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Brooklyn College Magazine

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relevant in 2012?

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Forty years ago, the people of the United States witnessed a historic presidential campaign emerge in Brooklyn and subsequently surge across the country. Many of the critical issues that our nation debated in 1972 are again the source of political debate in 2012: concerns over unemployment and economic insecurity, decreasing access to opportunity among the nation's poor, the influence of big business in the public sector and the cost — both human and financial — of military intervention overseas.

During the 1972 campaign, Shirley Chisholm '46, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first to make a credible bid for the presidency, called for change: "We are entering a new era in which we must, as Americans, demand leadership — leadership, which is fresh, leadership, which is open, and leadership, which is receptive to the problems of all Americans."

Regardless of one's political point of view, Shirley Chisholm's legacy is powerful, and her insights remain timely. She sought change where she saw injustice. She held true to her core values. She ignored those who said an African-American woman could not, and should not, serve in the highest levels of government. Across the political spectrum, many now agree that Shirley Chisholm exemplified a boldness of vision that is the hallmark of true leadership.

At Brooklyn College, we educate our students to think critically, to excel across the disciplines and to become the next generation of leaders in all walks of life. Some of our graduates choose to follow in

Karen L. Gould, President



from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Chisholm's footsteps and seek public office. Others become captains of industry, dedicated physicians, nonprofit leaders, community activists, research scientists, outstanding teachers and creative artists. Whatever their professional paths, our 100,000 alumni in New York City, across the nation and around the world are making a difference every day. Like Shirley Chisholm, their journeys began at Brooklyn College.

For women, for minorities and for the economically disadvantaged, American public higher education is an essential element of our democracy, providing equal access to opportunity for people from all backgrounds. Yet higher education — both private and public — is becoming increasingly unaffordable. Across the United States, public support for higher education has been steadily declining over the past two decades, and the burden of cost is being transferred to students and their families. Student loan debt is at a record high nationally and now represents a larger proportion of household debt than credit cards.

Although New York State is not immune to this national crisis, and although years of budget reductions have trimmed state support for the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY), Governor Cuomo and the legislature have recently pledged to maintain state funding for public higher education in New York at current levels through 2016. This historic agreement also enables both university systems to implement modest, steady increases in tuition costs over the same period, allowing students and

their families to plan ahead rather than face large, unexpected spikes when they can least afford them.

Our state's new commitment is a welcome step that will provide much needed stability to Brooklyn College and help us to secure our institution's long-term fiscal health. As you may recall, until 1976 public funding covered 100% of the college's operating budget. Today, it covers only 21%. While tuition and fees at Brooklyn College remain lower than 80% of all four-year colleges

At Brooklyn College, we educate our students to become the next generation of leaders.

and universities in the United States, and while nearly 60% of our undergraduate students pay no out-of-pocket tuition costs due to federal and state grants, many other economically disadvantaged students still have difficulty paying tuition and fees and buying the books they need.

In order to maintain our commitment to provide access to excellence, we must pursue creative and entrepreneurial approaches to advance our mission. We are raising funds from alumni and other private sources to support students who may otherwise be unable to afford a Brooklyn College education. In the past 18 months alone, we have raised more than \$3 million in funds for students in need of financial assistance. During the 2010-11 academic year, we distributed \$1.2 million to 1,229 students, and we anticipate that these figures will rise in the current year. Please consider making a gift to support this ongoing effort to maintain our decades-long commitment to provide access to excellence and promote graduation success for all students of promise. With your support, we may ensure that our neediest students are still able to afford a Brooklyn College education.

Like so many talented alumni who have preceded them, the students of today and of tomorrow deserve an education of the highest quality, regardless of their economic means. To this end, on behalf of everyone at Brooklyn College, I pledge our steadfast commitment to continue our long legacy of excellence and affordability — the hallmark of a Brooklyn College education.

SNAPSHOTS

From the Stage to the CORNER OFFICE

Dancer Leah Keith and musician Courtney Ozaki are accomplished performers who have put their careers on hold to pursue a master of fine arts from Brooklyn College's internationally recognized performing arts management program.

Though both women were born and grew up in Denver, they never met until they arrived on campus last September. Their decisions to further their studies were reached independently after each recognized a singularly indisputable fact: There is a lot more to learn about their art than merely performing.

With the encouragement of her Mexican mother, Leah began studying flamenco at the age of 10. This highly sensual dance form goes back more than a thousand years and has its roots in Spain's historic Moorish and Gypsy cultures. Leah performs under the name Lia Ochoa, which she borrowed from her mother.

"I didn't think audiences would accept someone named Keith as a real flamenco dancer," she noted.

After earning a bachelor's degree in theater at the University of Northern Colorado in Denver, Leah spent four years in Seville, Spain, working to perfect her art. Upon returning to the United States, she relocated to New York. "There were so many opportunities here. I wanted to keep my options open," she said.

In addition to dancing with other groups and serving as a traveling teaching artist, Leah also co-founded

a dance company called FLAMENCO:inside/out. "I choreographed my own performances, designed my costumes and helped market the group through our website."

Between performances, Leah also acted on the stage and screen, including a small part in the movie *The Pink Panther 2*. Through her professional contacts, she learned of Career Transition for Dancers, a Times Square nonprofit that helps dancers transition into other careers.

The group informed her of Brooklyn College's performing arts management program and set up an interview with Tobie Stein, the program's director. They also provided her with a grant and help completing the application process. Leah was on her way.

Meanwhile, Courtney, the daughter of Japanese-American parents, had learned the art of playing ceremonial Taiko drums from her aunt and uncle, then gone on to study piano at the University of Colorado at Denver, earning a bachelor's degree in music, magna cum laude, in 2006.

That same year she and three female cousins formed a Kumidaiko — or Japanese drum — band of their own called One World Taiko. Ozaki made her professional debut at Disney World. Soon the group was touring nationally and overseas. Each of the cousins was in charge of some aspect of the band's operations; Courtney was responsible for marketing.

"I began to realize that I wanted to influence

things, which you can't do as a struggling artist," Ozaki said. She started to Google performing arts management programs online, finding the Brooklyn College program and Professor Stein. "It seemed like the ideal experience, being in New York City, with plenty of internships and diversity. I went for it."

According to Stein, the program is ideal "for students like Leah and Courtney, who are well prepared to work in the field of performing arts management." She seeks out students who are motivated "to work as marketing, development and managing directors of performing arts organizations."

Describing Leah and Courtney as highly motivated, exceptional students, she said, "They are thriving in their fundraising and accounting courses as well as their professional internships at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts." She predicts they will both be employed in the industry by the time they write their theses.

The two have now completed their first full semester of coursework and internships. They plan to graduate in spring 2013, when they will join the many successful alumni of the program, such as Paul Tetreault, director of Ford's Theatre in Washington DC; Harold Wolpert, managing director of the Roundabout Theatre Company in Manhattan; and Andrew Flatt, vice president of marketing for Disney Theatrical Productions.

—R. Sheridan



Dancer Leah Keith and musician Courtney Ozaki

Giving Brooklyn Kids a JUMPSTART

Students at Brooklyn College are helping to combat early childhood illiteracy, a challenge facing many of the nation's major urban areas.

The School of Education is in its second year as a partner with the Jumpstart program, which is affiliated with AmeriCorps, to help ensure that Brooklyn preschoolers age 3 to 5 are properly prepared to start school by boosting their literacy rates, language skills and social development.

Jumpstart should not be confused with Head Start, the massive, publicly funded federal program aimed at kindergartners and older. "Jumpstart is privately funded and run by volunteers," said Mary DeBey, associate professor of early childhood education. "Its mission is to work toward the day when every child in America will enter school prepared to succeed."

That day may be some time off, according to Janice Goldfarb, Jumpstart's senior development director for the tri-state area. "Average preschoolers know about 20,000 words by the time they are old enough to start school. In low-income areas, by contrast, they can possess a vocabulary of as few as 5,000 words. They are two years behind their peers."

"We are particularly excited to have Brooklyn College as a partner," said Goldfarb. "Brooklyn College is widely known for its School of Education and for its large and excellent early childhood program. They've made enormous progress under the leadership of Dean Shanley and dedicated faculty like Mary DeBey." In fact, the School of Education is nationally recognized as one of the top 20 in the United States.

Since 1993, when Jumpstart got its start, the program has trained and dispatched a total of 25,000 volunteer corps members who have worked with roughly 100,000 preschoolers around the nation, says Goldfarb.

Tracey Barnett, a Texan who participated in the Jumpstart program back home in Lubbock, moved to Brooklyn to direct the program here. She says each partner institution recruits, trains and sends out teams made up of six or seven of its own students, who are called "corps members." The teams go out twice a week and each time conduct two-hour sessions with their preschoolers. They also volunteer additional hours procuring, sorting and distributing books, crayons, drawing paper and other materials.

Here at Brooklyn College, "we started out with 21 corps members," Barnett said. "Now we have 42."

This semester, Brooklyn College's corps members are working with preschoolers at four centers in the borough: Inner Force Daycare at Gates and Ralph avenues; Hawthorne Corners Daycare Center at Hawthorne Street and Bedford Avenue; St. Andrews Day Care Center in Sunset Park; and the Bay Ridge Childcare Center on 44th Street.

But if things work out, Goldfarb says, Brooklyn College may be named a super site. "If that happens, the number of corps members will increase to 80 and they will be working with 180 youngsters."

Other universities in the tri-state area that participate in the Jumpstart program include Columbia University, New York University, Rutgers University and the University of Connecticut, among others.

—R. Sheridan



A Brooklyn College student mentors Brooklyn preschoolers participating in the Jumpstart program.

50% The percentage of children from low-income neighborhoods who enter kindergarten up to two years behind their peers.

20,000 The average vocabulary of a child when entering kindergarten. In low-income areas, it can be as low as 5,000.

1 in 3 The proportion of children in America who enter school without the skills needed for success.

\$260,000 The lifetime cost to our nation for every high school dropout.

100,000 The number of preschoolers Jumpstart has worked with around the country.

Source: Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.

NOTABLES

PROFESSORS WEIGH IN ON THE POLITICAL BLOGOSPHERE

Do you blog? Should you? For Corey Robin, associate professor of political science, and Tanni Haas, professor of speech communication arts and sciences, the answer is simple. "It's really where the conversation is happening," said Robin, whose recent book, a collection of essays titled *The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism from Edmund Burke to Sarah Palin*, made waves last year. Many have praised his book; others have condemned it. *The New York Times Book Review* labeled it "a diatribe that preaches to the converted, so filled with exaggeration and invective that the reader's eyes roll."

Reviews like these set off a storm of controversy across the Internet, with many readers coming to Robin's defense. Cliopatria, the blog of the History News Network, honored him with its 2011 Best Writer Award and called him "the quintessential public intellectual for the digital age."

Robin, an active political blogger who frequently communicates with his reader base, was inspired to write the book after profiling several founders of the modern conservative movement. "I got a much different sense of them as a kind of romantic warriors, people who really believed in the fight, the struggle," he said.

Haas' interest in political blogging is of the "how-to" variety. Currently there are 1.3 million political bloggers, with more appearing every day. In his book *Making It in the Political Blogosphere: The World's Top Political Bloggers Share the Secrets to Success*, released in October 2011, Haas interviewed key bloggers like Arianna Huffington. "Political bloggers play a major role today in the dissemination and discussion of news, not just in U.S. society, but around the world," said Haas, who is now working on a book that will explore the dark side of Internet labor around the world.

—M. Zhuravsky

Corey Robin



Tanni Haas



Music Faculty Are Among Nation's Noteworthy

Last November, the latest album from Jeffrey Biegel, an adjunct professor of music, topped the charts. *A Steinway Christmas Album*, which features a variety of holiday classics arranged for piano, reached number one on *Billboard's* Traditional Classical chart. Biegel proudly referred to the album as "the most wide-ranging, eclectic group of pieces on a single holiday recording" and noted that the album "showcases a range of sound that a really fine Steinway piano can produce."

The Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation of the Library of Congress has commissioned a new chamber piece for piano and strings from Jason Eckardt,

associate professor of music. Eckardt will travel to Salt Lake City to work with an ensemble on a piece that is likely to premiere during the 2013-14 season. "I am very interested in using nontraditional techniques on traditional instruments, trying to create new and different sound wells out of instruments that already are readily identified with a particular type of sound and a particular way of playing." This is Eckardt's second Koussevitzky commission.

Concert pianist Ursula Oppens, distinguished professor of music, received her fourth Grammy nomination for her album *Winging it: Piano Music of John*

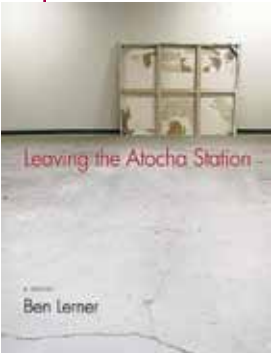
Corigliano. The disc was the only non-orchestra album nominated in the Best Classical Instrumental Solo category. Oppens, who built her career on a sturdy mix of classical and contemporary performances, said, "I love great music of the past — it's what we grow up on, but I am so thrilled to work with composers who are still alive." In addition to teaching, performing and recording, Oppens leads a "musical think tank" of musicians and composers in training from the Conservatory of Music who collaborate on a variety of pieces.

—M. Zhuravsky

Young Faculty Members Praised for Book Debuts

Eden on the Charles: The Making of Boston, the first book by Michael Rawson, assistant professor of history, has garnered critical acclaim and landed him on the list of three finalists for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in History. The book explores how the distinct natural setting of one of the earliest American cities shaped its urbanization. “We live in an increasingly urbanized world,” said Rawson. “I think it is fundamental for us to understand how the process of urbanization changes the way we think about and relate to the natural world.” Rawson is currently working on a book that will explore how “changing science and technology has shaped how we imagine the environmental future.”

Associate Professor Ben Lerner’s debut novel, *Leaving The Atocha Station*, was released to much critical praise and included among the best works of 2011 by the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New Yorker*, the *Guardian* and other prestigious publications. “I wanted to see what would happen if I took my critical ideas about poetry, art and authenticity and let them ramify throughout the life of a young artist abroad,” Lerner said of his novel. The book follows a poet meditating on the possibilities of life in 2004 Madrid on the eve of the Atocha station bombings. —*M. Zhuravsky*



On the Shelves

Listed below is a selection of the more than 50 books recently published by members of our faculty.

Robert Cherry, Professor of Economics, with Robert Lerman. *Moving Working Families Forward: Third Way Policies That Can Work*. Springer, 2011.

Lynda Day, Associate Professor of Africana Studies, *Gender and Power in Sierra Leone: Women Chiefs of the Last Two Centuries*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.

 **Christian Grov**, Associate Professor of Health and Nutrition Sciences, with Michael Smith. *In the Company of Men: Inside the Lives of Male Prostitutes*. Praeger, 2011.

Immanuel Ness, Professor of Political Science. *Guest Workers and Resistance to U.S. Corporate Despotism*. University of Illinois Press, 2011.

 **Gregory Smithsimon**, Associate Professor of Sociology. *September 12: Community and Neighborhood Recovery at Ground Zero*. NYU Press, 2011.

Peter Taubman, Professor of Secondary Education. *Disavowed Knowledge: Psychoanalysis, Education and Teaching*. Routledge, 2011.

Micha Tomkiewicz, Professor of Physics. *Climate Change: The Fork at the End of Now*. Momentum Press, 2011.

RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

This year, our faculty have generated nearly \$13 million in funding for a variety of projects, from pursuing groundbreaking research in medicine to uncovering lost worlds.

Gregory Boutis, assistant professor of physics, received \$1,188,917 from the National Institutes of Health to explore the role of water in the function of elastin, an elastic fiber crucial to various vertebrate tissues.

Stacy Brenner-Moyer, assistant professor of chemistry, received \$471,000 from the National Institutes of Health to develop new chemical reactions that can be used in the synthesis of inexpensive and environmentally friendly medicines.

Ronald Eckhardt, professor of biology, received a grant totaling \$215,455 from the National Science Foundation to improve undergraduate student retention in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs in partnership with Kingsborough Community College.

Alexander Greer, professor of chemistry, received two grants totaling \$3,032,465 from the National Institutes of Health to fund development of a site-specific, fiber-optic-based device that has the potential to destroy tumor cells in areas inaccessible to even the most precise surgical methods.

Peter Lipke, professor of biology, received several National Institutes of Health grants totaling \$1,653,646 to fund research into cell adhesion proteins in fungal life cycles and pathogenesis, a key factor in fungi interaction with mammalian hosts.

Juergen Polle, professor of biology, received \$1,162,929 in funding from sources including the U.S. Air Force, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and the U.S. Department of Energy to investigate the potential for algae to produce a variety of commercially viable biofuels such as renewable gasoline, diesel or jet fuel.

Luis Quadri, professor of biology, received \$168,991 from the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in order to take formative steps in researching new antibiotics to combat pathogenic bacteria that may be used as agents of bioterrorism.

Theodore Raphan, professor of computer and information science, received \$81,702 from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine to test known hypotheses and provide new therapeutic approaches for reducing motion sickness sensitivity.

Laura Reigada, assistant professor of psychology, received \$270,000 from the Chron's and Colitis Foundation of America to develop and test cognitive-behavior strategies for adolescents suffering from inflammatory bowel disease.

Alfred Rosenberger, professor of anthropology and archaeology, received \$14,990 from the National Geographic Society to explore fossils in submerged caves of the Dominican Republic, which may give proof to an extinct Caribbean ecosystem that is virtually unknown.

Roberto Sanchez-Delgado, professor of chemistry, received \$1,246,580 from the National Institutes of Health to research ruthenium-based anti-malarial agents that would provide a promising alternative to commonly used drugs.

Anthony Sclafani, professor of psychology, received \$1,707,375 from the National Institutes of Health to examine the processes by which carbohydrates and fats stimulate eating and lead to preference for foods high in these nutrients.

Elizabeth Sklar, associate professor of computer and information science, received \$345,000 from the National Science Foundation to fund a year of research experiences for Brooklyn College undergraduates working in the field of robotics and multi-agent systems.

Barbara Studamire, assistant professor of biology, received \$406,330 from the National Institutes of Health in order to research benign retroviral-based gene-targeting vectors, which can contribute to the design of anti-HIV and other anti-retroviral drugs.



Photo: United Nations

Fighting for LIFE

Senior Elizabeth Cusick traveled to South Africa to find new hope for children living with HIV/AIDS

by Pat Willard

In 2009, 5.6 million people in South Africa were living with HIV/AIDS.

310,000 died.

18.9% of child-bearing women were affected.

27.4% of the nation’s infants — approximately 250,000 — were exposed.

333,000 children under the age of 15 were living with AIDS.

1.9 million children had been left orphaned.

These statistics are nothing new to Elizabeth Cusick.



(left) Staff and families at the KID CRU in Cape Town, South Africa. (right) Living conditions in townships surrounding Cape Town.

A student of Gerald Oppenheimer, one of the leading public health experts on HIV/AIDS in South Africa, Cusick understood the complexity of how an epidemic comes to grip a country. South Africa has the highest number of HIV/AIDS infections in the world, a fact that may be explained by its legacy of apartheid that continues to be seen in the economic and social disparities between the races. As she approached her junior year, Cusick had a strong desire to understand what role the country's history had played in the spread of the epidemic and the treatment of the most vulnerable populations in any healthcare system: women and children.

According to Oppenheimer, a professor of health and nutrition sciences, "Most people don't have an idea what public health is, how complex and necessary it is to our well-being, with its multi focus on such elements as nutrition, populations and a country's government."

Cusick became interested in public health during her sophomore year after taking her first class with Oppenheimer. The subject intrigued her because of its all-encompassing view of health.

"Medicine looks at the end results and tries to figure a result back from the end. Public health considers the root causes by taking in the whole spectrum of a person's life, including environment, living conditions, hereditary issues and lifestyle, to help explain and eradicate a disease," she said.

By her junior year, Cusick was exploring potential opportunities to travel to South Africa and participate in research. She applied to several programs, but with Oppenheimer's help she was put in touch with the clinic at Tygerberg Children's Hospital, which he reported on in his latest book, *Shattered Dreams?*, co-authored with Ronald Bayer. Tygerberg is a large, public hospital in Cape Town that serves the city's townships. Its clinic, the Children's Infectious Diseases Clinic Research Unit (KID CRU), offers treatment for communicable diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV.

"There hasn't been this kind of layered research, not even in a developed country..."

The clinic was established in August 2002 when it became clear the care offered to the local township residents was far below that of the white population in Cape Town. By the time Cusick began to work at the clinic there were eight trial studies underway, all of them an outgrowth of a large study conducted six years earlier to investigate whether anti-retroviral treatment administered at birth was more effective than that given after a child showed symptoms. Its ongoing research into better methods of treatment and care made the clinic an ideal fit for Cusick.

As the trip began to take shape, she applied for funding through a new fellowship program established by the Brooklyn College Foundation with funding from Florence Cohen Rosen '59.

One of nine students to receive an award during the program's inaugural year, Cusick left for Cape Town in early June.

Before Cusick arrived at the clinic, Dr. Barbara Laughton, a pediatric neurologist, and Dr. Mark Cotton, a pediatrician and the principal investigator at the clinic, had begun conducting a study that looked at the correlation between head size and developmental growth in children with

HIV/AIDS. They had noticed an abnormal head growth pattern among the young patients, but no one at the unit had systematically studied why it occurred. The doctors asked Cusick to conduct a study that would clinically describe head growth patterns.

Most of the children Cusick studied were the infants of women who came into the hospital to give birth. Others were referred by other clinics or from the surrounding communities. Many of the women were willing for their children to participate in the clinic's research because they saw it as an opportunity to receive extra support with their illnesses and their children's. They also thought it might help them to be seen by specialists in the field.

Based on her studies in the areas of nutrition and public health, Cusick considered not only the role HIV played in the children's health but also that of poor nutrition and living standards. In order



to learn more about how the people who came to the hospital lived, she traveled with doctors to the clinics run by KID CRU in surrounding townships. She visited people's homes, saw where the children played and slept, and learned how a mother tended her family with the little she had.

Invariably, the women participating in the study could not provide their children anywhere near the 4,000 calories required each day. In most cases, the children were lucky to get less than half that amount. In recent years, the government has worked to improve conditions by ensuring mothers receive a year's worth of formula. But the supply is often limited, and, Cusick discovered, the mothers often dilute the formula with breast milk or water of questionable sanitation.

Her individual contribution to the clinic's research had much to do with her public health training, which causes her to consider factors beyond those directly related to the disease. She quickly became involved with the clinic's community advisory board comprised of volunteers from the surrounding townships. The board's role is to help inform researchers about how the community might receive their studies and what impact, if any, it would have on the residents.

"When I arrived at the clinic, I noticed that patients would spend hours in the waiting room. I took it as an opportunity to turn the room into an intervention opportunity by creating a stimulating environment for the children," she said. "We developed workshops to support specific child development, such as language, reading and motor skills. We encouraged the mothers to become engaged in their children's workshops. Before I left, I trained women from the community advisory board to continue the workshops. They report back that they're still going strong."

After she returned home, Cusick continued to work on the study, which eventually included about 500 children, roughly 175 in each group. The clinic continues to send her information in addition to that which she collected directly. Although the data are far from final, already she has identified a pattern that occurs among HIV-infected children but not in the control groups. According to her research, the head growth of HIV-infected children begins to decelerate around age 2 and continues to age 5, a critical period for brain development. Once all of the data are compiled and analyzed, she and the doctors will formulate a unique picture of how HIV/AIDS affects a child's development.

"There hasn't been this kind of layered research, not even in a developed country," Cusick said of her experience at the clinic. "It could reveal so much about how to treat a disease but, even more so, it can tell us a great deal about the people who need our help." ■

As it has for more than 80 years, Brooklyn College prepares students to become the next generation of leaders, and leaders for the 21st century must be knowledgeable of the global context in which we live.

Our student body, which reflects the diverse population our borough, speaks nearly 100 languages and represents 136 countries. It includes more than 500 international students on non-immigrant student visas studying a broad range of disciplines including business, the sciences and the arts. These students come from India, China, Russia and South Korea, from the African continent and Latin America. This alone offers all of our students an educational experience rich in global understanding.

But it is increasingly important that we provide our students with opportunities to study abroad, and it is equally important that our faculty are able to pursue research and scholarship overseas and bring these experiences back to the classroom.

Last fall, in an effort to expand and deepen international opportunities for students and faculty, we established the Office of International Education and Global Engagement. The office promotes international education to the entire campus community, helps students identify and prepare for study abroad programs, and establishes partnership agreements with institutions overseas.

The Brooklyn College Foundation also plays an important role in global engagement. Grants such as the Rosen Fellowships, which enabled Elizabeth Cusick to conduct her research in South Africa, and the Tow Undergraduate Travel Stipend provide students the funding necessary for study abroad. The foundation also provides funds for faculty to conduct research in other countries.

This year, more than 125 students from Brooklyn College will travel abroad for academic and co-curricular experiences. Some will volunteer, providing basic healthcare to underserved communities in Panama or working with orphans in India. Others will conduct hands-on research, such as excavating ancient sites on archaeological digs in Israel and Serbia. Still others will engage in more traditional classroom study at institutions from China to Italy to Argentina. And our faculty will expand their knowledge through research, scholarship and teaching in more than two dozen countries around the world. We expect all of these figures to grow over time.

Brooklyn College has a long-standing legacy of providing access to opportunity to students from all backgrounds, and in today's global world we are delivering an education that can be described in one word: borderless.



The

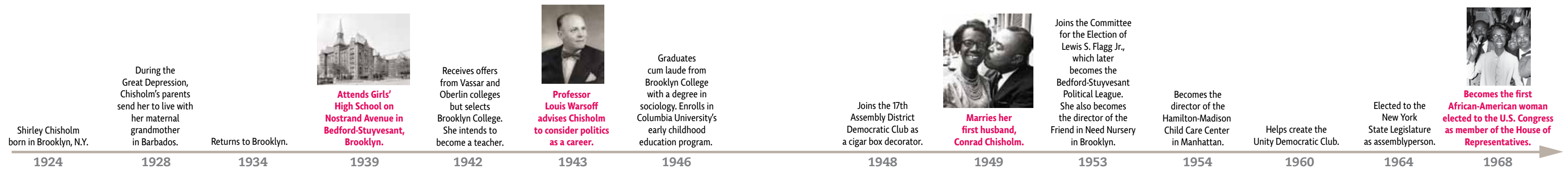
AUDACITY

of Shirley Chisholm

by Robert Jones Jr.

An African-American politician from the U.S. Congress, a graduate of Columbia University with a community activist background, decides to run for president. This politician — who galvanized an underestimated and underutilized population to participate in the political process like never before — is a child of immigrants and spent formative years abroad. The candidate faces opposition for being an aloof upstart who didn't allow more senior politicians to have their turn at bat. Bright, brash, hopeful and seeking to implement change in a broken democratic system, this politician endures criticism that veers from constructive differences in sociopolitical ideology into bigoted, sometimes violent territory. One might imagine that this is a fitting synopsis of President Barack Obama's campaign; that is correct. But it also describes another groundbreaking bid for the presidency: the 1972 campaign of Shirley Chisholm '46.

Chisholm's political awakening began in the 1930s at her parents' home, first in Brownsville, then in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Her father, Charles St. Hill, a follower of radical Jamaican separatist Marcus Garvey and a member of the Confectionery and Bakers International Union, would often engage his daughters in political discussions at the dinner table. Of his three daughters, it was Shirley who was most interested in his political opinions.



"I idolized my father. He was an omnivorous reader. Even during the depression, he always bought two or three newspapers a day," she said in her memoir, *Unbought & Unbossed*. "Much of the kitchen-table talk had to do with unions. Sometimes Papa would hold forth on his idol — hardly too strong a word — Marcus Garvey. When any organization had a Marcus Garvey tribute, he would dress up and go. Sometimes, he took me, and there I heard my first Black Nationalist oratory — talk of race pride and the need for unity, despite any difference, because, the speaker stressed, 'We have a common enemy.'"

It was not until the mid-1940s, however, that Chisholm began to develop a political consciousness outside of her home. She said that as a student at Brooklyn College, she was exposed to a great deal of activism. It was there that she began to pay closer attention to the social problems that affected her generation and benefited from participation in lively discussions with a community of like-minded individuals.

"There were more organizations and political activities than anyone could count," she said. "Many of them were politically oriented and most of these were ultra-progressive. There was one all-black student group, the Harriet Tubman Society. There, I first heard people other than my father talk about white oppression, black racial consciousness and black pride."

It was also at Brooklyn College that she became keenly aware of the complex challenges black people faced, not only from those who were openly racist toward them, but even from those individuals who thought of themselves as having the best of intentions.

"I belonged to the Political Science Society, which naturally thought itself progressive. Some of its speakers, I became aware, looked at my people as another breed, less human than they. Politicians came to talk and gave us such liberal sentiments as 'We've got to help the Negro because the Negro is limited,' or 'Of course, the Negro people have always been the laborers and will continue to be, so we've got to make it more comfortable for them.' It grew on me that we, black men especially, were expected to be subservient even in groups where ostensibly everyone was equal."

This observation made Chisholm angry at first, particularly in those situations where she felt that the black participant was clearly more intelligent and talented than the white one. She realized that much of the racism she saw was unconscious, simply part of the American pathology. Initially, she felt powerless against the onslaught. But soon, the people around her — including a blind political science professor named Louis Warsoff — began to convince her that maybe she was not as powerless as she felt.

"More and more people, white and black, began to tell me things like, 'Shirley, you have potential. You should do something with your life.' I felt they were right. There must be a role for me to play, but what?"

Initially, she thought the best way to serve would be to teach. "There was no other road open to a young black woman," she recalled. "Law, medicine, even nursing were too expensive, and few schools would admit black men, much less a woman." So she intended to major in education upon entering the college. However, once enrolled, she felt compelled to major in sociology and minor in Spanish, even though she fully intended to teach.

Soon after, she began volunteering at an Urban League settlement house where she taught free art, sewing, writing and stage play production classes.

"I decided to devote my life to children," she said. "But the resolve was also there (I did not realize yet how fierce it had grown)



(above) Shirley Chisholm became active in Bedford-Stuyvesant, the neighborhood where she grew up, shortly after graduating from Brooklyn College. (right) With a background in education, Chisholm knew the importance of young people to the future of our nation.

to do something about the way whites treated my people. Political action was hardly even a fantasy for me at that time. But I decided that if I ever had a chance, somehow I would tell the world how things were as I saw them."

She graduated from Brooklyn College in 1946 and went on to receive her master's degree in childhood education at Columbia University. But, she noted, the toughest part of her political education would not begin until she started participating in the political clubs in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood where she grew up. She wanted to participate in these clubs because she believed they had legitimate functions that would serve not only the children she wished to help but all of the residents in her community. The clubs often helped residents with legal services, housing, federal economic assistance and employment problems.

"During college, I had gone to a few club meetings when there was a speaker I wanted to hear. After the city councilman or



commissioner had finished, there was a question period. But hardly anyone ever asked any questions."

Chisholm rectified that by becoming one of the figures at those meetings who would routinely ask pointed questions.

"I asked councilmen why they hadn't delivered on their promises. Such questions were unwelcome, and after the meeting someone was likely to tell me so. I pretended innocence."

After a chance encounter with Brooklyn political activist Wesley McD. Holder, who eventually became her mentor, Chisholm's interest in politics grew, and she attended political club meetings more regularly, volunteering to participate on one of the committees in the Bedford-Stuyvesant Political League. She did all of this while teaching during the day and attending graduate

courses at night. Finally, she managed to be elected third vice president. The problem, she admitted, was that she refused to "behave."

"I kept bringing questions back to the club meetings, and began to harass the speakers systematically."

Unable to control her actions and feeling increasingly embarrassed and shamed by her questions, the league eventually fired Chisholm from her position. But that did not prevent her from attending the meetings or asking questions. She did say that the experience taught her a great deal and prepared her for how the American political system functions at large.

"Political organizations are formed to keep the powerful in power. Their first rule is 'Don't rock the boat.' If someone makes trouble and you can get him, do it. If you can't get him, bring him in. Give him some of the action; let him have a taste of power. Power is all anyone wants and if he has a promise of it as a reward for being good, he'll be good. Anyone who does not play by those rules is incomprehensible to most politicians."

When she finally decided to run for public office, she became the first African-American woman elected to the state legislature in New York. Her bid was not without its opposition. As a black woman, Chisholm faced discrimination on the basis of both her race and her sex. This meant that she often found herself at odds with those who would, under other circumstances, be considered her allies; the African-American civil rights movement, for instance,

"Did you get your husband's breakfast this morning? Did you straighten up your house? What are you doing running for office? I understood too well black men's reasons for lashing out at black women."

Chisholm felt that these men were largely defining their masculinity in the same manner as their white oppressors: by their ability to control and dominate others, especially if those others were women. Despite her qualifications, they could not accept her running for a position traditionally occupied by men. Famed academic, attorney and author Anita Hill discussed this during the 2011 Shirley Chisholm Day event at Brooklyn College, titled "The Value of Belonging: Reimagining Equality in the 21st Century."

She spoke eloquently of the kind of challenges Chisholm faced. "Discomfort moves us forward. There were people who were uncomfortable when Mrs. Chisholm declared that she was going to be running for presidency. Some people thought she should cede that role to someone more 'established,' one of the more professional politicians. Or that she should cede that role to an African-American man because they are 'much more astute about politics.' The beauty of her experience was that, as she said, she was 'unbought.' I would like to also say that she was unbossed. She did not allow those detractors to deter her."



Undeterred, Chisholm continued to gain momentum, and in 1968, she ran as the Democratic candidate for New York’s 12th congressional district. During the campaign, she used the sexism she faced to her advantage.

“Women are a majority of the population, but they are not treated like the majority group,” she said. “My campaign manger studied the voter rolls and found that for each man registered in the district there were 2.5 women. It was not my original strategy to organize woman power to elect me; it was forced on me by the time, place and circumstances.”

She won the election, tellingly, by a margin of 2.5 to 1.

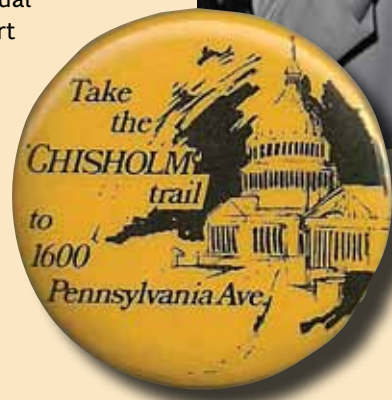
As a member of the U.S. Congress, Chisholm maintained her characteristic critical thinking skills, honesty and outspoken manner, even when what she said might have put her at a political disadvantage. She was not above reaching across the aisle to engage and find common ground. But she called politics, as practiced in the United States, “a beautiful fraud that has been imposed on people for years,” and she was very vocal about what she considered the dangers of government inertia: backroom deals; corporate interests; interference with a woman’s right to choose, even before the *Roe v. Wade* decision; the prison industrial complex; unjust wars — the Vietnam War was in full swing at the time; civil rights erosion; and America’s seeming unwillingness to live up to its democratic and equalitarian creeds. On that final point, she believed it was particularly important to engage young people. She admired their idealism and spent a great deal of time touring college campuses.

“Most young people are not yet revolutionary, but politicians and police and other persons in power almost seem to be conspiring to turn them into revolutionaries. Like me, I think, most of them are no more revolutionary than the founders of this country. Their goals are the same — to insure individual liberty and equality of opportunity, and forever thwart the tyrannous tendencies of government, which inevitably arise from the arrogance and isolation of men who are securely in power. All they want, if it were not too unfashionable for them to say so, is for the American dream to come true, at least in its less materialistic aspects.”

Some of Chisholm’s colleagues regarded her as aloof, which many political analysts, particularly those in the black and liberal communities, believe to be a veiled euphemism for “uppity,” a term historically used by whites to describe African Americans who refuse to be subordinate. Chisholm addressed the critique directly and even managed to offend a few folks.

“Quite a few people think I’m aloof and antisocial. Actually I’m gregarious, but I am selective about whom I want to be with. The cocktail and dinner party circuit is mostly made up of hangers-on, dealers and self-promoters. The people who really do things are not party people. They have too little free time to spend it at parties listening to people who are glassy eyed with alcohol and making little sense.”

When she announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for president during the 1972 election season, she knew well how the political game was played but refused to play by rules she believed worked to the detriment of American citizens. “I had



Chisholm was first sworn into national office in 1969. She would serve for 14 years as the representative of New York’s 12th congressional district.

watched the rotten political system that stands in the way of change because its operators are beneficiaries of the status quo.”

“I stand before you today as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for presidency of the United States,” she said when she announced her bid. “I am not the candidate of black America, although I am black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women’s movement of this country, although I am a woman and equally proud of that. I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interests. I am the candidate of the people.”

Chisholm’s critics were determined, however, and did not shy away from taking personal jabs at her when they lacked other means to attack her.

“I remember how her looks became a major talking point of her detractors,” remembers Jacqueline Williams, associate dean of student affairs. “Her keenly African features — especially her dark skin — offended a great number of them, and they made it known.”

She also faced the prospect of losing, another talking point of her critics. Unfortunately, in this case, her critics were correct. Chisholm made it to the Democratic convention floor but did not secure enough delegates to have her name placed on the ballot. But she remained realistic not only about her bid, but her reasons for it.

“I hope people are politically sophisticated enough to be aware of the fact that my candidacy is not to be regarded as a candidacy in which I can win the presidency of this country at the moment, but a candidacy that is paving the way for people of other ethnic groups, including blacks, to run and perhaps win the office.”

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Chisholm’s presidential campaign. It was commemorated by “Be a Catalyst for Change: Shirley Chisholm’s Lifelong Legacy,” a conference held at Brooklyn College on March 29 that featured a host of noted luminaries, scholars and Chisholm admirers and beneficiaries, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee; Shola Lynch, director of the Shirley Chisholm documentary, *Chisholm ’72: Unbought and Unbossed*; and MSNBC political analyst and columnist for the *Nation*, Melissa Harris-Perry.

This is also the year that America will decide whether or not to re-elect its first African-American president. And yet, despite all of the obvious similarities, it is rare that political commentators — including those closest to the president — view Chisholm as the natural antecedent to Obama. When asked why she believes more is not made of the obvious political lineage between the two, Barbara Winslow, associate professor of education, had much to say.

“Part of it is because black women’s lives are more easily erased than even those of white women,” she said. Another reason, she believes, is that “once dangerous social justice heroes die, after a certain period of time, they are sanitized.”

Focusing on connections between Martin Luther King Jr. and Obama, like many political pundits, rather than those between Obama and Chisholm, makes it a “simple narrative,” Winslow continued, for a variety of reasons, including the fact that both King and Obama are men. “Chisholm complicates the narrative: She’s from the north; she is an ‘immigrant’; she’s a bossy, feisty, working-class woman who actually admires, I’m going to argue, Malcolm X more than King.”

Winslow plans to remedy the omissions, however, when she completes her Chisholm biography for the Lives of American Women series tentatively titled *Here Comes Fighting Shirley Chisholm: Urban Liberalism, Feminism and the Black Freedom Struggle*. “Everyone I’ve interviewed who worked with Chisholm said that her campaign reminds them of the Obama campaign,” Winslow noted.

Chisholm herself did not want the spectacle of being the first African-American woman and first black candidate for any major political party to run for president to overshadow her very serious reasons for running.

“I want history to remember me not just as the first black woman to be elected to Congress, not as the first black woman to have made a bid for the presidency of the United States, but as a black woman who lived in the 20th century and dared to be herself. I want to be remembered as a catalyst for change in America.”

Her words echo through the ages and are recalled with each step forward the nation takes. They demand, particularly now, that the country’s representatives live up to its promise and make real the possibility of a nation that embraces all of its citizens as equals. **B**

For more on Shirley Chisholm, her connection to Brooklyn College and her legacy, visit www.chisholmproject.com.



The Race for Alternative Energy

by Ernesto Mora

Energy is in high demand. With powerful economies like China, India and Brazil emerging around the world, finite resources are being depleted at an increasing rate. At Brooklyn College, scientists are searching for solutions.

Sustainability means different things to different people. While there is no universally accepted definition of the term, the meaning most often cited comes from the World Commission on Environment and Development, an initiative of the United Nations during the 1980s. According to the commission, the purpose of sustainability is "...to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

The concept of sustainability tends to be confused with social movements such as environmentalism, a distinction many scientists are quick to point out. In fact, sustainability is, quite simply, an effort to manage the earth's finite resources in a responsible manner that protects our planet and all of its species, including us.

In the United States, much has been done during the last half-century to protect our air, improve our water and identify cleaner sources of energy. But the increasing level of fuel emissions is raising the earth's temperature at an unsustainable pace. Climate change, scientists know, has been a growing threat since the dawn of the industrial era.

"We are pumping more carbon dioxide (CO_2) into the atmosphere than nature can absorb and process," warned Constantin Cranganu, professor of earth and environmental sciences.

Several members of the faculty from our School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, including Cranganu, are actively engaged in research designed to address the depletion of energy resources. Some are working to improve existing fossil fuels, others are identifying methods to access cleaner fossil fuels, and still others are developing alternative energy sources with zero emissions.

Cleaning Heavy Petroleum

While many scientists are seeking new forms of clean, renewable energy, research into cleaner ways of using existing fuels is equally important. Roberto Sánchez-Delgado, professor of chemistry, is exploring methods to reduce emissions from the fossil fuels that currently provide the vast majority of energy.

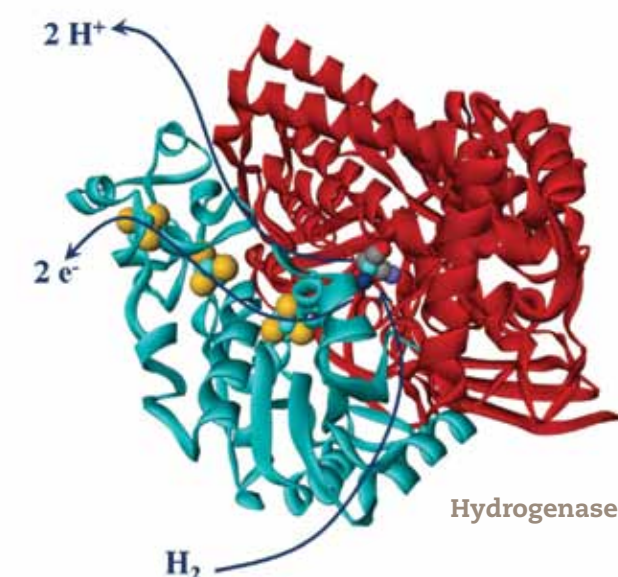
Hydrogenase is an enzyme that can catalyze the reaction of organic molecules with hydrogen in order to saturate them. First discovered in the 1930s, these enzymes play a key role in metabolism that is now being replicated by scientists, including Sánchez-Delgado, to design cleaner gasoline and diesel fuel.

"The petroleum fields seem to have peaked, and the industry is extracting heavier hydrocarbons than in the past," said Sánchez-Delgado. Until we find alternative fuels to replace hydrocarbons, or fossil fuels, we will not only continue to release carbon dioxide

into the planet's atmosphere but also a higher volume of a family of well-known carcinogens called aromatic compounds, which are very stable and don't react easily or burn well. Present-day technology used in refineries cannot fully eliminate the aromatic compounds from gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

"Some of these aromatic molecules contain nitrogen or sulfur. When they are burned in an engine, they release sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides," he explained. "When they go into the atmosphere, they come back as acid rain."

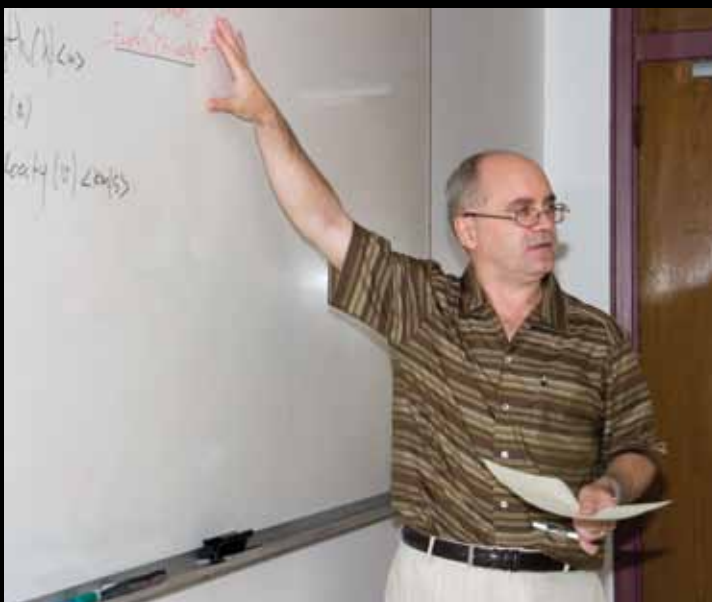
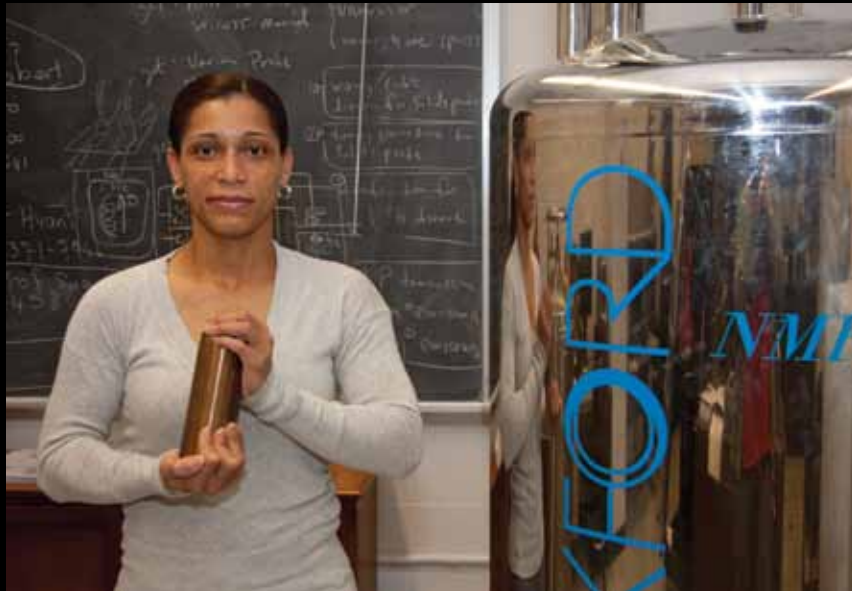
Sánchez-Delgado plans to mimic the hydrogenase enzyme using chemical catalysts to break up the aromatic compounds, particularly those containing nitrogen and sulfur, with hydrogen, a reaction that will allow them to be extracted as hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) and ammonia (NH_3). Both are subsequently used to manufacture useful chemicals.



One challenge, however, is that hydrogen molecules aren't naturally inclined to bond and react, so scientists must break them into atoms or charged ions. Even then, neither sulfur nor nitrogen aromatics are willing to accept the hydrogen. No scientist has found the catalyst that will completely remove these two carcinogenic compounds by reaction with hydrogen.

"In other words, we need a catalyst that can perform not one, but two functions," said Sánchez-Delgado. "It must activate the hydrogen molecules and activate the aromatic compounds in order to make them take the hydrogen molecule."

Even then, sometimes the sulfur- and nitrogen-containing molecules bind so strongly that they kill the catalyst. "It's called



(clockwise from top left) Juergen Polle, Sophia Suarez, Roberto Sánchez-Delgado, Constantin Cranganu, Mark Kobrak.

‘catalyst poisoning,’ a common occurrence when you work with fuels. What we need is a catalyst that is stable enough to exist but unstable enough to hydrogenate the aromatics in a cyclic manner.”

The professor is now trying modified carbon nano-tubes as supports, never before used for hydrogenation. It will allow, the theory goes, greater exposure of the metal used in the catalyst.

“It’s cheap and resistant, and you can place metallic particles on it. We are trying to increase its alkalinity or its acidity in order to promote the formation of hydrogen ions and avoid the poisoning. It worked well for ruthenium, rhodium and palladium, with different levels of efficacy.”

Sequestering CO₂

Professor Cranganu, a Romanian geologist who has been with the college since 2001, is exploring two potential means of improving our energy future. One is to store CO₂ in a safe manner, called geological sequestration and the other to extract gas hydrates from the ocean floor without harming the environment.

Although CO₂ occurs naturally, Cranganu is concerned that emissions from fossil fuels are pushing the natural level over the edge. Geological sequestration starts by removing CO₂ from the biggest producers, such as power plants or cement facilities.

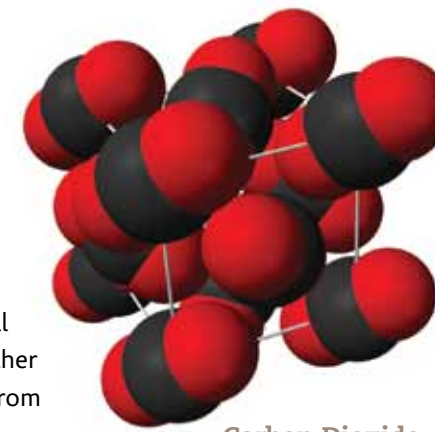
“We have the scrubbing technology to do just that,” said Cranganu. “Using high-pressure reactors, you convert the gas to liquid, put it into tanks, and store it underground.”

Underground storage of CO₂ is not a novelty, but Cranganu’s proposal suggests using depleted natural gas or oil deposits to inject CO₂ through the existing pipes and then sealing it, simply replacing the gas previously stored there. It wouldn’t affect the water we drink, which occurs at shallower depths.

“They are deep enough to be stored safely for the next 1,000 years,” he said, which the U.S. Department of Energy considers standard.

Unlocking Gas from the Ocean Floor

A graduate of the University of Bucharest, Cranganu knows a great deal about energy dependence. Except for Britain and Norway, no European nation has oil to be harvested. However, it wasn’t until he went to the University of Oklahoma, where he obtained his second Ph.D. in 1997, that he heard about gas hydrates.



Carbon Dioxide

First discovered in Siberia in the mid 1970s, and then in Alaska and northern Canada, gas hydrates are methane gas trapped inside cages of frozen water molecules as a result of very low temperatures and high pressure.

“It’s methane that has become as solid as a rock of ice. When it burns it releases natural gas at the same time it melts.”

Russia and Canada have such enormous oil and gas reserves that they don’t have an immediate need to exploit their gas hydrate deposits. Bigger gas hydrate deposits have been found in the ocean floor – in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific, off the shores of California and Oregon, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

For nations like Japan, China and India, whose expanding economies depend on oil supplies from the Middle East and Russia, this is a potential source of energy independence.

Cranganu has devised a method called “in situ thermal stimulation” performed by an apparatus he invented to extract hydrates from the ocean floor in a commercially viable way.

“This apparatus,” for which he holds a patent, “will produce a localized heat to melt the hydrates while at the same time it controls the pressure to avoid any explosion and thus, collect the gas safely.”

Big energy corporations have been looking into using this technology, but thus far have concluded it is still more expensive than exploiting the Canadian tar sands or extracting gas from the Marcellus Shale that extends all along the Appalachian states.

However, compared to coal and oil, methane produces smaller amounts of CO₂. Using methanol to power vehicles, as they do in Brazil, could help slow down global warming until other forms of energy are made viable. It produces smaller amounts of CO₂ than coal and oil.

“Imagine this, a nearly pure gas hydrate rock — which looks as white as ice — can contain 160 times more gas than its actual volume. One cubic foot of the solid can create, by decomposition, 160 cubic feet of gas.”



Gas hydrates are methane gas trapped inside cages of frozen water molecules.



Scientists are exploring microalgae as a potential source of clean biofuel.

Energy from the Swamp

As organisms normally associated with the green growth in swamps, algae certainly are not something you would think to put in your gas tank.

“They look like simple organisms, but they are highly complex,” said Juergen Polle, professor of biology, who has been studying algae for the better part of two decades.

Algae date back nearly three billion years. Like plants, they are photoautotrophic, meaning that from inorganic material and light they can produce complex organic compounds, such as fats or oil, to feed themselves.

Polle’s research, which today is funded by a \$1-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that he shares with Sánchez Delgado along with \$800,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy as a member of the collaborative National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts (NAABB), seeks to identify those species of algae that yield more oil at a minimum cost. As a member of the NAABB, Polle is quick to clarify that there are multiple levels of teams within the consortium. In addition to the algae biology team to which he belongs, there are cultivation, harvesting and extraction, fuel conversion and sustainability teams.

“While I do a bit of cultivation at the one-gallon level, the consortium’s cultivation team goes out and places the algae in big ponds or next to bio-reactors at 100-gallon levels and beyond.” He is trying to identify the most efficient strains to produce oil in different seasons.

There are three major approaches to growing algae: using light and CO₂ (photoautotroph); using light and organic molecules (photomixotroph); or using sugar and darkness (fermentation), which stimulates the algae to yield oil.

Since some of the algae he is investigating are fresh-water species, his research may pose yet another environmental problem. Water used to cultivate the algae will compete with agriculture and human consumption. “The sustainability team will have to look into those quandaries,” Polle said. “Maybe waste water can be used to do this.”

Because, like plants, algae can break down carbon dioxide, there are those who think placing algae farms close to a CO₂ source, like power plants, makes sense.

“That’s one model. Some colleagues of mine in Israel, for example, made a hole in a chimney and fed flue gas to the algae. But then you have to think about filtering systems in order to eliminate toxins or make sure that no heavy metal or mercury residuals go into the process.”

The Storage Conundrum

More than one civilization has waned because it exhausted its limited resources. A sustainable future requires not only the ability to renew resources, but also to avoid being wasteful. An efficient way of distributing and storing domestic energy has been an elusive goal.

Most modern power plants supply consumers’ demand for energy using a network of transmission lines connected across states to smaller, local networks that carry it to businesses and homes. Yet this 20th-century technology does not have storage capacity, making the system inefficient and wasteful.

“You have numbers of these large power facilities that sometimes sit idle and are only operational when demand peaks,” explained Sophia Suarez, assistant professor of physics. “If you could store energy, however generated, in flow batteries, you would significantly reduce the need for those plants.” Suarez is working to improve the electrolyte that conducts, or blocks, electrons in fuel cells.



Vanadium

A car’s battery, like a power plant, converts the chemical energy in a fluid into electrical energy, but it is also capable of storing that energy until it’s needed. Flow batteries operate following a similar principle, but instead of using hydrogen, like standard fuel cells, they use solvents that are rechargeable. Suarez is currently testing vanadium.

In addition to being expensive, however, batteries produce toxic waste and generate emissions, too, posing new dilemmas for energy storage. Although some small, locally operated wind power plants have supplied homes with special batteries to store excess electricity to be released later, this is not a practical solution that will work at a large scale.

“Consumers may be wary of having fuel cells or flow batteries in their homes,” Suarez cautioned.

Mark Kobrak, associate professor of chemistry, concurred. “The advantage of a flow battery is that it can be as large as you need it to be.”

Kobrak, who is currently doing research on the use of molten aluminum salts, thinks it is possible to design an aluminum-based battery with performance characteristics similar to those of lithium.

“Unlike lithium, aluminum is one of the most abundant elements in the earth’s crust,” he said, noting

“...flow batteries would make the power grid more efficient.”

that lithium batteries, also used in some hybrid vehicles, are a very expensive technology. Thus far, however, the aluminum battery’s life cycle is much lower than that of a lithium battery.

While Kobrak continues to work on a solution, he agrees with Suarez that having facilities with flow batteries would actually make the power grid more efficient.

“You plan for electricity generation at the peak usage of the power grid, and at night, as demand drops, you run your plant to generate excess power and do not release it until the next day. This ‘load-leveling’ would make a smarter use of the power grid.” **B**

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College Reorganizes Academic Programs AROUND AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

Four Schools Established, New Deans Hired

After two years of careful planning, the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year marked the onset of a new era at Brooklyn College as all of its 34 academic departments were organized into five schools representing areas of recognized excellence: business; education; humanities and social sciences; natural and behavioral sciences; and visual, media and performing arts. Of these five schools, only the School of Education existed previously.

"In an administrative sense, with 17,000 students and more than 500 full-time faculty, the college had simply grown too large and unwieldy," said William Tramontano, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "We were in need of a management model more closely aligned with national best practices." School deans, he noted, are better able to help the president and provost make informed decisions.

The college took a fiscally responsible approach to the academic reorganization. By streamlining operations in the Office of the Provost, distributing oversight of graduate programs and research to each of the schools, and reassigning existing staff, the schools were established without creating additional positions and with minimal investment of new funds.

The college conducted a national search for deans to lead each of the four new schools. The new deans, who bring a wealth of academic and administrative experience to their roles, join Deborah Shanley, dean of the School of Education since 1998. Community partnerships have been a hallmark of Dean Shanley's leadership, who views collaboration with the region's school systems and community organizations as essential to building strong degree programs in education. The School of Education is nationally recognized as one of the top 20 in the United States.

Formerly the dean of business at California State University, Chico, Willie Hopkins brings 30 years of experience in higher education along with strong industry credentials, including positions at IBM, General Dynamics and National Cash Register. Dean Hopkins has already started the School of Business on the path to gaining accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. It will be the only accredited business school in the borough.

Kimberley Phillips, dean of humanities and social sciences, comes to Brooklyn College from the College of William and Mary, where she served as dean of educational policy and, since 1996, as the Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Associate Professor of History and American Studies. Phillips has a distinguished record of scholarship as a historian of the African-American experience. A prominent lecturer, she has received fellowships and awards from Harvard University and Wellesley College, among others.

Kleanthis Psarris, who most recently served as chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, joined Brooklyn College as its first dean of natural and behavioral sciences. With an impressive record of leadership, research and scholarship over the past two decades, Psarris has delivered more than 40 presentations, published 70 articles and secured more than \$8 million in grant funding for research and infrastructure, including multiple awards from the National Science Foundation.

Maria Ann Conelli, an alumna from the class of 1980, has returned to her alma mater as dean of visual, media and performing arts. Most recently, she served as the executive director of the American Folk Art Museum in Manhattan. She has also worked as a dean of graduate studies and acting dean of art and design at the Fashion Institute of Technology and as a professor and department chair at Parsons School of Design. Conelli has a strong background in curriculum development, strategic planning, global partnerships, audience development and fundraising.

As the leaders of their respective schools, the deans will provide strategic vision and operational leadership to all aspects of the academic programs; create an environment that supports students and faculty; streamline pathways to graduation through a commitment to effective recruitment, retention and persistence; promote excellence and diversity in graduate and undergraduate programs; and advance the scholarly activities of the faculty.

The deans also will work closely with the Brooklyn College Foundation to attract external funding from federal agencies, corporations, foundations and individual donors to support the schools, fund new initiatives, complement the resources provided by the state and tuition revenues, and identify priorities and directions for future growth and innovation.

—R. Sheridan



SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Economics; Accounting; Finance and Business Management

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood and Art Education; Childhood, Bilingual and Special Education; Secondary Education; School Psychology, School Counseling, and Educational Leadership

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Africana Studies; Classics; English; History; Judaic Studies; Modern Languages and Literatures; Philosophy; Political Science; Puerto Rican and Latino Studies; Sociology; Speech Communication Arts and Sciences; Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Program

SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Anthropology and Archaeology; Biology; Chemistry; Computer and Information Science; Earth and Environmental Sciences; Health and Nutrition Sciences; Mathematics; Physical Education and Exercise Science; Physics; Psychology

SCHOOL OF VISUAL, MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS

Art; Music; Film; Television and Radio; Theater

Kimberley Phillips, dean of humanities and social sciences; **Deborah Shanley**, dean of education; **Willie Hopkins**, dean of business; **Maria Ann Conelli**, dean of visual, media and performing arts; and **Kleanthis Psarris**, dean of natural and behavioral sciences.

NOTABLE ALUMNUS ALAN DERSHOWITZ DONATES PAPERS TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE LIBRARY

Famed defense attorney Alan Dershowitz '59 returned to Brooklyn College last November for a ceremony to celebrate the unveiling of thousands of letters, case files, photos and other materials. The collection was compiled from nearly 1,000 boxes he donated to the library so that they could be made available to researchers and legal scholars. The Dershowitz papers, which were carefully cataloged and preserved, now comprise 1,841 document cases in the college's archives.

It took nearly a decade for a score of archivists to sort through and classify the renowned lawyer's papers and correspondence dealing with such high-profile clients as Claus von Bülow, Leona Helmsley, Mike Tyson and numerous others. Letters from such celebrities as John Lennon, Woody Allen and President Bill Clinton also appear in the archives. Documents covered by attorney-client privilege will remain private.

"Every aspect of my life grew out of what happened here," Dershowitz said, explaining why he chose to donate his papers to Brooklyn College instead of Yale, where he attended law school, or Harvard, where he has taught for four decades. "Without Brooklyn College there would be no papers."

At the November ceremony, Dershowitz said that in high school he had "about a 68 average," adding that he figured he'd be "selling shoes in downtown Brooklyn if not for Brooklyn College."

Jeffrey Toobin, the senior legal analyst for CNN and a legal reporter for the *New Yorker*, was on hand to share warm words about his former professor. Toobin studied at Harvard Law

School under Dershowitz with the likes of Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan; Jim Cramer, the anchor of CNBC's series *Mad Money*; and Elliot Spitzer, the former governor of New York.

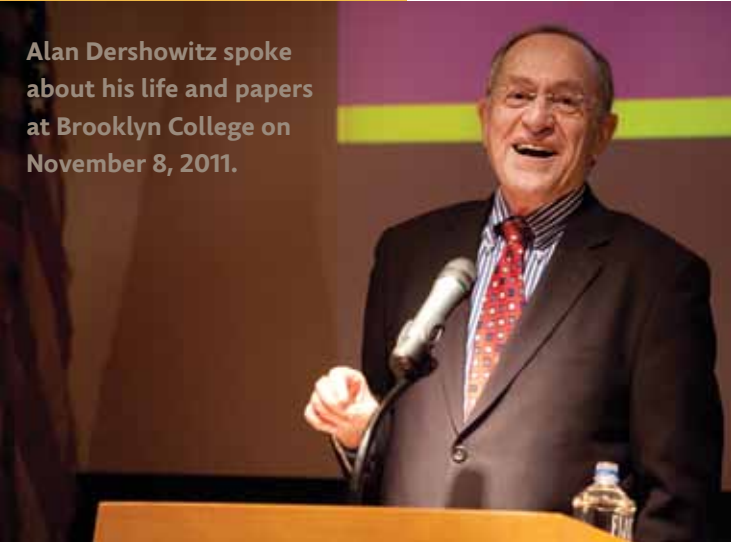
"He is still fighting like a lion for all his clients," said Toobin. "The world will treasure this window into his scholarship, advocacy and restless, restless mind."

In addition to his legal work, Dershowitz has also written several books, including *Reversal of Fortune: Inside the von Bülow Case*, which was the basis for the Academy Award-winning 1990 film of the same name.

The college's chief archivist, Anthony Cucchiara, was behind the acquisition of the prized papers. When Dershowitz phoned the library with a research question in 2001, Cucchiara asked, "Have you considered where you're going to deposit your papers?"

Dershowitz didn't need much prodding.

Among the papers donated to the college were materials from the 33 murder cases he defended, including the von Bülow trial. Also included were papers from work he did in the legal defense aimed at freeing Soviet dissidents Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sakharov, and First Amendment cases from the Pentagon Papers to WikiLeaks. —R. Sheridan



Alan Dershowitz spoke about his life and papers at Brooklyn College on November 8, 2011.



New Performing Arts Center On Track to Open in 2014



The Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts is quickly becoming a reality as demolition of Gershwin Theater begins and the project moves forward. Construction of the \$90 million facility was made possible by a generous \$10 million donation from Brooklyn natives Leonard '50 and Claire '52 Tow along with funding from other alumni and public sources.

The center, designed by Pfeiffer Partners Architects, will include rehearsal and performance space, set design and construction workshops, classrooms, ground-floor exhibition space, a double-height theater seating 225, a grand lobby surrounded by two-story windows, meeting and reception rooms, and a beautiful new entrance to the eastern end of the campus. The facility is also set to feature the latest tools of the trade, including a fully outfitted recording studio.

Engaging people from the communities surrounding Brooklyn College will be a cornerstone of the center's outreach program. "It will allow us to bridge two constituencies — our college community and our neighbors — and to invite more people in," said Maria Ann Conelli, dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts.

Besides providing rehearsal, production and performance space for the Conservatory of Music and the Department of Theater, the center will actively promote new works by engaging emerging playwrights, directors and composers, providing them an opportunity to premiere works.

Especially exciting is the multitude of functions the center will be able to provide for students and the community at large. "It's a multifaceted building. It could function as a reception space, a reading space, an art gallery... I would be very interested in having an opportunity to showcase what our BFA and MFA students are doing," said Conelli. "What I really love is that our students will have a home that is as beautiful and equal to the talents they bring to the college."

—M. Zhuravsky

The controlled demolition of Gershwin Hall will conclude by June 2012, paving the way for construction of the new performing arts center.

Foundation Acquires Property for Future College Development

Once home to Scranton & Lehigh Coal Company's towering storage facility and a large stable, the only remaining piece of property adjacent to our campus has been acquired by the Brooklyn College Foundation. The lot was purchased by the foundation for \$5.85 million in February 2011. Sold by a private equity company, the 25,000-square-foot triangular plot of land presents the possibility of nearly 75,000 square feet of new development when coupled with an adjacent site already owned by the college.

The purchase was made possible in part by Murray Koppelman '57, president and CEO of Manhattan-based Eastlake Securities, who donated \$2.5 million. The Brooklyn College Foundation then took the lead on the project, engaging in a two-year dialogue with the owners and providing the remainder of the sum via private donations. Speaking with the *Wall Street Journal*, Koppelman said, "This was a special opportunity to help the institution that continues to help students realize their full potential. I feel honored to be part of that mission."

Andrew Sillen '74, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the foundation, called the purchase "one of the most strategic contributions the Brooklyn College Foundation has ever made to the college."

Once developed, the property is likely to be home to the School of Business, which serves more than 3,000 students pursuing business-related majors. The school currently comprises 20% of the student body, but has access to only 1.5% of the assignable space on campus.



A home for the School of Business, among other college facilities, will be built on this property adjacent to the campus.

The site may also include college-related retail, student residences and other facilities. The college will engage in conversations with the campus community and neighbors as plans for the property take shape, but there's no question it will provide new facilities necessary to sustain the superior quality of a Brooklyn College education for current and future generations of students.

—M. Zhuravsky

College Partners with Steiner Studios for New Graduate Programs in Cinema

The largest studio complex on the East Coast will soon serve as home to the first public graduate cinema school in New York — and the only one in the United States seamlessly integrated into a working studio lot. Brooklyn College is on track to launch several graduate programs in cinema in 2014 at Steiner Studios, located at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Steiner has most recently served as production hub for the blockbuster sequel *Men In Black III*, the hit series *Boardwalk Empire*, and the Golden Globe-winning HBO miniseries *Mildred Pierce* starring Oscar winner Kate Winslet.

Complementing an undergraduate film program that is already robust, the graduate programs will provide master of fine arts degrees in cinematography, directing, production design, postproduction, musical scoring, screenwriting, producing, and visual effects and animation, culminating in the production of a thesis short film during a student's third year of graduate study. Master's degrees in entertainment industry management and cinema studies also will be available.

In sharp contrast to the ballooning cost of graduate film schools around the country, some of which exceed \$150,000, "we're trying to keep it under \$35,000 for in-state students," said Dan Gurskis, professor and chair of the Department of Film. Earlier

this year, Mayor Bloomberg announced that 2011 was New York's busiest year for film and television production. With over 188 films and more than 140 TV shows shot around the city, and no less than 100,000 New Yorkers working behind and in front of the camera, the Big Apple is quickly becoming a strong contender and alternative to Hollywood. Bolstered by marketing incentives and tax credits, the incoming productions contribute \$5 billion a year to New York's economy.

The graduate programs in cinema will also provide a compelling opportunity for international students to study at Brooklyn College. For example, having recently returned from a business trip to China, Gurskis believes there is "a lot of interest in having students from Chinese institutions come to Brooklyn to study during the summer. We would create curriculum for them to study with our faculty and collaborate with our students on projects."

Another possibility currently being explored is the establishment of a production company that would provide graduates with microfinancing to make feature-length films. "After the thesis year, students would get another six or eight months to work on something of their own," Gurskis said.

—M. Zhuravsky

Willie Hopkins is the founding dean of the School of Business, which was established in August 2011. Before coming to Brooklyn College, Dean Hopkins served as dean of business at California State University, Chico; dean of business and technology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and associate dean at Colorado State University. Throughout his 30 years of academic and administrative experience, Dean Hopkins has often advised students on their careers. “I’ve been on that path before, so it is very easy for me to advise students on what to do to advance their careers,” Dean Hopkins said when we sat down in his office in Boylan Hall. “That’s the fun part of the job.”

In the Q&A that follows, Dean Hopkins offers his advice for alumni looking to enter the workforce, explore a new career path or find work in today’s tight job market.



Q: How important are internships and work experience for recent graduates?

A: If you are a traditional college-age student and have just graduated, you most likely will not have any significant work experience in your field, so having some internships under your belt will be an important competitive factor during your job search. If you are a recent graduate and considering graduate school instead of landing your first real job, my advice to you is this: Don’t even think about it!

Q: Do you recommend unpaid internships?

A: Taking an unpaid internship can sometimes give the impression that you are desperate to get any type of work-related line on your resume. If you do take an unpaid internship, be sure it is the right type of internship — one that is related to your degree and the type of job you eventually would like to land, and take care that you are not being used.

Q: What is better, an unpaid internship in a big company or paid internship in a small company?

A: I don’t think it makes a difference. The whole idea of an internship — whether paid or unpaid, in a small company or a large company — is to get work experience for your resume. Any work experience that can give you a competitive edge is good to have.

Q: Most job postings require a cover letter. Are they important?

A: Cover letters are so seven seconds ago! Twitter and Facebook are the new cover letters. Many hiring authorities are using Facebook and other social media in place of reading a cover letter. It helps them see what else you’ve been doing and determine whether or not you might be a fit for their organization.

Q: Speaking of social media, do you think it is appropriate to use Facebook for professional networking?

A: Facebook is more for family and friends; LinkedIn is for professional networking. Facebook is not the most appropriate social media tool to use if you are seriously looking for a job. It opens too much of your personal life that might not be relevant to the job you’re trying to land.

Q: What is the best way for alumni to network professionally?

A: The best professional networking opportunities are face-to-face gatherings where people can talk and trade business cards. Professional networking via Internet tools is risky because many people don’t know how to communicate effectively using this medium. Of course, it’s virtually impossible to get around communicating electronically these days, but you do have to be careful.

Q: How can alumni find face-to-face networking opportunities that are relevant to their field?

A: I am a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the Academy of Management, the Decision Sciences Institute and a few other professional, business-oriented organizations. These organizations routinely apprise me of upcoming networking opportunities — in the form of conferences, social events, etc. — via email, newsletters or other types of publications. Professional organizations in most fields apprise their members of similar opportunities as well. So, being or becoming a member of professional organizations in a particular field is probably the best way for alumni to find face-to-face networking opportunities.

Q: Can you think of ways alumni can keep their skills fresh after they have graduated?

A: Taking refresher courses is one way to keep skills up to date. Many companies offer educational benefits that may cover tuition for such courses. There are also books available that focus on skill building in several professional fields. In addition to reading trade journals, academic journals related to their professional fields can also help to freshen up their skills. Academic journals often take different perspectives on the same kind of issues faced by their particular field; they can also present different solutions.

—*I. Rutkowski*

Q: Many employers value employees with leadership skills. How can these skills be gained or enhanced after graduation?

A: Observing and emulating leaders who demonstrate effective leadership skills is probably the best way. Reading books that focus on best practices in leadership is another way. Many of these books provide specific steps that can be taken to build effective leadership skills. One metric of an effective leader is how well he or she communicates. Being an effective communicator takes lots of practice. Looking for opportunities to speak publicly is a way to get the requisite practice. Professors are always looking for guest speakers, so coming back to campus to speak to students is another way of practicing communication skills.

Q: Is there a question that a candidate should never ask during a job interview?

A: Yes. You should never ask the interviewer, “What does your company do?”. You have to do your homework and be prepared. Know as much as you can about the company.

Q: Do you have any other advice for Brooklyn College alumni?

A: Yes. Remember your alma mater and, if you had good experience, come back and give back!

Mario Batali’s Restaurants

B&B Ristorante	Lupa
Babbo Ristorante e Enoteca	Manzo
Bar Jamon	Mozza2
Casa Mono	Osteria Mozz
Carnevino Italian Steakhouse	OTTO
Del Posto	Pizzeria Mozza
Eataly	Tarry Lodge
Esca	Tarry Market

THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS

It all began with a job post. “My dad sent me a link to the Batali job back in May,” said Drea Bernardi ’11, a recent Brooklyn College graduate. “They had this really splashy video with Mario talking about the position. It sounded perfect for me, but totally crazy to think I would have a chance.”

In the “splashy” video clip, world-renowned chef and restaurateur Mario Batali announced he was looking for the perfect media production coordinator — an individual who was “expert, relevant and hip.” This person, said Batali, had to think “not only out of the box, they need question its existence.” To aid in the search, Batali employed Monster.com, a popular global online job recruiter.

Within 55 days, the Batali post received over a million views; more than 50,000 people applied. With little hope that her dream job would crystallize into a career, Bernardi submitted her resume without a cover letter.

Two weeks later, she unexpectedly found herself chatting with Batali in the flesh. “I looked up and there he was texting in the street,” said Bernardi, who was on her way to catch a movie with her boyfriend, now fiancé, when she spotted Batali in the West Village. That same night, Bernardi wrote a cover letter and resubmitted her resume.

Fast forward two months, three rounds of interviews, 13 finalists and one “sizzle-reel,” and you may catch a glimpse of Bernardi whizzing past tables at OTTO Enoteca Pizzeria, located just a few blocks from Manhattan’s Washington Square Park. The din of clinking glasses, light conversation and dim lights are a familiar backdrop for Bernardi, a former waitress, but chart new terrain for her as Batali’s first media production coordinator.

“Going up to Mario Batali in the middle of the street — that encapsulates Drea,” said Brian Dunphy, one of Bernardi’s mentors and a lecturer in the Department of Television and Radio. “For her to have the audacity to say she was applying and have a pre-interview, that’s genius. That is using skills you learn just from living and parlaying them into a really cool job.”

For Bernardi, 33, “just living” meant bucking against tradition. She did not go to college straight from high school, pick up a few internships along the way, graduate and apply for a job.

Instead, she dropped out of San Francisco State University in 1997 and opted for a less traditional education in the arts at Dell’Arte International in San Francisco.

Bernardi stayed in San Francisco for a while, then moved to Europe, where she took “the free spirit thing to the 20th degree.” After getting a “life education,” she came back to the states hoping to continue her career as an actress, this time in New York City.



For a year, Bernardi waited tables and performed in plays, but she grew weary of the financial instability that comes with being an actress. “My friends who still were acting had trust funds, parents, husbands; I didn’t have any of those things. I had to pay my own bills.”

“Going up to Mario Batali in the middle of the street — that encapsulates Drea.”

After hearing praise from some friends about the CUNY BA, a university-wide program that allows you to mold your own major, Bernardi decided to enroll. In 2008, nearly a decade after she withdrew from San Francisco State, Bernardi found herself back in a traditional classroom.

For many, entering college a second time can be a scary thing, but for Bernardi, her age, marked by unique experiences, gave her an edge.

Miguel Macias, assistant professor

of television and radio, and another of Bernardi’s mentors, said it’s only natural for an older student to kick it into high gear when they re-enter school. “You feel the pressure to move a little faster than when you’re in your early 20s.”

In the end, the stigma that comes with being an older student only hampers one’s progress if they allow it to, attested Dunphy. “I always felt that her age — as long as it didn’t become a burden for her — would become an asset to everyone else.”

With today’s deflated economy, students have to strive more than ever to be marketable by advertising the intangible skills gained from experiences outside of the classroom, said Macias. “She is aware that in today’s job market you have to make yourself stand out from the rest.”

Despite Bernardi’s life experience, she credits Brooklyn College and its “very cool professors” for giving her the hard skills necessary to do the job.

“I took a digital media production class with Christopher Langer. That class is what I am doing now for work,” said Bernardi. “I learned Photoshop. I learned Final Cut Pro. I learned how to use a camera, and I actually shot a healthy cooking demo. I think that stood out for team Batali.”

—*N. Ramos Chapman*

ANTHONY CHAN

Two-sport athlete

Anthony Chan, a junior, has been a key member of both the men’s tennis and cross country teams during his time as a Bulldog. As a member of the cross-country team, Chan has shown himself to be one of the top runners in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC), medaling at numerous meets. But this past fall he accomplished a personal goal, running his first New York City Marathon with an impressive time of 3:15:54.

The marathon’s 26.2 miles are a far from the distances of CUNYAC meets, which are generally five miles long. Chan managed his own training for the marathon, supplementing the team’s rigorous training schedule with his own.

“My training consisted of a steady buildup of miles, long runs and interval training followed by three weeks of tapering,” said Chan of his workouts. “It was difficult to stick to a strict regimen and running schedule, but the training effects were amazing!”

Even though his time ranked him 89th among the 718 runners in his age group, the modest Chan was eager to improve on the result of his first marathon. “I wasn’t too ecstatic about my time. It definitely gives me plenty of room for improvement in 2012.”

Chan is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in economics. Named a CUNYAC scholar-athlete due to his stellar grade point average, Chan hopes to pursue graduate studies in medicine or business after completing his undergraduate education.

When asked if all of the miles he had to log interfered with his studies, Chan said, “My training hardly ever conflicted with my academics since I would do most of my workouts at the start of my day. When I was bogged down with exams, I found myself giving up a few workouts to focus on school.”

Chan’s older sister, Catherine, is a senior at Brooklyn College and a member of the swimming team. A member of the college’s competitive BA-MD program and student in the Macaulay Honors College, Catherine has set a high bar for success within the family.

“I am proud of Anthony’s accomplishment,” said Catherine of her younger brother. “He strives to excel and always follows through on his goals.”

When asked if the two had any sort of sibling rivalry, Anthony quickly denied the notion, saying, “Catherine and I are very close. I’ve always looked to my sister for her support and opinion. We’re only a year apart, so we have many similarities that tie the both of us together.”

The two are also similar in their ability to accomplish great feats. Catherine is among 10 female finalists for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award selected from more than 600 female scholar-athletes from around the country and one of eight CUNY students awarded a Jonas E. Salk Scholarship for 2012. She also won a CUNY-wide photo contest in the fall semester for a picture she took of the lily pond on Brooklyn College’s campus. Anthony is also an amateur photographer who is often seen taking pictures before cross-country meets.

Catherine will graduate this spring as Anthony continues his career as a Bulldog. When asked what he looks forward to most next cross-country season, he responded, “Definitely to improve and to be a supportive teammate; maybe even come in first place at a meet.”

—A. Lang



Bulldog
Anthony Chan
finishes the
2011 New
York City
Marathon

Freshman Named CUNYAC Player of the Year

Women’s Tennis Enjoys Most Successful Season in History

Led by the 2011 CUNYAC Player of the Year, freshman Yuliya Orkis, the women’s tennis team had its most successful season in history last fall, finishing with a 14-3 overall record, including an unblemished 8-0 mark in conference play to claim the regular season championship.

Entering the championships as the number one seed, Brooklyn College defeated #8 Lehman College (5-0) in the quarterfinals before downing #4 College of Staten Island (5-1) in the semifinals. The season ended in the championship final, where the Bulldogs lost to #2 seed Hunter College by a score of 5-1.

The highlight of the regular season came on October 6, when the Bulldogs ended Hunter’s incredible 103-match winning streak against conference opponents, defeating the Hawks 6-3.

Along with succeeding on the court, the Bulldogs also excelled in the classroom, as eight of the 10 members of the women’s tennis team accumulated a 3.4 GPA or higher. In her first semester of college coursework, Orkis earned a 4.0 GPA while registering a perfect 12-0 record playing at the number one singles spot and an 11-2 record at the number one doubles position.



Two Bulldogs Join Elite 18 in Men’s Basketball

John and Russell Score 1000th Points, Podias Earns 200th Victory

The 2011-12 men’s basketball season was one of milestones. Seniors Amil John and Tyshawyn Russell each surpassed the 1,000-point plateau for their careers and Head Coach Steve Podias earned his 200th career victory.

On December 8, John was the first to reach his personal milestone, becoming only the 17th player in the history of men’s basketball at Brooklyn College to surpass 1,000 points.

On being asked how he felt joining the elite 1,000-point club, John stated, “It felt great. I was able to accomplish one of my goals of being recognized as one of the few players in school history who scored 1,000 points.”

Russell wouldn’t have to wait much longer to join his backcourt teammate. He notched his 1,000th point just two games later on January 4.

“It felt good to score my 1,000th point because it officially means that I am among the 18 players whose names will forever be a part of Brooklyn College men’s basketball history,” said Russell.

After decades of hard work and teaching the game of basketball, Coach Podias joined an elite coaching club with his 200th career win after the Bulldogs defeated John Jay College (93-73) on January 25.

When asked about his proudest moments at Brooklyn College, which span 18 seasons, Coach P. responded, “Starting the program from scratch and evolving it into a first class program, which includes back-to-back CUNYAC Championships (2009 and 2010) and two straight NCAA Division III tournament appearances. My longevity with the program means a lot.”

—A. Ramos



2011-2012 CUNYAC ALL-STARS

Women’s Tennis

Player of the Year: Yuliya Orkis

Coach of the Year: Ahmad Odetalla

Sportsmanship Award: Norma Lynn Chabbott

All-Star (second team): Maria Sanz

All-Star (second team): Gianna Gelosi

Men’s Soccer

All-Star (first team): Brandon Sewnath

All-Star (second team): Miguel Veliz-Fitz

Women’s Volleyball

Sportsmanship Award: Kathy Chu

All-Star (first team): Caitlin McMullen

All-Star (second team): Jillian Escobar

Men’s Cross Country

Rookie of the Year: Benjamin Ireland

Sportsmanship Award: Patrick O’Leary-Gullo

Women’s Cross Country

Rookie of the Year: Eyesmin Yunus

Coach of the Year: Alex Lang

Sportsmanship Award: Deana Carrington

All-Star: Deana Carrington

Men’s Basketball

All-Star (second team): Amil John

All-Star (second team): Tyshawyn Russell

Women’s Basketball

All-Star (first team): Lauren Plagainos

All-Star (first team): Justine O’Callahan

Coach of the Year: Alex Lang

“The energy the team created last year really pushed us to go further than any women’s tennis team at Brooklyn College has gone before,” stated Orkis. “With all of the effort, commitment and desire to win burning in each of us, I know we can come out on top next year with a conference championship.”



Along with Orkis, sophomores Maria Sanz and Giana Gelosi also played major roles in the team’s success. Both were named to the 2011 CUNYAC All-Star Second Team. Head coach Ahmad Odetalla was also honored by his peers as the 2011 CUNYAC Coach of the Year.

“As great of a season as we had this past year, we missed out on being the conference champions. That remains our primary goal in the future,” said Coach Odetalla. “I truly believe we have all the pieces to make that championship run.”

The 2012 season looks to be just as exciting for the women’s tennis team as the Bulldogs are set to return eight of the 10 players from 2011.

—A. Ramos

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

Do you have news to share with the Brooklyn College community? Please send information to your class correspondent listed below. If your class has no correspondent, you may send items directly to alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu or Brooklyn College Magazine, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889.

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- 1961 David S. Herskowitz, 1175 Kildeer Court, Encinitas, CA 92024-1278, davidsh@sbcglobal.net
- 1962 Steven J. Nappen, 38 Troy Hills Road, Whippany, NJ 07981-1315
- 1963 Cliff Rosner, 111 Blue Willow Drive, Houston, TX 77042-1105
- 1964 Jay Orlikoff, 20 Beaverdale Lane, Stony Brook, NY 11790-2507, drjay@drjay.com
- 1965 Barbara Berman Leveene, 24 Jubilee Circle, Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

Shirley Gold Kramer ’37 is an adjunct professor of art education at Queens College.

Marion Isaacson Greenstone ’46 passed away in 2005, but the paintings discovered in the basement of her house in Carroll Gardens have become an influential collection in the modern art world. Her works drew crowds of arts lovers during the 54th Venice Biennale, one of the world’s most highly respected art exhibitions.

Lila Alpert Snow ’48 is still painting and hosting *The Art Scene* on Channel 16, which airs in Montgomery County, Md., at 9 p.m. on Mondays and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Janet Sider Kleinman ’53 published *Flirting With Disaster* with Brighton Publishing.

Ann Goldban Rabinowitz ’53 is the librettist for a new CD titled *Darkling* by Albany Records. The CD was culled from a shoebox full of old letters from her relatives who died in the Holocaust. She is also a recognized poet whose work was selected by the *Huffington Post* as one of the best poetry books of 2010.

Stan Fischler ’54, a sports columnist who has been covering the New York hockey scene for more than five decades, recently won two Emmy Awards in the categories of On-Camera Talent and Arts Programming. Fischler has five Emmy Awards.

Sandra Levy Ceren ’54 published *Stolen Secrets*, a mystery novel, with Modern History Press.

Alice Pesner Friman ’54 published *Viniculum: Poems* with Louisiana State University Press.

Eileen B. Kowal ’55 (a.k.a. e.b. kowal) published five books in her popular *Sara* series: *Sara and the Mysterious Glass Key*, *Sara and*

the Clue in the Roll-top Desk, *Sara and the Incredible Magic Time-Bubble*, *Sara’s Astonishing Time-travel Trouble* and *Sara and the Puzzling Ancient Secret*.

Dorothy Burncham ’57 was recognized by Senator Velmanette Montgomery (D-Brooklyn) during the reading of a senate resolution in the final days of the 2011 legislative session. Dorothy was lauded for her contributions to the public education system, civil rights and the promotion of racial and economic equality.

Morton Davis ’57 has been a Wall Street investment banker, entrepreneur and venture capitalist for the last four decades. He is currently chairman and sole owner of the D.H. Blair Investment Banking Corporation, which specializes in financing emerging growth companies. Davis is also a philanthropist who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Center for Autism Research and Education during an event on Capitol Hill.



Donald Kramer ’58, the CEO of ILS Capital Management Ltd. and chairman of the American Ballet Theater in New York, was recognized for his work in Bermuda with an honorable commendation on the Queen’s List. The award, given on December 31, 2011, honored Kramer for his work in the international insurance industry and for his contributions to Bermuda society. Kramer is chairman of the National Dance

Foundation of Bermuda, which gives scholarships, runs master classes and offers a summer intensive program with the American Ballet Theatre, and is co-chair of Bermuda First, a nonprofit think tank dedicated to preserving Bermuda’s economy and society.

Deena Metzger ’57 published *La Negra y Blanca* with Hand to Hand Publishing.

Richard Weintraub ’59, who retired from the Xerox Corporation, has been appointed chairman of the advisory board of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. As a Dodgers fan growing up

in Brooklyn, he has always been a baseball fanatic.

Fran Orenstein ’60 published *The Calling of the Flute* with Sleepytown Press.

Richard Polenberg ’60 retired from Cornell University, where he served on the history faculty for 45

- 1966 Felicia Friedland Weinberg, P.O. Box 449, Clarksburg, NJ 08510
- 1967 Sharon Weinschel Resen, 1740 Kimball Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304
- 1968 Eileen McGinn, 210 East 15th Street, Apt. 10N, New York, NY 10003-3927
- 1969 Edward M. Greenspan, emgreenspan@optonline.net
- 1970 Barry Silverman, 176 Stults Lane, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5815, writeone@comcast.net
- 1972 Stanley A. Alexander, 98B Charles River Road, Waltham, MA 02453
- 1973 Linda E. Gross Carroll, 212 Stony Point Drive, Sebastian, FL 32958, lcarroll32@comcast.net
- 1974 Diane Oeters Vaughn, 42 Briarwood Drive, Old Saybrook, CT 06475, dianeleslie29@hotmail.com
- 1975 Rubin Leitner, 138 East 96th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11212-3534
- 1976 Henry P. Feintuch, 50 Barnes Lane, Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425
- 1978 Susan A. Katz, 120 Pinewood Trail, Trumbull, CT 06611-3313
- 1979 Anthony Esposito, 211 Highway 35 N, Mantoloking, NJ 08738-1420
- 1981 Debbie Schiffer-Burke, debcolumn@aol.com
- 1982 Eileen Sherman Gruber, 69 Derby Avenue, Greenlawn, NY 11740-2130
- 1983 Michael Kosik, 866-327-5162, michael.kosik@morganstanleysmithbarney.com
- 1985 Peter Huertas, 5135 Fedora Drive, San Antonio, TX 78242-2427, alamodude2001@yahoo.com
- 1986 Ian Lee Brown, 111 HMS Fitzroy Drive, Unit 222, Hingham, MA 02043, ian.brown@erickson.com
- 1987 Eric Steinhardt, 915 East 7th Street, Apt. 1H, Brooklyn, NY 11230-2733
- 1988 Lauren Korn Popkoff, 951 Woodoak Drive, Baldwin Harbour, NY 11510-5023
- 1990 Beth Debra Kallman Werner, 105 Husson Road, Milford, PA 18337-7156
- 1991 Tami Sheheri, 140 Cadman Plaza West, #14E, Brooklyn, NY 11201, tami.sheheri@gmail.com
- 1993 Sarah Battaglia, P.O. Box 882, Miller Place, NY 11764, millerplacesb@yahoo.com
- 1994 Ilene Berkowitz, 1575 46th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219-2726
- 1995 Nathan Solat, 2793 Lee Place, Bellmore, NY 11710-5003
- 1996 Anthony Vitale, 1742 Gildersleeve Street, Merrick, NY 11566-2504
- 1999 David Moskowitz, 2327 East 18th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229-4416
- 2001 Tatesha Bennett Clark, 540 East 82nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236-3119
- 2004 Yael Abraham Fogel, 570 Ocean Pkwy, Apt. 5C, Brooklyn, NY 11218, yct.fogel@gmail.com
- 2007 Ezra N. Rich, 588 West End Avenue, Apt 1B, New York, NY 10024-1766, ezrarich@gmail.com
- 2008 Stefanie Low, 3-A Putnam Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542, stefanielow@yahoo.com
- 2009 Steven Juskowicz, 1485 East 32th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403, sjuskowicz@gmail.com

Kramer founded Tempest Re in 1993 and subsequently merged it with ACE Limited, where he became vice-chairman until his retirement in 2005. Currently, ACE Tempest Re is one of the largest reinsurers in the world and ACE, with nearly \$20 billion in market capitalization, is one of the world’s largest and most successful global insurance companies. Following his retirement from ACE, Kramer started Ariel Re with one billion dollars. It has since earned more than one billion dollars and has returned about \$750 million to its original investors.

In 2010, Kramer stepped down as chairman of Ariel Re and, in 2011, started ILS Capital Management in the United States. Kramer earned an MBA from New York University and a BA in economics and honorary doctorate in humanities from Brooklyn College. He has been a trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation for more than two decades.

years and taught more than 25,000 students. “My approach to teaching lecture courses was to address how these broad issues affected real people,” he said in the interview for the *Cornell Chronicle* after his last lecture on December 1, 2011.

Martin Abramowitz ’61 was featured in a documentary for his

role as president of Jewish Major Leaguers Inc., a Boston-based not-for-profit organization with a mission to “document American Jews in America’s Game.”

Muriel Feldshuh ’62 recently had an exhibit celebrating children’s books at the Mississippi Children’s Museum. Muriel is an advisor to

the Books for Kids Foundation and a member of the National Storytelling Network, the Author’s Guild and many other professional organizations.

Lenny Silverberg ’62 collaborated with **Steve Kowit ’64** to publish *Crossing Borders* with Spuyten Duyvil Press. The book, which was featured in an exhibition at the Brooklyn College Library, includes poetry by Kowit and drawings and watercolors by Silverberg.

Jay Feldman ’63 published *Manufacturing Hysteria: A History of Scapegoating, Surveillance, and Secrecy in Modern America*.

Roberta Johnson ’63 has retired from the University of San Francisco. She continues to write and lecture. Her most recent activities include a presentation on Obama and China in Chengdu, China; publication of an essay; and a chapter on homeless Black Americans in the *International Encyclopedia of Housing and Homes*.



Because of **Dr. Harvey J. Cohen ’61**, older people with cancer are able to live longer with a higher quality of

life. Cohen has played an important role in establishing the discipline of geriatric oncology — a field in medical oncology dedicated to the elderly population. His research about improvements in the management of older patients to enhance their cancer treatment led to Cohen’s recognition as one of the world’s leading experts in geriatric oncology.

“Older people have great stories to tell,” he said. “I enjoy getting to know them as individuals.”

Cohen predicts that demographic trends will eventually lead to providing training in geriatric medicine to physicians in all the medical disciplines.

Cohen earned a bachelor’s degree from Brooklyn College and a medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical College. He completed an internship, residency and hematology-oncology fellowship at Duke University, where he helped to establish Duke’s Division of Geriatrics in the 1970s. Cohen currently directs the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development. He also has received a number of distinguished medical awards, among them the B.J. Kennedy Award, the Lecture for Scientific Excellence in Geriatric Oncology by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Paul Calabresi Award.

Dear Alumni,



Hollywood has the Academy Awards, Broadway has the Tonys and here at Brooklyn College we have the Alumni Honors Awards. Each year, the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) recognizes and honors alumni who have excelled in their varied fields of endeavor. At a gala event on October 27, the honorees entered on our own red carpet and delivered acceptance speeches that reflected the influence of their Brooklyn College education. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of our activities and awards committees, who put a great deal of effort into selecting the honorees and planning this event.

On March 1, the BCAA hosted its Sixth Annual Wine Tasting and Galleries Open House in DUMBO. Many alumni enjoyed the event with good friends, fine wine and high art. For those not familiar with DUMBO, it stands for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass. The neighborhood's Civil War-era warehouses are now high-end condos and art galleries.

On May 31, the class of 1962 will celebrate its 50th reunion. Many will march in the procession at graduation wearing the traditional gold caps and gowns. Among the class of 1962 are Senator Barbara Boxer of California; Edwin Cohen and Bernard Garil, trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation; New York State Assembly Members Rhoda Jacobs and Joan Millman; WOR radio personality Shelly Strickler; educator, entertainer and lecturer Lawrence Strickler; Ella Weiss, director of the Brooklyn Arts Council; award-winning film, television and stage director Joel Zwick, and many more.

I invite you to join us for the annual meeting of the BCAA on May 24. Several student awards will be presented, and I will give the State of the Alumni Association address. If you have escaped our radar, we would love to know where you are and what you've been up to. Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu or 718.951.5065.

Ron Schweiger

Ron Schweiger, President
Brooklyn College Alumni Association

Letty Aronson '64, a film producer and sister of 23-time Academy Award nominee Woody Allen, received her first Oscar nomination for Best Picture for *Midnight in Paris*, which has earned more than \$56 million since its release last June.

Edward Brodow '65 is the world's top spokesman on the art of negotiation. He has appeared as a negotiating expert on PBS, ABC National News, Fox News, *Inside Edition* and *Fortune Business Report*. He also has 20 years of experience negotiating for various corporations, among them Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, AT&T, Starbucks, Philip Morris, Johnson & Johnson and the Pentagon.

Hal Alpert '66 has been selected as vice chairman of the taxation and government finance committee for the California Association of Realtors, which has a membership of over 140,000 active members and is a part of the National Association of Realtors.

Edward Baron Turk '67 published *French Theatre Today: The View from New York, Paris, and Avignon* with the University of Iowa Press.

Rona Shaw '67 was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Visual Impairments for her exemplary leadership in the field.

Dr. Stuart Brink '68, senior endocrinologist at the New England Diabetes & Endocrinology Center, recently received the Lestrade Award from the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes at its annual scientific meeting held in Miami Beach, Fla.

Robert N. Friedland '70 published *Faded Love* with China's New World Press.

Alan Nadel '70 published *August Wilson: Completing the Twentieth-Century Cycle* with the University of Iowa Press.

Lola C. West '70 is a founding partner of WestFuller Advisors LLC, a wealth management firm on Long Island.

The New York chapter of the Pastel Society of America elected **Helen Zaharakos Antholis '70** a Juried Associate Member. Helen launched the new learning and development website and blog www.anditsonlytuesday.com with her daughter, Diana Antholis.

Steve Kussin '71 anchors the CBS News Radio program *Eye on Education*, which airs at 4:53 a.m., 1:41 p.m. and 10:41 p.m.

Victoria Schneps '71, publisher of the *Queens Courier* and its affiliated publications, was honored at the 75th Queens Hospital Center Gala. She is also known for founding Life's WORC, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide services that facilitate an independent and productive life experience for individuals with developmental disabilities and autism.

Lilli Platt '72 is the new director of the Long Island chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Robert Mascali '72 has joined the management team of Women in Need as its vice president for supportive housing and real property. Women in Need is one of the largest providers of shelter to homeless families in New York City.

Mark Weber '72 started his career as a merchandise assistant at Phillips Van Heusen where, after a few years, he handled the acquisition of Calvin Klein. Since then, he has climbed to the position of president of LVMH Inc. U.S. and CEO of Donna Karan International. He received the 2011 Man of the Year award at the AAFA American Image Awards. Weber's career began just after graduation from Brooklyn College, where he majored in marketing and sociology.

John Caggiano '73 is a regular exhibitor and elected member of Academic Artists Association, North Shore Arts Association, where he received the Bernard Corey Memorial Award, the Guild of Boston Artists Award, the Beverly DeMont Memorial Award, the Roger W. Curtis Memorial Award and the William Meyerowitz Memorial Award.

Patricia Mafalda DiMango '73 serves as a judge on the Brooklyn Supreme Court. She was the judge in the noted Nixzmry Brown child abuse case in 2008 and the high-profile trial involving workers from the Administration for Children's

Services who were charged with negligently criminal homicide in the death of 4-year-old Marchella Brett-Pierce.

The national law firm of Quarles & Brady LLP announced that **Faye Speaker Feinstein '73** has been named by *Illinois Super Lawyers* magazine among the top attorneys in Illinois for 2012.

Davita Silfen Glasberg '73 has been appointed associate dean of social sciences in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Connecticut.

Steven Peter Vallas '73, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Northeastern University, published *Work: A Critique* with Polity Press.

Emily Hager Lembeck '74 was recently named the 2012 Georgia School Superintendent of the Year.

Mattie McFadden Lawson '74 hosted First Lady Michelle Obama at her home in Fremont Place, Calif., during a luncheon fundraiser for President Obama organized by Women for Obama.

Barry Salzberg '74, the CEO of U.S. operations for Deloitte LLP, has been promoted to head the company's global operations.

Fred W. Girshlick '75 received the Sydney D. Andrews Award of Achievement to honor his work in the field of petroleum products and lubricants. At Brooklyn College, Girshlick earned a bachelor of science in chemistry. He has been working on formulating engine oils for more than 30 years.

Udeth Lugo '76 has been named the director of institutional research at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. He previously served as the associate dean of the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins.

Taiwo Allimi '77, a renowned journalist and broadcaster, has successfully organized presidential debates for Nigeria's general elections aired live on radio, television and satellite.

Richard A. Huberfeld '77, a curriculum and training specialist with the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, has been appointed to the criminal justice adjunct faculty of Stevenson University in Maryland. He continues to serve as adjunct

A Trip Down Memory Lane on the Brighton Line

For the past 75 years, thousands of students have traveled to and from Brooklyn College using the Avenue H Station on the Brighton Line, today's Q train, on tracks originally laid in 1878 by the Brooklyn, Flatbush and Coney Island Railroad (BF & CIRR).

In 1899, the BF & CIRR was purchased by Brooklyn Rapid Transit. At the time, developers were beginning to see the advantage of acquiring land along the existing rail line. By the turn of the century, Brooklyn's Atlantic shores were one of the biggest and most popular resort areas in the United States. Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay and Coney Island were attracting millions of people to their hotels, amusements, theaters, restaurants and horseracing tracks.

But what was predominately a summer excursion railroad transporting people to resorts along the Brighton and Coney Island shore would soon become a commuter line connecting the borough to Manhattan via the Brooklyn Bridge.

One of the first stops to be established on the Brighton Line was Fiske Terrace, now called the Avenue H Station, with a station house resembling a wooden outhouse. Fiske Terrace was a mostly wooded property that extended from the railroad tracks east to Ocean Avenue. In 1905, the land was purchased from George and Elizabeth Fiske by the T.B. Ackerson Construction Company for \$285,000.

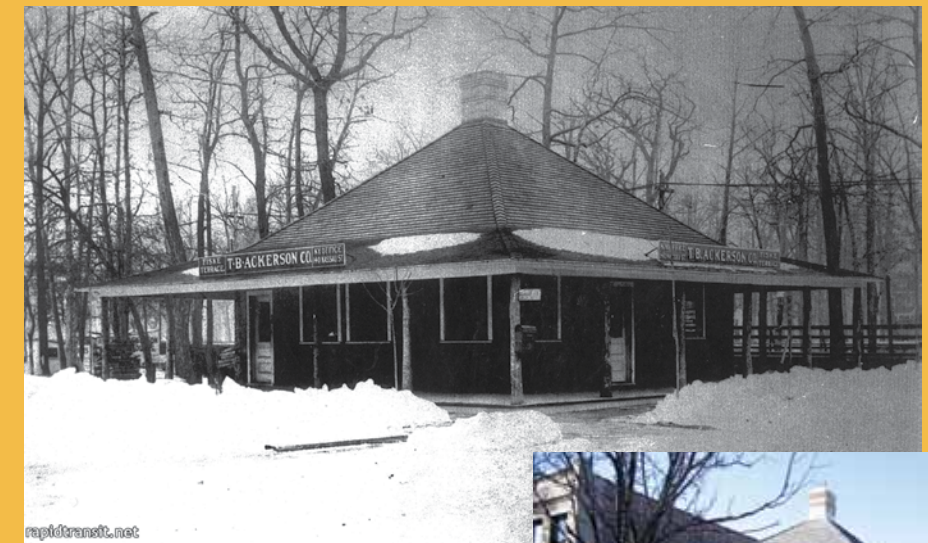
Ackerson began to build beautiful Victorian, Queen Anne, Colonial and Tudor homes on the property along with a sales office on Avenue H on the east side of the railroad tracks. The office had

several rooms and a fireplace. The peaked roof was topped in the center with a brick chimney. Along the perimeter of its open porch were log columns supporting the roof. In August 1907, Ackerson completed his Flatbush projects and moved out to Suffolk County, leaving his sales office to become the new railroad station. The walls of the offices were removed and the fireplace was replaced with a cast iron potbelly stove, which remained until 1970.

In the spring of 2003, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced plans to tear down the station house and replace it with a more modern facility. Community Board 14 called a community meeting with the MTA. Neighborhood residents, elected officials and reporters packed the community board's office, located adjacent to the Avenue H Station, for a meeting with the MTA. The MTA claimed that the wooden station house was a fire hazard, but historians and neighbors argued that there had been no fire during the station's nearly 100-year history, despite the presence of a fireplace until 1907 and the potbelly stove until 1970.

Concerned by the potential loss of the neighborhood's iconic building, the community board contacted the NYC Landmarks Commission and provided copies of old photos as well as the original blueprint from 1905. In less than one year, the station house was designated as an NYC landmark, protecting it from demolition.

In December 2011, the MTA completed a major restoration of the Avenue H Station. It is now the New York's only wooden, street-level station house. —R. Schweiger



T.B. Ackerson Construction Company, 1906



Avenue H Station today

faculty with the Community College of Baltimore County.

Alan Blum '78, an internationally recognized global branding and trademark practitioner representing clients from around the world in the adoption, registration, protection and exploitation of their intellectual property rights, is the newest partner to join Moses & Singer LLP.

Richard Gutierrez '78 is the first Hispanic president of the Queens County Bar Association. He was sworn in on May 5, 2011.

Nick Ridolfi '78 is the senior vice president of sales at AboveNet Inc., a company providing high bandwidth connectivity solutions.

Sandra Thompson '78 published *Close-Ups* with the University of Georgia Press.

Michael Grohman '80, head of the wealth planning practice group for Duane Morris, has been named managing partner of the firm's New York office.

While working on her MFA at Brooklyn College, **Diana Horowitz '85** spent many hours painting landscapes on the observation deck of the World Trade Center's North Tower. Her close connection to the place put Horowitz among the artists who documented the reconstruction of Ground Zero. The arts exhibition *Witness: Downtown Rising* was on display through October 2011 on the 48th floor of Seven World Trade Center.

Ian Lee Brown '86 is the new executive director of Linden Ponds, an Erickson Living retirement campus in Hingham, Mass.

Retta Blaney '87, who earned a master of fine arts in playwriting from Brooklyn College, received the 2011 award for individuals and organizations making a difference in the Broadway community through faith. The Lights are Back on Broadway award is one of Retta's many successes. As a full-time reporter, Blaney has worked in Maryland and New York. Her work has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *New York Newsday*, the *Jewish Week*, the *Living Church*, *American Theatre*, *Back Stage* and other publications.

Michele Minter '87 has been named the vice provost for institutional equity at Princeton University.

Marcia R. Brown '89 recently retired from a public service career with New York City government. She now volunteers with New York Cares and works on community service projects close to her heart, especially those that seek to improve the well being of the disabled and other disadvantaged groups.



Don Lemon '96 was named the nation's sixth most influential African American by *The Root*, an online magazine focused on news and commentary from the African-American perspective. In 2011, the weekend primetime anchor for CNN noted for his coverage of Hurricane Katrina and the explosion of Space Shuttle Columbia published *Transparent*, a personal memoir in which he revealed his homosexuality and childhood sexual abuse. Although Lemon did not make it a secret, his memoir was the first public acknowledgment of his sexual orientation. Lemon, born in Louisiana, earned a broadcast journalism degree from Brooklyn College. During his studies, Lemon got a job at WNYW in New York City as a news assistant. He then worked as a weekend anchor and general assignment reporter for WCAU-TV, an NBC affiliate in Philadelphia; an anchor and investigative reporter for KTVI-TV in St. Louis, Mo.; and an anchor for WBRC-TV in Birmingham, Ala. He also has worked as a correspondent for *The Today Show* and *NBC Nightly News*.

As a reporter at a local Chicago station, NBC5 News, Lemon covered the 2007 bridge collapse in Minneapolis and the 2008 presidential election. Lemon joined CNN in 2008 and now serves as the weekend primetime anchor and a primetime correspondent across the country.

Lemon received an Edward R. Murrow Award for his coverage of the capture of the Washington DC snipers, an Emmy Award for his special report on real estate in Chicago and various other awards for his reporting on the AIDS epidemic in Africa.

Matthew Daus '89 has been promoted to partner at Windels Marx. He leads the firm's emerging transportation practice, counseling clients on a broad range of matters. He was recently re-elected president of the International Association of Transportation Regulators.

Diane Casale-Giannola '91 is an associate professor of education at Rider University in New Jersey. Casale-Giannola and a colleague initiated Rider's special education study abroad program for students who are teaching in Spain as a part of a comparative study of students with special needs. Casale-Giannola was also honored with the Nasim Dil Service Award from the Council for Exceptional Children, which is a national recognition for outstanding service to special education.

Janet Manyan '91 received the 2011 Award for Leadership in Art Education from Maine College of Art for her commitment as a teacher in the continuing studies program and the aspirations she encourages for her students to become practicing artists.

Linda Benbow '94 published *Sorting Letters, Sorting Lives: Delivering Diversity in the United States Postal Service* with Lexington Books.

Saul Greenstein '94 was recently appointed as an immigration judge with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Angelo Parra '95 published *Playwriting for Dummies*.

Joe Woodward '91 published *Alive Inside the Wreck: A Biography of Nathanael West* with Or Books

Lisette Nieves '92 accepted a full-time appointment for two years as the Belle Zeller Distinguished Visiting Professor in Public Policy at Brooklyn College. She will be teaching and providing two city-wide lectures each year.

Ernesto Santos '92, together with his partner Erich Wood, launched a company that develops applications for smart phones. Their latest project is a mobile social network called *Jagimo!* In his spare time, Santos is a president of La Boule New Yorkaise, a league of petanque players. Petanque is a French lawn game similar to bocce.

Corinne Szabo '93 exhibited her watercolors as a part of a group exhibition at American University.

Alexis Eldridge '96 published *Conversations with Jesus: An Intimate Journey* with Rainbow Ridge Books.

Randolph Peers '96 is the executive director of Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow, which is a \$4.8 million nonprofit organization in Brooklyn focusing on providing education and employment services to out-of-school youth and adults.

James Reitter '97 is an assistant professor of English at the University of Wisconsin. Reitter was one of four recipients of the 2011 Alliant Energy Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award.

Laura Silver '98 has been awarded one of the nation's top prizes for religion writing. She earned second place from the Religion Newswriters Association during its selection of the 2011 Religion Commentary of the Year.

2002: Ten years ago, the spring edition of the magazine honored the dozen alumni who lost their lives in the attacks on September 11: Ernest Alikakos '89, Ezra Aviles M.A. '87, Eustace "Rudy" Bacchus '83, Steven H. Berger '79, Andre Cox '01, Peter L. Freund '84, John Giordano '80, Paul Lisson '80, Gregory T. Saucedo '92, Ian Schneider '78, Robert Twomey '78 and Paul T. Zois '78. May they never be forgotten.



Justin Lane / EPA

1987: Twenty-five years ago in January, students traveled to Monticello, N.Y., for a ski weekend at Kutsher's Country Club. The Young Republicans sponsored a talk on bringing the Reagan Revolution to Brooklyn. Pink Floyd came to campus for a concert and the Student Center held movie nights — *Beverly Hills Cop* was popular — along with a number of disco dance parties. Barry Rosen, who had been held hostage for more than 400 days by Iranian revolutionaries, discussed the ongoing Iran-Iraq War, which would finally end in stalemate the following year.



Paramount Pictures

1962: Fifty years ago, the Kennedys were still in the White House and many young people, including students on our campus, were filled with hope for the future. Only a few months earlier, JFK had led the world to the brink of nuclear destruction by boldly forcing Nikita Krushchev to withdraw Russian missiles from Cuba. But political assassinations, the Vietnam conflict and the British invasion — the flood of rock 'n' roll groups from the British Isles such as the Beatles and the Rolling Stones — still lay hidden in the future.



Richard Avedon

1937: Seventy-five years ago, as the new year got underway, the campus was still buzzing about the heated discussions from the previous fall semester: "It Can't Happen Here," "Russia Shapes Her World," "Can Republicans Cure the Depression?" and "Shall We Have a Dictator?". As civil war broke out in Spain, members of the college's German Club reported that the organization "carries on in the spirit of German tradition, which they seek to live up to despite the assaults of present-day barbarity in Nazi Germany." In addition, it was reported that the club sponsored a musical presentation featuring the music of Bach, Beethoven and Schumann — but not any of the works of Wagner.



Maima Barclay '99 is a social studies teacher at Montgomery Blair High School in Silver Spring, Md. Barclay moved to the United States from Liberia in 1989.

Christopher Grosso '01 published *Mouth to God's Ear* with Bucks County Publishing.

Semara Breland Calhoun '02 was featured in *New York* magazine as the mother of Sierra Calhoun, the best sophomore girl basketball player in the city and one of the top 20 15-year-olds in the country, and the equally talented Omar Calhoun Jr., who is averaging 24 points per game this season, which should soon break his high school record. Calhoun is a second grade teacher at P.S. 39 in Park Slope.

Maria Ortega '02 was honored during the Fourth Annual Salute to

Women of Valor for her contribution to the growth and strength of New York State.

Laura Greenberg Spillane '03 is a successful attorney at the firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP. Spillane received InMotion's 2011 Commitment to Justice Award for her representation of 49 indigent women in obtaining their divorces.

Josh Anish '04 is the vice president of communications at CoverHound, the San Francisco-based technology company powering consumer searches for insurance.

Noa Shay '05 is an artist whose public sculptures can be viewed in Riverside Park South in Manhattan or Van Cortland Park in the Bronx.

Johnmichael Rossi '06 is moving to London to pursue a practice-based Ph.D. at the University of Reading.

His research will be focused on collaborative writing and devising 'audiocentric' performance texts. Rossi will continue to develop work through newFangled theatReR, a collective of Brooklyn College alumni.

Christopher Moss '07 had his first solo exhibition of acrylic paintings at the Afa Gallery in Scranton, Penn. He paints on masonite panels, which are an industrial compressed paper.

Helen Phillips '07 published *And Yet They Were Happy*, a novel, to rave reviews from the likes of *Vanity Fair*, *Elle* and the *L.A. Times*, among others. *The L Magazine* calls her one of Brooklyn's Breakout Book People of 2011.

Seth '06 and Jen '07 Soloway married in 2008 after earning MFA degrees in performing arts management. In 2009, the couple

established the Railroad Playhouse in Newburgh, N.Y., where they present readings, music and comedy events as well as educational programs.

Scott Lindenbaum '08 and **Andy Hunter '08** are the founders of an audio-sharing startup company called Broadcastr.com, which collects audio clips from various sources and pins them to physical places. As a result, people who are visiting different places can go online and listen to audio guides, historical clips or stories, or record and upload their own stories.

Devin Powers '08 is an artist whose drawings on paper and walls were presented in 2011 at Win Wilder Hall in *Things Keep Their Secrets*.



After a serious accident prevented her from continuing to work as a police officer, **Eliana Ujueta '07**, the daughter of Colombian immigrants, found a new passion as a movie director, transforming her work experience into a movie script.

Raised in Bushwick, Ujueta witnessed many dangerous situations; she lost four of her brothers to drugs and saw many street fights. Her early life experience motivated her to become a police officer. For nearly a decade she patrolled the streets of East Village, where drug deals were an everyday activity. Ujueta said that, at that time, a man named Santiago controlled drug sales on East 7th Street between avenues B and C.

"Most of the people that lived on the block either worked for him or were silenced by him," Ujueta said, adding that when police officers drove through the streets Santiago silenced their radios. "It was a sign for us to stay out of his block, because if we needed help we could not transmit the call."

Ujueta's career as a police officer ended in 2001, when she fell down a flight of stairs and injured her foot. As a result of the accident, she lost the ability to run or walk long distances, which forced her to retire.

After her accident, Ujueta enrolled in Brooklyn College, where she intended to study law. However, an elective class in film inspired her to pursue a new direction. She went on to earn a master's degree in video production from the School of Visual Arts.

Her first film, *Beneath the Rock*, won the award for Best Narrative Feature from the East Harlem International Film Festival and has been screened at a number of other independent film festivals as well. It is a story about a community struggling with an illegal underground casino that lies beneath the bedrock in their neighborhood.

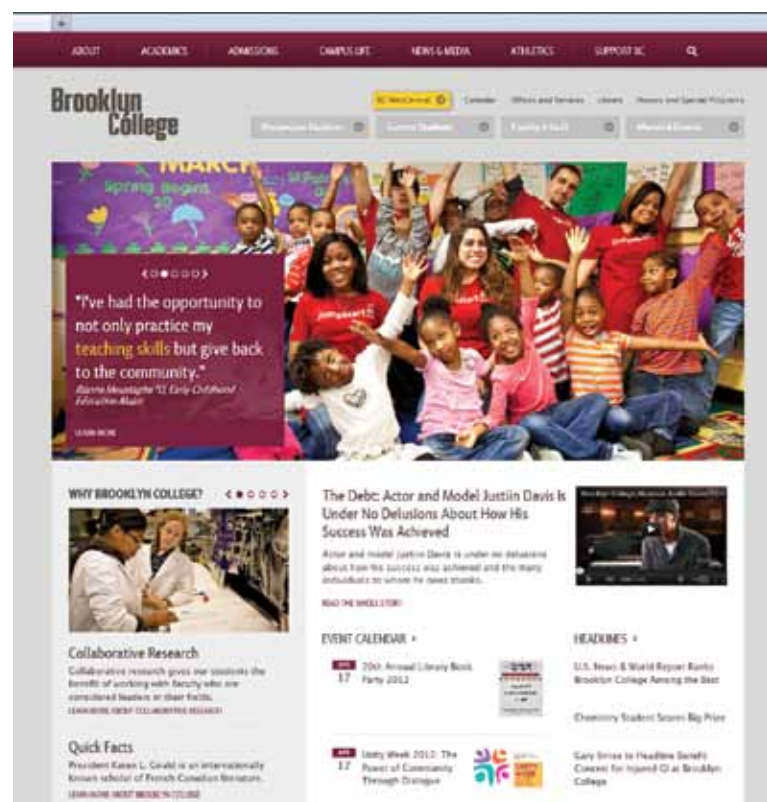
"I substituted gambling for the drugs and decided to show how a community could be controlled and manipulated essentially by their own hands," she said.

Will Rodriguez '08 has been able to merge his Brooklyn College degree in television and radio with his minor in marketing into one career as CNBC on-air promotions planning associate. He is responsible for scheduling and promoting all CNBC television shows along with coverage from NBC Sports and shows from other NBC-owned networks such as Oxygen and the Golf Channel.

Soribel Feliz '09 has been named a 2011 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow. The Pickering Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State, will provide support for her completion of a graduate degree at Syracuse University as she prepares to enter the United States Foreign Service.

Matthew Vann '11 is one of only 25 college students and alumni from across the country accepted to the prestigious NYC Urban Fellows program. The fellows work at various city agencies and mayoral offices. Since last fall, Vann has been working at the Office of Immigrant Affairs, where he analyzes policies and works to provide language access services to adult immigrants seeking to develop their English language skills through the We Are New York project.

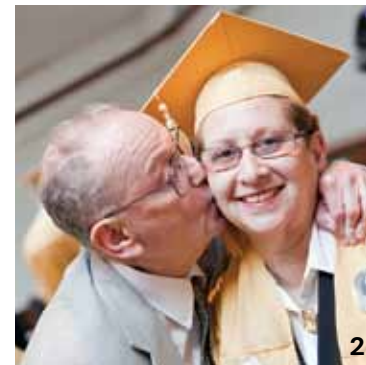
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(left to right, unless indicated otherwise) **Class of 1961 50th Reunion:** 1. Gilbert Klajman '61 and Tibbi Dubovs '61 with members of the class of 1961; 2. Howard Kibel '61 and Renee Chernoble Kibel '61; 3. Alan Baker '60 (standing); 4. Tibbi Dubovs '61, Milton Mellor '61, and Arlene Klayman Becker '61. **Brooklyn College Night 2011:** 5. Emcees Brandon Bain '04 and Katy Schlesinger with Marty Sass '64 (center), recipient of the Best

of Brooklyn Award; 6. Don Buchwald '59, Edwin Cohen '62 and Bernie Garil '62, trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation (BCF); 7. Paula Roman, Michael Gyure, Executive Director of the Friars Club and Friars Foundation, and Zuzana Gyure; 8. Larry Zicklin, Mike Kandel '52, Carol Zicklin '61, Marty Sass '64, Provost Bill Tramontano and Barry Feirstein '74, BCF chair; 9. Ellen and Murray '57 Koppelman with Lisa

Koppelman Tames (center); 10. Edwin '62 and Doris Cohen with President Karen L. Gould (center); 11. Marge Magner '69 (center) with students and friends; 12. Arlene Lichterman '53 and Brandon Bain '04, members of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) board of directors, with student Daphne Brunet; 13. Ambassador Joseph Zappala, Chairman of the Friars Foundation, Isabella Zappala and Don

Buchwald '59; 14. BCF Trustee Don Kramer '58 with sister Gail Kramer Needleman '68. **2011 Alumni Honors Awards Show:** 15. BCAA President Ron Schweiger '70, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz '70, President Karen L. Gould, and emcees Brandon Bain '04 and Julianna Forlano; 16. Victoria Law '02, recipient of the 2011 Young Alumna Award; 17. Pulitzer Prize-winner Paul Moses '75, professor

of English, and 2011 Alumnus of the Year Sam Schwartz '69; 18. More than 100 alumni and friends attended the event; 19. Lisette Nieves '92 and 2011 Alumna of the Year Milga Morales '70, vice president for student affairs; 20. Moraima Cunningham '02 and David Wells '08, M.A. '11.

As of March 31, 2012

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Department of Philosophy
Department of Physics

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Department of English

Martin Farkash '58
Department of Psychology

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Oscar Handlin '34
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Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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Department of Sociology

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Gloria Hanan Hagberg '34
Dorothy London Halpern '34
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Roosevelt (Rudy) Houston '91
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Anita M. O'Brien '94
Anthony C. Trapp '96
Frederick L. Drucker '98
Cheryl L. Spear '98

Michael Margolin '08
Rasha A. Shamoon '08

Daniel M. Lyons '39, a longtime philanthropist and the college's first major donor, died on April 2, 2011, at age 92. As a young man living in Brooklyn and working in Manhattan's garment district, Lyons attended Brooklyn College as an evening student, first at the downtown campus and later at its present location. Lyons excelled as the college's first intramural fencing champion. He later became a ranking amateur fencer and coach, traveling to Cuba in 1969 to head the U.S. world championship team. Lyons donated the fencing trophy and plaque now displayed in Roosevelt Hall to honor those college athletes who shared his love of the sport.

Lyons earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Brooklyn College and a master's degree from American University. After serving in Hawaii during World War II, he worked in Washington as a statistician for the Department of Agriculture and as an economist for the state department. He later created a second successful career in real estate, construction and development. He formed a stock brokerage firm and real estate management company, Federal Realty Investment Trust, from which he retired in 1984. It is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

A resident of Naples, Fla., Lyons and his wife Bente were both active in philanthropic work. Lyons devoted much of his time to building projects in Israel and in his community. He was the founder of the local chapter of the Anti-Defamation League and the recipient of numerous awards.

Lyons had been a trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation since 1971, where he established a scholarship for undergraduates at Brooklyn College to honor his father, Saul Lyons. In addition to this scholarship, he funded a professorship in American history as well as a prize in economics, business or history.



Lee J. Pockriss '48, who wrote the music for the famous 1960s song "The Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini," died on November 14, 2011, at age 87, according to an obituary in the *New York Times*.

Raised in Brooklyn, Pockriss went to Erasmus Hall High School and then studied at Brooklyn College. During World War

II, his education was suddenly interrupted by the draft. Pockriss served as a cryptographer for the U.S. Air Force. After the war he went on to graduate school to study musicology at New York University.

During his composing and songwriting career, Pockriss worked for musical theaters, writing songs for Broadway musicals *Tovarich* starring Vivien Leigh; *Wonderful Olly*, *Dolley Madison*; and *Divorce Of Course*.

One of Pockriss's songs, "My Polliwog Ways," was hummed by Kermit the Frog during the television show *Sesame Street* and is remembered by generations of children around the world.

Pockriss's most famous song was written for Brian Hyland in 1960 as a way to promote the bikini, which at that time had not been accepted in polite society beyond Hollywood and the French Riviera.



The Hi-Hites Club during the country fair in late 1940s. Frances Schottland Slotkin is fourth from the right.

IN THE HITES

Sometimes being a tall girl isn't easy. That is why, in the 1940s, the tall girls of Brooklyn College established a club called the Hi-Hites, which accepted only girls over 5'7". The club president made sure all members were at or above the minimum height. For some, like Lissa Fine '54, the club's social activities were not just pleasant, they were life changing.

"I met my husband during one of the events," she recalled in a phone interview from her home in Loudonville, N.Y. "It was close to 58 years ago."

Fine met her husband Leonard during one of the events organized by the Hi-Hites, when the girls invited their former boyfriends — nice guys, but ones they didn't want to date anymore.

"My husband was dragged by somebody else," she said. "It was a one-time visit for him, because he was a very busy law school student at that time, but he was hooked by me."

Fine married Leonard the winter before she graduated; he was drafted soon after. Once she earned her education degree, Fine joined her husband in Germany, where they lived for a year.

The Hi-Hites Club organized various social events, but meeting tall men was one of the priorities. "I think it's funny," she said. "People don't do things like that anymore."

Memories about the Hi-Hites Club bring a smile to Fine's face. "I remember having some nice friends there," she said. "We had good time. I remember taking the Brighton Line to the city and our shopping trips. We were very tall women. I barely made the requirement."

The 1944 edition of the *Broeklundian*, the college's yearbook, says the club created a social activities program because of "present shortages, necessitating activities with greater feminine appeal." Five years later, the yearbook gives more insight into the club: Before World War II it was a coed organization, but in 1944, "during the era when men were harder to find than the Golden Fleece, the girls took over."

Members of the Hi-Hites Club always participated in the country fair, an annual event that continued at the college into the 1980s. Pictured above are Frances Schottland Slotkin and other club members enjoying the fair. Slotkin, a member of the club from 1945 to 1947, donated the photo and other memorabilia from her private collection to the Brooklyn College Library after reading the fall 2005 edition of the magazine.

Slotkin passed away in 2010, but Brooklyn College's archivists have a record of a phone conversation with her. In February 2006, Slotkin said she was almost disqualified from the country fair because "no girls ever wore dungarees." —I. Rutkowski

Are you one of the alumnae pictured above with Frances Schottland Slotkin? Were you a member of the Hi-Hites Club? Send your memories to magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu or write Brooklyn College Magazine, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210



The streaking craze swept the country during the 1960s and '70s, and our campus was no exception. Do you know who is pictured on the left? Did you ever streak across the campus or see somebody who did? We'd love to hear from you. Email us at magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

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