

**40** *under*  
**Forty**  
2022-2023



*Forty Under Forty*

**2022-2023**



## *President's Message*

*I have long believed that the true measure of a college is not who it accepts, but how its graduates make their mark on the future. Thus, it is inspiring to introduce our community to the inaugural class of 40 Under 40, whose outstanding achievements have brought great honor to their alma mater. The stories of these honorees, each of whom have reached extraordinary heights in their chosen fields, start with familiar Hunter narratives. Many are the first in their families to graduate from college. Many are the children of immigrants or immigrants themselves. Many worked full-time as students – juggling school, sometimes multiple jobs, as well as family responsibilities. Their humble beginnings are a testament to the fact that the American Dream still comes true at Hunter College.*

*The variety of their accomplishments is remarkable, and in the following pages, you'll meet Hunter's high achievers in education, science, medicine, social services, technology, finance, entrepreneurship, and the law.*

*Some have gone into public service, with Eric Dinowitz MSE '09, getting elected to represent his neighborhood in the Bronx in the City Council in 2021, and Andrew Gounardes '06 serving as the State Senator for District 26, which includes Bay Ridge, Brooklyn — where he grew up and commuted to Hunter from as a student. Veronica Ng '11 parlayed her time at Hunter into a full-time gig in Albany — where she serves as Gov. Kathy Hochul's Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs. And Sasha Ahuja '09 served on two New York City special commissions after graduation before becoming a national director for Planned Parenthood.*

*Hunter has a long history of producing noted writers, and that tradition goes on: Phil Klay MFA '11 won the 2014 National Book Award for Fiction, one of the highest honors in publishing, while Alexia Arthurs '10 received the coveted O. Henry Prize for her short story, "Mermaid River." Kaitlyn Greenidge MFA '10 already has two highly praised novels to her credit.*

*Which brings us to show business, where Hunter continues to produce stars. Dascha Polanco '08 was a standout on the television series "Orange Is the New Black," and Lindsey Ferrentino '13 is an award-winning playwright and screenwriter. And Vinson Cunningham '14 is now the theatre critic at "The New Yorker."*

*Our 40 Under 40 artists are on a roll: Canvases by Firelei Báez MFA '11 are in permanent collections of museums and galleries the world over. Alteronice Gumby BFA '14 is an award-winning visual artist. Sharon Madanes MFA '14 manages to straddle two seemingly disparate professions — artist and psychiatrist. And among the many museums that have displayed the imaginative works of Coralina Rodriguez Meyer MFA '13 is the Smithsonian. These outstanding writers, performers, and artists embody the realization of our vision of making Hunter the public school of the arts.*

*This is just a sampling of the people who will impress you among Hunter's inaugural group of 40 Under 40. I want to thank the 40 Under 40 Selection Committee and its co-chairs, Joan Grabe HCHS '56, HC '60 and Cynthia López '89, for their work on the inspiring but difficult task of selecting only 40 individuals from our incredibly talented alumni pool. The committee, all Hunter alumni themselves, chose a cohort that reflects the breadth of Hunter's programs.*



*It is moving to note the diversity of background, interests, and career trajectories exemplified in this 40 Under 40 class. We encourage our students to dream big and inspire them to believe that with a Hunter education, hard work, and an active imagination, they can accomplish anything.*

*As we recognize these remarkable alumni, we must acknowledge our incredible faculty and staff who go the extra mile and whose mentorship can be felt throughout the following pages. Their guidance and support fostered inspirational qualities in our 40 Under 40 honorees.*

*There is a particular shared value among these 40 alumni that makes our Hunter family especially proud. They live our motto “mihi cura futuri” — the care of the future is mine.*

*After reading these stories, I know you will share in our pride.*

*It is a privilege to lead an institution that has such extraordinary alumni who have gone on to accomplish such remarkable things. I applaud each and every honoree and thank them for their outstanding achievements and their commitment to service. Each member of this cohort has set a powerful example for our current and future students that they too can make their professional dreams a reality.*

*Hunter College is proud to contribute to the strength of our great city and nation. As you read these inspiring stories, you will discover the transformative impact these 40 Hunter alumni have had on their communities.*

*As a treasured member of our Hunter family, I know you join me in congratulating the inaugural class of 40 Under 40 and thanking them for the acclaim they bring to Hunter College.*

*Sincerely,*



Some of Hunter College's 40 Under 40 honorees met with President Raab, Vice President of Student Affairs Eija Ayravainen, and friends during a welcome event in 2022 at the Manhattan apartment of awardee Dan Berger '04.



## 40 UNDER 40 SELECTION COMMITTEE

### Co-Chairs

Joan Grabe HCHS '56, HC '60

Cynthia López '89

### Members

Jose Calderon '97

Nick Gabriel '74

David Hattem '78

Margaret Lee MFA '88

Eunice Lewis Broome '75

Carole Olshan '63, MSED '72

Mel Tukman '61

Vanessa Wakeman '95

Suzi Weiss-Fischmann '77

Darlene Yoseloff '65



## *Message from the 40 Under 40 Selection Committee*

*W*hat a remarkable honor it has been to co-chair the inaugural 40 Under 40 Committee! When President Raab first approached us to lead this initiative, we knew it would be a wonderful opportunity to see the transformative impact Hunter alums are having on the world, but we did not realize how hard it would be to pick only 40 of them!

*In choosing our first award winners, we were enormously impressed by our “under 40” alumni’s achievements and the diversity of the fields in which they have excelled. Scientists, politicians, public servants, scholars, teachers, entrepreneurs, authors, journalists, creative and performing artists — our graduates are amazing, at home and abroad. As fellow alums, we could not be prouder of this remarkable group of 40 Under 40 and thank them for representing Hunter excellence.*

*The winners were chosen in a rigorous process by a panel of Hunter alumni spanning several generations working alongside members of the Hunter administration. Our committee spent four months narrowing a pool of hundreds of candidates. In partnership with the Provost and Vice President of Student Affairs, we finalized the inaugural 40 Under 40 class. We would like to thank each member of the selection committee for their dedication, enthusiasm, and support as we embarked on this difficult task.*

*Not only did this project enable us to recognize this remarkable group of alums, but as alumni ourselves, it gave us an opportunity to reflect on the outstanding opportunities our alma mater provides for the next generation of Hunter graduates.*

*We hope that you will take pride in these remarkable Hunter alums who have achieved so much so soon, and that the 40 Under 40 project will inspire the next generation of Hunter students.*

*Sincerely,*



*Joan H. Drake*



*Ms. Cynthia Lopez*





## *40 Under 40 Honorees*

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Hunter is a microcosm of New York City. The city was our classroom, and we took advantage of that.”

## Sasha Ahuja '09

Sasha Ahuja had a life-changing intellectual awakening at Hunter College.

Now the national director of strategic partnerships at Planned Parenthood of America, where she is one of America’s chief advocates for women’s reproductive health, she proudly proclaims that she owes her career in public service to the skills she learned at Hunter.

“I got the experience I needed right on campus,” she said.

“My first year at Hunter, I started working as an organizer attempting to ensure Asian American studies was a permanent part of the core curriculum and insisting students’ voices were heard when tuition was going up.”

A member of the New York City Commission on Gender Equity and the former chair of New York

City’s Equal Employment Practices Commission, Ahuja cites Rupal Oza, professor of Women and Gender Studies, as a major influence.

“She helped me make sense of my own identity, globalization, neo-politics, and what many of us were experiencing as South Asians in a post-9/11 New York,” Ahuja said. “She contextualized that from an academic standpoint. This transformed me as a student and has been incredibly impactful throughout my career.”

This year, Ahuja enthusiastically accepted Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab’s invitation to become an Eva Kastan Grove Leader at Hunter’s Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. There, she is leading a group of Grove Fellows who are examining the impact of the Supreme Court’s recent

decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* — providing the kind of mentorship and hands-on learning that jump-starts the careers of students interested in public service, public policy, or human rights.

Ahuja said she chose Hunter because of the generous benefits and perks she received as a Macaulay Honors College student, its location in Midtown, and Hunter’s historically diverse campus.

“Hunter is a microcosm of New York City, where you meet people of different ages, races, and nationalities, many of whom are immigrants,” she said. “The city was our classroom, and we took advantage of that.”

In addition to her role at Planned Parenthood, Ahuja works as an adjunct professor of Social Work at Hunter College, Columbia University, and Touro University.

Ahuja said that, since the time she was a student, she has always thought about systems and how they can change. And there was no better place to learn those lessons — and grow as a person — than at Hunter.

“Undergraduate education in particular can be a transformative vehicle to learn about ourselves or unlearn about ourselves,” she said. “My advice to students is to take full advantage of what Hunter has to offer for your journey.”



Ahuja speaks to new students at the 2022 Hunter College Convocation.



**BA, SOCIAL POLICY/  
RACE RELATIONS (MHC)**

**Industry:**

Public Service &  
Government Relations

**Profession:**

National Director of Strategic  
Partnerships, Planned Parenthood  
Federation of America





**BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
& HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Industry:**

Human Rights & Diplomacy

**Profession:**

Director, U.S. Office, Sana'a Center  
for Strategic Studies

# Waleed Alhariri '14

When Waleed Alhariri left Yemen in 2005 to join his father in the United States, he had no idea that he would end up an international-affairs analyst and a top executive and director of the U.S. office of the Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies. Nor did he know he would one day author its monthly "Yemen at the U.N." reports, and become a fellow-in-residence at Columbia Law School's Human Rights Institute.

But that's how Hunter College can positively affect your life. Alhariri found his way to Hunter after hearing it is one of the best colleges for students pursuing international human rights and diplomacy.

It was a heady time: In 2011, the "Arab Spring" shook his homeland, spurring Alhariri to become a student activist and major in Political Science and Human Rights. He contributed to Hunter's Model United Nations club and student government.

At Hunter's Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, he was an inaugural member of the International Law and Human Rights Fellows, dreaming of working at the United Nations to advocate for policy change in the Arab world. Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab helped facilitate that dream. Alhariri was there the day she hosted U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at Roosevelt House's ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2010. The connection made, Ban selected Alhariri to work on a high-level development panel at the U.N. while he was still a student at Hunter.

“Always ask questions to everyone! Be curious — ask how you can do more.”

Alhariri also landed a crucial assistantship with Nobel Peace Laureate Tawakkol Karman. Gaining invaluable experience such as that helped him become comfortable with negotiations, public speaking, advocacy, writing, executive-level meetings, policy, and more.

Despite his heavy course load and work schedule, he devoted himself at every turn to serving the community: As an officer of the Hunter College Auxiliary Enterprises Corporation, he enacted substantive changes to Hunter's food provisions and cafeteria policies and advocated for better conditions for fellow students.

President Raab told the story of how he became the first member of his family to earn

a college diploma during his Commencement.

Now, he is launching Sheba Bees, a social-enterprise company selling Yemeni honey, helping small producers while mitigating the loss of honey bees due to climate change.

He certainly has come a long way since working in his father's convenience store when he first arrived in America, and has solid advice for today's Hunter students.

“Take advantage of the many opportunities within the university,” he said. “Always ask questions to everyone — professors, department directors, lecturers, guest speakers. Always be curious — ask how you can do more.”

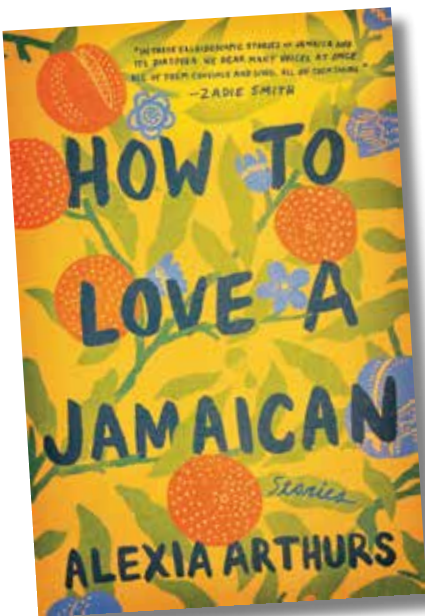


Alhariri talks with then-United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.



I took a risk in my career and — while it hasn't always been easy — I would encourage everyone to be brave. Life is so short; we should do what brings us joy! Follow your passions, whatever they may be.”

## Alexia Arthurs '11



Alexia Arthurs knew in middle school that she wanted to become a fiction writer, and the now-celebrated author — an undocumented immigrant who arrived in Brooklyn from Jamaica at age 12 — said it was her Hunter College education more than anything else that helped her achieve that dream.

An assistant professor of Creative

Writing at George Mason University, the O. Henry Prize winner has had short stories published in many journals, including *Granta*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Vice*, and in *The Paris Review*, for which she won a Plimpton Prize in 2017. On top of that, *O: The Oprah Magazine* called her short story collection, *How To Love a Jamaican*, “a singular mix of psychological precision and sun-kissed lyricism.”

Arthurs faced daunting legal and financial hurdles to get a college education: Her undocumented status made her ineligible for many scholarships so, in order to pay her tuition, she worked her way through college as a babysitter.

At every stage, Hunter gave her a leg up and the experience she needed to become a author.

Pursuing a double major in Media and Creative Writing, she worked as a staffer at *The Envoy*, Hunter's student-run news website, and learned from mentors such as Creative Writing Professor

Michael Thomas, who encouraged her to pursue writing as a career.

Arthurs says the rigor and volume of her undergraduate classwork set her up for success as a working writer: Four years after graduating from Hunter, she earned a Master of Fine Arts from the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Arthurs, whose sister is also a Hunter graduate, praises the college's central location and affordability — especially given the hard road many people face in repaying their student loans.

She said she's glad she ignored her parents' advice to do something “more practical” than writing — and counsels others to pursue their dreams as well.

“Take a risk on yourself,” she said. “I took a risk in my career and — while it hasn't always been easy — I would encourage everyone to be brave. Life is so short; we should do what brings us joy! Follow your passions, whatever they may be.”





**BA, ENGLISH & MEDIA STUDIES**

**Industry:**

Academia and Arts & Entertainment

**Profession:**

Author; Assistant Professor at  
George Mason University



**MFA, STUDIO ART**

**Industry:**

Visual Art

**Profession:**

Artist



# Firelei Báez MFA '11

New York-based artist Firelei Báez found the physical and temporal space she needed to make her art at Hunter College.

As a young artist, she took full advantage of Hunter's studios — where she worked uninterrupted for hours on her large-scale projects, calling the experience a tremendous gift.

“Other MFA programs break artists down and enforce a kind of uniformity,” she said. “Hunter let me find my own voice.”

The hours in the studio paid off for Báez. The Dominican-born painter and sculptor, whose art explores identity and memory by incorporating images of maps (often of the Caribbean), nature, textiles, and the human body, has had works included in the permanent collections of museums and galleries the world over. Her colorful canvases often feature strong female protagonists and contain literary, mythological, and sci-fi references.

Báez holds a BFA from Cooper Union, and studied at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture. She credits Hunter's MFA Program with teaching her how to function as a working artist, by showing her how to build relationships with mentors and apply for grants. She felt supported as she developed her unique style, and feels she owes some of her career momentum and confidence to her instructors.

Professor Valerie Jaudon's class



Have grace when receiving feedback. And keep working! Everything is in relation and guided through emotion.”

in art theory equipped her with the language of “art speak” and gave her a road map of the field. Professor Nari Ward encouraged her to “make work that puts an idea across” without worrying so much about formality — to be freer. She is especially grateful to Professor Paul Ramirez Jonas, her thesis advisor, who helped her to focus and refine her writing.

Looking back, Báez summed up her education with a quote from the poet Gwendolyn Brooks: “We are each other's magnitude and bond.”

She left Hunter with a sense of resourcefulness, community, and freedom in her art. The relationships she built helped her reframe her role in the world as an artist, colleague, and friend.

“Center friendship and community above all,” she said. “Your professors are people, first and foremost, not simply resources for you, so prioritize the humanity in all your relationships. Have grace when receiving feedback. And keep working! Everything is in relation and guided through emotion.”



Báez was a featured speaker at an Art Department program at arts patron Agnes Gund's apartment in 2018, where she was joined by President Raab and MFA Co-Director Carrie Moyer.



“One of the great things about Hunter is that you are learning while being equipped with skills outside the classroom.”

## Dan Berger '04

It was a major revelation. Israeli-American entrepreneur, community builder, investor, author, and filmmaker Dan Berger says taking classes that Hunter College offered outside of his major — including Animal Behavior, International Relations, and Psychology — helped lay the groundwork for his success.

“Hunter taught me things that were not all too common,” he

said, citing a class on Feminist Literature and another on how the West colonized Africa as examples of the out-of-the-mainstream courses that opened his eyes and mind. “It made me a more worldly and aware person,” Berger said.

Developing websites was a passion that began in his teens and continued throughout his years at Hunter, where evening classes provided the flexibility he needed to work 20 hours a week on programming.

“One of the great things about Hunter is that you are learning while being equipped with skills outside the classroom,” he said. “Being able to work is like taking another college class. Hunter gave me a leg up when I went into technology and software development because it accelerated the speed at which I was able to enter the field.”

In 2011, he founded and served as CEO of Social Tables, an award-winning provider of cloud-based software for the hospitality industry and event specialists. After Social Tables built a customer base of more than 5,000 brands — including Under Armour, Live Nation, Hyatt, The Venetian,

ClubCorp, and *Forbes* — the company was acquired by Cvent in 2018 for more than \$100 million.

Before Social Tables, Berger worked in management consulting, served as a staffer for Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), and ran a boutique web-design agency. Today, he is focused on building community as founder and chairman of The Belonging Project, in addition to writing a book and producing a documentary.

A trustee of the Hunter College Foundation and a member of Hunter’s Business Advisory Board, Berger has been recognized as an industry and tech leader by BizBash, Catersource, MeetingsNet.com, *Washingtonian*, and other publications. He is the recipient of the Pacesetter Award from the Events Industry Council, and was named one of the most influential leaders in the industry by *Successful Meetings*.

In addition to using Hunter’s network pre- and post-graduation, Berger advises students to be open-minded academically.

“Explore trajectories. Take as many classes as possible, including music and art,” he said. “You’ll never know what you’ll be.”



Berger was a guest speaker at Hunter’s 2018 Convocation.



**BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Industry:**

Business & Investment

**Profession:**

Founder and Chairman,  
The Belonging Project





**BA, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**Industry:**

Biotechnology

**Profession:**

Director of Infectious Diseases,  
Vedanta Biosciences





I realized very quickly when I began working in a laboratory at Hunter that the only way to grow professionally is by tackling new challenges and learning new skills — even if it seems scary. ”

## Silvia Caballero '08

**T**alk about life-saving research! Peruvian-born microbiologist Silvia Caballero first entered a laboratory as a Hunter College undergraduate.

Now, Caballero is creating a medication to control multidrug-resistant organisms — the “superbugs” that evade antibiotics, killing many people in hospitals and nursing homes.

She thanks her Hunter professors for giving her a great start.

“I want to give a big shout-out to the folks from the Minority Biomedical Research Support and the MARC programs,” she said, referring to the National Institutes of Health-supported efforts for minority students. “Because of them, I was able to work in a laboratory and get the research experience I needed, which ultimately got me to where I’m at today. Also, a big shout out to Hunter College professors Shirley Raps and Laurel Eckhardt for their mentorship and support and for always believing in me.”

Caballero also earned a Tuckman Scholarship — a prestigious

program in which Hunter students are chosen by a faculty member and given a stipend to do research with them during the summer.

Caballero has since developed models of three superbugs in lab mice and was among the first researchers to discover that certain microbes in the human gut can help fight them. She earned a doctorate in Microbiology and Immunology from Weill Cornell Medical College.

At Vedanta Biosciences in Cambridge, Mass., Caballero is now creating a gut-flora-derived “cocktail” for controlling bacteria. She was named an *MIT Technology Review* “Global Innovator Under 35” and on *Time*’s “Next 100” for 2019 as an innovator to watch.

While at Hunter, she also served as treasurer of the Latino Honor Society and a senator on the Undergraduate Student Government.

She advises today’s Hunter students to apply to internships and build good relationships with professors as early as possible — and not to be afraid of taking chances.

“The only way to continue to

grow is to be okay with failure,” she said. “In science, this is something you have to embrace because most of the time things will not work, especially if what you are doing is something new.”

And her willingness to step out of her comfort zone was something she learned at Hunter.

“I realized this very quickly when I began working in a laboratory at Hunter, and I’ve applied it to my career as well,” she said. “The only way to grow professionally is by tackling new challenges and learning new skills — even if it seems scary at first.”



Caballero on stage at Hunter College’s Commencement in 2008.



Words are one of the most important tools for a lawyer and Hunter set me up for success as I went on to law school.”

## Melissa Colón-Bosolet '03

**M**elissa Colón-Bosolet learned the skills that made her an award-winning lawyer as a Hunter undergraduate — but they had more to do with putting pen to paper than addressing a jury.

“Words are one of the most important tools for a lawyer, and Hunter set me up for success as I went on to law school,” she said. “I spent a lot of time working on and refining my writing skills while I was at Hunter and benefited immensely from dedicated

professors who spent countless hours reviewing my work and providing constructive feedback.”

A partner in the commercial litigation and disputes division at Sidley Austin LLP, Colón-Bosolet is now the counselor at her firm to call whenever there is trouble, such as suits in federal and state courts, arbitrations, and internal investigations. Her acumen with the “hard stuff” has earned her the accolade of “Rising Star” — which she has been named by several legal-industry publications.

The first person in her family to graduate from college, she has not forgotten her immigrant Latina roots, and has always been active in Latino affairs. At Cornell Law School, where she received her JD, she helped create Latino Lawyers of Cornell. She is a member of the National Bar Association and the Hispanic National Bar Association, a network of lawyers of color. In

2021, *Latino Leaders* magazine named her as one of its “Latino Lawyers to Keep on the Watch.”

Colón-Bosolet credits CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos Rodríguez, who was director of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies when she was a student at Hunter, with being invaluable to her success.

“Matos Rodríguez became my mentor,” she said. “He always offered advice, support, and guidance. I am forever grateful to him.”

Colón-Bosolet said that, while Hunter offers students an opportunity to obtain a remarkable education, she wants them to remember that they will get out of Hunter only what they put into it.

“Be bold. Be proactive. Ask questions. Think critically about what you want and seek out the advice and support of professors and staff,” she said. “They are there to guide you and to help you thrive; lean into them.”



Colón-Bosolet at Hunter's Commencement in 2003.



**BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE**

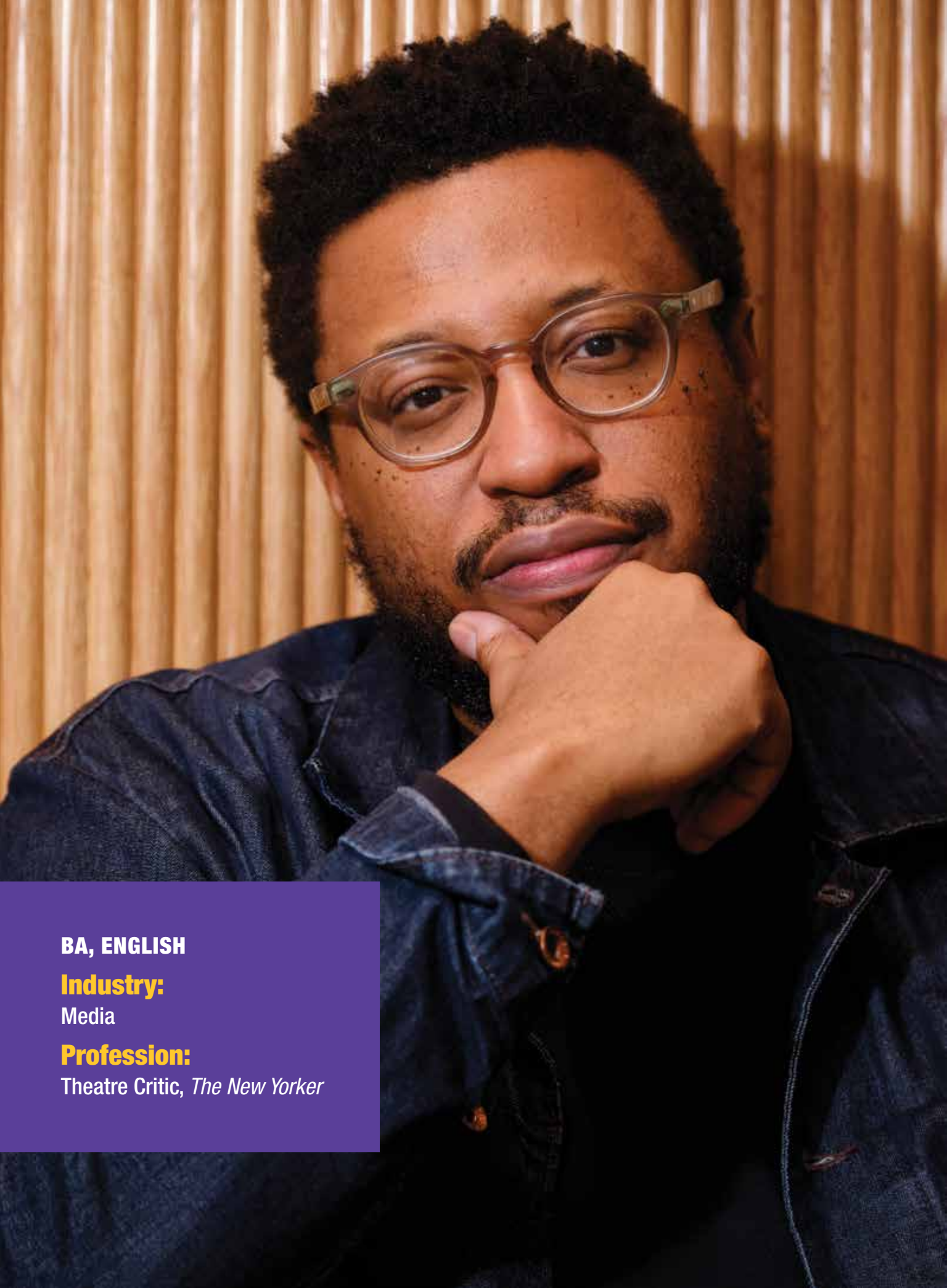
**Industry:**

Legal

**Profession:**

Partner, Sidley Austin LLP





**BA, ENGLISH**

**Industry:**

Media

**Profession:**

Theatre Critic, *The New Yorker*



Every art teaches you to be flexible and allows you to apply yourself to different disciplines. The soft skills you gain at Hunter are very important.”

## Vinson Cunningham '14

The theatre critic for *The New Yorker*, where he has been on staff since 2016, Vinson Cunningham has become one of the most respected writers in the country — and he thanks the education he got at Hunter College for getting him there.

Don't believe us? He detailed his journey in the article “Prep for Prep and the Fault Lines in New York's Schools” in that very magazine.

A graduate of the Prep for Prep program, which takes promising students from low-income communities and places them in elite private schools, Cunningham attended Horace Mann and started his undergraduate career at Middlebury College in Vermont. As a young Black man, he felt he didn't fit into — what to his mind was — a privileged New England college, and he flunked out.

Luckily, as a new dad, he found a home at Hunter, where he watched as a diverse group of students put in a day's work inside — and outside — the classroom without making a fuss.

“My classmates were New Yorkers, and therefore from everywhere. Everybody had at least one job, and lots of them had two or three,”

he wrote. “Nobody strolled across a quad to class — Hunter has no grass — and everybody was always on the train. Nobody complained when, lacking a babysitter, I sometimes brought my kid to class.”

Along with *The New Yorker*, his writing on books, art, and culture has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, the *Times Book Review*, *Vulture*, *The Awl*, *The Fader*, and in *McSweeney's*, where he wrote a column called “Field Notes From Gentrified Places.”

A 2020 finalist for a National Magazine Award for his profile of comedian Tracy Morgan, he earlier served as a staff assistant at the Obama White House.

The English major has fond memories of a Hunter course in early American literature with Michael Seth Stewart, then a CUNY graduate student.

“He was just a wonderful teacher,” Cunningham said. “We covered Emerson, Poe, Thoreau ... it was one of my favorite classes.”

Diving deeply into the subject matter helped Cunningham extract the most from his studies at Hunter.

“Once you find your concentration, make it a point to focus,” he said.

“Go deep instead of wide. That helped me to get what I wanted out of the experience. The deep subject knowledge taught me lessons that I'm still using.”

Cunningham implores students to challenge themselves when choosing a course of study.

“Don't get stuck in the box of a singular major,” he said. “Spread your wings. Take photography — storytelling is very important in all professional pursuits. Even if you start a business, you still need to market yourself. Every art teaches you to be flexible and allows you to apply yourself to different disciplines. The soft skills you gain at Hunter are very important.”



“Students need to take what they’ve learned and use it to better their own lives — and the lives of those in their community.”

## Eric Dinowitz MSE '09

Eric Dinowitz realized that Hunter College was the ideal choice for a Master’s Degree in special education when he was a young public-school teacher working in The Bronx.



Dinowitz presents a \$50,000 check from the City Council to President Raab and Hunter’s Jewish Studies Center.



Dinowitz with a young constituent.

“Hunter was the most highly regarded institution for special education, and I wanted to teach special-ed students,” he said. “I knew that to do the best job possible and to give them the best opportunity, I needed to get a good education, and I sure got it at Hunter.”

Now, Dinowitz’s classroom is much broader. In 2021, the community activist and former United Federation of Teachers chapter leader was elected to represent The Bronx’s 11th City Council District. He immediately rose up the ranks, becoming the chair of the Committee on Higher Education and of the Jewish Caucus.

From that perch, he is giving back richly to Hunter. He held a hearing on anti-Semitism on college campuses and worked with Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab to secure \$50,000 for Hunter’s Jewish Studies Center for programs to combat the hatred.

He has also become an Eva Kastan Grove Leader at Hunter’s Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, exploring the benefits of project-based learning on

student achievement in city schools with a group of student fellows.

Dinowitz said that much of the work he did at Hunter was applicable not only in his work as a teacher, but also in his political life.

“Our professors knew what was important,” he said. “And we had rich conversations based on real experiences in the classroom.”

Dinowitz praised his Hunter professors for their rigorous methods and their unstinting dedication to their students.

Year after year, he has applied the skills he learned in his Hunter courses to his teaching, and he routinely contacted an old professor for pointers on creating a system for teaching phonics.

“He sat down with me and reviewed it so I could go and successfully teach my high-school students,” he said.

Dinowitz added that, while academic performance matters, students should not lose sight of humanity and giving back.

“Grades are important but people are *more* important,” he said. “Students need to take what they’ve learned and use it to better their own lives — and the lives of those in their community.”





**MSE, SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Industry:**

Education and Government

**Profession:**

Special Education Teacher;  
New York City Council  
Member, District 11



**BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE  
AND ECONOMICS**

**Industry:**

Business & Technology

**Profession:**

General Partner and Chief  
Investment Officer, Starkiller Capital



Being at Hunter, you are right in the middle of a great mix of people and opportunities. Spend your time taking advantage of it.”

## Leigh Drogen '09

Leigh Drogen works at the cutting edge of finance.

Where did he get the skills that catapulted him to the top? Why, Hunter, of course.

Drogen says his Hunter classes taught him the critical thinking skills necessary to innovate as an entrepreneur in business and technology.

Now he is the chief investment officer of institutional investment management firm Starkiller Capital, applying quantitative strategies to blockchain-based digital assets. He founded and served as CEO of Estimize, a crowd-sourced, financial-estimates platform designed to provide a more accurate, timely, and representative view of market expectations.

Along the way, Drogen has piled up recognitions: *Forbes*'s “30 Under 30,” Goldman Sachs's “100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs,” *Entrepreneur* magazine's “100 Brilliant Companies,” *Fast Company*'s “10 Most Innovative Companies.”

“The classes that teach you

how to think about policy-making, decision-making, and strategy — instead of being about rote memorization — had a huge impact on me,” he said.

As did the professors who taught him at Hunter — including a foreign-policy professor who was teaching undergrads at Hunter the same course he was teaching to grad students at Columbia.

“That was an incredible experience,” he said.

Like many Hunter students, Drogen chose the college because it offered the flexibility to work — and thus earn money and gain experience — as he studied for his degree. During his junior and senior years, he landed a job at a hedge fund during the day and attended classes at night.

As the founder of a startup, he specializes in taking risks and urges students to use the college's long hours and various class times to step out of their comfort zone.

“You get about four years to experiment with building things,” Drogen said. “Start a business or a nonprofit while in college,



because you just don't get that opportunity once you go into the labor force full-time.”

He said that students should open their eyes to their great good fortune.

“Being at Hunter, you are right in the middle of a great mix of people and opportunities. Spend your time taking advantage of it. If you don't, you will have failed to get what you should have gotten out of the experience.”

Drogen added that financial obligations including a job or needing to pay back loans or parents should not prevent students from trying to build something.

“Thankfully, Hunter is inexpensive relative to other institutions of the same quality,” he said.



“Follow your heart and your inclinations — and don’t forget that there are always people out there willing to help.”

## Yasmin Dwedar '06

Yasmin Dwedar explored several career options before finding her path at Hunter. A pre-med minor, she thought for a time that she would become a doctor.

But her experiences of exclusion as a Muslim-American in high school and her involvement in the Palestinian and Arab student clubs at Hunter led her to public-interest work instead. Dwedar earned a BA and an MA in just four years at Hunter and the Graduate Center at CUNY, then attended the CUNY School of Law, graduating in 2011.

Her legal career took off quickly:

She clerked in state and federal court before serving as the first Muslim assistant district attorney appointed by DA Kenneth Thompson.

She also founded the Arab American Bar Association, and serves on the New York Women’s Bar Association Diversity and Judiciary committees.

In 2019, then-Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams appointed her a member of Community Board 10.

Dwedar credits professors Moustafa Bayoumi and Zohra Saed for spurring her interest in race issues, postcolonial studies,

and West Asian and Arab American literature. She says her studies gave her a unique perspective on history and current events, and the vocabulary and critical understanding to find her voice as a woman of color from an oppressed community. She recalls an “aha moment” during her study of postcolonial literature when the structures of institutional racism became clear to her.

Learning about Palestine and Middle Eastern history, she began to focus on the oppression and surveillance of Muslim communities that followed 9/11 — especially as the daughter of an Egyptian father who “always had an exit plan” following the tragedy. But, unlike her father Dwedar was steadfast in her determination to stay and help her communities.

“Follow your heart and your inclinations — don’t listen to what other people say!” she said. “They don’t understand your experiences and the access to resources you may or may not have had. And don’t forget that there are always people out there willing to help. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel.”



Dwedar rallies for health care with then-Council Member Robert Cornegy.



**BA, ENGLISH**

**Industry:**

Legal and Government

**Profession:**

Supervising Attorney, Crime Victims Treatment Center; Board Member, Brooklyn Community Board 10





**BA, ENGLISH (MHC)**

**Industry:**

Academia

**Profession:**

Assistant Professor of English,  
Washington University in St. Louis





Hunter is so much more than exciting classes and top-tier professors. It is a hub for groups, student interests, and career opportunities.”

## Chris Eng '10

A would-be pre-law major, Chris Eng found his love for academia and scholarship at Hunter College — and has remained in that world ever since.

Now a literature professor at Washington University in St. Louis, Eng's extensive writings on sexuality have appeared in *American Quarterly*, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, and *Theatre Journal*.

When Eng came to Hunter, he hoped to study in a diverse environment while taking advantage of all the city had to offer. He did just that, taking part in six(!) city-based internships while also becoming an engaged member of Hunter's student body.

Eng co-founded the student group CRAASH — Coalition for the Revitalization of Asian American Studies — to advocate for the growth of Hunter's program. Not yet a chartered club or organization, CRAASH members were scrappy — sometimes holding meetings in the hallways.

Eng's advocacy ultimately paid off as the Asian American Studies Program has been revamped under President Jennifer J. Raab, and turned into a full-fledged center with top-notch leadership in Director Vivian Louie.

Motivated to expand the new center, President Raab raised a \$1 million endowment to create the Helen Zia Distinguished Lecturer in Asian American Studies and Deputy Director of the Center, honoring the renowned activist in the Asian American movement. To this day, she cites Eng's leadership and advocacy as a springboard for the program's evolution.

The strength of his education at Hunter — and his growing political involvement — led Eng to explore English literature as a career. After graduation, he went on to study English as a master's and doctoral student at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Now, he is an assistant professor of English and serves on the Minority Scholars' Committee of the American Studies Association and on the board of the Association for Asian American Studies, where he just won its Early Career Achieve-

ment Award. He is also an affiliated faculty member for WashU's minor in Asian American Studies.

All told, he's doing what he loves and carrying on the conversations he started while at Hunter. Eng hopes today's students take advantage of everything the college has to offer.

“It's so much more than exciting classes and top-tier professors,” he said. “It is a hub for groups, student interests, and career opportunities. I wouldn't be the person I am today without Hunter College.”



Eng and members of his student advocacy group during a hallway meeting.



At Hunter, I had two years of focused time with incredible teachers, where I was able to do a deep dive creatively into my own voice.”

## Lindsey Ferrentino MFA '13

When aspiring playwright and screenwriter Lindsey Ferrentino was admitted to every New York City-based graduate program she applied to, her choice was easy: Hunter College.



The now-award-winning playwright’s rationale back then was simple: Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab had partnered with Tony-nominated playwright Tina Howe to create the school’s first MFA in Playwriting, cementing Hunter’s reputation as the public school of the arts.

“I met Tina Howe at a dinner and fell in love,” Ferrentino said. “She was so passionate and encouraging and just such a unique person.”

The nominal cost of the program was also a bonus.

“I had immense student loans coming out of NYU and didn’t want to take on any more debt,” she said. “Hunter was the only program that took into consideration that students might need to work to support themselves. It was affordable and allowed you to have a job, go to school, and train with this incredibly talented feminist playwright.”

When Ferrentino got down to work, she knew she made the right choice, as evening workshops run by Howe and Mark Bly, former director of Hunter’s MFA Playwriting Program, provided a strong sense of community.

“You’d write plays and bring your pages into classes to share,” Ferrentino says. “There was a casualness to this, and it was quite festive. We were celebrating everybody’s work.”

The intense camaraderie paid off.

“I had two years of focused time with incredible teachers, where I was able to do a deep dive creatively into my own voice,” she said. “What I

want to write about characters — words, tone, everything — I was able to put that into practice.”

Ferrentino has since had many opportunities to do just that, with a long list of produced plays, including *Ugly Lies the Bone*, a drama about a wounded war veteran who uses virtual-reality game therapy to cope with post-traumatic stress disorder (*The New York Times* Critics’ Pick and 2016 Kesselring Prize, Laurents/Hatcher Citation of Excellence); *Amy and the Orphans*, a dramatic comedy about three adult siblings, one with Down syndrome, reuniting for their father’s funeral (2018 Catalyst Award); and *This Flat Earth*, a drama about the aftermath of a school shooting in a seaside community (Edgerton Foundation New Play Award).

To be that prolific, Ferrentino advises budding playwrights to seek out strong programs like Hunter’s where they can hone their craft.

“If you want to be a writer, keep writing and writing,” she said. “It can take much longer than anyone realizes.”



**MFA, PLAYWRITING**

**Industry:**

Arts & Entertainment

**Profession:**

Playwright and Screenwriter





**BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Industry:**

Government

**Profession:**

New York State Senator,

District 26



I had so much fun at Hunter and learned so much. If I could do it all over again, I would have taken an extra year to explore more classes.”

## Andrew Gounardes '06

The only regret that Andrew Gounardes has about his time at Hunter College is that it was too short.

The lifelong Brooklynite, who has served his hometown of Bay Ridge as its state senator since 2019, graduated from Hunter in 2006 — just three years after coming to the college.

Looking back from his desk in Albany, Gounardes wishes he spent more time enjoying his college experience.

“I had so much fun at Hunter and learned so much, but I was always in a rush to graduate and move on to the next stage of my life,” he said. “If I could do it all over again, I would have taken the extra year to explore more classes I was interested in.”

The Fort Hamilton High School graduate — who came to Hunter with a semester’s worth of AP credits — still packed a lot into his shortened Hunter career. A Political Science major with a minor in History, he took advantage of the school’s Manhattan location to land several part-time jobs in city politics, including one at City Hall.

As a freshman, Gounardes traveled to Washington, D.C., where he met George Stephanopoulos and Maryland Sen. Paul Spyros Sarbanes — a trip that solidified his plans to become a public servant.

Later, he even took his first overseas trip, traveling to Beijing in the summer of 2004 with Hunter Professor Charles Tien and a group of students to study congressional foreign policymaking as part of the Fulbright Scholar Program.

“There were 20 American students in a class with 10 Chinese students,” he said of the six-week program. “It was eye-opening to study that material halfway around the globe.”

In China, he traveled for two weeks by himself, visiting the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square. Gounardes added that professors such as Tien played a big role in shaping him as a politician and that he took every class Professor Andrew Polsky taught. He even met another of his teachers, Professor John Wallach, while campaigning in Bay Ridge.

“That was an easy vote to get,” he joked.

This year, he was invited by President Jennifer J. Raab to lead an Eva Kastan Grove cohort of fellows at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, where they are working on a project to prevent traffic deaths through education, road design, and other policy changes.

That appointment builds on his prior work as an adjunct lecturer in Political Science, where he has



Gounardes with President Raab and his infant son, Evan, in Hunter purple.



Gounardes and fellow 40 Under 40 honoree Yasmin Dwedat.

implored students to take their time and expand their horizons — because they’ll never know when they’ll learn something that will help in the future.

“I would definitely have benefited from more classes in subjects I enjoyed, like the humanities and literature,” he said. “And I never knew being in politics would require so much math!”



Define what the time at Hunter means to you — an MFA program is what you make of it, and what you fashion for yourself.”

## Kaitlyn Greenidge MFA '10

**K**aitlyn Greenidge has won every accolade you could want as a new, young writer.

Yet, as a budding novelist who plied her lonely craft in New York as a college graduate, Greenidge considers the friendships she forged with fellow writers during the years she earned her MFA at Hunter College as some of her greatest treasures — and was grateful to meet many mentors along the way.

Working with established writers such as Peter Carey — the MFA Creative Writing Program’s founder and director emeritus — was a key component of the program’s offerings and an important part of the experience. Greenidge credits Carey with giving her the confidence and support to trust in her voice and find her place in the literary world.

Greenidge’s debut novel, *We Love You, Charlie Freeman*, was named a “Times Critics’ Top 10 Book of 2016.” Its successor, *Libertie*, was tapped as one of the “Best Books of 2021” by *New York Magazine* and won the Whiting Award in Fiction.

She is the features director at *Harper’s Bazaar*, a contributing writer for *The New York Times*, and has received many fellowships, including one from the National Endowment for the Arts and another from the Guggenheim Foundation.

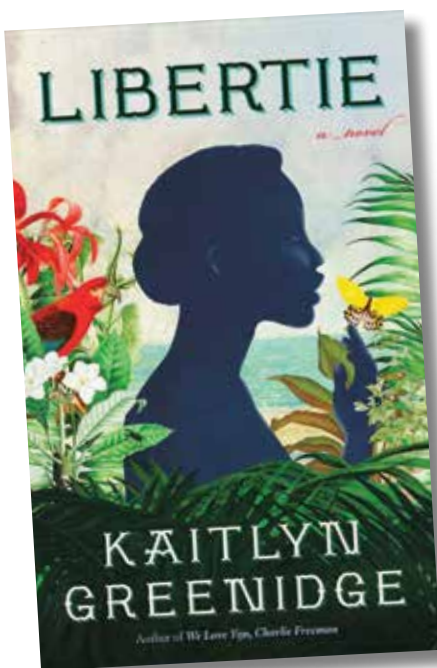
Greenidge was drawn to Hunter because of its affordability, flexibility, and intellectual and artistic rigor. She wanted an MFA program that encouraged her to work outside of school — enjoying

the opportunity to resume her job at the Weeksville Black history museum, where she had worked for three years before she began her graduate degree.

To this day, she counts many peers from her cohort as close friends. The people who sat across from her during the very first workshops are the same friends she sees weekly. For Greenidge, this was one of Hunter’s greatest gifts.

She is also thankful for the MFA Program’s emphasis on rigor, hard work, and authenticity — qualities she seeks to instill in other writers today at *Harper’s Bazaar*. Her high standards are a shared value at Hunter College.

“To MFA students: The time goes very quickly,” she said. “Make sure it counts and is of service to you. Especially now, when it feels like we don’t really have much control over anything, you shouldn’t cede that control to what you ‘should’ be doing. Define what the time at Hunter means to you — an MFA program is what you make of it, and what you fashion for yourself.”







**MFA, CREATIVE WRITING**

**Industry:**

Media and Arts  
& Entertainment

**Profession:**

Author; Writer and Features  
Director, *Harper's Bazaar*



**BFA, PAINTING**

**Industry:**

Visual Art

**Profession:**

Artist



# Alteronce Gumby BFA '14

Hunter College students have long been known for their resourcefulness and can-do attitudes, and artist Alteronce Gumby is no exception.

When he was a BFA student at Hunter, Gumby had an interesting way of introducing himself to the art world.

He stamped his name, email address, and the words “I am an artist” written in three different languages on pieces of scrap canvas, and gave them out to people while introducing himself at openings.

The gallery owners, curators, artists, and art lovers he handed them to weren't used to getting business cards at events — let alone studio-made ones — but the cards had an effect.

“People were really intrigued and it started a conversation,” he said. “And I was able to build up my Rolodex.”

Fast-forward to today, and Gumby is an award-winning artist whose work has been exhibited at renowned galleries such as Hauser & Wirth, Gladstone Gallery, and Camden Arts Centre.

Gumby credits the experiential learning he received at Hunter — a product of President Jennifer J. Raab's goal of making Hunter the public school of the arts — with turning him into the artist he is today. He cites classes where professors took students to museums to give lessons on Monet, Picasso, and Matisse directly in front of their works.

“Going to a museum is so much



Having the Guggenheim, the Met, and the Frick in walking distance of Hunter was really enlightening for me.”

better than seeing art in a slide show,” said Gumby. “And having the Guggenheim, the Met, and the Frick in walking distance of the college was really enlightening for me.”

A member of Hunter's prestigious Kossak Painting Fellowship, which gives students a \$1,000 grant for supplies and provides them with group critiques from visiting artists, Gumby credits the program with introducing him to the importance of feedback — and simple conversation — with others in the art world.

“Once you're out in the real world, you need relationships with curators and gallery owners in order to be successful,” he said.

After graduating, Gumby earned an MFA in Painting and Printmaking from the Yale School of Art. His work has won notable

awards, including the American Austrian Foundation/Seebacher Prize for Fine Arts and the Robert Reed Memorial Scholarship from Yale.

Gumby not too long ago accepted President Raab's invitation to serve on Hunter's Art Advisory Board, and continues to stress the importance of feedback, discussion, and interactions to Hunter's Art students, most recently during a panel on how to prepare for a life in the arts.

“I don't think artists should just be sitting in their studio praying to the painting gods that somebody is going to walk in and hand them a solo show,” he said. “I think there are relationships that have to be built. And the only way to do that is to get out and promote your art as much as you can.”



Gumby gives advice during an Art Advisory Board-sponsored panel in 2023.





At Hunter, I got to be bigger than the humble circumstances that I was born into. Education is the ticket to become whatever you want to be.”

## Diana Hernández '02

South Bronx native Diana Hernández believes that she didn't choose Hunter College — Hunter College chose her.

The Columbia Sociology professor, whose work focuses on vulnerable populations, was a talented high-school student who graduated at 16 — and went on to become the first college graduate in her family.

But she wasn't the first to give it a try. Hernández's mother had studied at Hunter, so her choice to go there wasn't a tough one.

Hunter gave her the support she needed — and the ability to take both winter and summer classes —

to earn a diploma by the time she was just 19.

“At Hunter, I got to be bigger than the humble circumstances that I was born into,” she said. “Education is the ticket to become whatever you want to be.”

Although she felt in a rush during her college career, Hernández appreciated working with mentors such as professors Janet Poppendieck and Philip Kasinitz, and pursued career opportunities as an undergraduate. She even received funding from the National Institute of Mental Health for her research.

Now, her work has multiple

funding sources, including the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; the JPB Foundation; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Her research has been published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Energy Policy*, *Public Health Reports*, and *Energy Research & Social Science*.

Hernández, who still lives in the South Bronx and received her PhD from Cornell University, said Hunter gave her a sense of analytical principles and methodologies, providing her with the tools needed to become a professor of sociology.

Hunter holds a special place in Hernández's heart for some other reasons as well. For one, a year and a half after she earned her degree, her brother graduated from Hunter.

And then there's the food truck outside the North Building.

“The orange chicken was always sizzling in the background,” she said. “It drew me to it, and that is where I met my spouse, who worked there!”





**BA, SOCIOLOGY**

**Industry:**

Academia

**Profession:**

Associate Professor, Sociomedical  
Science, Columbia Mailman  
School of Public Health





**BA, MEDIA STUDIES**

**Industry:**

Business

**Profession:**

CEO and Founder, ASRI Wellness





At 19, I didn't imagine myself going to college. Then I was invited to speak at Hunter."

## Kelle Jacob '08

A successful entrepreneur and model by the time she was 18, Kelle Jacob never planned on going to college. But something happened during a speaking engagement at Hunter: She ended up enrolling in the school.

"No one at any of the schools I had visited asked me about my own college career, but at Hunter, they did," she said. "I was going there to inspire the students — and I wound up being inspired."

The former contestant on *America's Next Top Model* soon enrolled at Hunter, first studying Art History before pivoting to Media Studies. She quickly made an impact, working on an exposé on gentrification in Bushwick that made the front page of the *Village Voice*.

With that notch in her belt, Jacob turned her attention to the school she was growing to love. As the vice chair of the Hunter Senate, she became

the leading advocate for renovating the library. After learning that some Hunter students were traveling to Baruch's library to study, the then-sophomore marched up to the 17th floor to tell President Jennifer J. Raab something needed to be done.

President Raab listened, and thus began the modernization campaign of the library that was kicked off with a historic \$25 million gift from alums Leon and Toby Cooperman '64.

President Raab appointed Jacob as the student representative of the library task force, which Jacob called a pivotal moment in her life.

"I felt empowered by President Raab's responsiveness," she said. "She gave me a front-row-seat to a masterclass on leadership, and I learned how to synthesize the ideas of different constituencies."

Through Hunter's connection to the late Evelyn Lauder HCHS '54 HC '58 and a recommendation from

President Raab, Jacob landed an Estée Lauder internship, and just as she did when she first came to Hunter, she got more than she had bargained for.

"I thought they wanted me to work at a counter," she said. "Instead, I was involved in strategy and product development."

That internship once again changed her life's trajectory, as Jacob accepted a full-time job with Estée Lauder after graduation. She eventually worked on four product-patent teams, launched two brands, got an innovation lab off the ground in Asia, and lived all over the world. Jacob has since founded her own self-help company, ASRI Wellness.

Picking up where she left off as a student advocate, Jacob is now the leading voice for the next generation on the Hunter College Foundation Board. Both as a trustee and as the founder of Hunter's Young Alumni Network, she has set her sights on forging Hunter's bonds with recent grads. She also prioritizes supporting and mentoring current students through her work on the Business Advisory Board.

And she never stops singing Hunter's praises.

"There are very few moments in life where you're given a playground of personal and career interests to test out," she said. "At Hunter, you can combine that with a team of people who support you in whatever path you choose."



Jacob accepts the senior legacy gift on behalf of the HCF Trustees at Hunter's Commencement in 2022.



I had the itch to do more, but I didn't know what 'more' meant. Hunter opened a door to the world for me!"

## Sean Kivlehan '07

Without Hunter College, Sean Kivlehan might never have become a doctor.

"I grew up in a family where people didn't go to college, let alone to graduate school," said Kivlehan, who was raised in upstate New York. "Not much was expected of me."

So it is safe to say that he did the unexpected.

Kivlehan, the first in his family to graduate from college, now holds several important public-health positions: He's the Global Emergency Medicine Fellowship director at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, where he's also an attending physician in the

Emergency Medicine Department. He's an instructor of Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School and on the Affiliate Faculty at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative. He consulted for the Emergency, Trauma, and Acute Care program of the World Health Organization and helped develop its Basic Emergency Care course.

Kivlehan trained in Emergency Medical Services and paramedicine and worked as a city paramedic for 10 years. Even though he worked a full-time night shift at a busy unit in The Bronx, he wanted more from life. He decided to go to college, first attending City College, where he got an associate's degree before transferring to Hunter.

"I had the itch to do more, but I didn't know what 'more' meant," he says. "Hunter opened a door to the world for me!"

While at Hunter, he continued to work full-time as a paramedic, taught in a paramedic program, wrote articles for paramedic textbooks, and helped organize paramedic groups, including one that went to Pakistan to help care for victims of the 2005 hurricane.

On the day he was to leave Kashmir to return home and to his classes at Hunter, Kivlehan got caught in a car-bomb explosion

that killed four people and injured more than 50. Miraculously, he only suffered minor injuries.

As a 23-year-old among 18-year-olds in his biology course, he felt very old. But his maturity turned out to be a plus — a professor recruited him for the Thomas Hunter Honors Program.

"I would never have taken humanities classes without that program," he said.

He wound up a double major in Biology and History, with a minor in Chemistry and Spanish; he also was an Anne Blatt Scholar and a member of the Golden Key Society. He received his MD and MPH in International Health from New York Medical College.

A humanities course on the history of science made Kivlehan think of his chosen discipline in a new light. He took his biology labs with Professor Ben Ortiz, a great mentor who gave him a first-hand view of a career in science.

His greatest memory, however, is graduation day — when Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab recognized him for the work he had done. When she acknowledged Kivlehan's mother in the audience, the crowd applauded for her.

Fifteen years later, his mom still brags about it!



Kivlehan on stage as a graduate in 2007.



**BA, BIOLOGY & HISTORY**

**Industry:**

Medicine

**Profession:**

Fellowship Director,  
Global Emergency Medicine at  
Brigham and Women's Hospital





**MFA, CREATIVE WRITING**

**Industry:**

Arts & Entertainment

**Profession:**

Novelist, Professor, and  
Writer-in-Residence



The two years at Hunter’s MFA Program developed me as a writer a tremendous amount, in part because of faculty, but also because of fellow students. I was very lucky to have such a wonderful group of amazing writers, many of whom I’m still in touch with today.”

## Phil Klay MFA '11

Many veterans write about the experience of war, but few do so with the distinction of Phil Klay.

Only three years after earning his MFA at Hunter College, the Marine Corps veteran of Afghanistan won the 2014 National Book Award for Fiction and the National Book Critics’ Circle John Leonard Prize for his short-story collection, *Redeployment*, which he honed while at Hunter. *The New York Times* also named the collection as one of the “10 Best Books of 2014.”

Klay’s debut novel, *Missionaries*, likewise gained a spot on *The Wall Street Journal*’s “10 Best Books of 2020.” Former President Obama called it one of his favorite books of the year.

That book also had its genesis at Hunter, where Klay, who was named to the prestigious Hertog Research Assistantship, had the opportunity to work with novelist Richard Ford.

Klay’s decision to join the Marine Corps surprised those who knew him more than his pursuit of a writing career did, he said. For years he had written poetry, journalism,

and fiction. But he felt drawn to military service in the early 2000s because, he noted, “we were a country at war.”

After serving, Klay reconnected with Tom Sleigh, a professor from his undergraduate years at Dartmouth. Sleigh, who had since begun teaching at Hunter, encouraged him to apply to its MFA Program.

At Hunter, Klay found a warm, curious, and intellectually rigorous community. The MFA instructors were as dedicated to the students as the students were to their writing and to each other’s work. They would all go out after class, which led to some memorable discussions on literature and writing.

More than anything, Klay, who has returned to Hunter to give readings and conduct workshops, notes it was the conversations that shaped his MFA experience. He feels grateful to Hunter for providing that kind of environment. In 2017, Hunter returned the gratitude by inducting him into its Alumni Hall of Fame.

Klay, whose non-fiction writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The*

*Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New Yorker*, calls the MFA Program an opportunity to take risks.

“The two years at Hunter’s MFA Program developed me as a writer a tremendous amount, in part because of faculty, but also because of fellow students,” he said. “I was very lucky to have such a wonderful group of amazing writers, many of whom I’m still in touch with today.”



Klay and Wounded Warrior Band singer Tim Donley discuss “Art in the Aftermath of War” at Hunter’s Lang Recital Hall in 2015.



I feel grateful for the time I was able to spend participating in my Hunter classes and critiques. It all felt luxurious, a wonderful privilege.”

## Sharon Madanes MFA '14

Sharon Madanes straddles two seemingly disparate professions — artist and psychiatrist — finding beauty in each. She found that balance between them at Hunter College.

Madanes, who studied as an undergraduate at Yale and earned her medical degree at Columbia, felt drawn to Hunter’s MFA Program because it provided an important safety net and sounding board for artists as they developed their craft.

She remembers it as an energetic community that invited many different speakers to events, and held critiques and social gatherings.

Now a psychiatry resident at New York University, Madanes creates art using hospital forms and rituals to illuminate matters of life and death. Her work has been

displayed in galleries and, during the pandemic, was featured along with fellow 40 Under 40 honoree Firelei Báez on bus shelters and LinkNYC kiosks as part of the Public Art Fund’s “Art on the Grid” decentralized exhibition. She also founded and co-directs 14x48, a nonprofit organization that posts public art on unused city billboards.

Madanes spent much of her time at Hunter in the studio, where she would not only create her artwork, but would also enjoy impromptu conversations with other artists and engage in peer critiques.

Madanes knew coming into the program that an artist’s No. 1 tool is their community. Her friendships from the MFA Program have endured.

To this day, she spends much of her time with close friends from Hunter, visiting studios and attending art events.

The New York art world is based on relationships, Madanes believes, and she encounters “a ton” of Hunter alumni either working as artists or managing art spaces, galleries, and studios. The art world she inhabits revolves around the Hunter community.

Madanes is deeply grateful for the professors she studied with at Hunter. Carrie Moyer and Daniel Bozhkov — working artists who teach in the program — have affected the way she views art. They, and her other instructors, encouraged her to think more critically, intentionally, and purposefully about art, especially in the context of art history and current events.

Since her Hunter MFA, Madanes and her artwork have traveled as far as Israel and all over the United States. She has won many grants and honors as she continues to develop her craft.

Her advice?

“Invest in the people around you as well as in yourself,” she said. “I feel grateful for the time I was able to spend participating in my Hunter classes and critiques. It all felt very luxurious, a wonderful privilege.”



Madanes with Wynton Marsalis and one of her paintings, which she presented to the award-winning trumpet player at Commencement in 2014.





**MFA, FINE ARTS**

**Industry:**

Medicine and Visual Art

**Profession:**

Artist and Psychiatrist



**MEd, SPECIAL EDUCATION**  
**MEd, ADOLESCENT LITERACY**

**Industry:**

Government and Education

**Profession:**

Head of Inclusion Strategy for  
Technology, Communications, and  
Risk, Federal Reserve Bank of New  
York; Adjunct Lecturer in Adolescent  
Literacy and English, Hunter College



I would not have had this trajectory if Hunter had not lit something in me.”

# Phillip Marcus

## MEd '11, MEd '16

Phillip Marcus' road to the Federal Reserve was paved at Hunter College.

Recently hired there as the head of inclusion strategy for technology, communications, and risk at the bank's New York office, Marcus earned two master's at Hunter before returning to teach as an adjunct lecturer in Adolescent Literacy and English — a position that ultimately helped him determine his path in life.

“I would not have had this trajectory if Hunter had not lit something in me and said, ‘Come back and teach in this program,’” he said. “It is something I would not have thought about doing if I hadn't gone to Hunter.”

After earning an undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University, Marcus became a teaching fellow with the city's Department of Education. When he later decided to pursue a master's degree in Special Education, he narrowed his choices to two programs — and chose Hunter for two reasons: the reputation of the School of Education, and Hunter's relationship to legendary poet, essayist, and activist Audre Lorde HCHS '51, HC '59.

“I always admired her and felt like I walked in her shoes,” he said.

Doing so is now easier for students since President Jennifer J. Raab received permission from the New York City Council to name Hunter's crossroads at 68th Street and Lexington Avenue for the legendary poet and activist.

Marcus earned his master's in Special Education in 2011, and returned to Hunter in 2013 for a master's in Adolescent Literacy. Jody Polleck, associate professor and program leader for literacy, and Melissa Schieble, professor in the English Education Program, both made a lasting impression on him.

“Their approach stood out because it is based on the pedagogy belief system,” he said.

He remembered how one of their classes taught him how to support struggling readers and writers.

“I began to study literacy and how it relates to citizenship in the United States,” he said.

Marcus added that Hunter did a thorough job of preparing him for his current roles.

“By engaging in deep analysis in both practice and in the system, it allowed me to take a balcony view of

education,” he said. “That let me be critical of systems and structures in the roots of inequality in New York City.”

He advises today's students to dream their biggest dreams and never give up on them — just as he did.

“You need to imagine the future you can have and the impact you can have,” he said. “You are a future literacy coach, a future administrator, a future equity warrior.”







Studying narrative psychology at Hunter opened my eyes to why and how people’s narratives can become self-fulfilling prophecies.”

## Naftuli Moster MSW '15

Woeefully unprepared for the rigors of higher education by his yeshiva schooling, Naftuli Moster honed his skills at Hunter’s Silberman School of Social Work — and went on to develop a nonprofit to help the next generation of Hasidic students.

Moster is the founder and former executive director of Young Advocates for Fair Education, which seeks to ensure thousands of Hasidic and Haredi students receive the required instruction in reading,

writing, science, and math as mandated by New York State law. After the age of 13, Moster spent up to 14 hours a day in religious study, taught in Yiddish, Hebrew, and Aramaic, and received no instruction in English, math, or science.

“Coming out of the Yeshiva system, I didn’t know much about college or what it meant,” said Moster, who decided at age 20 to become a psychologist. “By the time I got to Silberman, I realized I was still struggling with the basics.”

Since then, YAFFED’s advocacy played a role in a front-page article in *The New York Times* detailing the educational neglect at New York State’s Hasidic schools. That bombshell report spurred more oversight of the yeshivas, helping ensure future students receive the education they need and deserve. Moster founded YAFFED as an undergraduate, but his master’s degree from Silberman played a role in its development.

“Studying narrative psychology at Hunter opened my eyes to why and how people’s narratives can become self-fulfilling prophecies,”

he said. “It is almost intolerable to live with an oppressive narrative about your life.”

Moster has since produced lesson plans for the public and mental-health professionals informing them about the challenges faced by people who leave insular ultra-Orthodox communities — which can include psychological distress and suicide — and what can be done to help them.

Recently, Moster has moved on from YAFFED to take on a new challenge: founding Shtetl, a free news source for the Haredi community that promotes honest media.

“We envision a world where Haredi people can learn about events that are relevant to their lives without the filter of community leaders and gatekeepers,” he said. “It will also speak to the broader Jewish community, New Yorkers, and policymakers, making sure they are more knowledgeable about the needs, desires, goals, struggles, and triumphs of ultra-Orthodox communities.”



Moster speaks on a panel about Hasidic education at Hunter College’s Roosevelt House in 2022.



**MSW**

**Industry:**

Nonprofit Advocacy and Media

**Profession:**

Founder, Shtetl; Founder and Former Executive Director, Young Advocates for Fair Education





**BA, ECONOMICS**

**Industry:**

Business & Investment

**Profession:**

Founding Partner and Co-CEO,  
iAngels





At Hunter, explore as many subjects as possible. You never know which one will change your life.”

## Shelly Hod Moyal '07

Some great developments in Israel got their start on East 68th Street.

Shelly Hod Moyal blazes trails in Israel as founder and co-CEO of the female-led venture-capital firm iAngels, which connects investors to companies in the “startup nation.”

But Moyal might not have gotten into her present field if, after serving in the Israeli army, she hadn't moved to New York to attend Hunter College. At Hunter's 68th Street campus, Moyal, who entered as an Arts major, discovered her real talent was for numbers.

“In Israel, you choose your major on day one, and all of your courses focus on that one degree,” Moyal said. “At Hunter, I was able to take courses in multidisciplinary subjects. I came in as an Arts major, but because Hunter values a Liberal Arts education, I recognized my strength was in math and numbers. That shaped my entire career.”

Her successful career includes stints as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs and as a research analyst at Avenue Capital Group,

where she helped distressed companies at the height of the global financial crisis that began in 2008.

Seeking a better work-life balance, she started her Tel Aviv-based firm, which specializes in seeding climate, clean tech, and digital health start-ups, in her basement in 2014. She learned a lot at Hunter and in the States, but always knew she wanted to make her mark in Israel. Launching iAngels, she said, “combined an important social goal with personal self-fulfillment.”

As co-leader of iAngels, Moyal taps into her Hunter experience to manage the employees.

“Similar to how there are some companies that focus more on self-development and success, the college worked closely with me and made sure I didn't feel like just another cog in the machine,” she said. “This taught me the importance of being able to provide flexibility and growth to my employees. I encourage them to take on more responsibility and explore their capabilities, which ultimately sets both of us up for success.”

Moyal said she chose Hunter because of its flexible class schedule, which allowed her to pursue her degree at night while holding down a full-time job. She finished a four-year degree in only two years.

Moyal advises current students to do as she did.

“At Hunter, explore as many subjects as possible,” she said. “You never know which one will change your life.”



Photo: Nicholas Calcott



Internships and work opportunities at Hunter gave me the hands-on experience I needed to learn what I did and did not want to do in my career.”

## Veronica Ng '11

Veronica Ng made the connections she needed to launch her career in politics thanks to the internships she took on at Hunter College.

Now the assistant secretary for legislative affairs for New York Governor Kathy Hochul, Ng first dipped her toe into the political waters as an undergrad. She learned about the intricacies of legislation and how to take care of constituents' needs with the staff at then-Assembly Member Mark Weprin's office through a Hunter internship — an experience that would have been difficult to duplicate at a college outside the five boroughs.

“At Hunter, I was able to take advantage of all that New York

City has to offer when it comes to internships and work opportunities,” said Ng. “It gave me the hands-on experience I needed to learn what I did and did not want to do in my career.”

The Queens native, who, in 2021, was named one of *City & State's* “10 Young Politicos to Watch,” parlayed the position into a gig as Weprin's communications director after she graduated from Hunter and he moved to the City Council, where she worked for about a year and a half.

She then spent almost a decade working in senior roles with top elected officials in New York before joining the Parkside Group as a vice president.

A lover of government and the political process, Ng, who double-majored in Political Science and Anthropology, chose Hunter for its academics, affordability, diverse student body, and flexible class times.

Along with the internship with Weprin, she also interned in the development and communications office at the nonprofit Make the Road New York, where she assisted with fundraising.

A favorite memory of Ng's time at Hunter was the Model United Nations Program at Roosevelt House, where she learned about diplomacy and international relations.

“I didn't grow up learning about world news, so this was a welcome experience,” she said.

Another standout memory was her semester in a study-abroad program in Argentina in the winter of 2010, which helped her complete her foreign-language requirement in Spanish.

Her advice to students?

“Stay focused. Get all the experiences,” she said. “Treat others how you would want to be treated. And keep learning.”



Ng (left) with other members of Hunter's Model U.N. team in 2011.





**BA, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Industry:**

Government

**Profession:**

Assistant Secretary for  
Legislative Affairs, Office  
of Governor Kathy Hochul





**BA, PSYCHOLOGY**

**Industry:**

Arts & Entertainment

**Profession:**

Actor



Hunter was filled with students of many ethnicities and backgrounds, making for a beautiful fabric. People were there to collaborate and support each other.”

## Dascha Polanco '08

Before she got her big break in *Orange Is the New Black* and a life of red carpets, Dascha Polanco's story is Hunter purple.

Born in the Dominican Republic, the daughter of a mechanic and a cosmetologist, Polanco grew up in The Bronx and was already a single working mother when she enrolled at Hunter.

Like most Hunter students, she juggled a job, family, and school while pursuing her degree — something that taught her she could accomplish anything.

“I was working overnight at New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, going to Organic Chemistry at 8 am after getting off work at 7 am and getting on the train to Hunter,” she said. “It made me realize my potential and how resilient and limitless I am.”

Originally a student in Hunter's School of Nursing, Polanco pivoted to majoring in Psychology and began taking theatre classes — a path which quickly took her from Hunter to Hollywood. A fan favorite, she has since won two Screen Actors Guild Awards for her scene-stealing performance as Dayanara “Daya” Diaz on *Orange Is the New Black*. She has also co-

starred with Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, and Robert De Niro in the film *Joy*. Recently, she played Cuca in the film adaptation of *In the Heights*.

In 2016, Polanco was named “DREAMer of the Year” by the DREAM Project, a foundation focusing on early childhood development in the Dominican Republic. She credits her degree in Psychology with teaching her how to listen — which has served her well both as an actor and in her personal life.

“Taking all of those psychology courses studying human behavior and the brain allowed me to be more emotionally intelligent,” she said. “It helped me be more assertive, taught me to better understand people, empowered me to advocate for mental health, and even prepared me for the pandemic.”

Now an education advocate, Polanco often speaks about the value of higher education and how empowered she became after earning her Hunter degree despite all of her other responsibilities.

“When I walked down the aisle with my diploma, I said to myself: ‘Who is going to stop me from what I decide to do next?’” she said.

When Polanco returned to

Hunter as a Convocation speaker, she implored graduates to never give up on their college education. President Jennifer J. Raab still recalls how she chose to tell the moving story of her time at Hunter — and not her time on the red carpet — reading from handwritten notes, clearly penned with great emotion, on a yellow legal pad.

Polanco has since partnered with McDonald's on its HACER National Scholarship program, which has helped Hispanic students achieve their dream of earning a college degree for close to 40 years. Naturally, Polanco returned to her alma mater once more — this time to film a public service announcement about the initiative.



Polanco inspires new students at Hunter's Convocation in 2015.

# Coralina Rodriguez Meyer

## MFA '13

It took a change of pace — and a trip to Germany to study its Nazi past — for Coralina Rodriguez Meyer to realize Hunter College had the right Master of Fine Arts Program for her.

After a portion of a year questioning her decision to attend Hunter, she took advantage of the college's study-abroad program, heading to the Universität der Künste in Berlin.

There, she quickly realized what she had going for her in New York.

“My work deep in the archives studying Nazi utopian urban design and social structures made me grateful for the freedom of ideas circulating among the professors and students at Hunter College,” she said.

Nowadays, the Brooklyn- and Miami-based artist tackles topics such as racism, gender, and power imbalances in her art — while



I am grateful for the freedom of ideas circulating among the professors and students at Hunter College.”

providing interior and exterior design work for Fortune 500 companies and pioneering startups.

She credits Hunter with giving her the foundation for her success.

Back at the college, she found mentors in Professor Nari Ward, Professor Juan Sanchez, and Professor Lynda Klich, who collectively helped her discover who she was as an artist.

“Nari Ward was the reason I applied to Hunter,” she said. “I’m also grateful for Professor Sanchez’s kind and honest support and for Professor Klich, who introduced me to the powerful Latinx history.”

Hunter’s MFA Program provided the studio space she needed to develop her work across disciplines, and she was able to make friends at Hunter who supported and inspired her.

“We had an equal dedication to craft, collaboration, and critical inquiry,” she said.

“Mother Mold” — sculptures of the pregnant female form — for example, honors ancestral birth practices and her late indigenous-immigrant mother, who gave birth to her in a car on

the outskirts of the Everglades.

Other works such as the project “City of Today for Feminine Urbanism” — which she calls a “dystopian, hysteric fiction that explores structural violence enacted by American Mythology” — has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Univision*, *The Guardian*, *London Review of Books*, and *Jezebel* and exhibited at the Queens, Bronx, and Smithsonian museums, among others.

Meanwhile, Abra Studio, which she founded in 2005, is thriving, with her design consulting work and projects getting coverage in the *The New York Times*, *Architectural Digest*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Metropolis*.

Recently, she has taught architecture and landscape and urban design at Florida International University.

“My career has been one foot in architecture development, one foot in academia, and one foot in the arts for more than 20 years,” she said.

Since earning her MFA, Rodriguez Meyer has returned to Hunter to take classes — proving once and for all that the choice she made was the right one all along.



A work by Rodriguez Meyer displayed in Hunter’s East Harlem Gallery in 2020.





**MFA, COMBINED MEDIA**

**Industry:**

Visual Art & Architecture

**Profession:**

Artist; Interior and  
Urban Designer



**BA, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

**Industry**

Medicine

**Profession:**

Surgeon, Brigham  
and Women's Hospital



Hunter was the obvious best choice for me. It was in the heart of Manhattan and offered what I wanted: a mix of people in different stages of life, with diverse perspectives.”

## Mehida Rojas-Alexandre '12

Mehida Rojas-Alexandre learned how to juggle the demands of her busy schedule as an undergraduate at Hunter College. And what a schedule!

“I was on the track team for four years and captain of the team during my senior year,” she said of her time at Hunter. “We practiced every day for two- to two-and-a-half hours, then I would go to Organic Chemistry with ice packs around my knees, dripping water, so I wouldn’t be late to class.

“I was juggling a million things at once,” she said. “I learned time management, to have discipline, and to keep pushing through.”

Now a Harvard Medical School clinical fellow in surgery and a general-surgery resident at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, the Yale Medical School graduate is also a competitive weightlifter, devoting hours each week to practice.

When she has a tough day, she thinks back to running 400-meter hurdles in Hunter’s basement.

“I get through it by thinking everything is a hurdle,” she said. “If I get through this one and take another 14 steps, and clear this one, and so on, then everything will be fine.

“This prepared me to be a surgical resident today.”

But her favorite memory from

Hunter is a romantic one: She met her husband, Danilo Rojas-Velasquez, there. He attended Yale Medical School, too, and is now a psychiatrist at Harvard.

“We met as freshmen in Biology and became best friends,” she said. “I cherish those memories. Hunter was so special to us that we went back to Hunter in 2016 for our engagement photo shoot.”

During their 2012 commencement, President Jennifer J. Raab celebrated Rojas-Alexandre’s husband on stage. Coincidentally, the next person she recognized was Rojas-Alexandre herself! Now, the two are married and parents of a baby girl.

Rojas-Alexandre emigrated from Haiti to New York City the same year she that was researching to which colleges she would apply.

“Hunter was the obvious best choice for me. It was in the heart of Manhattan and offered what I wanted: a mix of people in different stages of life, with diverse perspectives.”

A Thomas Hunter Scholar and a Presidential Leadership Scholar, Rojas-Alexandre began giving back to Hunter as a student by volunteering as a health educator at Manhattan Hunter Science High School. She also worked with President Raab to advocate

for a new science building.

The Biological Sciences major left her comfort zone to explore other subjects, and suggests all students do the same.

“As a senior, I took film and geography. I got to meet people from all over the world and learn from them,” she said. “It has contributed to my success and how I interact with my patients.”



Rojas-Alexandre and President Raab are all smiles at Commencement in 2012.



Rojas-Alexandre’s engagement photos with husband and fellow 2012 graduate, Danilo, were taken at Hunter in 2016.

Photo by aQut LLC





You are receiving a best-in-class education at Hunter. Use all of the resources available on campus, and leverage the diversity that is all around you.”

## Malika Savell '06

For marketing maven Malika Savell, studying at Hunter College was an education in diversity — both in the classroom and out.

“I was exposed to a vast set of cultures and backgrounds, not only through dynamic courses, but also through first-hand experiences as a resident adviser in the dorms,” she said.

On top of that, she said that going to a college in the heart of New York City allowed her to cultivate relationships with one of the most diverse student populations in the world, while providing access to top organizations across industries.

“Hunter gives you the time to

discover, hone in, and advance your career,” she said.

For Savell, the college is also a family affair. She followed in the footsteps of her mother, a '73 Hunter grad who had a successful career as an educator.

“She raised her children in a household that celebrated culture, education, and creativity, and this upbringing influenced me in the best way,” Savell said.

A champion for diversity and inclusion for more than 30 years, her mother has been a source of inspiration for Savell. But it was her experience at Hunter that led her on the path to become chief of diversity, equity, and inclusion at luxury giant Prada North America.

“I felt a deep sense of community and belonging at Hunter and made lifelong connections with one of the most diverse and talented groups of people I have ever met,” she said. “It motivated me to continue this work.”

Savell, who earned a Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University and one in Global Music Management from New York University, has also worked at Sony, NBC, Remy Cointreau, and French luxury group LVMH.

She advises Hunter students to always make sure their next move is challenging, inspiring, and meaningful to them, and recommends that they take advantage of Hunter’s extensive and specialized courses, which can shape their path.

“You are receiving a best-in-class education at Hunter,” she said. “Use all of the resources available on campus.”

Of course, she also expects students to embrace diversity.

“Expand your circle and be open to seeing the world through the lens of another human being,” she said. “You will be astonished when you hear the stories and lessons from everyone’s journey.”



Savell has influenced Prada’s advertising campaigns, making them more diverse.

Photo: Courtesy of Prada



**BA, MEDIA STUDIES & ENGLISH**

**Industry:**

Business & Marketing

**Profession:**

Chief Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
Officer, Prada North America



**BA, ENGLISH**

**Industry:**

Legal and Nonprofit Advocacy

**Profession:**

Attorney and Director of the Eva Kastan Grove Fellowship Program, Hunter College; Founding Executive Director and Board Member Emeritus, Footsteps



# Malkie Schwartz '04

Malkie Schwartz, who left her ultra-Orthodox community in pursuit of a college education, has been helping others follow in her footsteps ever since.

Schwartz was raised in the ultra-Orthodox Lubavitch community. Her life was governed by strict religious rules and rituals, her future prescribed by the roles set aside for women. Schwartz, determined to choose her own path, courageously took the giant leap of leaving her insular, religious community for the secular world outside of it.

Her journey into mainstream society was aided by a secularized grandmother who took her in and exposed her to everyday experiences like going to the movies. A Hunter alum, she encouraged Schwartz to attend Hunter College.

Even though she fit right in with her immigrant classmates, who also were learning a new way of life, new values, and a new way to think, Schwartz found the adjustment to mainstream society difficult. Her high school had not equipped her for the rigors of a liberal-arts college such as Hunter. She had never even worn a pair of pants!

At Hunter, she encountered several other students who had also left the ultra-Orthodox world, but were reluctant to discuss it. Convinced that they needed to form a support group, Schwartz organized a meeting, posting campus flyers and relying on word of mouth to promote it.

That first gathering in 2003 attracted about 20 individuals, but the news “spread like wildfire” — the response became so great



Hunter is a time to really gather all the tools that you will need for the future. Pay attention! Not just in class, but to the larger experience at Hunter.”

that Schwartz eventually turned the monthly support group into a major nonprofit, giving it its name: Footsteps.

Since its founding 20 years ago, Footsteps has grown into a nationwide support network with an annual budget of more than \$2 million, having served some 2,000 individuals with social services including educational and career guidance — many such individuals lack even a basic grade-school education — and mental-health care and income support. It is the only organization in the country that provides comprehensive services to people who have chosen to leave those communities and begin new lives.

Schwartz said Hunter not only afforded her an education, it was a pathway into a wider world that enabled her to develop essential skills for graduate school and professional life.

Schwartz, who obtained her law degree from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University, has returned to Hunter as an attorney for the college, and is also the director of the

Eva Kastan Grove Fellowship Program, in which students work with policymakers, politicians, and advocates on projects advancing the public good. She is a regular donor to the Hunter Annual Fund.

Hunter has also become a known destination for Footsteps members seeking to broaden their horizons and receive an education that allows them to follow their dreams.

“Hunter is a time to really gather all the tools that you will need for the future. Pay attention!” she said. “Not just in class, but to the larger experience at Hunter.”



Schwartz with Grove Fellows during the “Arts and Activism” event at Roosevelt House in 2018.



It has been a privilege to donate my time to speak to the whip-smart students in Hunter's Pre-Business Program.”

## Mohammad Shaikh '08

**M**ohammad Shaikh's story exemplifies the possibilities of public higher education in the United States — and proves that the American Dream is alive and well at Hunter College.

The eldest of five children whose parents emigrated from Pakistan, Shaikh supplemented the income of his taxi-driver father as soon as he could legally work. Like so many Hunter students, Shaikh worked a full-time job throughout college, on his way to earning a BS in Accounting. By the time he finished college, Shaikh was his family's primary breadwinner.

Despite his commitments at home, which included tending to the needs of two chronically ill family members, he tutored and counseled fellow students at Hunter in entrepreneurship, as he looked toward a future applying technology to business and finance.

Shaikh, who received his MBA from the University of Rochester, is now the CEO of Aptos Labs, a billion-dollar cryptocurrency startup that he helped launch after leaving Meta, where he led its cryptocurrency effort.

Shaikh has worked for a “who's who” of leading corporations in investment banking, consulting, and social media, including Black-Rock, ClearBridge Investments, and Boston Consulting Group. He also founded the Brooklyn-based blockchain business Meridio, and built the Middle East office of ConsenSys.

Committed to advancing the public good, Shaikh has performed community service, including charitable work at a labor camp in Dubai. He firmly believes that he can use the tools he has acquired and refined through his work in financial technology to reduce inequality for Americans of modest means.

This public-spirited side of his

business acumen displayed itself early during his time in college, when he regularly volunteered through an accounting club at Hunter to complete tax returns for low-income families. Shaikh hopes to develop solutions to the basic obstacles to subsistence and make a higher standard of living possible for every American.

President Raab reconnected with Shaikh when he began mentoring Hunter students as an alumnus 10 years after his graduation. She invited him to join the college's Business Advisory Board, where he has generously donated his time to speak with and encourage students at the Leon Cooperman Business Center. More recently, he joined the Hunter College Foundation Board.

Shaikh is another example of a Hunter student who has proved that, if you have faith in yourself, work hard, and fully realize your talents, you can succeed beyond your wildest dreams. Through his work and commitment to giving back, he embodies the spirit of the Hunter motto, *mihī cura futuri* — “the care of the future is mine.”



Shaikh counsels students on how to start a business at a Biz & Bites talk at the Cooperman Business Center in 2018.



**BS, ACCOUNTING**

**Industry:**

Business & FinTech

**Profession:**

Entrepreneur and Investor,  
Blockchain, Crypto, Capital  
Markets; Co-Founder and CEO,  
Aptos Labs





**BA, ECONOMICS**

**Industry:**

Business & Marketing

**Profession:**

Co-Founder, Wunderkind  
(formerly BounceX)



It was a huge relief for me to get a great education while not taking on debt. Without Hunter, that would not have been possible.”

## Andreas Spartalis '08

Andreas Spartalis would look out at the corporate skyscrapers that surrounded Hunter College’s campus during breaks between his classes and dream about working at a global company headquartered in one of those buildings.

Just a few years later, he was doing just that at the Bloomberg Tower on Lexington Avenue staring back at Hunter’s skyways.

“I had realized that I accomplished one of my dreams,” he said.

After Spartalis cut his teeth as a marketer at both Bloomberg and BrickHouse Security, he co-founded the software company Wunderkind. In 2020, the company reached \$100 million in annual recurring revenue.

Marketers use Wunderkind to analyze website traffic and build profiles of visitors, then use those profiles to identify potential customers.

Not surprisingly, money played a key role in this Economics major’s decision to come to Hunter.

“It was a huge relief for me to get a great education while not taking on debt. Without Hunter,

that would not have been possible,” said Spartalis, who graduated magna cum laude. “Student loans carry an emotional burden and can lower your spending power, including your ability to acquire property or travel leisurely.”

Spartalis, who accepted President Jennifer J. Raab’s invitation to join the college’s Business Advisory Board, said Hunter’s location and its distinguished professors also played a big part in his decision to attend the school — as did its diverse student body.

It was school founder Thomas Hunter’s vision to ensure students of all races and creeds learned side by side, and Spartalis said being in such an environment

made him a better manager.

“It’s a great business leadership attribute,” he said.

Headquartered at One World Trade Center, Spartalis’ company has the same friendly vibe, and has gained a reputation as a fun place to work. *Internet Week*, *Crain’s New York*, *Computerworld*, and *Fortune* have each cited the company for its workplace innovation and policies.

He has done it all with the gumption Hunter students epitomize.

“Work harder but also work smarter,” he said. “Think outside the box, and try to deviate from the norm to gain a winning perspective. That will leave a lasting impression on any employer.”



# Bonnie Sussman '05

When Bonnie Sussman graduated from high school, she didn't know what she wanted to study.

But Sussman did have two requirements for a college: It had to be local, and it had to allow her to work full-time.

Hunter College, of course, checked both boxes.

Now, thanks to a first-rate Hunter education, Sussman is at the top of her game.

The certified public accountant and member of Hunter's Business Advisory Board is a partner at EisnerAmper, where she co-leads firm-wide private-equity training, mentors staff, and recruits employees. She has also worked as an assistant controller at Rho Ventures, a \$1 billion private-equity fund.

"When you grow up with



Find something you love and that you're passionate about, determine your goals, put everything into it, and you can achieve anything."

nothing, you learn the love of the hustle," she said, reflecting on the challenges of working full-time while being a full-time student.

Shortly after enrolling at Hunter, Sussman applied for a receptionist position posted on Monster.com and landed a job at the accounting firm Matthews & Co., LLP. It was that job — where she was paid \$12 an hour — that piqued her interest in accounting.

"I observed public accountants doing taxes and audits, and I looked up to those professionals and wanted to be like them," Sussman said. She remained at Matthews for three years.

In her senior year, Sussman audited a class with Adjunct Professor Bruce Prager, a partner at EisnerAmper. She made it her mission to interview at the firm. She approached Prager on her last day at Hunter and told him of her plan. She not only landed an interview — she later learned that Prager had also sung her praises.

"I found out that he had told all the interviewers what a wonderful student I was," Sussman said. "He definitely gave me the best recommendation."

Prager retired recently, but Sussman remains in touch with her mentor, who she credits with giving her invaluable professional and career advice.

Sussman praises the education in accounting she received at Hunter, which helped her tremendously with her career and did a phenomenal job of preparing her for the notoriously difficult, four-part CPA exam — which trips up many.

Now, Sussman has been featured among *Crain's New York Business* "Notable Women in Accounting and Consulting" and was named a "40 Under 40 Emerging Leader" by the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Her advice to students: "Find something you love and that you're passionate about, determine your goals, put everything into it, and you can achieve anything."





**BS, ACCOUNTING**

**Industry:**

Finance & Accounting

**Profession:**

CPA and Partner at EisnerAmper LLP



**BA, ECONOMICS**  
**MA, MATHEMATICS**

**Industry:**  
Government

**Profession:**  
Economist, World Bank Group





As an undergraduate, you need coaching, you need people who care about you, and Hunter provides that.”

## Nouhoum Traore '08

For Malian-born Nouhoum Traore, Hunter College was an ideal choice for an international student.

Traore remembers a welcoming environment — particularly for students who come from abroad. Always interested in liberal arts, he was especially drawn to Hunter's strong Economics Program. The fact that his brother was an enrolled student was also a selling point.

“In the Economics Department, professors have an open-door policy in addition to normal interaction in the classroom, and I was really thankful for that.”

Traore gratefully recalled the guidance of Professor Jonathan Conning, whose encouragement gave him the confidence to go to graduate school.

“Professor Conning was instrumental to my education during my time at Hunter,” Traore explained. “He provided the kind of advice you need if you want to go to grad school and do research. He introduced me to a lot of good economic research and would lend me his books.”

Now Traore holds a big title — as an economist at the World

Bank Group in Washington, D.C. After Hunter, he received a master's in Public Policy from Harvard and a PhD in Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

His doctoral dissertation on African development won an award from the International Association of Agricultural Economics.

Traore's research examines firm performance, entrepreneurship, and rural poverty in Africa. His Hunter education prepared him intellectually for a career in research and provided the connections he needed to be successful. Another inspiring faculty member was Sangeeta Pratap.

“They all influenced me and contributed to my passion for economics and going to graduate school at that stage,” Traore said. “There is a big disconnect between graduate and undergraduate work and these professors helped prepare me, such as explaining that I needed to minor in math to meet all the requirements to apply for my PhD.”

A proud member of the Black Male Initiative, he greatly benefited from the program's leadership and support.

Traore counsels Hunter students to take advantage of the school's mentors.

“As an undergraduate, you might be strong academically, but don't know which path you'll take; or you might know your path, but not know how to get there. You need coaching, you need people who care about you, and Hunter provides that,” he said.

“I am forever grateful for the access I had to people who were committed to guiding me.”







I thought it would be cool to create something that left a lasting mark.”

## Anthony Volodkin '07

**H**e believed the Hype. When Anthony Volodkin was a sophomore majoring in Computer Science at Hunter College, his part-time gig as an IT consultant started to bore him.

So he put the programming skills he learned as a Computer Science major at Hunter into creating a website dedicated to one of his other passions: music.

“I wanted to work on something I enjoyed, I thought it would be

cool if I could create something that left a lasting mark,” he said.

That something was Hype Machine, a simple way to connect music lovers with new tunes they otherwise would not have known anything about.

The Russian immigrant, who moved from Moscow to Brooklyn with his parents at the age of 12, got the idea for the website when he realized it was difficult to find a trusted source on the internet

that recommended great music.

His free site aggregated content scraped from handpicked music blogs and websites, letting viewers see what people were saying about songs, and giving them a chance to hear a sample.

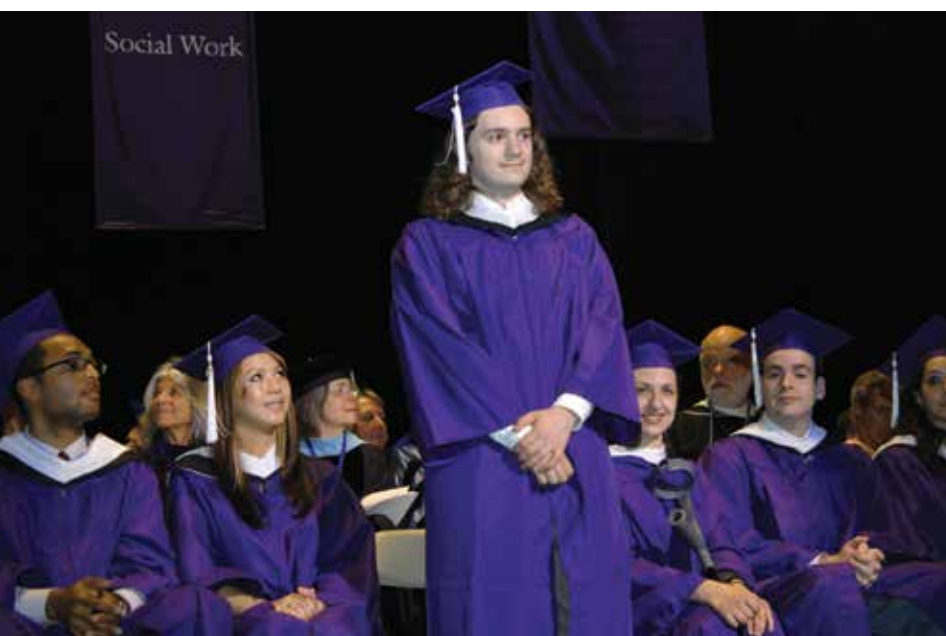
It didn't take long for it to become a success, and for musicians, getting a song listed on Hype Machine quickly became the equivalent of going viral online today.

By 2009, it became such a big part of artist promotion that music industry hackers routinely tried to game its popularity charts to help boost performers' sales.

Volodkin, who was a Macaulay Honors student, credits Hunter's Computer Science Department for supporting his entrepreneurship as he built his business from the ground up.

To this day, Hype Machine is a great way to tap into new music, so much so that it is backed by thousands of users who voluntarily contribute to its operation.

Eighteen years since its founding, Volokin's Hype Machine has set a shining example for future Hunter grads that they too can become innovators.



Volodkin was acknowledged by President Raab during her address at Commencement in 2007.



**BA, COMPUTER SCIENCE (MHC)**

**Industry:**

Technology

**Profession:**

Founder, Hype Machine





**BA, PSYCHOLOGY (MHC)**

**Industry:**

Medicine

**Profession:**

Hospitalist; President,  
Medical Executive Committee,  
Sentara CarePlex Hospital





Greatness is not something to make your mission; you will be great at what you do if you love it.”

## Gwendolyn Williams '06

Navigating medical school and a residency as a young woman of color, Dr. Gwendolyn Williams appreciated her Hunter education.

As a first-generation college applicant from Queens and the daughter of Caribbean immigrant parents, the university application process was unfamiliar to her and her family. But when Williams learned about the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter, which offered a top-notch education with free tuition, housing, and laptops — it all suddenly made sense.

Williams is confident she made the right decision to attend Hunter. She credits the support and respect she received at the college as the springboard that encouraged her to become a doctor. After graduating from Hunter, she earned her MD from the University of Pittsburgh.

Care and respect imbued the atmosphere at Hunter, she said: The administration advocated for students; professors enjoyed teaching and encouraged students to advocate for themselves, a skill that came in handy during medical school and her residency.

At Hunter, Williams excelled. She was class valedictorian and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

She was chosen for the highly competitive National Institute of Mental Health Career Opportunities in Research Education and Training program.

Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab recognized Williams' joint love of policy and medicine. Believing Williams could become a leader in health care, President Raab nominated her for the Junior Summer Institute at her alma mater, the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs.

Looking back, Williams, who was attracted to the idea of pursuing her undergraduate degree in New York City without sacrificing the independence of her college years, laughs at how she acted as if she lived in another state despite being just a subway ride away from home.

Being at Hunter gave her such a sense of pride and belonging that she wanted to share it with others. So, beyond staying on campus even occasionally over the holidays, she began to give walking tours on behalf of Hunter's Welcome Center.

Williams learned the history of the school and what made it so special. She understood that Hunter's urban campus spread across the city is one of its strengths.

“We're everywhere!” she said.

The strong female role models she encountered at Hunter, such as Eunice Lewis-Broome, who worked at the alumni office, also had a lasting effect. Williams, at 33, became the youngest board member of her medical group. She has helped diversify that board with a focus on adding more female physicians.

Williams said that, like her, Hunter undergraduates will succeed in life if they believe in themselves, work hard, and not worry if they stumble here or there.

“Greatness is not something to make your mission; you will be great at what you do if you love it,” she said. “So, I encourage you to pursue what you're passionate about with your whole being. And remember: Humility is very important. You cannot experience the highs of success without reaching the depths of failure.”



Williams at Commencement in 2006 with Professor Rupal Oza of the Women and Gender Studies Program.

# Khristina Williams '18

Khristina Williams thinks Hunter was a perfect fit for an aspiring journalist.

“I was looking for an affordable school with an easy commute. It was super close to where I worked, and I had heard great things about it,” said Williams, who grew up in Harlem and graduated from LaGuardia High School.

The deal was sealed after she talked to Journalism professors and learned about the new Studio News Production class that had students create a live newscast from the planning stage to air.

“I enjoyed being in front of the camera and learning how to report a story,” she said. “My work was getting published, and I was getting real-time feedback.”

Williams went on to found Girls Talk Sports TV in 2018, which gives women a voice, visibility, and value in the sports-media industry, and has become the go-to destination for WNBA news. It features a number of



Hunter is prestigious and the professors are top-tier. After graduation, the mentorship continues. You're a lifelong member of the Hunter family.”

female journalists talking about women's basketball, and includes her own podcast, “Kickin' It With Khristina,” on which she frequently interviews WNBA stars.

The industry has noticed: In 2021, Williams was named to *Forbes'* “30 Under 30 Sports List.”

Her success would not have been possible if not for her time at Hunter, where she learned how to interview people in one of her favorite classes — the Neighborhood News course.

“We went out and reported from the street,” she said. “We were later joined by industry leaders who

would give us advice and feedback.”

Her confidence grew as people recognized her around campus. “Walking around campus, people were saying, ‘OMG! You're the news girl!’” she said. “People knew who I was, and I took pride in that.”

Williams said she was always pushed to go the extra mile by Hunter's Journalism Program Director Sissel McCarthy, and added that relationship-building was central to her Hunter experience.

“Being able to network helped me launch my career as a digital-content creator,” she said. “I reached out to people I could work with from my Film and Media class.”

She ended up finding a support group of Hunter alumni.

“We helped each other get ahead within the industry,” she said. “That is so valuable because it is hard to get that break-out job.”

Williams believes that students should take pride in their Hunter education.

“Hunter is prestigious and the professors are top-tier,” she said. “Even after graduation, the mentorship continues. You're a lifelong member of the Hunter family.”







**BA, MEDIA STUDIES**

**Industry:**

Media & Entertainment

**Profession:**

Founder and CEO,  
Girls Talk Sports TV





**BA, MATHEMATICS**  
**MA, APPLIED MATHEMATICS**

**Industry:**

Business and Nonprofit Advocacy

**Profession:**

Co-Owner & CFO, Mancini Duffy;  
Founder of SheBuildsWaves,  
SheBuildsLives, SheBuildsMoney,  
and REACHNigeria



You might have thoughts, dreams, ideas that you want to explore; there is never one single way to achieve them. The world is your oyster!”

## Bolanle Williams-Olley '07

The 17-year-old Bolanle Williams-Olley would never have pictured herself where she is today.

The Nigerian-born daughter of a single mother, Williams-Olley arrived in New York for college at Hunter thinking that she would study Computer Science. Spurred on by the support she got at Hunter, the math whiz took risks, rose to academic and professional challenges, and blazed a unique career path.

Today, Williams-Olley combines a business career with nonprofit entrepreneurship. She is the CFO and part owner of Mancini Duffy, a technology-first architecture and design firm. But she also founded SheBuildsWaves, which helps women in architecture; SheBuildsLives, which improves the lives and education of poor children in Nigeria; SheBuildsMoney, a business platform for small firms; and REACHNigeria, a hub for volunteer opportunities.

In 2021, Williams-Olley, who also holds an MA in Education and Social Policy from NYU, published a book, *Build Boldly: Chart Your Unique Career Path and Lead With Courage*.

Williams-Olley's favorite part of being at Hunter was the people. From catching up with friends in

the hallways between classes, to finding kindred spirits through the African Student Union, to commiserating with pals when the school remained open on snow days. She is grateful for the Hunter community, which made her college experience so worthwhile.

One professor in particular stood out for his mentorship and generosity: the late John Loustau, who taught Mathematics at Hunter for 50 years, and who served as both her undergraduate and master's theses adviser.

She always had an affinity for math, but it wasn't clear, as an international student, which transferable skills a math degree

would afford her. Once she realized that an education in mathematics would encourage critical, creative, and strategic thinking, she blazed forward along her path toward a BA and MA in five years.

She credits Hunter's International Student Office and the early friends she made — who appreciated just how far away she was from home — for smoothing her academic journey.

She counsels Hunter students to take risks, like she did.

“You might have thoughts, dreams, ideas that you want to explore; there is never one single way to achieve them,” she said. “Bet on yourself, take risks and be bold. The world is your oyster!”



Williams-Olley at the first SheBuildsLives quarterly convention.



I really appreciated what Hunter gave me after I left. Without exaggeration, all of my ambition came from Hunter College!”

## Caitlin Zaino von During '04

Caitlin Zaino von During's life changed for the better when she transferred to Hunter College — where she acquired the drive that turned her into a serial entrepreneur and CEO of several successful travel and hospitality companies.

Zaino von During did not feel that her first college was the right fit for her, culturally or academically. It soon occurred to her that the best path forward was to follow in her father's footsteps and leave for New York City.

Having studied at Hunter's School of Social Work in the 1970s, her father had always held Hunter in high regard. So, with the desire to find an institution connected to its student body, she transferred to his alma mater.

The decision was a game-changer for Zaino von During. At Hunter, she found fellow students who cared deeply about their work, appreciated the opportunity and privilege of studying in the city, and brought out the best in each other. She quickly learned that Hunter was New York's best-kept secret: incredible professors, rigorous academics, and an innovative program in the heart of the city.

She loved her professors and

political theory courses — with one experience remaining especially vivid: when President Jennifer J. Raab arranged to have President Bill Clinton join Hunter as a visiting professor for the day. The year after his presidential term ended, Clinton delivered a public address to the entire Hunter student body and served as a guest lecturer in one Political Science seminar. Zaino von During was one of the lucky students in that class. That sit-down with “Professor Clinton” is still “one of the coolest things” she has ever done.

She was an active member of the New York Public Interest Research Group, and through it became involved in public advocacy and social change. She was so committed, in fact, that the day after 9/11, she came to school, went straight to the NYPIRG office, and began to call local restaurants to find a way to bring food downtown to first responders and local communities.

Food, sustenance, and community are a common theme: She later created an online food magazine, *The Urban Grocer*, which she turned into a show on the Cooking Channel.

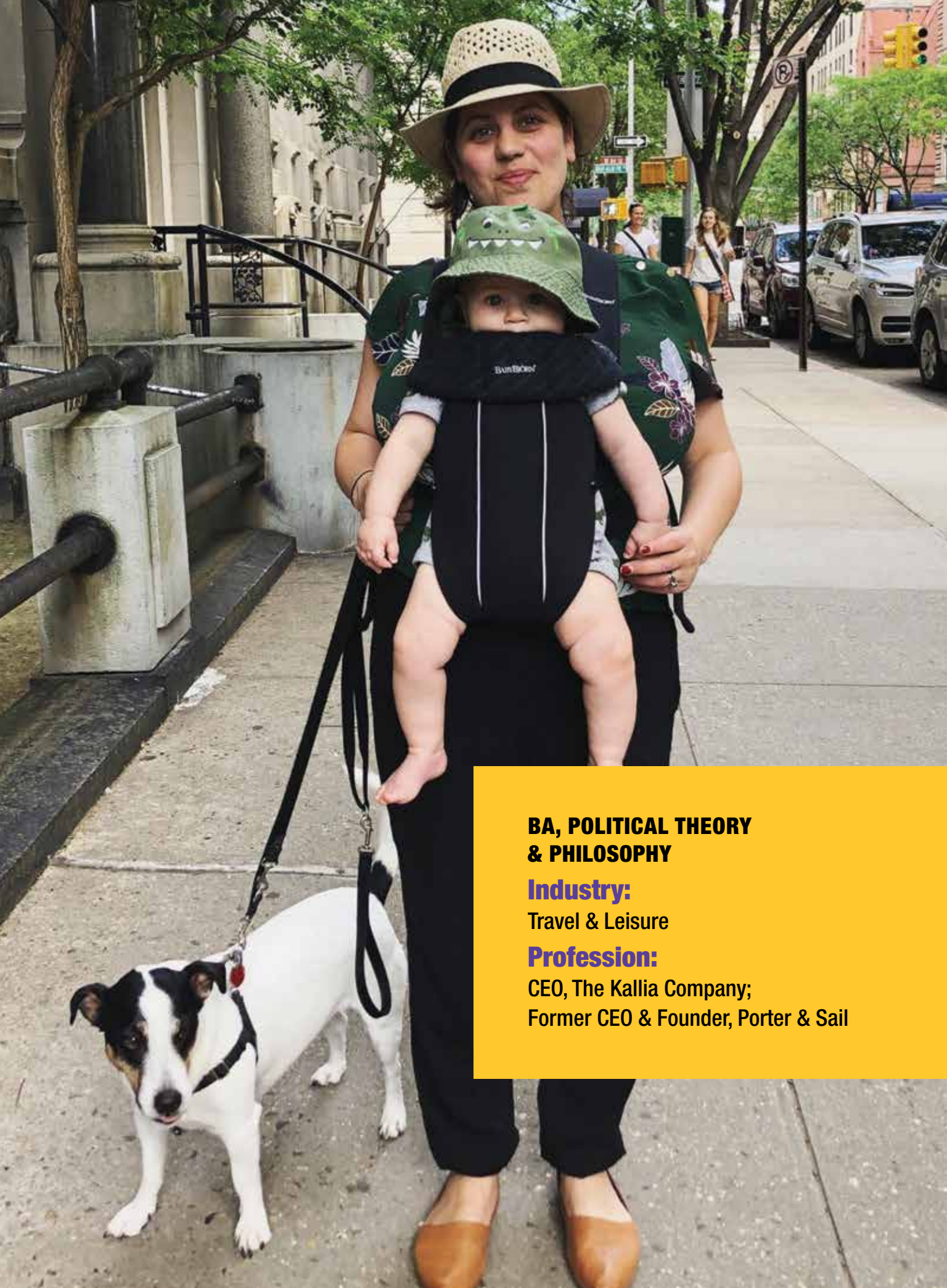
Named one of *Business Insider's* 2020 “Change-makers in Travel,” Zaino von During said Hunter

equipped her with confidence and self-assurance. At Hunter, knowing that she only had to ask if she needed help, she cultivated the courage to be autonomous and focused — so much so, in fact, that she once reached out to President Raab to ask about law school, and was invited to her office for a chat! Zaino von During went on to receive her master's degree in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago.

“I loved Hunter so much when I was there, but I really appreciated what Hunter gave me after I left. So have gratitude for the college!” she said. “There is so much diversity, community, and connectivity here — you don't find that everywhere. Without exaggeration, all of my ambition came from Hunter College!”







**BA, POLITICAL THEORY  
& PHILOSOPHY**

**Industry:**

Travel & Leisure

**Profession:**

CEO, The Kallia Company;  
Former CEO & Founder, Porter & Sail





**BA, ECONOMICS  
AND ART STUDIES**

**Industry:**

Business & Investing

**Profession:**

CFO, Kaizen Aerospace;  
Managing Partner,  
Carbon Ventures



Whether you promote your own business, or position yourself as an employee within a company, you need to market yourself by applying all the soft skills you learn at Hunter.”

## Katherine Zamsky '05

Katherine Zamsky became a business whiz because of the well-rounded education she got at Hunter College.

She was a double major in Economics and Fine Art with a minor in Art History, which taught her analytical and strategic thinking, helping her to work in private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, and real-asset spaces.

Psychology courses, meanwhile, honed her emotional intelligence. “Soft people skills were applicable whether I was syndicating estate deals, launching private-equity funds, implementing portfolio allocations, or starting a logistics company,” she said.

Now, she is the CFO at Kaizen Aerospace, an air-cargo logistics startup, and a managing partner of Carbon Ventures, which focuses on investing in carbon-reduction technologies.

Zamsky worked full-time throughout college, including 60-hour weeks at AIG Hedge Fund Strategies Group, with whom she stayed on after graduation.

“The evening classes were packed with other students like me who worked during the day,” she said. “I was able to graduate debt-free.”

An immigrant, Zamsky felt at home at Hunter. Her classmates brought interesting perspectives to the classroom and, like her, were hard-working people looking to build a better life.

She also appreciated the large number of women in her classes, which fostered her commitment to mentoring women in business.

“I would love to see more women succeed in these industries, be well-compensated, and thrive in corner offices, in leadership and executive roles,” she said.

In 2020, Zamsky served as an executive lead mentor for the CUNY Public Health Innovation Accelerator, working with teams that develop digital public-health platforms. She recommends that students look beyond their classes to pursue internships and jobs — or to start their own company.

“There are great entrepreneurship programs now across CUNY schools,” she said. “Financial independence lets you take control of your life early on.” Her advice to students?

“Spread your wings and take classes that fascinate you, like creative writing or photography, and then apply it as inspiration

in other aspects of your life,” Zamsky said. “Even in a business setting, storytelling and visual communication can help you effectively get your point across. And my background in art studies helped me build marketing materials at every job I held.

“Whether you promote your own business, or position yourself as an employee within a company, you need to market yourself by applying all the soft skills you learn at Hunter.”





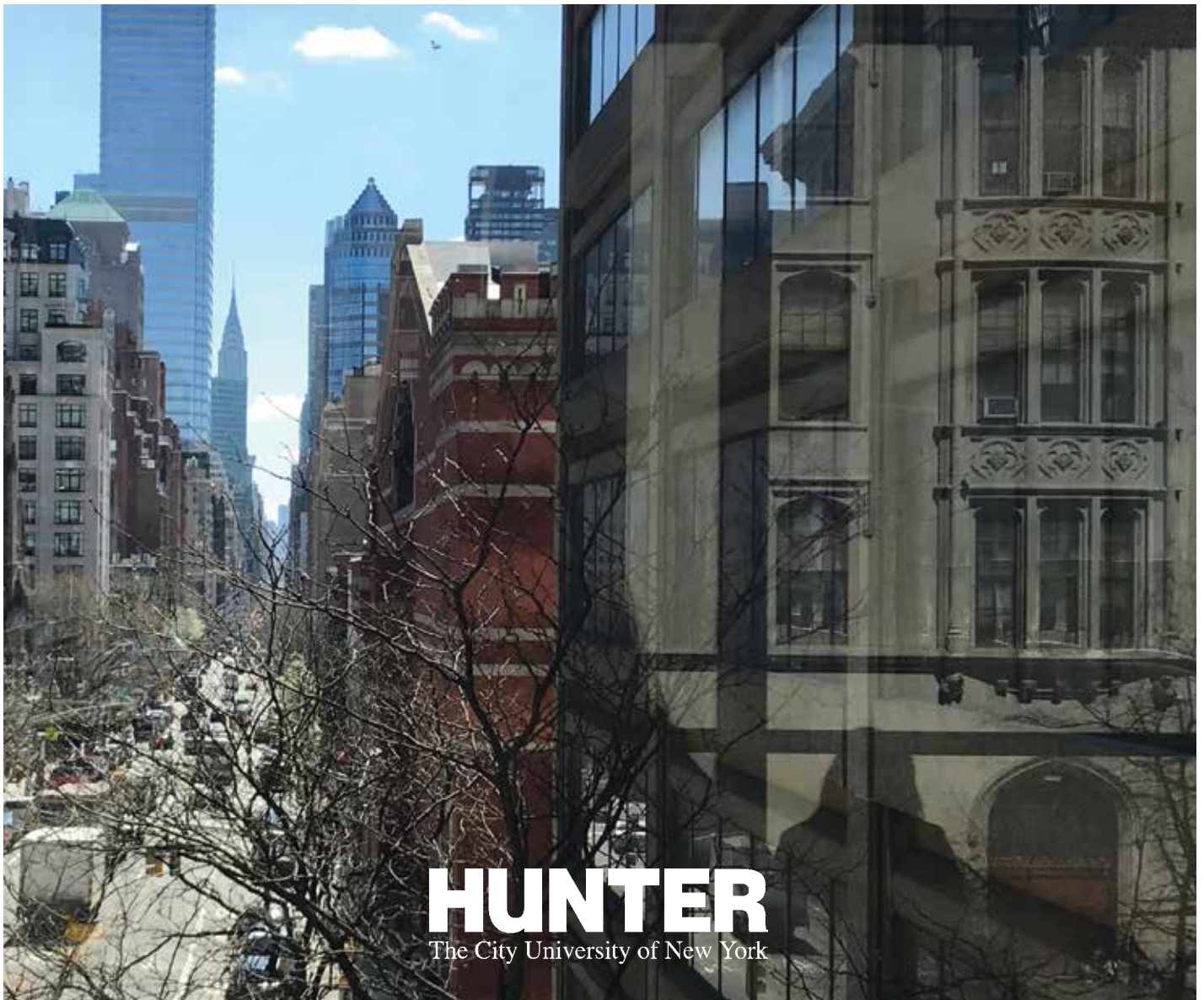


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