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At Hunter is published by Hunter College. Please send comments and suggestions to Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, Room E1301, New York, NY 10021; or telephone 212-772-4070; or e-mail publications@hunter.cuny.edu. For mailing address changes, please call 212-772-4087 or e-mail alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu.

School of Education Scores Top Grades

Hunter's School of Education plays a major role in building New York's future. Its graduates are "crucial to the development of tomorrow's work force," says Professor Shirley Cohen, the school's acting dean. "They are in great demand."

A key reason for the school's excellent reputation is that Hunter education students have been passing New York State teacher-certification exams at record rates. In 2003/2004, 98 percent of the Hunter students who took the Liberal Arts and Sciences Test, which measures general knowledge, passed the exam, while 99 percent passed the Assessment of Teaching Skills exam, which measures professional and pedagogical knowledge. These are among the highest rates in the state.

Adds Professor Deborah Eldridge, chair of the Department of Curriculum and Teaching, "Our graduates hit the ground running. We give them practical knowledge and experience as well as educational theory. And Hunter grads know how to handle urban schools, not only because most come from urban backgrounds themselves, but also because our faculty are dedicated to city schools."

Hunter sends about 500 new teachers into New York's public schools every year.

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For more on the outstanding people and programs in the School of Education, see pages 4, 5, 6, and 7.



Professor Jenny Tuten of the School of Education listens in as her students, future elementary school teachers, create a lesson plan to use in their classrooms.

Rockowitz Writing Center Dedicated

A ribbon-cutting ceremony dedicating the Dr. Murray and Anna C. Rockowitz Writing Center was held at Hunter on February 8. The event celebrated the gift of \$500,000 that Anna Cohen Rockowitz, Hunter '39, gave to support the Writing Center, a much-needed facility that provides one-on-one tutorial services, computer-assisted instruction, and group workshops for Hunter students seeking to improve their writing skills.

The Center is located on the fourth floor of Thomas Hunter Hall.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, President Jennifer J. Raab said: "I wonder how many of us here would have the strength to go to another country to start college in a new language. Many Hunter students do exactly that, and Anna Cohen Rockowitz's gift will forever help those students."

The ceremony also celebrated the lives and achievements of Anna Rockowitz and her late husband, Murray (1920-2002), who dedicated their lives to each other, their children, public education, and Jewish causes. In an address that brought forth laughter as well as tears, Anna told the audience how she and Murray got to know each other while rehearsing a school play in French. (She was at Hunter and he was at City College.)

"The hardest part," she recalled, "was the kissing scene, which we didn't know how to do properly. So we rehearsed and rehearsed—even on the weekends. My parents couldn't understand why we needed to rehearse this play so much!"

Murray went on to graduate from CCNY—magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa—and Anna graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hunter. From the time they met until Murray's death, they were separated only when Murray served in the military during World War II. After his return from the army, Murray went on to build a



The Rockowitz family stands outside the Writing Center at a ceremony to rename the Center in honor of Anna Rockowitz and her late husband, Murray. Anna's granddaughter Deena and her son Eli traveled from Israel to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and were joined by Anna, her son Noah, daughter-in-law Julie and granddaughter Shira.

distinguished career in the New York City public school system. He began as a teacher, then over the years became an English department chairman, a principal, and, finally, the chairman of the New York City Board of Examiners. In this last position, he oversaw the preparation and administration of exams for all teachers and supervisors in the city's school system.

During this period Murray earned a master's in comparative literature from NYU, a master's in education from CCNY, and a PhD in secondary education from NYU. He published over 40 books including educational works and anthologies of fiction and poetry. Most well-known is his *GED—How to Prepare for the High School Equivalency Examination*, which has sold two million copies. Dr. Rockowitz also served for more than 50 years as a contributing editor for the magazines of Scholastic, Inc.

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Happenings at Hunter

To see a list of the upcoming events at Hunter, go to www.hunter.cuny.edu/events



First-year students posed with a statue of Aaron Burr during an exclusive Hunter visit to the New-York Historical Society's exhibit "Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America." Incoming first-year students attended this and three other college-sponsored events as part of their orientation.



In November, Music Professor Nicholas Ross led the Hunter College Symphony in a concert of "Symphonic Jazz"—music for a small orchestra with a "big band" sound. The concert featured works by several giants of 20th-century music, including Aaron Copland (*Music for Theatre*), Scott Joplin (*Maple Leaf Rag*), Michael Daugherty (*Sunset Strip*) and Igor Stravinsky (*Ragtime*). The featured work of the evening was a new orchestration by Paul Whiteman of George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. The symphony was joined by guest pianist Professor Stephen Graff.



The Theatre Department's fall production was an innovative staging of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* set in 1920s Manhattan. The cast of graduates and undergraduates was directed by Professor Barbara Bosch.



Theatre Department Chair Jonathan Kalb, Student Government President Miles Gerety, President Jennifer J. Raab, theatre student Jennifer Artesi, Councilwoman Eva Moskowitz, Loewe Foundation President Floria Lasky, and architect Sherida Paulson broke ground at a ceremony last November to mark the beginning of renovations to the Frederick Loewe Plaza.



Salman Rushdie signed copies of his novel *Haroun and the Sea of Stories* after a colorful and humorous reading that kicked off last fall's Hunter College Distinguished Writers Series.



William C. Agee, Evelyn Kranes Kossak Professor of Art History (center), joins Hunter arts supporters Joseph Caroff and Inga Heckel at the 20th-anniversary celebration of the installation of Tony Smith's sculpture *Tau* in the Hunter Plaza.



World Wrestling Entertainment stars Maven and Hurricane conferred with the Hunter mascot in October as part of a drive to get students to "rock the vote." The college and the League of Women Voters sponsored the visit as part of a weeklong effort to urge students to register and then vote in the November elections.



Former Marine Corps General Anthony Zinni spoke about the situation in Iraq at a lecture sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association in October.



Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar spoke to a standing-room-only audience at Hunter, where he introduced his 1973 film *The Spirit of the Beehive* as part of the college's Romance Languages Film Festival. With the filmmaker is Romance Languages Professor Cecile Insdorf.



Author Anne Crittenden (second from right) celebrated with (from left) New York City Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum, President Raab, and Sociology Professor Pamela Stone after addressing a Hunter seminar on her book *If You've Raised Kids You Can Manage Anything*.



Author Jamaica Kincaid read selections from her novels and spoke with faculty and students in November as part of the Hunter College Distinguished Writers Series.

The President's Perspective



"We are pushing the education envelope so New York City schools can offer children the best."

This issue of *At Hunter* focuses on education. It is a proud Hunter tradition to be at the forefront of educational innovation. Thomas Hunter, an Irish immigrant, created Hunter College 135 years ago to prepare young women to become teachers. Until then, women in New York began their teaching careers after eighth grade with little or no training. Among his many breakthroughs, Thomas Hunter established a laboratory school so his student teachers, like doctors, would have clinical experience. This lab school is, of course, now known as Hunter Elementary.

Today, Hunter continues to be a leader in education, breaking new ground across the spectrum: Our programs in Special Education have earned us a national and international reputation. A new Center for Gifted Education, launched in February, will be the definitive source of new programs and best practices in teaching gifted students. In three short years, the Hunter College Mathematics Center for Learning and Teaching has helped hundreds of teachers become more effective math instructors. And we are training a new breed of school leaders with our programs for principals, administrators and counselors. In these and other areas, we are pushing the education envelope so New York City schools can offer children the best.

To keep our flagship programs moving forward, we are embarking on a five-year, \$50 million capital campaign, the first in Hunter's history. We're off to a good start even before the formal launch of our drive. Students can now hone their writing skills in the Dr. Murray and Anna C. Rockowitz Writing Center, thanks to a \$500,000 gift from the Rockowitz family. We will use gifts from The Frederick Loewe Foundation, headed by Hunter Alum Floria Lasky ('42), to turn the Frederick Loewe Theatre into a state-of-the-art facility. Thanks to Roger and Susan Hertog ('65), creative writing students will benefit from the Hertog Fellowship Program. And students in the School of Health Sciences will benefit from a commitment of \$100,000 from The Grove Foundation.

We are setting up new opportunities for you to give the gift of a Hunter education to others. Our new Mother's Day Scholarship Program celebrates Hunter mothers and their contributions to both family and community. Gifts of \$2,500 and above will be acknowledged in an advertisement in *The New York Times* on Mother's Day. To learn more about how you can support your alma mater, please contact the Development Office at 212-772-4085.

Faculty Profile

Tina Howe Says Hunter is Her Muse



Noted playwright and Hunter theatre professor Tina Howe is going to get an earful... about herself. As the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement in American Theatre Award from the prestigious William Inge Theatre Festival, Howe is to be honored at the 24th annual Inge Festival in Independence, Kansas, this spring. During the four-day festival, there will be tributes to Howe by directors, actors and fellow playwrights; panel discussions; and retrospectives. Theatre scholars will present papers on Howe's works, which are known for their lyrical language.

"She is a most richly deserving playwright," said Peter Ellenstein, artistic director of the festival. "Tina Howe has had an huge impact on American theatre and is universally respected by her peers, has productions of her plays all over America, but is not, yet, a household name. We hope that honoring her at the Inge Festival will introduce more of the American public to her unique voice."

She joins an impressive list of past William Inge winners, including Arthur Miller, Stephen Sondheim, Neil Simon, and Wendy Wasserstein, the only other woman to win this award.

Howe's plays include *Pride's Crossing*, a finalist for the 1997 Pulitzer Prize, and *Coastal Disturbances*, which received a Tony nomination for Best Play. She came to Hunter in 1990 as an adjunct in the Theatre Department, where she currently teaches a graduate course in playwriting. She still considers it an exciting moment when she meets a new class.



"There are older people, single parents, people with day jobs, so you know that they are sacrificing to be there," she says. "They have valor and commitment and they are eager to learn and to surrender to writing a play." Howe is pleased at her latest accomplishment. "It will show my students that hard work does pay off!"

Howe recently retranslated two of Eugene Ionesco's plays, *The Bald Soprano* and *The Lesson*. She says that her inspirations for the translations came after she appeared in a student production of *The Bald Soprano* at Hunter. Howe decided the script needed a change. "The English translation was cumbersome so I decided to revisit the original French and make the play more actor-friendly," she says.

The play's the thing when it comes to Tina Howe. Graduate students in Playwriting I stage readings of their own work and await their professor's critiques.

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

School of Education Scores Top Grades

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The School of Education consists of the departments of Curriculum and Teaching, Educational Foundations and Counseling Programs, and Special Education. [See articles on special education on page 6.] The school offers both undergraduate and graduate courses, and undergraduates who wish to become teachers must major in a liberal arts subject. They may take a sequence of courses that will prepare them for teaching in pre-schools, elementary or secondary schools.

Graduate programs offer master's degrees in a wide range of fields, including adolescence education (the sciences, English, Latin, Spanish, social studies, music, and other academic subjects); childhood education; early childhood education; rehabilitation and school counseling; TESOL; bilingual; and special education. Adolescence education programs are given in conjunction with Arts and Sciences departments.

Says Natalia Jackson, a second-grade teacher studying for a master's in early childhood education, "Hunter gives me really practical skills: how to plan a lesson, how to organize a theme, how to understand children's developmental levels. I also appreciate Hunter's diverse population, as that's the population I'll work with."

Producing Excellent Teachers

One of the innovative programs making an impact on New York schools is the Teaching Opportunity Program (TOP), which offers high-achieving college graduates a curriculum combining course work with on-the-job teacher training. What makes TOP so successful? Ask Antonio Salgado, an eighth-grade Spanish teacher in Queens, who is also a student in the program. "We talk about real-life issues in TOP classes," he says. "We have mock situations where we work out ways of solving problems we'll meet when we teach, and we share our ideas and experiences."



Olu Omolaju, a student in the Administration and Supervision Program (ADSUP), a post-master's program that prepares its students for a wide range of leadership positions in education, says he wants to go as far as he can in education. "I want to be a role model, not only for African-American students but for all my students," says Omolaju, who teaches physics at the Bronx High School of Science. He calls ADSUP "a cutting-edge program that's going in the direction education should be going."

"I want to be a lifelong learner," he says, "so I can inspire my students to be lifelong learners." Part of his long-term plan, according to Omolaju, includes being an assistant high school principal, working his way up to principal and then on to district superintendent. Sometime in that time frame, he says, he'd like to go back to school for his PhD so that he can teach at the college level.

Building Leadership Qualities

Hunter trains school principals and other administrators as well as teachers. Led by co-coordinators Professor Janet Patti and Professor Marcia Knoll, the Program in Administration and Supervision (ADSUP) offers educators a post-master's program leading to an advanced certificate.

"Hunter's ADSUP Program is unique in the nation," says Patti, "in its emphasis on social and emotional intelligence. Students with these qualities can be more effective leaders because they can create caring learning environments. Our goal is to give our students leadership qualities as well as specific skills and bodies of knowledge."

Adds Knoll: "We get excellent results. ADSUP graduates are quickly hired for leadership positions in schools and at the regional level. Our program is highly competitive and our students and graduates are mature, serious, and want to make a difference."

Training Insightful Counselors

Like the other programs in the School of Education, the master's programs in school counseling and rehabilitation counseling are highly competitive. This past fall 281 students applied for 35 openings in the school counseling program. Graduates are "virtually assured of excellent jobs," says Professor John O'Neill, coordinator of the program.

"The School of Education's success," says Acting Dean Shirley Cohen, "is measured by the success of its students—how well they perform in the classroom, how far they advance in their careers. The challenge never ends, of course, but the college can take pride in the contributions its graduates have made and are making to New York and to the nation."



Helen Zalantis (MA '02), vocal and general music teacher at I.S. 145 in Queens, leads the school chorus and band.

Future Music Teachers Will Bring Students the World

Professor Victor Bobetsky, director of Hunter's Teacher Education Program in Music (Music TEP), believes the language of music can help students express themselves in ways not possible through any other means. "Music also gives children the chance to learn about different cultures and to achieve great things working as a team," says Bobetsky. Music TEP trains future teachers to lead general music education classes, as well as vocal and instrumental performing ensembles, in grades Pre-K through 12. Approximately 30 students are enrolled in all stages of the program and about eight students graduate annually with MA degrees in music education and New York State teaching certificates.

Ninety percent of the program's graduates go on to teach in public schools; the rest pursue doctorates or employment in related fields. Out of 25 graduates since 2002, 15 are teaching music in New York City public schools, including Hunter College Elementary School.

Music TEP alumni agree that the program prepares them exceptionally well for teaching in public schools. Jessica Lopa ('04), a Staten Island middle school teacher, says, "I thought the program was great. It prepared me mentally and emotionally. The sequence of courses gave me a balanced set of resources which I draw upon every day." Fran Vogel ('92), director of the Music Department at Robert F.

Wagner Middle School (Manhattan), commented, "All the Hunter student teachers we've had on staff are well prepared and well trained. They add a great deal to the Music Department."

Music TEP students take classes in instrumental and vocal pedagogy, musicianship, and piano, in addition to general education courses offered by the School of Education. Students spend their final semester student-teaching in the New York City schools.

"Music can be a valuable teaching tool," says Bobetsky. "Learning about form and structure in music is similar to learning about phrases, sentences and paragraphs in language arts classes." In social studies classes, he noted, "learning and listening to music gives students a vivid feel for the cultures they study." Hunter students study ways to bring world music into the classroom in the requisite World Music Education course that Bobetsky designed for this purpose.

Bobetsky came to Hunter in 2001 after 15 years in public education, first as a music teacher and later as a school district supervisor of music and art education. He specializes in arranging folk songs for young singers and he helps choir directors—including current Hunter students and alumni—to find high quality repertoire.

WHO'LL CHANGE THE WORLD

Alums Shape the Nation's Schools

Over the years, Hunter has graduated thousands of talented, caring men and women who have devoted their lives to one of society's highest callings: education. Some work where it all starts, in the classroom. Others enrich tomorrow's classrooms by becoming education professors. Still others become the leaders of individual schools, regions or school systems. We salute our dedicated education alumni and are proud to introduce four leaders in the field.



Rose Albanese-DePinto

Throughout her distinguished career as an educator, Rose Albanese-DePinto (BA '73, MA '76) has always considered her Hunter experience to be at the core of her success. Albanese-DePinto, who is now a senior aide to New York City Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, says of her days at the College: "I was able to study with the most brilliant second-language teachers in the country. But they were more than teachers—many became mentors and friends whose advice I rely on to this day."

Among her professor-mentors was Mario Fratti, the playwright best known for his Broadway hit *Nine*, who was for many years a Romance Languages professor at Hunter.

After graduating with a major in Italian and a minor in secondary education, Albanese-DePinto studied at the University of Bologna. She recalls sitting in a classroom "and wondering which seat Dante sat in when he was a student there."

Albanese-DePinto was born in Calabria, Italy. Her family immigrated to New York when she was a child, and she attended primary and secondary schools in Brooklyn. After earning her master's at Hunter, she began her career as a high school teacher. She rose steadily through the ranks, and by 2000 was senior superintendent of the high school system. In 2004, she was appointed senior counselor to Chancellor Klein with responsibility for the safety and security of city schools.

What her Hunter education gave her, she says now, is an enduring understanding of "the need to match classroom theories about education with real-world teaching experience."



Charlotte Frank

Dr. Charlotte K. Frank (MSEd '66) is a leading figure in the effort to help America's schools do the best possible job for their students and the nation. As vice president for research and development for McGraw Hill Education, she works with major business groups and school systems nationwide to help ensure that schools prepare their students for today's work force and that businesses are actively involved with education.

The recipient of more than 60 awards for her achievements in education, Frank began as a teacher and supervisor in the New York City public schools and went on to hold key posts in the Board of Education, including executive director of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction, where she designed and developed curriculum and professional development programs for the entire school system. Frank, who holds a bachelor's in business administration from City College and a PhD in education from NYU, has lectured at Teachers College, Harvard, and Fordham and has been a consultant and advisor for many national organizations seeking to improve education. "Hunter played a large part in my career," she says. "It taught me that you had to work hard to achieve, but you can gain great joy from your work."



Thandiwe M. C. Peebles

Thandiwe M.C. Peebles (MSEd '74) has risen, over the course of a 40-year career, from New York elementary school teacher to head of the Minneapolis public school system. Her story is a classic example of how Hunter helps train the nation's leaders in education.

Dr. Peebles received a master's in education from Hunter after getting her BA at St. John's University in Queens. She continued on to Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL, to earn her doctorate.

Of her time at Hunter, Peebles says, "I'll always remember how accessible the professors were, how they made a real effort to understand you as a person and how they taught us the real-life applications of textbook knowledge."

Starting as an elementary school teacher in Harlem, she advanced through a series of positions in New York, including district administrator and principal of elementary and middle schools. She was recruited as a senior administrator by the Cleveland, Ohio, school system and was named superintendent of Minneapolis schools in July 2004.

Besides her talents as an administrator, Peebles is also an expert in reading, language arts, African history and culture, African-American history and culture, and early childhood education.



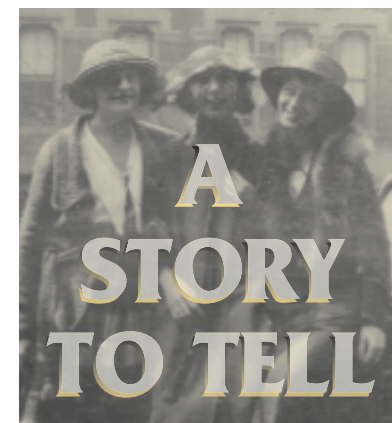
Joseph Shenker

Dr. Joseph Shenker (BA '62, MA '63), Provost of the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, is a widely respected leader in higher education. After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Hunter, Shenker received his Ed.D. in higher education administration from Teachers College. At age 29, he was the Acting President of Kingsborough Community College and a year later was appointed the first president of LaGuardia Community College before the school was even built! He also served as Acting President of Hunter College for one year.

After an 18-year tenure at LaGuardia, Shenker left to head up the Bank Street College of Education. For the past ten years he has served as Provost of the C.W. Post Campus, presiding over a period of growth and development with more than \$70 million in new construction and a burgeoning enrollment.

"The primary reward I get from working in higher education is being able to assist students towards their personal goals and to help them overcome obstacles at the personal and educational level as they move toward their degrees," says Shenker. "It's gratifying to see them a few years after they've graduated and know that I had a little to do with their success by having been supportive."

Shenker believes his Hunter education helped him with his profession. "The support and assistance I received from the faculty and administration set a tone and served as a model for me which I try to emulate as I relate to students," says Shenker. His advice to his students: "Have a dream and don't be discouraged by the vicissitudes of life. Keep moving forward to your dream."



Even decades after they've graduated, Hunter alumni have extraordinary stories to tell about their experiences at the college—narratives that are rich in meaning not only to each individual, but to Hunter's history.

How does one preserve this all too perishable record?

The answer is an oral history project, a series of carefully conducted interviews with Hunter graduates to document the rich variety of their recollections.

The project, which was launched by President Jennifer J. Raab, is a joint effort of the departments of History and Film and Media Studies. It is supported by a special gift from the Hunter College Class of '54. Students in both disciplines are trained in conducting the oral history interviews.

The project has already achieved one notable success: Its short film "A Story to Tell," based on interviews with graduates from the 1920s, '30s and '40s, received the 2004 Golden CINE award. The film is available for screenings at local alumni meetings.

The oral history project is looking for alumni photographs and home movies about Hunter. If you can help—or if you would like more information—please contact: Katy McNabb at 212-650-3349 or katherine.mcnabb@hunter.cuny.edu.

PIONEERING PROGRAMS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Hunter's Department of Special Education, the most comprehensive special ed program in the CUNY system, has a major impact on thousands of children—and their parents and communities. Begun in the 1930s, the department is now recognized nationwide both for providing first-rate training for teachers of children with special needs and for broadening knowledge about the education of these children.

Since its beginnings as a program aimed at preparing teachers to educate children with physical, mental, and visual impairments, the department has expanded steadily in the wake of growing public and governmental recognition of the need to provide appropriate, specially designed instruction to exceptional children—those whose special traits range from severe/multiple disabilities including deafblindness to giftedness. Launched as a separate department in 1981, the Department of Special Education now offers master's degree programs leading to New York State certification in childhood special education (with specializations in learning disabilities or behavior disorders, and an annotation in severe/multiple disabilities); early childhood special education; deaf/hard-of-hearing; and blind/visually impaired. Also offered are advanced certificate programs in blindness/visual impairment and in autism. An advanced certificate extension in education of the gifted is expected to be granted state approval soon.

Among its many distinctions, Hunter's Department of Special Education is the only institution in either CUNY or SUNY that prepares teachers to work with blind/visually impaired students and with deaf/hard-of-hearing students.

Helping Children, Training Teachers

A cornerstone of the Department of Special Education is the HC Learning Laboratory, an innovative facility that helps children with special needs as it trains teachers. Initiated and coordinated by the department's chair, Professor Kate Garnett, the lab is an after-school tutoring program for children with a variety of learning disabilities. It focuses on pupils in grades 1-6 and provides one-on-one remediation in areas ranging from basic reading and spelling to comprehension, writing, math, self-regulation, and social learning.

The tutors—graduate students in the Program in Learning Disabilities—are supervised by Hunter faculty. For these students, notes Garnett, the facility is “a real laboratory that helps them to develop, refine, and elaborate their teaching skills.”

One of the defining attributes of the HC Learning Lab, says Garnett, is the physical arrangement. The lab consists of large, open rooms in which tutors, children, and faculty supervisors interact with one another—with each tutor/child couple at its own table.

“The psychological impact on the child of having the exclusive attention of one caring special educator, while at the same time being part of an open community, is striking,” says Garnett. “The tutors exchange ideas and materials and integrate the coaching of their supervisors. The kids, who come from all social classes and diverse cultural backgrounds, come to know one another and form kinship groups. It is a powerful experience for everyone involved.”

In addition to serving children at its home base at Hunter, the Lab, in a partnership with the New York City Department of Education, is providing tutoring to children at two school sites and has initiated special summer collaborations with public schools.

Dr. Mac: Behavior Advisor to the World

A lively and innovative Web site developed by Professor Tom McIntyre helps teachers from all over the world identify and deal with behavior disorders in children and youth. McIntyre, who is coordinator of the behavior disorders program in the Department of Special Education—and is known to his readers as “Dr. Mac”—started www.behavioradvisor.com in 1997 as a means of sharing course materials with his students at Hunter. He then added a bulletin board feature to provide them with a way to apply their book knowledge to real-life situations as they offered much-needed advice to New York City teachers.

Word about the site spread rapidly, and requests came pouring in from more than a hundred countries for advice on issues ranging from attention deficit disorder to defiance and aggression. The site provides many ways to help children learn to make better behavior choices on their own.

Following the success of his site, in 2003 McIntyre's book *The Behavior Survival Guide for Kids: How to Make Good Choices and Stay Out of Trouble*, was published. It is one of the first guides for kids labeled by their schools as having a behavior disorder.

Targeting and Treating Autism



Professor Shirley Cohen, acting dean of the School of Education, specializes in an area that has been getting an increasing amount of public attention in recent years: the education of children with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). In the past, notes Cohen, “many children with ASDs would have been labeled as having learning disabilities, emotional disorders, and/or mental retardation. But with our increased

understanding of autism,” she continues, “more children are now being identified as having ASDs, and they are identified earlier.”

Once considered relatively rare, Cohen says, autism is now viewed as one of the most common developmental disorders of childhood, with recent studies indicating that at least one out of every 165 to 250 children has the disorder. The Early Childhood Special Education program developed by Cohen, which has about 125 matriculated students, includes two required courses about autism spectrum disorders.

Aided by a New York State Education Department grant awarded in 2002, Cohen developed Hunter's Advanced Certificate Program in Autism, which was approved by the state in 2004.

Cohen has also received a planning grant from the FAR Fund, a private foundation, to develop an Autism Center for Professional Development at Hunter. In addition, she is involved in training new staff in the New York City public schools for a program for young children who have Asperger's Syndrome, a form of high-functioning ASD. Cohen's many publications include *Targeting Autism: What We Know, Don't Know, and Can Do to Help Young Children with Autism and Related Disorders*.



Hunter student Vanessa Trombino works one-on-one with a first-grader in the HC Learning Laboratory during an after-school tutoring program.



Professor Tom McIntyre



RECHARGE EDUCATION

Hunter Launches Center for Gifted Education

Hunter College celebrated the opening of its Center for Gifted Studies and Education on February 16 before a standing-room only audience of elected officials, Department of Education representatives, school principals, educators, and parents. Hunter established the Gifted Center as a place for educators involved in teaching motivated, talented, and high-achieving young people to use for research, teacher training and curriculum development.

Sharing the stage were President Jennifer J. Raab, Dona Matthews, Director of the Hunter College Gifted Center, and New York City Department of Education's Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning Carmen Fariña. Fariña delivered a keynote address in which she reiterated New York City Mayor Bloomberg's commitment to adding more gifted education programs in the city's public schools.

Saying the Hunter Center "will provide a new vital link in the development of best teaching practices for our city's most gifted and talented students," Fariña described her own experiences in teaching and found that "gifted educational models have the potential to make life changes for children." Fariña tried to allay the audience's concern about the future of the gifted programs in New York City by emphasizing that the "New York City Department of Education is maintaining and supporting existing gifted and talented programs and expanding these opportunities for students across the city, including in traditionally underserved neighborhoods."

In addressing the need for more gifted programs in the city,

President Raab said that Hunter has a long franchise in the area of gifted education. "Our elementary and high schools were created as laboratory schools, to be used to research, develop and test the best practices in education. We believe it is time to rejuvenate this mission and we believe it is our obligation to use Hunter's expertise to support public gifted programs and schools throughout the city and the country," said Raab.

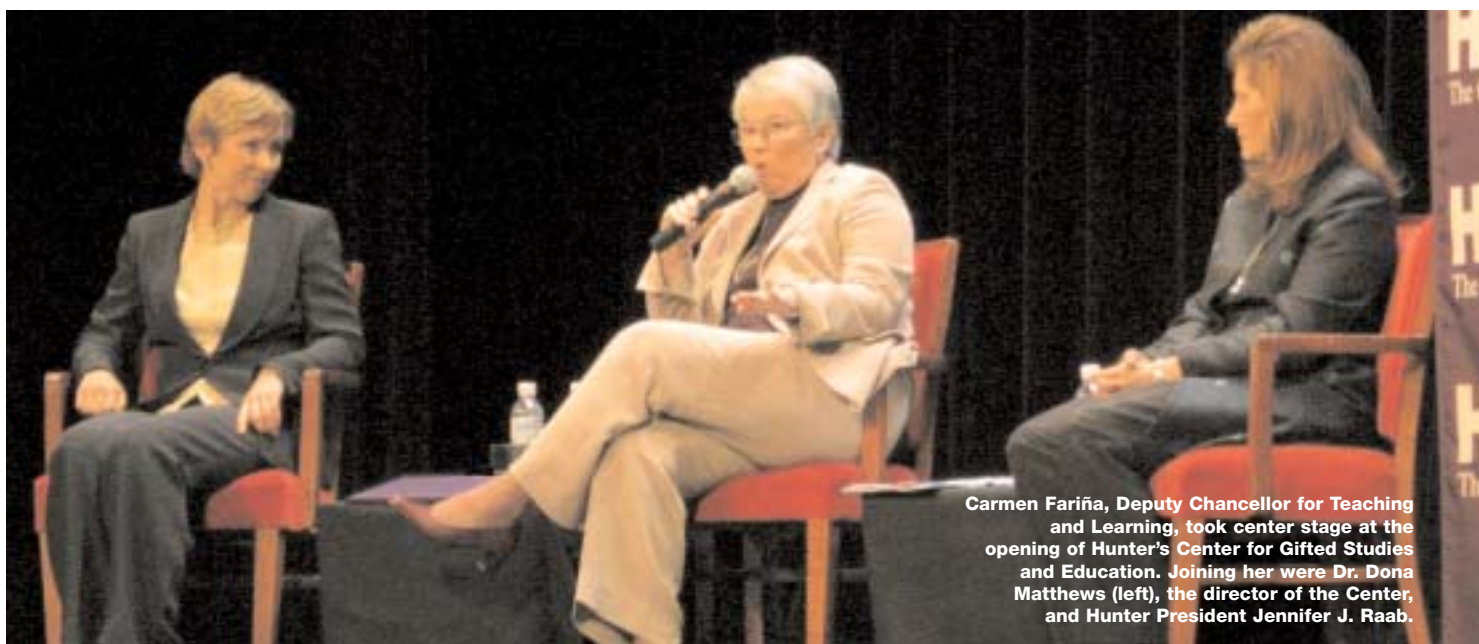
"New York City's neighborhoods are rich with bright students, who are performing years beyond grade level," continued Raab. "These children need to know that it's okay to be smart. They need classes that will challenge them and teachers who know how to inspire them."

In her remarks, Dr. Matthews said it's important to match education to ability and that "with all the mandated criteria, far too many of our bright learners are not being intellectually challenged."

The Hunter College Center for Gifted Education will serve as a "go-to" place for gifted education, where professionals can come to exchange ideas and promote dialogues. It will provide technical assistance to schools initiating, modifying and evaluating gifted programs. The Center recently initiated a graduate program in gifted education, where teachers who work with gifted and talented children can study for the newly-created New York State gifted education certificate. For more information on the Gifted Center, contact Dona Matthews at dmatt@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4703.



David Bauer, a senior at Hunter College High School, earned top honors in the Intel Science Talent Search, winning 1st place and a \$100,000 scholarship for developing a sensor that detects exposure to toxic agents. A product of public gifted education programs since he was in kindergarten, Bauer was one of the featured speakers at the Hunter Gifted Center opening.



Carmen Fariña, Deputy Chancellor for Teaching and Learning, took center stage at the opening of Hunter's Center for Gifted Studies and Education. Joining her were Dr. Dona Matthews (left), the director of the Center, and Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.

New Center Hones Math Teachers' Classroom Skills—and Their Grasp of Math

Many New York schoolchildren lack the math skills that are essential to economic survival in today's world—but a new program is out to change that by focusing on a key element of the educational equation: the teacher.

The Hunter College Mathematics Center for Learning and Teaching was launched in 2002. Its first undertaking, in collaboration with the Teacher Center of the United Federation of Teachers and the New York State Department of Education, was to set up a series of workshops designed to enhance the teaching skills of high school and middle school math teachers.

The workshops, which deal with subjects taught in the public schools, have covered such areas as geometry, statistics, numeration, and algebra for middle school teachers; and linear equations, quadratic equations, and exponential functions for high school teachers.

A prime goal of these workshops, says Frank Gardella, executive director of the Center, is to "improve math teaching by helping teachers gain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Many teachers need a fuller grasp of the underlying thinking behind math formulas and equations." Adds Robert Gyles, the Center's director, "Especially in elementary schools, where many middle school teachers begin, the emphasis is on learning to be teachers of children rather than teachers of subjects. We want to increase teachers' knowledge of content."

An equally important workshop goal is to enhance teachers' ability to communicate their knowledge, especially to students who have different needs and different learning styles. Many public school math

teachers, says Gardella, have not been adequately trained to communicate with "all levels of learners."

Hunter is uniquely qualified to impart the two different skills—learning a field and teaching it—because, says Gardella, Hunter's math educators and pure mathematicians work together more closely than their counterparts at most other colleges.

While continuing to offer its workshop series, the Center has developed a host of additional projects. It has begun a series of colloquia on teaching math to different student populations, including very young students (pre-K to 2nd grade), students whose first language is not English, and students with various disabilities. It regularly conducts research on effective teaching methods and prepares sample teaching materials. At the request of a Brooklyn region (a group of about 100 elementary and middle schools), it developed a program to train school administrators in math education. To aid a Queens region, it designed programs in specific mathematical areas. And it frequently conducts special projects to upgrade math teaching and learning at underachieving schools throughout the city school system.

Underlying the Center's work is the conviction, said Gyles, that "teachers have a domino effect: one good teacher will transform the lives of hundreds and hundreds of students."

For more information regarding the work of the Hunter College Mathematics Center for Learning and Teaching or issues pertaining to mathematics education, contact Dr. Frank Gardella at fgardella@comcast.net or 212-772-4676; or Dr. Robert Gyles at rgyles@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-5762.

"Teachers have a domino effect: one good teacher will transform the lives of hundreds and hundreds of students," says Robert Gyles, Executive Director of the Hunter College Mathematics Center for Learning and Teaching.

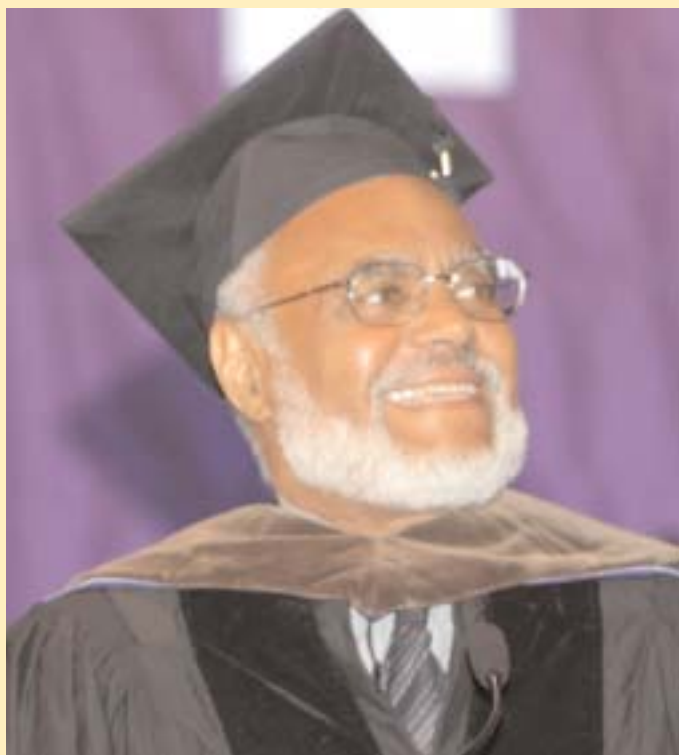
Congressman Rangel Takes a Stand At Hunter Graduation



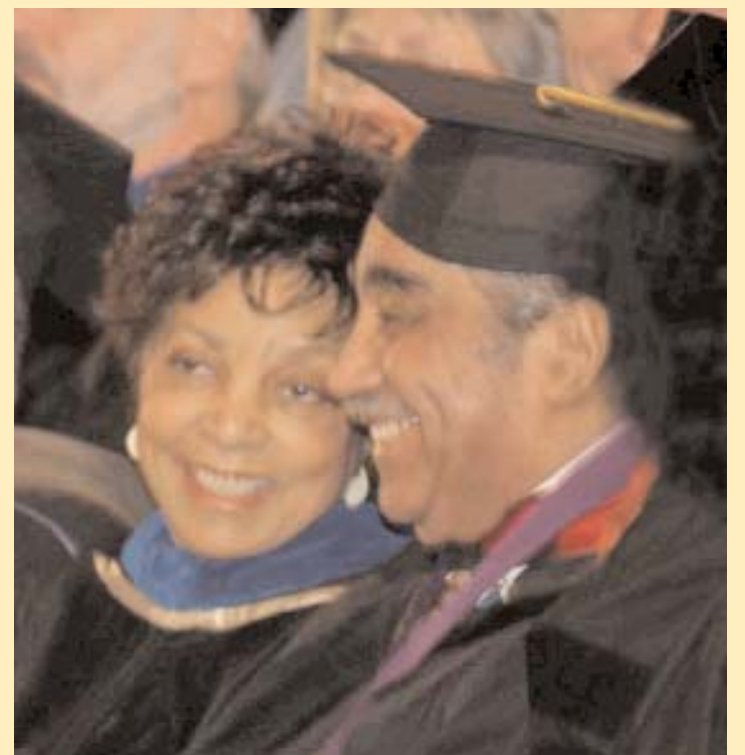
U.S. Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY) addressed more than 1,600 graduates and their guests at Hunter College's 190th Commencement on January 19. He received a President's Medal from President Jennifer J. Raab for his "commitment to public service." Hunter alumnae Barbara A. Scott ('53) and Shirley E. Scott ('53), sisters who grew up with Representative Rangel in Harlem and have known him since childhood, presented the medal to him.



Among the graduates was Jaime Windrow, a Radio City Rockette, who turned down the chance to perform at the Presidential Inauguration in order to attend the graduation ceremony.



Robert Moses, a civil rights activist, received an honorary degree at graduation. Moses is the founder of the Algebra Project, a national mathematics literacy effort aimed at helping low-income students of color achieve math skills. He said he believes in a Constitutional amendment to ensure that "every child in this country has a federal, enforceable and legal right at the level of the President, the Congress, and the Supreme Court, to a quality public school education."



Actress/Hunter alumna Ruby Dee graced the stage at graduation and shared a laugh with the commencement speaker, Congressman Charles Rangel. Dee's own Hunter graduation was in 1944 when she received a bachelor's degree in French and Spanish. Rangel, in his address to this year's class, spoke about the war in Iraq.

Newsd**ay**
 Wednesday, January 19, 2005
CITY

Celebrating their milestones

• She worked tirelessly to free an inmate who would become a close friend; the two now are working to help other females in prison

Elaine Bartlett, left, and Lora Tucker tend to each other's struggles. Bartlett was in prison; Tucker lives with AIDS

As Lora Tucker gets her master's degree in social work today, the former interior designer has already met her goal to "help people design their lives, not their homes."

She was key to the celebrated clemency release of Elaine Bartlett, a mother of four sentenced in 1984 to 20 years to life under the Rockefeller drug laws for carrying 4 ounces of cocaine. But Tucker has also fought her own sort of sentence as she struggled toward graduation at Hunter College.

"I had a burden of being sentenced to HIV-AIDS," said Tucker, 44, of Howard Beach, who learned she contracted the illness from an ex-boyfriend in 1997. Getting the degree "was something I wanted to do and nothing was going to stop me," she said.

Behind Tucker's determination is a story of friendship, a crusade and a budding venture with Bartlett, granted clemency in 2000 after Tucker personally lobbied Gov. George Pataki. Tucker wrote 1,500 letters on Bartlett's behalf and taught inmates how to market themselves with the parole boards.

"When Lora gets that master's," said Bartlett, 46, of Harlem, "I'll feel like I am getting my master's too" like I invested in it as well."

The lives of the two women merged when Tucker began a help workshop in 1997 at the Bedford Hills prison. She was full of enthusiasm the first day — Pollyanna, the inmates called her — ready to help women win clemency. But by her next visit days later, she had AIDS, and now it was Bartlett making the prison the one place Tucker felt she was free of the AIDS stigma.

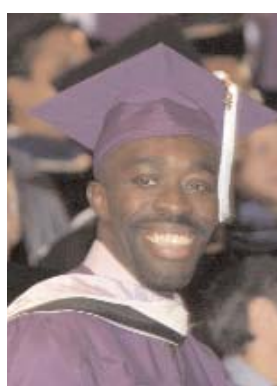
"If I had doubts about living my life, she'd say 'shut up. What are you talking about dying for? There's women counting on you here,'" Tucker said. The two women seemed to lead parallel lives. It was Bartlett's emotional support that counted when Tucker's mother was fighting cancer, and when Bartlett's mother was dying of diabetes in the hospital, it was Tucker at the bedside.

Then two days before Tucker's graduation, Bartlett got her own recognition, a Martin Luther King award from the Albany-based advocacy group, Center for Law and Justice, for her efforts to overturn the Rockefeller drug laws, which requires long sentences for minor offenses.

The two are starting a nonprofit to help female inmates.

"AIDS was the worst thing that happened to me, but meeting Elaine was one of the best

Hunter Grads Keep Trying... and Succeeding



garage, where he could study for classes and exams during his overnight shift.

Seck focused on family economics in developing countries. He even found time to tutor and mentor his fellow students. After 10 years of hard work and persistence, Seck graduated from Hunter in January with two degrees and a 3.9 GPA. He intends to continue his studies and work toward a doctorate. In the meantime, he plans to capitalize on what he learned from his developing nations classes and help the children left without parents after the tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia.

Hunter graduate Papa Seck is living proof of the familiar adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." Looking to fulfill the American dream, Seck came to New York from Senegal. He opened a clothing business, but it failed. He then opened a restaurant, but it too failed. Yet Seck was determined to succeed. He enrolled in Hunter to study economics, working toward a joint BA/MA. To earn money for tuition, Seck found a job at a parking



Growing up in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, Malka Schwartz seemed destined for a life bound by strict traditions. She was told what to eat, what to think and how to dress. In this environment Schwartz's quest for the knowledge that the outside world provided would be impossible. She had to make a difficult choice—stay in the Lubavitch community with her parents and eight siblings or break tradition and attend college.

For a year she grappled with the conflict between the powerful sense of purpose supplied by her community versus the pull of a college education and a secular life so different from the one she was leading. Her love for learning won and Schwartz enrolled at Hunter, with the support of her grandmother, who had attended Hunter in the 1940s.

Four years later, Schwartz graduated magna cum laude. She now heads up a nonprofit that supports those seeking to explore a world beyond the religious environments in which they were raised. Her organization, Footsteps, was created in honor of her grandmother who died before she could see Malka graduate.

Mentors Help Students With Some Worldly Advice

Sophomore Ron Kagan plans to go into one of the most competitive fields in the world—acting. But he has the edge: his Hunter mentor.

Kagan is a participant in the college's recently launched Mentoring Program, which pairs students with alumni and friends of the college. The mentors draw on their own work-world experiences to offer the students academic, professional and—sometimes—cultural advice.

Kagan says of his mentor, film industry executive Roe Bressan (BA '81), "She really knows the industry, and learning about her experiences has been inspiring."

But he adds, "It's also been sobering. Because she tells me about the realities of the field, I now have a much better idea of what I can expect. She's given me the tools I need to make decisions about my future."

Connecting Classrooms and Work Places

The Mentoring Program was run as a pilot project in spring 2004 and is now in its first full year of operation.

The chief goal for most students in the program is assistance in career planning, and many work with a mentor who has achieved professional success in a field that interests the student. Avinash Mehrotra, a managing director at Goldman, Sachs & Co. and a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees, is able to give his mentee—Livi Onchoiu, a senior in the BA/MA program in economics—what Onchoiu enthusiastically calls "wonderful guidelines based on real-world experience."

Onchoiu, who came to this country from Romania five years ago, says he gains "really practical advice" from his conversations with Mehrotra. "He tells me how his company recruits, what you need to be a good candidate for a job, and what he's done to move on."

Says Mehrotra, "It's so important to build a connection between the classroom and the workplace, and the Mentoring Program provides that link. Many students need exposure to specific areas in the outside world, and a mentor can tell them about the various career possibilities open to them."

But, as Hunter student Gwen Williams emphasizes, the program can be helpful even when the mentor and the student have made different career choices. "Being with my mentor, Eve Haberman (BA '54), is a learning experience for life in general," says Williams, a psychology major who hopes to be a doctor. "I've always wanted to help people, and I feel that my mentor—who is deeply involved in humanitarian volunteer work—has taught me so much about how to interact with people."

More Than Career Guidance

Sophomore Abigail Asare, who is considering a career in international relations, also gains "much more than career guidance" from David Hurwitz, chair of the Mentoring Program's advisory committee. (See picture on this page.) "He helps me get the most out of the college experience," says Asare. "He reads my papers, he encouraged me to get a tutor for math, which is a challenge for me, and he helped me get an internship in a nonprofit that aids high school students."

In addition to pairing students with individual mentors, the program arranges group mentoring sessions: meetings at which successful professionals discuss their own personal histories and

career tracks and answer students' questions. Christopher Knable (BA '93), a leader in the hotel and hospitality industry, was the speaker at one session; and Dr. Clive Callender (BA '59), chairman of the Department of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine and a world-renowned transplant surgeon, spoke at another.

"Many students need exposure to specific areas in the outside world, and a mentor can tell them about the various career possibilities open to them."—Avinash Mehrotra

"Group sessions are productive in that they enable large numbers of students to learn from a speaker's experiences," says Jacqueline Wilson (BA '51), president of the Alumni Association and a former administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "But whether mentors and students meet one-on-one or in a group, they agree that the mentoring process helps students plan careers, get the most out of their education, and improve their ability to operate in the world. Not only is it useful when we show students how to write a resume, but it's also helpful for them to see how leaders in different industries and professions talk, dress, act, and interact."

Dr. Clive Callender (BA '59), chairman of the Department of Surgery at Howard University and a founder of the Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program, addressed a packed audience of pre-med students in February. In addition to detailing his own personal and professional history, Callender answered students' questions about women in medicine, medical school entrance requirements, and the training given in different medical specialties.



Mentors not only help students clarify their educational and career goals, says **David Hurwitz**, who was instrumental in creating the mentoring program, but "they can also help young people develop culturally, socially, and personally." And to be successful, he emphasizes, mentors must "let the students know they're genuinely committed to working with them." Hurwitz, a lawyer and the former head of a major newspaper group, also points to the benefits a mentor gains. "Helping to build young people's futures is deeply rewarding," he says, adding: "It's an extension of parenting and grandparenting."

HELP STUDENTS BUILD THEIR FUTURES! BE A MENTOR!

To learn more about the mentoring program, contact Betsy Bowman at betsy.bowman@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4085.

In Memoriam

Jack Newfield

Hunter alumnus Jack Newfield (BA '60), one of the country's leading journalists and authors, died on December 21, 2004, at the age of 66. In his honor, and with an initial anonymous donation of \$25,000, Hunter is working with Jack's wife and family to establish the Jack Newfield Visiting Professorship in Journalism, and to maintain his legacy through special classes, other programs and activities.

A native of Brooklyn who grew up in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Newfield majored in English at Hunter, and began his journalism career as editor of the *Hunter Arrow*. He went on to become not only a brilliant writer but a powerful voice for the causes he believed in. He was, said *The New York Sun*, "a passionate assailant of corruption, inequity, and violence."

After college Newfield was drawn to the civil rights movement, and his first book, *A Prophetic Minority*, was about his experiences in the South. He was arrested at a sit-in in 1963 and spent two days in jail with Michael Schwerner, one of three civil rights workers who were slain in Mississippi the following year.

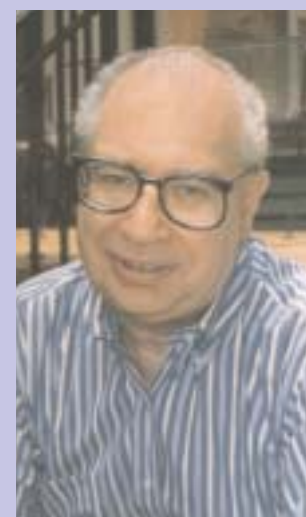
Newfield went to work at the *Village Voice* in the 1960s, and while with the *Voice* he traveled with Robert Kennedy during the latter's presidential campaign. He was at Kennedy's hotel when Kennedy was assassinated; his *Robert Kennedy: A Memoir* came out the following year.

Newfield gained considerable fame as a crusading journalist for the *Voice*—among his initiatives were his annual lists of "Ten Worst Judges" and "Ten Worst Landlords"—and he continued exercising his investigative zeal when he joined the *Daily News* and, later, the *New York Post*. More recently he wrote for *The New York Sun*.

Among Newfield's 10 books were *Only in America: The Life and Crimes of Don King*; *Somebody's Gotta Tell It: The Upbeat Memoir of a Working Class Journalist*; and *The Full Rudy: The Man, the Myth and the Mania*, about Rudolph Giuliani. He won a George Polk Award for investigative reporting for a series of *Village Voice* articles on state and city politics, and an Emmy for a documentary on Don King.

Among the scores of public figures who have lauded Newfield are Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who called him "a writer who, guided by his conscience, shaped his times"; and former Governor Mario Cuomo, who deemed him "a terrific fighter for causes, with his typewriter and his brilliant mind."

The Hunter community sends its deepest condolences to Jack Newfield's wife and family.



Jack Newfield
1938-2004

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 18, 2005
at 7:00 pm

Faculty Dining Room
Hunter College West Building
8th Floor

At the Association meeting on
January 20, 2005, the Nominating
Committee presented the slate
of officers and directors
for the term starting
June 1, 2005, and ending
May 31, 2008.
The election will take place at the
Annual Meeting on May 18, 2005.

The Nominees are:

President: Agnes A. Violenus
1st Vice Pres.: Elizabeth Wilson-Antsey
2nd Vice Pres.: Barbara Janes
3rd Vice Pres.: Jane Oppenheim
4th Vice Pres.: Kathryn Leak
Secretary: Patricia Rudden
Assistant Secretary: Laura Sidorowicz
Treasurer: Doris Bruntel
Assistant Treasurer: Nicholas Giannini

Board of Directors

Marie Colwell
Phyllis Glantz
Essie Owens
William Perry, Jr.
Virginia Shields
Grace Smallwood

Alumni News

Did Your Mother Go to Hunter?

This Mother's Day give your mother
a gift that honors her Hunter heritage and gives
a new generation of students the opportunity
for a Hunter education.

The College has created a Mother's Day Scholarship Program
that celebrates Hunter mothers (and other family members as
well) by funding scholarships for current and future students—
many of whom are immigrants, first-generation Americans, or
the first in their families to go to college. Your gift will make
a tremendous difference in the lives of Hunter students.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

- Endow a scholarship in your mother's name.
- Support a student for a semester or a full year.
- Underwrite a dorm room for a year.

Gifts of \$2,500 or more
will be acknowledged in a special advertisement
in *The New York Times* on Mother's Day (May 8).

To find out more, please contact:
Katy McNabb
Hunter College Foundation, Inc.
Phone: 212-650-3349
E-mail: katherine.mcnabb@hunter.cuny.edu

ALUMNI PROFILE

Regina Resnik

Opera legend and Hunter alumna Regina Resnik is still taking center stage. As the producer and narrator of *Regina Resnik Presents* and a master teacher in the United States, Canada and Europe, she is a diva who is dedicating her life to the training of young singers. Resnik, who graduated with the Class of '42, is also celebrating a milestone this year—the 60th anniversary of her Metropolitan Opera debut in Verdi's *Il Trovatore*.



Resnik refers to 1942 as a "miracle year" because of the "happencance of one in a million." She had just graduated from Hunter and knew she had to look for a job. On 24 hours' notice she went on stage as Lady Macbeth with the New Opera Company of New York in December of 1942, and two years later in December of 1944 debuted at the Metropolitan Opera, also on 24 hours' notice. The ink on her Hunter diploma was just about dry.

Resnik fondly remembers her years spent at Hunter, noting that her Hunter education was "the basis of my discipline and my learning ethic." She was 15 years old when she first sang the National Anthem at the Assembly Hall. Two years later, she sang the Anthem again—this time before Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 695 Park Avenue.

A music major who graduated with honors, Regina Resnik opened the then Hunter Playhouse with the Gilbert and Sullivan Society starring in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, *Princess Ida* and *The Mikado*. Her series *Regina Resnik Presents* returned her to the new Kaye Playhouse in 1999 with "Beethoven in Song," "The Gypsy in Classical Song," and "The Classic Kurt Weill" until 2003 when CUNY TV invited the series to be televised from the Graduate Center.

The latest project of *Regina Resnik Presents*, designed to coincide with the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jews in America, took place this past December in San Francisco and this January in New York. The concert featured soprano Roslyn Barak, baritone Charles Stephens and tenor Michael Philip Davis, who is also the co-creator and co-producer of the series. Davis is Resnik's son and, like his mother, has both music and Hunter in his blood. He is a graduate of Hunter College Elementary School.

Resnik is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and has received a Hunter President's Medal, the Alumni Association's Outstanding Career Achievement, and an honorary doctorate.

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HUNTER COLLEGE

cordially invites you and your guests to

The 135th Birthday Celebration of Hunter

Saturday, May 7, 2005

- 11:00 am Milestone Class Reunions
- 11:30 am Spotlight Series—featuring some of Hunter's most exciting programs and professors!
- 12:30 pm General Reception
- 1:00 pm Luncheon
- 3:30 pm Afternoon Reception

SHERATON NEW YORK HOTEL AND TOWERS
Seventh Avenue and 53rd Street, New York, NY 10021

Seventy-five Dollars R.S.V.P.
For more information please contact the Alumni Association at (212) 772-4087 or
alumni@hunter.cuny.edu

This is your only invitation unless you are a member of a milestone class.

1925	1935	1945	1955	1965	1975	1985	1995
1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000

Ticket Number

Table Number

135th BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

May 7, 2005

LAST NAME FIRST NAME NAME AT GRADUATION

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

CLASS PHONE E-MAIL

SEAT ME (US) WITH CLASS/CHAPTER/GROUP

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ reservations at \$75 each
made payable to: The Alumni Association of Hunter College

I wish to charge my reservation to my Visa MasterCard Amex

CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

- Chicken course preferred
- Fish course preferred
- Must be ordered in advance.

IF RECEIVED AFTER APRIL 27, TICKETS WILL BE HELD AT DOOR.

On a separate sheet I am listing the names and addresses of the other people I am paying for.

Mail to: Alumni Association, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, E1314, New York, NY 10021

THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES

At this year's Birthday Luncheon
Hunter College invites you to attend a special crash
course given by Hunter's finest professors.
Choose from:

Art History 101:

*The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women
and their Salons*
Professor Emily Braun

Social Sciences 101:

*The Future of Social Security: Political Myths
and Economic Realities*
Professor Marianne Fahs

History 101:

The U.S. Civil Rights Movement
Professor Jonathan Rosenberg

CONSTITUTION Article XII-B-Section Two

Nominations other than those made by the Nominating Committee must be sent to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, at least four weeks before the annual meeting, with a petition signed by at least twenty active members of the Association containing the names of the proposed candidates, together with a statement of the office or directorship for which these people are nominated, and the assurance that each candidate is willing to serve if elected.

Class Notes

Please keep us—and your fellow alumni—informed about your accomplishments by sending your news by e-mail to: alumnirelations@hunter.cuny.edu. Due to space limitations, we cannot publish all submissions, but please visit our Web site at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni for these and other class notes.

1920s

The New York City Council honored **Sadie Baris Turak (BA '29)** as a Pacesetter during the Pacesetter Awards celebrating Women's History Month. Turak, who earned a law degree at Fordham, is a retired administrative law judge for the Department of Transportation.

1940s

Actress **Ruby Dee (BA '44)** and her late husband, Ossie Davis, were recipients of the 2004 Kennedy Center honors in the performing arts, awarded for lifetime achievement. Dee and Davis made their joint film debut in 1950 and over the years received the National Medal of Arts, the Life Achievement Award of the Screen Actors Guild, and the Silver Circle Award of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. Individuals and institutions nationwide, including Hunter, have paid memorial tributes to Davis since his death in February.



1950s

Rosalia Gioia (BA '53) was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in November.

Poet **Sonia Sanchez (BA '55)** read some of her works at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center in December. Last summer Sanchez performed at Atlanta's National Black Arts Festival, where she was named a Living Legend.

Jeannette Elizabeth Brown (BA '56) is the 2005 recipient of the American Chemical Society's Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students in the Chemical Sciences. Brown is a pioneering research chemist whose work at Merck & Co. led to a host of patents.

The San Antonio Museum of Art honored **Evelyn Lauder (BA '58)** with its Woman of Achievement Award at a luncheon in September. Lauder, who received an honorary doctorate of human letters at Hunter's Spring 2004 Commencement, is senior corporate vice president of the Estée Lauder Companies and is nationally renowned for her role in the battle to defeat breast cancer.

1960s

The *Chicago Sun-Times* named Northeastern Illinois University President **Salme Harju Steinberg (BA'60, MA '62)** one of Chicago's top five educators.

Newsday profiled **Lawrence Mandell (BA '65)**, president and chief executive of United Way of New York City. Mandell has been with United Way since 1987 and was previously executive director of the Grand Street Settlement. He has a master's in social work from Fordham.

1970s

Karen C. Altfest (BA '70), vice president of the New York financial and investment advisory firm L. J. Altfest & Co., appeared last fall on Fox 5's *Good Day New York*, where she discussed personal debt reduction. In October, her husband, Lew, joined her in speaking with *Financial Advisor* magazine for the feature article "When Your Partner is your Spouse."

Eli Ellison (MS '74), a retired New York City teacher and Army Air Corps veteran who served as a radio truck operator in 1940s Europe, co-authored the recently published memoir *Dear Mom, Dad & Ethel: World War II Through the Eyes of a Radio Man* with his son, Mark Stuart Ellison. Eli Ellison died in the summer of 2004.

Dermatologist **Susan G. Bershad (BA '75)**, a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees, has been named to the board of the Montclair (NJ) Art Museum. Bershad received her medical degree from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where she is a faculty member and was recently named Teacher of the Year.

Ellen Pliskin (BA '77) exhibited paintings last fall in the New York Artists Circle show "Looking In/Looking Out" at the Paul Mellon Arts Center in Wallingford, CT. Pliskin's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums in Connecticut, New York, New Mexico, and the American embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.



1980s

Last summer the Manhasset (NY) Board of Education appointed **Nancy Elda Casella (MA '82)** assistant director of special education and pupil personnel. Prior to her new appointment she was an assistant principal at several schools in Queens and Brooklyn.

The Arthritis Foundation named **Laura Robbins (MSW '83)** its national chair. Robbins is vice president of education and academic affairs and associate scientist of the Research Division at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

Breaking Up Families: Biological Parents' Views of Kinship Foster Care, by **L. Trevor Grant (BA '83, MS '88)**, was recently published by Yacos Publications. Grant has a DSW degree from the CUNY Graduate Center.

Friedhilde Milburn (MSW '81), the president of Health Advocates for Older People, spearheaded the construction of Carnegie East House, a nonprofit assisted living residence. Opened in 2003, Carnegie East came into being after Milburn developed the idea for the residence, organized the community, and obtained the funding for the project, which has received support from many private and governmental agencies.



Joanne Modlin (MA '85), who is now in Los Angeles as vice president of research for Twentieth Century Television, moved to her new post from the Sci Fi Channel in New York, where she was vice president of program research. Modlin earned a doctorate in social and personality psychology from the CUNY Graduate Center.

The insurance/reinsurance company ACE USA appointed **Frank Mike-Mayer (BA '87)** to lead the company's Construction Group, which addresses the insurance needs of builders and contractors. Mike-Mayer has an MBA from NYU.

Joseph Rutkowski (BA '87) is instrumental music director at Great Neck North Secondary Schools on Long Island, where he has taught since 1991. Under his direction the district's orchestra and band have performed at venues such as Avery Fisher and Carnegie Halls.

Actor/director/writer **Olga S. Sanchez (BA '87)** is the recently named artistic director of Teatro Milagro (Miracle Theater Group) in Portland, OR. One of the founders of La Casa de Artes in Seattle and Seattle Teatro Latino, Sanchez has also acted and directed in Jerusalem, London, Martha's Vineyard and her native New York.

Risa Nelson (BS '89) has been promoted to Sesame Workshop's assistant vice president of international licensing. Most recently she was the workshop's director of international licensing for Europe.

1990s

Cynthia Lopez (BA '90) is vice president of P.O.V./American Documentary, Inc., which produces the PBS series "P.O.V." Lopez is a board member and past chair of the National Association of Latino Independent Producers.

Georges H. Leconte (BA '92) was recently promoted to associate executive director of ancillary services at Elmhurst (NY) Hospital Center.

Dance therapist **Theresa M. Haney (MS '93)** is co-owner of the Damselmy Center in Red Hook, NY.

The University of Michigan/Dearborn named **Rabab I. Abdulhadi (BA '94)** director of the Center for Arab American Studies and professor of sociology. Abdulhadi was formerly an assistant professor/faculty fellow at the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality at New York University. She earned her PhD at Yale.

Among the challenges recently undertaken by **Michael Johnson (MFA '94)** was judging the 400 artworks submitted in the Whitewater Valley (IN) Annual Art Competition. Johnson is a curatorial associate at the Denver Art Museum.

Line Jean-Louis (BA '95), who has a certificate from the Institute of Culinary Education as well as her Hunter degree, is general manager of Carlson Wagonlit Travel, a business travel agency in Manhattan.

Yor-Ei (Leroy) Francis (BA '97) recently won the top prize in the African Film Commission's International Screenwriting Competition. Francis has worked on such TV productions as "The West Wing," "Numb3rs," "Joan of Arcadia," and "NYPD Blue" as well as the movie "The Dukes of Hazzard." Along with his producing partner he is currently developing a movie of Malidoma Patrice Some's autobiography *Of Water and the Spirit*.

Abstract artworks by **William Crow (MFA '99)** were included in the exhibition "Ordinary Adornments" mounted at the +Gallery in Denver last summer. Crow's work is in the collections of such prestigious venues as the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Chicago Art Institute.

2000s

Sisters **Aleksandra and Margarita Gonoratskaya (BA '00)**, both were awarded doctor of optometry degrees by the Pennsylvania College of Optometry last summer.

Drawings by **Joan A. Esposito (BA '01)** were on view this winter at the Pi Gallery in Kansas City, MO.

Devon A. Lewis (BS '01) is a senior accountant at The Ginn Company, a real estate development company in Celebration, FL.

The *New York Daily News* named **Rolanda Pyle (BA '01)**, the director of the New York City Department for the Aging's Grandparent Resource Center, one of the "100 Women Who Shape Our City" for her work with grandparents who are raising grandchildren. Pyle's first book of poetry, *Finally*, was published last August.

Alumni Association Events

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

June 23, 2005, 7:30 pm
Annual Meeting: location TBA

For information please contact Helen Gittleman at 516-546-7002 or helstan@optonline.net, or Rhona Goldman at 516-599-2719 or rhonagoldman@earthlink.net.

NEW HAVEN CHAPTER

June 4, 2005, 1 pm
Tea: location TBA

For information please contact Beth Enoch Schaefer at 203-795-4236.

PALM BEACH CHAPTER

For information please contact Ellen R. Brotman at 561-499-7768 or ERBrotman@aol.com. Please put "Hunter College" in the subject line of e-mails.

QUEENS CHAPTER

June 4, 2005, 12 pm: \$30
Spring Luncheon, Pasta Lovers Restaurant, 124-18 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens
For information please contact Helene Goldfarb at 212-517-3144 or hdgoldfarb@aol.com.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOOK CLUB

May 18, 2005, 7 pm
Hunter Library, Level Two, Archives Room
The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri

June 15, 2005, 7 pm
Hunter Library, Level Two, Archives Room
Crossing to Safety by Wallace Stegner

For information on additional alumni events, please visit www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni/events.shtml



The Scholarship and Welfare Fund of the Alumni Association of Hunter College, Inc., held an Outreach program for current and alumni Scholar Scholarship recipients on Wednesday, March 30. Pictured here are two current scholars, Marena Euashachai, and Alina Plotkina, and scholar alum Betsy Hudis. The Fund, which has been in existence for 55 years, assists more than 500 students a year with undergraduate and graduate grants.

For more information on making a donation to the Fund, please call our office at 212-772-4092 or e-mail us at s&w@hunter.cuny.edu.

Foundation News

Gottschalk and Riese Join Foundation Board of Trustees



Michael Gottschalk

Klara Silverstein, chair of the Hunter College Foundation, and Lucille Kaufman, co-chair, announced that **Michael R. Gottschalk** and **Tracey G. Riese** were recently elected to the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees.

"We are delighted that Michael and Tracey will be working with us," said Silverstein. "Both of them are prominent figures in their fields, and both bring a commitment to community service as well as impressive leadership skills."

Michael R. Gottschalk, the managing director for consumer products at Lazard Freres, formerly held a similar post at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein and also at Wasserstein & Perella, both international financial banks. Earlier in his career Gottschalk, who holds both a bachelor's in accounting (SUNY/Albany) and a JD (University of Virginia), was an attorney with Cravath Swaine & Moore and an accountant at Deloitte, Haskins & Sells. Gottschalk is on the board of the FECS Health and Human Services System.

Tracey G. Riese, an alumna of Hunter College High School, is founder and president of T.G. Riese & Associates, which works to help corporations, cultural institutions, and nonprofit organizations make their brands more effective. Clients of the company have included AT&T, Citicorp, Scholastic, and World Wildlife Fund. Before starting her own firm, Riese held senior communications and marketing positions at Revlon, RJR Nabisco, Golden Books Family Entertainment, and Chemical Bank. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, Riese serves on the boards of A Better Chance, Inc., and Goddard College.

The Board of Trustees welcomes Michael Gottschalk and Tracey Riese.



Tracey Riese

Hunter Supporters Give Significant Gifts

President Jennifer J. Raab and the Hunter College Foundation Trustees acknowledge with gratitude the following donors for their generosity and vision: **Anna Cohen Rockowitz ('39)** contributed \$500,000 to support the Hunter College Writing Center, which has been renamed "The Dr. Murray and Anna C. Rockowitz Writing Center" in honor of Anna and her late husband, Murray.... The **Frederick Loewe Foundation**, headed by **Floria Lasky ('42)**, has committed \$300,000 to upgrade the Frederick Loewe Theatre.... With a gift of \$100,000, **Roger and Susan Hertog ('65)** established the Hertog Fellowship Program, which will provide students in our MFA in Creative Writing Program with courses and opportunities to develop their research skills.... **The Grove Foundation** has pledged \$100,000 for scholarships in the School of Health Sciences.... **Mel Tukman ('61)** gave \$60,000 to fund this year's Presidential Public Leadership Program, which brings prominent public figures to campus in order to inspire the next generation to pursue public service.... **Harriet Gruber ('51)** gave \$50,000 to provide the Hunter College Theatre Department with funds to create rehearsal space for student productions.... We received a pledge of \$150,000 toward the naming of the elementary school library.... A 1926 graduate of Hunter College High School, **Lyda Pinkus Rochmis**, recently donated \$20,000 to Hunter High to support prizes and programs to foster the reading and verbal presentation of poetry.

If you are interested in supporting the college with a gift to the Hunter College Foundation, please contact Betsy Bowman, executive director of development and alumni relations, at 212-772-4085 or betsy.bowman@hunter.cuny.edu.

Writing Center continued from page 1

Anna Cohen—who graduated from Hunter College High School as well as Hunter College—majored in French and went on to study for a master's in French at Columbia. While raising two sons, Anna worked as a substitute teacher in a neighborhood public school, but when her children were older she began teaching in college. Raised in a Yiddish-speaking home, she taught Yiddish at Queens College for many years, then English at Touro College and Mercy College. In the 1970s, Barron's Educational Series, which had begun to publish grammar books for several languages, asked her to write the book for Yiddish.

Published in 1979, Anna's *201 Yiddish Verbs* was the first such book produced for English speakers.

The Writing Center named for this remarkable couple has the same mission that inspired the Rockowitzes: training students in skills essential for productive lives. Established in 1976, the Center is visited by more than 600 Hunter students each week; approximately 60 percent of them are not native speakers of English. Tutors at the Center are Hunter undergraduate and graduate students who receive special training in tutoring and are supervised by experienced staff.

Students Visit the New South Africa

by Aliyah Khan, MFA in Creative Writing Program, Hunter College

Cape Town, like the rest of post-apartheid South Africa, is a place of contrasts. As my fellow students and I stepped wearily off our 19-hour flight, we were greeted by what felt like home—the bright lights of a modern city, cellphone booths and, naturally, fast food. We piled into a van and were on our way to Hunter College's first winter study-abroad program with the University of Cape Town (UCT).

The drive to the campus showed a different side of South Africa. In the darkness were the orange glimmers of subsistence fires along the highway and cook-fires that lit up the corrugated zinc roofs of shacks in the township of Langa.

January 2005 proved to be the most amazing learning experience

most of us have ever had. We were 20 English/Creative Writing and Film and Media Studies students, and our origins reflected the diversity of Hunter: Ukraine, Egypt, Guyana, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Palestine, Puerto Rico, China, and, of course, New York.

This was UCT's first experiment with intensive summer classes similar to those Hunter runs in June. It was also an experiment in a different type of international program. Typically, an American university rents space for its faculty and students at a foreign university, usually in isolation from local students. This program was conceived as a partnership, with combined classes and joint faculty, allowing for much greater interaction inside and outside the classroom.

The writing students spent time with Andre Brink, South Africa's most famous writer, author Damon Galgut, and several other authors and publishers. UCT Professor Ron Irwin and Hunter Professor Jenny Shute, a South African-born novelist, taught an inspiring creative writing class. The film students were taught by Lindy Wilson, a South African filmmaker famous for her anti-apartheid documentaries, and Hunter professor/filmmaker Tami Gold. Each class worked on creative projects about post-apartheid South Africa.

Site director Lauren Beukes had contacts all over Cape Town and planned our events to cover everything—from visits to the townships, to hiking, to museums, to keeping us in touch with the young literary scene. She didn't even mind our calling her in the middle of the night with emergencies.

We developed a constructive dialogue with the South African students. Favorite topics: the issues facing post-apartheid South Africa and America's own problems, particularly its politics and its relationship to South Africa and the rest of the world.

The program raised our awareness about the challenges facing a nation whose people lived through apartheid. Our month in Cape Town was, indeed, a rare privilege.

Alumni donations to the President's Fund helped make this program possible.

If it's January, why are they in short sleeves? For a group of Hunter students who spent the month studying at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, it was one of the many fringe benefits. (They were south of the equator where, of course, the seasons are reversed.) The students and their Hunter professors gathered for this picture on the steps of UCT's Jameson Hall.

