

FALL
2018

ART HUNTER



Opening the Gates:
Lin-Manuel Miranda in Conversation
with Bill and Melinda at Hunter College

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Photo: John Abbott



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Many wonderful things are happening at Hunter now—from students winning prestigious awards like our first-ever Rhodes Scholarship, to faculty receiving major grants and national honors, to a campus that's being dramatically modernized and expanded. It's why we're all so excited about celebrating Hunter's 150th anniversary in 2020. It will be a year of promoting Hunter as a transformative New York institution, celebrating its legacy of advancing women and minorities, highlighting it as a hub of the arts, and showcasing it as a center of thought leadership. We're making plans now for a yearlong series of events, so I hope as many of our wonderful alumni as possible will be able to participate.

It's always a joy for me to greet returning alums, especially when they were students I knew as undergraduates. There have been several inspiring encounters this year, most recently when I accepted an award from the Harlem Educational Activities Fund, a marvelous organization that helps put minority boys and girls on the college track. We're proud that many of them choose to go to Hunter, including the wonderful alumna who introduced me at the ceremony, Evelyn Perez-Albino '08.

Evelyn was born in the Dominican Republic, grew up in Washington Heights (my old neighborhood), got into Bronx Science High School thanks to HEAF's support, and was an outstanding student in our pre-law program. She's now a practicing attorney, a community activist—and a new mom. Her introduction was full of warm memories about her Hunter days, including the thrill of being taken to see the musical "In the Heights" and meeting Lin-Manuel Miranda backstage. I couldn't have been prouder.

It was a pleasure for me to hear from our first Rhodes Scholar, Thamara Jean '18, who has settled into her studies at Oxford where, in keeping with a grand old university tradition, she has received her "penguin suit."

This year's Hall of Fame induction ceremony brought more outstanding graduates back to the campus, including the great Hispanic community leader Jose Calderón '97 and Dr. Patricia Bath '64, the first African-American woman to win a medical patent.

I'm always thrilled to welcome the wonderful Hunter graduates who attend the annual Reunion Day, including several centenarians (there really is something in the Hunter water). And I was delighted to present an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Arthur Elgort '64, who combined his Hunter education and New York street smarts to revolutionize fashion photography.

If you are celebrating an anniversary year, we look forward to seeing you at our Reunion Lunch on April 6, 2019. This year will be extra special as our celebration will include alumni celebrating their 20th and 25th reunions as well as welcoming all of our Bronx Campus alumni. It's sure to be a great day "home" at Hunter.

We'll keep you up-to-date on plans for the 150th anniversary celebration.

And please stay in touch with everything happening at Hunter by visiting our website (www.hunter.cuny.edu). You also can follow us on our Twitter feeds (including @Hunter_College and @HunterPresident), on Instagram (@HunterCollege and @HunterPresident) and at Hunter's Facebook page. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at president@hunter.cuny.edu.



▲ (L to R) Evelyn Perez-Albino '08, Hunter President Raab, HEAF President Ruth Rathblott



▲ Thamara Jean '18



@HunterPresident



[instagram.com/hunterpresident](https://www.instagram.com/hunterpresident)



▲ Before introducing Bill and Melinda Gates, Lin-Manuel Miranda congratulated students for attending an “awesome school,” saying he “won the lottery at age six” when he was accepted to Hunter College Elementary School.

RAPPING WITH BILL & MELINDA

Lin-Manuel Miranda Leads a Wide-Ranging Q&A—and Hunter Students Ask Some Big Questions

When Hunter College was chosen by the Gates Foundation as the site to launch its 10th Annual Letter, it was an exceptional honor—and a natural fit. The Gates Foundation spends about \$500 million each year in the United States, most of it on initiatives to

“When you get a good education, when you go to a Hunter College or a Hunter College High School, it changes the trajectory of your life. We want to make sure that all students in this country have that chance.”

— Melinda Gates

”

bolster educational equity and postsecondary success. As a top-ranked public college, Hunter has advanced that same mission for nearly 150 years, opening doors of opportunity for generations of students.

Bill and Melinda Gates could not have asked for a more thoughtful, engaged and perceptive group of students than those who gathered for the lively forum moderated by Hunter’s own Lin-Manuel Miranda, HCES ’92, HCHS ’98. After congratulating the assembled students for going to an “awesome school,” Miranda added that he “won the lottery at age six” when he was accepted to Hunter College Elementary School. “The education I got there shaped who I am,” he said.

As the conversation got underway, Miranda read questions submitted by attendees as well as the live Facebook audience. He even fielded one from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who asked: “If you could go back and give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be? Asking for a friend.”

The wide-ranging conversation covered topics from philanthropy and global health to education and current events. Throughout the session, Bill and Melinda Gates were not only open and engaging, but optimistic about the state of the world. One student asked whether Alzheimer’s disease will ever be curable,



▲ At the 2008 Hunter College High School commencement, Lin-Manuel Miranda celebrated his Distinguished Graduate Award by inviting his former a cappella group on stage to perform.

another wanted to know how to promote effective birth control in Africa, and a Hunter Elementary School student asked, “What do you think you could do to help bring theater to communities all over the world?” That question prompted Miranda to jump in and emphasize the critical importance of arts funding. “The arts are just as vital a part of our economy as anything else,” he said.

When Bill Gates was asked what advice he had for future entrepreneurs, he urged students to stay in school and noted that students who pursue studies in the sciences will find that their skills can make a real difference. “If your talents take you toward science, programming, advances in biology, or energy breakthroughs, these areas are going to be the biggest source of change,” Gates said. “The only solution I see out there is innovation,” he added. “If you have an inkling that science grabs you—and it is hard work—that is where a lot of the opportunity comes from.”

A BANNER YEAR FOR STUDENT

Hunter's First-Ever Rhodes Scholar...

All Rhodes lead to Oxford: Thamara Jean '18 won the most prestigious academic award available to American college graduates—the Rhodes Scholarship—and left for England to begin her studies this fall. The first Hunter student to receive this award and just one of 32 Americans selected for this honor, Jean is pursuing an MPhil in political theory at the University of Oxford.

and commitment to public service. In that program, she organized students on college campuses nationwide to participate in a film screening and online discussion to raise awareness about the need for an Equal Rights Amendment. She also was one of just 10 students selected for the prestigious Mellon-Mays Fellowship, which allowed her to spend a summer conducting research with a Harvard University



Jean believes that she will bring a unique perspective to Oxford, and credits her outstanding education and the diverse community at Hunter for that. "Going to Hunter College definitely made me see that people absorb knowledge



▲ Bill Gates and Thamara Jean discussed activism, progress and how to make a difference during a LinkedIn interview that followed his historic visit to the Hunter campus.

Jean's achievements represent a quintessential Hunter College—and New York City—success story. The daughter of Haitian immigrants who work as a synagogue grounds-keeper and a nurse, Jean graduated from Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn and arrived at Hunter as a Macaulay Scholar with a passion for political science. In 2017, she was selected as an Eva Kasten Grove Fellow in recognition of her academic achievement

and professor. Based on the glowing recommendation letter she earned through that experience, she was invited to write her senior thesis—which focused on the Black Lives Matter movement—a year early as a junior.

Jean's parents couldn't be prouder of their daughter's remarkable achievement. "Seeing their kids accomplish so much just reaffirms why they came to this country in the first place," Jean says.

in different ways, that are formed by their own backgrounds and cultures," she says.

After she earns her master's degree at Oxford, Jean intends to pursue a PhD and then to immerse herself in writing. "I would like to be able to produce knowledge that helps inform what is happening politically and socially in the African-American community," she says.

“When I came to Hunter in 2016, I was charged with enlarging the pool of students applying for academic fellowships and helping some to win the nation's premier academic honors. The very process of applying for fellowships encourages students to work closely with their mentors and think about their purpose—worthy goals in themselves. And remarkably, in just two short years, we've had winners of the Rhodes, Luce, Marshall and Truman Scholarships—proving what's possible when you invest in student success.”

—Dr. Stephen Lassonde,
Director, Ruth & Harold
Newman Office of Presti-
gious Scholarships &
Fellowships”

AWARDS

... and Its Second Luce

Matthew LoCastro '17, a graduate of Hunter's Macaulay Honors College, has won the prestigious Luce Scholarship. Hunter is one of only two public colleges in New York State and the only public college in New York City where students are eligible to be considered for this distinction. LoCastro is the second Hunter student to win this prize.

The scholarship, which is awarded to 15-20 young American scholars annually, finances a year

of study and professional work in an Asian country with the goal of fostering a greater understanding of Asia among potential leaders in American society. Candidates for a Luce Scholarship must be high-achieving college graduates with notable leadership potential but limited experience in Asia or Asian studies.

A native of Long Island, LoCastro served as Undergraduate Student Government president. He co-founded the campus club Genera-



tion Citizen, which aims to educate middle and high school students about civic action. He also studied Spanish in Argentina in an intensive four-week program and worked in a refugee camp in Greece. LoCastro hopes to attend law school when he

returns from Asia, and he definitely plans to stay involved with his alma mater. "I hope to give back as much as I can and help other students achieve their goals," he says. "All I've learned and done comes from Hunter."

Six New Fulbright Winners

Hunter students' impressive record for winning Fulbright awards continued this year, maintaining the College's status as a Top Producer of U.S. Student Fulbrighters. Three members of the Class of 2018 and three other recent graduates accepted Fulbrights this year, enabling them to teach, conduct research and study abroad.

Victoria DiTomasso '18, a Macaulay Honors College Scholar, is spending a year in Germany studying "the smallest and dimmest stars in our galaxy, figuring out what they're made of," she says. Upon returning to the United States, DiTomasso will enroll in Harvard's PhD program in astronomy.

Eleni Katechis '15, MEd '18, is spending her Fulbright year in Taiwan, teaching English in a Taipei elementary school. With a master's degree and dual certification in general and special education, she plans to return to New York to teach.

Maria Malizia, MA '18 is teaching English at a secondary school in Italy. She hopes to return to a Harlem

charter school where she had been planning to start work when she got news of her Fulbright award.

Ardit Marku '18 is spending his Fulbright year in South Korea teaching English and living with a host family. Marku plans to return to New York to teach and may pursue a master's in TESOL (Teaching English to speakers of other languages).

Marielle Ray '17, a Hunter Macaulay Honors Scholar who double-majored in English and psychology, is spending a year teaching English in Argentina. Upon returning, she plans to enter a master's program in social work or a doctoral program in clinical psychology.

Michael Mazzeo '18, a Hunter Macaulay Honors Scholar, majored in biochemistry with a minor in human rights, and shared the honor of being co-valedictorian with his twin sister, Marie Mazzeo, and three other members of the Class of 2018. During his Fulbright year in Spain, Mazzeo is teaching English. After that, he'll attend medical school, and while undecided about which medical specialty to pursue, he knows he wants to devote a large part of his career to the training of young doctors and to health education of the general public. His sister aspires to be a doctor as well, and hopes to integrate research into her medical practice.



▲ Mazzeo is spending his Fulbright year teaching English in Spain.



▲ Co-valedictorians Michael and Marie Mazzeo



ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer science at Hunter College is getting a major upgrade. The program is adding new faculty and retooling its curriculum, while also increasing course access to non-majors, so more students can develop vital tech skills or even consider recharting their path to study in this in-demand field. The number of students majoring in the field has skyrocketed as well, increasing tenfold between 2010 and 2018.

And now, because Hunter has been investing so heavily in computer science, the College has received a \$5 million, two-year grant to accelerate that progress. Mayor de Blasio's administration selected Hunter College as one of just two schools to launch the CUNY 2X Tech initiative, which aims to prepare more students for careers in the city's burgeoning tech sector. The grant will fund paid internships, enhance advising

and further expand course offerings and access.

"The world runs on technology—not just in the tech fields but in every major industry," says Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. "We're committed to doubling the number of Hunter students who graduate into great tech jobs, and we're so grateful to computer science department chair William Sakas for his innovative thinking and deep commitment to achieving that goal."

Among other changes, Dr. Sakas has begun welcoming tech industry practitioners into classrooms to ensure that the curriculum keeps pace with the rapidly changing skills demanded in today's workforce. The department also recruited Dr. Katherine St. John to teach "Introduction to Computer Science," a course that is open to all students but also serves as the gateway to a computer science major. The curriculum was rebooted to allow students to learn



▲ Professor Katherine St. John welcomes new students at the 2018 Convocation, encouraging all of them to get involved with computer science.

at their own pace, with some even taking on roles as teaching assistants for their peers. Now, the popular course enables students who may not have considered themselves "techies" to discover hidden talents and enter the field.

"Katherine came in and became our star quarterback for the course," Sakas says. "Enrollment in her course has grown from 500 to

650 and we expect it to go up to 1,000 in the near future."

All told, six faculty members have joined the computer science department over the last three years, and the number of majors has grown to more than 800, putting the College well on track to meet the CUNY 2X goal of doubling the number of Hunter graduates who get jobs in the tech industry.

FROM INTERNS TO INSIDERS

Last summer, David Margolin '19 was an intern at Motivate, a start-up recently acquired by Lyft. "It made me significantly more employable," Margolin says. "I became a much better communicator and programmer." Best of all, his internship led to a job offer upon graduation, which is the goal of Hunter's computer science internship program, an initiative supported by Hunter's Computer Science Advisory Board.

Andrew Rasiej, who chairs the Advisory Board, has made it his mission to ensure that Hunter graduates are fully prepared to land jobs in New York City's rapidly growing tech ecosystem. He and

blue chip companies like Bloomberg, Inc., where Hunter College graduates Simon Ayzman '15 and Aarsh Vora '16 now both work as software engineers. As career professionals who have returned to Hunter as adjunct lecturers, they offer students valuable insights into what it's like to be employed in the tech field.

"I started tutoring when I was an undergraduate and really enjoy teaching," Vora says. "I get a lot of satisfaction out of helping students gain a deeper understanding of computer science." Adds Ayzman: "I like showing them how what they're studying can translate into a rewarding career."



▲ Michael Zamansky oversees Hunter's Daedalus honors cohort, a merit-scholarship program for talented undergraduates with an interest in computer science. Cohort members take an enriched version of Hunter's first-year computer science sequence, studying everything from programming to data mining, cryptography and artificial intelligence. They also participate in social, academic and career-building activities, such as this tour and tech talk at Google headquarters.



▲ Student intern David Margolin

other Board members mentor students, advise faculty on curriculum and help students find internships. In fact, Margolin obtained his internship with the help of another Board member—Daniel Fried—who serves as Motivate's vice president of programming.

Now, even more Hunter students—25 last summer and another 25 this coming spring—are benefitting from paid internships in the tech sector, thanks to the CUNY 2X grant. While some Hunter students have struggled to afford taking unpaid internships in the past, the CUNY 2X grant eliminates that barrier.

Aisha Khoja '20 interned at SumAll, a cross-platform marketing analytics company. "Before my internship, I had nothing on my resume," says Khoja. "I know this will open doors for me."

Open doors can lead to careers with



▲ Bernard Désert '06, who returned to Hunter as campus manager of CUNY 2X, hails the program's impact in preparing current students for the tech job market. "When it comes time to apply for a job, they will be ready," Désert says. "Computer science is a competitive field—these internships ensure Hunter graduates stack up against their peers."

NEXT-GEN PREP FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHERS

Educators and business leaders have come to recognize that computer science is a new "basic" skill, one that should be introduced early alongside reading, math and other core academic subjects. That requires well-trained computer science teachers, and Hunter College is at the forefront of preparing those educators. In fact, Hunter was a major force in persuading the New York State Board of Regents to create a new K-12 Computer Science Teacher Certification.

That effort was led by Michael Zamansky, coordinator of Computer Science Teacher Education at Hunter College. Zamansky came to the College two years ago to develop a curriculum for K-12 computer science instruction. He recognized the need for computer science to be a specialized licensure area and, with some of his Hunter colleagues, began advocating for that change in Albany. It's now official: teachers must be certified at the state level to teach computer science in New York schools.

So how will certification change the way computer science is taught?

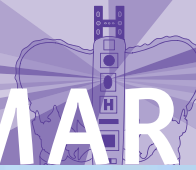
"It's a game changer," says Zamansky. "Just as you want your child's biology teacher to have studied the life sciences, you want your child's computer science teacher to have computer science expertise."

Those teachers, in turn, will ensure that the next generation of computer scientists are prepared for college and career success—and we can't wait to welcome some of them as future Hunter students.



Photo credit: Buck Ennis

HUNTER GETS TOP MARKS



A Crowning Achievement for the College...

Hunter continues to get rave reviews. This year, the Princeton Review hailed the College as “the crown jewel of the CUNY system,” and once again named Hunter as one of the “Best Colleges” in the country in its *Best 384 Colleges* guide. We’re also on its honor roll of “Colleges That Create Futures” and “Colleges That Pay You Back.”

Hunter’s national academic standing also

remains on the rise. After jumping from 42nd to 28th last year in *US News and World Report’s* annual rankings, Hunter moved up again this fall, now ranking 25th among the magazine’s “Best Regional Universities, North” and 6th among public colleges on that list. Additionally, the *Wall Street Journal* places Hunter in the top third of 1,000 colleges nationally.

...Where the American Dream Comes True

For 148 years, Hunter has opened doors of opportunity for aspiring students. One of them is Alicia Baksh-Ousman, who left Trinidad at age 16 to attend college in New York. After she became pregnant at 17, however, she got married, raised her daughter and worked at a Midtown deli until at last, in her 20s, she could enroll at Hunter. Seemingly on her way, she thrived in her accounting studies and even took time to help low-income families with their taxes.

Then tragedy struck: her husband was diagnosed with terminal cancer. On top of her already exhausting schedule, she became a caregiver, and so once again her dream of a professional career was put on hold. In fact, after eight years at the deli, it seemed as if she might never get out of the food service business.

Then fate, with an assist from Baksh-Ousman’s

Hunter education, stepped in. After her husband’s death, she took time off, and one of her regular customers, John Doyle, a vice president at the Real Estate Board of New York whose unvarying order each morning was a breakfast sandwich and a bottle of peach Snapple, noticed her absence. He made inquiries and was touched by her story. When Baksh-Ousman returned to work, he offered her a job as a receptionist at his office. Armed with her Hunter training and strong work ethic, she earned quick promotions, all while continuing her studies.

It all came together at the May 2018 Commencement when Baksh-Ousman, who had by then landed a job at a top accounting firm, stepped forward on the stage of Radio City Music Hall to be surprised by her loyal, caring customer, John Doyle. He was there to congratulate her and give her a gift of—what else?—peach Snapple.



▲ Alicia Baksh-Ousman celebrates her graduation at the May Commencement with John Doyle, one of her regular customers when she worked at a Midtown deli. He spotted her potential, helped her land a job with his organization and came to the ceremony to bestow a gift with special meaning for them both: a bottle of peach Snapple!

FUTURE FACULTY

Great Alums Make Inspiring Teachers

It's amazing what can happen when one brilliant Hunter College graduate returns to campus to teach. When Mildred Dresselhaus HCHS '47, HC '51 arrived at Hunter, few careers were open to women and she expected to become an elementary school teacher. Then she took a nuclear physics class with Professor Rosalyn Yalow '41,



▲ Dresselhaus receiving the Presidential Medal of Excellence from President Obama

who immediately recognized Dresselhaus's gift for science and encouraged her to enter the field. Dresselhaus, later known as "the



▲ Rosalyn Yalow '41 a lifetime of groundbreaking research.

queen of carbon science," received the Presidential Medal of Excellence from Barack Obama after she graduated from Hunter with a major in physics, earned her PhD in nuclear physics, and eventually won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for developing radioimmunoassay, a technique for measuring insulin and other biological substances. She also spent years on the Hunter faculty.

Throughout its history, Hunter has been very successful in luring back brilliant graduates—not just as honorees or guest lecturers, but as

professors who devote themselves to teaching and mentoring new generations while continuing their own important research. Honoring that legacy at Commencement last spring, Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab began planting the idea of return in the minds of several high-achieving members of the Class of 2018.

Any anthropology department would be lucky to recruit Elena Adasheva-Klein '18, who grew up in a small town in Ukraine before coming to New York. With her 3.97 Hunter GPA and ambitious plans for graduate research in Siberia, Adasheva-Klein



▲ Prof. Benjamin Ortiz '90 with Hunter students in the lab



▲ Emily Lau '18

Scholar Emily Lau '18 can look forward to a promising career as a biology professor. With a 3.95 GPA, dual majors in chemistry and anthropology, and research experience in Professor Mandë Holford's Hunter lab, Lau earned a five-year National Science Foundation Fellowship for doctoral studies in ecology, evolution and marine biology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. If she

won acceptance to Yale, where she is pursuing her PhD in cultural anthropology. McNulty

FROM HUNTER TO PRINCETON AND BACK AGAIN?

Growing up, Lindsay Griffiths '18 planned to pursue a career in medicine—a dream encouraged by her parents, who emigrated from Jamaica. In high school, however, she realized that her true passion was literature.

As a Macaulay Honors Scholar at Hunter, she excelled as a double major in English and Spanish, earning a 3.9 GPA and an invitation into the McNair Scholars Program, which supports students who want to attend graduate school but are from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education. Griffiths ultimately won offers to six doctoral programs, choosing Princeton University.

She credits her success to her



▲ Lindsay Griffiths '18

"amazing" Hunter education and faculty who "helped me get closer to my dream of being a professor." Perhaps one day, she'll return to campus to teach and inspire the next generation of Hunter students.

returns to Hunter, she will follow in the footsteps of Benjamin Ortiz '90, who came back to campus as a professor of biology after completing his PhD at Stanford and a post-doc at UC Berkeley.

Evelyn De Los Reyes '18—also a McNulty Scholar—who came to the U.S. from the Philippines when she was five, will be in her element as a future chemistry professor. She graduated from Hunter with a 3.9 GPA, a major in biochemistry and minor in math, and acceptance offers from six PhD programs. She will be pursuing her doctorate in pharmacology at Weill Cornell.

And what better choice could urban studies and sociology major Jair Moreira '18 make than pursuing a career in teaching at his alma mater? Moreira is currently pursuing his PhD in political science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where the focus of his doctoral research is the relationship



▲ Jair Moreira '18

between immigration and policies governing education and training. For a scholar seeking breakthrough ideas in those areas, no home base could top Hunter and New York, where even as an undergrad, Moreira had the opportunity to work at the City Council.



▲ Jacqueline Nassy Brown '95 (second left), who returned to teach anthropology after earning her PhD at Stanford, is a role model for her Hunter students.

HUNTER BOOKSHELF

ALEXIA ARTHURS

How to Love A Jamaican



Arising literary star, Alexia Arthurs '11 is the author of *How to Love a Jamaican*, a collection of stories drawn from Arthurs' Jamaican heritage that showcases her profound and versatile gifts as an observer and chronicler of lived experience. Born in Jamaica, Arthurs moved to Brooklyn at age 12 and soaked up all the vibrancy of city life, as well as the complexity of her newly forming immigrant identity. Like many Hunter students, she was the first in her family to graduate from an American college, and she babysat to earn her way through school. After graduating from Hunter, Arthurs was accepted into the Iowa Writers'

Workshop, where she serves as a visiting assistant professor of fiction.

In *How to Love a Jamaican*, Arthurs weaves together a diverse portrait of Jamaicans in their home country and the diaspora—with the 11 stories tracing the path of her own history, from the Caribbean to New York City, to Midwestern university towns. While this buzzy book is Arthurs' first story collection, her work has previously appeared in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Vice*, and *The Paris Review*, which awarded her its 2017 Plimpton Prize for Fiction. She is known for bringing a raw honesty and poetic maturity to her explorations of adolescence, family

tensions, violence, loss, and joy, earning widespread acclaim for her work. *O: The Oprah Magazine* hailed the book's "singular mix of psychological precision and sun-kissed lyricism," noting that her "dazzling debut marks the emergence of a knockout new voice." *The Atlantic* devoted an entire column to parsing the rich nuances of Arthurs' text, celebrating *How to Love a Jamaican* as "a joy to read." Put simply, Arthurs is a writer people are talking about because she has something to say.



ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

My Chickens and I

Well known as an actor, model and filmmaker, Isabella Rossellini is also the author of multiple books. While longtime fans might find the topic of her latest volume—a passion for raising chickens—unexpected, it's no surprise to her fellow scholars at Hunter College, where Rossellini

is currently pursuing an MA in animal behavior and conservation.

Rossellini breeds heirloom chickens at her organic

farm in Bellport, Long Island, allowing her to conduct hands-on animal husbandry research while working towards her degree. Now, she is sharing that experience, and what it has taught her, in a whimsical book suitable for readers of all ages. In *My Chickens and I*, Rossellini offers amusing reflections on her relationship with her chickens and their relationships with one another, alongside instructive descriptions of the various breeds. It's all delivered in spare, delightful prose, with vivid photos taken by Patrice Casanova, who perfectly captures the proud bearing and beauty of his subjects. *Vanity Fair* was charmed



▲ Isabella Rossellini discussed her book *My Chickens and I* with students and alumni during Hunter's 2018 Homecoming.

by the unconventional book, remarking that Rossellini took "what started as a hobby . . . and turn[ed]

it into art." At Hunter, Rossellini has turned that hobby into a focus for her studies as well.

BENJAMIN HETT

The Death of Democracy

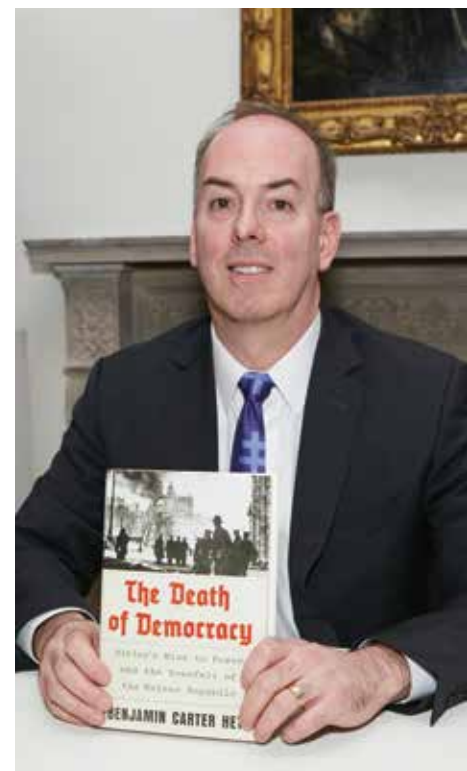
Professor Benjamin Hett, a leading scholar of 20th-century Germany, is the kind of history professor who makes the past feel present—not an inevitable series of events, but a living story. Famous for his absorbing, information-packed lectures, Professor Hett teaches a Hunter course on Hitler’s rise to power that is known as a must-take for history majors and non-majors alike.

A member of the Hunter faculty since 2003, Professor Hett received his PhD from Harvard in 2001, and taught in its History and Literature Program for the following two years. He has received many awards for his scholarship and research, in-

cluding the Ernst Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History for his 2008 book *Crossing Hitler*, and a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship. In 2014, President Raab and the Hunter College community honored him with the Hunter College Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activity.

Hett’s most recent book, *The Death of Democracy: Hitler’s Rise to Power and the Downfall of the Weimar Republic*, gives readers a glimpse of why his Hunter course is so popular. In that book, he examines the perfect storm of circumstances that propelled Hitler’s rise, arguing that the dictator’s ascent came from a nationalist response

to economic globalization, coupled with the consent of other powerful politicians who mistakenly thought they could control him. *The Death of Democracy*, published in June 2018, has earned accolades from E.J. Dionne, Fareed Zakaria and Jonathan Chait, among others. Reviewers have praised the book as well, with the *The New York Times* describing it as an “extremely fine study of the end of constitutional rule in Germany,” and praising the “careful prose and fine scholarship” that make 1930s Germany feel uncomfortably close.



YUKIKO KOGA

Inheritance of Loss

When Yukiko Koga was growing up in Japan, her father questioned whether she should even finish high school. So today, when she stands in front of a classroom as an assistant professor of anthropology at Hunter with a PhD from Columbia University, she delights in the example she sets for students.

Koga’s first book, *Inheritance of Loss: China, Japan, and the Political Economy of Redemption after Empire* (Chicago, 2016) is a testament to her intellectual achievements. It has been hailed in academic circles, and in 2017 was honored with two major prizes from the American Anthro-

pological Association: the Francis L.K. Hsu Book Prize, awarded annually to the English-language book making the most significant contribution to the field of anthropology, and the Anthony Leeds Prize, awarded annually to the most outstanding book in urban, national and/or transnational anthropology.

In *Inheritance of Loss*, Professor Koga examines the legacy of state violence in northeast China and how contemporary society continues to reckon with its echoes. Throughout the text, she helps readers come to terms with losses inflicted decades ago by imperialism and war, exploring how

individuals and nations can heal after catastrophe.

A member of the Hunter faculty since 2010, Professor Koga was recognized with the 2018 Presidential Award for Excellence, receiving the prize for Scholarly Achievement. She is a specialist in legal anthropology with her research focused on the generational transmission of losses inflicted by Japanese imperialism in East Asia. Koga is now hard at work on her second book, tentatively titled *Post-Imperial Reckoning: Law, Redress and Reconciliation*.



HAPPENINGS at HUNTER



▲ Former New York State First Lady Matilda Cuomo, also mother to current governor Andrew Cuomo, and Mayor David Dinkins enjoyed the Hunter garden party at Roosevelt House.



▲ Actress Jane Fonda, here with New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, spoke at Roosevelt House about the need to raise the minimum wage for tipped workers.



▲ At the inaugural Jack Newfield Lecture at Roosevelt House, *New York Times* reporters and 2018 Pulitzer Prize winners Mike Schmidt (far left) and Maggie Haberman (second from left) were joined by Newfield's family.



▲ Author Gay Talese, shown here with Phyllis Kossoff '46, was honored at an event celebrating the eighth anniversary of Hunter College's Writing Center.



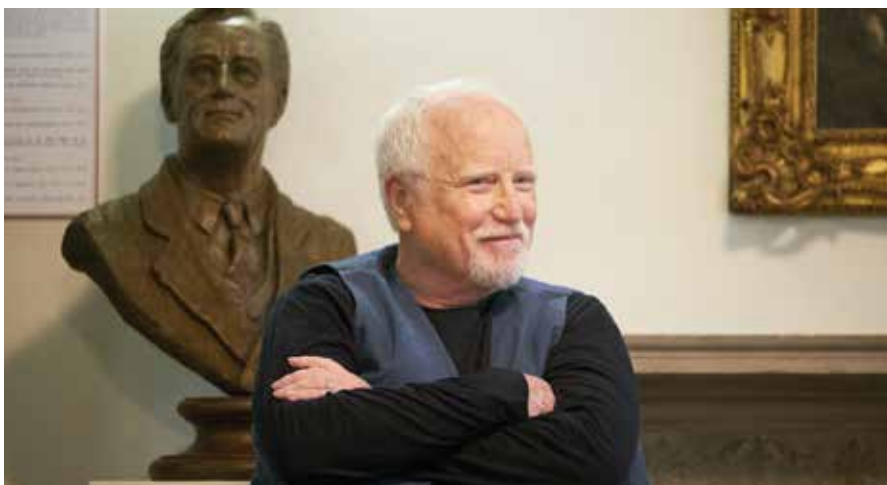
▲ Laurence Leeds, Jr., HCES '41, chairman of Buckingham Capital Management, celebrated with Hunter College Elementary School's most recent graduates at their commencement ceremony, where Leeds received the 2018 Distinguished Graduate Award.



▲ Author and business leader Tina Santi Flaherty and award-winning fashion designer Zang Toi celebrated at the annual Hunter College garden party at historic Roosevelt House.



▲ Gallerist Fredericka Hunter (left) and artist and Hunter professor Carrie Moyer celebrated the exhibition opening of "Stephen Miller: Orchidaceous" at 205 Hudson, the gallery in Hunter's Master of Fine Arts building.



▲ Richard Dreyfuss, actor and founder of The Dreyfuss Civics Initiative, discussed his passion for the democratic process and civics education with Hunter students.



▲ Philanthropist Laurie Tisch and Hunter College Art Advisory Board member Lawrence Benenson attended The Feminist Institute's screening of an Eva Hesse documentary at the Hemmerding Screening Room.



ROOSEVELT HOUSE

The U.S. was at war, and President Roosevelt was aboard a battleship steaming toward an Allied summit in Tehran, when his New York City home became part of Hunter College 75 years ago. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt stood in for FDR at the November

22, 1943, ceremony on Hunter's main campus. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia—nearly a foot shorter than Eleanor—represented the city. Mrs. Roosevelt read a greeting from her husband, added her own sentiments, and handed the deed to College president George Shuster.

At that historic moment, the Roosevelts' home became an official, vital part of the all-girls school Eleanor loved—and for whose students she had been cooking grilled cheese sandwiches for years! Repurposed as a multifaith student center—the first of its

FROM FAMILY HOME TO NATIONAL TREASURE: A Roosevelt House Timeline

1908: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt move into eastern half of the double townhouse at 47-49 East 65th Street. His mother, Sara Delano Roosevelt, who built the dwelling as a Christmas gift for the newlyweds, moves into western half. Within months, Sara opens doors dividing the residences and unites them—to Eleanor's chagrin.

1908-1912: As Franklin pursues careers in law and public service, Eleanor cares for their growing family.



1913-1920: Franklin and Eleanor temporarily relocate to Washington, where FDR serves as assistant secretary of the Navy and Eleanor volunteers for the Red Cross during World War I. Sara remains at #47.

1921: Stricken with polio at Campobello, FDR returns to the House in 1921 and makes inspiring recovery, using home's elevators for mobility. Regaining strength and optimism, he soon relaunches himself into public life, despite incurable paralysis of his legs.

1940-41: First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt befriends Hunter students; begins speaking at College events. After death of FDR's mother in 1941, First Family puts double townhouse up for sale.

1942-43: Roosevelt House purchased by Hunter College Social, Community and Religious Club Association. Eleanor Roosevelt speaks at dedication ceremony on November 22; visits House a week later.



1943: Roosevelt House reopens doors as multifaith home to Hunter College student groups. Over next 50 years, it hosts countless guest speakers, faculty meetings and social events. FDR dies in 1945.

1944-1961: Eleanor Roosevelt speaks at 30 events at Roosevelt House and Hunter College. In 1960, Roosevelt House featured in movie "Sunrise at Campobello". Eleanor passes away in 1962.

THE PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE: A Magnet for World Leaders

Through education, research, public discourse, and exhibitions, Roosevelt House fosters learning and dialogue on the major public policy challenges of the day. It hosts a wide range of engaging public programs, seminars and conferences featuring distinguished speakers from around the nation and the world.



◀ His Holiness the Dalai Lama met with students and scholars at Roosevelt House before receiving the President's Medal.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (left) is joined by Roosevelt House's Jonathan F. Fanton Director Harold Holzer during a 2018 visit. ▶



At the 2010 ribbon cutting ceremony, then-U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon observed, "Surely, 49 East 65th Street is one of the most important houses of the modern era." ▶



◀ Hunter students joined the late U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan at Roosevelt House for an inspiring discussion of human rights and international justice issues.

Celebrating 75 Years as a Hunter Institution

kind in the nation—the House hosted religious, social, cultural and academic groups—including Hunter Hillel and the College’s first African-American club. Immigrant students learned English here, while all students learned tolerance. From the beginning, the House personified American diversity, democracy and

opportunity, true to FDR’s charge that it be devoted to “the high purpose of mutual understanding.”

For decades, the House remained a cherished location for College activities and special events, including talks by Eleanor herself, who returned often to inspire students. By 1992, however, Roosevelt House

had fallen into disrepair, and the College temporarily closed its doors.

When President Jennifer J. Raab took the helm in 2001, she secured \$25 million in public and private funding to rehabilitate Roosevelt House. At the November 2010 reopening, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon cut the ribbon.

Now known as the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, the fully restored landmark hosts Hunter undergraduate programs in human rights and public policy honoring the legacies of both Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt, and presents faculty and public programs exploring both policy and history.

1924 -1927: FDR practices “walking” with crutches in 2nd-floor library to prepare for triumphant comeback at 1924 Democratic Convention. Eleanor hosts prominent women leaders like Mary McLeod Bethune and future labor secretary Frances Perkins; launches her lifetime advocacy for human rights and social justice.

1928 - 1930: House serves as home base for FDR’s successful first campaign for governor of New York in 1928, and again serves as campaign central as Gov. Roosevelt runs for and wins landslide re-election in 1930.



1932: House is home base for FDR’s triumphant presidential campaign. To reassure an anxious nation suffering through Depression, he gives first speech as president-elect before hearth in second-floor parlor—in effect, his first “Fireside Chat.”

1932-33: House serves as presidential transition headquarters; here FDR and his “Brain Trust” devise foundations of the New Deal, including Social Security, minimum wage, and child labor laws.

1973-1980: Roosevelt House designated a NYC Landmark in 1973. Seven years later it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1992: In need of extensive repairs, Roosevelt House shuts its doors to the public.

2006-2010: Under leadership of President Raab, House is fully renovated, reopens November 15, 2010, as public policy institute honoring Roosevelt legacy.



2010-18: Roster of guest speakers over the years includes Dalai Lama, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Jane Fonda, Governor Andrew Cuomo, government leaders, UN officials, intellectuals, and a Who’s Who of educators, biographers, public policy experts, and human rights advocates.

“THIS PLACE OF SACRED MEMORIES”

This was the Presidential message that Eleanor Roosevelt read at the 1943 dedication ceremony of Roosevelt House: “This place of sacred memories is to become the first college center established for the high purpose of mutual understanding among Protestant, Jewish and Catholic students. I hope this movement for toleration will grow and prosper until there is a similar establishment in every institution of higher learning in the land.”

Eleanor’s own remarks stressed family legacy: “No houses could have a better background for the use they will now serve. Always...there was an effort to look on all human beings with respect, and to have a true understanding of the points of view of others.”

Mrs. Roosevelt would return many times to participate in College programs, inspiring young students like Bella Abzug ’42 (née Savitzky) to enter public life and fight for social change.



In 1941, Hunter College president George N. Shuster welcomed First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who spoke on “Education and Democracy” in her first major address at the College. Seated behind them, wearing one of her trademark hats, is student-body president Bella Abzug ’42 (née Savitzky). ▶

◀ President and Mrs. Roosevelt in front of Roosevelt House before leaving for a week-long visit to Hyde Park in 1933.



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

New Dorms on the Upper East Side

Forget hot plates and mini-fridges! Full kitchens outfitted with all the appliances necessary to whip up meals are what the students in Hunter College's first-ever Upper East Side dorm come home to. The seven-story, 158-bed dorm is in a vibrant, safe neighborhood and features apartment-style living close to campus.

The building, on East 79th Street near First Avenue, is set up so that students can create a community with their roommates rather than be restricted to a traditional dorm room. The dorm represents a real coup for Hunter College, which negotiated a 30-year lease on the building. And for students wanting to live minutes from campus, it's the perfect place to call home.

"Having the chance to live so close to campus gives the students a greater opportunity to participate in campus activities and to have a residential college experience," says Eija Ayravainen, Hunter College's vice president of student affairs. "The students living in this setting are creating deep bonds and forming lifelong friendships."



THE NEW SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR CALLS

An Education Conversation with City Leaders

Soon after he was appointed to be the New York City schools chancellor, Richard A. Carranza accepted Hunter College's invitation to a "working dinner" with three dozen of the city's business, philanthropic, and education leaders. It was only natural that Hunter College, a major partner with the City's Department of Education (NYCDOE) and one that's responsible for training 10 percent of its teachers, hosted the event.

Among the attendees were Dana Zucker, executive director of the Gray Foundation, and Jackie and Mike Bezos, co-founders as well as president and vice president of the Bezos Family Foundation. Jody Arnhold, who chairs

Hunter's Dance Advisory Board and advises the NYCDOE on arts education, brought her perspective as a dance educator. The conversation was lively, covering topics ranging from professional development for teachers to forging strong partnerships with business and community leaders.

"The chancellor's priorities align well with the work we're doing here at Hunter," said Michael Middleton, the Klara and Larry Silverstein Dean of Hunter's School of Education, who attended the dinner.

Among the programs discussed was Hunter's partnership with PS/MS 7, a cornerstone of the College's All In East Harlem initiative. That

effort unites the entire Hunter community to transform PS/MS 7 into a model elementary and middle school. Hunter undergraduates mentor youngsters at the school. Students from the Silberman School of Social Work complete field placements there, providing vital services to children struggling with bullying, family stress, or behavioral issues. And Hunter's School of Education delivers invaluable instructional coaching to PS/MS 7 teachers.

"Since its inception, Hunter's mission has been to support the city's public school system," Middleton said. "Our reinvigorated partnership with the new chancellor will build on that legacy."



▲ Chancellor Carranza (right) with Judy Dimon, co-president of the James and Judith K. Dimon Foundation.



▲ Chancellor Carranza was joined by Beth Lief, executive director of the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation, and Stanley Litow, who served as deputy chancellor at the New York City Department of Education and for many years was president of the IBM Foundation.

ARTHUR ELGORT '64

Hunter's Gift to Fashion

Fashion photographer Arthur Elgort's "breezy, wonderfully inventive style" changed people's understanding of what fashion is, said President Raab in presenting the Class of '64 alumnus with an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. More important, she continued, Elgort "changed our concept of what the modern woman is—placing her firmly and boldly in the real world, where we can see her character and feel her energy."

It was praise warmly endorsed by the audience of fashion-world icons who attended the ceremony. Supermodel Christy Turlington thanked Elgort for nurturing her career and making every photo shoot "a joyful learning experience." And *Vogue* editor Grace Coddington told him, "You brought freshness and life to fashion photography."

Where did Elgort gain the ability to make such a dazzling impact? Where else but Hunter! He was one of the dozen or so male students on the Manhattan campus in 1964. Originally a painting major, he changed direction after becoming the campus's most sought-after photographer. In the process, he learned to recognize and respect the spirit of the bright, ambitious young women around him, an experience that would eventually shape his style—and that of modern fashion photography.

Surrounded by his talented family (top photo), Elgort gratefully acknowledged his debt to Hunter. It was, he said, the place "where I learned what I was going to become." It's a debt he's repaid in full—as President Raab told him: "You brought credit to your alma mater, demonstrating through your lifetime of achievements that Hunter is the public college that transforms lives."



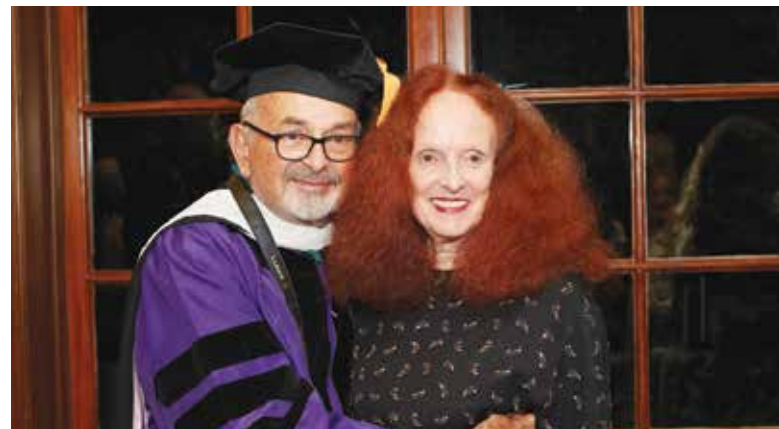
▲ President Raab and the Elgorts: (from left) son Ansel, a movie actor; wife Grethe, an opera impresario; Arthur; son Warren, a film producer-director; and daughter Sophie, an award-winning photographer



▲ Student days: Arthur started as a painting major (note the easel in the background), found it too lonely and took up the camera. (Photo Courtesy of Arthur Elgort)



▲ Sonia Kashuk (left), who went from assistant makeup artist to leading cosmetics executive after Elgort "changed the trajectory" of her life, with Christy Turlington, whose career as a supermodel was launched in Elgort's studio.



▲ Arthur with Grace Coddington, an editor of *Vogue*, where he had more than two dozen cover photos.

AGE-FRIENDLY UNIVERSITY

MEET RUTH FINKELSTEIN Hunter's Champion for Older New Yorkers

Dr. Ruth Finkelstein, ScD, wants to help New York City's older adults live better. And since becoming the Rose Dobrof Executive Director of the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging at Hunter College in January 2018, she's in a perfect position to identify, support and implement practices that improve the lives of older New Yorkers.

"Rather than looking at aging as a state of decline, I see it as a part of life that is as full of opportunities as it is of challenges," says Dr. Finkelstein, who is also a professor of urban public health at Hunter and has devoted the past decade to transforming the public's understanding of aging.

For nearly 40 years, the Brookdale Center has been a leader in promoting the health and well-being of older Americans. With the country's rapidly aging population, that work is more critical than ever, and Dr. Finkelstein is determined to meet the challenge with improved practitioner training, more active policy engagement, expanded ac-

cess to cultural programming and a deepened commitment to applied research. That work starts close to home by ensuring that Hunter itself embodies the values and practices advocated by Brookdale. In fact, one of the first things Dr. Finkelstein did after joining Hunter was to work with Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab to make it the first public college in the United States to join the Global Network of Age-Friendly Universities.

"Ruth has completely reimagined Brookdale's potential to foster healthy aging," says President Raab. "I'm so inspired by the way she has brought together experts from the entire Hunter community—in health, nursing and social work, as well as the arts and sciences—to ensure that older New Yorkers enjoy rich, vibrant lives."

One program being designed by Dr. Finkelstein and her colleagues at the Silberman School of Social Work would connect students from that school with older adults who live near campus and have a spare bedroom. As "roommates," both would benefit, with students paying



▲ Ruth Finkelstein

a reasonable rent and the seniors reducing their own housing expenses. The program, called SOAR: Student-Older Adult Roommates, would be a win-win for the budding social workers (who'd gain valuable exposure to a population they'll likely work with in their careers) and the seniors (who'd enjoy having a young person around the house again!)

In addition to that collaboration, Dr. Finkelstein is also partnering with two faculty members from Hunter's School of Nursing—Dr. Elizabeth Cohn, the Rudin Professor of Nursing, and Dr. Elizabeth Capezuti, the Hearst Foundation Chair in Gerontology—to improve medical research involving elderly participants. Together, they aim to identify strategies to better recruit older adults of color and from other

diverse identities to participate in medical studies, ensuring that lessons learned through that vital research benefit all.

Another persistent challenge faced by older Americans is age discrimination, and Dr. Finkelstein recognizes that we need to shine a spotlight on those discriminatory practices in order to end them. With generous funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Dr. Finkelstein created a new role for an inaugural Senior Fellow at Brookdale,

recruiting award-winning investigative journalist Peter Gosselin to fill that role. At Brookdale, he'll bring much-needed attention to ageism and other challenges



▲ Peter Gosselin

faced by elderly New Yorkers, while also highlighting the research-based solutions Brookdale has identified to solve them.

"As people age, their needs change," Dr. Finkelstein says. "I feel so fortunate to be able to take advantage of the incredible resources and expertise available at Hunter and ensure that we're doing all we can to improve the health and well-being of older people in our community."

Brookdale Leads the Charge Against Elder Financial Abuse

Every year, billions of dollars are stolen through the financial exploitation of vulnerable individuals, many of them elderly. Since 1993, the Jacob Reingold Elder Abuse Prevention Project—part of Brookdale's Sadin Institute for Law and Public Policy—has played a leading role in curbing that abuse. Through that project, Brookdale provides training to help lawyers, advocates, social workers and medical

professionals recognize and prevent financial exploitation of their elderly clients.

Now, a new \$500,000, two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice will enable Brookdale to do even more. The grant will fund development of an online platform that will empower financial professionals to spot early indicators of financial exploitation and report those concerns to a consortium of colleagues

across the securities and banking industries. By sharing information in this way, the platform will improve prosecution of financial exploitation cases while also preventing many instances of fraud from occurring in the first place. Hunter College researchers will also play a critical role in evaluating the new platform, so it can be optimized and rolled out widely to better protect seniors.

For Senior Auditors, Class Is In Session



▲ Peter Remch

One way that Hunter embraces the practices advocated by the Brookdale Center is by creating plenty of opportunities for older adults to stay involved with cultural and educational pursuits. Each semester, more than 800 individuals age 60 and over audit undergraduate classes at Hunter College—and pay no tuition, just a low \$80 registration and services fee. With a wide range of course offerings to choose from, senior auditors will find something that piques their interest, be it literature, drama, dance or mathematics. And thanks to the intergenerational classroom experience that results when a senior citizen audits a class, the undergraduates enrolled in that particular course benefit, too.

Whenever these lifelong learners feel like taking an on-campus lunch or coffee break, they can head to the Senior Lounge on the lower

level of Hunter North, where they can enjoy coffee and tea, cookies and conversation.

“It’s a quiet oasis where seniors come to just read the paper, relax and have a cup of coffee,” says Peter Remch, president of Hunter’s Senior Citizen Student Association (SCSA) and a senior auditor for six years. “There comes a point in a senior auditor’s day when they just need a spot to go to, and this is that spot.”

The SCSA runs the cozy lounge, which provides complimentary newspapers and magazines along with access to a host of valuable services for seniors, including assistance creating a CUNYfirst account and registering for Hunter courses. The SCSA also hosts monthly free luncheons with speakers as well as occasional free trips to cultural institutions like Carnegie Hall. The cost of a SCSA membership is \$10 per semester. More than 200 people have joined the SCSA, says Remch, who has fulfilled his lifelong dream of studying mathematics as a senior auditor. He says his fellow lounge-goers audit classes in the arts as well as in religion, sociology and archeology.

“They audit classes here at Hunter because it makes their lives richer,” Remch says. “And coming to class at Hunter promotes their social and intellectual interests.”

To be eligible to be a senior auditor, an individual must be a New York State resident 60 years of age or older. If you’re interested in learning more, email admissions@hunter.cuny.edu.

“ANNIE,” YOU’VE AGED: Remaking a Classic Film With a Gray-haired Cast



▲ Ruth Finkelstein welcomed the stars and directors of “My Annie Hall” to a film screening at Brookdale Center.

Harry Miller started taking acting classes at Hunter College at an age when most actors are long retired: 75! But he didn’t get his “big break” until 94, when he was cast in a reboot of Woody Allen’s “Annie Hall” as Alvy Singer—the leading role Allen held in the 1977 classic.

Miller, who attends dancing and acting classes at Hunter as a senior auditor and who often hangs out in the Senior Lounge, found that his Hunter training proved useful when he was tapped to audition for “My Annie Hall” at the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, where he is a regular. Miller not only tap-danced for the film but sang Fred Astaire’s “I Wanna Be a Dancin’ Man.” Hunter’s Theatre Department recently hosted a screening of the film, followed by a lively panel discussion with Miller and his co-star, Shula Chernick, directors Matt



▲ Harry Miller recreates the famous lobster scene from “Annie Hall” (Photo Courtesy of Matt Starr & Elli Sachs.)

Starr and Elli Sachs, and Ruth Finkelstein, director for the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging.

In addition to acting, Miller has audited classes in directing and playwriting. Recently, though, he stopped taking contemporary dance classes. “I can’t do all that rolling around on the floor that modern dancers do,” he says. “I’ve switched to all ballet.”

2018 HUNTER HALL OF FAME

The eight new inductees into the Hunter Hall of Fame represent the best of Hunter College and embody its motto, “*Mihi cura futuri*: The care of the future is mine.”

José Calderón '97, president of the Hispanic Federation, is a leading advocate for Hispanic grassroots organizations and pro-Latino legislation in New York City and nationwide. He graduated *summa cum laude* from Hunter and then earned an MA from St. John's University with a concentration in Latin American studies and Spanish literature. In addition to elevating the Federation into a powerful voice for social justice, he is known nationally as an advocate for high-quality public schools, accessible health care, increased voter engagement and environmental protection. After Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico last fall, Calderón traveled to the island to supply emergency provisions and support rebuilding efforts. Many students from his alma mater joined him in that work, volunteering last summer as part of the New York Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative.

Photo credit: Frankie Miranda



◀ Hispanic Federation President José Calderón delivered 220,000 pounds of water, food and other essentials to San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.

Hunter student volunteers helped rebuild shattered homes in Puerto Rico. (Photo Courtesy of Aliyah Meyer) ▶



Dr. Patricia E. Bath '64 is an ophthalmologist and inventor who was the first African-American woman to receive a medical patent. While at Hunter, Bath co-founded an undergraduate science newsletter and was national VP of the sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha. After graduating, she earned a medical degree with honors from Howard University, later becoming the first African-American student to complete an ophthalmology residency at NYU and the first woman ophthalmologist to join the faculty of the UCLA School of Medicine's Jules Stein Eye Institute. A decade after completing her own residency, Bath became the first American woman to chair an ophthalmology residency program at UCLA's Martin Luther King/Charles Drew Medical Education Program. She also established UCLA's Ophthalmic Assistant Training Program, which expanded blindness-prevention care in the local community. She later took that mission national, founding the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness. A role model for children, Bath was recently celebrated in a picture book: *The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes*.



Robert T. Barry '57, MA '63

is a founder of conceptual art in the United States whose work pushes beyond the physical limits of objects to explore their hidden or unperceived aspects, including their surrounding environments. At Hunter, Barry studied under William Baziotas and Robert Motherwell. He later became a Hunter faculty member himself, teaching at the College for 15 years. Barry's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the U.S. and around the globe and is included in the permanent collections of MoMA, the Guggenheim, the Whitney, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, among others. As a guest artist, he has taught at the California Institute of Art, Ecole des Beaux Arts and other distinguished institutions.



▲ Robert Barry in the faculty cafeteria, Hunter College, ca. late 1970s. (Photo Courtesy of Robert Barry)



▲ "Robert Barry: All the things I know... 1962 to the present" was exhibited at Hunter's 205 Hudson Street Gallery in 2015.



Joanna F. Hofmann '69, MSN '81, ANP '2000 taught nursing at Hunter for 25 years and has a distinguished record of international nursing service. She co-founded Promoting Health in Haiti, a nursing-education organization formed after Haiti's devastating 2010 earthquake.



Etta May Ladson '51, MA '61 has a distinguished career in education. She founded and directs the African Christian Teachers Association, which provides financial aid to gifted children in Queens, and has been honored for her achievements as a teacher and education advocate.



Vivian Iris Glasberg Milefsky '59, MEd '61 has won many awards for her volunteer work, including service on the Regional Women's League Board. She began her career at P.S. 23 in the South Bronx, where she spent 11 years as a teacher and mentor.



Rhonda O'Reilly-Bovell '96 joined the New York City Police Department after graduating from Hunter and rose steadily through the ranks. She was named captain in 2014 and deputy inspector in 2017. She is currently the commanding officer of the 7th Precinct.



Geraldine A. Redden Swanson '71 was a city educator for more than 25 years. Ordained a deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of New York in 1997, she was elected to the Board of Directors of the Association for Episcopal Deacons for two terms and now serves on the Board of the Fund for the Diaconate.

Celebrating Hunter's *Alumni Reunion 2018*

More than 200 alumni returned to campus in April for the 2018 Class Reunion. They visited with former classmates, made new friends, and joined Hunter's talented vocal students for a celebration of SING! Italian actress and Hunter grad student Isabella Rossellini MA '19, best-selling author Colum McCann, and Tony Award-winning director and producer Gregory Mosher—the Baker Chair of Hunter's Department of Theatre—were on hand as well. All enjoyed food, drinks and festivities.



▲ 103-year-old Florence Raider Zimmerman '37, one of the first female civil court judges in American history, got a special shout-out for being the most senior alumna present. She shared the spotlight with another '37 graduate, Hall of Famer Bea Klier, a 100-year-old meteorologist who majored in geology and then did climate research for NASA.



▲ Alan Chartock '63, CEO of WAMC/Northeast Public Radio, shared the podium with Harold Holzer, the historian who serves as the Jonathan F. Fanton Director of Roosevelt House.



▲ Hunter College's vocal students wowed listeners before lunch with an uplifting celebration of SING! and the talent of the 65th reunion class was in full force as alumni joined in.

▶ Joan Masket '53 was awarded a silver baton when she was dubbed "Best Sing Leader" at Hunter. When she returned to campus, she brought that baton along and celebrated with current Hunter College vocal students.



▲ Eva Grove '58 celebrated her 60th Hunter reunion with her daughter, Hunter Foundation Board member Robie Spector. Grove, who came to the U.S. as an immigrant, gave a generous gift to support immigrant students at Hunter, playing a vital role in helping them graduate.



▲ Michael Kapack '63 proudly donned a "Bronx boy" T-shirt. When men were first admitted to Hunter in the 1950s, they were based on the Bronx campus. It wasn't until 1964 that they matriculated into the newly coed Manhattan campus.

150 years
1870 - 2020

HUNTER

2020 marks the sesquicentennial of Hunter College and we are gearing up to celebrate 150 years of transformative education.

Did you have a favorite professor? Photos of your time on campus?

We want to hear from you!

Share how Hunter changed your life.

Please email us at 150th@hunter.cuny.edu

In Memoriam



Theodosea Silas '59
(1937-2017)

Theodosea “Theo” Hejda Silas, who died on September 4, 2017, was born in New York City and graduated cum laude with a BA in fine arts from Hunter College in 1959. She worked in New York as a teacher, writer and magazine editor.

“Theo” Silas and her family moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma in 1977, where she was a major contributor to her community’s artistic and cultural life. She was a founder and the first president of the Bartlesville Museum and Sculpture Garden, now the Price Tower Arts Center, and was a board member of the Oklahoma Nature Conservancy. In 1991, she and her husband, C.J. “Pete” Silas, a retired chairman and chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Company, established the Silas Foundation to support the arts, education and other causes. Silas was honored with the Hunter College Alumni Association’s Award for Outstanding Community Service and was inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame.



Jacqueline G. Wilson '51
(1929-2018)

Jacqueline G. Wilson '51, who died on September 15, 2018, was a longtime Hunter leader, a member of Hunter’s Hall of Fame, and a president of the Alumni Association.

Wilson, who majored in history at Hunter, enjoyed a successful career in the health professions. She retired from the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, where she served as deputy regional administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). She received many awards during her years with the HCFA, including the Commissioner’s Citation—the top award given by the Social Security Administration—and the Health and Human Services Secretary’s Superior Service Award.

Wilson was an original member of the selection committee for the Hunter College Hall of Fame. She served as chair of the Friends of the Hunter College Library and was an officer of the Wistarians Alumni Chapter.

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Hunter College of The City University of New York
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MEET FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER MARSHALL SONENSHINE

Shortly after his youngest son, Jacob Sonenshine '18, transferred to Hunter College, Marshall Sonenshine was invited to join the Board of the Hunter College Foundation. He embraced the opportunity right away, because he has always been committed to public education.

“Public education is one of the most important ingredients in a successful civilization,” says Sonenshine, chairman of Sonenshine Partners, a global investment banking firm. “Besides health and safety, education is the most important thing a civilization can offer. Without it, we are in trouble. With it, we are vibrant and wonderful.”

Although his father graduated from Brooklyn College and his youngest son graduated from Hunter, Sonenshine himself had a private school upbringing. After earning a bachelor's degree from Brown University and then finishing Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, Sonenshine began his banking career at Salomon Brothers, later

working at several other firms before founding Sonenshine Partners in 2000. In addition to his full-time role as an investment banker, Sonenshine was for many years a professor of finance and economics at Columbia University. He currently teaches at Harvard Law School and is a past chairman of the Harvard Law School Fund.

At Hunter, Sonenshine chairs the Foundation's Investment Committee. It's a role he takes very seriously. “It's been impressive to see what's going on at Hunter with the endowment fund, which is an investment in our sustainability and all about our future,” he says. “Our endowment fund has become critically important to enriching academic offerings and expanding student programs at Hunter.”

As for what he is most passionate about improving at Hunter, Sonenshine says, “I am all about one word: quality. I don't believe there should be any distinction in quality between what is available at a private versus a public school.” He aims to ensure that

Hunter continues to provide students with faculty and programs on a par with those at top private universities.

Sonenshine, a champion of the arts who has a long history of supporting cultural institutions in New York City, served on the boards of Jazz at Lincoln Center and the International Center of Photography. He's currently on the Hunter College Theatre Advisory Board, which is a natural fit: he is a longtime theatre aficionado and his middle son is a producer and director for theatre and film. Sonenshine recently took in a performance of the Hunter Theater Project's acclaimed adaptation of “Uncle Vanya,” which won rave reviews from critics in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and NPR. He is especially pleased that many residents from the neighborhood around Hunter turned out to see the play.

“At Hunter, we are using theatre to engage our community on our campus,” Sonenshine said. “And that is what great universities like Hunter should do.”