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Ruth and Harold Newman Give \$2M to College



Hunter alumna Ruth Newman ('54) and her husband, Harold, have given an extraordinary \$2M gift to the School of Arts and Sciences.

The record-breaking donation — the highest in Hunter history — will establish and permanently endow the deanship as the Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of the Hunter College School of Arts and Sciences and will support some new school programs, such as a Seminar for Civic Understanding Initiative.

The Newmans' appreciation of a liberal

Ruth Newman (l) and Harold Newman with School of Arts and Sciences Dean Shirley Clay Scott.

arts education and its potential to build responsible and responsive citizens motivated their gift.

Ruth Newman graduated from Hunter cum laude with a BA in Spanish. A member of the Hunter College Visioning Cabinet and the Hunter College Foundation, she has also been actively involved with the Hunter College Mentoring Program.

In addition, the Newmans have been generous and supportive donors to the Hunter College Mother's Day Scholarship

Fund by funding student scholarships in honor of Ruth.

"My wife's relationship with the school was resurrected after 50 years when we met Jennifer [Raab] through a mutual friend who mentioned that Ruth was a Hunter graduate," said Harold Newman. "Jennifer is a very wonderful and persuasive person. We were impressed with her goals and forward-looking vision, and we wanted to support them."

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Breyer, O'Connor Hold Court at Hunter



Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Sandra Day O'Connor at Roosevelt House discussion.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer and retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor came to Hunter on April 7 for an extraordinary "Aspen at Roosevelt House" discussion about the delicate balance of constitutional power between U.S. presidents and the nation's highest court.

Justices Breyer and O'Connor talked about the tension that has existed between the Supreme Court and the White House since the days of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson, through the Lincoln, FDR, Truman, and Nixon eras and right up until today — with controversial rulings on the Bush-Gore 2000 election and the rights of accused terrorists held at Guantánamo Bay.

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Happenings at Hunter

Spring 2008



Oscar-winning actress Jane Fonda came to Hunter in March for the second "Aspen at Roosevelt House" discussion, featuring Pulitzer-Prize winning author Taylor Branch and Stanford Law professor Kathleen Sullivan.



Author Frank McCourt — who won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for his best-selling memoir *Angela's Ashes* — spoke at Hunter in March as part of the College's Distinguished Writers Series.



Emily Rafferty, president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, with Stefano Carboni, curator and administrator of the Met's Department of Islamic Art, at Hunter's Leubsdorf Gallery. Hunter partnered with the Met on the exhibit, "Re-Orientations: Islamic Art and the West in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries", which gave Hunter art history graduate students the opportunity to curate their own show with art from the Met.



Two stars from the hit CW Network show *Gossip Girl*, Jessica Szohr and Chace Crawford, visited Hunter in March. Szohr, Crawford, and other popular actors from the show shot scenes for a *Gossip Girl* episode about taking SATs right here at Hunter while adoring fans looked on.



Writer/humorist Calvin Trillin spoke at Hunter in April during the Secular Jews in Culture and Society Lecture Series. Trillin, whose essays in *The New Yorker* and elsewhere often poignantly reflect Jewish life in America, has also written the best-selling memoir *About Alice*.



New York Congressman Charles Rangel met with the Hunter College Model U.N. Team, which came away with nine awards — more prizes than any other school — during a three-day, 11-college CUNY Model U.N. competition. The students are part of a new initiative launched this year and taught by Political Science Professor Pamela S. Falk.

The President's Perspective



In this issue of *At Hunter*, you will read about the upcoming reopening of Roosevelt House and the exciting events leading up to it. Roosevelt House — the double townhouse on East 65th Street that was Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's New York home, and that Hunter acquired in 1942 — has long been a Hunter College "hidden" treasure. But with the official launching of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute this fall, the secret will be out. The House, which has lain dormant for 16 years, will become an active center of policy education, research, and dialogue.

Already, events sponsored by the Institute have brought to campus such luminaries as Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, television journalists Tom Brokaw and Brian Williams, renowned authors Anna Quindlen and Doris Kearns Goodwin, and many more. As anticipation builds, we are constantly guided by Franklin and Eleanor's deep commitment to education and opportunity for all, regardless of class, race, ethnicity, or gender. I believe that the Roosevelts saw their dream reflected in Hunter, and I also believe that they would be proud of their home's new role in advancing these values. I encourage you all to join us in continuing their dream by becoming regular visitors to the Institute and participating in its many classes, lectures, and other events. Together, we can make the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute an integral part, not only of Hunter, but of all New York.

Jennifer J. Raab

Photo by NYT and WireImage



Ruby Dee accepts her Screen Actors Guild Award for "Outstanding Performance by a Female in a Supporting Role."

"Who says there are no decent film roles for women over 40? Ruby Dee found one at 83....Dee added her own fire to the character, giving Mama Lucas a strength and poignancy that shines through (the) film."

— Los Angeles Times
January 30, 2008

Hunter Alumna Ruby Dee Hailed by Hollywood

Famed Hunter alumna Ruby Dee (HCHS '39, HC '44) received an Academy Award nomination as best supporting actress and won a prestigious Screen Actors Guild Award for her standout performance in the hit movie *American Gangster*.

It was the first Oscar nomination ever in the long and storied career of the legendary actress, who graduated first from Hunter High School and then from the College with a BA in French and Spanish.

Dee was also named winner in the best supporting actress category at the Screen Actors Guild Awards ceremony, held in Los Angeles on January 27, for her *American Gangster* role as Mama Lucas, the mother of a Harlem drug kingpin played by Denzel Washington.

"What an exciting time to be an actor," said Dee — who grew up in Harlem — as she accepted her Screen Actors Guild trophy. "In a film that took place where I was born, with some of the very streets...part of me forever came from that place, and that place comes from me."

For Dee, it was the culmination of a remarkable career of more than half a century in which she has played memorable roles on stage, on television and in more than 50 movies such as *The Jackie Robinson Story* and *A Raisin in the Sun*. She has also been hailed for her work as a writer and a social activist.

"Ruby Dee is not just a great name in the entertainment world, she is a great alumna of Hunter," said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab.

Dee recently returned to Hunter to present an exclusive preview screening of *Naming Number Two*, an award-winning movie filmed in New Zealand for which she received numerous honors, including Best Actress at the 2006 New Zealand Screen Awards.

In 2001, Dee and her late husband, Ossie Davis, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors Guild. They were married for more than 50 years, and Dee frequently teamed with Davis for her performances. They also worked together tirelessly on civil rights causes and efforts to promote black artists. Ossie Davis died in 2005.

In accepting her Screen Actors Guild trophy for *American Gangster*, Dee told the audience: "I accept it also for my husband, Ossie, because I think, you know, he's working on things up there."

MFA's Peter Carey, Tom Sleigh Honored



Tom Sleigh (l) and Peter Carey.

Peter Carey, executive director of Hunter's MFA Program in Creative Writing, and Tom Sleigh, MFA director, recently won honors for their work.

Carey was named a CUNY Distinguished Professor by the CUNY Board of Trustees in recognition of his outstanding scholarly and professional achievements. One of the most talented and prolific writers of our time, Carey has won the Booker Prize twice as well as numerous other major awards and distinctions. This past winter he published his tenth novel, *His Illegal Self*, which *The New York Times Sunday Book Review* praised as "enthralling."

Since coming to Hunter in 2003, Carey has dramatically transformed Hunter's MFA program, where he is both an administrator and an inspiring teacher and mentor for some of the country's finest young writers.

Sleigh is the winner of this year's prestigious Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. The \$100,000 prize is the largest in the nation for a mid-career poet. Sleigh was honored at a ceremony on April 15 at Claremont Graduate University where he read from his winning collection, *Space Walk*.

He is the author of seven books of poetry, a book of essays, and a translation of Euripides' *Herakles*. He has won numerous grants and awards, including the Poetry Society of America's Shelley Award and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* (1988) was nominated in May for The Best of the Booker. This competition — based on voting open to the public — will select the most outstanding novel to have won the Booker Prize since it was first awarded in 1969. To cast your vote for Peter Carey, go to: <http://www.themanbookerprize.com/news/vote>

Cynthia López Found Her True Passion at Hunter

As a little girl, Cynthia López (BA '89) dreamed of growing up to become a doctor because she wanted to help change the world. Now she is accomplishing that as one of the most prominent figures in the world of independent documentary filmmaking.

López is vice president of P.O.V. — the PBS series that has won top broadcast awards and extraordinary critical praise under her leadership for airing groundbreaking documentaries about racism, poverty, the environment, and other crucial issues of our time.

One entertainment publication recently hailed her as the “Ginger Rogers of public television” for the way she perfectly coordinates all the steps needed to help these socially conscious projects reach a wide audience in the mainstream media world.

At the Emmys last year, López and Simon Kilmurry, executive director of P.O.V., accepted a Special Award for Excellence in Television Documentary that was given to P.O.V. as a premier showcase for outstanding independent documentary films. “It was such an honor to accept the Emmy award on behalf of a series that consistently shines a light on contemporary issues and for filmmakers who challenge how we see the world,” she says. Many of the film projects she has worked on at P.O.V. have also won Emmys, Oscars and other coveted awards.

But López’s goal was a career in medicine — not movies — when she came to Hunter College in 1981. “When I was 4, I’d say I wanted to be a pediatrician,” López recalls. “Where does a little girl come up with an idea like that? I wanted to help kids who were really sick. I came to Hunter because it had a wonderful pre-med program.”

López was born in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, but went to high school in Puerto Rico after her mother died when she was 12. She worked in the pediatrics ward of a hospital there for a year, which strengthened her childhood dream to become a doctor. She came back to New York and applied to Hunter’s pre-med program. Concerned about the cost of a college education, López remembers



Cynthia López shows Emmy with Simon Kilmurry, executive director of P.O.V.

standing nervously in line for 45 minutes at Hunter until an admissions woman reassured her by saying: “We’re going to figure out a way to do this.”

“I started crying,” López says. “It was like a fairy tale.”

But after entering Hunter, López took some media courses and discovered her passion for movies. She particularly cites two Hunter professors who had a tremendous impact on her — Richard Perez, who taught “Puerto Rico in the Mass Media,” and Steve Gorelick, who taught mass communications.

“I took the media classes as electives, but decided I loved them more than my pre-med courses,” she says. “Eventually, I had to make a decision. In medicine, I could help only one child at a time. But in media I realized I could get the message out to so many more people.”

Gorelick, a professor of Media Studies, says of López today: “She really is an extraordinary story, a Hunter student who found a life, opportunity and a career at Hunter.”

She attended Hunter from 1981 to 1989, working much of the time while she went to school. After graduating with a BA in communications and political science in

1989, López began her incredibly successful media career which has culminated in her stunning success at P.O.V. Under her leadership, national media coverage of P.O.V. documentaries has increased dramatically.

One of her biggest successes was *Two Towns of Jasper* — a controversial documentary about the lynching of a black man in Jasper, Tex. López’s unique presentation led to what she proudly calls “one week dedicated to a national dialogue about race relations in America.” During that week the film was shown on P.O.V., Oprah Winfrey devoted an hour-long show to the topic and ABC’s Ted Koppel hosted a live town hall meeting from Jasper for *Nightline*.

López is one of the founding members of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers; has been an adviser to the White House Conference on Libraries, the United Nations’ Women’s Conference, and other prominent organizations; and is a highly sought-after speaker at media conferences and educational institutions.

López is also working on her first novel, tentatively titled *The Glass Horse*. She describes it as a love story about a woman from Puerto Rico and a man from Pakistan and the racial issues they encounter. She says the novel was inspired by events in her own life.

“One of the reasons I wanted to go to Hunter was that Bella Abzug and so many other strong political women I admired went there.”

—Cynthia López

And it all started at Hunter, which López credits for putting her on the road to success. “One of the reasons I wanted to go to Hunter,” she recalls, “was that Bella Abzug and so many other strong political women I admired went there. Hunter played a really strong role in birthing these women who truly changed the lives of people in New York City.”

Asked how much those years at Hunter were an inspiration for *Platanos and Collard Greens*, Lamb laughed: “You cannibalize your own life.”

After graduating from Hunter, he went on to get a master’s in public affairs from Princeton and a law degree from New York University School of Law. He had worked as an intern for a New York political leader while in college, and his goal at the time was a career as a behind-the-scenes advisor in either the state legislature or Congress. “It got me interested in law school,” he says of his internship.

After law school he began working as a public finance attorney at a Wall Street firm. While there, Lamb formed his own publishing company and put out his first novel, *Do Platanos Go With Collard Greens?* It won him critical and commercial success for exploring the subject of relations between African-Americans and Latinos — and launched him into a new career.

“I wanted to make my contribution to hip hop culture,” he explains now, “but I knew I didn’t want to rap. So I thought I could take the elements of that and put it in a written form.”

His company, Between the Lines Productions — which he founded and runs with his wife, Jamillah — has also put out another critically acclaimed play of his, *Auction Block to Hip Hop*, which has achieved success in both the New York theater and national college markets. He also continues to be a sought-after speaker at many colleges around the country.

“I think *Platanos and Collard Greens* captures the situation at many schools,” he said. “I hope it makes you laugh, I hope it makes you think and I hope it inspires you. If I can accomplish that with an audience, then I think I’m really accomplishing something.”



Scene from *Platanos and Collard Greens* when it was performed at Hunter in April.

“I wasn’t much of a student in high school. But I became very self-motivated at Hunter. Working in the library put me in the environment of study and books. When I say I spent my life in that library, I really spent my life in that library! I also worked as a teller at a bank while going to school. I began to appreciate the true meaning of hard work at Hunter. I’m indebted to the College for that.”

Alum’s Hit Play Performed at Kaye Theater



Acclaimed playwright David Lamb

It has played to sold out audiences at off-Broadway theaters since debuting in 2003. In addition to these New York City performances, it has also become an extraordinary hit on college campuses. Lamb has put on *Platanos and Collard Greens* — and been invited to speak about it — at more than 100 colleges and universities around the country.

But it was a special thrill for him to bring the play to Hunter, where Lamb graduated magna cum laude with a degree in economics in 1987. “This is fantastic,” he said of his triumphant return to his alma mater. “This is like a dream come true.”

Lamb talked about his fond memories of his days as

The “Aspen at Roosevelt House” discussion series — which has brought an extraordinary cast of leading government figures, media leaders, and historians to Hunter this spring — is just the prelude to the much-anticipated opening of a renovated Roosevelt House later in the year.

The official ribbon-cutting for Roosevelt House — which will become Hunter’s new public policy center to honor the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt — is scheduled for this fall.

The historic Upper East Side building at 47-49 East 65th Street, once home to FDR and the Roosevelt family, has been undergoing dramatic renovations since 2005 in an ambitious effort to turn it into a state-of-the-art facility for teaching, research, and public programming. Once a vibrant center for student government and academic and social events at Hunter, Roosevelt House was closed in 1992 because of the need for extensive repairs.

The new Roosevelt House will feature a dramatic auditorium, carved out of the low levels of the building, designed to host lectures, conferences, and other programs. Former drawing rooms on the first and second floors



Digital rendering of the Roosevelt House auditorium.

will also be available for presentations and receptions. The president’s library is being restored to serve as a museum and seminar space. And the library of Sara Roosevelt — Franklin’s mother — will be available for classes and seminars.

The upper floors will serve as offices, and the sixth

floor is being converted into two apartments for special guests and visiting scholars at Hunter.

The massive renovation is being led by James Stewart Polshek of Polshek Partnership Architects. Among his firm’s acclaimed projects are the Rose Center for Earth and Space at the American Museum of Natural History; the Clinton Presidential Library; and the renovation of Carnegie Hall.

The new Roosevelt House will provide a place for students to analyze critical public policy issues and experience meaningful civic engagement; a place for faculty to research, teach, and write about the most important issues of the day; and a place for scholarly and public audiences to participate in high-profile lectures, seminars, and conferences.

“Roosevelt House will be a unique environment where faculty, students, and the community can come together to consider and craft solutions to important public policy challenges,” said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab, “and, in doing so, renew the commitments of a president and first lady especially worthy of tribute and celebration.”

Supreme Court Justices Visit Hunter For Roosevelt House Panel



Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer with Israel Burns — a graduating political science major at Hunter who will attend Rutgers Law School.

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Both emphasized the unique constitutional responsibility of the top court to provide a balance of power with a president — as well as some of the practical problems the Court faces.

“When we make a decision, it is not just a decision for the date and time when it comes down,” Breyer said, pointing out that no justice can predict future developments which could be affected by that ruling. “But when the Court decides something, who does it then? What happens when you get a case where the president doesn’t want to do it?”

“The Court has serious problems with enforcement power,” agreed O’Connor, the first woman ever appointed to the Supreme Court — who retired in 2006. “We hope that when the Court rules, the other branches go along to take the hit. For the most part they do, but on occasion they don’t.”

The discussion — one of a series of high-profile political events leading up to the opening of a renovated Roosevelt House as Hunter’s new public policy center this fall — was moderated by Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* correspondent Linda Greenhouse, who has covered the Supreme Court for the *Times* since 1978. The event was endorsed by Hunter alumna Phyllis L. Kossoff and presented as part of a partnership with the Aspen Institute, one of the country’s premier research and policy institutions.

Breyer and O’Connor said that the struggle over the balance of power in government between presidents and the Court goes back to the days of Thomas Jefferson and Chief Justice John Marshall (“they hated each other”) — and later involved an epic confrontation with Andrew Jackson.

When gold was discovered on land belonging to the Cherokee Indians, the Cherokees hired a lawyer to prevent their land from being seized, and the Supreme Court ruled in their favor. But President Jackson ignored the Court decision. “Jackson sent troops — not to enforce the ruling, but to evict the Cherokees,” Breyer said.

Another showdown came when President Franklin Roosevelt threatened to expand the size of the Court with his own appointees — after justices repeatedly ruled against his ideas to end the Depression.

“Between 1790 and 1930, the Court had overturned a total of only 60 acts of Congress,” O’Connor pointed out. “But in just Roosevelt’s first term, the Court overturned 12 laws Roosevelt tried to enact. He wanted to add a justice for every one on the Court who was over 70. There were six, which would have given him 15 judges.”

Breyer said that Roosevelt had overwhelming support in both the legislature and the press for his plans. “But the public wouldn’t let him do it,” Breyer said of FDR’s effort to “pack” the court with his people. “The public saw it as tinkering with the basic institution of the Supreme Court.”

Breyer speculated about what might have happened if President Nixon had refused the Court’s order to hand over the White House tapes during the Watergate scandal. That never happened, Breyer said, because once again the public would not have stood for it.

Breyer and O’Connor also talked about the Court’s difficulties when trying to limit a president’s power during a wartime situation, such as the internment of Japanese-American citizens during World War II or the imprisonment of terrorism suspects at Guantánamo Bay today.

O’Connor — who once said in a Court decision about Guantánamo Bay that “a state of war is not a blank check” for a president — also recalled the controversial 2000 election ruling on Florida that put George W. Bush in the White House. “It was not the Supreme Court that determined the votes ultimately,” O’Connor said. “What we had was a confirmation of what the popular vote was in that state.”

Breyer said that it was the American people who held the ultimate balance of power needed to keep a president’s authority in check. “Vote,” Breyer told the audience.



Alumna and prominent class-action attorney Sheila Birnbaum ('60) and President Jennifer J. Raab with Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

“And if you convince others to vote your way, fine. And if you don’t...well, then there you are.”

Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab praised Breyer and O’Connor by saying: “They will go down in history as two of our finest Supreme Court justices.”



Alumna Maureen Corr ('49), who served as Eleanor Roosevelt’s personal secretary for 12 years, was a special guest at the Roosevelt House discussion.

Hunter Alumni Serve Around the World

'07 Grad Goes Far in the Peace Corps

Less than a year ago Marissa Polnerow (BA '07) sat at her Hunter College commencement and marveled at the success stories of Hunter graduates from all around the world. Today she is living out her own exciting international dream as a member of the Peace Corps in Macedonia.

"I am closing in on my fifth of 27 months in the Peace Corps, living every day fully and happily," Polnerow says from the Eastern European republic. "Living in a place like Macedonia has given me the opportunity to observe, and often participate in, history in the making. I recall all of my international relations and ethnic politics classes at Hunter, and watch how it plays out with my own eyes.

"I was recently chosen to give a nationally televised speech for the Peace Corps swearing-in ceremony here, which I delivered entirely in Macedonian before



Marissa Polnerow with the Peace Corps in Macedonia.

politicians and the American ambassador. I think back a few months ago, when I was just finishing up at Hunter, and didn't even speak a word of Macedonian. I have to say that my experience at Hunter has been very valuable in helping me make the decisions that brought me here."

Polnerow is one of more than 300 Hunter graduates who have served in the Peace Corps over the years since President John F. Kennedy created the organization in 1961. Today the Peace Corps consists of nearly 8,000 volunteers serving in some 70 countries.

For Polnerow — who graduated cum laude from Hunter in political science and French — being in the Peace Corps has turned out to be so rewarding that she encourages other graduates to consider it. "I hope more students take advantage of the Peace Corps

"I think anyone with an open mind, a taste for adventure and the desire to give back to society can benefit from the Peace Corps. In my opinion, these qualities sum up the typical Hunter student."

— Marissa Polnerow

opportunity after college," she says. "I can't recommend it enough."

She was inspired to join the Peace Corps by two people — a childhood friend and Dr. Christopher Stone, a Hunter professor of Arabic who served in the Peace Corps himself.

"My best friend from high school immigrated to the U.S. from Mongolia when she was 13," Polnerow recalls. "She grew up learning English from Peace Corps volunteers. My friend always told me she wanted to 'join the Peace Corps and pay it forward.'"

"Dr. Stone was the only returned Peace Corps volunteer I'd met. His storied service in Yemen touched me. He was a great support and resource during the long and arduous Peace Corps application process. My mind was made up, and I haven't had an inkling of doubt about my decision since."

As a volunteer in Macedonia — where she'll serve until December, 2009 — Polnerow has already worked in a wide variety of jobs.

"At Hunter College I was a member of an international

student organization called AIESEC. It's the largest student-based organization in the world and facilitates traineeship exchanges for students and graduates to over 90 countries. Ironically, without even knowing about my involvement with AIESEC at Hunter, the Peace Corps asked me to develop a branch of AIESEC in Macedonia as my primary job.

"Not only do I work Monday to Friday at AIESEC, but I also have regular English, French and Spanish language classes; I help run a girls' leadership group at a high school; I offer care and companionship at a nursing home; and I mentor whoever I can. I seek out every opportunity in the community to offer a helping hand, and I'm getting to know the ethnic minorities, which include Albanians, Turks, Serbs, Bosnians and the Romanians."

Polnerow admits that some of her friends and family were nervous about her decision to serve in the Peace Corps, wondering if the lack of amenities in an underdeveloped country would cramp her liberated New York lifestyle.

"But today no one doubts how positive the Peace Corps has been for me," she says. "The irony is that I feel I live better here than I did in New York City. I have a comfortable apartment, and my balcony opens up to the view of orange rooftops swallowed up by snowcapped mountains in the distance. Most Peace Corp volunteers don't have the luck to have such modern amenities!"

But even more exciting than the beauty of Macedonia is the sense of history she experiences each day.

"I am living in the heart of a civilization's crossroads," she says. "If you look hard enough in any part of Macedonia, the Ottoman Empire and even Alexander

Christopher Stone — the Hunter professor who inspired Marissa Polnerow to join the Peace Corps — is head of the Arabic Division at Hunter, a unique program of study that is the largest of its kind in the CUNY system and one of only a limited number around the country.

As part of the Department of Classical and Oriental Studies, it teaches students not just the Arabic language — but also elements of Arab culture.

Dr. Stone has spent extensive time living, traveling, working, studying and conducting research in the Arab world, including an assignment with the Peace Corps in Yemen. In addition to Hunter, he has taught at Middlebury College, Williams College, and Emory University. He received his master's and PhD in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton. During this past academic year, Stone has been on leave in Cairo as a Fulbright Scholar studying the late Egyptian actor Ahmad Zaki.



Dr. Christopher Stone

Hunter Alum Has Seen the World — And Writes a Book About It

Hunter graduate Eve Brown-Waite (MPH '93) has had lots of exciting adventures traveling the globe to help people in Third World or developing countries — and now she's written a book that tells her life story.



Eve Brown-Waite holds her daughter in Uganda.

"It's a fish-out-of-water memoir," says Brown-Waite, who has lived and worked with her husband, John, in Uganda, Ecuador, and Uzbekistan. "The story of what happens when a nice Jewish American princess from Brooklyn falls in love with a Peace Corps poster boy and follows him around the world.

"I'm trying to be a good sport," she laughs, "but I keep looking for a decaf cappuccino. I'm a New Yorker."

Called *First Comes Love, Then Comes Malaria: How a Peace Corps Poster Boy Won My Heart and a Third World Adventure Changed My Life*, the book will be published by Broadway Books in 2009 after a spirited bidding auction for the rights that earned Brown-Waite what she called an "unbelievable" six-figure check.

There's already been interest from Hollywood in the book too. If there is a movie, she wants Sarah Jessica Parker to play her because "I admire her work and I

could just picture her trying to figure out what to do if her \$90 Birkenstock fell into an African latrine."

It all began for her when Brown-Waite first applied for a job in the Peace Corps in 1987. She wasn't sure about wanting to be in the Peace Corps, but she was certain that the Peace Corps recruiter interviewing her was the man she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. So she dressed up in a "safari chic" outfit ("I wanted to impress him. What was the best way to impress a Peace Corps recruiter? Join the Peace Corps.") and soon found herself assigned to the jungles of Ecuador.

But after a year or so there she missed John, her Peace Corps guy, and returned to New York — where she enrolled in Hunter's School of Health Sciences for a master's in public health. While she was still at Hunter, they got married. A few months later, her new husband was offered a job with CARE in Uganda and she remembers thinking, "Okay, here we go."

The couple spent the next three years living in a remote section of Uganda, which is the subject of most of her book. "It was beautiful," she recalls, "but it was a little bit out there. Like the Wild West. No electricity. Not much running water. And there was an ongoing civil war in that area of the country. For one brief but memorable evening, we were held hostage in our house."

In the midst of all this, Brown-Waite managed to write stories about what she was seeing on a battery-powered computer that she recharged during the three hours each night when she had electricity. Before her daughter was born, nearly 13 years ago, she returned temporarily to New York to give birth and asked one of her former Hunter professors, Betty Rothbart — then an adjunct professor in Health Sciences — for advice about her stories. "She was the first person who said: 'These are not short stories, you should turn this material into a book.'"

Brown-Waite raves about the time she spent at Hunter. "The education I got was so much better than I could have gotten at another school. My best friend went to Columbia, and she was awed at the stuff I was doing and experiencing. Getting my degree at Hunter was great." She talked about other Hunter professors she says were very important to her: "Karen Denard-Goldman, who encouraged and supported me through my master's



Brown-Waite with husband John at Hunter graduation.

thesis; Michael Carrera, who was an amazing professor and mentor; and Ida Susser, whose own international work encouraged me to go back overseas.

"I really did have a wonderful graduate experience and found myself well-equipped when I got out there — albeit more training in how to butcher a goat and/or diagnose your own pregnancy would have come in handy, but who knew?" she says with a laugh.

She and her husband now live in Deerfield, Massachusetts, where until recently she was health and nutrition manager for a Head Start community center. She left her job to finish writing the book. "I am thrilled, just thrilled," said Brown-Waite, who credits her agent, Laney Katz Becker of the Folio Literary Management Agency in New York, with helping her to make the book deal a reality.

Brown-Waite's biggest dream now is that the book will bring economic aid and development to the remote section of Uganda that she writes about. "More than anything, I wanted to bring attention to this little corner of the Third World where we lived," she says. "I think it will."

A Taste for Travel And a Love for Helping Others

Hunter College doesn't award a prize for Most Traveled Graduate. If it ever does, the trophy will surely go to Sally Lindover ('47), whose astonishingly varied career includes stints as a clinical psychologist in London, a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa, a Foreign Service officer on three continents, and an English teacher to Vietnamese refugees off the coast of Malaysia. "I've always had a low threshold for boredom," Lindover, 80 and now a resident of Cambridge, Mass., says with a laugh. "I've turned my life over many times."

Her taste for travel was formed while she was a schoolgirl in the Bronx, and her arrival at Hunter during World War II clinched it. "There I was, at the center of this incredibly exciting city with all these servicemen and women from around the world — Brits and Aussies and the rest — whom I met at military service clubs. I knew that I wanted to live in foreign places."

Her first two decades after graduation — with a major in psychology and a minor in radio and drama — while eventful, were for the most part spent close to home: a marriage and divorce, a second marriage, the birth of two daughters, and a variety of jobs including mental health work, a turn with a Madison Avenue advertising agency, and a venture into early television.

After separating from her second husband, she spent a year in the south of Spain with her daughters (both grown now, one a filmmaker, the other a public-interest lawyer), followed by a job with a network of halfway houses in London, a brief stint with an experimental car-free city



On a State Department assignment to Pakistan, Sally Lindover sits with tribal musicians at the Heritage Museum in Islamabad.

in Arizona, and four years running an arts program in Provincetown, Mass.

Her next step, in 1979, was the beginning of more than 25 years of living abroad. At the age of 52, she joined the Peace Corps, training in Zaire and then teaching at the National University of Rwanda for two years.

After taking the Foreign Service exam while in Rwanda and awaiting the results, she was accepted as a United Nations volunteer to teach English to refugees in a UN camp in Malaysia. "We were crowded on a tiny island with some of the most desperate people in the world."

A year later, the envelope from the Foreign Service arrived, and at 56 Sally Lindover became the oldest rookie in U.S. State Department history. "I did really

the Great's legacy have left significant footprints."

After her tour with the Peace Corps ends, Polnerow plans to return to New York City or Paris to pursue a master's in international relations. She is considering a career in the Foreign Service or with a global organization such as the United Nations or Amnesty International.

"I think anyone with an open mind, a taste for adventure and the desire to give back to society can benefit from the Peace Corps," she says. "In my opinion, these qualities sum up the typical Hunter student."

well on the exam but people in the department were still talking about how old I was."

Lindover served in Egypt, West Africa, India, and Germany until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 65.

Leaving the Foreign Service has hardly dimmed her love of travel. "I've had a place in Cambridge for 15 years, and for the past eight years I've only been there about eight months a year; I've had State Department assignments in Haiti, Yemen, Azerbaijan, India, and on and on."

Asked about her most memorable experiences, Lindover said: "I was a consular officer in the Foreign Service, working to help Americans abroad who were in trouble, which was very satisfying, and granting visas to people who had qualified to enter the U.S. These were people who had worked hard to reach this moment, and going to

America was such an opportunity. Some burst into tears. Those were moments that made life worthwhile."

Would she encourage today's Hunter students to follow in her well-traveled footsteps? "There are so many more opportunities to visit foreign countries now," she reflects. "Study abroad, volunteer programs — if they want to, young people can get overseas. They should, and they should see some of the awful poverty that's out there. Not avoid it, but see it, experience it in a direct way."

"I've had a privileged life," she adds. "And I've always been grateful to Hunter for giving me such a wonderful education. In those days, \$8 a semester, which covered everything, even books, was all we paid. Imagine, a college education at one of the country's best colleges for \$64."

Alumna's Long Lost Diary Comes to Life in New Book



Photo by Colby Katz

Author Lily Koppel with Florence Wolfson Howitt.

From 1929 to 1934, Florence Wolfson Howitt (BA '34) faithfully wrote in her diary each day all about her life and experiences as a student at Hunter College.

Now that long ago forgotten diary — miraculously discovered in a Manhattan trash heap by a *New York Times* reporter more than 70 years later — has been turned into a best-selling new book which provides a fascinating glimpse of what it was like for young women at Hunter during the Depression era.

The book, *The Red Leather Diary*, written by Lily Koppel, was published by Harper Collins in April.

It has received a huge amount of attention, including an April 17 appearance by Florence and Koppel on the NBC "Today Show" — as well as magazine feature stories in *Vogue*, *Elle*, and *Glamour* and an article in *The New York Times*. The book even has its own website: www.redleatherdiary.com.

For Florence, now 92 and living in Florida, all of this has brought back wonderful memories of her days at Hunter.

"I should feel a little embarrassed because it exposes a lot, but I guess I'm too old to be embarrassed by anything," she told *At Hunter*. "It's like a dream, it's fantastic. Some of the things I wrote were really poetic and interesting. Hunter was a very different school then from what it is today. But it was a very fine school. It was a very comfortable place for any woman who wanted to express herself, make herself felt, because there weren't any boys to take away that opportunity."

In the now faded diary, with its red leather cover and gold-edged pages, Florence records what book author Koppel describes as a "Manhattan fairy tale... a vivid picture of 1930s New York."

The diary's nearly 2,000 entries talk about how she became immersed in art and literature at Hunter; became editor in chief of the literary journal *The Echo*; and they detail many of the young woman's most innermost thoughts about her social life.

"Nat finally kissed me!" one entry scrawled in black ink reads. "It was pretty bad, but he was so utterly delightful about it that I didn't care. He's sweet."

That boy was Nat Howitt, whom she married six years after graduating from Hunter. Florence and Nat were together for 67 years until he died in April 2007.

Another entry tells about the trials and tribulations of being editor of *The Echo*. "A busy, hectic day at school — with *Echo* due at the printers and no manuscripts in and some having to be rewritten all having to be read — it was silly."

And she writes about fascinating conversations with people at Hunter — many of them held over tea — including one meeting with a well-respected Hunter math professor. "Visited a former teacher of mine, Dr. Darkow... she is brilliant," Florence writes in the diary.

There are also descriptions of dancing at the Café Rouge ballroom where the Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and Glenn Miller orchestras played; scooting off to a speakeasy in a checkered taxi; reading Baudelaire, Balzac, and Flaubert; and taking horseback rides in Central Park.

The diary even tells of a fashion controversy at Hunter when Florence — who cut a striking figure in her horse

riding habit, breeches, and knee-high leather boots — wore the ensemble to classes. She had to justify it to the Hunter dean — who kept a close eye on Hunterites' diction, dress, and conduct — as "undeniably the costume of a serious horsewoman."

The diary was given to Florence as a gift by her family for her 14th birthday in 1929. Her father was a doctor and her mother owned a couture dress shop on Madison Avenue. Identified as an intellectually gifted young woman, she began attending Hunter at the age of 15. Her last entry in the diary was made in 1934, and she forgot about it after that. The diary's resurrection began two years ago, after Koppel moved into the same Manhattan apartment building where Florence once lived. Decades-old contents in the apartment's basement were being thrown out, including the diary.

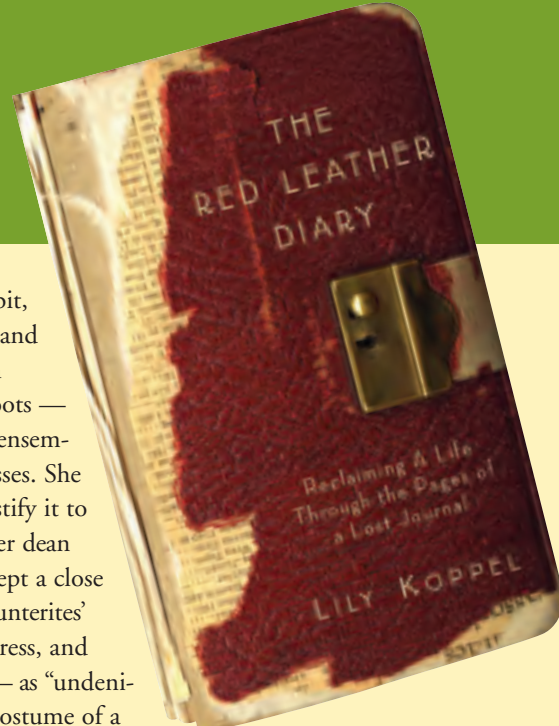
Intrigued by the contents and an inscription reading "This book belongs to Florence Wolfson," Koppel tracked Florence down — which led to the book about her diary. An earlier story published in *At Hunter* helped Koppel track down other Hunter students from that era.

After graduating, Florence went on to study English at Columbia University, but says she was sidetracked from her literary endeavors as she grew older. She gave birth to two daughters, Valerie and Karen, and dedicated much of her time instead to playing tennis, bridge, and the stock market.

Reading her passages in the diary again after all this time, she said: "I couldn't believe it, I just couldn't believe that that was me. I liked that girl. I think I should have gone on to a literary career...it's been more fun than I've had in years."



Florence in the 1934 Wistarion.



Jeffrey Sachs Tells Grads: You Can Fix Our World

Top international economist and health expert Jeffrey Sachs delivered the keynote address at Hunter's winter 2008 commencement ceremony on January 24, urging the 1,200 graduates to help their generation change the world by winning the battle against poverty and disease.

"It is possible to end extreme poverty on the planet by 2025," said Dr. Sachs, a professor of health policy and management at Columbia University who serves as special



Jeffrey Sachs delivered the commencement address.

advisor to the UN, and who is widely considered to be the leading international economic adviser of our time. "Our problems are man-made, and therefore they can be solved by man."

He also said that much of the malaria throughout the entire continent of Africa could be eradicated simply by spending \$1.5 billion to buy sleeping nets, adding that the Pentagon currently spends \$1.7 billion per day on its operations. "I want the Pentagon to take next Thursday off!" he quipped.

Sachs told the graduates that Hunter, with students from 150 different countries, "epitomizes the very best of the world. This is what the world can be. A world of so much diversity and so many talented people pulling together to accomplish so many remarkable things."

He was awarded a President's Medal from Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab after delivering his keynote address.

Also honored during the commencement ceremony were Hunter alumnus Arlie Petters ('86), now a professor of mathematics and physics at Duke University whose theory of gravitational lensing has made him the founder of the field of mathematical astronomy; and Jonathan Bing, a member of the New York State Assembly who has worked tirelessly for his constituents on the East Side of Manhattan and has been a strong friend and supporter of Hunter.

Dr. Petters was the recipient of a Doctorate of Science, while Assemblyman Bing received a President's Medal.

"This is a fabulous homecoming for me," Petters told the commencement audience. "At Hunter I learned so many lessons. It is indeed the Hunter experience that made me outrageously ambitious. It made me not afraid to think big. Be outrageously ambitious!"

He said Hunter's diversity allowed him to embrace many different cultures while he was here. "I used to imagine visiting the hometowns of all the people I knew at Hunter from all around the world," he laughed.

Assemblyman Bing, describing Hunter as "the crown jewel in the CUNY system," talked about why it was so important for him to be a supporter of the College in



Arlie Petters was the recipient of a Doctorate of Science.

Albany — and lead the fight for needed aid. "You can't cut funding for students in a neighborhood where it costs \$10 just to buy a sandwich," he said.

Bing concluded by telling the graduates: "Be good to yourself...be good to your community...be good to your world. We cannot be the first generation which does not leave the world a better place."

"Hunter epitomizes the very best of the world...a world of so much diversity and so many talented people pulling together to accomplish so many remarkable things."

— Jeffrey Sachs

Students Honored for Extraordinary Success

Ashley Hope traveled many miles from her home in Wisconsin to reach Hunter — and an even greater distance personally. She ran away from home at 17 and arrived in New York with just \$80. She drifted aimlessly for several years until she enrolled at Hunter — where she turned her life around.

After entering the Hunter fine arts program, she emerged as an exceptional painter with a unique style that earned her a one-woman show at a major gallery — a rare feat for a newcomer. She earned a BFA from Hunter summa cum laude in 2004 and an MFA in Studio Art at the winter graduation. She found something else at Hunter, too — her husband, Josh Weisberg.

José Vasquez was born with a severe hearing disability in the Dominican Republic where there were no services for the hearing impaired. Everyone except his mother dismissed his dreams of getting an education. Besides a lack of money, he had two hurdles to overcome: learning English, then learning American Sign Language.

Vasquez persevered and became a leader in the deaf community. He pursued his undergraduate degree at New York Technical College, and then — at the age of 39 — graduated this year with a Masters of Social Work from Hunter with a perfect 4.0 GPA. His educational journey will continue as he pursues a PhD and a career helping Spanish speakers with hearing disabilities.

Brandon Lewis was emerging as a promising artist until financial difficulties and personal despondency led him to drop out of college. After a terrible car accident left him unable to walk, he turned to alcohol. But with his mother's help he became sober again and enrolled in college.

Once at Hunter, he rediscovered his creative voice, this time as a filmmaker. His graduation with a 3.7 GPA and a degree in media studies was helped immeasurably by Vivian Milefsky ('59) and her husband Norman, who



(left to right) Brandon Lewis, Ashley Hope, José Vasquez, Loan Tran

sponsored Lewis with a Mother's Day scholarship.

Born and raised in Vietnam, Loan Tran arrived in New York just 10 days before 9/11. The horror of that day shook her profoundly, adding to the difficulties she was experiencing because she didn't speak English and couldn't find work. But Tran was determined to make a life in her new homeland with her husband. Even with the birth of two children, she mastered English

and enrolled at Borough of Manhattan Community College. There she won contests for poetry and essays written in her new language.

Transferring to Hunter, Tran found a new passion, biochemistry. She graduated as a chemistry major with a math minor and a 3.9 GPA. She will continue to pursue her passion for science by earning a master's and continuing her scientific research.

Newmans' \$2M Gift to Hunter

continued from page 1

Harold Newman received an MBA from the Harvard Business School, an MA from the University of Pennsylvania and a BS from the University of Oklahoma. He began his business career at Goldman Sachs and is a Managing Director of Neuberger Berman, now a part of Lehman Brothers. He is on the Board of Trustees of the

"The Newmans'... commitment to public service and public education render them not simply benefactors of the School of Arts and Sciences, but also exemplars of its aims."

— Dean Shirley Clay Scott

EastWest Institute, the Manhattan Theater Club and the Board of Visitors of the International Program Center at the University of Oklahoma. Harold and Ruth Newman have also served on the Board of Trustees of the Asia Society.

Dean Shirley Clay Scott, who will be the first Ruth and Harold Newman Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said of the fit between the school and the donors: "The Newmans' wide-ranging personal interests — poetry, theater, reading, travel, art, international affairs — and

their commitment to public service and public education render them not simply benefactors of the School of Arts and Sciences, but also exemplars of its aims."

The proposed Seminar in Civic Understanding Initiative will consist primarily of between-semester special topics seminars on current or recurrent civic issues, taught by faculty, visiting scholars, or public figures. The endowment will fund full or partial scholarships for students in these seminars during the winter intersession.

The first two seminars were conducted on an experimental basis during this past January's winter session. "The Press and the Presidential Campaign" considered the role of the press in campaigns both historical and contemporary. "Civic Environmentalism" prepared students for informed engagement in deliberations about the environment and climate change.

"The students who are in the courses really want to be there," said Harold Newman. "I sat in one evening, and I was very impressed with their diligence. They cared. They participated. They weren't just listening. They seemed open to the whole purpose: to expand on their own observations and realize the difficulty of reaching conclusions. A balance of points of view is what is important, not 30-second sound bites. I felt very good about the contribution we had made."



Ruth Newman with Hunter graduate Dilini Kasturiarachchi at an event honoring the Newmans for their gift. Ruth Newman served as a mentor to Kasturiarachchi — an accounting major who graduated this past January — as part of the Mentoring Program at Hunter.

Dean Scott called them "terrific courses," saying: "The goal of these experimental courses and of the special Civic Understanding Seminars as the curriculum committees define them — is not to tell students what or how they ought to think, but to help them apply their liberal arts education to specific issues or events that affect their lives or the lives of their fellow citizens."

Class Notes

Please keep us — and your fellow alumni — informed about your accomplishments by e-mailing your news to alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu. Or you can update your contact information and submit a Class Note at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni. Share your stories with us and the Hunter College community. You can even post a picture of yourself!

1940s

Amateur pianist and devoted concertgoer **Anne Gray** (BA '46) is the author of *The World of Women in Classical Music*, which covers women's musical achievements from the distant past to the present. Gray describes classical music as a "lining against all the darker things in the world."

Eugenie Clark (BA '42), one of the world's leading experts on sharks, was honored with the prestigious Explorers Club Medal at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria on March 15. She was recognized for her lifetime of contributions to the study of deep sea fishes and other aquatic life. Clark joins the ranks of other former winners like Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, Jane Goodall, Edmund Hillary, and the Leakey family.

1950s

 Yeshiva University Museum and Kilmer Library of Rutgers University have acquired two of **Janet Indick's** (BA '53) large-scale steel sculptures for their permanent collections. Indick has exhibited extensively in New York and New Jersey and is a recipient of several awards, including a Medal of Honor and a New Jersey State Fellowship grant for sculpture. Her metallic artwork, influenced by nature, music, Jewish themes and current events, has been in international exhibits in Germany, France, Poland, and Canada.

1960s

Following a 47-year career as a magazine editor, **Alan Richman** (BA '60), of Morganville, NJ, has launched Alan Richman Communications Services, a freelance writing service and communications consultancy. A former editor of the *Hunter Arrow*, which published twice-weekly and covered both the Park Avenue and Bronx campuses, Richman holds a patent pending for a method of teaching writing skills.

In December, the New York State Senate confirmed **Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick's** (BA '63)

appointment to a second term on the New York State Court of Appeals. Ciparick, who has been a judge for the past three decades, received her law degree from St. John's University School of Law.

Bloomfield College in New Jersey has appointed **Ernesto L. Butcher** (BA '67) to its board of trustees. Butcher is the deputy executive director of operations for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Representative **Dorothy L. Hukill** (BA '67) has served in Florida's state legislature since 2004. Before entering politics, Hukill served as an elementary school teacher and practiced real estate and probate law.

Poet, playwright, and co-founder of *Ikon* magazine **Susan Sherman** (MA '67) published her memoir, *America's Child: A Woman's Journey Through the Radical Sixties*. *The New York Times Sunday Book Review* called her writing "evocative ... Sherman's subject is finding herself and accepting her love of women — and learning her art."

Murray Sabrin (BA '68), a New Jersey resident, is running for the U.S. Senate as a Republican. He ran for governor of New Jersey in 1997 as a Libertarian and for the U.S. Senate in 2000 as a Republican. Sabrin is a finance professor at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

1970s

Patricia Spence Rudden (BA '72), an associate professor of English at City Tech, is the editor of the new book *Singing for Themselves: Essays on Women in Popular Music*. Published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, the book takes an academic look at the work of female artists such as Laura Nyro.

John Malmgreen (BA '73) has been elected chairman of ASTM International Committee on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys. The committee's role is to develop standards in all aspects of the metals industry, including compositions, properties, dimensions, classification, nomenclature, analysis and quality assurance. Malmgreen is the vice president of manufacturing and quality at Eastern Alloys, Inc., in Maybrook, N.Y.

James Fand (BA '74) was profiled in a *Tampa Tribune* article entitled "Tile Salesman Has Won

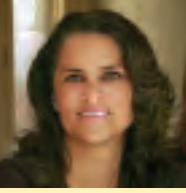
Many Hats Through Life." Fand, who has owned a tile distributing company in Florida for the past 25 years, previously worked as a high school earth science teacher and an employee in Cuba's State Department.

Col. **Rose Mary Sheldon** (MA '76), head of the history department at the Virginia Military Institute, will be publishing her fourth book, *Operation Messiah: St. Paul, Roman Intelligence and the Birth of Christianity*, in May.

Photographer **Barbara Mensch's** (BFA '78) works are housed in the Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, the Museum of the City of New York, and the Brooklyn Museum. Mensch, who was profiled in *B&W* magazine, uses New York City as her muse. She hopes that her photographs capture "some kind of truth, and to have that truth resonate with people."

1980s

An experienced fundraiser and manager for the arts, **Eddi Volk** (MFA '83) has been hired as development director at the di Rosa Preserve in California. She previously served as director of development of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra.

 **Martha S. Jones** (BA '84) has written a new book, *All Bound Up Together*, which came out this fall. The book explores the roles of black women in community movements against slavery and for civil rights. Jones is currently on the faculties of the history department and law school at the University of Michigan.

Bette Jane Kowalski (BA '86) has worked for *New York Newsday*, the *Village Voice*, *Publishers Weekly*, and the *Stamford Advocate*, as well as the *World Press Review*, where she served as editor for 10 years.

For the past 16 years, **Joseph Rutkowski** (Advanced Cert. '87) has been the director of instrumental music at Great Neck North High School in Great Neck, New York. He previously served on the faculties of Queens College, Mannes College, Westchester Conservatory, and Stuyvesant High School.



Class of '87 alums Lamb, McBean, Robinson (l-r)

David Lamb reunited with fellow alums from the Class of 1987 **Austin McBean** and **Deborah Robinson** at a special performance of Lamb's hit play, *Platanos and Collard Greens*, at Hunter in April.

Debra Fraser-Howze (BA '88) has joined Orasure Technologies, Inc., a medical diagnostics company based in Pennsylvania, as vice president, Government and External Affairs. Fraser-Howze is the former president and CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS, an organization she founded in 1987.

Yvonne Graham (MPH '88) has resigned from her position as Brooklyn's deputy borough president and has been appointed as a special assistant to Borough President Marty Markowitz. "In the near future, I hope to set up an exploratory committee to determine my viability as a candidate for the office of Brooklyn Borough President," she said.

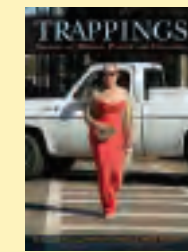
Jane Grappone (MSEd '89) has been named director of guidance and counseling services in the Manhasset, New York, public schools. Last year she served as the lead counselor, and the seven years prior to that as a guidance counselor.

Leslie Koppel-Egierd (BA '89) is a designer and sales associate at the Closet Doctor, a New Jersey store that offers solutions to storage problems. She is a founding member of Kids First, and a member of the Middlesex County Transportation Coordinating Committee.

1990s

 **Anna Sarubbi** (BA '90) has been honored as "Woman of the Year" by the American Italian Coalition of Organizations, the Bay Ridge Business and Professional Women's Organization, and the Congress of Italian American Organizations. Sarubbi is the medical director of Maimonides Medical Center's ambulatory site.

Renee Piechocki (BA '94) and Tiffany Ludwig are the co-authors of *Trappings: Stories of Women, Power and Clothing*. The two spent six years interviewing more than 500 women and girls in preparation for the book. Piechocki is an artist and public consultant.



Connecticut school teacher **Mildred Velazquez** (BA '94, MSEd '00) has been named Trumbull's 2008 Teacher of the Year. She previously taught at the innovative learning center at Roosevelt Hospital and Cornell Medical Center Nursery school.

Bodies of Work, a 15-year retrospective of artist **Erin Wade's** (BA '94) work, was featured at the 46 Studio in Chico, California. The exhibition, showcasing 10 groups of work by the artist, was her first solo exhibit.

Kim Waterman-Spitzer (MSEd '95) has been an art education teacher for the past 15 years, the last five spent at IS183 in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. She recently taught a "Creative Collage Workshop" for children and their caregivers.

Since 2005, **Claudia Zequeira** (BA '96) has covered Osceola, Florida, schools as an *Orlando Sentinel* reporter. Early in her career, she covered New York's City Hall for several daily newspapers and wrote about NYC's public education system.

Trish Kerlé (MSEd '97) has joined ASAE & The Center for Association Leadership as director of diversity and inclusion. ASAE & The Center, based in Washington, D.C., aim to help association professionals optimize their skills. Kerlé formerly served as an organization development associate at Applegate Consulting Group and a program consultant for the National Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Centers.

Musician **Darren Wilsey** (BA '98) has written TV and soundtrack music for "Sex and the City," "Saturday Night Live," and "Third Watch," among many other programs. Wilsey, who owns a music company in California, has degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and the University of California at Irvine.



SUNY Cortland named **Andrew Mount** (MFA '99) the director of the Dowd Fine Arts Gallery on January 7. Mount was formerly the director of THINC, an organization that develops, implements

and supports arts programming. Mount has contributed freelance installations to the Guggenheim Museum, Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and Barbara Gladstone Gallery.

Liwia Rosamond (MA '99) is a French teacher at a high school in Queens. She described her Hunter education in French literature and culture in a recent *Gotham Gazette* article "Investing in Higher Education." "CUNY gave me a new career," said Rosamond, who formerly taught English. "I believe that this is one of the very few places where you can get a high-quality education at an affordable price."

2000s

Nutritionist **Rebecca Karchere** (BS NFS '00) runs Pure NEWtrition in Fairfield, Connecticut. At a YWCA workshop, "Lose the Clutter, Drop the Weight," she discussed how to overcome physical and psychological barriers to weight loss.

Guy Moshe's (BA '01) first feature film, *Holly*, opened at the Quad Theater in New York City on April 25. Moshe wrote, directed, and co-produced the movie, which examines the growing international atrocity of human trafficking. The film was shot on location in Cambodia and features actors Ron Livingston, Thuy Nguyen, Udo Kier, Chris Penn and Virginie Ledoyen.

Suzanne Palmer (BA '04) is in her third and final year in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at MGH Institute of Health Professions in Boston. After graduating, she intends to work in either an acute care or inpatient rehabilitation facility.

The *NYTimes* published a photo essay and slideshow of **Ka Chan's** (BA '05) recent photo exhibit of the news photographers of Chinese/Chinese American newspapers.

Emily Elizabeth Kolins (BA '05) recently started a jewelry line under the label Emily Elizabeth Jewelry. Her creations are sold in stores nationwide and have received press in the US, Sweden, and Japan.

Justin Matherly's (MFA '07) exhibition *The Assistants* was on view at Dispatch gallery in New York's Lower East Side from February 24 to April 6. He is also the co-founder of Basecamp collaborative in Philadelphia.

Janina McCormack (BA '06) and **Michael McGrann** (BFA '07) were selected by Ugallery.com to exhibit at the Art Now Fair New York in March. The Ugallery exhibition, which focuses on how young emerging artists express urban and rural themes, included McCormack's action paintings and McGrann's landscape photography.

Alumni Association Events

For information on all alumni events, please check our website at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

June 26: Chapter Meeting
Time: 7:30pm; E. Meadow Library, E. Meadow, NY
Contact: Helen Gittleman
516.705.6277, helstan@optonline.net, or Rhona Goldman: 516.599.2719, rhonagoldman@verizon.net

NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER

June 14: Annual Fundraiser
Time: 5pm; Buffet supper at the home of Estelle Stone. \$50
6816 Meadow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD
Contact: Estelle Stone at 301.986.0478

NEW YORK CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

June 8: Summer Luncheon
The Clarion Hotel in Albany.
Speaker TBD.
Contact: Rona H. Wilson at 518.465.7763

QUEENS CHAPTER

June 7: Spring Luncheon
Time: 12pm – 4pm; Pasta Lovers Restaurant. \$30
Door prizes, raffles, entertainment
Contact: Helene Goldfarb
212.517.3144 or hdgoldfarb@aol.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

If you would like to be added to the chapter's mailing list, please email Monique Hart at mql@earthlink.net

STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER

June 16: Book Club Event
Time: 7pm; Pasticceria Bruno, 1650 Highland Blvd.
Contact: Mary Ellen Bennett
718.979.2539

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on the third Wednesday of each month except August, December, and February. The group meets from 7–8:30pm in the Archives Room of the Hunter Library on Level Two of the East Building, except for January and July, when it meets in 1315 East Building.
June 18: *Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James
July 16: *My Father Had a Daughter* by Grace Tiffany

In Memoriam

Frances Lewine '42



Frances Lewine
1922 – 2008

Frances Lewine ('42), a trailblazing journalist who covered the White House during the administrations of six presidents, died on January 19 in Washington at the age of 86.

After graduating from Hunter, where she edited the College's newspaper, Lewine worked as a reporter in New Jersey until joining the Washington bureau of the Associated Press in 1956. She covered the White House for AP from Eisenhower through Carter, and then joined the Carter administration in 1977 as deputy director of public affairs for the Transportation Department. She later spent nearly three decades as a TV editor and producer at CNN.

Lewine was hailed as a leader among women journalists in the 1950s, '60s and '70s for battling discrimination

against women in jobs and assignments. She helped open up to women for the first time major journalistic organizations such as the National Press Club and the Gridiron Club. She was also part of a sex-discrimination suit filed against the AP, which helped change its policies on women.

"Fran Lewine was a pioneer for women in journalism and she stood up to the Washington 'media' establishment and helped open doors that had been open only to men," said Edith Lederer, chief AP correspondent at the UN and a longtime friend.

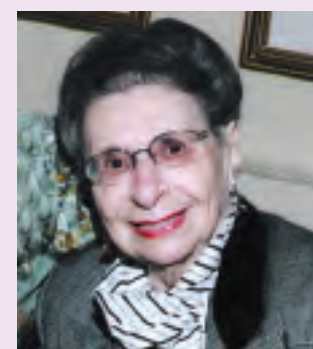
Another friend, AP legal writer Linda Deutsch, described Lewine as "a role model for what a great woman could accomplish in journalism. She was truly a legend but so self-effacing you would never know how much of this country's history she had covered."

Lewine was a member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame. Her lifetime of distinguished accomplishments also earned her a place in the Hall of Fame of the Washington Society of Professional Journalists. Last October, she was awarded the Missouri Honor Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism — the highest honor bestowed by the Missouri School of Journalism.



Frances Lewine with President Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird in the '60s.

Florence Belsky '42



Florence Belsky
1922 – 2007

Florence Belsky — a longtime philanthropist, champion of the arts, and dedicated Hunter alumna — died on November 29 at the age of 86.

Belsky's life was characterized by diligence and generosity. She began working at the age of 13 to support her parents and her sister Rose after her father was injured on the job. She supported herself through her years at Hunter College, where she earned a BA in 1942, and at Brooklyn Law School, where she was one of two women to graduate in a class of 200. Belsky went on to a 50-year career practicing law, ultimately becoming the first female hearing officer of the New York Supreme Court.

Wide-reaching and diverse, Belsky's philanthropic work has touched the lives of countless people. She established scholarships at Hunter College, Juilliard School of Music, the Giulio Gari Opera Foundation, Elderhostel, and the New School Institute for Retired Professionals. She also founded the Florence Belsky Charitable Foundation, which supports projects ranging from academic scholarships to children's arts programs. Additionally, she was a patron of the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Public Library, Ellis Island Wall of Honor, and the Metropolitan Museum.

A website has been established in Belsky's memory at www.florencebelsky.com.

Hunter Remembers...

Elizabeth M. Jones '30
Marie L. Hesselbach '36
Norma Liebert '40
Leah Schwartz Shapiro '40

Lillian Winfield '42
Frances Nadler Wolfman '42
Mary Cohen '44
Selma Berrol '45

Ruth Kurtz Perrone '51
Naomi D. Lewis '52
Lydia Schneid '53
Gail L. MacFarlane '56

Maureen Hansen '59
Rev. Salvatore A. Mistretta '63
Marilyn R. Padow '64
Christine (Pepe) Signorelli '86, '94

Tell Us About Your Favorite Hunter Professor

Is there a favorite professor you remember from your days as a student at Hunter?

An extraordinary teacher who changed your life?

A faculty member who made such a memorable impact on you that you want to thank him or her today?

Write and tell us all about it for *At Hunter!*

Send your memories to: "My Favorite Professor"

c/o *At Hunter*
695 Park Avenue, Rm. E1301
New York, NY 10065

Or email to: publications@hunter.cuny.edu

We Want to Hear From You...

Have a comment on an article you read in *At Hunter?*

An idea for something you think we should be covering?

Or maybe you just want to share a favorite Hunter memory through pictures or words?

Whatever it is... we'd love to hear what YOU have to say!

Send your comments to: publications@hunter.cuny.edu

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Foundation Board Member Carole Olshan: A Life of Teaching and Giving



Carole Sklerov Olshan always wanted to be a school-teacher. “From childhood on, I had dreamed of working with young people and helping to change lives,” the Hunter alumna says. “It was the wonderful education I got at Hunter that made my dream come true.”

Now Olshan is repaying Hunter in many ways. She has been a member since January 2007 of the Foundation Board of Trustees. She serves on the Gala Committee. And she is a generous supporter of the Mother’s Day Scholarship Fund, which she describes as “a wonderful way to personally give back to Hunter what it had done for me and my generation.”

After graduating in 1963, Olshan realized her childhood ambition, teaching in an elementary school in East Harlem — El Barrio, as it was more often called then — for 16 years. Along the way, she earned a master’s in bilingual education from Hunter as well as a master’s in the teaching of reading from CUNY, and she served as a United Federation of Teachers chapter chairman.

She is especially proud that when the Board of Education published a pamphlet about teaching in New York, she and many of her fellow Hunter alumnae were featured in the photos. “We really were dedicated and hard working and good at what we did,” she says, “because we had been so well trained during our student-teaching days at Hunter. It was a phenomenal experience.”

The years she taught, through the 1960s and ’70s, were a time of upheaval in New York’s schools — and in American society. “We went through school

decentralization and the introduction of community school boards,” she says. “It was very difficult, very challenging, but we never lost our focus on teaching, and despite the turmoil, we did make a difference in our students’ lives.”

In addition to her contributions to Hunter, Olshan has been active in several community-service organizations. She is a board member of the United Jewish Appeal of Northern New Jersey and serves on the board of the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. She was a member of the Committee to Visit the College at Harvard and the Harvard Parents Fund.

“My lifelong ambition was to be a school-teacher... It was the wonderful education I got at Hunter that made my dream come true.”

— Carole Olshan

Her husband, Morton, is a prominent New York real estate developer and a principal owner of the New York Yankees. Their daughter Andrea and son Michael both graduated from the Horace Mann School and Harvard.

“Andrea and Michael were presidents of the Hasty Pudding Club,” Olshan notes, “and they are almost certainly the only sister and brother in Harvard’s history who both served in that office.” “I am,” she adds with a motherly smile, “rather proud of that.”

10 Questions For...

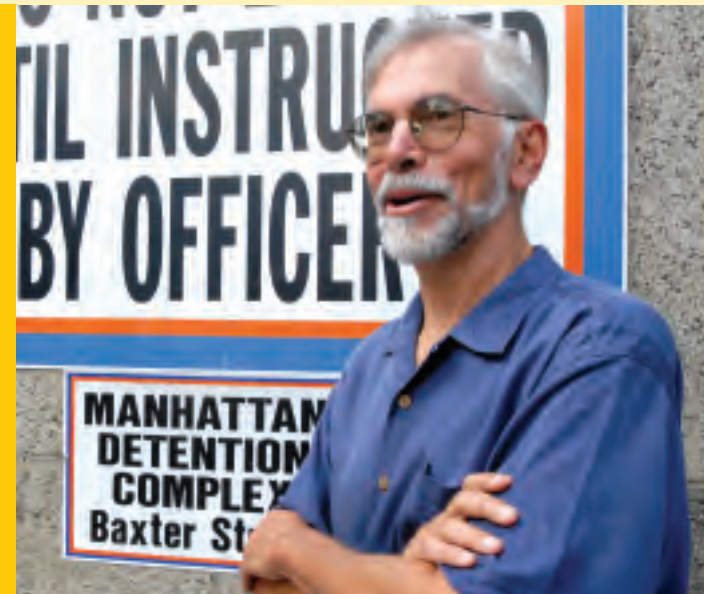
Nicholas Freudenberg

Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health

Nicholas Freudenberg has spent three decades working tirelessly to improve public health conditions — most recently by launching a website called Corporations and Health Watch, <http://www.corporationsandhealth.org>, which takes aim at corporate influence for causing many of our most daunting health problems.

A graduate of Hunter (BA '75) who went on to get his PhD at Columbia, Freudenberg has also done extensive research in New York City jails on AIDS protection and other inmate health issues; worked with homeless and community groups to promote better public health policy; and co-authored several books on solving pressing public health problems.

The founder and longtime director of the College’s Center on AIDS, Drugs, and Community Health, he has been called “the most influential individual in the U.S. in the field of health promotion for disadvantaged urban populations.”



1. If you weren’t teaching at Hunter, what do you think you might be doing for a living?

I have two alternative careers: a field biologist or a journalist. I’ve always admired the nineteenth-century biologists who spent their time observing nature and making conclusions based on their observations. As a journalist, I’d write about the ways that public policy affects ordinary people.

2. Tell us about a memorable moment in the classroom.

In the early 1980s, several of my Hunter public health students were involved in the first New York City Department of Health investigations of what was then called “gay-related immune deficiency”. Their descriptions of the people affected by HIV and the findings of their studies mesmerized my class and contributed to my decision to spend the next 20 years developing and evaluating HIV prevention programs. One of the rewards of teaching at Hunter is how much I learn from our students.

3. Accomplishment you’re most proud of?

This past June, the state legislature passed a law making it easier for people leaving jail and prison to get Medicaid, thus allowing them to continue to get care and medicines for HIV, tuberculosis and diabetes. My research played a small role in making the case for that legislation. We were able to show that having Medicaid after release from jail was associated with lower rates of reincarceration.

4. What do you like to do when you’re not teaching?

My research and teaching bring me to crowded, noisy, complex urban scenes like city jails, high schools, low-income neighborhoods and Hunter’s crowded hallways. For relaxation, I look for more solitary activities like running, kayaking or hiking.

5. What book have you just finished reading?

To escape from work, I read at least one mystery a week. I recently finished Richard North Patterson’s *Exile*, a can’t-put-it-down thriller that also gives one of the most balanced pictures of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict that I’ve read. Now I’m reading *The Cigarette Century* by Allan Brandt, a history of how cigarettes and the tobacco industry shaped the 20th century.

6. Favorite recent movie?

I really liked *Pan’s Labyrinth*, a film that weaves a child’s fantasy world (great special effects!) with the end of the Spanish Civil War. It showed the psychological roots of political violence in a very personal and upsetting way.

7. Guilty pleasure junk food?

One of my recent public health crusades has been against the junk food that’s making so many Americans overweight, sick and at risk of early death. Lucky for me I don’t like it much, so avoiding it has not been hard. On the other hand, ice cream....

8. Favorite sport or team?

Under the influence of my son (a Hunter College High School graduate), I became an ardent Mets fan. Things are looking a little rocky right now, but we’ve been here before and I have high hopes for the summer.

9. What are some of the things you’ve been able to do in the field of public health at Hunter?

When I started teaching at Hunter in 1979 we had small undergraduate and master’s programs. Now we’re the largest and oldest public health program in the metropolitan area, our graduates are leading many of the city’s health agencies, we’ve opened a new doctoral program in public health this past September, and — with colleagues at Brooklyn, Lehman and the Graduate Center — we’re planning a new CUNY School of Public Health to be based at Hunter College. We have the potential to become national leaders in the emerging field of urban health.

10. How has being a member of the Hunter faculty helped you in your work?

Everywhere I go people admire and respect Hunter — because their mother, grandmother, son or daughter went to school here or aspires to. It makes it much easier to develop partnerships of trust than if I were affiliated with an elite university with a more problematic history.