

# Brooklyn College *Magazine*

Spring 2011



Our Latest  
Rhodes Scholar

# The Annual Fund

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— Andrew Sillen, '74  
Executive Director  
Brooklyn College Foundation

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*Front cover:*  
Rhodes Scholar Zujaja Tauqueer  
*Back cover:* A winter's gaze



Over the past year and a half I have had the great pleasure of visiting with alumni in Brooklyn and around the country. It has been tremendously rewarding to learn about the impressive accomplishments of our alumni in such diverse and exciting areas as medicine, the arts, education, business, finance, politics, and many other fields of endeavor. I have also learned that many of you enjoy receiving the Brooklyn College Magazine in order to follow the achievements of our students and faculty, and to keep up with news about your classmates and friends. In the fall, we will be introducing an online version of our alumni magazine so that we can share even more stories, accomplishments and news with you.

This issue's cover story pays tribute to academic excellence and remarkable personal commitment through the inspiring story of Zujaja Tauqeer, recipient of the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for 2011. She is the third Rhodes Scholar from Brooklyn College in just 11 years, and one of only two selected from New York this year. Zujaja's journey to Brooklyn College, and ultimately to this newsworthy distinction, is unique and, at the same time, reflective of the educational aspirations, individual dedication and perseverance of so many Brooklyn College students.

The work of the Brooklyn College Foundation is highlighted in another magazine feature with the announcement of the most ambitious campaign in the history of the college. The Foundation for Success Campaign articulates our aspirations, vision and goals for the next decade. In these challenging times, and with decreasing support from the state, the foundation has never been more critical. Their work is vital to our historic mission to transform lives through access to an outstanding and affordable education for students of diverse backgrounds, cultures and economic circumstances.

We can take pride as well in the deep sense of social responsibility and commitment to civic engagement that are underscored in a number of the stories and events covered in this issue. I hope you will enjoy reading this edition of the Brooklyn College Magazine, and I invite you to share your thoughts about how the magazine can best serve you in the future and help you stay connected. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,  
Karen L. Gould  
*President*

To the Editor:

This nonagenarian (Class of 1939) eagerly awaits every issue of *Brooklyn College Magazine*. It presents an exciting coverage of works in the liberal arts, sociology and outreach programs, and student activism. I do suggest greater inclusion of your college works in the hard sciences: physics/astrophysics, chemistry/biochemistry, biology/physiology, neurosciences, inter alia.

Your spring 2010 issue had but four brief reports in areas of the sciences. I congratulate the college administration for its creation of the *Undergraduate Research Journal* and encouragement of students' research, including the realm of the hard sciences. Your two published examples, "Genome-wide Modeling . . ." and "Rare Authority," were praiseworthy.

My years at Brooklyn College, 1935-39, were fertile soil for a life-long interest in works of the mind. Your faculty, then and now, are of the highest order.

Finally: I met my wife, Harriet E. Sommer, at BC via the then newly-established "House Plan" at "Pratt House."

Sincerely,  
Leo Shatin, '51  
Ph.D., Social Relations,  
Harvard University  
Retired Professor of Clinical Psychiatry,  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

I am enclosing some documentation that should put the "Plum" debate to rest. Back in August 1972, my husband Burt Whiteman, '65, and I were living in Brooklyn with our young son on Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay.

We went door-to-door to enlist the help of our neighbors and petitioned the EPA to clean up the "beach" area in our community. At that time, PLUMB BEACH was notorious for being a trash- and vermin-filled dump.

If you can believe the *Daily News*, there should be a "b" at the end of the word. We moved to upstate New York the following year, but I hope we left Plumb Beach a little cleaner for our efforts.

Judith Telson Shiteman, '65

I recently read your magazine and found it to be excellent. I am thrilled with what the various students of Brooklyn College are achieving. So under separate cover, I have sent a contribution. Thank you.

Continued creativity,  
Professor Vera J. Weintraub Katz, '57

Since I've been retired, I've been auditing classes at SUNY Purchase. The faculty there is outstanding, especially in literature and history. Upon reading the latest BC mag, I was reminded of the quality of the BC faculty during my undergraduate years. The obits of Hans Trefousse and Ethyle R. Wolfe served to underscore my ongoing appreciation for the richness of the education I was privileged to obtain.

In no particular order, I list the following superb professors: Procope Costas, classics; Paul Glass, music; Arthur (C.) Cole, history; Howard Heinz, philosophy; (Abramo Kenneth) Ken Organski, political science; Frank (Francis) Downing, political science; Marjorie Coogan, English; Miriam Heffernan, English; Arnold Broggi, history; Felix (Feliks) Gross, sociology; Mr. (Paul B.) Baginsky (German), comparative literature.

Both my wife, Myrna Leventhal, '55, and I are grateful to those listed and to many, many other faculty members.

Bob Rubin, '54

## Composer Tania León Inducted into American Academy of Arts and Letters



Tania León (center) with her students.

Composer Tania León, a professor at the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College, is no stranger to receiving awards and honors, but this has certainly been one of her most auspicious seasons. On Wednesday, May 19, the distinguished professor of music at CUNY was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Not only was she one of only nine artists accepted as members of

the academy's music division, she was the first Latina to be inducted.

Then in October, she was invited to Havana, where two of her works were performed at the Brewer Festival of Chamber Music. Finally, there was a performance of one of her compositions at Carnegie Hall in November.

León, who did not speak English in her early 20s when she first came to the United States, originally studied at the Carlos Alfredo Peyrellade Conservatory in Havana; she completed her musical studies at New York University. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2009 for her orchestral poem *Acana*, which premiered at Carnegie Hall in April 2008. Other awards she has received include a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship and a 2005 Fromm Music Foundation commission.

In the 1990s, she and Nobel Prize winner Wole Soyinka worked together to compose her award-winning opera *Scourge of Hyacinths*. Internationally, León served as U.S. artistic ambassador of American culture in Madrid. The National Symphony of China performed the Chinese premiere of her work *Horizons* at the opening concert of the Beijing International Congress of Women in Music.

## Unboxing History



Jahongir Usmanov and Mimi Lester aren't boxing fans, but they're getting to be. Both recent graduates in history, they also have certificates from the college's archival program, the only one of its kind at CUNY. When a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities came through this fall, they were in the right place at the right time to become the archivists for the superb Hank Kaplan Boxing Collection.

Their training will be well honed by the Kaplan collection. Bequeathed to the college in 2007 and

valued at some three million dollars, the material is stacked in boxes, reaching up to the ceiling, each labeled by Kaplan himself.

For a huge collection maintained by one man, the Kaplan materials are "shockingly well-organized," Lester says. However, bringing it up to archival standards requires plenty of work.

Usmanov explains the approach the college has taken to organizing the vast amounts of material. "You have to keep some of the order the original collector has, but also think about how researchers will use the material and apply archival standards."

An examination of Lester and Usmanov's workspace, with piles of mylar, brittle newspaper clippings and packets of aged photos, evokes work that is rich in history but is also painstaking and repetitive. Then there are the fascinating parts such as stumbling across such gems as a napkin drawing by Muhammed Ali. Some of the more intriguing finds are currently on display in a library exhibit curated by project director Jill Goldstein.

The archive will go a long way to helping the archivists follow their career paths — Lester intends to get her master's in library science this fall, and Usmanov is aiming for his Ph.D. in history.

## Open Mic Session Brings Out Diverse Talent in BC Students

From beat-boxing and sweetly sung guitar songs to poems about engagements, hummus and the curious way in which the Vietnamese kiss, Brooklyn College students shared their talents in early November at the biannual English Majors' Open Mic.

Despite the pouring rain, some 100 rapt students packed the Woody Tanger Auditorium, snapping in unison when a

performer would forget their lines or mumbling audible "hms" when it was appropriate to ponder the subliminal.

The powwow—open not only to English majors, but to anyone who wishes to attend or perform—has been held each fall and spring semester since 1998. This most recent session was, by many accounts, one of the best ones yet.

"I just enjoy the enthusiasm, the range, the love," said Roni Natov, professor and deputy counselor in the English Department. She has coordinated the sessions each semester ever since a group of her interns lamented that some of the city's famous open mic nights were too competitive. "This really celebrates the range and diversity of our students, and the sessions get better and better each time."

For sophomore Sarah-Meira Rosenberg, this was her first time at Open Mic. She came simply because she was curious. "I was pleasantly surprised at the level of talent. I thought that if anyone can perform, then who knows what to expect."

The level of talent also impressed Brian Ghezdaigh, a freshman and psychology major who came because he was fulfilling a requirement for his Macaulay Honors College seminar. "A lot of people gave a lot of thought to their art," he said, noting that he may come back and perform next time.

Aleeza Chanowitz, a senior Judaic studies major who wrote and performed the aforementioned poem about hummus, also came to satisfy a requirement for her class on poetry and performance. "Some of the poetry was really good. With some, you had to work a little harder to understand where the artist was coming from," she said. "But that's poetry, right?"



Freshman Elisa Renee Libraty on guitar.

# A Long Way Home

By Pat Willard and Maya Rock

**Immigration has never been an easy topic in America — a nation built by and for immigrants.**

The same cycle of unease and repression has greeted every wave—from colonial era indentured servants, to the southern European and Jewish settlers that began to arrive toward the end of the 19th century. Each group experienced long periods of struggle before being accepted as strong threads in the fabric of American life.

Today's immigrants don't have it much easier. Maybe it's even a little harder, given the global economy and the emphasis on professions that require education and technical training. As two of our professors recently noted, immigrants who come here with few skills walk a precarious path, one that is, at best, lonely and, at worst, distressing.

Alan Aja, an assistant professor of Puerto Rican and Latino studies, was born in the United States, the son of Cuban parents who were among the first to flee Fidel Castro's régime. He was initially raised in Miami. Then, when he was a teenager, his family moved to Louisville, Ky. Overnight, he went from a community where he was the norm to a community where he was perceived as a foreigner.

"How you see Latinos depends on where you live," he says today.

His personal experience as a Latino in the United States was underscored when he worked as a labor organizer along the Texas border and into Arizona. There, he saw up close the negative effects of the immigration enforcement policies and legislation.

None, though, have been as worrisome as Arizona's new law, SB 1070. Passed in 2010, the law makes it a crime to be in the state without proper documentation, proof of citizenship or green card. Even more disconcerting is the bill's stipulation that law enforcement officials can subject a person to questioning upon "reasonable suspicion" of not being

a U.S. citizen. The reasons for the creation and support of SB1070 are self-evident. While Latinos currently make up about 30 percent of Arizona's population, some demographers believe in the next 15 to 20 years they will outnumber the white population.



*Alan Aja reports on the plight of Mexicans trying to live in America.*

"Our immigration policy is often vague and complicated," he says. "Much of it has not changed since the 1986 Immigration and Reform Control Act, and the global economy is radically different now, accelerating the rate and pace of migration. About 75 percent of immigrants in this country are documented, so we're talking about 25 percent who are not here legally. Of those, about 40 percent are students, businesspeople and tourists who have overstayed their visas. Enforcement doesn't necessarily go after them."

Instead, enforcement pursues day laborers, agricultural and factory workers, primarily from Latin America and sometimes Asia. "Most of the people crossing the borders come authorized, but regardless of status, they are leaving behind their loved ones and

looking for jobs to feed their families. They're making a very dangerous, arduous journey simply to survive."

In the Southwest, Latino culture is part of everyone's daily life. For centuries, the region was ruled by Spain. After the area came under U.S. rule, the border with Mexico was porous for a long time, with people on both sides moving freely between the two countries. In hard economic times, however, immigrants almost always felt the brunt of government's attempt to protect those they saw as rightful citizens. The most egregious—and forgotten—example is the repatriation of Mexicans from the Southwest in the 1930s. Many had lived on their farms and owned their businesses for generations, but were sent back to Mexico—a country where they no longer had any family or economic



*Tamara Mose Brown at a Brooklyn playground.*

support—while their assets were redistributed to the states' white populations.

This time around, there is another long economic downturn, but there is also a violent drug war along the border. Still, Aja says, "There's a 'blame the immigrant' mentality rather than a real effort to understand and change foreign and domestic policies that perpetuate migration and other urban economic problems."

"Yes, there is a big drug problem and that has to be taken care of, but that involves a different set of supply and demand issues and policy responses. Yes, there are economic difficulties to address. Conflating issues and persecuting immigrants, who are trying to make a living, won't solve either of those problems."

## PLAYGROUND PACTS

After Assistant Professor of Sociology Tamara Mose Brown gave birth to her first child in 2004, she began visiting the parks of gentrified Brooklyn. On the outings, which later included a new son, she took notice of the West Indian childcare workers congregating on the surrounding benches. As the child of West Indian immigrants, Brown has a special interest in the West Indian diaspora and recognized in the workers an important research opportunity. "I was interested in the idea that, at least with childcare, the public sphere was used for much of the day."

She first introduced herself to Hazel, a soft-spoken Grenadian woman. Through Hazel, she met 25 women whom she followed for three years.

The women, she discovered, were able to create community with each other through the use of these public play spaces. Although they came from different Caribbean islands, their sense of a panethnicity grew as they spent time with one another. Not only did the women have common work and culture, they also shared dreams and hopes for the future. Younger workers often planned to or were pursuing GEDs, or studying to become teachers or nurses. Many older women were saving for retirement back in their home countries. "There's an inherent isolation that is found, being in an employer's home," Mose Brown says, as many scholars have noted. To cope with this isolation, the women, in addition to socializing in the park, spend time together on the weekends, even traveling together.

The complexity surrounding childcare became apparent when Brown interviewed ten employers, most of whom were white, upper middle-class professionals. The employers grappled with anxieties involving childcare expenses and separation from their children — worries which often led to increased surveillance of the childcare providers. The childcare workers were upset about a Yahoo parent site that ranked workers by ethnicity, with West Indians coming in at the bottom. Since many were undocumented, the workers felt they couldn't do much about either situation.

The results of Brown's research, *Raising Brooklyn* (New York University Press), were published in January 2011. Meanwhile, she has moved on to two new research topics: comparing aging Jamaican immigrants in New York with their counterparts in Kingston, Jamaica, and the "social capital of children's playdates" in New York.



## The Amazing Journey

The College's Latest Rhodes Scholar Credits Her Undergraduate Studies with Widening Her Perspective

By Jamilah Simmons

**S**enior Zujaja Tauqeer is a bit of a celebrity these days. She has college and university administrators begging for her attention. There have been stories about her in the *Daily News* and the *Post*, and a notable mention in *New York Times* writer Thomas Friedman's column, among others. Even her high school, Brooklyn Tech, is bragging about her.

All of this is understandable given that she won the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship in October.

She knows the scholarship — the oldest and most distinguished international fellowship in the world — is a huge honor that will put her in exclusive company when she steps foot on the Oxford University campus in England next fall for a two-year program in the history of medicine. It's been well-noted that she is the third Brooklyn College student to receive the distinction, and only the seventh in CUNY history.

Still, the modest and pious Tauqeer doesn't quite get all the fuss.

"I don't feel like I know the answer to everything or that getting this scholarship means I'm better than anyone else," she states plainly, on a bitter winter morning after her final exams wrapped up. "I've just been really lucky to have some great opportunities."

To be sure, Tauqeer's story is, as she likes to remind people, very similar to that of many of her Brooklyn College kinfolk. Seeking religious asylum, she and her family immigrated to the United States from Pakistan when she was very young. She held on to her family's values while also discovering a new world in the melting pot of people and programs of New York City. She always put education first because while her family struggled to establish themselves in a new country, "education was the only thing we had to cling to for stability," she explains.

And she ended up with an undergraduate experience that pushed and changed her in ways she hadn't expected.

"I'm just grateful that things have played out the way they have," she says. "If I hadn't left Pakistan then I wouldn't be in the most powerful country in the world with access to a top-rate public education. If I hadn't come to Brooklyn College, I probably



*Zujaja will study the history of medicine at Oxford University in the fall.*

would have gone somewhere else and majored in biology instead of history. And if I hadn't majored in history, then I don't think I would have pursued some of the things that I've been able to pursue academically. I guess there was a higher plan."

### THE RHODES TRIP

She almost didn't apply.

Tauqeer had taken note of the e-mail from the Brooklyn College Office of Scholarships late last spring encouraging high-achieving students to consider eminent scholarships such as the Marshall, the Mitchell, the Rhodes and the Fulbright, but she wasn't, as she says now, presumptive enough to think she might fit the bill. Nonetheless, she saved the e-mail.

Then her history professor, Corey Robin, who had received the same e-mail, pulled her aside one day and encouraged her to apply. "It could change your life," he told her.

Robin, who got his undergraduate degree from Oxford, had never before encouraged any of his students to apply for the Rhodes. But in nearly 20 years of teaching, he says Tauqeer is easily among the top three students he has come across in his career, including his time at Yale University. Her challenges to his interpretation of Niccolò Machiavelli's *The Prince*, which they read in his Modern Political Thought class last spring, blew him away.

"She has this kind of worldliness about her. She's very engaged, very present, and very interested in ideas no matter how they're coming at her. Here she is a medical student studying political theory with all this intellectual vigor," he says. "The only time I've seen that kind of thing was at Oxford. I figured she'd fit in."

*Zujaja and her mom.*

So there Tauqeer found herself, in the scholarships office chatting with Fellowship Coordinator Stephen Gracia, who instantly realized her potential.

She has a diverse resume. She's worked on the Brooklyn College volunteer Emergency Medical Squad, studied in China for a month, done internships and fellowships at Mt. Sinai, Kings County/SUNY Downstate and is currently working at the New York State Institute for Basic Research. Her curriculum vitae is already four pages long.

She's a high achiever. She has a 3.97 GPA (4.0 in her major), is an honors student, a member of the B.A.-M.D. program with SUNY Downstate, and has published research in professional journals and spoken at conferences.

She's a leader. "She's so mild and understated, but then she has this amazing ability to lead in the most elegant of ways, in a way that brings the other students in the class along with her instead of turning them off," says Sophia Perdarakis, an anthropology professor who has known Tauqeer for three years. "That's a rare find."

And, particularly important for the Rhodes, she has the desire — and potential — to embark on a career with global impact. When Tauqeer finishes her studies, she's interested in going back to Pakistan and other developing nations to work in public health.

"The Rhodes is looking for students of that caliber," Gracia explains. "She wasn't just interested in research and medicine, but in going out there and making change on a larger scale."

He instantly went to his boss, Evelyn Guzman, director of the scholarships office, who had worked on the application for BC's last Rhodes Scholar Eugene Shenderov, '07. Guzman was excited as well. So Gracia went back to Tauqeer and told her he'd like to help her work on an application for the Rhodes — something the college doesn't do unless they feel the student has a good shot. The preparation is intense.

But he thought Tauqeer seemed a little hesitant. "She was just so humble about her accomplishments," says Gracia. "After a few discussions, she just kind of disappeared."

Ironically, she disappeared to England, where she traveled for a summer vacation with her father to visit relatives and to attend the annual conference of the Ahmadiyya, a sect of Islam to which she and her family belong. She was still mulling over applying for the scholarship, though she dared not visit the Oxford campus even though she was so close. "That would have been way too presumptuous of me," she says.

But still, something was stirring in her during the trip.

"I was thinking about work I had done in the spring semester in my South Asian history class on fundamentalism in Pakistan and I didn't want to just leave that behind. I knew that Oxford had a program in the history of medicine and I realized that maybe I could look at some of the things going on in Pakistan and how it has affected health care," she says. "I've always wanted to work in health care in a developing country. I don't know...I was becoming a senior, thinking about medical school and what kind of doctor I wanted to be. It just all came together."

In August, she came back to campus and told Gracia that she'd like to submit an application. By mid-November, after a sleepless night, she was waiting with other Rhodes hopefuls in the Manhattan home of the selection committee's chair to hear the final results of a day of interviews.

"They came out and made their announcement so quickly, it was like they just ripped off a Band-Aid," says Tauqeer. "When they said my name I thought, 'This is not happening.'"

The committee members said a few other things, but Tauqeer wasn't listening. It was as surreal a moment as life had ever thrown her way. She couldn't wait to call home.



## THE COURSES OF HER LIFE

Tauqeer's parents, both doctors, have always been hard to impress. "They've always been the only two people I have looked up to, but you have to do something far above and beyond to catch their attention," she says. "Being smart wasn't great. My parents expect you to do good in school."

Now, they're extremely proud. They haven't stopped telling people about their daughter's latest accomplishment, and her mother has taken to calling her "The Rhodes Scholar." But they also take pains to treat her as they treated her before the accolade.

And they expect her to use her education to help others. As a member of the Ahmadi sect of Islam, they are called to serve the underprivileged. Indeed, Tauqeer grew up in Pakistan spending her weekends in remote villages in the Punjab Province, where her parents operated a mobile medical clinic. It was only after her family encountered discrimination and attacks from anti-Ahmadi gangs (the sect is a minority in Pakistan) that they decided to apply for asylum in the United States.

Moving around eight times in 10 years — from Houston to Baltimore to Missouri to Borough Park, Sunset Park, Bensonhurst and finally, Staten Island — was kind of hard, Tauqeer says. But then again, it was, to her, normal. "We've always moved around. So when you don't have anything else to compare it to, it doesn't seem so bad," she explains.

*Zujaja with Stephen Gracia and Evelyn Guzman of the Scholarships Office.*

When she was accepted into the college's B.A.-M.D. program, it was likely a kind of stability she hadn't felt in some time. "I was so happy to know that I already had a seat in medical school," she says, pointing out that such security helped her decide to come to Brooklyn College over other schools.

But there was a catch, one that changed the course of her life: The B.A.-M.D. program encourages its students to take many non-science courses, which led Tauqeer to major in history.

"I honestly didn't want to pursue that course of study," she says. But her classes helped her understand her own story as a refugee within the larger context of Pakistani history, and guided her to undertake research that opened her mind to how history, politics (her minor is political science) and medicine are all inexorably intertwined.

Taking a step outside of it all, she reiterates, "It really has all come together."



## Unplugged with Alex Coletti

By Peter Duffy

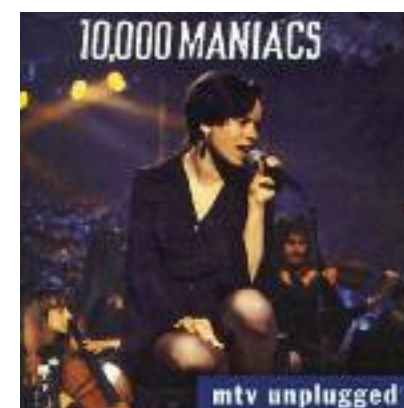
**MTV Unplugged**, one of the most celebrated television series of the last two decades, first aired on a Sunday morning in November 1989. The idea was to showcase rock musicians strumming acoustic guitars and harmonizing in mellow tones — something to go with the morning’s first cup of coffee.

In need of a studio audience for that first show — which featured Glenn Tilbrook and Chris Difford of Squeeze and Elliot Easton of the Cars, among others — the show’s producer, Alex Coletti, ’87, recruited his Brooklyn College friends to warm the seats.



That was the last time that *MTV Unplugged* had to search for an audience. From 1989 to 2007, the show made rock history by broadcasting performances by Paul McCartney, Mariah Carey, Nirvana, R.E.M., LL Cool J and Eric Clapton. Coletti helmed the program from 1989 until 2006 when he left to start an independent company,

Alex Coletti Productions. But he knows that the show, pitched to him by series creators Robert Small and Jim Burns, will likely be his most enduring contribution to American popular culture. “Even if I live to be a thousand that will be on my tombstone,” he says.



A native of Bensonhurst who graduated from Lafayette High School, Coletti had hopes of being a star himself. He played guitar in cover bands in high school and was accepted into the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, but he dropped out during his first semester, realizing that he was not meant to be the second coming of



Hendrix. “I could always hear the music in my head but couldn’t get my hands to cooperate.”

Returning home, he visited the Brooklyn College campus for the first time. “I fell in love with it instantly,” he said. He majored in television and radio, while interning at WNEW, the city’s premier rock station. He also nabbed a time slot on the college’s radio station,



playing selections from 80s stand-bys, such as Love and Rockets and the Cure. “I remember getting an advance of U2’s *Joshua Tree* at WNEW and running to BC to play it the next morning,” he said.





Above: Brien McVernon  
Donovan Frankenrieter  
Mike Peters  
Glen Tilbrook.  
Sunrise at Mt. Fuji.

Looking back, Coletti credits the college with giving him a grounding in radio and television production; he counts Professors Stuart MacLelland, (then a teaching assistant), and Barbara Malmel (now of NYU) as influential in this regard. He also found sustenance in the core curriculum. "As someone who only really cared about pop culture, it broadened my horizons and prepared me for the real world," he said.

By the time he graduated, Coletti was already an associate producer at WNEW. During the commencement exercises, he listened on a Walkman as the guys at WNEW alternately wished him well and ribbed. He was soon lured to MTV, which he saw as the way of the future. *MTV Unplugged* came around the time the popular



duo Milli Vanilli was exposed as a fake. Coletti's show allowed musicians to prove that they were for real.

Coletti produced scores of other programs, including two Super Bowl halftime shows and five *Video Music Award* broadcasts. He regards the 2002 VMA as a high point, calling it "as close to a perfect show as I can remember." With Jimmy Fallon as

host, it featured James Brown opening, a reconstituted Guns N' Roses as the closer, with Michael Jackson, Britney Spears and Eminem in between.



In 2006, Coletti set up shop in an office on Water Street in DUMBO. He has produced everything from the acclaimed *Elvis Costello With...* series on Sundance Channel to the 2009 National Christmas Tree Lighting with the First Family. He is particularly proud of a documentary film, *Everest Rocks*, which features musicians he played on BC radio (Tilbrook of Squeeze, Mike Peters of the Alarm and two members of the Fixx) climbing to the base camp of the world's tallest mountain for a cancer charity. But a recent project for Bravo — producing the *Real Housewives* reunion specials — brought him back to his days at Brooklyn College.

"It was so familiar to walk into a room with a few chairs and a camera," he said. "It felt like the first time I walked into the TV studio at BC and knew this is what I was going to be doing for the rest of my life."

Alex Coletti says his career couldn't have launched without the internship he obtained while a student at Brooklyn College. So it was only natural that he would return the favor.

Through the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships, he was recently paired with Vanessa Bateau, a 2010 graduate of Brooklyn College.

"It has not been easy finding a full-time job in my field of film and television production," Bateau said. "I met Alex at a standstill in my career, and he reassured me that I was on the right path."

Coletti calls Bateau "very talented and motivated."

"She's very ambitious and will do well with or without my meager guidance," he said. "As someone whose entire career is probably due to my college internship, it means a lot to help."

He says they are in regular contact by phone and e-mail, and meet in-person once a month.

Bateau, who was a production intern of MTV's on-air promos, is hoping to land a job at a large media company.

She says that since meeting Coletti she has found herself "working on so many projects that it feels as if I am full time."

Of the future, she said, "Before age 40, I would like to start a production company of my own in Nanjing, China; Port-au-Prince, Haiti; or New York." —P.D.





*"Brooklyn College provided me with a quality education that became the solid foundation for all my graduate efforts."*

**Lisette Nieves, '92**  
Executive Director, New York City branch of Year Up, 1992 Rhodes Scholar



*"Space physics research is fulfilling, exciting and fun, and I have Brooklyn College to thank for getting me started."*

**Dr. Jerry Goldstein, '93**  
Staff Scientist in the Space Science Department of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas



*"Mac Wellman's playwriting M.F.A. program at Brooklyn College is the only program in the country that I ever wanted to attend, and I couldn't have had a more perfect experience. Thanks to the low tuition, I was able to use my first playwriting grants to support myself rather than to pay off student loans!"*

**Young Jean Lee M.F.A., '06**  
Artistic Director of Young Jean Lee's Theater Company



*"Brooklyn College was a wonderful training ground for my current work, both in the undergrad and graduate level. It is a wonderful microcosm of how NYC works. I encourage anyone interested in urban policy to consider BC."*

**Councilman Jumaane D. Williams, '01, M.A., '05**  
Member of the New York City Council representing Brooklyn's 45th District

## Donors Provide a Foundation for Success

By Andrew Sillen, '74

**At Brooklyn College Night last May, the Brooklyn College Foundation proudly launched the public phase of our \$200 million Foundation for Success Campaign.** After raising \$120 million, the new public phase adds an additional \$80 million to the goal. Because of the campaign's initial success, the trustees of the foundation are confident that the new goal is achievable in the next five years.

The comprehensive campaign is designed to advance the college's objectives — to attract first-rate faculty, foster academic innovation, provide 21st-century teaching and research facilities and offer our students the full range of academic and real-world learning experiences that will groom them for a successful life.

The campaign is supported by an all-star cabinet, chaired by foundation trustee Marge Magner. A native of Crown Heights, Magner graduated in 1969 and

began her steady ascent in the financial world. By 2000, she was the senior vice president for consumer banking worldwide for Citigroup, and was judged by business publications to be among the most powerful women in her field.

Before accepting the offer to join the foundation and chair the campaign, Magner felt it was necessary to investigate the situation, so she met with our students — in particular, young women — to hear them talk "about their families, their hopes and dreams." She found a group of young people who appeared to be very different than her classmates a few generations earlier. Although they were far more diverse, their personal stories sounded familiar.

They were either immigrants themselves or children of immigrants. They were strivers looking for a bridge from the circumstances of their childhood to a more prosperous adulthood. The education they received at the college was building that bridge, allowing them "to go out into the world with as close

to an equal footing as you can possibly get with people who have very different backgrounds," said Magner.

Unlike earlier generations, Brooklyn College students today do not enjoy free tuition. Yes, the college is still a bargain — full-time in-state undergraduate tuition is currently \$4,830 a year. But for many of our students, it represents a heavy expense. Sixty-five percent of our students come from families earning less than \$40,000 per year.

No matter how much you adjust for inflation, today's cost is nothing like the \$36 a semester that Magner remembers paying. Once upon a time — from 1930 to 1976 — Brooklyn College and the other City University of New York colleges were fully subsidized by taxpayer dollars. Currently, New York State contributes just a third of the cost of running the institution. With governments at all levels of jurisdiction stressed for funds, public contributions promise to decrease further — even as the costs of operating the college continue to rise.

"So how do you bridge the gap without putting all of the burden on the students?" asked Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould. "Tuition around the country has continued to rise, and parents and students are appropriately concerned. Institutions like Brooklyn College have a responsibility to be as efficient as we can possibly be with public funds, intended for the public good. At the same time, we need to be more entrepreneurial with external constituencies — foundations, research funding institutions, and our donors and alumni who love and care about us."

In addition to providing scholarship support, our campaign will supply critical support for facilities and flagship academic programs. The performing and visual arts departments will receive a significant boost with the completion of the Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts. Further, our campaign will help to establish the first CUNY graduate program in mainstream cinema in New York City. Based at

Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, students in the program will receive hands-on experience working on the professional film and television productions shot there. "The graduate program in film will be a beacon, not only in the New York City area," said President Gould, "but also nationally and internationally. It will be something very, very exciting that all of Brooklyn College can be proud of."

Magner remembers herself in the 1960s as a young woman whose idea of a business was "a fruit store or a grocery store around the corner." She went to work in the actuarial department of an insurance company and was startled by the simple fact that it was housed in a large building. "It's hard to feel like you fit in when you feel like you're from another planet," she said.

**The Brooklyn College Foundation for Success Campaign will raise \$200 million to help support many of the college's endeavors.**

**The funds will be spent as follows:**

**Facilities:**

Some \$55 million is earmarked to modernize campus facilities. Chief among the priorities is the Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts. The center will become the first LEED-certified building on the campus and provide ultramodern performance and rehearsal space for students from the Conservatory of Music and the Department of Theater. In addition, funds in this category have enabled us to purchase a 25,000 square foot piece of property bordering the campus at Nostrand Avenue, the first significant land acquisition in 30 years.

**Student Success:**

The Magner Center for Career Development and Internships, the Brooklyn College Health Clinic and the Office of Scholarships are in line to benefit from a target of \$50 million allocated to student success. Additionally, funds will go toward creating a textbook and instructional materials fund as well as a new Center for International Education and Global Engagement, which will, among other things, provide financial assistance for students to study abroad.

Her work for the college — and the goal of the Foundation for Success Campaign — is to help students feel less like aliens when they enter the real world; to give them the necessary tools to do as well as students from richer, private institutions; as Magner said, "to prepare them to go out there and compete." The goal is, quite simply, to make each Brooklyn College student a skilled navigator of our ever-changing globalized environment.

Andrew Sillen is the Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

To support the Foundation for Success Campaign, go to [www.brooklyncollegefoundation.org](http://www.brooklyncollegefoundation.org).

**Teaching and Research:**

Thirty-five million dollars has been dedicated to support faculty for projects ranging from a fund for recruitment and cutting-edge research to a fund for endowed chairs and support for infrastructure and acquisitions in the library.

**Graduate Programs in Cinema:**

Currently, there is no graduate program at a city or state college or university on the East Coast that focuses on all aspects of mainstream cinema production and post-production. To fill this gap, the campaign seeks to raise \$20 million for nine new graduate programs in cinema to be offered at the Brooklyn Navy Yard's Steiner Studios. The programs will be the only graduate programs in cinema on the East Coast that are embedded in a working film lot.

**New Schools, New Deans, New Fund for Excellence:**

Some \$20 million will be set aside to help the college form four new schools: Business; Humanities and Social Sciences; Natural and Behavioral Sciences; and Visual, Media, and Performing Arts. This will require new funds to help build research capacities in each of the new schools.

**The Annual Fund:**

Another \$20 million will be raised for the foundation's unrestricted fund to support numerous initiatives, such as scholarships, faculty workshops and research.

## foundation News

### A Night to Remember

**G**ala dinners are rarely described as educational, stimulating or provocative but, then, everything about Brooklyn College Night on May 13 was different.

The skyline of Manhattan was the backdrop to the Brooklyn Navy Yard's Steiner Studio's Rooftop. President Karen L. Gould addressed a gathering that included famous artists, financial titans and revered academicians, launching the public phase of the ambitious \$200 million Foundation for Success Campaign (see page 16.) The campaign is chaired by Brooklyn College Foundation Trustee Marge Magner, '69, who was honored with the Best of Brooklyn award a little later in the evening. When CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein presented her with the award, he remarked that, in creating a tribute book for Magner, "We had to turn people away or it would have been a telephone book."

At dinner, guests found themselves seated at tables presided over by an array of distinguished hosts who led them through a wide breadth of entertaining discussion topics — everything from "Human Rights Enforcement in the 21st Century" to "Backstage at *The Sopranos*." Pulitzer prize-winning novelist Michael Cunningham fielded questions on "How Books Become Films;" financial journalist Myron Kandel shed a little light on electronic journalism with "Inside the Media;" and EPA Regional



Director Walter Mugdan discussed the environmental remediation of the Gowanus Canal.

The next gala, which will follow the same format, is set for May 5, 2011, and will honor Martin D. Sass, '63, CEO of M.D. Sass and Brooklyn College Foundation Trustee.

*Top: Madelon Leventhal, '64, and Lawrence Rand with President Karen L. Gould. Bottom left: Dr. Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor, City University of New York, presenting the Best of Brooklyn award to Marge Magner, '69. Bottom right: Don Buchwald, '59, and Brooklyn College Foundation Chair Barry R. Feirstein, '74.*

## IMMORTALITY ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN

### GIFTS OF LIFE INSURANCE TO THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE FOUNDATION



By Sam E. Beller, CLU, ChFC  
Chairman, Planned Giving Committee, Brooklyn College Foundation

Major gifts to the Brooklyn College Foundation (BCF) are, in the minds of many of us, in the province of only the very wealthy. We could never give \$100,000, \$500,000, \$1 million or more to the BCF; we just don't have that kind of money. We would like to be

remembered with a scholarship to a needy and worthy Brooklyn College student, make sure that the men's or women's basketball team has new uniforms every three years or have a plaque in our name placed outside a chemistry lab. But, we just don't have the wherewithal.

Gifts of life insurance can help you in attaining these goals of immortality on the installment plan. One of the major advantages of this form of giving is its simplicity.

#### GIVING A GIFT OF AN EXISTING POLICY

An outright gift of an existing life insurance policy to the foundation can qualify for an income tax charitable deduction. To do this, you assign all rights to the BCF naming the foundation as owner of the policy. The foundation then names itself beneficiary. When this is accomplished, you will receive a charitable deduction in the amount of the lesser of the value of the policy or the donor's basis in the policy. The insurance company will supply these figures to you upon request.

If the policy can be put on "Premium Offset" (no more premiums need to be paid to keep the policy in force) then the gift is as above. If however, premiums on the policy must continue, then tax-deductible contributions can be made to the BCF equal to the premiums, and the BCF will pay the continuing premiums to the insurance company.

**Example 1:** Several years after graduation from Brooklyn College, Joe and Paul opened a clothing store on Kings Highway. The business did well enough to support both families for over 30 years. Joe and Paul had an insured Cross-Purchase Buy-Sell agreement, with \$300,000 of insurance on each of them. When they sold the store

and retired, the insurance was no longer necessary. To cash in the policies would create a taxable event for both of them. Joe and Paul were very grateful for the education they received at Brooklyn College and wanted to do something for the current students at the college. Unfortunately, neither of them had the money to finance any major gifts. Their financial adviser suggested that they donate the policies to the Brooklyn College Foundation to fund six scholarships per year after they were gone. They received a substantial tax deduction equal to their cost basis in the policies and were able to leave a \$600,000 legacy to enable six students to get the same superior education that they received at Brooklyn College.

**Example 2:** Seven years ago, Beth bought a life insurance policy for \$250,000 on her life to provide funds for her twins' college education if she passed away before they graduated. The girls have completed their education and Beth no longer needs the policy. She feels that, as a librarian, her financial circumstances would never enable her to make a substantial gift to her alma mater, Brooklyn College. She donated the policy to the Brooklyn College Foundation and will make tax-deductible contributions to the BCF to cover the future premiums. She also was able to take a current tax deduction equal to the cash value of the policy. The relatively small annual outlay, which she can afford, will, after she is gone, fund an art history section in the Brooklyn College library. Future students will study and learn about the history of art in a state-of-the-art setting. A dream fulfilled for Beth, a former art history major at Brooklyn College.

#### PURCHASING A NEW LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

You can apply to an insurance company for a new policy on your life with the BCF as owner and beneficiary of the policy, subject to the rules on "insurable interest" in your state. Virtually all states have enacted legislation to make it clear that a charitable organization has an insurable interest in the life of the donor. Your legal counsel should verify that the laws of your state permit the BCF's eligibility to be the owner and beneficiary of a newly purchased life insurance policy on your life. The foundation would be pleased to assist you and/or your counsel in this regard.

**Example 3:** Don was a performing arts major at Brooklyn College. Five years after graduation, he is a working actor in TV and films. After reading about the new

Performing Arts Center being built at Brooklyn College, he really wanted to do something big for the center. Alas, while he was doing well, he didn't have the \$1 million that he would want to donate. On the advice of his financial adviser, Don had the Brooklyn College Foundation purchase a life insurance policy for \$1 million on his life as owner and beneficiary. He is donating the premiums, very modest at his age, to the BCF as a tax-deductible gift. The foundation will pay those premiums to the insurance company. As long as Don continues to make the gifts to the foundation and the BCF pays the insurance company, Don's \$1 million gift to the performing arts center is assured.

#### NAMING THE BCF AS BENEFICIARY OF A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

This can be done by changing or naming the BCF as the beneficiary of an existing or new life insurance policy. While there is no current tax deduction for the premiums, on your death the proceeds would go to the foundation as a deduction from the gross estate. Your counsel can review these regulations with you.

#### GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE

By naming the Brooklyn College Foundation as a beneficiary of your group term life insurance over \$50,000, you can avoid any income tax on the economic benefit applicable to you. The BCF would be pleased to assist you and/or your financial adviser in accomplishing this gift.

As you can see, life insurance is an excellent vehicle for making contributions to the BCF, expanding your gift-giving capacity and creating immortality on the installment plan for yourself. Please call the foundation office at 718.951.5074 with any questions you or your adviser may have.

There are several other methods of benefiting the BCF by using testamentary gifts, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, matching gifts, charitable gift annuities, etc.

Most of the students at Brooklyn College need financial assistance to continue their education. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Foundation personnel are available to assist you in accomplishing your charitable goals.

## Florence, '59, and Robert A. Rosen Fellowships Outside of the Box

**Florence Cohen Rosen, '59, a member of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, and her husband, Robert A. Rosen, want to give students a chance to foster their dreams and add another dimension to their education.** That is why she and her husband decided to fund a two-year pilot for a fellowship that will provide recipients with \$5,000 in seed money to fund a full range of projects including traveling abroad, personalized internships and scientific research. Top academic standing will not be a criterion for selection. The main criteria are that the project be compelling, that the students are in good academic standing and that they show the drive and focus to complete the undertaking.

Rosen knows that grades, while important, aren't always the best indicator of a student's promise. "There is a group of students at the top who get the best grades and a lot of scholarships are geared toward them," says the East Flatbush native. "Then there are students who are extremely bright and who have wonderful ideas, but who don't necessarily get the best grades because of some agenda that shifts their focus."

It's more important to the real estate executive — a former teacher and English literature major — that the proposed project has a positive impact on the student's life and the community, and that the student shows imagination, passion and resourcefulness. Projects can range from studying primitive fish in Australia to redesigning mass transit.

Each year, the fellowship's selection committee will choose eight undergraduate students who must complete their project within the summer immediately following the submission of their application.

After the first two years of the program, Rosen—who, five years ago, with her husband, a retired Navy Admiral, started the Florence and Robert A. Rosen Family Wellness Center Foundation for Law Enforcement and Military Personnel — will evaluate whether the fellowships were successful and worth continuing.

"The students will report on their experiences when they come back, and we will determine whether it has added value to their lives," she explains. "We believe the program will be successful, and we hope to be able to continue it past the pilot program."

## Twice as Wonderful: Brooklyn College Celebrates 3,406 Graduating Students at Two Ceremonies

**B**rooklyn College celebrated a number of firsts at its 2010 Commencement Exercises. For the first time in its history, the college held separate ceremonies for undergraduate and graduate students, both presided over — for the first time — by Karen L. Gould, who was officially installed as Brooklyn College's first woman president.

Sapphire, '95, author of the award-winning novel *Push*, was honored at the May 26 master's ceremony, summarized the two days of celebration when she said in her address: "What I had before me, as you do today, was an opportunity to do things differently. To flip the script."

The script was indeed flipped. With a ceremony of their own, the 1,157 master's candidates said they felt excited.

Neal Freeman, who received his undergraduate degree in theater from Cornell University, started working as a freelance director while he pursued his master's in theater directing. "I enjoyed learning from a great faculty, but I was also able to network with prominent people in the industry who would help me get my career moving in the right direction," he said.

Latifah Lorene received her bachelor's degree in women's studies from Hunter, but chose Brooklyn College for a graduate degree in political science. "This is an amazingly diverse campus; you get to meet people from different backgrounds and learn from them." Lorene, whose family lives in Tanzania, plans to work with women's groups for the next year before heading back to her country.

Besides Sapphire, who received a standing ovation from the audience after she was presented with a Distinguished Alumna Award, the honorees at the master's ceremony included Linda Darling-Hammond, the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University and a leading authority on school reform, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters; and Martin D. Sass, '63, founder, chairman and

chief executive officer of M.D. Sass and a member of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, who received a presidential medal.

At the baccalaureate ceremony on the central quad the next morning, the installation of President Gould was enthusiastically presided over by City University of New York (CUNY) Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Vice Chairperson of the CUNY Board of Trustees Philip Alfonso Berry. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, '70, was on hand to encourage and congratulate the class of 2010.

Leonard A. Herzenberg, '52, an internationally renowned immunologist and geneticist, received an honorary doctor of science, and Madelon L. Rand, '64, was presented with a presidential medal for service to the college as a lecturer and Brooklyn College Foundation trustee. Jasmine Patel, '10, a biology and economics double major and treasurer of the award-winning forensics/speech and debate team, was the student speaker.

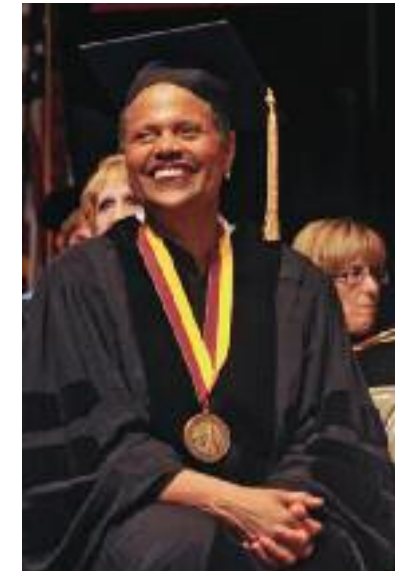
Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to Felice C. Frankel, '66, for her breathtaking scientific photography, and to Don Lemon, '96, an Emmy Award-winning journalist and weekend CNN Newsroom anchor. Lemon also delivered the commencement address, sharing with the audience the challenges he faced attending college while working full-time. "I am here as living proof that anything is possible," he said. "Don't be afraid. You can do it, too, and you can even go beyond."

The class of 2010 seemed to know that already. Jin Li Chen, with a degree in economics, was joined by his parents and brother. "I'm the first one in the family to graduate from college," he said, and then added nervously: "I have to start looking for work now!"



Opposite page: Karen Gould waits for our undergraduates.

Below, left: The Baccalaureate Ceremony. Below, right: Distinguished Alumna and Commencement Speaker, writer Sapphire.



## Research Projects Net Nearly \$8 Million in Grant Funding

**I**n recent months, Brooklyn College research scientists have received nearly \$8 million in grant funding. The individual amounts of the 20 grants ranged from \$6,000 to more than \$1.5 million.

The sciences were well represented on the list, with the chemistry and biology departments each garnering four of the 20 grants awarded—for totals of \$3,712,938 and \$1,118,517, respectively. Additionally, the earth and environmental sciences department (\$184,047) and the health and nutrition sciences department (\$920,437) each grabbed two, while the psychology department (\$471,000), the computer and information science department (\$277,065) and the mathematics department (\$193,103) all scored one apiece.

The classics department claimed two of the remaining five grants, for a total of \$51,000 in funding. The final three grants went to the School of Education (\$894,271), the Puerto Rican and Latino studies department (\$30,000) and the department of philosophy (\$6,000).

"In this difficult fiscal environment," said Brooklyn College Provost William A. Tramontano, "it is gratifying and encouraging to note that the work of our faculty members continues to gain recognition and support

through a wide range of grants from agencies such as National Science Foundation, National Institute of Health, National Endowment for Humanities, the Department of Education and other entities."

Tramontano also observed that the 70 ongoing funded grants from federal, state, city and private sources now provide full- and part-time jobs for 264 research assistants, technicians and postdoctoral students.

The National Institutes of Health awarded \$1,522,120 to Professor of Chemistry Alexander Greer for work connected with a study titled, "SC1: Site-specific Delivery of Photosensitizer and Singlet Oxygen in Vivo." The study, which was authorized on July 21 and will run through May 31, 2014, will examine the development of a fiber optic-based device for the targeted delivery of cytotoxic singlet oxygen for treatment in diseases, such as brain tumors, in which precise placement is necessary.

The National Endowment for the Humanities granted a summer 2010 stipend of \$6,000 to Associate Professor of Philosophy Robert Lurz to work on his study, "Mindreading Animals: The Controversy Over What Animals Know About Other Minds."

## Shirley Chisholm Day Marked by Enlightenment and Emotion

**T**he scourge of racism, a documentary about three civil rights workers who were murdered 40 years ago, and the process of change were all part of a Brooklyn College program that celebrated Shirley Chisholm Day on November 30.

A state holiday since 2005, Shirley Chisholm Day honors the Brooklyn College alumna who was a seven-term New York State Assemblywoman and the first black woman to be elected to Congress and to run in a presidential race (in 1972).

Organized by Associate Professor of Education and Women's Studies Barbara Winslow, founder and director of the Shirley Chisholm Project on Brooklyn Women's Activism, the day's events focused on Chisholm's legacy. According to Donna Brazile, vice chair of the Democratic National Committee Voting Rights Institute and the afternoon speaker, Chisholm, '46, "wanted to be more than just called the 'first'; she really wanted to change America."

Brazile worked with Chisholm for more than 20 years and was her close friend. She described Chisholm in bold strokes — "one of the best political leaders in my lifetime" — and made the audience erupt in laughter when she said things such as, "I would start off my day by calling her, and she would say, 'I don't want to hear what's in the paper, let's talk about the gossip.'"

Brazile's remarks followed the screening of *Neshoba: The Price of Freedom*, a documentary about three civil rights workers — James Earl Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Henry Schwerner — who were murdered during a voter registration drive in 1964 (an event captured in the Academy Award-winning film *Mississippi Burning*) and the ensuing racial polarization and 40-year battle for justice. After the film, the victims' brothers were on hand to describe their experience and how they channeled their anger into seeking justice and working for change.

Donna Brazile addresses this year's Shirley Chisholm Day participants.



For sophomore Biola Jeje, one of this year's three Shirley Chisholm Scholars who will spend the spring semester as interns in the State Assembly in Albany, the most powerful part of the day was hearing from the brothers. "I feel as though we've become disconnected from history in a way that makes us feel powerless," she said. "But seeing them — and understanding that the murdered civil rights fighters' work paved the way and how it is possible for all of us to be a part of making even greater changes — was incredibly moving."

Voter registration was certainly an issue close to Chisholm's heart, and Brazile reminded the students in the audience of their power as political participants: "It starts with us. Let us honor her legacy by heeding her call to action."

"Chisholm broke down so many barriers for us, but she left us with a hammer to finish the job."

Stan Kats (left) and club mentor Assistant Professor Christian Benes stand behind other members of 2010 Putnam Club preparing for the annual math competition in December.



## Professor Sees CUNY Math Champ Spurring Putnam Competition Boost

**B**rooklyn College Assistant Professor of Mathematics Christian Benes, mentor of the Putnam Club, an informal group of talented problem-solvers who are currently prepping for this year's edition of the top math challenge in the whole of North America, is feeling confident about the team's chances.

The Putnam Competition — officially the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition — got its start in the 1930s and attracts colleges and universities all over the U.S. and Canada. This year's event will be held on December 4.

"Last year our team had its best performance in at least 10 years," Benes explains. "The goal this year would be to do even better and maybe get the best score the college has received in 20, 30 or even 40 years."

One reason Benes feels confident is team member Stan Kats, a 21-year-old senior mathematics major. Kats was born in Russia and emigrated here with his parents and older sister when he was just two years old. A Brooklyn Tech graduate, he has entered many math competitions.

In May, he beat out 163 other students from the City University of New York system to win the second annual CUNY Math Challenge and secure the \$2,500 prize.

Kats admits that he cannot do long division in his head, an inability he shares with Albert Einstein. "There aren't usually a lot of numbers in the problems you encounter in a competition," he shrugs.

The Putnam Competition consists of a dozen questions. Each team has three hours in the morning and another three in the

afternoon before turning in its answers. According to Benes, the highest possible score is 120, but it is not unusual for participants to receive scores of 3 or less.

"Zero is nothing to be ashamed of," he notes.

In the early decades of the competition, Brooklyn College rocked. Its teams took first place in 1939, 1941 and 1948, beating teams from such eminent institutions as Columbia, Yale, MIT, University of Pennsylvania and others. The last time Brooklyn College finished in the top five was 1963.

Benes is hoping that Stan Kats will help power the Bulldog math team to renewed heights.

"He's a very good problem solver," says the professor.

## Two Creative Writing M.F.A. Alumnae Garner Prestigious Prize

Last November, when the 35th volume of the annual short story, poem and essay anthology series hit the stands, *Pushcart Prize XXXV—Best of the Small Presses* (Norton, 2010) contained the work of Elliott Holt, '07, who earned an M.F.A. in creative writing (fiction). Holt received the coveted prize last spring for her story "Fem Care," which originally appeared in the *Kenyon Review Online* (June 2009).

"When I found out that I'd won a Pushcart Prize, I felt like a real writer," says Holt, despite previous confirmations—as winner of the Himan Brown Award for Creative Writing and the second prize in the 2006 Zoetrope: All-Story short fiction contest, as finalist for the 2006 Missouri Review Editors' Prize, and in her role as contributing editor for *One Story*. Noted in a *New York Magazine* article on emerging writers, her work has also appeared in *The Bellevue Literary Review* and the Napkin Fiction Blog of *Esquire* magazine.

"I still can't believe that my story is going to be in the next volume!" Holt says. "I workshopped the first draft in Michael Cunningham's class," she explains. "I think it went through about 30 drafts."

In Spring 2009, another creative writing alumna, Marie-Helene Bertino, M.F.A., '08, (pictured) won the Pushcart Prize for her story "North Of." "I try not to

think about the fact that I received one... too much," she says of the prize. In addition to *Pushcart Prize XXXIV*, Bertino's work has appeared in *The North American Review*, receiving the 2007 Kurt Vonnegut Award; *Mississippi Review*, receiving the 2007 Story Prize; *Inkwell*; *The Indiana Review* and *American Short Fiction*. She also received the Himan Brown Creative Writing Award. Currently she works as a biographer and is the associate editor of *One Story*.

Was the M.F.A. program instrumental in helping Bertino and Holt meet their goals as writers? Bertino says she found "a community of people who loved writing as much as I do, who wanted to think about things like punctuating dialogue."

Holt agrees. "The best thing about an M.F.A. program is that it gives you readers," she says. "The community is invaluable."

But, says Bertino, "The jury is still out on whether the M.F.A. can help me achieve my other goal: being the first writer ever to appear in a swimsuit on the cover of *Poets and Writers*."



## Mac Wellman Named CUNY Distinguished Professor of English

Professor of English Mac Wellman, coordinator of the M.F.A. program in playwriting and the Donald I. Fine Professor of Play Writing at Brooklyn College, has been named CUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest faculty rank.

A multidisciplinary and prolific artist, Wellman has written 40 plays, three novels and three collections of poetry. He has received numerous honors, including both NEA and Guggenheim fellowships, a Bessie Award, an Outer Critics Circle Award and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writers' Award.

In 1990 he earned his first Obie for *Bad Penny*, *Terminal Hip* and *Crowbar*. In 1991 he received another Obie for his politically charged attack on Congressional Comstockery, *Sincerity Forever*. In 2003, a third Obie, for Lifetime Achievement, cited Wellman's *Antigone*, *Jennie Richee* and *Bitter Bierce*.

In addition to being an influential playwright, Wellman is an important mentor to other playwrights who have become famous in their own right. They've included Young Jean Lee, whose theater company has been touring all over the world; Thomas Bradshaw, whose sharp and scary plays have been written up in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*; and Annie Baker, who just received the Lily Award, a citation from the Outer Circle Drama Critics and a *Village Voice* Obie for Best New American Play.



## Acting Student Conquers an "Empire"

Justiin Davis, poised to receive a B.F.A. in acting from the Department of Theater in June, is celebrating early.

Davis was recently cast as Lester White, son of Michael K. Williams' Chalky, on the hit HBO series *Boardwalk Empire*, winner of the 2011 Golden Globe Award for Best Television Series – Drama.

"I started shaking and couldn't catch my breath when I found out," the talented actor shares. "It was

the moment when all you worked for finally pays off."

Abandoned by his parents as an infant and raised by his grandmother in the housing projects of Brooklyn, Davis set out, from the beginning, to defy the traditional narratives that contrived to stifle his creative spirit.

"Someone once said to me: 'You think a little boy from the projects is going to be on TV?' Since

then, I've fought and pushed to get where I wanted to go."

Davis has appeared in *The Good Wife* and *The Taking of Pelham 123*, but *Empire* is the first time he will be a featured and recurring player. The achievement, he said, is largely due to his Brooklyn College experience.

"BC has one of the best acting programs for the money," he notes. "At other acting schools, the normal class size is 20 or more

students. Here, it's 12 or fewer. There's more time to work and more opportunities for faculty to focus on individual needs."

He auditioned for the part after being contacted by the agent to whom he was referred by a theater company. After a callback and some tense moments waiting by the phone, his anxieties were finally put to rest. Associate Professor and B.F.A. Acting Program Head Rose Bonczek — who has served as Davis' instructor, adviser and director — was as excited about the news as Davis.

"When he told me he had been cast, I literally cried for joy," she beams. "Justiin has had many challenges in his life, and he's always met them with strength and positivity. So the news that he was cast in this hit HBO series was extra sweet."

Davis, himself, is thrilled about what the future may hold for him.

"I want to go as far as this career will take me. I'd love to win an award, but I don't need that. Of course, if Oscar, Tony or Emmy want to come live in my china cabinet at home, I'd open the door and let them right in."



## Junior Anne Boatner Named a 2010 Jeannette K. Watson Fellow

**A**nne K. Boatner, a political science and print journalism student, was named a 2010 Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship winner.

Boatner, one of 15 Watson Fellowship winners, was recognized by the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, which awards three-year fellowships to undergraduates. The students come from a pool of nominees offered by a dozen public and private colleges in New York City.

Each fellowship provides the winners—students who demonstrate exceptional promise, outstanding leadership skills and commitment to the common good—paid summer internships, mentoring and enhanced educational opportunities.

Over three consecutive summers, Watson fellows have their pick of coveted job

placements. They'll work at nonprofits, businesses and government agencies, which will help them develop interpersonal skills and gain self-confidence. In their final summer, they can apply for an international assignment through partnerships with the Institute of International Education, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Save the Children and many other organizations.

"It's really exciting," Boatner said of being named a Watson fellow. "I feel deeply honored and look forward to the many opportunities to gain knowledge and experience that will open to me as a result of receiving this award."

A founding member of the Brooklyn College Coffee Collective, Boatner volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and Amnesty



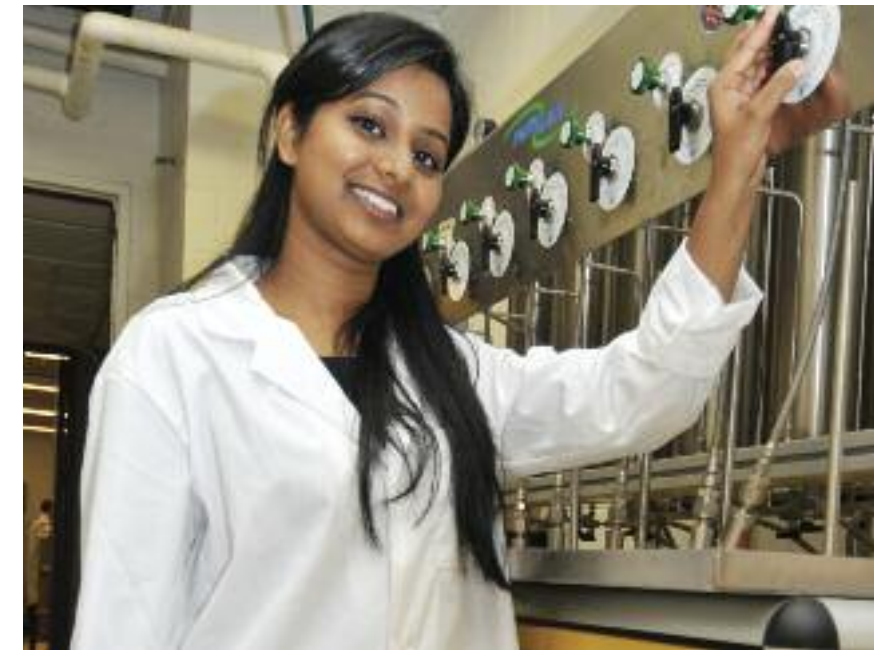
International. She has also worked with a community garden and led workshops for high school students on the importance of consent in sexual relations.

## Neha Shaik Receives 2010 Salk Award

**N**eha Shaik, a chemistry and biology major, was awarded one of the eight Salk Scholarships annually bestowed by CUNY as a tribute to Dr. Jonas E. Salk, the 1934 City College alumna who developed the polio vaccine in 1955. The award, which Shaik received last May, comes with \$8,000 that will help defray her costs while she finishes medical school.

Born in Hyderabad, India, Shaik came to the United States in 2004. She chose Brooklyn College because of its academic reputation, but wasn't sure what she wanted to study, just knew that it had to be in the sciences.

She took part in the Early Medical Education program that SUNY Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine offers to sophomores and juniors while offering an academic enrichment program that allowed her to shadow physicians.



She was mentored by Professor of Chemistry María Contel. "When I heard about her project of experimenting with gold compounds to use them as possible anticancer agents, I was really excited," Shaik remembered. "Even more exciting was that

Professor Contel told me that I could devote myself to testing one of the compounds so that it could be my independent work," she says, proud that her name was included as one of Contel's co-authors of a paper submitted to the *Journal of Inorganic Chemistry*.

## Brand-New Alumna Wins Macaulay Honors College Capstone Award



**E**leonor Leger, '10, capped off her highly successful undergraduate career as a biology major by winning the Macaulay Honors College Capstone Award on May 26. Her honors thesis, "Prevalence of Diabetes in African-American Communities: Risk Factors and Prevention as a Social Disease," beat out submissions from six other CUNY campuses, and the award has positioned her for a rewarding professional career.

"I'm excited to see what Eleonor does with her degree," said Leger's senior thesis adviser, Assistant Professor of Sociology Greg Smithsimon. "She is posing important questions for our country, our community and our families."

Smithsimon worked with Leger throughout his first year at Brooklyn College, after Leger asked him to help her find an alternate framework for her investigation of nonmedical aspects of diabetes. "He was perfect for my project," said Leger. "He had a personal and a professional interest in diabetes." Both she and her adviser have diabetic parents, and Smithsimon,

a sociologist, was able to broaden her perspective.

"When it comes to a disease, biologists are trained to understand it by asking questions about etiology and treatment," remarked Smithsimon. "What Eleonor did is what I would love to see more doctors do: understand the science and the social context of treating patients."

Leger, one of five siblings and the first in her family to attend college, explained that she "looked at body image, lifestyle choices and what is viewed as attractive in a culture. I'm Haitian—in our culture, heavier body types are attractive."

Leger plans to work as a diabetes educator in the AmeriCorps Health Care Program, where she will run workshops on prevention and care. She also hopes to continue her education with an M.D.-Master of Public Health. "I have volunteered in emergency rooms and community centers. I realize how much people rely on ERs for primary care," said Leger. "There is a need for more doctors in ethnic—particularly African-American—communities. I want to take care of people, but in a way that will make real change."



## Interdisciplinary Approach to Find Tin Route



**A**rchaeology and geology have a lot in common, according to Assistant Professor of Environmental and Earth Sciences Rebecca Boger.

"They both look at past events and try to reconstruct stories from bones or artifacts made largely of rocks," she says. Boger, who led a BioBlitz at Floyd Bennett Field last spring, teamed up with Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology H. Arthur Bankoff this summer for an archaeological excavation project in western Serbia that focuses on the Bronze Age in Europe (3500–1000 B.C.).

Bankoff, who takes students to an excavation site in Israel every summer, says that, because bronze is an alloy of tin and copper, one of their goals is to find how human

settlements in Europe got access to tin deposits. It is widely believed the tin that fueled the Bronze Age came from the Middle East; Boger and Bankoff are trying to determine whether there may have been closer sources.

To assist them in the task, they brought along 20 anthropology and geology students from Brooklyn College and other CUNY schools as well as the University of Minnesota, Brown, Wesleyan and the Serbian University in Belgrade.

In addition to dating and mapping their findings, the team took samples of sediments from streams and brought a handheld X-ray fluorescent tool to analyze the amount of tin their samples contained. The information was fed into the Geographic

Information System lab that Boger manages at the college.

"It should allow us to do a spatial analysis to determine immigration patterns and how people in the area responded to their environment," she says. "We're hoping to develop a predictive model to find new archaeological sites as well as tin sources."

Noting that they hope to expand the field school next summer, Bankoff says the team has developed a working relationship with the nongovernmental Petnica Science Center, which helps college and high school students receive scientific training. (The center was named after the small Serbian village adjacent to the excavation site.)

While funding for the project came from PSC-CUNY, the union that represents CUNY faculty and staff, Bankoff and Boger are now submitting proposals to the National Geographic Education and the National Science foundations for grants that will allow them to continue their interdisciplinary work and establish a program of international student exchange between U.S. and Serbian universities.

## Pre-Law Advisory Council Enriches Education

**D**istinguished legal professionals — all of them alumni — met with Brooklyn College faculty and administrators and the Brooklyn College Foundation to review pre-law offerings and suggest new ways to prepare undergraduates for legal careers.

At the time, Manouska Saint Gilles, Esq., '98, M.A., '00, had just returned to campus to teach courses such as moot court and constitutional law in the political science department. Trained as an attorney, she found she prefers the classroom to the courtroom but appreciates the benefits of both, especially for her students.

It was at a Pre-Law Advisory Council gathering that Saint Gilles met federal Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr., '63, a man often in the news. Johnson has presided over the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of New York since 1991 and as senior justice since 2003. After graduating at the top of his class from Brooklyn Law School in 1966, he began his legal career as an assistant district attorney in the Southern District. Between brief-bag and bench, he gathered a wealth of experience from high-placed appointments —including executive director of the New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board, which investigates allegations of police misconduct; executive liaison officer for the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration; and the city's special narcotics prosecutor.

When Saint Gilles and Johnson met, Coordinator for Advisory Councils Nicole P. Wharff of the Brooklyn College Office of Alumni Affairs saw the potential.

"The opportunity to learn about the practical application of law and the advice and mentorship of lawyer and judge alumni are vital to the growth and development of pre-law students," notes Wharff.

With the support of the Acting Chairperson of Political Science Noel S. Anderson, '93, on September 15, 2010, Wharff accompanied Saint Gilles and the 20 students in her civil rights and civil liberties class on a court tour, which included an interview with Judge Johnson in chambers.

"He gave an overview of what he does and then allowed students to ask questions," said Saint Gilles.



"I learned many lessons," commented Ramy Ibrahim, one of the students. "The first is that being a judge requires a person who takes into consideration the morals and perspectives of everyone around him or her. The second is that everyone who has the enthusiasm and the courage to be a judge can become one."

"He told us that when he makes a decision, he takes out a mirror," said Saint Gilles. "He looks at it and asks, 'Are you able to live with yourself after you make this decision?' You have to be able to do that. Not everyone can."

The moot court component in the civil rights and civil liberties class took place in Johnson's court room. Moot courts help students practice essential skills, develop aplomb in public speaking and decide whether they like being a courtroom attorney, explained Saint Gilles. Running them requires professional legal help.

"The Pre-Law Advisory Council connects me with seasoned attorneys who can serve as student advisers, mentors and judges in the preparation for and execution of a moot court," said Saint Gilles. With Wharff's help, this year she has enlisted lawyers Alan Blum, '78, Betty Lugo, '81, and counsel to the Brooklyn College Lay Advocate Program Brian Burstin, '78, with Judge Phylis S. Bamberger, '60, residing.

"The alumni on the council make a priceless contribution to the college," said Saint Gilles. "We are fortunate to have them."

## Dazzling Alumni Awards

Call it Tinsel Town East, a Brooklyn-style awards show that brought out the cream of the crop.

There was the swanky atmosphere — black and silver balloons on tables, black-suited servers offering hors d'oeuvres to beautiful people engaged in cocktail conversation. There was the swag — memorabilia coffee cups, packaged in pretty star-themed goodie bags. There was the well-appointed jazz band from the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, directed by Fulbright

fellow Salim Washington. There were the feverish last-minute adjustments to the show script. There was the venerable host, funny guy Vinnie Favale, '81, the vice president of late-night programming at CBS. There was even the requisite red carpet, this one bordered by small lights.

Naturally, there were the stars who walked that carpet, all A-list alumni of Brooklyn College, including a Pulitzer Prize-winner, a music industry entrepreneur, and "the mother of Israel's women's movement."

The inaugural Alumni Honors banquet — which replaced the annual Brooklyn College Alumni Association Gala and, for the first time, honored all of the association's awardees in one evening — took place in October in the atmospherically lit Multipurpose Room of the West Quad Center.

"We tried to rethink everything about how we do our alumni awards," explained Brandon Bain, '04, who produced the show along with Arlene Lichterman, '53, both members of the alumni association's activities committee. "We came up with the idea of the Hollywood theme. It makes giving out seven awards more fun and exciting."

"This really means a lot to me," said Gene Russianoff, '74, a recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award and a staff attorney for NYPIRG's Straphangers Campaign. "My daughters told me I wasn't cool enough to walk the red carpet, but I did," he joked.

The other distinguished achievement award went to Emily Hager Lembeck, '74, the first female superintendent of the Marietta City Schools system in Georgia.



*From left: Gene Russianoff, '74, Jonathan Silverberg, '01, Nancy Hager Lembeck, '74, Tachelle Wilkes, '99, Marilyn Safir, '59, Dorothy Salwen Rabinoff, '51, and Paul Moses, '75.*

The Alumnus and Alumna of the Year Awards went to Paul Moses, '75, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and an English professor at the college, and Marilyn Safir, '59, a psychology professor at Haifa University and pioneer in the Israeli women's movement.

Also honored was Dorothy Salwen Rabinoff, '51, director-at-large of the BCAA board of directors, who received the Jerome S. Milgram Award for exceptional service to the alumni association. Tachelle Wilkes, '99, the founder of Femmixx.com, a group dedicated to empowering women in the music industry, and Jonathan Silverberg, '01, the first person to earn three simultaneous degrees from Downstate Medical College, received the young alumna award and young alumnus award, respectively.

Agnes Ford, '69, past president of the BCAA and a distinguished achievement award-winner in 2009, said the evening was one of the best events she'd seen on campus in a long time. "The decorations are great, the committee did an outstanding job, and the red carpet and stars were a very nice touch," she said.

## BCAA 20th Annual Post 50th Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association 20th Annual Post 50th Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony was held on campus on Sunday, September 26.

On this occasion, lifetime achievement awards were presented to the following alumni, acknowledging their many accomplishments: William R. Baird, '55; Susanne M. Biberstein Batzdorff, '43; Karl Bernstein, '55; Eleanor Mallach Bromberg, '55; Chester Burger, '42; Lissy Weiss Dennett, '48; Arlene Herman Gold, '55; Hilary A. Gold, '55; Alden Norman Haffner, '48; Harriet Silverstein Kliot, '55; Seymour P. Lachman, '55; Jerome Letner, '47; Philip Lerner, '49; Maurice H. Miller, '50; Joseph V. Ricapito, '55; Marilyn Gussow Shavel, '55; Phyllis Nierel Simon, '55; Constance Kennedy St. Cyr, '55, and Joan Tartell Stupler, '52.

Martin P. Schreibman, '56, distinguished professor emeritus of biology at Brooklyn College, was the recipient of the Milton Fisher, '38, Second Harvest Award. This award is given to an alum in recognition of professional, volunteer or artistic endeavors subsequent to the 50th anniversary of graduation from Brooklyn College.

Among the attendees were three members of the class of 1935, the fourth class to celebrate its seventy-fifth reunion, Benjamin Goldman, Selma Daas Kelter, and Mildred Fine Lieberman.

The alumni and guests in attendance also included members of the classes of 1940, 1945, 1950 and 1955 who were celebrating their 70th, 65th, 60th and 55th reunions respectively.



*Alumni Association President, Ron Schweiger, '70, presents the Milton Fisher, '38, Second Harvest Award to distinguished professor emeritus of biology, Martin P. Schreibman, '56.*

## Manhattan Chapter Reception

**O**n October 27, alumni living in Manhattan turned out in record-breaking numbers to meet and chat with Brooklyn College

President Karen L. Gould. The gathering, hosted by Arnold, '54, and Adair Weiss, was held at their lovely apartment on Central Park West. Arnold Weiss and Arlene Lichterman, '53, the co-chairs of the Manhattan Chapter, collaborated with Adair Weiss and chapter treasurer Vivian Tramontana, '68, to plan and facilitate an elegant soiree at which longtime friends and new

faces met and mingled. President Gould spoke about her first year at the college, its award-winning students and faculty, and the exciting plans for its future. Many guests remarked that it was a superb evening and how pleased they were to have had the opportunity to meet President Gould.

It would be an understatement to say that **James Franco, MFA '10**, has kept himself busy since graduating from the fiction writing program at Brooklyn College. The 32-year-old actor published his book of short stories, *Palo Alto*, this past summer, and he has received a slew of award nominations — including an Oscar nod — for his work in the film *127 Hours*, the true-life story of Aron Ralston, the hiker who was trapped in a remote Utah canyon in 2003. Franco also earned raves for his nuanced portrayal of poet Allen Ginsberg in the movie *Howl*, and starred at a special screening of the film at Lincoln Center to benefit the college's M.F.A. in Creative Writing Program (the capacity audience included many friends and former students of Ginsberg, who taught at BC from 1987 to 1997). Franco, dubbed "The Coolest Person of the Year" by *Time* magazine writer Joel Stein, capped his recent streak by hosting the 83rd Academy Awards with Anne Hathaway.

**Paul Mazursky** missed his 1951 Brooklyn College graduation because he was costarring in the war flick *Fear and Desire* (1953), Stanley Kubrick's directorial debut — a work the late filmmaker felt was so flawed that he attempted to buy up all known prints. As a result, only one commercial print of the film exists, and Mazursky — who hadn't seen the film in 40 years — was on hand when it was unspooled at Los Angeles' American Cinematheque in September. Mazursky spoke after the film, and film critic Leonard Maltin reported that the actor was a "natural spieler."



**Mark Rappaport, '64**, was an honoree at the 2010 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival this past March. The festival screened four of the maverick filmmaker's documentaries, including *Rock Hudson's Home Movies* (1992) and *From the Journals of Jean Seberg* (1995). Rappaport also premiered his newest work, *Blind Dates* (Citas a Ciegas), an exhibition of still prints combining scenes and actors in memorable films to create "scenarios for imaginary movies," like the one where Peter Lorre from *M* creeps up menacingly behind Marilyn Monroe from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*.

The *Post Independent* of Glenwood Springs, Colo., featured **Herb Feinzig, '61**, in its immigrant series this summer. Feinzig, whose parents were from Poland, is a retired vice president at GlaxoSmithKline and credits Brooklyn College for his success, but admits that his insistent parents also played a big part: "I swear I was born with a college degree in my hand because of my parents' encouragement. It was the same for all the children in the family."

**Jerry Moss, '58**, and wife Ann are the proud owners of 2010's Horse of the Year, Zenyatta. The six-year-old "super filly" had been compiling an astounding 19-0 record in a string of come-from-behind victories before losing by a head to Blame in the 2010 Breeder's Cup Classic this past November. Edged out for Horse of the Year honors in 2008 and 2009,

this time Zenyatta received 128 votes from the National Thoroughbred Racing Association members to Blame's 102 votes, putting her on a list of American racing greats that stretches back to 1887. "Big Z," who stands 17.2 hands tall, has retired from racing for a new career as brood mare at Lane's End Farm in Kentucky, but she has a website that sells t-shirts and hats and keeps an active Facebook page, where she frequently updates her more than 68,000 fans



on her day-to-day activities. **Lester Colodny, '48**, is a very funny man with a storied past, having helped to discover Woody Allen, create the TV series *The Munsters* and arrange for a legendary monkey attack on the set of *The Today Show* (then hosted by Dave Garroway). He's put down some of his best stories in *A Funny Thing Happened: Life Behind the Scenes — Hollywood Hilarity and Manhattan Mayhem* (SciArtMedia, \$19.95).

Mac Wellman's M.F.A. playwriting graduates **Annie Baker, '09**, and **Sibyl Kempson, '07**, have been selected for prestigious seven-year residencies with New Dramatists, the nation's oldest nonprofit center for the development of talented playwrights. The organization offers free staged readings, photocopying services and other support to promising dramatists.

Viewers of the *Late Show with David Letterman* this April saw CPA **Arthur Drucker, '69**, deliver number three of the "Top Ten Thoughts that Go Through Every Accountant's Mind on April 15": "Time to fake my death and move to the Cayman Islands." In 2008, Drucker was given the number ten

spot in Letterman's "Top Ten Reasons I Like Being an Accountant": "My exciting lifestyle is the envy of all my claims adjuster colleagues."

*The Arizona Star* profiled retired Pima County Superior Court Justice **Lillian Fisher, '42**, who started practicing law in Arizona in 1963 and was first elected judge in 1974. For the next 16 years, until she reached mandatory retirement age, she adjudicated with aplomb on the Pima County Superior Court bench. She returns to the halls of government on occasion, most recently in May to swear in her grandson Paul Cunningham to the Tucson City Council.

**Marty Needelman, '66**, was awarded the Lewis Lefkowitz Public Service Award from Fordham University Law School

for his service as the longtime project director and chief counsel of the Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. The corporation provides free legal assistance to low-income individuals and community groups in Williamsburg, Bushwick and East New York. Last year Needelman was honored as one of NYC's "Unsung Heroes" by *The Village Voice*.

**Sandra Levy Goldstein, '62**, earned the sobriquet "Queen of Downtown Stamford" for her long career of community activism in Connecticut's fourth largest city. Starting in the 1970s as a local PTA president, she served on the city's board of representatives for 16 years, and ran unsuccessfully for mayor in 1991. In 1993, Sandy Goldstein took over the Downtown Special Services District, a newly minted business improvement district, and made it her priority to beef up the city's anemic Thanksgiving Day parade. With the addition of giant helium cartoon character balloons, the parade was soon attracting more than 100,000 spectators and has become a regional event.

Harlem-based sculptor **Nari Ward, M.F.A., '92**, had his first major one-person museum show in the United States in June, when the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Kansas, opened the exhibit *Nari Ward: Re-Presence*. The show featured 16 of Ward's provocative urban sculptures and a stark three-minute video, *Father and Sons*, shot in Al Sharpton's National Action Network's House of Justice.

The High Museum of Art in Atlanta now has a world-class collection of Parisian fin-de-siècle prints and posters, thanks to a major donation of 47 works by **Irene and Howard Stein**, both class of 1947. The High Museum already holds 30 works donated by or purchased with funds from the Steins, whose passion for the period went on display in January in the exhibit *Toulouse-Latrec and Friends: The Stein Collection*.

Clothing designer **Ellen Schraub Gang, '73**, makes custom fringed garments that call upon 5,000 years of Jewish tradition and weave together family and personal history. Her business, *Once Upon a Tallis*, creates one-of-a-kind prayer shawls that she customizes with family photos transferred onto the fabric and fancy tzitzit (fringes). Often, the prayer shawl becomes an ersatz family tree, with dozens of old photos imprinted on the fabric. "I feel like I get to know the whole family because I get very wrapped up in the project," Gang told the *Jewish Ledger*.

**Jonathan Hadley, M.F.A., '07**, has been playing the role of record producer Bob Crewe in the touring production of *Jersey Boys* for the past two years, and shows no signs of tiring. The musical about Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons is wildly popular, and booked well into the next year. Hadley, who has held an Equity card since 1982, appreciates how rare this kind of job security is in show business. Best of all, he doesn't have to sing those piercing falsetto notes to "Sherry" or "Walk Like a Man." "After being in the business so long, I'm happy to let the young kids sing the high stuff," Hadley told the *Charlotte Observer*.

To all alumni:  
Many class years include the name and address of a class correspondent, who is the link between your class and Brooklyn College Magazine. When you have news about your accomplishments that you would like published in the magazine, please write to your correspondent. If your class has no correspondent, please send items directly to Brooklyn College Magazine, Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889.

You may also reach us by fax, 718.951.5962, or e-mail, alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

If you wish to volunteer to serve as a class correspondent, please write to Eileen Howlin at ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

—Class Notes Editor

1933

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**Adele Barlin Pessen**  
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**Lenore P. Argoff, '41**, is a retired elementary school teacher from the New York City Board of Education, who sang with the New York City Opera Company as leading soprano for four years. She also enjoyed singing for local nursing homes.

1941

**Shirley Edelman Greenwald**  
Class Correspondent  
1 Washington Square Village, Apt. 16B  
New York, NY 10012-1632

1942

**Leonard Rokaw** recently received a lifetime recognition award from the Deal Lake (N.J.) Commission for 25 years of dedicated service and leadership. Leonard is also a longtime board member of the American Foundation for Aging Research, headquartered at the North Carolina State University campus in Raleigh.

**Chester Burger** was honored in August when Secretary of the U.S. Air Force Michael Donley presented him with the Distinguished Public Service Award for 15 years of outstanding leadership as an Air Force advocate in the NYC Public Affairs Advisory Group. Burger, renowned in management and communications, served with the Air Force in WWII.

1943

**Romola Ettinger Kaplan**  
Class Correspondent  
P.O. Box 648  
East Quogue, NY 11942-0648

The Minister of Education in France has awarded the highest rank of Commandeur in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques to **Gladys Cammer Lipton**, for her work in promoting elementary French foreign language programs.

The Queensborough Community College Art Gallery featured A Journey in Stone and Wood, an

exhibition of sculptures by **Gladys Thompson Roth**.

1944

**Renee B. Landau Eidlin**  
Class Correspondent  
30 Oak Street Ext., Apt. 507  
Brockton, MA 02301-1169

Child psychologist **Rhoda Baruch** received the Reginald S. Lourie Award from the Reginald S. Lourie Center for Infants and Young Children in Rockville, Md., for her life's work, including her most recent book, *Creative Anger: Putting That Powerful Emotion to Good Use*.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Wimpy Kid

It makes sense that Charles Kochman studied children's literature at Brooklyn College. He is instrumental in one of the most phenomenally successful children's books of our time: *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney.

Kochman has edited the four books in the *Wimpy Kid* series and two *Wimpy Kid*-themed titles, bestsellers all. More than 35 million copies are in print. The fifth *Wimpy Kid* installment, *The Ugly Truth*, was published in November, adding 5 million more copies in print to the tally. The first feature film was released in early 2010, grossing nearly \$64 million in the United States. "In schoolyards, jocks may still rule," wrote *Publisher's Weekly*. "But in bookstores, the big boy on campus is a wimp."

So who does Kochman credit with launching his publishing career — for "making sure I had the right wings on my back to go into the world"? The answer is Roni Natov, the popular English professor and authority on children's literature, who has taught at Brooklyn College since 1969. Kochman, who graduated with an English degree in 1985, took half a dozen classes taught by Natov. She assisted him when he was editor of *Riverrun*, the English majors' literary magazine. Natov also helped him obtain an internship at Farrar, Straus and Giroux, which led to his first job in the publishing business.

A month after graduation, on July 9, 1985 (his birthday), he was hired by G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Kochman calls Professor Natov "the best teacher in the world" with an infectious enthusiasm for "spreading the gospel of children's books and children's literature."

"Yes, I remember him very well," Natov said. "He was lively, smart and sweet."

After two years at Putnam, Kochman moved on to Bantam Doubleday Dell, where he worked from 1987 to 1993 on the Choose Your Own Adventure series before being hired by DC Comics. During his twelve years at DC, he published numerous works featuring comic-book superheroes, including *The Death and Life of Superman* by Roger Stern, and various collections of *MAD Magazine* characters and themes. The eight-year-old kid in all of us — okay, perhaps just in some of us — would gladly present him with the Nobel Prize in Literature for publishing *Spy vs. Spy: The Complete Casebook*, 304 pages of the *Mad Magazine's* two spooks devising ever more clever ways to do each other in.

In 2005, he was lured away to Abrams Books, a publisher of high quality art and illustrated books. He oversees the Abrams ComicArts imprint, which he created, focusing on comics and graphic novels. He's shepherded into print books like R. Crumb's *Heroes of Blues, Jazz & Country*, *Kirby: King of Comics* by Mark Evanier, and *Nat Turner* by Kyle Baker (a graphic novel about the enslaved rebel).

In 2006, he was attending the New York Comic Con, the Lollapalooza of the comics world, when he was approached by Jeff Kinney, then an unknown, unagented, online game developer with a 30-page proposal: *The Dairy of a Wimpy Kid*. Kochman "fell in love instantly" with the travails of middle school student Greg Heffley, who wants to do the right thing but never quite does.

"I enjoy a really special relationship with my editor," wrote Kinney in an e-mail. "In fact, I consider Charlie to be one of my closest friends... [He] pushes me to be my absolute best, and my work benefits from that."

"As an editor, all of your experiences come into play: What you publish reflects your sensibility," Kochman said. "And your sensibility is shaped by what you have been exposed to. Thanks to Roni and my classes at Brooklyn College, I was introduced to the work of so many wonderful writers and artists. With each book I publish, I try to recapture the initial magic and wonder I felt from their work."

1946

**Bernard R. Schwartz**  
Class Correspondent  
404 Beach 143 Street  
Neponsit, NY 11694-1111

Nassau County Museum of Art presented For Us the Living, a collection of 50 paintings of Civil War scenes by the artist **Mort Künstler**.

1947

**Reva Frumkin Biers**  
Class Correspondent  
4631 Ellenita Avenue  
Tarzana, CA 91356-4931

1948

**Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy**  
Class Correspondent  
27110 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G  
Floral Park, NY 11005-1209

1949

**William D. Isaacson**  
Class Correspondent  
57 Wind Watch Drive  
Hauppauge, NY 11788-3347  
abuelousa@gmail.com

1950

**Louise J. Kaplan**  
Class Correspondent  
175 West 12 Street  
New York, NY 10011-8275

**Jerome Tiegel** is consultant to Excelerate Discovery, [www.excelerate-discovery.com](http://www.excelerate-discovery.com), a leading ediscovery and document review management company that provides contract attorneys and project managers to assist with projects that are in litigation or under investigation as well as merger-related inquiries.

1951

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

**Dr. Richard K. Scher** received the Dermatology Foundation's Lifetime Career Educator Award for "bringing the treatment of nail disorders into the modern age."

1952

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

**Irene Danzker Deitch** was recently honored with the Stella Award for hospice service at the Staten Island Friends for Hospice Care annual Celebrate Life Gala.

**Myron Kandel**, one of the top business journalists of the 20th century, received a 2010 Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

1953

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

**Benjamin Suntag** received the 2008 Author of the Year award from the Fox Hills Repertory Theater for his excellence in satire, humor and the art of spoofing.

**Sol Chatowitz Taylor** stepped down as president of the Society of Lincoln Cent Collectors (SLCC) after serving 27 years. He founded SLCC in 1982 as a national clearinghouse for Lincoln cent collectors—the largest collector base in numismatics.

*Fresh from a trip to Bangalore, India, where he conducted a training seminar on treatment and rehabilitation strategies for people with severe mental illness, **Martin Gittelman, '53**, returned to BC to present a colloquium for psychology students titled Mental Health For All: If Not Now, When?*

1954

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

Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions and the American Congress of Electromyography dedicated The Proceedings of the 21st Annual

Electroneuromyographic Symposium to both **Neil I. Spielholz** and **Elliot Brown** who have served as pioneers to help to pave the way for those practicing electroneuromyography today.

1955

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

Retired quality assurance manager, **Jack Campanella**, was named to the American Society for Quality's Long Island Quality Hall of Fame. The author of several textbooks on quality assurance, he was honored for making "a significant contribution to the field and promotion of quality concepts and principles."

**Barbara Ampolsey Gray** recently had two mural-size paintings accepted on permanent loan to the new library in Alexandria, Egypt, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

**Seymour P. Lachman** is currently director of the Hugh L. Carey Institute for Government Reform at Wagner College.

1956

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

**Mike Saluzzi** is retired from the music field, which he pursued for 10 years, and from counseling community college students, which he did for 25 years. He is professor emeritus at Los Angeles Valley College, still working on college assignments, and still playing music and tennis. He invites you to check out his website: [www.mikesaluzzi.com](http://www.mikesaluzzi.com).

**George Sartiano, M.D.**, a member of the National Association of Biological Teachers (NABT) and the Institute of Social Protistology, is now retired in North Carolina. He keeps professionally active by lecturing and researching.

**Vera J. Weintraub Katz, '57**, professor emerita of the Department of Theatre Arts at Howard University, received a master teacher's award from the Department of Theater in May 2010, from the Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., where she has taught for 10 years.

1957

**Micki Goldberg Ginsberg**  
Class Correspondent  
217 East Maple Avenue  
Moorestown, NJ 08057-2011  
ginsberg10@gmail.com

**Elliott Brown** was recognized by the Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, during their 21st Annual Electroneuromyographic Symposium, as one of the physical therapy pioneers in electroneuromyography.

**Howard Finkelstein** received the Orange County Bar Association's John S. McBride Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with Finkelstein & Partners, a major Newburgh-based law firm he founded.

**Marty Marks** and his wife, Barbara, received a 2010 Westchester Jewish Council Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award for their volunteer work with Bikor Cholim. Bikor Cholim, sponsored by UJA-Federation of New York, provides care to homebound and hospitalized people.

**Carol Cooperman Nadelson**, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Marvin Natiss**, mayor of the Village of North Hills, was elected president of the Nassau County Village Officials Association.

1958

**Sandra Seigel Pikoff**  
Class Correspondent  
4500 Williams Drive, Apt. 212-320  
Georgetown, TX 78633-1329  
sspikoff@aol.com

**Gina Di Perna La Grassa** was awarded the Huebner Gold Medal by the American College for her support of

**Harvey Jay Cohen, '61**, chairperson of the Department of Medicine and director of the Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development at Duke University Medical Center, has been awarded the 2010 B.J. Kennedy Award and Lecture for Scientific Excellence in Geriatric Oncology by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), in honor of his groundbreaking work in geriatric oncology.

the Pennsylvania institution, which educates financial service professionals.

**Belle Halperin Simon and Arthur Simon, '55**, were honored by the Westchester Region of Hadassah for a lifetime of service to their community, prompting their State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer to introduce a senate resolution commending the Simons.

1959

At the 100th anniversary celebration of the Poetry Society of America, **Marlene Rosen Fine** won the Poetry Society's annual Emily Dickinson Award for her poem, "Love Continues in the Body."

**Harriet Brathwaite** was honored at Russo's On The Bay in Howard Beach by District 14 of the New York State Nurse's Association for 50 plus years of membership.

**Marlene Fishbane Rosenbaum** has recently been appointed the associate university provost for learning outcomes assessment at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

1960

**Saul Kravitz**  
Class Correspondent  
3382 Kenzo Court  
Mountain View, CA 94040-4328  
kravitzsaul@gmail.com

1961

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

1962

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

**Bernard Garil** received the Miracle Maker Leadership Award from Mutual Funds Against Cancer (MFAC), a leading advocate within the mutual fund and financial service industries, in the fight against cancer.

1963

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

The Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association installed **Alice J. Zal, D.O.**, of Norristown, Pa., as their 99th president.

The article by **Marie Meiselman Shear, '64**, "Little Marie: The Daily Toll of Sexist Language" appears in the summer 2010 edition of On the Issues Magazine. The African American National Biography, a joint project of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University and Oxford University Press, includes her entry about the nation's first black flight attendant. Her book reviews appear in each issue of The Freelancer.

**1964****Jay Orlikoff**

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

**1965****Barbara Berman Leveene**

Class Correspondent  
24 Jubilee Circle  
Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

**Sara Goodman Hand** just retired after 36 years in data processing, working for Wheaton Glass, Rice University, Princeton University, and AT&T. She is currently serving as president of the Raritan Valley Chapter of Hadassah.

Printmaker **Peter Marcus**, showed his work in a two-person exhibition, Large Scale Prints, at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

Accomplished amateur photographer **Burt Allen Solomon** mounted his first exhibit in November at the Framing Mill in Maplewood, N.J. The exhibit, 6x7xSolomon, featured hand-printed photographs Solomon shot with his Pentax 6x7 camera.

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP announced that litigation partner **Joel Cohen** has been appointed as a member of the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

**1966****Felicia Friedland Weinberg**

Class Correspondent  
P.O. Box 449  
Clarksburg, NJ 08510-0449

210 Gallery in Brooklyn featured an exhibit of handmade-pulp paintings of **Fran Beitch Kornfeld**.

Artist and paper sculptor **Francene Dunner Levinson** was one of four winners of the first New Times Broward/Palm Beach MasterMind Award.

Fordham Law School's Public Interest Resource Center presented one of its two Louis J. Lefkowitz Public Service Awards to **Martin S. Needelman, Esq.**, celebrating his 25th year as project director and chief counsel of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A.

**Mary-Jo Geary Re** was named Adult Educator of the Year by the Suffolk Association for Continuing and Community Education.

**1967****Sharon Weinschel Resen**

Class Correspondent  
1740 Kimball Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304

**Kenneth Chern, '67**, the outgoing U.S. consul general to Perth, Australia, has accepted a post as professorial research fellow at Murdoch University in Perth. An expert in Asian affairs, prior to his appointment to Western Australia he was deputy consul general in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam.

After more than 20 years in the position, **Gloria Pudick Schwartz** recently retired as executive director of the Jewish Federation in Springfield, Ill.

**1968****Eileen McGinn**

Class Correspondent  
210 East 15 Street, Apt.10N  
New York, NY 10003-3927

**Carol Kronish Flickstein** co-wrote and co-produced the documentary *With One Voice*, which features mystics from the world's great spiritual traditions and "their visions of the reality that transcends all religious differences."

The American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation announced the appointment of **John O'Rourke** to its board of directors. He is the past president of the Central Region of WellPoint Health Networks, which includes Blue Cross of Missouri, Healthlink and Unicare.

**1969****Edward M. Greenspan**

Class Correspondent  
emgreenspan@optonline.net

The Clark County Medical Society in Nevada honored incoming President **Dr. Mitchell Forman** at a dinner and awards ceremony on June 19, 2010. Dr. Forman is a fellow of the American College of Physicians. With his wife, **Pearl Oken Forman**, he founded Guitar Las Vegas, a classical guitar society, in collaboration with the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

**1970****Barry Silverman**

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

**Brad Bartel** has been selected as university provost of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

The New York Society of Security Analysts has selected **Amy Geffen** as its president and CEO.

Composer **Michael Isaacson** has been selected as a Winter 2011 Winter Park Institute scholar at Rollins College in

Orlando, Fla. While in residence during February 2011, he will deliver a paper on the conceptualization, in the 1930s, of a musical culture for the creation of an Israeli state; conduct a composition master class; lead a choral arranging seminar; and conduct *Cradle of Fire*, his choral suite concerning the Holocaust.

**Phillip W. Weiss** had his photographic artwork, along with a wide array of other artwork, displayed at the Mount Pleasant Public Library, Pleasantville, N.Y.

**1971**

After a long career in state government, **Barry Green** retired as director of the Department of Juvenile Justice of the Commonwealth of Virginia, prompting the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates to pass SJ267 commending him for his outstanding service.

**Hon. Bruce M. Balter, '71**, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, was awarded the Sixth Annual Distinguished Service Award of the Brooklyn-Manhattan Trial Lawyers Association at their 73rd Annual Golf and Tennis Outing tournament. The award was presented in the name of one of Balter's mentors: the deceased Kings County Supreme Court Justice William T. Bellard, Jr.

**1972**

**Stanley A. Alexander**  
Class Correspondent  
98 B Charles River Road  
Waltham, MA 02453-2402

Since retiring from General Motors, where she worked as an engineering manager for 34 years, **Rochelle Eisenberg Welsh** has become actively involved in several community service organizations. She is a volunteer docent at the Detroit Science Center, and on the board of directors of the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section, where she chairs the website committee. She continues to be a literacy tutor and also provides vocational support at JVS Detroit, which provides internet and computer resources to people who need to secure a job.

**Kenneth B. Forrest, Esq., '73**, received the

33rd Edwin F. Jaeckle Award, the highest honor bestowed by the University at Buffalo Law School and the UB Law Alumni Association. The corporate litigator received his law degree from the UB Law School and is a longtime member and past president of the Law School's Dean's Advisory Council.

**1973****Linda E. Gross Carroll**

Class Correspondent  
212 Stony Point Drive  
Sebastian, FL 32958  
lcarroll32@comcast.net

**Mary Jane Griffith** is the new principal at Arizona's Santa Cruz Valley Union High School.

**Joel Hirsch** joined AeroVironment, Inc., the makers of unmanned aircraft systems, as vice president of strategic operations.

**1974****Diane Oeters Vaughn**

Class Correspondent  
42 Briarwood Drive  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475-2043  
dianeleslie29@hotmail.com

*Hip, Heymish and Hot!* **Eleanor Schlüsselberg Reissa** sings Yiddish Soul played the Goodwill Theatre's Schorr Family Firehouse Stage in Johnson City, N.Y.

Mathematics teacher **Roberta Schorr** received the Rutgers University 2010 Chancellor's Community Engagement Award for her work in the Newark Public Schools and her research into how students develop mathematical ideas.

**1975****Rubin Leitner**

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

**Rev. David Brandon** was installed as pastor of the historic Pocono Union Church in Henryville, Pa.

Indianapolis Indians broadcaster **Howard Kellman** called his 5,000th game for the Triple-A minor league affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

**Joseph Terrone** graced the Valley Hospital Gallery in Ridgewood, N.J., with *Mostly Winter*, an exhibit of oil paintings.

**1976****Henry P. Feintuch**

Class Correspondent  
50 Barnes Lane  
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425

**Lawrence S. Brown, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., FASAM**, executive senior vice president of the Division of Medical Services, Research and Information Technology at the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation, was nominated by former New York State Governor David Paterson and confirmed by the State Senate for a two-year term as a member of the New York State Advisory Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

**Steven Gounardes, D.D.S.**, was installed as a trustee of the American Dental Association (ADA) at the ADA's 151st Annual Session.

Urban Acción, a Spanish nonprofit, which promotes sustainable development, published a book containing a chapter on the Green Guerillas, written by activist **Donald**

**Loggins**, who helped found the group in 1973. The Green Guerillas turn blighted urban areas into thriving community gardens.

**Yvette Melendez** has been named vice president of government and community alliances for Hartford Hospital in Connecticut.

**Alan Rada**, a certified paperhanger and business owner who collaborates with designers and hangs specialty wallpaper, fabric and murals, was part of the recent White House makeover. He hung the striped wallpaper in the Oval Office as well as in the president's private dining room and study.

**Larry Schiffer and Warren Schiffer, '78**, presented one half of the net proceeds from Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Wings over Wall Street 2009 Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Research Fundraiser to MDA at the 2010 New York segment of the Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon.

**Frank Walters** has been inducted into the National Athletic Trainers Association 2010 Hall of Fame.

**Alan Zarrow** retired from the New York City Board of Education after more than 32 years as a teacher of health and physical education. He still officiates for four sports and is one of the sports announcers for the New York City Public Schools Athletic League.

**Frank Walters**, the Director of Sports Medicine for Broward Health in Florida (and previously director for the District of Columbia public school system), was inducted into the National Athletic Trainer's Association Hall of Fame during its annual meeting this past summer.

## 1977

The Lucretia Marcigliano Campus, a new education center in Brooklyn that houses three schools, opened this year. It is named after the late **Lucretia (Aprea) Marcigliano**, a longtime Board of Education employee and a school board trustee from 1951-1989.

**Ronald L. Stricoff, M.D.** is now the chief of surgery at West Boca Hospital Medical Center in Boca Raton, Fla. He

A new play by **Gino Dilorio, '86**, *The Jag*, is the winner of the Firehouse Theatre's Great American Play Contest. The play has been given staged readings at NJ Rep, Premiere Stages and Penguin Repertory Theatre. Dilorio is professor of theater at Clark University in Worcester, Mass., where he also serves as program director.

is the official general surgeon of the Florida Panthers hockey team. He has participated in medical missions to South America and has lectured internationally.

## 1978

**Susan A. Katz**  
Class Correspondent  
120 Pinewood Trail  
Trumbull, CT 06611-3313

Art historian **Candace Jenks Lewis** has been elected president of the Dutchess County Historical Society.

## 1979

**Anthony Esposito**  
Class Correspondent  
211 Highway 35 North  
Mantoloking, NJ 08738-1420

William Garry was named a partner at Harris Beach PLLC's new Long Island office in Uniondale, N.Y.

## 1981

**Debbie Schiffer-Burke**  
Class Correspondent  
debcolumn@aol.com

**Richard Cohen** is the new managing director at Golden Tree InSite Partners, a global real estate investment firm.

## 1982

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

## 1983

**Michael Kosik**  
Class Correspondent  
866.327.5162  
michael.kosik@morganstanleysmithbarney.com

## 1985

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

## 1986

**Ian Lee Brown**  
Class Correspondent  
4631 Twin Lakes Lane  
Long Grove, IL 60047-5279  
ian.brown@erickson.com

**Michael Sachelari** is fitness coordinator and commanding officer of the Fitness Program for the NYPD.

## 1987

**Eric Steinhart**  
Class Correspondent  
915 East 7 Street, Apt. 1H  
Brooklyn, NY 11230-2733

## 1988

**Lauren Korn Popkoff**  
Class Correspondent  
951 Woodoak Drive  
Baldwin Harbour, NY 11510-5023

## 1989

The ASPCA and Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals recently welcomed **Julie Bank** as the new executive director of animal care and control of NYC.

**Steve Carney** is the assistant professor of sports management at Shorter University in Rome, Ga.

## 1990

**Beth Debra Kallman Werner**  
Class Correspondent  
105 Husson Road  
Milford, PA 18337-7156

## 1992

**Thomas Proehl**, former managing director of the Guthrie Theater and head of the Minnesota State Arts Board, returns to the Twin Cities to become a producing director at the University of Minnesota's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.

## 1993

**Sarah Battaglia**  
Class Correspondent  
47 Wildwood Drive  
Sound Beach, NY 11789-2143  
millerplacesb@yahoo.com

**Sarah Battaglia** serves as director of the Board of Ethics at the Town of Brookhaven. She is a columnist for the *North Shore Sun* newspaper and writer for *The North Shoreian* and *NextStop* magazines.

## 1994

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

Valdosta State University in Georgia awarded Associate Professor of Theater **Duke Guthrie** the 2010 Excellence in Service Award for his work managing the Peach State Summer Theater and being the "first person to arrive, the last person to leave and the one who will carry the heaviest box to the car when it is time to load up for a trip."

Still Hip, a Clinton Hill resale shop run by **Gabrielle Napolitano**, was named Best Used Children's Gear Store in Brooklyn by the *Daily News*.

## 1995

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

**Marcella Durand** was named the 2010-11 University of Pennsylvania Centers for Programs in Contemporary Writing fellow in poetics and poetic practice.

## 1996

**Anthony Vitale**  
Class Correspondent  
1742 Gildersleeve Street  
Merrick, NY 11566-2504

**Marisol González** participated as a panelist at the III Dominican Republic Global Film Festival. She is currently working as a consultant producer for a documentary, whose working title is *Gods and Kings*.

## 1997

Playwright **Vikas Menon** recently premiered his play about a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood, *On the Faultline*, at the New Song Community Corporation in New York.

## 1998

**Craig Collins** is running for the post of eastern regional director of social action for Phi Beta Sigma fraternity.

## 1999

**David Moskowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
2327 East 18 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11229-4416

Pascack Valley High School music teacher **Argine Safari**, was one of four New Jersey teachers to be awarded the Princeton University Distinguished Secondary School Teaching Award this year.

**Jeff Sult** won an Emmy Award for his work on the show *MLB Tonight* on the Major League Baseball Network.

## 2001

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

**Avi Rosenberg** is completing and M.D.-Ph.D. at Stony Brook University Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and is pursuing an academic career in pathology.

Public School 282 science teacher **Natasha Cooke-Nieves** was awarded a \$25,000 award from the Milken Family Foundation for her work in the Park Slope school and also for her service as a science/math instructional specialist for teachers in 21 other schools (she is also an adjunct professor in the Brooklyn College School of Education).

## 2004

**Yael Abraham Fogel**  
Class Correspondent  
570 Ocean Parkway, Apt. 5C  
Brooklyn, NY 11218  
yct.fogel@gmail.com

## 2005

**Alison Powers** received a doctor of jurisprudence from Rutgers School of Law-Newark.

## 2006

**Manuel Cifuentes, Jr.** is a licensed certified public accountant in the State of New York and is currently working as a staff accountant responsible for statutory financial accounting and reporting in a Fortune 100 mutual life insurance company.

**Marcia Y. Lewis** received the master of divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary at the school's 198th commencement exercises.

**Amy Wratchford** is the new managing director of the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Va.

## 2007

**Ezra N. Rich**  
Class Correspondent  
588 West End Avenue, Apt. 1B  
New York, NY 10024-1766  
ezrarich@gmail.com

## 2008

**Stefanie Low**  
Class Correspondent  
3-A Putnam Avenue  
Glen Cove, NY 11542-3424  
stefanielow@yahoo.com

**Sherrard Bostwick** created an exhibition, *The River Runs Two Ways*, for the Hoboken Historical Museum, an exploration of the Square Mile City in layered photography, paintings and needlepoint.

**Sheila Flaum** joined the class of 2014 at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, W. Va.

## 2009

**Steven Juskowicz**  
Class Correspondent  
1485 East 32 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403  
sjuskowicz@gmail.com

Faculty Books and Recordings

**Jennifer D. Adams**, School of Education, D. J. Tippins, M. P. Mueller, and M. van Eijck, eds., *Cultural Studies And Environmentalism: The Confluence of Eco-Justice, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Sense of Place*. Springer, 2010, \$189 hardcover.

**Ray Allen**, Conservatory of Music; *American Studies, Gone to the Country: The New Lost City Ramblers and the Folk Music Revival*. University of Illinois Press, 2010, \$80 hardcover; \$25 paperback.

**Jeffrey Biegel**, Conservatory of Music, *Bach on a Steinway*. Steinway, 2010, \$17.99 CD.

**Jeffrey Biegel**, Conservatory of Music, *Zwilich: Millenium Fantasy*. Naxos, 2010, \$8.99 CD.

**Luigi Bonaffini** (translator), Modern Languages and Literatures, *Antonella Dell'Arte, Selected Poems*. Gradiva Publications, 2010, \$20 paperback.

**Luigi Bonaffini** (translator), Modern Languages and Literatures, *Carla Panciera, No Day, No Dusk, No Love*, Bordighera Press, 2010, \$20 paperback.

**Luigi Bonaffini**, Modern Languages and Literatures, and Joseph Perricone, eds., *Poets of the Italian Diaspora*. Fordham University Press, 2010, \$35 paperback.

**David Grubbs**, Television and Radio, Andrea Belfi and Stefano Pilia, *Onrushing Cloud*, Blue Chopsticks, 2010, \$14 LP.

**Gunja SenGupta**, *History, From Slavery to Poverty: The Racial Origins of Welfare in New York, 1840–1918*. NYU Press, \$48 hardcover; \$25 paperback.

**Ben Lerner**, English, *Mean Free Path*, English, Copper Canyon Press, 2010, \$16 paperback.

**Kishore Marathe**, Mathematics, *Topics in Physical Mathematics*, Springer, 2010, \$124 hardcover.

**Miranda J. Martinez**, *Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, Power at the Roots: Gentrification, Community Gardens, and the Puerto Ricans of the Lower East Side*. \$60 hardcover.

**Paul C. McCabe**, School of Education, and Steven R. Shaw, eds., *Psychiatric Disorders: Current Topics and Interventions for Educators*. Corwin Press, 2010, \$33.95 paperback.

**Eleanor Miele**, School of Education, and **Jennifer D. Adams**, School of Education, *Science Safaris in New York City: Informal Science Expeditions for Children, Parents, and Teacher*. Kendall Hunt, 2010, \$35 paperback.

**Matthew E. Moore**, ed., Philosophy, Charles S. Peirce, *Philosophy of Mathematics: Selected Writings*. Indiana University Press, 2010, \$80 hardcover.

**Matthew E. Moore**, ed., Philosophy, *New Essays on Peirce's Mathematical Philosophy*. Open Court, 2010, \$89.95 paperback.

**Vanessa Perez-Rosario**, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, ed., *Hispanic Caribbean Literature of Migration: Narratives of Displacement*, Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010, \$57.37 hardcover.

**Aaron Poochigian**, Classics, *Aratus's Phaenomena. New Translations from Antiquity*. Johns Hopkins University Press, \$50 hardcover; \$25 paperback.

**Michael Rawson**, History, *Eden on the Charles: The Making of Boston*. Harvard University Press, 2010, \$29.95 paperback.

**Craig Williams**, Classics, *Roman Homosexuality: Second Edition*. Oxford University Press, 2010, \$29.95 paperback.

**Frederick Wasser**, *Television and Radio, Steven Spielberg's America*. Polity Press, 2010, \$64.95 hardcover; \$19.95 paperback.

**Howard Zhenhao Zeng**, Physical Education and Exercise Science, *Teaching and Learning in Physical Education Class Settings: Observing and Analyzing: Teaching Behaviors and Learning Activities in Physical Education Class Settings*. Lambert Academic Publishing, 2010, \$67 paperback.

**Howard Zhenhao Zeng**, Physical Education and Exercise Science, *Teaching and Practicing of Table Tennis*. LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2010, \$62 paperback.

Alumni Books

**Joel Cohen, '65**, and **Carla T. Main**, *Truth Be Veiled: A Justin Steele Murder Case*. Coffeetown Press, 2010, \$13.22 paperback.

**August Franza, '54**, *His Father's Son*. Xlibris, 2010, \$19.99 paperback.

**Paul Gammarano, '77**, *Teaching: Not for Dummies/Substance Abuse Awareness: A Guidebook*. Xlibris, 2008, \$9.99 kindle.

**Paul Gammarano, '77**, *Timelines*. Xlibris, 2009, \$19.99 paperback.

**Whit Griffin, '06**, *Pentateuch: The First Five Books*. Skysill Press, 2010, \$13.50 paperback.

**Edith Marks, '67**, *Glaucoma patient to patient: A coping guide for you and your family*. iUniverse, 2010, \$26.95 paperback.

**Seymour P. Lachman, '55**, and **Robert Polner**, *The Man Who Saved New York: Hugh Carey and the Great Fiscal Crisis of 1975*. State University of New York Press, 2010, \$24.95 hardcover.

**Fran Orenstein, '60**, *The Gargoyles of Blackthorne*. Sleepytown Press, 2010, \$10.95 paperback.

**Fran Orenstein, '60**, *The Spice Merchant's Daughter*. Whiskey Creek Press, 2010, \$6.99 kindle.

**Fran Orenstein, '60**, *The Wizard of Balalac*. Sleepytown Press, 2010, \$10.95 paperback.

**Jackson Toby, '46**, *The Lowering of Higher Education in America: Why Financial Aid Should Be Based on Student Performance*. Praeger, 2010, \$27.96 hardcover.

**Anne Finkelman Ziff, '61**, and **Elena Lesser Bruun**, *Marrying Well: The Clinician's Guide to Premarital Counseling*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2010, \$27.50 hardcover.

**Herbert Levy, '48**, **Henry Morgenthau, Jr.:** *The Remarkable Life of FDR's Secretary of the Treasury*. Skyhorse Publishing, 2010, \$29.92 hardcover.



# in Memoriam

## Faculty

### Oliver Bloodstein

Speech Communications Arts and Sciences Department, Professor Emeritus

## Alumni

Anne Garnitsky Brenner, '33  
Norma Brounstein Levitan, '33  
Norman Rubinstein, '33  
Ruth Cusack Apt, '34  
Himan Brown, '34  
Sue Smilow, '34  
Anne Russo Huseman, '35  
Beatrice Reisch Kelvin, '35  
Lucille Friedlander Landers, '35  
Anthony Navarra, '35  
Helen Jochnowitz Stutman, '35  
Gertrude Hollander Brown, '37  
Pearl Weinberg Pincus, '37  
Philip Blatt, '38  
Ralph S. Kornblit, '38  
Theresa Morgenstern Miller, '38  
Sidney Goldstein, '39  
Roland I. Goodman, '39  
Lucy Aliminosa Hirschmann, '39  
Helen Samuels Lieber, '39  
Helen Hergren Rothfuss, '39  
Eugene I. Schwartz, '39  
Jacob M. Usadi, '39  
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Adele Miller Horowitz, '40  
Sylvia Wasserman Chayat, '41  
Bernard Halpert, '41  
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Walter James Miller, '41  
Seymour (Pinchfsky) Pine, '41  
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Simon Hoffman, '42  
Caroline Rapps Schleifer, '42  
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Henry K. Davis, '43  
Bernard Entman, '43

Moses L. Lorentz, '43  
Louis S. Richardson, '43  
Florence Cohen Robinson, '43  
Norma Goldstein Satten, '43  
Madalynne Geller Schoenfeld, '43  
Alice Helfgott Silverblatt, '43  
Gerald Goldstein, '44  
Muriel Wolly Grubel, '44  
Norman (Tuli) Kupferberg, '44  
Lea Wolf Schultz, '44  
Vivian Larson Heigl, '45  
David Schoenfeld, '45  
Irwin Silber, '45  
Sol Finkelstein, '46  
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Phyllis Waldman Berman, '48  
Luba Helmann Berton, '48  
Evelyn Achenbaum Frigand, '48  
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Selna L. Kaplan, '48  
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Joan Lubell Korein Miller, '50  
Marilyn Miller Moskowitz, '50  
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Bertram Levinson, '51  
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William L. Taylor, '52

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Harvey W. Aiges, '67  
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Patricia Bernard Quinn, '68  
Richard LaMotta, '69  
Constance Forte Pigozzi, '71  
Michael L. Rothbard, '72  
Anita Farber Baker, '75  
Lucretia Aprea Marcigliano, '77  
Lawrence S. Epstein, '79  
Lillian Lynn Zuckerman, '81  
Arnold Brown, '89  
Susan Erben, '89



*Our community suffered two deep losses this August with the passing of Sherwood Johnson, director of financial aid services, and Professor Martha Bell, chairperson of the SEEK department.*

*In many ways, their professional achievements and concerns complemented one another. Johnson, a nationally recognized expert on student aid, time and again went out of his way to ensure that students received as much aid as they could so they could afford a college education. Professor Bell, revered for her lifelong dedication to assisting underserved students, was a passionate advocate for all who entered the SEEK program, acting as both mentor and guardian to countless young men and women.*



*It is hard to overestimate the effect Sherwood Johnson and Martha Bell had throughout their careers at Brooklyn College. Through their professional endeavors, they touched thousands of students' lives, making it possible for them to achieve their educational goals. It was Bell and Johnson's personal commitment — the lengths they were willing to go to nurture and guide almost every student who came to them — against which their success at Brooklyn College must be measured.*

*The college was richer for their presence and is poorer for their absence.*

## Season for Giving Food Drive to Help Borough Families in Need

During the holiday season, Brooklyn College and Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs joined efforts to help restock 14 food pantries in the borough that were affected by the extraordinary demand triggered by the 2008 recession. The supplies were distributed among members of the Flatbush Community Food Partnership.

"I'm proud that our college worked with Assemblywoman Jacobs in this effort to resupply the coalition of neighborhood pantries she has put together," said Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould. "I'm proud that the college community rose to the occasion to help those in need."

While several economists have stated that the recession is over, its impact on citizens across the economic spectrum continues to be devastating. Food pantries have suffered from the heavy demand, and some were forced to close due to the scarcity of resources.

According to the Food Bank for New York City's report, NYC Hunger Experience 2009: A Year in Recession, more than three million people, almost 40 percent of all New Yorkers, are having trouble affording food—a 60 percent increase since 2003. At the same time, nearly all food pantries and soup kitchens in the city have seen an increase in first-time visitors over the past year.

"There are not enough resources to meet the needs of the community," said Jacobs. "Because the economic crisis has continued to batter families of all incomes, especially those in the lowest income brackets, my office and Brooklyn College worked together to help facilitate the needs of our local pantries. I'm grateful to Brooklyn College, and I'm certain that as a result of this effort many mouths were fed."



*Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs and Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould are flanked by students and community members who helped with the drive.*

Designated drop-off sites accepting canned goods and nonperishable items were placed throughout the campus. Pantries were especially in need of baby formula, baby food, canned fruit, canned or packaged fish/meats, cereal, evaporated milk, dry pasta and rice.

The Flatbush Community Food Partnership includes: Newman Catholic Center at Brooklyn College, Bethlehem Seventh Day El Shaddai Church, Bnai Raphael Chesed Organization, CAMBA, Fardeau des Ames—Burden of Souls for Christ, Flatbush Reformed Church, Flatbush Tompkins Congregation Church, Haitian Evangelical Clergy, Holy Cross Church Food Pantry, Holy Innocents Church, Liberty Church of God, Oil of Joy Ministries, Our Lady of Refuge Roman Catholic and Valme Ministries.

A man with a beard and short dark hair is wearing a white hoodie with "Brooklyn College" printed in maroon on the front. He is looking down and to the right with a thoughtful expression. The background is a light blue gradient with a series of parallel maroon lines on the right side.

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