been named one of the best books of 2015 by The New York Times.

**PAUL BEATTY ’89 M.F.A.** won the prestigious National Book Critics Circle fiction award for his latest novel, *The Sellout*. The critically acclaimed satirical work examines race and class through the outrageous actions and trials experienced by its protagonist.

“I worked extremely hard, and it was nice to be recognized by the NBCC,” says Beatty. “Last year my good friend Willie Perdomo was nominated; they also nominated Claudia Rankin’s *Citizen* in two categories, which I thought was very smart, so I gained a deep respect for the organization. In many respects, they go against the grain, and I’m all for that.”

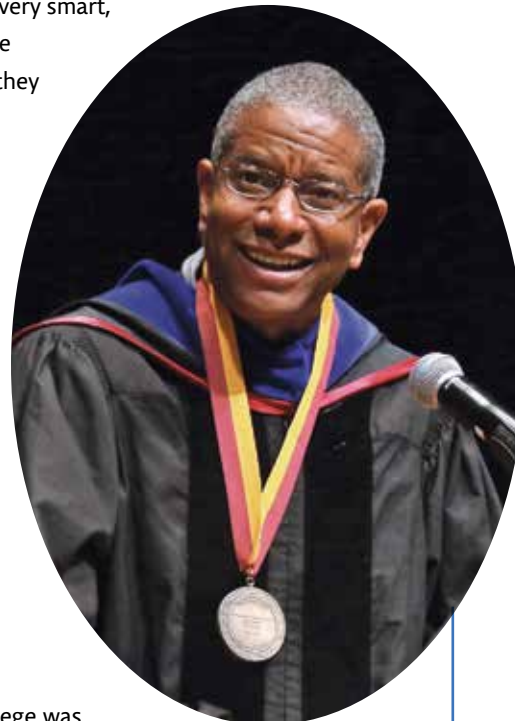
Beatty, the first-ever Nuyorican Poets Café grand slam poetry champion, is the author of several novels and books of poetry, including *Big Bank Take Little Bank: New Cafe Poets, No. 1* (Nuyorican Poets Cafe Press, 1991); *Joker, Joker, Deuce* (Penguin, 1994); *The White Boy Shuffle* (Houghton Mifflin, Picador, 1996); *Tuff* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2000); and *Slumberland* (Bloomsbury USA, 2008).

Says Beatty, “Brooklyn College was where I learned not how to write necessarily, but how to think about writing. I had a few professors who helped me a great deal. Tucker Farley’s seminars helped me develop an eye and feel for nuance. She never stopped peeling away the layers. Allen Ginsberg’s generosity, his oddball stories, and his boundless love for poetry and process, always left me grateful and thinking, ‘I didn’t know you could do that.’ And his insistence on clarity forced me to be precise. But Lou Asekoff was the professor who was most instrumental in my growth. His patience, insight and encouragement helped me figure out not only what I wanted to say, but more importantly, how I wanted to say it.”

Named as one of the best books of 2015 by *The New York Times*, *The Sellout* was published in the United Kingdom in May.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

Paul Beatty ’89 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the college’s 2016 Commencement.



At left: León at two years old, dressed as the famous Brazilian entertainer Carmen Miranda. Inset: the musician and composer today.

perform a solo with the New York City Ballet. When he heard León at the piano, he asked her if she would play for his own classes. She did. Later, he asked her to write a ballet for a dance company he was putting together called The Dance Theatre of Harlem.

She would go on to become a founding member and the first music director for the famous dance company from 1970 to 1978. She continued to work with the company until 1982, conducting for their seasons in New York.

“From that, the opportunities to create new works started to arrive,” she says. “I took advantage of every one of them.”

Over the years, León has been commissioned by orchestras across the country and abroad. She’s collaborated with playwrights and poets, including Alan Ginsberg, Rita Dove, Margaret Atwood, and Derek Walcott. In 1994, she and Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka created their award-winning opera, *Scourge of Hyacinths*.

The first Latina to be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters, León has been a Grammy nominee, and was named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2007. She was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for her orchestral poem *Acana*.

León started teaching at Brooklyn College as an adjunct in 1985. She went on to become a tenured member of the faculty and, in 2000, was named a Claire and Leonard Tow Professor. She became a distinguished professor in 2006.

In 2010, she founded Composers Now, a monthlong music festival that spans venues throughout the five boroughs of New York City, featuring composers from genres as diverse as jazz, opera, indie, and electronic music. Its mission is to honor composers for their contribution to society. “I want this project to be a part of my legacy for the City of New York,” she says.

She is on sabbatical for the 2016–2017 academic year, collaborating on an opera with Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The piece will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the events that immortalized the Little Rock Nine—the nine black students at the center of the 1957 fight to integrate the school system in Little Rock, Arkansas.

“I never would have even dreamed to work on such big, important projects,” she says. “My grandmother was the one who told me, ‘You are going to travel, and your name is going to be on the front of theaters.’ I’m grateful. I don’t think I could have asked for a better life in the arts.”

—Jamilah Simmons

## A Well-Composed Life

Conservatory of Music Distinguished Professor Tania León’s life changed when a chance recital for the director of a famous dance theater put her on a path to an esteemed musical career.

**TANIA LEÓN**’s grandfather bought her a second-hand piano when she was five. “I was so little, my legs would dangle off the bench when I sat in front of it to play,” she recalls now with a smile.

The eight pesos a month it cost was a real sacrifice for a family that fit three generations into a tiny apartment in Havana, Cuba, in the 1940s. But the sacrifice would pay off many times over, as her grandparents were not the only ones who would see promise in the current distinguished professor in the Conservatory of Music.

After earning both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in piano performance, theory, and *solfège*—a system for singing notes—in Cuba, León came to New York City. “I can still remember taking a taxi from the airport and looking at the big buildings and their fire escapes,” she says. “I started shouting the words to the song ‘Maria’ from *West Side Story*.”

New York City definitely had plans for her. Before she finished her studies at New York University, where she validated her original bachelor’s degree and obtained a master’s degree in composition, a friend who played the piano for dance classes at the Harlem School of the Arts fell ill and asked León to fill in for her.

León still remembers taking the D train to 145th Street and St. Nicholas Avenue for the class, when premier dancer Arthur Mitchell walked in, looking for a space to start a project he was working on. He had already made a name for himself as the first African American to

## TV and Radio M.F.A. Students Debut Talent Show Spotting Brooklyn Artists

Each 30-minute episode of *Brooklyn's Best* is produced and directed entirely by students, and streamed live via the Brooklyn College TV Center.

A new, yearlong, capstone class in the **DEPARTMENT OF TELEVISION AND RADIO** is not only preparing second-year M.F.A. candidates to hit the ground running after graduation, but it has enabled them to break new ground as well.

Eleven graduate students enrolled in Television and Radio Professor Jason Moore's Multi-Camera Producing and Directing class launched the first episode of *Brooklyn's Best* this past February, a show dedicated to finding Brooklyn's best artists and performers.

"I like to challenge students beyond class expectations," says Moore, an award-winning director of commercials, television, and film who joined the Brooklyn College faculty in 2015. "So while I raised the bar and asked them to think about working collectively, it was the students who came up with the idea of the show."



Each of the six 30-minute episodes of *Brooklyn's Best* will be produced and directed by different students, assisted by a cadre of undergraduate and first-year M.F.A. students, in addition to the television studio personnel—a total of 25 people. The show, hosted by stand-up comedian J.J. Mattise, who auditioned for the position, features three individual or groups of artists who live in Brooklyn, as well as a panel of three judges randomly selected from the crowd.

The first episode was produced and directed by Sally Lomidze and featured talent she recruited in train stations. It included a guitar-and-violin duo, a painter who does on-the-spot portraits, and a trio of break-dancers who went on to win the evening's contest. As the director, Lomidze also had to oversee each

crew member, cue in the cameras, and edit the scenes as they unfolded live.

According to Moore, all elements in the show are original—including the studio set, the videos introducing each artist or group of artists, and the soundtrack, created by Michael Zhonga, whose show featuring dance crews aired in March.

For Moore and other faculty members, their role is to prepare students for a revolution in independent TV production, similar to the one filmmakers experienced in the 1970s. "With the rise of YouTube, WiFi, and WebTV, there are new ways of creating content without having to work for a network," Moore says. "It's empowering and exciting."

—Ernesto Mora

To watch live or archived webcasts go to [BROOKLYNSBESTTV.COM](http://BROOKLYNSBESTTV.COM)

### Original Web Miniseries Ground Students in All Aspects of TV Production

In fall 2015 Television and Radio students launched a 12-episode Web-based miniseries—the product of a cross-disciplinary program that immerses undergraduates in every process of television production—from developing their own script, to casting to filming and editing.

Shot entirely at Brooklyn College, *Unproductive* revolves around five close-knit friends, all seniors at an unnamed college's television department. Tasked with finishing a video for a class taught by a no-nonsense professor, the project begins to slowly fall apart when a new team member and a romantic breakup disrupt the group dynamic.

Each student who worked on the Web series was required to take Content Development, Advanced Dramatic Screenwriting, Advanced Producing and Direction for Television, and Advanced Post-production.

To view the complete first season, visit [WWW.UNPRODUCTIVEWEBSERIES](http://WWW.UNPRODUCTIVEWEBSERIES).

## FEIRSTEIN'S FIRST CLASS

### Students Discuss Inspiration and Innovation in Filmmaking



By Jamilah Simmons

**THE BARRY R. FEIRSTEIN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF CINEMA** opened its doors in fall 2015 as the first public graduate film school in New York City and the only one in the country on a working film lot.

Housed in a new 68,000-square-foot facility, the school boasts a 4,000-square-foot soundstage, makeup and wardrobe rooms, mixing studios, engineering booths, and many other features of a fully digital production and post-production environment.

"The Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema was built from the ground up, using state-of-the-art production and post-production equipment. We are an Avid Everywhere [digital editing system] site that makes available the industry standard for post production. Our production equipment includes everything from Red cameras to Arri Alexa digital cameras, which are also the industry standard," says Jonathan Wacks, the founding director of the school. "We also have a full complement of lighting, grip and electrical equipment, and one of the largest student soundstages in the country."

Recently, the school introduced two new programs, one in film scoring and the other in digital animation and VFX. The film-scoring program will offer advanced instruction and technical experience in the composition and production of music for media—including cinema, television, video games, animation, and other commercial applications. Beginning in fall 2017, the digital animation program will bridge the worlds of technology-based innovation and cinematic storytelling. Courses and workshops will be taught by industry professionals and culminate in the completion of a student portfolio of personal and collaborative work in visual effects and CG (computer-generated) animation.

From its inception, a major objective of the school has been to provide affordable access to career opportunities in the film industry while cultivating a pipeline of diverse talent. In fulfilling that goal, Feirstein is well on its way. The inaugural class comprises 70 students, half of which are women and nearly half of which are from underrepresented groups. The class that begins in the 2016–2017 academic year is expected to have more than 80 students of color.

In addition to the three-year M.F.A. in cinema arts, the school also offers a two-year M.A. in cinema studies. The M.F.A. includes specialized tracks in cinematography, directing, post-production, producing, screenwriting, digital animation and video effects, media scoring, and sonic arts. It also has a star-studded advisory board that includes director Steven Soderberg, actor Ethan Hawke, director Darren Aronofsky, cinematographers Robert Richardson and Maryse Alberti, and producer Celia Costas.

Here's a look at some members of Feirstein's first class.

### ANTONIA COLODRO, CINEMATOGRAPHY

#### WHY FEIRSTEIN?

Several reasons. First, for the affordable education, and second, because it is in New York City. I thought about applying to schools before but wasn't interested in going to Columbia or New York University since I personally don't believe in spending that much money on a creative master's program. I also wanted to get hands-on experience and have access to camera and lighting equipment that I had never had the opportunity to use.

#### WHAT'S YOUR CREATIVE VISION/PHILOSOPHY?

I take it from a Norman Mailer quote: "There was that law of life, so cruel and so just, that one must grow or else pay more for remaining the same."

#### FAVORITE FILM OR SCENE AND WHY?

In the last few months I have been obsessed with the film *The Wolfpack*. It really is some of the best editing I have seen in a while. I love how cinematic it is, even though it is a documentary. Also, it was made by a woman, Crystal Moselle.

#### WHAT'S THE TOUGHEST SCENE YOU HAVE HAD TO SHOOT?

It was at my first cinematography job in San Marcos, Guatemala. I was shooting a documentary for a Guatemalan director and had to shoot a group of youth on a pick-up truck on extremely rocky roads. I had to make sure to keep the camera still and film the subjects, and also make sure I wasn't going to fall off the truck.

#### FAVORITE PLACE TO HANG OUT AT FEIRSTEIN OR IN THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD?

By default, I spend way too much time and money at the Brooklyn Roasting Company. I have made friends with some of the people who work there, so sometimes I'll get a free cup of coffee.

#### CAREER GOAL?

Traveling throughout Latin America as a leading cinematographer for documentaries and indie features.

#### IF YOU COULD WORK WITH ANYONE CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE FILM INDUSTRY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I hate to say it, since he has a rather big cult following in film schools, but it would have to be Bradford Young. Rather than working with him, I would love to learn from him and soak up some of his knowledge. The sensibilities and respect he has for the subjects he films really translates onto the screen. That is something I always strive for when I am filming. His cinematography is also so lush and beautiful.

### JIALIANG ZHAO, POST-PRODUCTION

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FEIRSTEIN?

First, because it's on a working film lot and the largest soundstage complex on the East Coast—Steiner Studios. As a student at Feirstein, I can take advantage of the facilities and other resources at hand. Second, the entire production and post-production environment offers the most current



technology. Finally, the tuition is only a third that of the private schools in New York City. I can save money.

#### WHAT'S YOUR CREATIVE VISION/PHILOSOPHY?

Rhythm is the thread of my creation. When I start a project, the first thing I do is set a rhythm as the base tone of my project, like a composer. In this way I can arrange the source clips in their proper place and edit in an effective way. It is also easier for my audience to understand the way I tell my story.

#### FAVORITE FILM OR SCENE AND WHY?

*Seabiscuit*. This movie has a gorgeous combination of script, photography, and editing. It has three story lines for each of the three main characters. They are also connected by the main thread of the racehorse. There is also a hidden line of the resurgence of the American economy after the Great Depression. Editor William Goldenberg is a master of exploiting the details of each story line and narrating all of them into a community. I was so impressed with his editing of this film. I hope one day to be able to edit as well as he does.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW TECHNOLOGY IS RAPIDLY CHANGING POST-PRODUCTION?

I think the key is the digitalization of the filmmaking process. Not too long ago, editors still made their edits by cutting actual film reels. Now everything is digital and editors have to master software like Avid, Final Cut Pro, and Premiere.

#### FAVORITE PLACE TO HANG OUT AT FEIRSTEIN OR IN THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD?

Il Porto—it's an Italian restaurant across from Feirstein. I love to get a slice of pizza after class.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR CAREER GOALS?

I want to be an assistant editor after I graduate from Feirstein. I'd love to work for an international post-production company.

#### IF YOU COULD WORK WITH ANYONE CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE FILM INDUSTRY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

David Fincher. He is a director with a strong, dark, deep, and cold personal style, and he has good taste in scripts that reflect the great moral issues of our society. What I like the most about him is that he is really concerned with the rhythm of the editing.

#### BILAL JAVED, SCREENWRITING

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FEIRSTEIN?

The association with Steiner Studios as well as the other big names behind the school was more than enough to capture my attention. After an information session and my interview with Jonathan Wacks, I knew the school was overall headed for greatness. I was eager to be a part of that. I also had the peace of mind that this incredible opportunity would come at a relatively cheap price, not a deep-debt sentence like many other graduate film schools.

#### WHAT'S YOUR CREATIVE VISION/PHILOSOPHY?

The quality that I think separates great films from good ones is the ability to tell stories within the story—films that inform us or make us ask questions and think about society, human nature, and the unknown.

#### FAVORITE FILM OR SCENE AND WHY?

I have too many favorite films but one for sure is *The Shawshank Redemption*. It's one of those films where you feel every emotion possible, and remember why. Just a beautiful film all around.

#### WHICH PROFESSIONAL SCREENWRITERS HAVE INSPIRED YOU?

I'm inspired by so many different screenwriters and directors. A short film I'm currently writing has been heavily influenced by some of the analysis we've done in class on Jean Renoir's *The Rules of the Game*.

#### FAVORITE PLACE TO HANG OUT AT OR AROUND FEIRSTEIN?

Probably the student lounge on the sixth floor. The huge windows provide lots of natural light, and it's big enough that you can socialize and eat at the tables or quietly do work on the couches.

#### WHAT'S YOUR ULTIMATE CAREER GOAL?

To be a writer. I want to write feature films, short films, sketches, television, even be in a writers room somewhere. As long as I'm writing, creating, and exploring, I'm happy.

#### IF YOU COULD WORK WITH ANYONE CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE FILM INDUSTRY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

If I had to choose, it would be Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Iñárritu in the hopes that I can also work with Mexican cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki. What could be better than learning from two fellow foreign artists at the top of their respective crafts?



#### ALYSSA VILLEGAS, PRODUCING

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FEIRSTEIN?

Because it is a new program in the heart of Brooklyn. I feel that it gives my fellow students and I the space to experiment, challenge the status quo, and build something from the ground up.

#### WHAT'S YOUR CREATIVE PHILOSOPHY?

I want to be a part of projects with multifaceted and multidimensional characters played by people of color. It is important for me that young people from my neighborhood see reflections of themselves on screen.

#### FAVORITE FILM OR SCENE AND WHY?

*Mother of George* by Andrew Dosunmu. I love it because it shows the different layers of the Yoruban culture in relation to the Diaspora. Danai Gurira's character has agency and is actively exploring and challenging expectations and notions of womanhood in her culture.

#### WHICH PROFESSIONAL PRODUCERS HAVE INSPIRED YOU?

Effie Brown. She keeps it real and isn't afraid to challenge some of the most influential people in the industry on their views of diversity and equity.

#### FAVORITE PLACE TO HANG OUT AT FEIRSTEIN OR IN THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD?

I like to sit on the couches on the sixth floor.

#### CAREER GOAL?

I want to make films I believe in. I want to put my resources into other filmmakers of color. I also want to take my resources back to my community in Chicago. My end goal is to build a production company that gives young people of color the opportunity to build skills and make professional films.

#### IF YOU COULD WORK WITH ANYONE CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE FILM INDUSTRY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Ryan Coogler and Ava Duvernay. Both of them are unapologetic about their mission and vision for their work. They care about representation. They care of about diversity in all aspects of film. They are willing to do the work to make change possible. And I bet it would be really dope to hang out with them.

#### FRANCES ARPAIA, CINEMA STUDIES

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE FEIRSTEIN?

I had been looking to go back to graduate school for a while and was baffled that in New York City there were no public master's programs focusing solely on film. When I first learned about Feirstein, I realized it was the program that I had always wanted. Feirstein's Cinema Studies program also allows me to incorporate more creative projects into my curriculum in addition to my academic writing. Feirstein's facilities certainly help with this. It's really a great environment to immerse oneself in film.

#### WHAT IS YOUR CREATIVE PHILOSOPHY?

As a cinema studies student, I'm focusing mainly on representation in film, specifically transgender representation. I'm fascinated by how films encode information, cultural norms and values, and how audiences decode these ideas. I like to take my research out of the realm of strict academia and actually create films that explore these ideas.

#### FAVORITE FILM OR SCENE AND WHY?

I have a lot of favorite films, many of which in no way relate to the research I do. However, one movie that I absolutely LOVE that fits in perfectly with the type of work I aim to do, is *Lizzie Borden's Born in Flames*. It's a lesbian, feminist, postpunk, speculative fiction film about the formation of a women's army in a dystopian New York City. I love the way it mixes genres and styles to fully explore themes of gender inequality, race, class, and sexuality, all with a surprisingly intersectional approach for 1983.

#### IS THERE A CINEMATIC MOVEMENT OR DECADE YOU'RE PARTIAL TO?

When I was younger I was particularly fond of the New Queer Cinema movement. The films of Gus Van Sant, particularly *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, impressed me for how they transgressed the norms of sexuality I had come to expect from cinema. Jamie Babbit's *But I'm a Cheerleader* also resonated with me for the way in which it satirized heteronormativity. But eventually I became more interested in the way films outside of the queer cinema movement enforce and subvert perceptions of gender and sexuality, and that is what I focus on now.

#### FAVORITE PLACE TO HANG OUT AT FEIRSTEIN OR IN SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOOD?

I've been living in New York City for well over a decade and have become somewhat of a pizza snob. Turns out there is a surprisingly good pizza place right across the street, Il Porto. I'm always up for a slice.

#### CAREER GOAL?

While I'm not sure if I want to continue on to a Ph.D. program and work in academia, one thing I'd really like to do is work as a programmer for a museum or other institution.

#### IF I COULD WORK WITH ANYONE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Honestly, I'd love to sit down with Lana Wachowski—a transgender director, producer, and screenwriter—and interview her about themes of transhumanism in her films.





# Restoring Resilience

With the construction of a new research vessel, water-quality projects, symposia, and a new publication, the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay is leading the way in creating solutions to protect and preserve New York's urban waterways.

By Jamilah Simmons

The Brooklyn College-led Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay is booming. It has received more than \$5 million for infrastructure, \$5 million for research, and nearly \$8 million for a research vessel, office renovations, and other upgrades from various organizations, including CUNY, the National Park Service, and the Rockefeller Foundation. This summer, it hosted its second biennial State of the Bay Symposium. And the institute's first book *Prospects for Resilience: Insights from New York City's Jamaica Bay*, will be released by the end of the year from Island Press.

"These are exciting times," says Adam Parris, who became executive director of the institute last year. "We are ushering in new staff, catalyzing new research, and convening agencies, communities, and scientists, all toward a central purpose—a resilient Jamaica Bay."

Open since fall 2013, the institute is a consortium of roughly a dozen government, academic, and nonprofit organizations focused on restoring the 18,000-acre bay, a collection of meadowlands and waterways whose soil erosion has caused the flooding of surrounding populated areas in recent years, most notably during Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The protection and revitalization of the bay is considered essential, not only because it is home to more than 325 species of birds, 100 species of fish, 50 species of butterflies, two freshwater ponds, and a wide variety of flora, but also because the entire ecosystem serves as a barrier against the forces of wind and tide, helping to minimize flooding and filter out pollutants.

The institute has been busy hosting visiting scientists and providing facilities for faculty, students, and visitors to meet and share ideas. It lists its main objectives as threefold: First, conducting research on the bay; second, developing a model for studying resilience and managing urban ecosystems, while providing technical assistance to their governmental partners; and third, serving as a clearinghouse of knowledge about resilience in urban ecosystems.

## Partners

Brooklyn College is the lead institution on the project but there are several partner institutions, including:

- City University of New York
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, Rutgers University
- NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies
- National Park Service
- New York City Department of Environmental Protection
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
- New York Sea Grant
- Stevens Institute of Technology
- Stony Brook University, SUNY
- Wildlife Conservation Society

## Experiential Learning

Thanks to \$600,000 in funding from CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken's Strategic Investment Initiative, the college expanded its graduate-level course, Environmental Field Investigations, which grounds students in current practices in urban watershed and aquatic resource management. The newly refashioned course is a two-part undertaking, with classwork completed during the first summer session, followed by an internship at the Natural Areas Conservancy. Acceptance into the class is very competitive, and students are awarded tuition waivers and internship stipends.



## Water Quality Project

The National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior awarded the institute \$3.6 million in post-Sandy resilience funding, and many of those dollars are helping to support a water quality project. Project researchers are gathering existing water-quality data sets from the National Park Service and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and making them available online for the scientific community. They are also conducting analysis beyond what the government agencies currently do, in order to develop a better picture of how water quality has changed over time and how it changes from location to location within the bay.

## Symposia

The biennial State of the Bay Symposia series was initiated through a mandate of the New York City Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan to bring together scientists, decision makers, and community groups to discuss relevant scientific knowledge and management strategies that enhance the resilience of Jamaica Bay. The 2016 symposium featured a graduate student research poster session to highlight the work of CUNY students in the natural sciences. The symposium concluded with a reception to cultivate fundraising opportunities and media outreach.

Through the symposia, institute officials hope to develop a high-level, peer-reviewed volume of proceedings to serve as the basis of a scientifically rigorous biennial report card for Jamaica Bay.

## Published Findings

*Prospects for Resilience: Insights From New York City's Jamaica Bay* (Island Press, 2016) is the institute's first book and uses Jamaica Bay to demonstrate how various components of social-ecological systems interact, from climate to plant populations to human demographics. The volume also

shows how an organization like the Science and Resilience Institute plays a crucial role in coordinating resilience efforts, considering significant research questions and bringing together scholars, policymakers, and the community.



## A Vessel

The institute has commissioned Derecktor Shipyards of Mamaroneck, New York, to build a 65-foot research catamaran to be operated out of Jamaica Bay. The vessel will use hybrid electric propulsion technology to ensure clean and quiet operation with minimal emissions, which will benefit the researchers, especially in highly sensitive ecological areas. To minimize impact on local waters, keel coolers will be used to reduce the wastewater discharge from the vessel. It will be one of the most forward-thinking and environmentally friendly vessels in operation today. Construction is expected to be completed by 2017.

## Fellowship Program

The Consortium Internship and Fellowship program began by providing modest funding to faculty members and students to conduct research focused on resilience in the bay. The goal of the program is to strengthen collaboration among researchers, public agencies, and other stakeholders. The institute received a \$250,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, part of which will fund the project, including support for two fellows and two interns in science and management.



**The Brooklyn College Listening Project aims to document the untold stories and unheard voices of Brooklyn through an interdisciplinary approach that guides students in creating a digital archive of oral histories.**

By Robert Jones, Jr.

In Brooklyn, there are millions of unheard stories, and Brooklyn College students have been tasked with unearthing as many of them as they can. With audio (and sometimes video) recorders in hand, they descend upon the borough seeking the most fanciful (or most harrowing) of these stories, all for the purpose of compiling and preserving them in a massive digital library called the Brooklyn College Listening Project (BCLP). The result is a wide array of compelling stories that show how the seemingly ordinary can be quite extraordinary and worthy of preservation. That is precisely the goal, according to Associate Professor of English and American Studies Program Director Joseph Entin, who spearheaded the project with a group of other faculty members.

"The project makes Brooklyn itself a subject and site of learning and knowledge," says Entin. "It links the college to the borough in a new way and sees the borough as a resource."

The BCLP—the brainchild of an unprecedented collaboration between faculty members from numerous departments—is a community interview and oral history

initiative that compiles a diverse range of stories about the life experiences of Brooklyn residents. Students are tasked with interviewing and recording their coworkers, friends, neighbors, relatives, and even total strangers who live in the borough. While the project itself is flexible, students are given a structure and underlying themes to explore by the faculty members guiding the program. Assignments differ from course to course. For example, Vanessa Y. Pérez, associate professor of Puerto Rican and Latino studies, advised her students to inquire about race and racial identity, while Jocelyn Wills, professor of history, asked her students to gather individual concepts of the "American dream."

"Our student-focused approach treats them not as passive consumers, but active producers of knowledge," says Entin. "Through the project, students become experts in documentation, conduct research, and share their findings with their peers and more broadly, the community. Further, it is a scholarly project that speaks about and to the general public. And the public will have access to these stories."

Richard Greenwald, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences where the project is based, notes how this work has implications beyond academia, shaping students to be even better candidates for a variety of fields. "All of the evidence and research shows that when students can apply their learning to real-world situations, it deepens their understanding; it makes them better students and more engaged," says Greenwald, who has been involved in community engagement projects for nearly 20 years. "There are a host of positive consequences. Students graduate faster and retain information better."

Greenwald adds that the project provides a way for students to better understand how the humanities and the social sciences impact and are applicable to the real world.

"They get to see that what they do in the classroom isn't unconnected from the world they live in," says Greenwald. "As we continue and expand this project, it's quite possible that in the next several years we could archive 800 to 1,000 interviews on important topics affecting New York City and the nation as a whole—racial justice, policing, education, gentrification, housing, and immigration."

The project also provides students with skills that will serve them even after they graduate, making them more competitive in the job market. "Listening itself, for example, is a very important skill in the new economy, as is collective work. The new workplace is all about teams and our students have had to figure out how to work in and manage that dynamic," says Greenwald. "Having this level of responsibility for their own learning is important because in this world, they have to be lifelong learners. They will have to teach themselves and learn from their own experiences."

Entin has high hopes for the project, not just about what it means for Brooklyn College, but also what it means for Brooklyn. "This is a momentous time in the life of the borough, and I think students and historians will want to use the archive to look back and grasp the texture of life in this place at this time," Entin says. "The collection can be used by everyday residents and citizens, community organizations, and public officials to learn more about how people around Brooklyn are experiencing their lives here. It captures a strikingly rich array of perspectives and stories, and I hope the diversity of stories can help spark public discussion. In this sense, the project is a form of public humanities and public scholarship."

Marshall Wexler '15 dug deep for his listening project; he interviewed Holocaust witnesses and survivors. "This topic is very dear to me. I never had the opportunity to speak to a Holocaust survivor before," Wexler says. "This is the 71st anniversary of the ending of World War II. I have been coming into closer contact with my Jewish roots. Last year, I took a course in Holocaust history and I came to understand how much of an impact it had on my personal history, including how my family wound up coming to America in the first place."

Wexler, who received his bachelor of arts in history, is a Brooklyn native, the youngest of six, and son of alumnus and attorney Howard Wexler '72. He hopes to follow in his father's footsteps and become a lawyer; he is currently applying to law schools. Wexler says that he learned much more from speaking with Holocaust survivors than he ever could have from a book or film about the subject.

"I learned what that number six million [the estimated number of Jewish people massacred in the Holocaust], really means," Wexler said. "No two stories were alike for any of the people I spoke with, and it made me think that perhaps no two stories were alike for those six million people. The weight of that knowledge, to know that there are six million stories that will never be told, is overwhelming. I also learned that Jewish people have different perspectives on the Holocaust. Some say that they will never forgive Germany, will never buy German products, etc. Others say that they don't hate German descendants for what their ancestors did. Additionally, I learned that even after escaping or being rescued from the concentration camps, many Jews didn't have it any easier. They still struggled financially and psychologically. All of this was eye-opening."

Wexler says that his background in history and his newfound understanding of the struggles and triumphs of his ancestors and elders has added renewed vigor to his pursuit of a law degree. He says he sees a great number of parallels between what his ancestors endured and what's happening to minorities across the country today.

Initially, I wasn't sure who to interview for the project," said Gina Marie Greenwald (no relation to Dean Richard Greenwald), a Brooklyn College student double-majoring in secondary education and English. "I thought my brother would be a great fit because he's had so much training as a firefighter. Who would be more perfect to interview for a Brooklyn Listening Project than one of the men helping to protect Brooklyn?"

Greenwald followed her brother John around, documenting his every move as he went about his work.

"Although I already thought of him as my hero, I never thought of him as a hero of New York City," she says. "I never realized how dangerous his job is because he never really talks about it when he's at home. After learning about the different techniques he had to learn, all the training he endured, and what he has to do on a daily basis, I realized that not only is he an amazing brother, but he is also an amazing firefighter."

Greenwald says that the life of a firefighter is one of lulls and chaos. One moment, they can all be sitting around the firehouse cooking, cleaning, playing cards, laughing, and telling jokes, and then a call comes in, and they all leap into action—a stunning and startling transformation, astonishing to observe.

"I learned that firefighters aren't what they show on television," Greenwald noted. "These people really master their craft—and when they have time they are always drilling, checking their equipment, which makes them really confident going into burning buildings."

Greenwald, generally a shy person, says that her work on this project helped her to open up, boosted her confidence in her academic abilities, and made her more assertive creatively. "I think the project also helped me put my organizational skills to use. So much went into it. I had to think of questions to ask my brother. I had to do research on his firehouse and on the devices they use. Then I had to organize it all in a way that made sense to me," she says. "Since they are so busy, I had to be strategic about when and where to ask questions."



"What I love about the Brooklyn College Listening Project is that it has the potential to impact student outcomes and the larger communities of Brooklyn and New York City," says Madeline Fox, assistant professor of children and youth studies,

and sociology. In her sociology course, Fox introduced her students to the project's concept by having them conduct man-on-the-street interviews with students they encountered on the Quad, asking them about their experiences as Brooklyn College students. "We all felt that the exercise could be expanded and potentially productive for the college in terms of taking the pulse of how and what BC students are experiencing. In other words, it was fun and also meaningful," says Fox.



Associate Professor of History Philip Napoli is a noted oral historian and author of *Bringing It All Back Home: An Oral History of New York's Vietnam Veterans* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2013). His skills were essential to the development of the Brooklyn College Listening Project, which, for him, was a labor of love. "As a historian, I want students to work with what we call 'primary source' material," says Napoli. "We think this is an important technique for teaching about the past, and oral history recordings certainly fill this requirement. Students have to learn how to listen carefully, and then interpret and present the information gathered through the interview process. This is the meat and potatoes of historical research and writing."

Joan Martinez '09, '14, who is currently earning her M.F.A. in television and radio, had the opportunity to interview Jean Demesmin, a local businessman and CEO of Good Deals Shipping.

“Mr. Demesmin has seen wave after wave of Brooklyn’s evolution—from the racial tensions and the rise of activism in the Haitian community in the late 1980s to the gentrification of the borough,” she says. “Speaking with Mr. Demesmin, I learned that Brooklyn remains an epicenter for Haitian immigrants. To truly survive and thrive in America, Haitians know they have to cut their teeth in Brooklyn before branching out to other places.”

Martinez is a lifelong resident of Brooklyn and jumped at the chance to participate in the Listening Project because she believes Brooklyn to be a living, breathing case study of human progress.

“Every Brooklynite involved in this is a historian. It’s always interesting to hear about Brooklyn from the perspective of those who were there in decades past. People move, die, or lose their memory, so we lose important perspectives. The Brooklyn portrayed in movies is just the latest incarnation. There is something special in getting more information about the Brooklyn from 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, and even 2006.”

Best of all, this project gave Martinez a chance to engage herself with the history of the place she calls home in way she never had before.

“My best friend went to Erasmus High School, the oldest public high school in the country. She walked the same halls as Barbra Streisand. Whenever they tear up the streets to repave, you can see trolley tracks. Where else can you find all this history, just by taking a look or taking a few minutes to fall into the rabbit hole and realizing there’s something special about this place?”



Jessica Siegel, assistant professor of English, journalist, and Gina Marie Greenwald's teacher, assigned the Brooklyn Listening Project in her Peopling New York seminar. Siegel asked her students to select immigrant groups from all over Brooklyn to determine how their lives were impacted by coming to the United States. Siegel says that the opportunity to archive the material is very important because it is “ethnographic,

political, and historic on-the-ground work that gives an audience a better sense of the diverse peoples of Brooklyn and of the tremendous capabilities of Brooklyn College students.”

Restaurant owner George Switzer, who has lived in Brooklyn his entire life, spoke with TV and radio graduate and BAFTA/DreamWorks Animation Scholar Lamont Baldwin '14 M.F.A. about life as a businessman in Brooklyn. Switzer is the owner of Queen Ann Ravioli & Macaroni Manufacturing Co., Inc., which makes fresh pasta daily from its location in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn. Baldwin, a Virginia native, was surprised to learn from Switzer that the borough had gone through a bit of a rough patch in the 1970s.

“I didn’t realize that Brooklyn was that gritty,” Baldwin says. “I had no idea about the gangs or the crime wave. The Brooklyn I know today doesn’t seem to belie such a past.”

Switzer also talked to him about the changes he had witnessed.

“He talked about how he’s seen Bensonhurst take on a new life. He mentioned that the neighborhood was predominately Italian when he was growing up, and he’s seen it blossom into a culturally diverse area that maintains a huge sense of community.”

Switzer’s restaurant, founded in 1972 by Italian immigrant Alfredo Ferrara, uses old-world pasta machines, a technique that earned it a featured spot on the Travel Channel show *Bizarre Foods* with Andrew Zimmern. Baldwin acknowledges that he probably would not have encountered Switzer if not for the project.

“The Brooklyn College Listening Project seems a perfect way to pass down history that didn’t make the history books or headlines. There’s so much history and so many stories about this city that need to be shared from people who know this city better than anyone,” Baldwin says. “I think that this project will be much more appreciated in years to come. I’m doing this for the people who weren’t lucky enough to live here.” Baldwin is currently planning to move to Atlanta, where he intends to create reality television shows.

Listen to all of the great stories compiled by our students by visiting [WWW.SSCOMMONS.ORG/OPENLIBRARY/WELCOME.HTML#1](http://WWW.SSCOMMONS.ORG/OPENLIBRARY/WELCOME.HTML#1) and type “Brooklyn College Listening Project” into the search field.

# News-makers



## Two New M.F.A. Programs Prepare Students for Careers in Media Scoring and Sonic Arts

Conservatory of Music graduate students will work with Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema students on capstone projects.

Brooklyn College will be offering two new master of fine arts degree programs starting in fall 2016—one in media scoring and the other in sonic arts. The new programs are a partnership between the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College and the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema.

“The path to music education in the U.S. has primarily been through the lens of classical music,” says Doug Geers about the sonic arts program. Geers is an associate professor at the Conservatory of Music and the director of the Center for Computer Music. “Although this is valuable, there are fantastically talented people who don’t have that background but are adept with using new technologies to create. They have something to say, they have musical ideas, and the sonic arts program gives them a route into the profession.”

The media scoring courses will mostly be held at the Feirstein campus, which is located at Steiner

Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The program will offer advanced instruction and technical experience in the composition and production of music for media, including cinema, television, video games, animation, and other commercial applications.

The sonic arts program will focus on emerging technical innovations in music, sound art, sound design, and multimedia sound. It is designed to attract individuals from a wide range of disciplines and varying professional experiences as well as trained musicians.

Geers said that the sonic arts degree will provide a route for nontraditional students to get an M.F.A. in music and that both programs will offer film and music students great opportunities to collaborate on undertakings like the capstone project, which enables student composers to score movies made by students of the Feirstein cinema program.

—Jamilah Simmons



Shirely Chisholm '46 was featured in the Spring 2012 issue of B magazine. Visit [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php) to read past issues.

## Obama Honors the Legacy of Shirley Chisholm '46 With the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Shirley Chisholm '46 was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor, by President Barack Obama, at a ceremony held last November at the White House. As the first African-American woman elected to Congress representing Brooklyn’s 12th Congressional District, Chisholm is best known for being the first major-party black candidate for president of the United States and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination. She was instrumental in the creation of the SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) program, a cofounder of the National Political Congress of Black Women, and she also helped found the National Organization for Women.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



Pot-bellied seahorse  
(*Hippocampus abdominalis*)

it is the result of a separate evolutionary experiment lasting more than 50 million years. "We were interested in understanding just how seahorse pregnancy takes place," says Wilson, an evolutionary biologist whose research



focuses on how and why animals reproduce.

Wilson and his colleagues tracked gene activity in the brood pouch of pot-bellied seahorses (*Hippocampus abdominalis*) over the duration of pregnancy.

They identified genetic changes associated with critical morphological and physiological processes in the male brood pouch, including tissue remodeling and embryo implantation, nutrient and waste transport, gas exchange, and immunological protection.

Systematic comparisons between the genes active in the male brood pouch during pregnancy and those responsible for other highly developed forms of internal reproduction in mammals, reptiles, and fishes revealed that many of the key genes are identical across species, a result that suggests the existence of a common evolutionary tool kit associated with internal reproduction.

Wilson and his team are currently studying the genetic regulation of reproduction in species with more rudimentary forms of male pregnancy. "The seahorse system offers an opportunity to study 'evolution in action,' and to identify specific genetic changes associated with the development of pregnancy in this group," says Wilson.

—Ernesto Mora

## Biology Professor Tony Wilson and International

### Research Team Unravel the Genetic Basis of Male Pregnancy

*The study of male pregnancy in seahorses has broad implications for understanding pregnancy in all animals.*

Seahorses have a unique mode of reproduction: male pregnancy, which closely resembles the pregnancy of female mammals, including humans. Biology Professor **TONY WILSON** and an international team of researchers have taken a major step toward answering the question of whether the structures of complex reproductive systems, like the seahorse's, reflect a common genetic architecture. The team, which included researchers from City University of New York (CUNY), the University of Zurich in Switzerland, and the University of Sydney in Australia, published their findings in *Molecular Biology and Evolution*.

Male seahorses carry offspring in specialized brooding organs, providing protection, gas exchange, osmoregulation, and nutrients to offspring during their development. While the male brood pouch is functionally equivalent to the mammalian uterus,

Other members of the *Syngnathidae* family of fish that have the unique characteristic referred to as "male pregnancy" are the pipefish, and the weedy and leafy seadragon, below.



## Doing the Math

*A professor keeps her passion for finding new ways to teach students about social justice at the center of her work.*

**LAURIE RUBEL**, an associate professor in secondary education, says she became a teacher partly because of a strong need to contribute to society. Her work is her social activism, evident in City Digits, a project that she has spearheaded to design technology-infused mathematics curricula that investigates social justice themes in a local, urban context.

It started with a curriculum she and her team designed in 2013 called Local Lotto, in which high school students discuss games of chance, determine the probability of winning, and then record interviews with neighborhood shopkeepers who sell lottery tickets. They create digital maps based on their interviews and other data to analyze lottery spending as a percentage of income, combined neighborhood losses, and state profits. Rubel then developed a spinoff project, Cash City, a curriculum in which students investigate the use of pawnshops and the cost of doing business with them as compared to other financial institutions like banks.

The projects, both part of City Digits, are a collaboration between Brooklyn College and the

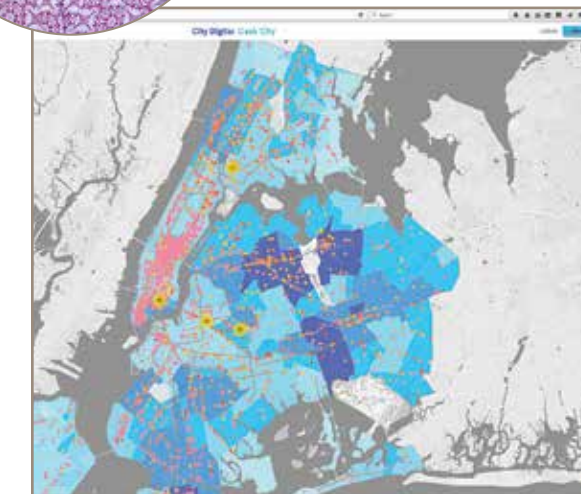
Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Civic Data Design Lab. The team received funding from the National Science Foundation.

"They push the envelope in terms of new kinds of learning opportunities for youth and their teachers," says Rubel, who is careful to note that participants are encouraged to notice patterns rather than to pass judgment. "We're trying to give them ways to think about the financial institutions in our city and how they are distributed."

In the fall 2015 semester, Rubel was a CUNY Distinguished Fellow at the Graduate Center's Research Collaborative, and was recently awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach and conduct research at Tel Aviv University in Israel, where she received her master's degree in mathematics education some 20 years ago. She will be there during the spring 2017 semester, collaborating with faculty members who, she says, once inspired her, and with Israeli mathematics teachers on integrating themes of community and social justice into their practice. —Jamilah Simmons



Assistant Professor Laurie Rubel guides high school students in investigating social themes. Their research is used to create digital maps, like this one designed by Sarah Williams, MIT's Civic Data Design Lab and the City Digits team.



## Revolutionary Artist Helène Aylon '60 Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

*Her art has pushed the boundaries of religious, environmental, and political issues.*



Artist Helène Aylon '60

**HELÈNE AYLON '60**, a visual artist whose career has spanned five decades, was presented with a 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Women's Caucus for Art. She joins luminaries like Yoko Ono, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Judy Chicago in accepting the award that recognizes the contribution of women to the arts and society.

"It's nice to know that what I deemed important over my lifetime was noticed and appreciated," she says.

Aylon grew up in Borough Park as the daughter of an Orthodox Jewish family, married when she was 18, and had two children before she enrolled at Brooklyn College at the age of 26. She was heavily influenced by abstract expressionist painter and professor Ad Reinhardt.

Her husband died the year after she graduated, but she charged on, becoming a renowned conceptual installation

performance artist and ecofeminist. She has produced art that both reflects and challenges the religion she grew up in, as well as environmental, political, and gender issues. Perhaps her best-known work, "The Liberation of G-d," is an installation that includes the Five Books of Moses covered in vellum with misogynistic passages highlighted in pink.

"I got lots of hate letters, most of which were not signed," she says. "But I also got lots of love letters from women who wept and said, 'Thank God you did this.'"

A few years ago, Aylon published a memoir, *Whatever Is Contained Must Be Released: My Jewish Orthodox Girlhood, My Life as a Feminist Artist* (The Feminist Press, 2012).

Her art has appeared in the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Jewish Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and the Andy Warhol Museum, among other venues.

—Jamilah Simmons

## Portraits of Displacement

Artist Meghan Keane '07 has channeled her love of portraiture into a project that sheds light on the plight of Colombian refugees displaced by violence.

The series of portraits in *Displacement*, a solo exhibition by **MEGHAN KEANE '07** that debuted this past spring at Equity Gallery in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, tells only part of the story of Colombian refugees fleeing ongoing violence outside of the capital city of Bogotá. It is by looking at the paintings, life-size figures rendered in rich jewel-tones, along with the accompanying photographs and video of people posing while Keane paints them, that we get the fuller story, that displacement is not synonymous with victimhood for these refugees. "My intention was to treat them with dignity. I know I'm not going to 'solve' their problems," says Keane. "However, I also know that painting is a way of being honorific."

The *Displacement* project got started in 2013, when Keane traveled to Colombia to visit anthropologist Sebastián Ramírez Hernández, and his wife, and Keane's fellow Brooklyn College alumna, Leah Golubchick '08. Ramírez Hernández was doing anthropological research in Colombia in cooperation with an organization called Fundación Colombia Nuevos Horizontes (FCNH). Run by a former refugee, Mariona Rivera, the foundation provides food, temporary housing, and social services guidance to people who have been forced to flee their homes because of violence.

Keane, who is fluent in Spanish, visited the foundation with Ramírez Hernández and Golubchick and led a printing workshop with its residents. On her way home, she realized that she couldn't just walk away from the connections she had made with the refugees. "I asked Sebastián, 'Can I do a painting project with them? Would that be helpful to your dissertation project?' He was open to the idea. I was lucky enough to pick up an interior design gig that July that paid for my trip."

The residents at FCNH agreed to be a part of Keane's project as a way to bring greater attention to the plight of displaced persons and to highlight the crucial work of the foundation. Keane stayed at FCNH for a week, producing almost two paintings a day. To anchor the project in a process that Keane insisted be fully collaborative, the artist had contracts drawn up to ensure that the FCNH received 50 percent commission on the net sales from the works. The purchase of a painting by a Zurich collector paid for the foundation's operation expenses for two months.

Keane, a Twin Cities native, studied fashion and architecture at Parsons School of Design, art and language at Université de Paris,

Artist Meghan Keane '07 with Abuela (Elsa Maria). She, along with other refugees from the Colombian city of Bogota, sat for a portrait by Keane, part of a series of paintings called *Displacement*.

and the Universidad San Francisco Quito, Ecuador, before attending Brooklyn College, from which she graduated in 2007, summa cum laude. She has kept in close touch with her alma mater, returning to the campus to participate in undergraduate critiques and maintaining an "ongoing and exploratory" printmaking practice as a lab monitor at the Brooklyn College Printshop (she also prints at Kathy Caraccio Printing Studio in midtown Manhattan).

"I have always stayed in touch with the professors that impacted me the most," says Keane. "Now, as I have become a peer of sorts, I frequently get invited to come in as a visiting alum who shares ideas and insight with the students."

If the portraits are a record of Keane's time with her subjects, the photographs and film taken of her as she painted the portraits tell something else. "There's this relationship that emerges between the artist and the sitter. We share a sustained moment in time and when I do these paintings," says Keane.

Seeing the *Displacement* series paintings, and witnessing how honored the sitters were at the gallery show in Bogotá at an opening held specifically for the refugees, Keane fully realized the power of what painting can do for people. "It seems hokey to say, 'Art can change lives.' I would never be so presumptuous to make that an expectation for any artwork. But seeing what happens when you do choose to honor someone or invite someone into your practice is powerful."

—Audrey Peterson



Professor Archie Rand's paintings, which interpret the biblical commandments of the Torah through a secular lens, have been published in his book *The 613* (Rider Press).

## Drawing the Line Between the Sacred and the Profane

Professor Archie Rand continues to explore the intersection of the temporal with the spiritual in his latest work.

Over a five-year period, Presidential Professor **ARCHIE RAND** of the Art Department created a series of 613 paintings based on the biblical commandments of the Torah, works that have been compiled in his latest book, *The 613* (Blue Rider Press, 2015), a recent editor's pick by the *New York Times* Book Review.

In the 640-page volume, Rand turns the exhaustive list of commandments—gathered from the Torah in the Middle Ages by Jewish scholars—on their head, painting them into ordinary, secular settings. In the process, he reveals the often sacred elements of daily life.

"Working on this project, I was looking at the styles of the American comic artists of the 1940s and 1950s, who were the Jewish inventors of this visual language," Rand says, referring to the intellectual innovator Will Eisner, the creator of *The Spirit* comic book series, but also others such as Jules Feiffer, Stan Lee (Marvel comics) and Will Elder (EC comics and *MAD* magazine). Rand believes they have influenced every artist of his generation.

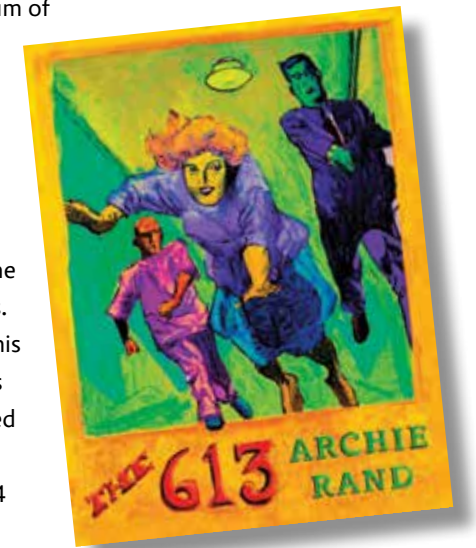
A Brooklyn native, Rand had his first individual exhibit at New York's Tibor de Nagy Gallery in 1966. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Cinegraphics from Pratt Institute in 1970, after having previously studied at the Art Students League of New York

under the abstract painter Larry Poons. Rand has had over 100 solo shows and 200 group exhibitions since, both in the United States and abroad. His paintings, graphic works, and books can be found in collections in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, and the Brooklyn Museum in New York City, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, among others.

Although Rand is nonobservant, his work is suffused with religious themes and imagery. He has sometimes worked in sacred spaces, including B'nai Yosef Synagogue in Brooklyn, where his 1974 murals still illuminate the walls. And while some may criticize his work for being too religious—consider his series on the 19 blessings of the Amidah prayer and the 54 paintings of the divisions of the Torah—he has created images profane enough to have earned jeers from more pious critics. Still, he continues to marry the temporal with the spiritual.

Rand, who lives with his wife Maria in an old converted church in Sunset Park that is filled wall-to-wall with his paintings, explains his most recent project this way: "*The 613* is an afternoon date for coffee where the sacred and profane can check each other out."

—Ernesto Mora



## Tony Award-Winner and Director Joel Zwick '62, '68 M.A. and Writer Victor Bardack '62 Remember Brooklyn College's Influence on Their Lives and Careers

Alumni and longtime friends Joel Zwick and Victor Bardack credit the college with helping them to flourish and find common ground in the entertainment industry.

There are not many people who can say that they have directed over 600 episodes of situation comedies, including beloved classics like *Laverne & Shirley*, *Bosom Buddies*, *Mork & Mindy*, *Perfect Strangers*, *Full House*, *Step by Step*, and *Family Matters*, and as well as shows like the *Jamie Foxx Show*, *Two and a Half Men*, *Girl Meets World*, *The Suite Life on Deck*, *Jessie*, *Shake It Up*, *Fuller House* and many others. But **JOEL ZWICK '62, '68 M.A.** is one of the few who can.

An accomplished director best known for his blockbuster, critically acclaimed film, *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, Zwick has also directed several Broadway productions, including the musical *Dance With Me* (which he also choreographed, and for which he won the 1975 Tony Award for choreography) and *George Gershwin Alone*. He credits Brooklyn College with giving him the verve he needed to start him down his path to success.

"What Brooklyn College instilled in me is an ethic of diligence," said Zwick, who had every intention of becoming a doctor when he enrolled at the college, but was led into the arts after receiving advice from a classmate, Dominic Chianese '61, best known for playing Corrado "Junior" Soprano on the HBO series, *The Sopranos*. He suggested that theater, television, and radio might be a better fit for him.

Zwick's friend, collaborator, and fellow artist Victor Bardack '62 agrees. "Brooklyn College is the immigrant haven. I was the part of the first generation of kids of the people who came over from Eastern Europe and our parents knew that the only way to make it in America was through education and hard work."

Victor Bardack is president of Argus Entertainment, Inc., a multimedia production company. He is also the writer/producer of the award-winning thriller *Rockets' Red Glare*, and the popular comedy *The Gumshoe Kid*. No stranger to theater, Bardack, along with his collaborator Edward Michael Bell, also writes and produces plays, including *Franklin & Jefferson: Sex, Politics, and the American Revolution*, and *I like Ike*.



Longtime friends: Victor Bardack '62 (left) and Joel Zwick '62, '68 M.A.

dentist before pursuing his passion in the entertainment industry.

Zwick and Bardack most recently worked together on a play entitled *Hillary and Monica*, which premiered at the Odyssey Theater in Los Angeles this spring. It is a tale of two playwrights, Ben Rose and Pete Raffelo, in dire straits who decide to write a stage production about Hillary Clinton and Monica Lewinsky as a way to

earn quick money. In the process, they learn as much about each other's flaws and secrets as those they are writing about. The play was written by Bardack, along with Edward Michael Bell, and directed by Zwick.

"It's really about two writers who are desperate for a payday, the tensions between them, and how they attempt to tell a story from the headlines without getting sued. It's a snapshot of their lives, failures, and insecurities," says Bardack.

Aside from his work with Disney and Netflix, Zwick is currently working on the musical *I Hate Holmes*, which explores the relationship between Sherlock Holmes and his creator, Arthur Conan Doyle. His book, *Directing the Sitcom: Joel Zwick's Steps for Success* (McFarland & Company Publishing), was released on July 6. He and Bardack are also working together on two romantic comedies for the big screen, one called *The Summer Before Forever* and the other, currently in development, *It's Her, Not Me*.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

Neither Zwick nor Bardack knew each other until after they each established their footing in the entertainment industry. "We've been good friends a number of years," Bardack said. "And we've had the opportunity to work on a few projects together."

In the midst of their successes, Zwick and Bardack remain loyal to the institution that they credit with giving them the gumption to achieve what might have initially seemed unachievable.

Zwick, a founding donor of the Brooklyn College Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios and a generous supporter of the college, established the Brooklyn College Joel Zwick Scholarship in Directing in 1995, and the Joel '62 and Candice Zwick Scholarship in Directing in 2014.

Bardack, who, along with generous donations from his housemates in the DuBois House, dedicated a bench overlooking the Brooklyn College Lily Pond in the name of his old House Plan, shares a similar experience. He had spent several years as a successful

## Research and Discovery

From December 2015 to June 2016, Brooklyn College faculty garnered more than \$7.3 million in grants and awards for new and ongoing research. Here is a selection of those funded projects and recent faculty publications and accomplishments.



A snapshot of our diverse campus, borough and city. Send your Brooklyn story to [communications@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:communications@brooklyn.cuny.edu); we'd love to hear from you.



**In honor of the naming of the Sam and Bernice Gottlieb Reading Room at the Brooklyn College Library, we look at the evolution of the Brooklyn College Library.**

This past year, Brooklyn College received a \$1.5 million dollar gift from the estate of Samuel H. Gottlieb '40, who recognized that a robust library is the foundation of any college. In honor of his gift, the fourth-floor Multipurpose Room has been renamed the Sam and Bernice Gottlieb Reading Room. The Gottlieb funds will support a variety of essential needs in the library.

In 1935, Brooklyn College was established as the first public, coeducational, liberal arts college in the City of New York. The Georgian-style buildings were designed by architect Randolph Evans. The library, with its gold-and-white clock tower, was conceived by architect Randolph Evans as the centerpiece of the new, tree-lined campus, and would become the signature building of the college.

"No college today can become great while its library remains small," wrote the college's first chief librarian, Asa Don Dickinson (1931-1944). Since officially opening its doors in the fall of 1937, the library's development has been steady over the years. An extension to the original building opened in August 1959, which included an open floor plan, and student and faculty lounges. Housed in LaGuardia Hall, named for New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, the library was renamed the

Harry D. Gideonse Library in 1983, in honor of Brooklyn College President Harry D. Gideonse (1939-1966). Renovations were completed in 2002, and the new library complex included the Gideonse Extension, LaGuardia Hall, and a new wing. At that time, it housed over 21 miles of shelving and had 6.5 acres of floor space, seating over 2,000 patrons, as well as classrooms, study rooms, computer labs, and the Woody Tanger Auditorium. A 24/7 Library Café, the gift of technology and investment executive Morton Topfer '59 and his wife, Angela, is located in nearby Whitehead Hall.

Under the leadership of President Karen L. Gould, the library has continued to evolve as an essential hub of campus life and scholarly endeavors. With one million print materials and close to 70,000 electronic books and journals, it is also home to extensive archives.

**For more about the Brooklyn College Library archives, see Page 44.**

# Bulldogs News



Buster is now on Instagram!  
@bcbusterbulldog



## Repeat Champions: Women's Basketball Wins Back-to-Back ECAC Titles

Earning the No. 1 seed to once again host the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Metro/Upstate Championships, the Brooklyn College women's basketball team did not disappoint the Bulldogs faithful, winning their second ECAC Division III Metro/Upstate Championship in a row. In the semifinals of the postseason tournament, the Bulldogs rolled to a 65-40 victory against No. 4-seed Centenary College. This would lead to a fourth showdown in the championship game with CUNYAC rival, the College of Staten Island Dolphins, whom the Bulldogs

had recently defeated in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Championships semifinals. The Bulldogs would beat the Dolphins for the third time that season, 59-55, to continue their reign as ECAC Division III Metro/Upstate champions. Sophomore guard Karen Mak was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player. In the championship game, Mak would finish with

a well-rounded line of 17 points, ten rebounds, four assists, and eight steals. "Winning this championship was an amazing experience," said Mak of her team's accomplishment. "I feel honored to have been named Most Outstanding Player, but know that I owe this accomplishment to my teammates and coaches for pushing me and supporting me. I am so excited and confident going into next season with my team all back."

The Bulldogs received the No. 1 seed in the ECAC tournament after advancing to the CUNYAC championship game for the second year in a row as the No. 2 seed. Brooklyn College finished the 2015-2016 season with a final overall record of 21-8 for their fifth 20-plus-win season in a row. It was also the third time in four seasons that the team played in the CUNYAC title game. Despite having no seniors on the roster, the Bulldogs began conference play with a perfect 8-0 record through the front end of the two-game regular season series with each opponent. Following the regular season, junior forward Olivia Colbert would be named a First Team CUNYAC All-Star in her first season as a Bulldog.

—Tim Slakas

The champion Bulldogs with (far left) Bruce Filosa, director of recreation, intramural, and intercollegiate athletics; and (far right) Associate Athletic Director Alex Lang '16 M.S.





## Egzon Gjonbalaj Passes Richard Jean-Baptiste as All-Time Leading Scorer in Brooklyn College Men's Basketball History

Senior Egzon Gjonbalaj capped off an incredible senior season, highlighted by a CUNYAC championship, by surpassing Richard Jean-Baptiste as Brooklyn College Men's Basketball's all-time leading scorer with 1,848 career points. Gjonbalaj needed every last point to break the record, as he edged Jean-Baptiste by the slimmest of margins—a single point. Jean-Baptiste finished his BC career with 1,847.

As the season came to a close, Gjonbalaj needed 20 points to break the record entering an NCAA Tournament first-round contest versus NYU, in what turned out to be the team's last game of the season, suffering an 86-67 defeat. Gjonbalaj scored 11 points in the first half and seemed to be easily on pace, but the clock wound down to 3:11 remaining before he'd score the record-breaking basket, making for a dramatic finish.

"Becoming the all-time leading scorer at Brooklyn College is an achievement that never crossed my mind when I entered the school as a freshman," said Gjonbalaj. "Now that I'm number one on a list that includes some great players, I can see that my hard work really paid off."

Some of those on the all-time leading scoring list actually had a big part in Gjonbalaj's accomplishment. Rich Micallef, the team's head coach for the past two seasons, is the third all-time leading scorer with 1,740 points, while Jeffrey Jean-Baptiste, an assistant coach with the team, is the fifth all-time leading scorer with 1,482. Jeffrey is the older brother of Richard Jean-Baptiste, who held the record from 2010 until Gjonbalaj broke it this past season.

"I am so proud of all of Egzon's achievements at Brooklyn College, moreover what he has meant to our program," said Micallef.

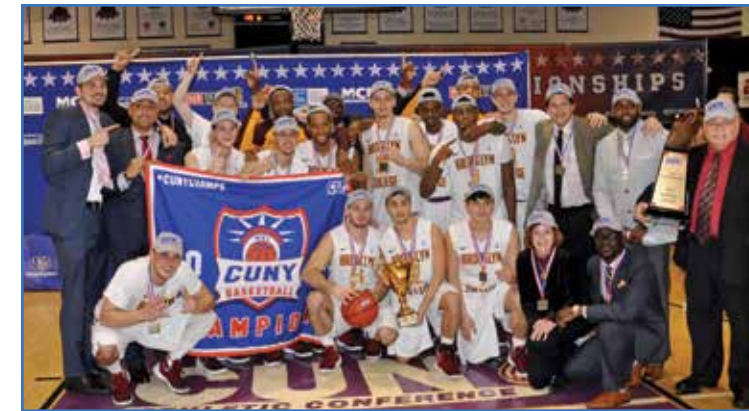
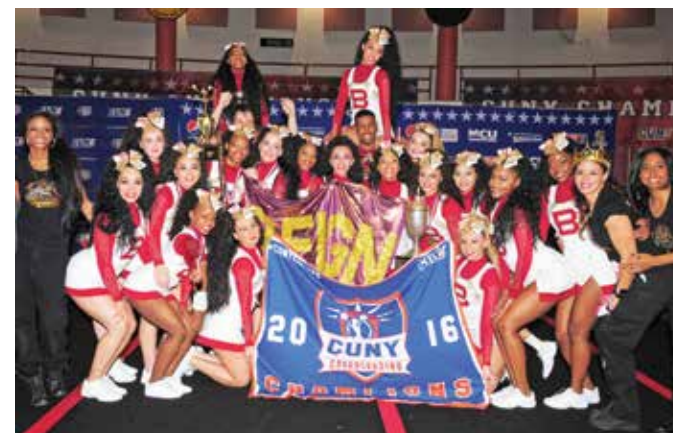
In addition to the scoring record, Gjonbalaj was able to cap off the season by being named to play in the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division III Senior All-Star Game down in Salem, Virginia, at the site of the Division III Final Four. Gjonbalaj was named to the team after winning a fan poll on D3Hoops.com.

—Alex Lang

## Cheerleading Wins Fourth Consecutive CUNYAC Crown and 10th Overall

Wrapping up a championship season for Brooklyn College winter sports, the Bulldogs' cheerleading squad won their fourth City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) title in a row. It is the program's tenth championship in the last 11 years. The Bulldogs topped Lehman and John Jay for this year's championship, outscoring them in team competitions 204.7 to 192 and 182.5, respectively. Brooklyn's Stunt Group of Jessie Ancona, Kenashallee Clark, Loylia Barnaby, Joanna Kozak and Nick Trudden took first place in that competition as well. Junior Nicolette Cianciotta took second place in the jump competition. Sophomore Loylia Barnaby was named CUNYAC Performer of the Year, while Head Coach Tonika Simmons earned Coach of the Year honors.

—Tim Slakas



## Brooklyn Men's Basketball Wins CUNYAC Championship/NCAA Tournament Berth

In a rematch of last year's CUNYAC Championship game, the 2015–2016 Brooklyn College men's basketball team would avenge last year's loss by defeating Baruch this time around, 76-67, for their first City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) title and automatic berth to the NCAA Division III Tournament since the 2009–2010 season. Brooklyn senior forward Lorenzo Williams was named the CUNYAC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, scoring his 1,000th point as a Bulldog in the championship game. "We are just so happy with the championship win," said Junior guard and Australian native Chris McIlhatton.

Despite falling in their first-round game of the NCAA Tournament to local foe, New York University, the Bulldogs ended the season with a stellar final record of 22–7. BC was ranked as high as No. 17 nationally on two separate occasions in the D3Hoops.com poll.

Seniors Egzon Gjonbalaj and Lorenzo Williams were named First Team CUNYAC All-Stars and senior Jamel Gist was named a Second Team CUNYAC All-Star. Gjonbalaj was named to the D3Hoops.com All-Region First Team, the National Association of Basketball Coaches Association (NABC) All-District First Team, the Eastern Colleges Athletic Conference (ECAC) All-Metro First Team, and the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association (MBWA) Division III First Team. Williams was named to the MBWA Division III Second Team. Head Coach Rich Micallef '84 was named the MBWA Division III Coach of the Year.

Making the CUNYAC Championship victory extra-special this year was that most of the 1982 Brooklyn NCAA Final Four men's basketball team was looking on. At halftime of the final game, the CUNYAC honored the members of the team, including the daughter of legendary head coach, Mark Reiner. It is still the furthest any team has ever gone in the NCAA Division III Tournament in any sport in CUNYAC history. A starter and leading scorer on that team, Head Coach Rich Micallef was humbled by the victory, "It doesn't get more special than to win a conference title with your teammates and best friends there in support."

—Tim Slakas

## CUNYAC All-Stars

### Fall 2015

#### Women's Cross Country

Sportsmanship Team: **Ashley Brown**

#### Men's Cross Country

Sportsmanship Team: **Jonathan Ho**

#### Women's Soccer

Defensive Player of the Year: **Jasmine Fermin** (7 goals – 1 game winning goal, 2 assists, 16 points)

Second Team All-Star: **Shani Nakhid-Schuster** (5 goals – 1 game winning goal, 1 assist, 11 points)

Second Team All-Star: **Leslie Gomez** (1 goal – 1 game winning goal, 3 assists, 5 points)

Sportsmanship Team: **Rebecca Harmata**

#### Men's Soccer

First Team All-Star: **Valentyn Kharko** (10 goals – 5 game winning goals, 4 assists, 24 points)

Second Team All-Star: **Marco Thimm** (8 goals – 1 game winning goal, 1 assist, 17 points)

Second Team All-Star: **Kevin Bresnan** (1 goal, 2 points)

Sportsmanship Team: **Kryhan Boguski**

#### Women's Tennis

All-Star: **Ievgeniia Kostenko** (7-3 singles record, 5-4 doubles record)

All-Star: **Suraya Maehout** (7-5 singles record, 5-4 doubles record)

Second Team All-Star: **Christolia Butler** (201 kills, 10 service aces, 108 digs, 69 blocks)

Sportsmanship team: **Sasha Roopchand**

### Winter 2015–2016

#### Women's Basketball

First Team: **Olivia Colbert** (14.8 points per game, 11.2 rebounds per game, 45 steals, 22 blocks)

Sportsmanship Team: **Tiffany Ruiz**

#### Men's Basketball

First Team: **Egzon Gjonbalaj** (22.7 points per game, 11.3 rebounds per game, 4.0 assists per game 62 steals, 54 blocks)

First Team: **Lorenzo Williams** (19.1 points per game, 5.6 rebounds per game, 2.0 assists per game, 18 steals, 3 blocks)

Second Team: **Jamel Gist** (16.2 points per game, 3.8 rebounds per game, 3.3 assists per game, 39 steals, 5 blocks)

Sportsmanship Team: **Dennis Balsam**

#### Women's Swimming

Performer of the Year: **Amanda Strano** Led BC to a third straight CUNYAC Championship in 2015.

All Star: **Valerie Vassilieva** (Silver Medalist at CUNYAC Championships – 500m Freestyle)

#### Men's Swimming

Sportsmanship Team: **Kevin Barros**

Rookie of the Year: **Vaughn Titus** (289 kills, 42 service aces, 192 digs, 26 blocks)

## On Art, Inspiration, and Making a Difference

With just \$25 a month, Brooklyn teacher Mera Rubell '65 and her physician husband, Don, began feeding their passion for "crazy" art. That passion would grow into The Rubell Family Collection, one of the largest privately owned contemporary art collections in the world.

Ever since Mera and Don met in the Brooklyn College library while she was pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology, she has remained strongly connected to her alma mater. Earlier this year, she and her husband hosted a reception for Miami area alumni, and in May 2015, she represented the Brooklyn College Anniversary Class of 1965 at the baccalaureate commencement ceremony.

"Brooklyn is not a borough; Brooklyn is a blood type," she says.

Her earliest memory is of a German displacement camp after WWII. Her family emigrated to America when she was 12 years old. After graduating from Brooklyn College with a degree in psychology, she went on to earn a master's degree in education at Long Island University. While a senior studying at the Brooklyn College Library, she met her husband, who had already graduated from Cornell. He proposed to her the first time they spoke, and they married in 1964.

While her husband was in medical school, she became a teacher for Head Start, then taught in the New York City public school system. Between work and study, the couple would take long walks in their Chelsea neighborhood and visit storefront studios there. On a payment plan of \$25 per week they began purchasing works that intrigued them. They were the "crazy couple who bought this crazy art," Rubell told *W* magazine in 2015.

Today, the same passion for emerging artists and their work anchors the Rubell Family Collection (RFC) and Contemporary Arts Foundation, nearly 7,000 works of art by more than 800 artists—one of the largest privately owned contemporary art collections in the world.



Housed in a 45,000-square foot Miami warehouse that was once used by the Drug Enforcement Agency and open to the public since 1993, the ever-growing collection encompasses a roster of late-20th- and early 21st-century artists that would leave any student, scholar, or art lover breathless. Just as they did when they began collecting art, the Rubells, who run a family hotel business that supports their collection, acquire pieces through studio and gallery visits, choosing each item by family consensus with their son, Jason. They also have a daughter, Jennifer, who is an artist herself.

Mera and Don Rubell in front of Kerstin Brätsch's painting *When You See Me Again It Won't Be Me* (from *Broadwaybratsch/Corporate Abstraction series*), 2010

But while Rubell was a student, becoming a collector was "inconceivable." As she says, "I worked as a manicurist throughout college. I would visit the Brooklyn Museum and the Botanical Gardens with my family, but there wasn't even a remote thought that being a collector was comprehensible. I didn't even know what the word meant, and I didn't think I was in the position to become one. It took years for us to acknowledge that collecting is what we were doing. Through the process, we defined our identity. I came to realize that sometimes we limit our imagination, thinking we need a lot of money to achieve something. Becoming a collector is

often about realizing that you can make it happen by redirecting even limited resources and committing to acquiring an original work of art. The power of that will change your life. That has inspired and given tremendous purpose to my life."

The Rubells have brought their collection to as much of the public as possible. Along with internships, artwork loan programs, lecture series, school partnerships, and a publicly accessible research library, RFC also hosts a themed exhibition of works from its collection and has sent exhibits on the road. For example, *30 Americans*, which features more than 250 works by African-American artists that the Rubells collected over a 40-year period, has been seen by over a million people in 12 museums across the country. *No Man's Land*, which includes work by more than 100 women artists, will open in September 2016 at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

Since their move to Miami 26 years ago, the Rubells have helped greatly in making the city an international art destination by courting Art Basel in Switzerland to bring the prestigious art fair to Miami in 2002.


Reflecting on her own path and her time at Brooklyn College, Rubell says, "Standing at the podium and looking at the faces of the students, I felt like I was in a similar place more than 50 years ago. I was a first-generation immigrant graduate going out into the world with a lot of family support but not much in the way of financial resources. I felt the power of a college education, especially a free one, which I had. Free was very powerful for me. If it hadn't been free, I don't know if I would have gone. My mother-in-law was in the first graduating class of Brooklyn College. Her son was an Ivy League graduate, and he married a woman, me, who had a similar education to his own mother's. I'm concerned about education moving away from being free. It closes the door on a lot of talented people."


"People are going to ask you what college you went to. Say it proud. Feel the vibe. Feel the respect. It's the kind of respect you get when you are the first in your family to graduate from college," Rubell said to the graduating class of 2015. "It's the kind of respect you get when you have to hold down a few jobs just to go to school. It is the kind of respect you get for having the courage against all odds when you are surrounded by debt, doubt, and fear. It's the kind of respect you get for knowing that falling down is okay, but staying down is not. It's the kind of respect you get because you are desperate, desperate to make a difference in the world."

—Audrey Peterson


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# Out and About



**1. Brooklyn College Theater Department** Brooklyn College theater students perform in Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts.

**2. Magnier Career Center** Students on a company visit to Madison Square Garden courtesy of the Magnier Career Center.

**3. Best of Brooklyn 2016** Honoree Don Buchwald '59, center, with President Karen L. Gould, and her husband Rick Simon at the annual Best of Brooklyn gala held at the Rainbow Room in Manhattan.

**4. Brooklyn College Women's Initiative** Women students meet with women—mostly alumnae successful in their fields—at a mentor luncheon.

**5. Schreiber Lecture in Integrative Biology** Martin Schreiberman '56, at left with host, Professor Jennifer Basil, and lecturer Paul Forlano, assistant professor, Department of Biology, Brooklyn College

**6. Brooklyn College Food Pantry** Dean of Students Ronald Jackson, front row, second from left, with President Karen L. Gould, center, students and other members of the Brooklyn College administration at the opening of a food pantry.

**7. Brooklyn College Theater Department** A scene from the play *Belleville*, by Queens College Professor Amy Herzog, directed by Eric D. Ort '16 M.F.A.

**8. Magnier Internship Stipend** Marge Magnier '69, center, gathers with the 2016 awardees of the Magnier Internship Stipend.

**9 & 10. Brooklyn College Theater Department** *The Baltimore Waltz* by Paula Vogel, directed by M.F.A. major Noel MacDuffie '16, and Dennis Kelly's *DNA* directed by Professor Rose Burnet Bonczek at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts.

**11. Alumni Bowling Night** Brooklyn College alumni enjoy an evening out at Frames Bowling Lounge in New York City.

**12. Alumni Association Distinguished Speaker Program** Sam Schwartz '69, 2011 BCAA Alumnus of the Year and former N.Y.C. Deputy Transportation Commissioner and Chief Engineer for the City of New York, launches the new Brooklyn College Alumni Association Distinguished Speaker program at the CUNY Graduate Center.

**13. Murray Koppelman School of Business** Dean Willie Hopkins, back row, third from left, with President Karen L. Gould, center, and students at Business Matters! 2015 symposium. The conference focused on the theme "Leaders L.E.A.D." (Launch their career, Engage with others, take Advantage of opportunities, and Develop their skills).

Dear Alumni,  
 In 2013, the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) conducted a national survey of business and nonprofit leaders entitled “It Takes More than a Major: Employer Priorities for College Learning and Student Success.” The report found that 95 percent of the employers surveyed said they gave hiring preference to college graduates with skills that will enable them to contribute to innovation in the workplace, with 92 percent agreeing that “innovation is essential” to their organization’s continued success.



When identifying suitable candidates, 93 percent of surveyed employers said that a demonstrated capacity to think critically, communicate clearly, and solve complex problems is more important than a candidate’s undergraduate major, and 90 percent said it is important that those they hire demonstrate ethical judgment and integrity; intercultural skills; and the capacity for continued new learning.

These survey findings align with the mission of Brooklyn College, which seeks to develop knowledgeable students prepared to think critically, lead responsibly, act ethically and contribute globally.

During my undergraduate years at the college (1987–1992), students were required to take courses within the College’s nationally recognized core curriculum. And though not fully appreciating it at the time “The Core” provided me with a firm foundation in the liberal arts and significantly improved my cultural literacy. Today’s Brooklyn College students are receiving an equally strong liberal arts education that will prepare them for wherever they’d like to go in life.

As Brooklyn College alumni we can take comfort in knowing that our alma mater remains committed to an innovative liberal arts education.

In service,

Jeffrey Sigler '92, '95 M.S.

Don't see your class correspondent?  
 Please contact Eileen Howlin at ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu

## 1940

**Eva Weiss Hubschman**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 1650 West Glendale Avenue, Apt. 1101  
 Phoenix, AZ 85021-5757

## 1941

**Cecile Yasker Kaufman**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 3212 N. Miller Road, Apt. 320  
 Scottsdale, AZ 85251

## 1947

**Reva Frumkin Biers**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 4631 Ellenita Avenue  
 Tarzana, CA 91356-4931  
 revabiers@sbcglobal.net

## 1948

**Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 271-10 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G  
 Floral Park, NY 11005-1209

**Bernice Resnick Sandler** was honored at the third annual Women’s History Month Honoree Celebration in Washington, D.C.

## 1949

**William D. Isaacson**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 269-10 Grand Central Parkway Apt. 18Y  
 Floral Park, New York 11005-1018  
 vevvyd@yahoo.com

**Norman Narotsky** had an art exhibition, *Hidden in the Detail*, at the Hotel Grand Marina in Barcelona, Spain.

## 1950

**Abe “Boomie” Bressler** was toastmaster for the 26th consecutive year at the Florida reunion of Brooklyn College Former Athletes.

## 1951

**Marion Unger Gordon**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 70 East 10 Street, Apt. 9P  
 New York, NY 10003-5112

**Alvin Feinman** published *Corrupted into Song: The Complete Poems of Alvin Feinman* with Princeton University Press.

## 1952

**Sheila Talmud Raymond**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 3 Lakeside Lane  
 Bay Shore, NY 11706-8845

## 1953

**Ben Suntag**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 1311 Franklin Lane  
 Rockaway, NJ 07866-5814  
 gatnus@gmail.com

## 1954

**Marlene (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman**  
*Class Correspondent*  
 255 West 94 Street, Apt. 6Q  
 New York, NY 10025-6986

When **PNINA BRAVMANN '91** was looking for a school for her hearing-impaired daughter some 20 years ago, she couldn’t find what she was looking for. At that time, most schools for the hearing impaired taught students to communicate with sign language.

Bravmann was already a trained audiologist and speech pathologist. Her husband had encouraged her to think about exploring the field when she was working as a secretary at a special education school during her undergraduate years. She was enrolled in the master’s degree program in speech pathology when she was pregnant with her daughter; she returned to Brooklyn College after earning her degree to obtain a certificate in audiology in 1992.

She knew there were more options than teaching her daughter to sign but didn’t know of any local schools that would teach her—through the help of technology that was not so widely used as it is today—to listen and speak. So she created one of her own. Bravmann, a Brooklyn native, founded Strivright Auditory School of New York in Brooklyn in 1999.

“I did a lot of research, checking out schools in other states that were in sync with our vision,” she says. “I wanted to do this for all New Yorkers.”

Strivright started with one child and ended its first year with nearly 20. The school grew quickly and at one point was housed in three different facilities—one of which was Bravmann’s basement.

Today, Strivright is located in a state-of-the-art facility in Midwood. The building is actually designed in the shape of a cochlea—a spiral-shaped cavity that comprises the auditory portion of the inner ear—and features recycled rubber flooring, a ductless HVAC system, buzzless lights and numerous sound filter systems that work in concert with the cochlear implants that many of the students use.

The school, with its 180 students on site and some 600 plus who receive itinerant services from Strivright therapists,



remains the largest preschool and early intervention program in the country for children with a hearing impairment or auditory processing disorder.

Bravmann says she continues to be driven by “seeing the families and miracles that happen every day.”

She recalls the mother of a former Strivright student. “She said we really changed her son. He came here and became very social and confident,” she says. The same woman had an older son who also had an auditory processing issue who never got the kind of therapy her younger son did. “They simply didn’t know what was wrong with her older son at the time,” she says. “But when she sees how well her younger son is doing, she sees how his life could have been different.”

Most of the kids leave Strivright to go on to general education classrooms across New York City. “We’re building a foundation for children whose future would have been so different,” she says.

—Jamilah Simmons



Beinecke Scholarship winner **SEAN DESVIGNES '15** and Brooklyn College senior **SOFIA AHSANUDDIN '16** were among a select group of 20 speakers from across CUNY at the TEDx CUNY conference in November 2015, held at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center at Borough of Manhattan Community College. More than 400 people attended the second annual event, organized by Harry S. Truman Scholar and Urban Fellows awardee Jake Levin '16. DesVignes shared poems that explore his African-American and Caribbean-American identities, while Ahsanuddin spoke about microbial life in the New York City subways, which she researches as a project manager for a Weill Cornell Medical College study.

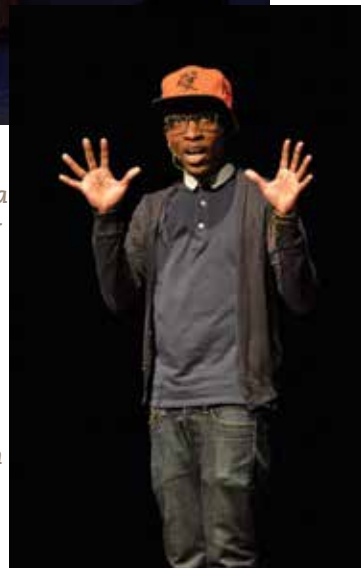
Levin, a Macaulay Honors College student, said that he and his team spent days trying to come up with a theme for the daylong conference. "We considered ideas and topics that were important to the CUNY community and things that were relevant globally and to New York City," he said. In the end, they chose the theme "Borders and Belonging."

DesVignes received a rousing round of applause after performing some of his poems, which addressed his cross-cultural influences and his thoughts about jazz artist Max Roach, calypsonian Lord Kitchener, and Europe as a location for black artists. Last spring DesVignes won a \$34,000 Beinecke Scholarship to support him through graduate school. He plans to pursue a master's degree in creative writing after taking some time off school to work. He says that ultimately, he wants to be a teacher, author, and traveling artist.

Ahsanuddin, a student in the Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program, the Macaulay Honors College, and a Rhodes Scholarship finalist, asked for a show of hands of who had taken the subway to the event. She then explained the project she works on, PathoMAP, which maps the molecular muck of our urban environment and reveals some unsettling findings about the New York City subway system. Ahsanuddin is a former Rosen Fellow and Goldsmith Scholar who has interned at the United Nations and was a delegate to the Clinton Global Initiative University. She plans to become a doctor, a medical anthropologist, and a public health specialist.

—Jamilah Simmons

To view the TEDx CUNY talks, visit [tedxcuny.com/2014/videos-1/](http://tedxcuny.com/2014/videos-1/)



## 1955

**Geraldine Miller Markowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
1500 Palisade Avenue, #26C  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
geraldine@nj.rr.com

**John F. M. McDermott**, a SUNY Professor Emeritus of the Social Sciences, published "Perfect Competition, Methodologically Contemplated" in the current volume of *The Journal of Post Keynesian Economics*.

**Joseph V. Ricapito**, Ph.D., has been inducted as a member into ANLE (Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Espanola). This organization aims to enhance the Spanish language through publishing papers and teaching Spanish literature.

## 1956

**Mike Saluzzi**  
Class Correspondent  
1351 East Mountain Street  
Glendale, CA 91207-1837  
msaluzzi@earthlink.net

## 1957

**Micki Goldberg Ginsberg**  
Class Correspondent  
217 E. Maple Avenue  
Moorestown, NJ 08057-2011  
mginsberg10@gmail.com

**Howard A. Palley**, Ph.D., coedited the 2015 volume of *Comparative Health Care Federalism*, published by Routledge.

## 1958

**Sandra Seigel Pikoff**  
Class Correspondent  
4500 Williams Drive #212-320  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
sspikoff@aol.com

**Lois Berseth Hedlund** was elected to her second term as president of Faerder Lodge, Sons of Norway, an international fraternal organization.

**Don Kramer** has been inducted into the Insurance Hall of Fame by the International Insurance Society. He has also been awarded the Free Enterprise Award from the Insurance Federation of New York.

## 1959

**Stanley Goldstein** chaired a sustainability conference, co-sponsored by Con Edison, The New York State Society of CPAs, and the New York Hedge Fund Roundtable, of which he is the founder.

**Marlene Fishbane Rosenbaum** will be inducted into the Fairleigh Dickinson University Heritage Hall, which honors those who have made an extraordinary contribution to and impact upon the university.

## 1960

**Saul Kravitz**  
Class Correspondent  
3382 Kenzo Ct.  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
kravitzsaul@gmail.com

**Harry Edelson's** *Positivity: How To Be Happier, Healthier, Smarter, and More Prosperous*, was published by SelectBooks.

**Alan Lelchuk** is the author of *Breaking Ground*, published by Madel Vilar Press.

**Fran Orenstein**, announced the release of *Danse Macabre*, published by World Castle publishing, an adult paranormal short story collection. Her first three books of The Shadow Boy Mystery Series for 'tweens, *Mystery Under Third Base*, *Mystery of the Green Goblin* and *Mystery of the Stolen Painting* have recently been released by Saguaro Books Ltd.

## 1961

**David S. Herskowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
1175 Kildeer Court  
Encinitas, CA 92024-1278  
davidsh@sbcglobal.net

**Marilyn Siegel** has retired after 20 years as a field supervisor and instructor at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development at New York University.

## 1962

**Steven J. Nappen**  
Class Correspondent  
38 Troy Hills Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981-1315

Former Assembly member **Joan Milman** was honored with a state resolution for her 17 years of service in the New York State Assembly's 52nd District.

**Beverly Kall Sussman** became President of the Village of Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

## 1963

**Cliff Rosner**  
Class Correspondent  
111 Blue Willow Drive  
Houston, TX 77042-1105

**Janice Moglen**, who remains active at the Colorado State Legislature, acted as Executive Director of Coalition for Single Parents Day.

## 1964

**Jay Orlikoff**  
Class Correspondent  
20 Beaverdale Lane  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2507  
drjay@drjay.com

**Ellie S. Krauss**, professor emeritus at the School of Global Policy and Strategy at the University of California, San Diego, was honored with a dinner as the Harvard University Program on U.S.-Japan Relations' Distinguished Visitor for the 2015-2016 academic year.

**Robert Schwartz** has been selected as the 2015 David Perlman Awardee for Excellence in Science Journalism.

**Marie Meiselman Shear**, who calls herself a widely unheralded writer and editor, has been the book critic for the Editorial Freelancers Association since 2007.

## 1965

**Barbara Berman Leveene**  
Class Correspondent  
24 Jubilee Circle  
Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

## 1966

**Felicia Friedland Weinberg**  
Class Correspondent  
P.O. Box 449  
Clarksburg, NJ 08510

The CUNY Board of Trustees approved the naming of a professorship in the Biology Department at York College as The Leslie Lewis/**Jack Schlein** Chair of Biology. Schlein is a professor emeritus of biology who retired from York in 2007 and currently serves there as an adjunct professor.

*Retirement: Different by Design: Six Building Blocks Fundamentally Changing How Life After Work is Viewed, Planned For, and Lived*, a book by **Rick Steiner**, was published by Hatherleigh Press.

**Leon Weintraub** authored and published a children's book titled *We're All Alike and Different* with Mirror Publishing.

## 1967

**Sharon Weinschel Resen**  
Class Correspondent  
1740 Kimball Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304  
shabojo@aol.com

**Ron Rosenbaum** has been reelected to the position of President of the Albany, California Unified School District Board of Education.

## 1968

**Eileen McGinn**  
Class Correspondent  
210 East 15 Street, Apt.10N  
New York, NY 10003-3927  
Qedeileen@aol.com

## 1969

**Edward M. Greenspan**  
Class Correspondent  
emgreenspan@optonline.net

**Joseph Barbuto**, M.D., was named a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

**Charles V. Reilly** retired from being a federal prosecutor for 40 years with the United States Department of Justice, Antitrust Division New York.

**Eleanor Winters** exhibited her work "To the Memory of Deported Children" at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan.

## 1970

**Barry Silverman**  
Class Correspondent  
176 Stults Lane  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5815  
writeone@comcast.net

**Steven Edelman** founded Connect360 Multimedia, which produces and distributes public service announcements and digital media promotion campaigns for not-for-profit organizations, government organizations, and national causes. Connect360 is based in Mineola, New York, and has offices in California and Washington, D.C.

**Ellen Jacobs**, a professor of history at the University of Quebec in Montreal, specializing in European history, has retired from her post after 31 years.

**Harriet S. Mosatche** (née Rosenberg) coauthored a new book with her daughter Elizabeth K. Lawner, titled *Through! Helping Girls Succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math*, published by Prufrock Press.

## 1971

**Robert J. Miller**  
Class Correspondent  
494 E. 18 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
rjmiller@courts.state.ny.us

**Lucille Tamm**, a geologist, has retired from federal service after 40 years.

## 1972

**Stanley A. Alexander**  
Class Correspondent  
98 B Charles River Road  
Waltham, MA 02453

**Barbara Katz Rothman** published *A Bun in the Oven: How the Food and Birth Movements Resist Industrialization* with NYU Press.

## 1973

**Linda E. Gross Carroll**  
Class Correspondent  
1732 Mistletoe Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958-6646  
lcarroll32@comcast.net

Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney hired **Robert M. Drillings** as Of Counsel to its public finance practice group in New York.

**Stan S. Katz** recently published *The Emperor and the Spy*, a historical novel inspired by the personal papers of a Master Spy, with Horizon Productions.

## 1974

**Diane Oeters Vaughn**  
Class Correspondent  
42 Briarwood Drive  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
dianeleslie29@hotmail.com

## 1975

**Rubin Leitner**  
Class Correspondent  
138 East 96 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11212-3534

Feintuch Communications, founded in 2009 by tech industry veteran and former journalist **Henry Feintuch**, has merged with Roher Public Relations.

Judge **Alma Gomez** was appointed to the New York City Family Court.

## 1976

**Henry P. Feintuch**  
Class Correspondent  
50 Barnes Lane  
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425  
henry@feintuchpr.com

**Michelle Herman's** newest book, *Devotion: A Novel*, was published by Outpost19.

**Marc Leeds'** fourth book, *The Vonnegut Encyclopedia*, an authorized compendium, with the original foreword by Kurt Vonnegut and a new foreword by Dr. Mark Vonnegut, will be published this year by Random House.

**Anne-Marie Walters** won gold in the 60-69 women's foil event at the Veteran World Championships in Limoges, France.

## 1978

### Susan A. Katz

*Class Correspondent*  
120 Pinewood Trail  
Trumbull, CT 06611-3313  
BCAlum@Katzing.com

**Frankie McIntosh** was inducted into the Sunshine Awards Hall of Fame. The Sunshine Awards recognize excellence in the performing arts, education, science, and sports of the various Caribbean countries.

## 1979

### Anthony Esposito

*Class Correspondent*  
211 Highway 35 N  
Mantaloking, NJ 08738-1420

**Allison Reiss** was awarded an American Heart Association Grant-in-aid.

## 1980

**Karen Tenenbaum**, an attorney with Tenenbaum Law, P.C. in Melville, New York, was presented with the Leadership in Law Award by *Long Island Business News*, and her firm named a Top Ten Tax Law Firm by the same publication.

## 1982

### Eileen Sherman Gruber

*Class Correspondent*  
69 Derby Avenue  
Greenlawn, NY 11740-2130

## 1983

### Michael Kosik

*Class Correspondent*  
866-327-5162  
michael.kosik@morganstanley.com

## 1985

### Peter Huertas

*Class Correspondent*  
5135 Fedora Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78242-2427  
alamodude2001@yahoo.com

## 1986

### Ian Lee Brown

*Class Correspondent*  
10090 Lake Vista Court  
Parkland, FL 33076  
ianleebrown@gmail.com

## 1987

### Eric Steinhardt

*Class Correspondent*  
915 East 7 Street, Apt. 1H  
Brooklyn, NY 11230-2733  
Eric.steinhardt@verizon.net

**Retta Blaney** won a Maryland, Delaware, D.C. Press Association Award for an op-ed published last year in *The Baltimore Sun*.

## 1988

### Lauren Korn Popkoff

*Class Correspondent*  
951 Woodoak Drive  
Baldwin Harbor, NY 11510-5023

## 1989

**Julia Glawe** has been named executive director of the Milwaukee Ballet.

## 1990

### Beth Debra Kallman Werner

*Class Correspondent*  
105 Husson Road  
Milford, PA 18337-7156  
bwerner@ptd.net

**Barry Schwartz** celebrated 25 years as an employee of the City of New York Department of Design & Construction.

## 1991

### Tami Sheheri

*Class Correspondent*  
140 Cadman Plaza West, #14E  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
tsheheri@yahoo.com

## 1992

**Patrice Rankine** has been appointed the dean of the University of Richmond's School of Arts and Science.

**Abdalla Hassan** published *Media, Revolution and Politics in Egypt: The Story of an Uprising* with I.B. Tauris.

## 1993

### Sarah Battaglia

*Class Correspondent*  
P.O. Box 882  
Miller Place, NY 11764  
millerplacesb@yahoo.com

## 1994

### Ilene Berkowitz

*Class Correspondent*  
1575 46 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219-2726

## 1995

### Nathan Solat

*Class Correspondent*  
2793 Lee Place  
Bellmore, NY 11710-5003

## 1997

### Diane Abramowitz Rosenberg

*Class Correspondent*  
Rosenberg & Rosenberg, LLP  
5 Penn Plaza, 19th Fl.  
New York, NY 10001  
dr@rosenbergrosenberg.com

## 1998

### Glenn P. Nocera

*Class Correspondent*  
616 East 4th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11218-4922  
buttonboy@aol.com

## 1999

### David Moskowitz

*Class Correspondent*  
206 Murray Road  
Newark, DE 19711-4510

**Daniel Nigro** was selected as the first coach of the New Rochelle inaugural Men's Basketball program.

## 2001

### Tatesha Bennett Clark

*Class Correspondent*  
540 East 82 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11236-3119

## 2002

### Kimy Mandil

*Class Correspondent*  
twixpop22@aol.com

Talya Edlund M.S.Ed., was named the 2016 Maine Teacher of the Year by the Department of Education.

## 2004

### Yael Abraham Fogel

*Class Correspondent*  
431 Broadway  
Lawrence, NY 11559  
yct.fogel@gmail.com

## 2005

### Miriam Alexander

*Class Correspondent*  
118-03 228th Street  
Cambria Heights, NY 11411  
Miriam118@aol.com

## 2006

**Serena Burdick's** *Girl in the Afternoon* was published by St. Martin's Press.

**Dave Evans** was awarded an Emmy from the New York Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences for Executive Producing \$9.99 with *Dave Evans*, which he also hosts. The show airs on NYC Life, channel 25 in NYC and the tri-state area.

**Carl Ferrero** M.F.A. was awarded a 2016 Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, an organization lending to support to artists.

## 2007

### Ezra N. Rich

*Class Correspondent*  
309 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904  
ezrarich@gmail.com

## 2008

### Stefanie Low

*Class Correspondent*  
3-A Putnam Avenue  
Glen Cove, NY 11542  
stefanielow@yahoo.com

## 2009

### Steven Juskowicz

*Class Correspondent*  
1485 E. 32 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403  
SJuskowicz@gmail.com

## 2011

**Xiomara Smith** was appointed to the board of directors of the Bridge Street Development Corporation, located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

## 2013

### Elizabeth Weiss

*Class Correspondent*  
2013elizabethweiss2013@gmail.com

*The Classes They Remember: Using Role-Plays to Bring Social Studies and English to Life*, a book by **David Sherrin**, was published by Routledge.

# Remembrance

As of May 27, 2016

## Faculty

Daniel Kopec,  
*Department of Computer and Information Science*

Roberto Sánchez-Delgado,  
*Department of Chemistry*

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Claire Schulman Neyer '33  
Sigmund Fritz '34  
Eleanore Smit Goldberg '34  
Lucille Rabinowitz Perlman '35  
Sylvia Stakser Bernstein Schaeffer '35  
Dorothy Weber Schaffner '35  
Beatrice Turetsky Aschenbrenner '36  
Irving Brodtkin '36  
Sylvia L. Goldberg Pomerantz Gillary '36  
Anne Schnaper Graulich '36  
Ruth Slossberg Goldstein Kaskey '36  
Julia Pributzky Klein '36  
Margaret Staudinger Miller '36  
Maxwell O. Reade '36  
Jacob Steinberg '36  
Anne Atlis Swerdlove '36  
Ruth Gelb Wilner '36  
Marjorie Wood '36  
Miriam Joseph Adler '37  
Ruth Gluck Flax '37  
Irving (Hoffzimer) Harper '37  
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Lionel "Judah" Semiatiin '37  
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Sidney Schroeger '38  
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Yole L. Granata Sills '39  
Pauline Zemsky Cohn '40  
Ira Ehrensall '40  
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Leon Morgenstern '40  
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Reuben Levin '41  
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Florence Mattern Solomon '41  
Sol Triebwasser '41  
Samuel L. (Weinshall) Winchell '41  
Jason Wingreen '41  
Solomon Bank '42  
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Oscar Colchamiro '42  
Lucy Bellini Deponte '42  
Morris Dolmatch '42  
Melvin Dubin '42  
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Mary Elizabeth Walsh Radday '91  
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Elizabeth F. Thomas-Simoncini '94  
Brian Corrigan '95  
Randi C. Fisher '96



**William E. Paul '56, M.D.,** immunologist with the National Institutes of Health and former director of the Office of AIDS Research, passed away on September 18, 2015. He was 79. Dr. Paul

graduated from Brooklyn College in 1956 before earning a medical degree from SUNY Downstate College of Medicine in 1960. In 1970, he would join the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases as the chief of the institute's immunology laboratory, a position he would hold until his death. During his time there, Dr. Paul, with Maureen Howard, discovered the molecule interleukin-4, opening a path to new therapies for allergic and inflammatory disorders.

Dr. Paul was named director of the Office of AIDS Research in 1993. During the four years he served in that position, the office became the centerpiece of HIV/AIDS research, with Dr. Paul lobbying the Clinton administration and Congress tirelessly to increase funding. This advocacy strengthened the position of the office and allowed for vital research at a crucial time in the disease's timeline.

Survivors include Marilyn, his wife of 57 years, sisters Linda and Harriet, sons Matthew and Jonathan, and six grandchildren.

—Mark Zhuravsky



**Jack Allen Lewis '60, Ph.D.,** an accomplished soil scientist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland, passed away on May 4, 2015 after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. He was 76 years old.

Lewis was born April 8, 1939, in Brooklyn, New York, son of Arthur and Pauline Lewis. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Brooklyn College in 1960 and an M.S. from the University of Connecticut in 1962. His professional career began at Rutgers University, where he earned a Ph.D. under his

**Constance Emmer Lieber '45,** president of the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression (NARSAD), now known as the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation, and a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Brooklyn College, passed away on January 15, 2016. She was 91 years old.

Lieber was a graduate of Brooklyn College and attended Columbia University for her post-graduate studies. Her lifelong commitment to mental illness research is reflected in the sheer breadth of her achievements and her characteristically unwavering leadership.

Serving as the president of the Brain & Behavior Research Foundation from 1989 to 2007, Lieber and her husband Stephen oversaw the world's largest private funder of mental health research. The couple's leadership and advocacy on behalf of mental illness research worldwide was recently honored with a 2014 Special Presidential Commendation, courtesy of the American Psychiatric Association. The annual Lieber Award, established by the couple in 1987, celebrates outstanding achievements in schizophrenia research.

Most recently, Constance and Stephen created the Lieber Institute for Brain Development, affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University. The institute seeks to better understand the genetic and molecular mechanism that drive brain disorders and translate this information into innovative treatments.

Lieber is survived by her husband Stephen, her children Janice and Sam (Mary Rubin), her grandson, her sister Beverly, and several nieces and nephews.

—Mark Zhuravsky

major adviser, Robert L. Starkey, in the Department of Agricultural Microbiology.

In 1965, Lewis joined the USDA laboratory, headed by Dr. George C. Papavizas. He was a member of the Soil Borne Diseases Laboratory and its successor, the Biocontrol of Plant Diseases Laboratory until he retired in 1999. His research achievements are documented in over 125 peer-reviewed original articles and numerous abstracts. During his 34 years of service with the Agricultural Research Service Lewis was a leader or participant in team research to investigate biological, chemical, and integrated approaches for control of soil borne diseases of economic crops. He received three U.S. Patent Office awards for three formulation inventions, which led to the registration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a formulation to control soil-borne plant pathogens, a first in the field.

He is survived by Carol, his wife of 47 years, as well as two daughters and four grandsons.

—Mark Zhuravsky

### Into and Out of the Archives

The chandeliers and wooden card catalog files seen here in this image of the LaGuardia Reading Room at the Brooklyn College Library have long been replaced by modern lighting and computer databases. Yet this 1940 snapshot remains. It is a vital glimpse into our college's past, carefully maintained, along with thousands of other photographs, artifacts, papers, and other ephemera, in the library's Archives and Special Collections division.

Committed to preserving records that document the Brooklyn College community and the Borough of Brooklyn, the archive staff welcomes materials from alumni and other individuals, particularly of national and social importance. "We are in the process of creating a collection development policy," says college archivist and Associate Professor Colleen Bradley-Sanders, who notes that the guidelines will better help potential donors decide if Brooklyn College is the right fit for their collection.

One of the highlights of the archives is a collection of rare books dating from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries, and covering history, medicine, anthropology, geography, and other



Students at work at the Brooklyn College Library, circa 1940.

subjects. The archives also feature the papers of American humorist Sam Levenson '34, politician Shirley Chisholm '46, playwright and author Irwin Shaw '34, and the Hank Kaplan Boxing Archive, one of the largest on boxing history—but acquisitions are not limited to those of noted persons, academic rarities, or antiques.

Smaller collections play an important role. "Casual snapshots from alumni that show what Brooklyn College life was at the time they attended can be just as important in illuminating the history of the college and the borough as scholarly collections," says Associate Archivist Marianne Labatto.

Assistance with research in the archives and special collections is available to all Brooklyn College students, alumni, faculty, and administrators, as well as other members of the CUNY community. Access is also available to outside researchers, writers, and students with prior permission from a library archivist.

—Audrey Peterson

For further information about the Archives and Special Collections at Brooklyn College, please contact Professor Colleen Bradley-Sanders at [C.Bradley-Sanders17@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:C.Bradley-Sanders17@brooklyn.cuny.edu), or call 718.951.5346.

The archivists at the Brooklyn College Library want to include your memories in the library annals. Musings about your time at the college are welcome. Share with us at [magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu) or Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210

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