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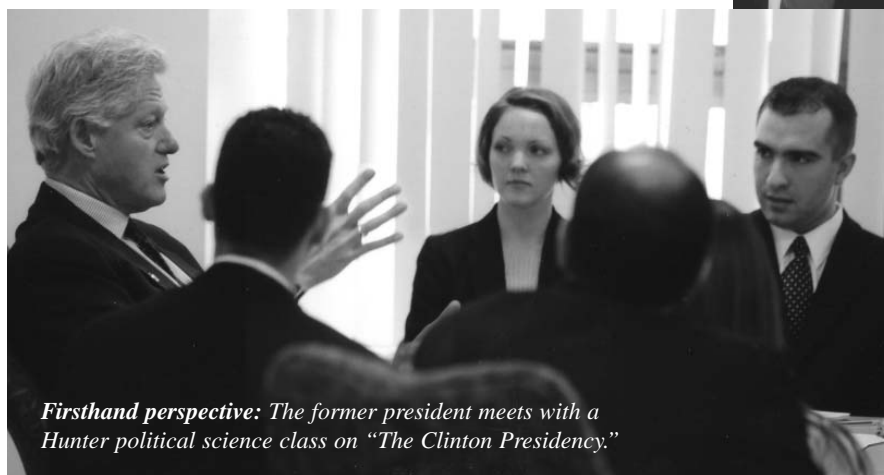
## Clinton Cites Hunter's "Global Community"

"Our interdependent world is far from an integrated world," said Bill Clinton in a wide-ranging address to the Hunter community that President Jennifer J. Raab called "the hottest ticket on campus in Hunter's history."

The former U.S. president came to Hunter May 6, met with 20 students, delivered the public lecture, and left as "Professor Clinton." He was at the college under the auspices of Hunter's Presidential Public Leadership Program, sponsored by alumnus Mel Tukman ('61).



*Three leaders: Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab welcomes former U.S. President Bill Clinton and Hunter alumnus Mel Tukman ('61), sponsor of Hunter's Presidential Public Leadership Program, which brings prominent public figures to campus. [See page 2.]*



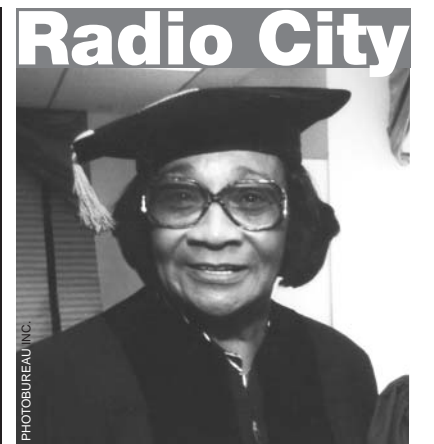
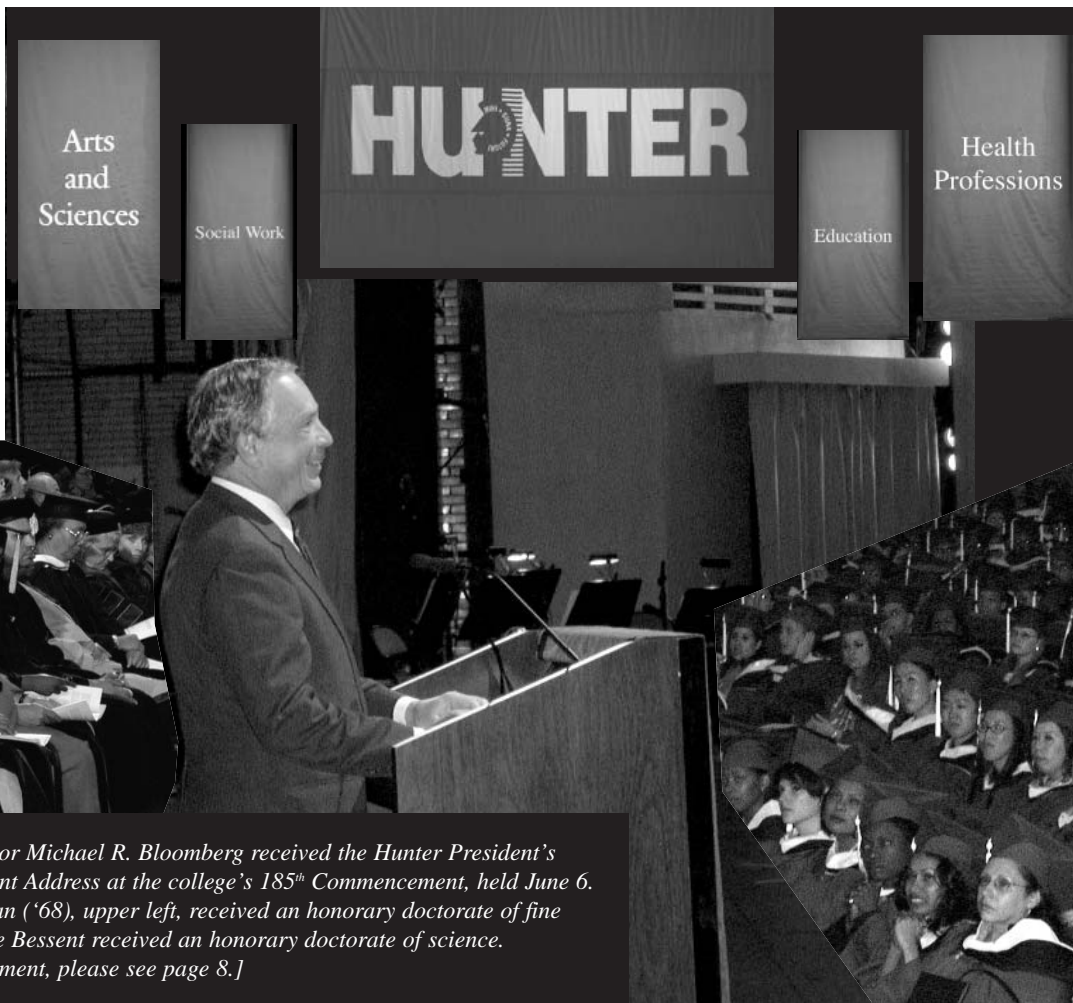
*Firsthand perspective: The former president meets with a Hunter political science class on "The Clinton Presidency."*

Clinton participated in three events during his visit. In addition to making a public address to over 2,000 students who packed both the Assembly Hall and the West Lobby, where an overflow crowd saw him on closed-circuit TV, Professor Clinton also served as guest lecturer in a political science seminar. Afterwards, he attended a reception in his honor, hosted

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## Hunter Holds Commencement at

## Radio City



*Winners all: New York City's Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg received the Hunter President's Medal and gave the Commencement Address at the college's 185th Commencement, held June 6. Actor/Hunter alumna Rhea Perlman ('68), upper left, received an honorary doctorate of fine arts; and nursing leader Dr. Hattie Bessent received an honorary doctorate of science. [For more on Hunter's Commencement, please see page 8.]*



## Tukman Sponsors Leadership Program

**H**unter graduate Mel Tukman ('61) is the generous sponsor of the Presidential Public Leadership Program. Conceived to expose students to prominent public figures, this program has, for the past two years, brought distinguished political leaders to Hunter College. Prior programs have featured Senator George J. Mitchell and former New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo.

Tukman, a member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame, earned a BA in English from Hunter and an MBA from Harvard. He is the president of Tukman Capital Management, a California-based money management firm. Tukman also sponsors the Tukman Scholarships to aid students in the Summer Research Residency Program, which offers high-achieving Hunter minority students the opportunity for summer research and study at major research universities. The scholarship program has aided more than 30 students since it was launched in 1993.

"Important as the Public Leadership Program has always been, it is even more important in the wake of current events," Tukman noted during his visit. "I hope that this program helps to influence the next generation of young leaders."

**A**s part of the Presidential Public Leadership Program that brought Bill Clinton to campus, a former member of Clinton's team also came to Hunter. Michael Waldman, who was special assistant for policy coordination and director of speech-writing for Clinton, spoke on: "The Presidency in a Time of Crisis."



PHOTOBUREAU INC.



ANA GOLICI

**T**aking a major step toward cracking the glass ceiling for women in the sciences, the National Science Foundation has given Hunter College an ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Award worth an estimated \$3.75 million over a five-year period. The award, which became effective June 1, is intended to ensure fuller participation and advancement of women faculty in science and engineering at U.S. colleges and universities. Hunter is one of only nine campuses nationwide to receive this award and the only one on the East Coast.

The four Hunter College scientists who collaborated on the proposal are Virginia Valian, a cognitive psychologist; Vita Rabinowitz, chair of the Psychology Department and a social psychologist who specializes in gender issues; Ann Cohen, Hunter's former acting provost; and Shirley Raps, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences.

Hunter scientists will work to improve the institutional practices that affect the hiring, retention, promotion, salary, and professional development of Hunter's

## Questioning the 42<sup>nd</sup> President

by Joel Pomeroy, Class of 2004



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With Bill Clinton and the students in Professor Andrew Polsky's political science seminar on "The Clinton Presidency" are (l. to r.) Mel Tukman (standing, 6th from left), sponsor of the Presidential Public Leadership Program; Antoinette Pole (Political Science); President Jennifer J. Raab; Professor Polsky; and Kenneth Sherrill, chair of the Political Science Department.

**O**n Monday, May 6, at 10:40 am, 19 sweaty-palmed undergraduates, myself included, sat around a conference table in the Hunter North Building anxiously sipping our complimentary orange juice and coffee. We were told he was on his way and, sure enough, a few minutes of nervous pencil tapping later, in he walked, right on time, former President William Jefferson Clinton.

A few months earlier I was invited to take a seminar course on Clinton's presidency which would conclude with the class meeting the former president face to face. We met weekly throughout the semester. The catch was, nobody knew when the big day would come. Estimates of the actual date varied wildly, so we waited.

Once the date was announced, there was time to fantasize about Secret Service sweeps of our classroom and to practice standing in front of the mirror saying "Good morning Mr. President."

As the semester wore on, my research and writing began, and the reality of meeting Clinton seemed distant. I was certain I wouldn't be star-struck, assuring friends and coworkers I'd seize my opportunity to ask the former president tough questions. I practiced my question on free-trade policy in my head every free minute I had. I had several dozen versions in my arsenal.

The day came—I don't remember a formal announcement that he had arrived, but he was on time and

suddenly everyone stood up around the table and clapped as he entered the room. He seemed almost embarrassed at the applause. He got right to business, announcing he'd open up with a five-minute introduction, and then go right to our questions. He kept his word, delivering a quick "how-to" on running for president.

Then he began to field questions. As Clinton responded frankly, and casually, the tension in the room seemed to dissipate. In fact, I felt like I knew him so well after 20 minutes, that when it was time for my question, "Mr. President" seemed too formal to get out of my mouth. As far as leaving grill marks on the president with my ferocious journalistic inquiry, well, I was just glad to get the question out.

He answered six or seven questions during the meeting, and as the Q&A went on, his answers became more in-depth, and spontaneous. He had us laughing a number of times, humanizing the presidency with behind-the-scenes anecdotes iced with his Southern slang. Over all he ended up speaking more candidly and going into more detail than I ever thought he would.

It was the consensus among my classmates that the event was a success. He answered more questions than we expected and he gave us remarkably thoughtful answers. We were incredibly fortunate to get a few intriguing peeks into the inner workings of the presidency of the United States.

women faculty in the natural and social sciences.

"Hunter is the only college in the world to have two women Nobel Laureates among its graduates—and both were scientists," says President Jennifer J. Raab. "Through this award, we hope to become a model for CUNY and other urban public universities that are strongly committed to helping women scientists on their faculties develop their fullest professional and career potential. Ultimately, all of American society will benefit—including students, who are the next generation of Nobel Prize-winners."

Over the five-year period, Hunter's scientists will design and implement an ambitious program. They plan to develop and disseminate measures for identifying indicators of gender inequity and help to correct unintended institutional practices that work against the advancement of women scientists. In addition, they intend to educate administrators and others about biases affecting their evaluations of women, and advise about strategies for change. A sponsorship program will be developed to link senior women scientists and

junior and mid-level women scientists, with the senior women rewarded through departmental initiatives.

According to Dr. Valian, "We can use science to remove the unintended obstacles that institutions and organizations place in women's way."

**W**ith a current student population that is nearly 72 percent female, Hunter College remains a leader in educating women, beginning with its founding as a women's college in 1870, a time when educating women was considered of questionable value. Hunter's trailblazing role is especially evident in the sciences. Rosalyn Yalow and Gertrude Elion, both Hunter graduates, received the Nobel Prize in medicine (1978 and 1988, respectively). In addition, Hunter exceeds the national averages both in the overall percentage of women in science faculty and in the overall percentage of women at each academic rank.



## The President's Perspective



It has been an extraordinary year. When I began my tenure as the 13th president of Hunter College last June, I realized that I would face many challenges. Little did I know that I had come to Hunter at a time when momentous events would test New Yorkers' legendary reputation for resiliency in the face of adversity.

On September 11, Hunter students, faculty, and staff reacted with calmness and, soon after, with an outpouring of generosity towards others affected by the tragedy. Now, we are united in our resolve to participate in the recovery and rebuilding of New York. To this day, I remain deeply proud of the Hunter community's strength in the face of this enormous and

unprecedented challenge.

Through this tragedy, I have also learned about the remarkable dedication of our community to the great city that has long influenced Hunter College's identity and mission. Just hours after the attack, Professor Sean Ahearn, director of our acclaimed Center for the Analysis and Research of Spatial Information (CARSI), was asked by City Hall to help map Ground Zero—the only mapping operation during that critical time. Working around the clock, and using CARSI's highly detailed geographic database on New York City, Professor Ahearn and his students played a critical role in protecting the lives of rescue workers.

An historical marker of this eventful year was the visit of President Clinton to our campus on May 6. (See stories, pages 1 and 2.) The energy and excitement that our former president generated was palpable. Through the Presidential Public Leadership program, generously funded by alumnus Mel Tukman, Hunter students had the opportunity to question President Clinton in a small class and later, in the standing-room-only Assembly Hall, where the president delivered his news-making address.

Another milestone for me was the May 3 induction ceremony for the Alumni Hall of Fame—celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year—and the annual Alumni Luncheon, going strong since 1910, held the following day. The breadth and diversity of achievements among our Hall of Fame members is astonishing. What other

college can boast two female Nobel laureates among their graduates!

One of the 15 new Alumni Hall of Fame members is neurobiologist Erich Jarvis ('88), a Fellow at Duke University. Like a good number of our students, Jarvis triumphed over poverty and family tragedy. After graduating from Hunter, he earned graduate and postgraduate degrees at Rockefeller University. This spring, the National Science Foundation gave him the Alan T. Waterman Award—its highest honor for a young scientist, which includes a research grant of \$500,000. Erich Jarvis represents the best of Hunter, past, present and future.

Our 185th Commencement at Radio City Music Hall on June 6 was a wonderful way to cap my first year as president. It was a privilege to present New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg with a President's Medal for his leadership of the city, for his commitment to improving the public schools, and for the courage to say he will be held accountable for their success. He is truly the "Education Mayor." Addressing a sea of 2,000 purple-robed graduates, along with 3,000 faculty, family and friends, Bloomberg declared, "One thing has not changed at Hunter, and that is the importance of education as a vocation and a value."

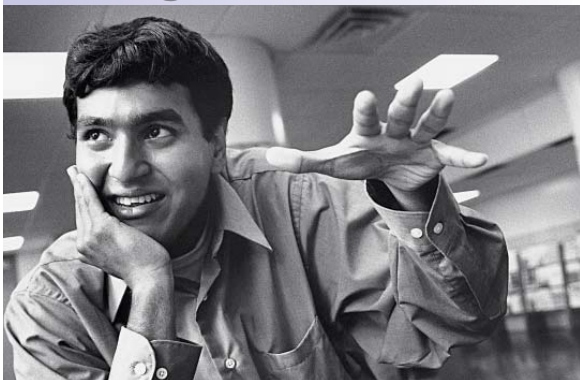
Actress Rhea Perlman, who graduated from Hunter in 1968 with a BA in theatre, was presented with an honorary doctor of fine arts degree. An Emmy winner, a television and movie producer and an advocate for children's charities, "Doc" Perlman, as

she said she would now like to be referred to, spoke to the class of 2002 from her heart, telling them, "No matter what you do, make sure that it makes you happy." The audience, eating up her every word, cheered, "Carla! Carla!" In addition, an honorary doctor of science degree was given to Hattie Bessent, director of the ethnic/racial minority fellowship programs at the American Nurses Association. A President's Medal was given to the Tony award-winning star of *The Producers*, Cady Huffman, who closed out Commencement with her show-stopping rendition of "Life is a Bowl of Cherries," wowing the crowd.

For me, one of the most gratifying aspects of being president has been getting to know our incredible students. A few of them are highlighted in this issue. They range from our Fulbright scholar, Imran Chowdhury, an immigrant from Bangladesh, to our valedictorian, Carol Knopf, who gave up an international dance career in her thirties to pursue her passion for education. Through their brilliance, dedication, and diversity, these graduates embody both the city itself and the continuing excellence of Hunter College.

Congratulations on your commitment to your alma mater and our exceptional students. Thank you for a memorable first year!

### Hunter Student Wins Fulbright to Study in Africa



Imran Chowdhury, a native of Bangladesh, moved to New York City at the age of five, barely able to speak English.

Now 22, he graduates with one of the most prestigious and coveted awards in academia: a Fulbright grant to study abroad. Chowdhury will spend the next academic year in Malawi (in southeast Africa), reviewing collaborative efforts by the local university and non-governmental organizations to prevent the spread of HIV-AIDS.

But Chowdhury will not have to wait until September to get to Malawi. He will be visiting villages throughout that country this summer under the auspices of Save the Children—the final assignment of a three-year fellowship he received in 2000 from the Jeannette K. Watson Summer Program. One of only 15 students in New York City chosen for that fellowship, Chowdhury spent his first summer internship at the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

"I know I want a career in public service," he says. "This year abroad should help me make a firm decision on which direction I take, and whether I should enroll in a PhD program."

A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Chowdhury is also a Hunter Athena Scholar and has three majors: anthropology, geography, and honors. His desire to help others led to his volunteer work teaching English to new immigrants at his local library. In the Hunter community, Chowdhury has also played an active role, serving as student representative to the Hunter Senate and president of the Anthropology Club, tutoring fellow students, and speaking on behalf of students at hearings held by city and state bodies such as the Board of Regents and New York City Council.

### Hunter Fund Announces Million-Dollar Drive for 2002/2003

#### Now YOU Can Make the Difference for Hunter in the 21st Century...

For the first time ever, our goal is to raise a million dollars that will go to work on behalf of the students of Hunter. Read further to see all the areas and projects that will benefit from the generosity of alumni and friends of Hunter College. As we forge our way into the 21st century and continue our drive for excellence, your support of the Hunter Annual Fund 2002/2003 is vital.

#### What does your support mean to Hunter and today's students?

It means a lot. First, Annual Fund gifts go to work immediately for such important student benefits as:

- Providing scholarships for deserving students.
- Continuing support of Hunter's legacy of cultural and ethnic diversity.
- Innovative classroom programs to enrich the core curriculum.
- Sponsorship of student/professor research.
- Attracting and retaining outstanding faculty.
- Continuing faculty development.
- Improvement to the science labs.

*That's the shopping list for the 2002/2003 Annual Fund. You can help make it a reality with your gift to the school that played a role in changing your life.*

Please return the Donor Form below with your tax-deductible contribution now. You can enclose a check or make a donation by credit card. If you have any questions about the Hunter College Annual Fund, please call John Brundage, Director of Annual Giving, at (212) 772-4085 or send an e-mail to: [john.brundage@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:john.brundage@hunter.cuny.edu)

#### Hunter College 2002/2003 Donor Form

Please detach and mail to: Hunter College Annual Fund, 695 Park Avenue, Room 1314 East, New York, NY 10021

Yes, I want to be part of Hunter's Drive for Excellence. Here is my tax-deductible gift of:

- \$10,000     \$5,000     \$2,000     \$1,000     \$750  
 \$500     \$250     \$100     Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to charge this gift to my:     Visa     MasterCard     American Express

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My employer or spouse's employer has a matching gifts program, and I have included the appropriate paperwork.

# Outstanding Graduates

## Class of 2002

We are happy to introduce just a few of our many exceptional 2002 graduates.



Carol Knopf performing *To Passion*, her own work, at the Actors Studio in Manhattan.

### Carol Knopf, Valedictorian

At the age of 9, Carol Knopf was receiving training in classical dance at the American Ballet Theater. By age 12, she was performing professionally in a career that would take her worldwide.

Hunter's vibrant valedictorian, who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA, was tutored at home by her teacher-parents and never attended high school. Only when she was in her thirties did Knopf apply for a General Equivalency Diploma.

"By then, there was a war going on inside me," says the Bronx native. "I was living the language of dance, but I desperately wanted to learn about other languages." When she enrolled at Hunter in spring 1996, Knopf felt "great relief."

Majoring in special honors and English, with a minor in Russian, Knopf immersed herself in the study of language and literature. "I feel more complete now," says Knopf, who continues to perform professionally a few times a year and to choreograph her own work.

She plans to apply to graduate schools for a PhD program in comparative literature. "My goal is to teach and to develop my own approach to dance, creating pieces that combine dance and literature," she says. "Everything I have learned, I keep—the knowledge becomes part of the continuum of my life."



### Ariunkhishig Gonchigdorj

Described by a professor as "a brilliant student, one of the best I have ever had," Gonchigdorj came to the U.S. from Mongolia at age 16 and entered Hunter in 1999.

Gonchigdorj, an economics major, has been attracted to politics since her youth, influenced by her father: Mongolia was a Communist country until the democratic revolution of 1989-90, in which her father played a major role. He held several high

offices in the government and, when he ran for president last spring, Gonchigdorj took off from school to campaign for him. Although he lost the election, she speaks with enthusiasm about the experience she had campaigning in every town of Mongolia and in the Gobi Desert.

Last summer, Gonchigdorj interned at the Central Bank of Mongolia to gain firsthand experience on the Mongolian economy. She is currently taking graduate economics classes at Hunter so that when she returns to her homeland after graduation, she can teach part time while working at the Central Bank. Her dream is to return to the U.S. in two years to get a PhD in economics, then resettle in Mongolia and eventually run for elected office.



### Luis Jacome

A psychology major, Jacome, 36, is entering the CUNY PhD degree program in biopsychology this fall. Born in Ecuador, he emigrated to the U.S. in 1982 and entered Hunter immediately after high school. He held two part-time jobs during the day (elevator operator and deejay) and attended class at night. Although Jacome was a top student in Ecuador, he didn't excel at Hunter and dropped out to attend computer school. He went on to hold a variety of jobs in the fashion industry.

Jacome vividly recalls the turning point that brought him back to Hunter. "I was looking at photographs of myself as a child in Ecuador, holding a flag. In Ecuador, the child who is the best in the class is chosen to be the flag bearer. It's a great honor. I realized there was unfinished business in my life and that I had a responsibility to fulfill that child's promise."

After taking a "Brain and Behavior" course at Hunter, Jacome entered the Minority Access to Research Careers

(MARC) program, where he conducted research under Distinguished Professor Victoria Luine, studying the effects of estrogen on rats' brain activity. Jacome has presented his research at scientific conferences nationwide and has received both a Hunter award for research and the Endocrine Society Award for Excellence in Endocrinology Research. The soft-spoken Jacome, who recently married, paints in his spare time and works hard to balance all that is important in his life: his marriage, his art, and his abiding passion for science.



### Fatima Johnson

She began conducting advanced research at Hunter while still enrolled at Medgar Evers Community College. Her grades and ability earned her acceptance into three prestigious programs: Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC); Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS); and the Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP).

Johnson conducted summer research

at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, co-authored two research papers with a physics professor, and on weekends instructed a nursing class in chemistry at Medgar Evers.

Johnson, who lives in Brooklyn with her five-year-old daughter, also holds a job as an HIV-AIDS educator.

She has been accepted by the University of California at Berkeley, where she will pursue a PhD in biomaterials, a burgeoning field that combines chemistry, biology, physics, and engineering.

"This science allows us to create new materials to formulate bone or build new skin for burn victims," she explains. "It's perfect for me, because I want to apply my knowledge to help people and society."

### Zhi Qiu

Zhi Qiu, who graduates with degrees in computer science and mathematics with a minor in economics and a GPA of 3.75, is headed to Northwestern University to pursue a PhD in computer science.

Qiu, a native of China, worked with Robert Thompson, professor of mathematics and statistics, for the past year on a project that was part of the National Science Foundation Scholarship program. He was also the recipient of the Joseph A. Gillet Memorial Prize given by the Alumni Association to a student in the math department who demonstrates outstanding scholarship and proficiency. Qiu's GPA in his major was 3.9.

### Clinton continued from page 1

by President Raab, where he met with faculty, alumni, and students.

And as a lecturer he was able to bring a rare firsthand perspective to the class: the course was Professor Andrew Polsky's seminar on "The Clinton Presidency." (See student essay on page 2.)

In his public address, which ranged over foreign affairs, the American and the global economy, education, health care, and the environment, Clinton adjured the United States to use its powers for good, to "build a world with more partners and fewer enemies." The great conflict of the 21st century, he said, would be "between the forces of integration, harmony, diversity, and scientific progress" and the "forces of disintegration, chaos, terror, and racial, religious, and tribal hatred."

Pointing to Hunter as an example of the positive forces he cited, Clinton said: "Hunter celebrates diversity. Its students come from many countries and create a global community. But this is very different from the way people have generally thought and behaved." Only in recent years, he said, has humanity "had the opportunity to make the world look like this auditorium."

The former president called on his audience to make sure that the world "is a home for all of its children," adding: "As educated people, you can spread the facts" to counter misperceptions that impede harmony among nations.

Clinton applauded President Raab for her leadership of the college and her commitment to New York; and he extended thanks to Hunter for its efforts to bring healing to the entire city, as well as within its own walls, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

He also praised Mel Tukman—as did President Raab—for "giving back" to his alma mater by sponsoring the Presidential Public Leadership Program.

President Raab, adding a historical note during her introduction of the former president, pointed out a parallel between Clinton's speech and an address by one of his predecessors in the White House. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt cut the ribbon on the stage of Hunter's Assembly Hall in 1940, she said, he urged students to be "active in civic and political life"—just as Clinton did, moments later.

Media coverage of Clinton's visit included a story transmitted worldwide over the Associated Press newswire; articles in all major metropolitan-area daily newspapers—the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Daily News*, and *Newsday*; and segments on CNN and on New York-area TV channels 5, 9, and 11.



# Happenings @ Hunter



● Hunter recently inaugurated its Public Policy Forums, a series that is part of the plan to rebuild Roosevelt House and transform the landmark structure into a public-policy institute.

The first forum—"Human Rights, Terrorism, and the United States"—brought together distinguished scholars and advocates who have grappled with the relationship between human rights and national security. Those playing key roles were (l. to r. from top) John R. Wallach (Political Science), who organized and moderated the forum; Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union; J. Michael Turner (Latin American and Caribbean Studies); Margaret Crahan (History); and President Jennifer J. Raab.



At the second forum, "The Safety Net and the City," the central question addressed was: Amid the talk of rebuilding Lower Manhattan and the recovery of the city, what does the future hold for the poorest New Yorkers and for the nonprofit social-welfare agencies that serve them? Presenters were Mimi Abramovitz (Social Work), pictured left, and Janet Poppendieck (Social Work). The heads of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies and the New York Coalition Against Hunger responded.



● President Jennifer J. Raab served as "Principal for a Day" at the Life Sciences Secondary School in Manhattan. Visiting with students in classrooms and labs, she spoke about how their futures can be shaped by attending college, and about the advantages and excellence of Hunter. "Principal for a Day" is an annual event sponsored by the not-for-profit organization PENCIL (Public Education Needs Civic Involvement in Learning).



● A major event held during Honors Week (April 8 - 12) was the TIAA-CREF Outstanding Faculty Lecture, presented by Virginia Valian (Psychology), pictured right. Valian's topic was "Why So Slow? The Advancement of Women," which is the subject of her most recent book.



● Hunter nursing students Robyn Laird, Shernet Martin and Simone Bascom (not pictured) hold the posts of president, second vice president, and secretary/community health director, respectively, in the Nursing Students Association of New York State.



● Hunter students, faculty, and friends gather around Betsy Gotbaum, New York City's recently elected public advocate, following an address she gave at a celebration of Women's History Month at the college. The city's highest ranking female elected official, Gotbaum discussed current issues affecting women in New York.



● Speakers in the Presidential Roundtable spring lecture series provided insights into mapping Ground Zero; the art of photography; socioeconomic questions in Sweden and other Western nations; and political and social issues in Asia. Speakers included (clockwise, from top left) Sean Ahearn (Geography), Roy DeCarava (Art), Anders Lindbom (Political Science), and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sheryl WuDunn.



# Faculty News & Notes

**Philip Alcabes (Urban Public Health)** is coauthor of a paper on research ethics in medical science published in the *Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law and Ethics*.

**Eija Ayravainen (Provost's Office)** was prominently featured in a special issue of *CommonWealth* magazine dedicated to education reform. Ayravainen was responsible for establishing College Now at Hunter. The program attracts high school students to CUNY campuses to take courses.

The Hunter chapter of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC) recently received the organization's growth award, given to the chapter showing the most membership growth. **Victor Bobetsky (Music)** helped students form the chapter and is its adviser.

**Emily Braun (Art)** has been chosen to be a fellow at The New York Public Library Center for Scholars and Writers. Center fellows do research or creative writing in an environment that provides instant access to the collections of the humanities and social sciences library.

**Howard Chernick (Economics)** heads the economic steering group of the New York City Recovery Project, a research project established by the Russell Sage Foundation to document and assess the city's recovery following September 11.

**Rose Wiesman Dobrof**, longtime faculty member of the Hunter School of Social Work, founding director of the Brookdale Center on Aging, and now Brookdale Professor of Gerontology, has received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College. She also received an award from the National Association of Social Workers for her contribution to her profession and the field of gerontology and a Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Caucus and Center for the Black Aged.

**Michael Fabricant (Social Work)** is coauthor of *Settlement Houses Under Siege: The Struggle to Sustain Community Organizations in New York City*, which examines nonprofit social services through the prism of the settlement houses. Fabricant was interviewed by *New York Times* reporter Sam Roberts on NY1 and by Brian Lehrer on WNYC.

**Marie Filbin (Biology)** was recommended for a \$1.3 million Jacob Javits Award for her spinal cord regeneration research. The Javits Neuroscience Investigator Awards are conditional seven-year research grants given to scientists selected by the National Advisory Neurological Disorders and Stroke Council.

**Lou Massa (Chemistry and Physics)** wrote a review for *Chemical & Engineering News* about James D. Watson's new book, *Genes, Girls and Gamow: After the Double Helix*.

A National Science Foundation career grant was recently awarded to **Hiroshi Matsui (Chemistry)**. The award is for outstanding young faculty to integrate teaching and research.

A photograph by **Ann McGowan (Continuing Education)** was included in the exhibit "Life of the City," which was in the Museum of Modern Art until May 21, when the museum closed and moved to Long Island City while the famous structure in Manhattan undergoes expansion and rebuilding.

**Lynn Roberts (Health Sciences)** directed a two-semester educational outreach project involving Bronx Lebanon Hospital and students at William Howard Taft High School in the Bronx. The students developed an anti-tobacco campaign that included original surveys and a skit they performed for fifth-graders.

## Yiddish Theater Celebrates Centenary

Hunter's Assembly Hall was the site of a gala program—"Jewish Heritage New York 2002"—celebrating 100 years of Yiddish theater in New York and one of New York City's treasures, the Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre. Hosting the event was Governor George E. Pataki, who presented a check from the state to the Folksbiene Theatre. Accepting the check on behalf of the theater are Eleanor Reissa, the Folksbiene's artistic director, and Zalmen Mlotek, the theater's executive director, as Edward I. Koch, former mayor of New York, joins in the celebration.



● The Reading/Writing Center celebrated 25 years of service to Hunter students. Pictured left are Professors Charles Persky (l.) and Ann Raimis, co-founders of the center, and James Traub, the center's first supervisor.





## Scholarship and Welfare Fund



**HADASSAH WINER GOLD**  
*President*

Each Hunter Commencement brings a great sense of satisfaction to everyone associated with the college, but those of us who have made a commitment to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund feel a special pride. We know that, every year, a number of the best students marching proudly across the stage to claim their diplomas are there largely because of S & W's help.

They have gained that triumph, of course, chiefly because of their own abilities and hard work, but as one student—echoing the thoughts of many others—wrote us, “your generosity has enabled me to devote more time and energy to...the very serious business of undergraduate scholarship.” Without that bonus of time and energy, we know that the road to graduation would be much more difficult for many of our students—and perhaps too difficult for some of the most overburdened, despite their talents and dedication.

Nor are our grants helpful only

because they provide financial support. Students thank us also for showing “good faith” in them; for providing “a morale booster [that] added positive coloring to a wearying sixteen-week period”; “for understanding my situation and for caring about my future.”

Since 1949, when the Scholarship and Welfare Fund was founded, we have provided more than 20,000 grants and scholarships. That number is impressive indeed, but it becomes still more impressive when we realize that many of those grant recipients have become educators, social workers, health professionals, scientists, government officials, and others who have bettered the lives of tens of thousands of men and women—and virtually all have become educated citizens who have contributed to the betterment of our society.

For the sake of future students, the future of Hunter College, and the future of our nation, please give generously to the Scholarship and Welfare Fund.

## Alumni Association



**URSULA MAHONEY**  
*President*

College reunions are a time for memories, and this past Birthday Luncheon brought back many recollections as we shared our stories.

Edith Miller shared her story about Professor Ruth Weintraub. Edith had married while she was still in college and was off with her new bridegroom for a weekend honeymoon in the Poconos. As she unpacked her suitcase and unloaded several textbooks, her new husband asked, “What’s with the books?” Her reply was, “I have Professor Weintraub’s class on Monday and she won’t tolerate coming to class unprepared.”

A few months ago, during a particularly difficult moment, I spent an afternoon reminiscing with some Hunter alums about our college days. My friend Maureen O’Neill was losing her battle with lung cancer but that afternoon she had rallied. Her brother Gene was there, as was her neighbor Fran. The four of us—all Hunter alumni—sat around recalling some of the good moments we had shared at Hunter.

I remembered a class in which the professor asked all the students, one after the other, to recite the same poem; our eyes really glazed over when we got to student number ten. But in a moment of epiphany, the teacher’s strategy became clear. It wasn’t enough simply to commit a poem to memory. You really had to understand it, in your head and heart,

in order to get the poet’s message.

The poem, Robert Frost’s “Wild Grapes,” was about letting go and that was basically what we were doing that afternoon. Maureen died two days later. But during that afternoon we were able to retreat to a time when we were young, full of hope, and convinced we could do anything.

I am not sure what memories our recent graduates would recall, given the complexities of trying to earn the diploma while balancing jobs and families, and choosing from so many different career possibilities.

But when I attended the Completion Ceremony for the Public Service Scholars at City Hall I realized that we really had much in common. Emmanuel Alexandre Jr., one of the graduates, said: “During my internship I met with state senators, Council members, commissioners and so on. The program opened up all kinds of opportunities. It is not every day a young man such as myself gets a chance to work in such important places and be taken seriously. This is a model for schools all over America, in inner cities where youngsters full of passion could get involved.”

Emmanuel will remember many of his moments as a scholar and an intern. So will Eleanore Velasquez, another Public Service Scholar, who has won the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Fellowship that will enable her to work for a year on Capitol Hill. How satisfying it is that Hunter can give students so many gifts to treasure. How lucky we are to be alumni of this college.

I would like to help The Scholarship and Welfare Fund continue to assist Hunter students.

I am pleased to enclose my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made out to:

**THE SCHOLARSHIP AND WELFARE FUND.\***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this coupon and your check to:

**THE SCHOLARSHIP AND WELFARE FUND**  
Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021

*\*All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

**Chapter News!**

**Rockland Chapter** is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. Please contact Elaine Bregman at (212) 673-7396 for further details.

**We Want You!!!**

If you are interested in helping to organize your class for reunions and other activities, please contact **Nicole DuFauchard**, director of alumni relations, at (212) 772-4087; or via e-mail at [nicole.dufauchard@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:nicole.dufauchard@hunter.cuny.edu), or by mail at **Office of Alumni Relations, Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10021.**

## Wilson Elected Alumni Association President

Congratulations and welcome to Jacqueline G. Wilson, the new president of the Hunter Alumni Association. A longtime Hunter leader, Wilson has been chair of the Friends of the Hunter College Library for the last three years and has served the Alumni Association as a vice president, assistant treasurer, Board member, and chair of the Hall of Fame Committee. She is also an officer of the Wistarians Alumni Chapter.

Wilson retired from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she was deputy regional administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration. During her years with HCFA and, before that, the Social Security Administration, she received many awards, including the Commissioner’s Citation (the top award bestowed by the SSA), the HCFA Administrator’s Leadership Award, and the Health and Human Services Secretary’s Superior Service Award.

A 1951 graduate who majored in history, Wilson was inducted into the Hunter College Hall of Fame in 1979. We offer her our very best wishes for

a successful presidency.

At the same time that we welcome the new president, we also extend our sincerest gratitude to Ursula Mahoney, who is now concluding her term as president of the Alumni Association. Mahoney, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate ('54) with a major in English, has served her alma mater as chair of the alumni mentoring committee of the Public Service Scholar Program—a post she has held for 12 years—and as a member of the boards of the Alumni Association, the Hunter Foundation, the Scholarship and Welfare Fund, and the Hunter Symphony. Her career in photography and journalism has included positions with the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *New York Times* magazine, *Week in Review*, and *Travel* section, where she was photo editor until her retirement last summer.

Mahoney was named to the Hunter Hall of Fame in 1972.





## Class Notes

### 1910s

*The Staten Island Advance* profiled **Lillian Simon Welkowitz ('16)**, a 105-year-old resident of the borough, on January 17.

### 1930s

**Felicia Shpritzer ('33)** recently retired from the New York City Police Department after 34 years of service. She was a lieutenant when she retired.

### 1940s

**Gloria Hobbs ('45)** has been appointed president and CEO of the Community Bridge Home in Cambria Heights, Queens (NY).

### 1950s

The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reviewed **Ruth Kluger's ('51)** book, *Still Alive, A Holocaust Girlhood Remembered*, on February 17.

**Gloria Spivak ('56)** has been named to the Alfred University Board of Directors.

### 1960s

An exhibit of oil paintings by **Margo Trout ('61)** was featured at the Norfolk (VA) Library this spring.

**Linda Lucia Lubrano ('63)** is a professor of international affairs at the School of International Service at American University (Washington, DC). She was recently appointed director of the school's Graduate Research Center on Europe, located in Trento, Italy.

**Paul Saueracker ('63)** was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of Mineral Technologies, Inc., a technology company with corporate headquarters in New York.

**Mireya Perez Bustillo ('65)**, who teaches Spanish at the College of New Rochelle (NY), has been promoted to full professor.

Greenberg Traurig, a New York law firm, has appointed **Joel A. Katz ('66)** executive entertainment counsel to the recording industry.

**Rae M. Fallon ('68)** has been appointed associate professor of computer science at University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth.

**Patricia Lyons Johnson ('69)** is an associate professor of cultural anthropology at Penn State University.

### 1970s

**Herbert S. Agin ('70)** is the newly appointed chairman of the board of directors of TCN Worldwide, a real estate agency located in New York.

**Joseph Zacherman ('70)** is the principal of PS 23Q in Queens (NY), where he works with children with developmental and emotional problems.

**Gabriella Forte ('71)** recently assumed the post of president and director of worldwide licenses and accessories for the fashion company Dolce & Gabbana USA.

The Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton has appointed **Nancy L. MacMillan ('71)** to its Board of Trustees.

**Eileen Kennedy ('74)** was recently named global executive director of the International Life Sciences Institute in Washington, DC.

**George M. Nassoor ('74)** recently became president of the New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society. Artist **Joanne Lepore ('75)** exhibited some of her

## Alumni Celebrate!



**Alumni Luncheon** More than 800 Hunter alumni celebrated their alma mater's 132nd birthday at the Birthday Luncheon held May 4 at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, where Milestone Classes from 1927 to 1997 were represented. Among those celebrating were (1) members of the Milestone Class of 1942 (l. to r.) Ethel Baum Kutner, Naomi Block Stern, and Gladys Cramés Weisberger. Ms. Stern, a member of the Alumni Association's Hall

of Fame, is chair of the Class of 1942. (2) Ethel Garfunkel Berl, a member of the Milestone Class of 1927, discusses Hunter past and present with President Jennifer J. Raab. Ms. Berl, who received the President's Medal in 2001, is a member of the Hall of Fame. (3) Special recognition was paid to the 14 alumni newly inducted into the Hall of Fame—and to Augusta Strauss Thomas ('34), recipient of the Alumni Recognition Award for Service to the Alumni Association and the College; and Clive Callender ('59), who received the Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement. With Ms. Thomas (l.) and Dr. Callender are President Raab and Alumni Association president Ursula Mahoney.



recent works at the Blue Hill Gallery at Columbia-Green Community College in Hudson (NY).

Erdos & Morgan, a New York-based advertising agency, has named **Nicholas J. Ferrari ('76)** its chief executive officer.

**Richard J. Zaino ('76)** is a new member of the board of governors of Our Lady of Consolation Nursing and Rehabilitative Care Center.

### 1980s

**Michael Carmine ('80)** is an assistant professor of film and television and the director of camera studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He has also directed photographic teams for several TV series, including "Friends," "Everybody Loves Raymond," and "Mad About You."

**Linda E. Ebrahim ('81)** has been appointed a vice president on the Municipal Bond Research Team of Prudential Securities.

The Queens (NY) Museum of Art recently appointed **Thomas M. Finkelppearl ('83)** its executive director.

**Yvonne Joy Graham ('88)** was appointed deputy borough president of Brooklyn (NY).

**Erich Jarvis ('89)**, an assistant professor of neurobiology at Duke University, is the winner of the 2002 Alan T. Waterman Award, which the National Science Foundation gives annually to one young scientist or engineer. The prize includes a \$500,000 grant to support continued research. Jarvis' research involves the study of the neurobiology of songbirds' vocal com-

munication—specifically a structure associated with Parkinson's disease and depression in humans.

Jarvis, who participated in Hunter's Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) program, received his Hunter BA in biology and mathematics, and a PhD from Rockefeller University. Jarvis was inducted this year into the Hunter Hall of Fame.

### 1990s

**Larry Rinder ('90)**, chief curator of contemporary art at the Whitney Museum, told *Newsweek* in its March 4 issue how a new exhibit there is breaking down traditional boundaries of art.

On February 20, *Newsday* profiled **Nisar Ahmad Zuri ('91)**, who is returning to his native Afghanistan to publish a newspaper.

*The New York Times* profiled **William C. Bell ('95)**, New York City's new commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services, on January 15 in its popular "Public Lives" feature.

### 2000s

**Margareta K. Sorenson ('00)** recently won a one-year National Science Foundation fellowship to pursue her research in biology.

**Gary Shteyngart ('02)**, a graduate of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, was profiled in a lengthy *New York Times* magazine article on June 2. His first novel, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*, has received glowing reviews from literary critics at the *Times*, *New York* magazine, and other media.

## IN MEMORIAM

We are saddened to announce the passing of these alumni/ae:

**ADELE LANGENBAHN BAKER ('30)**, of Boise, ID. Sister of Doris Stockdale ('37) of Southampton, NJ.

**SIDNEY BALSAM**, of Port Chester, NY. He and his wife, Esther Luttan Balsam ('38), established the Balsam Scholarship, which aids Hunter undergraduate students.

**PETER M. GYULAVARY ('86)**, of New York City, died on September 11, 2001, in the attack on the World Trade Center.

**MARY M. MARKARIAN ('52)**, of Boston. She established the Mary Markarian Annuity Fund, which gives support to Hunter's Department of Art.

**ANN WALSH MCGOVERN ('54)**, who worked for the AON Corporation, died on September 11, 2001. She was on the 93rd floor of the World Trade Center when the WTC was attacked.

**ANTONIA PANTOJA ('52)**, of New York. An advocate for people of Puerto Rican origin, she founded Aspira, a nonprofit organization that now has offices in six states and Puerto Rico and provides some 50,000 Latino students with career and college counseling, financial aid, and other assistance. She also established organizations in Puerto Rico that work to develop housing and provide economic assistance to small businesses in poor rural areas. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1996 for her efforts to provide educational and economic opportunities for Puerto Ricans. Last year she received the Hunter Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award.







## Hunter Holds Commencement At Radio City

With Radio City Music Hall as the backdrop, nearly 2,000 Hunter students received their degrees at the college's 185th Commencement exercises, held June 6. President **Jennifer J. Raab** conferred 1,250 undergraduate degrees and 700 graduate degrees in a ceremony that combined moving remembrances of September 11 with proud and joyous tributes to the college and to the graduates themselves. New York City's **Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg** gave the Commencement address and received the President's Medal "For your commitment to New York City and improving education."

Noting that the ceremony was taking place "in the post-9/11 world," President Raab said that "the reverberations of that day remain in our hearts" as she introduced the college's "Tribute to September 11." As part of the tribute, the Hunter College Appreciation Award was presented to the **New York City Fire Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums**, and **Distinguished Professor Meena Alexander** read her poem "Aftermath."

President Raab told the graduates, "Today represents the finish line to what sometimes must have seemed like your own, personal New York City Marathon. You ran a fantastic race. You're all winners. And today we cross that finish line together." Citing several well-known alumni, she said that "Hunter gave them the tools to realize the extraordinary in themselves," and she called on the newly minted alumni to commit themselves to the Hunter motto, *Mihi Cura Futuri*—"The care of the future is mine."

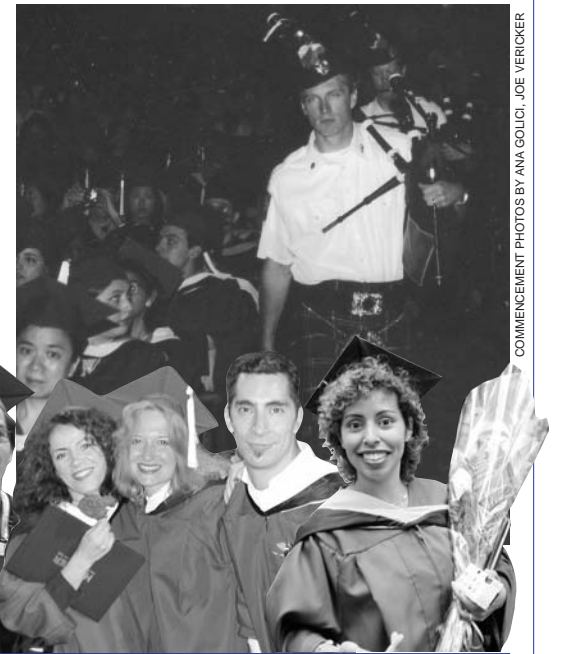
Mayor Bloomberg, along with President Raab, urged the graduates to concern themselves with the future: "You have accomplished a lot," he said. "Tomorrow, go out and change the world." The mayor said also that he wants to help make CUNY



Major figures at the Commencement included (clockwise from top left) Tony Award-winning performer **Cady Huffman** of *The Producers*, awarded a *President's Medal*; members of the *New York City Fire Department Emerald Society Pipes and Drums*; and the proud and happy graduates.

"the best university in the country," and he added: "The importance of education as a vocation and a value has not changed."

Also featured at the ceremony were two award-winning performers and an educator who has worked to enhance the careers of minority nurses. President Raab presented an honorary doctorate of science to **Dr. Hattie Bessent**, leader of the American Nurses Association Ethnic/Racial Minority Fellowship Programs, for working to "develop a cadre of highly qualified specialists...in mental health and the behavioral sciences...dedicated to working with minority populations." Actor/writer/producer **Rhea Perlman** ('68), who has been active on behalf of children's causes and has won four Emmy awards for Outstanding Actress in a Comedy Series, received an honorary doctorate of fine arts "for sharing your immense acting talents with us and improving the lives of children." **Cady Huffman**, winner of the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for her performance in Broadway's *The Producers*, was presented with a President's Medal for "dancing and singing into the heart of our city."



COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS BY ANA GOLICI, JOE VERICKER

### You're the Top!

Congratulations to two groups of students who were singled out for special applause at the June 6 Commencement ceremony:

Students who had completed all their course work at Hunter and graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 or better:

- Robin Higgins Blotnick** (Special Honors, English, and Film), 3.939
- Aleksandra Cieply** (Political Science and Economics), 3.962
- Mary Ann Hart** (Special Honors, Women's Studies, and Media Studies), 3.916
- Jennifer Hopper** (Special Honors and Political Science), 3.920
- Polina Khodova** (Psychology), 3.936
- Upasna Laugani** (Accounting), 3.960
- Victoria Masluk** (Psychology), 3.964
- Jaroslav Usenko** (Chemistry), 3.964

Transfer students who had earned a minimum of 60 credits at Hunter and graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0:

- Darko Dzeletovic** (Geography), 4.0
- Monica Neiderhell-Bergner** (English, Women's Studies, and Classical Studies), 4.0
- Barbara Westfal** (Special Honors and Art History), 4.0

## Hunter Makes NEWS!

*The New York Times* began its May 11 feature on the CUNY Honors College with an anecdote about freshman **Jennifer Artesi**, who turned down Cornell and Stanford to attend Hunter College. The author focused on several other Honors College students at Hunter and included photographs of them on campus. One Hunter honors student, who scored over 1300 on her SATs, told high school students that enrolling in the program "was the best decision I ever made."

When **Michael Kuo's** father, Frederick Jr., died on 9/11 in the World Trade Center, Michael wanted to drop most of his urban planning classes at Hunter. Instead he decided to participate in "Imagine New York," a project that gives New Yorkers a chance to speak out about downtown New York. Kuo was featured by the *Daily News* on March 15 and in *Newsday* and the *Greenwich Time* on

March 14.

Computer science major **Ned Vizzini**, the author of *Teen Angst? Naaah . . .* received coverage of his book in the *Daily Variety* on January 9, the *Daily News* on January 28, and *The Hour* (Norwalk) on February 25. The book has been optioned by Miramax for a possible TV project.

### EXHIBITS IN THE NEWS



On February 1 and 2, The Associated Press and newspapers nationwide carried coverage of **Sean Ahearn's (Geography) "Mapping NY" exhibition** (right), on view in a SoHo gallery. Ahearn was also interviewed by New York's WB11-TV about his exhibit on February 20.



On March 22, *The New York Times* reviewed "**Second Sight**," (lower left) an exhibition of the artworks of alumni of Hunter's MFA program in fine art.

The exhibit "**The Microscope and the Skeleton: A Digital Photomicrography of Hard Tissues**" (right), curated by **Timothy G. Bromage (Anthropology)**, was covered by *The New York Times* on March 15 and *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on February 15.

