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PHOTO BY: MICHAEL BENISTY

From MoMA to Hunter Galleries

Internationally renowned art expert Joachim Pissarro — a top curator at the Museum of Modern Art and the great-grandson of famed Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro — is coming to Hunter this fall.

Dr. Pissarro will hold the newly created position of Bershada Professor of Art History and Director of the Hunter College Galleries. His appointment was made possible thanks to an extraordinary gift to the Department of Art from Susan V. Bershada, MD ('75) and David J. Bershada.

At Hunter, in addition to his role as a professor in the Art History and Studio Art departments, Pissarro will develop the exhibition and curatorial programs of the Hunter Galleries. A portion of the Bershada gift will be used to support exhibitions at the two galleries.

Pissarro, who until recently was curator at the Museum of Modern Art, in the Department of Painting and Sculpture, will retain an association with MoMA as an adjunct curator.

The distinguished art scholar and author has done extensive research over the years about his famous great-grandfather, including a book that took more than 20 years to complete on more than 1,500 paintings by Camille Pissarro. "I feel like I know him pretty well," he said. "But he's also someone who still surprises me."

Over the past ten years, however, Pissarro has focused his research on the field of contemporary art and this will be the main concentration of his work at Hunter. He came to New York after having held a curatorship of contemporary art at the Yale University Art Gallery, and he has published extensively on post World War II American art, namely on Jasper Johns and Robert Rauschenberg. Last summer, he co-curated the new display of contemporary art at MoMA.

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Singing Soprano at Brookdale Gala

Uncle Junior slayed 'em at the annual Brookdale gala. Actor Dominic Chianese, best known for his TV role as a mobster on "The Sopranos," delighted the crowd by performing with his guitar after being honored by Hunter with a "New Yorkers Forever" award on June 14. Other recipients of the prestigious award were Victor Gotbaum and Muriel Siebert.

For more on the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity's big night at the St. Regis, please turn to Page 2.



Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior from "The Sopranos") performs for the crowd.

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Happenings at Hunter

Brookdale Honors Three New Yorkers



Public relations executive Howard Rubenstein (left), who introduced Muriel Siebert, shared a moment with Morton Olshan, one of the city's leading real estate figures and husband of Carole, Class of '63.



Victor Gotbaum (left), Muriel Siebert and Dominic Chianese received "New Yorkers Forever" awards.



Abbe Raven (MA '77) introduced Dominic Chianese. As President and CEO of A&E Television Networks, she was instrumental in winning broadcast rights to "The Sopranos," in which Chianese stars as Uncle Junior.

Three prominent New Yorkers were honored by Hunter College for their contributions to the quality of life in the city during the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity gala at the St. Regis on June 14.

Victor Gotbaum, the longtime municipal union leader; Muriel Siebert, the first woman to win a seat on the New York Stock Exchange; and Dominic Chianese, best known for his role as Uncle Junior on "The Sopranos," all received "New Yorkers Forever" awards.

Chianese (although refusing to reveal any secrets about what really happened after that final Sopranos episode went dark) delighted the audience by playing guitar and singing two songs — ending one of

them with the lyric: "If I don't sing, I die." Chianese volunteers much of his free time performing for local senior citizen and community groups in the city. His daughter, Rebecca Scarpati, is a 1990 graduate of Hunter's School of Social Work.

Siebert, a remarkable pioneer for women in the financial world, has also designed and underwritten a financial management skills course for high school students that is now a standard part of the NYC curriculum. "Age is but a number," Siebert told the crowd, "and mine is unlisted."

Gotbaum spent more than 20 years as head of District Council 37, building it into the largest municipal union in the country and improving the standard of living for hundreds of thousands

of workers. He made an impassioned plea for more women in leadership positions of what he called a "male-dominated society," saying: "This cannot go on."

Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab talked about the importance of Brookdale's work as growing numbers of Americans become senior citizens, including such icons as Harrison Ford, Aretha Franklin, and Barbra Streisand — all of whom turn 65 this year. In hailing Gotbaum, Siebert and Chianese, Raab said: "These three illustrious citizens epitomize the vision of our Brookdale Center to promote longevity and healthy aging."



Acclaimed actress Ruby Dee (left), Class of '44, returned to the Hunter campus for the first showing of her award-winning new movie "Naming Number Two." She shared smiles with fellow Hunter alums Elaine G. Rosenberg (center), Class of '42, and Audrey S. Felberbaum, Class of '37.



Lin-Manuel Miranda, from Hunter College High School's Class of '98, poses with acting HCHS principal Sonya Mosco after a performance of "In The Heights" — the hit show he wrote the music and lyrics for that's been running off-Broadway. The musical — about life in Washington Heights, where Miranda grew up — heads to Broadway this fall.



Hunter alumna Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez (second from right) — appointed this year as New York Secretary of State — is honored at reception by President Jennifer J. Raab; State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins (left); and Rossana Rosado, CEO of El Diario/La Prensa. Cortés-Vázquez, Class of '75, is the first Hispanic to hold the Secretary of State position.

The President's Perspective



In this issue of *At Hunter* you can read about all the exciting things happening right now in the College's Department of Art. There is the highly anticipated arrival of Joachim Pissarro from the Museum of Modern Art. Dr. Pissarro will bring his expertise to the classroom as a professor here beginning this fall and also will serve as director of the revitalized Hunter Art Galleries. There is the dramatic news of two separate and extraordinary alumni gifts — from Susan and David Bershad to establish the professorship that Dr. Pissarro now holds and from Evelyn Kranes Kossak who will have the department's Painting Program renamed in her honor. And there is news too about some of the wonderful accomplishments of faculty members such as Professor of Art History Emily Braun, who was recently named a CUNY Distinguished Professor for her outstanding work. Hunter College's Department of Art has a long and storied past, with many prominent names involved in the program over the years. With these latest developments, we begin a dynamic new chapter in that illustrious history at Hunter. One of the best art departments in the nation just got even better.

Jennifer J. Raab

Vita C. Rabinowitz Named Provost



Dr. Vita C. Rabinowitz

Hunter College's new provost and vice president of academic affairs is Vita C. Rabinowitz, and no one could be better prepared to fill this prestigious academic post.

Dr. Rabinowitz has served as the acting provost for the past two years, and she was the acting associate provost from 2000 to 2002.

As acting provost, she led Hunter's involvement in the Mellon Project, which is dedicated to improving undergraduate education and increasing students' achievement, retention and graduation rates. She also conducted a college-wide assessment of student learning and spearheaded Hunter's 10-year review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

While serving as acting associate provost, Rabinowitz helped establish the CUNY Honors College at Hunter and supported the expansion of research opportunities for faculty and students.

Rabinowitz has been a member of the Department of Psychology faculty since 1978 and has served as chair of the department. She has also been a member of the doctoral faculty of the City University since 1989.

With Professor Virginia Valian, she won a five-year, \$3.75 million National Science Foundation Advance Award to establish the Gender Equity Project. One of the Project's goals is to make Hunter a model of equity and excellence as it advances the careers of women scientists.

Rabinowitz has written extensively on gender and achievement and on gender bias in science, especially in health research and research methodology. One of her major projects concerned gender issues in biomedical research on HIV/AIDS.

In 1992, she received the New York State Psychological Association's Kurt Lewin Award for outstanding contributions to social psychology. She is the co-author of a textbook on the psychology of women, *Engendering Psychology: Women and Gender Revisited*.

Dr. Rabinowitz received a BA in psychology and English from Douglass College of Rutgers University and her master's and doctorate in social psychology from Northwestern University.



Hunter College Foundation Trustee Neil Janovic (center) celebrates with MHS graduates (l-r) Reilley Scull, Anna Kalinowska, Valbona Ibrocevic, Orlando Olier and Justin Colon, all of whom are receiving scholarships funded by Mr. Janovic to attend Hunter College in the fall.

Success Story Manhattan Hunter Science High School Graduates Its First Class

rene Guanill smiled as she watched her daughter Jessica Nazar — in a purple graduation cap and gown — walk across the Hunter College Assembly Hall stage. As Nazar descended the stairs to join her cheering classmates, Guanill hesitated in her seat, then rushed over and gave her daughter a warm embrace. "I am speechless and so very proud," she said.

June 22 was a milestone day that marked Manhattan Hunter Science High School's very first graduation ceremony. Four years ago, a newly established MHS — created through a collaboration between Hunter College and the NYC Department of Education — admitted its inaugural class.

"Picking Manhattan Hunter Science High School was the best choice we ever made," said senior class representative Dennis Liew. "We have helped to shape the school into what it is today, and it has helped to shape us into what we are today."

At MHS, a science-focused college preparatory high school, the graduates — many of whom had struggled academically in middle school — were introduced to the rigors of college-level work. Their entire senior year was spent at the Hunter College campus, where they took a mixture of high school courses in English and social studies and college-level credit-bearing courses in math and science. Their freshman through junior years were spent at the Martin Luther King Jr. campus on the Upper West Side.

"This school was an experiment for all of us — teachers, administrators, parents and students," said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. "The proof of our success is the beautiful sea of caps and gowns before us." Manhattan Hunter Principal Susan Kreisman told them, "Let there be no doubt that you will all be heroes in your own lives."

City Councilwoman Gale Brewer, who was instrumental in the creation of the school, told the graduates: "Manhattan Hunter has given you the ability to take on those big challenges in your community and in the world beyond. You are a part of what works, so go out and make the world work."

The achievements of MHS's first graduating class are already amazing. The graduation rate, 100% by August, is double the average for New York City high schools, and all graduates received a Regents diploma. In addition, the school has a college acceptance rate of 90%, making it competitive with some of the most prestigious schools in the nation.

Twenty-one Manhattan Hunter Science High School graduates will be making a smooth transition to Hunter College in the fall, 18 of whom are on scholarships provided by Neil Janovic — a trustee of The Hunter College Foundation. Two will go to The Teacher's Academy and one to the Honors College.



Hunter's Jason Rodriguez (center) examines the stomach of a child he is treating in Iraq.

“We did everything the Marines did...then, when anyone needed help, I pulled out the medical bag and got to work.”

— Hunter EMT Jason Rodriguez



Computer technician Adam Sternglass on a U.S. air base in Kuwait.

Hunter Heroes Serve Our Country in Iraq

Jason Rodriguez is an Emergency Medical Technician who helped treat both soldiers and civilians in need of medical care in Iraq.

James Gilyard worked with a maintenance unit that made sure military vehicles in the war zone ran safely.

Adam Sternglass was a computer expert stationed at a base in Kuwait that sent U.S. troops to both Iraq and Afghanistan.

And all three are Hunter staff members who have gone to Iraq recently with their military reserve units — and are now back working at the College.

For supporting their heroic efforts, Hunter — along with several supervisors of the staffers who served overseas — has received the U.S. government's Patriot Award.

“My supervisor was very understanding,” says Rodriguez, a hospitalman second class in the Navy Reserves who was attached to a Marine unit in western Iraq. “When I returned, Hunter was very happy to offer me my position again. Whatever I needed, they were there for me.”

In Iraq, Rodriguez did the same thing he does as an EMT at Hunter — he helped people in need of medical attention. “Not just Marines, but Iraqi Army members and Iraqi citizens too,” he said. “It wasn't just war wounds, but fevers and asthma and gout. If we could do it, we would.”

He described it as “backpack medicine,” saying: “There are no doctors or nurses on the front lines. We did everything the Marines did. Getting shot at, getting blown up, sucking in dirt. Then, when anyone needed help, I pulled out the medical bag and got to work.”

His memories of Iraq include “the day I almost died.” A bomb went off on the side of a truck he was riding in. “It threw me off my feet,” he recalls. “There was a big white flash, and a deafening sound.” Fortunately, he wasn't seriously injured.

Rodriguez came to Hunter as an EMT in 2005. Before that, he was a nursing student at Hunter for three years. His previous reserve unit was deployed to the World Trade Center after 9/11 where he was assigned to perimeter security.

Gilyard, an officer for Hunter campus security at the Brookdale campus, spent 14 months with an Army National Guard vehicle maintenance company in Iraq.



Hunter campus security officer James Gilyard (fifth from left) with members of his company in Iraq.

“We did what we had to do,” says Gilyard, who came to work for the College in 2004 and has served in the military for 17 years. “We serviced the guys' vehicles, we helped them out as much as we could. When we had to get on the road, we serviced our own vehicles.”

He praised his supervisors and other people in Hunter's Department of Public Safety for “the way they stood up for me.”

“Any time I would call I'd get a good response,” recalls

Gilyard. “And they sent letters to me in Iraq. It was good to hear from the people in public safety. They always had words of encouragement for me, and they held my job at Hunter until I came back.”

Although he escaped with only a “few bumps and bruises,” Gilyard said it was a shock at first to be the target of bullets and mortars. “On our first day there, we got a welcome party which was mortar rounds that lasted for 10 minutes. That's when the reality set in.”

Sternglass, who works with computers in Hunter's ICIT department, returned last year from duty with his Army reserve unit in Kuwait, where he performed “computer work and other technical stuff” at a big air base that was a springboard for troops in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Hunter was very good about it, very supportive,” he says. “They held on to my job and didn't harass me about leaving.”

Sternglass had high praise too for the men and women he worked with in the military, saying: “I saw the faces of maybe 150,000 soldiers. They're professional, positive, but realistic. “They understand you can be killed there, and they go ahead knowing that.”

Sternglass — who has 13 years of military service, including six on active duty — talked about how the U.S. military has to battle the weather and conditions there as well as the enemy. “It was very desert-like, very hot, very inhospitable,” he says.

Members of reserve units like Rodriguez, Gilyard and Sternglass are able to nominate supervisors from their jobs back home for “My Boss is a Patriot” certificates of appreciation. All three of them named people at Hunter.

The award cites Hunter as a “patriotic employer” and thanks the College “for your support of citizen soldiers who serve us proudly.”

How Cool Is This Job!

Antarctica was the last place in the world that Hunter alumna Kai Ross (MA '03) ever expected to work.

But when Ross — who grew up in the Bronx and graduated from Hunter with a degree in environmental and occupational health sciences — found a website advertising jobs there for people with her training, she became intrigued. Now she is at McMurdo Station not far from the South Pole, where her entire world has been turned...well, upside down.

“How cold is it?” Ross laughs. “It is absolutely freezing. At the geographic South Pole, it can go as low as –70. We get down to the –40s. If the temperature ever makes it to freezing at 32, that's great. The warmest day I remember was 45 degrees, and it was amazing. People were walking around with no shirts on.



Kai aboard an ice breaker in Antarctica.

“Summer starts in October and ends in February. There's six months of darkness — then six months of sunlight. The sun just stops setting.”

Ross is a health and safety specialist for Raytheon Polar Services, a company that does support work for the National Science Foundation based at McMurdo. “Whatever you need to run a town, that's what we do,” she explains. “So when scientists come, they have a place to stay.”

Her job involves various aspects of industrial hygiene — such as monitoring noise, air and asbestos samples.

“I love it so much I didn't want to come home,” says Ross, who is currently working back in the U.S. for her company — but plans to return to Antarctica in the fall. “I spent Thanksgiving and Christmas there. The people there become your family. It is an intense experience.”

Grad Works in Antarctica and Loves It

Hunter Professor Jack Caravanos, director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Program, was delighted when he found out what his former student was doing.

“Who would have thought that a woman from Moshulu Parkway in the Bronx would be working 10,224 miles away at McMurdo Sound in Antarctica?” said Caravanos. “I believe it's official now, the EOHS Program now has graduates working on every continent. Our students will travel to the end of the earth to ensure a safe and healthy environment.”

Ross and the other people at McMurdo call their spot at the bottom of the world “The Ice” — because “saying Antarctica takes too long.”

And Ross says it is as beautiful as it is remote. “The mountains are extraordinary — just mountains and mountains as far as you can see. You look off in the distance, and everything is blue and white with all the ice. Ice breakers come in every season to help bring supplies.

“The penguins, seals and birds have no fear of human beings. The penguins walk right up to you and stand there. Part of the Antarctica treaty is that no one can harm animals. The rule is you're never to do anything to upset their natural behavior.”

Not that Ross doesn't miss a few things about being back in the rest of the world. “New York City-style pizza!” she laughs when asked what she looks forward to the most when she comes home. “They don't have real pizza ovens there.”

Ross admits that growing up in New York made it tougher for her to adjust to the world of Antarctica at first than it was for some of her co-workers. “Other people were used to living in the mountains — they grew up doing outdoor things like hunting and camping,” she says. “I'm a city girl. Me, I grew up shopping.”

Her schedule calls for her to spend six months in Antarctica and then six months working for the company at its offices in Colorado. But she extended her six-month stay at McMurdo last time — and she can't wait to go back again in October.



Hunter alumna Kai Ross enjoying life at the bottom of the world.

“Who would have thought that a woman from Moshulu Parkway in the Bronx would be working 10,224 miles away at McMurdo Sound in Antarctica?”

— Professor Jack Caravanos
Director of the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Program

They Know Which Way the Wind Blows

Everybody talks about the weather, but Hunter's Allan Frei has done something about it. Frei, an associate professor in the Department of Geography, recently got a new weather station up and running high on top of the College's North Building.

The instruments measure wind speed, wind direction, temperature, humidity, rain and snowfall, and solar and ultraviolet radiation — with all the data streaming into a computer in the Hunter Climate Lab which posts this information on the Hunter College and the Geography Department websites.

“It stood out there during the entire big Nor'easter this year and took accurate measurements,” Professor Frei says proudly. In the works is a webcam that will soon provide live views of the sky over Hunter every three minutes on the website.

For Frei, the weather station is just the latest in a series of exciting developments in weather and climate studies at Hunter. Nearly 300 students now take these classes each semester with Frei and a handful of other professors. Some are part of the department's Environmental Studies Program, which began three years ago — but the majority of students are in weather and climate courses simply to fulfill their basic science requirements. “I think this is a great thing,” Frei said. “We get people from all majors here.”

Frei said these students are frequently amazed at how fascinating

the topic of weather can be, telling him afterward: “This is something I've never really thought about much before. But I've learned so much. Now I can watch the Weather Channel and I know what they're talking about!”

Some New York City TV weather personalities have been there too. Fox 5 News meteorologist Nick Gregory visited Hunter to teach a class on the weather. And WWOR weather anchor Audrey Puente actually enrolled in weather and climate classes at Hunter when she was just starting out in the business.

A weather station had originally been set up on the roof of the North Tower in the 1990s, but it stopped functioning in recent years. This new one, held down by 50 pound sandbags to prevent it from blowing away, looks like it should be able to weather plenty of storms, according to Frei.

“These things are made to stand up to weather,” he says. The weather station is funded by the Department of Geography and the department's Developmental Fund through donations from students, alumni and supporters.



Hunter Remembers Dean Erwin Fleissner

A memorial service was held at Hunter on May 30 for Erwin Fleissner, Hunter College Professor Emeritus of Biology and a former Dean of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Fleissner died on May 12 at the age of 70.

Dr. Fleissner — the husband of Judith Friedlander, Hunter's former dean of social sciences — had recently been honored for his extraordinary achievements with the presentation of an honorary Doctor of Science degree during the January 2007 commencement ceremony.

A preeminent scientist and one of Hunter's most respected deans, he made important contributions to cancer research throughout his career — and also inspired a love of science in many generations through his teaching and writing.

“Erwin Fleissner made a difference and certainly left the world a better place,” said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. “Our entire community mourns his loss.

“As dean, he recruited exceptional young researchers and teachers and was committed to recruiting top-notch women and minority faculty, many of whom are still at Hunter today. He helped build

a pipeline of minority scientists by ensuring that underrepresented groups majored and succeeded in the sciences.”

Fleissner served as dean of science and mathematics from 1987 to 1998. Before coming to Hunter, he was a member of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research. There he discovered the protein composition of retroviruses and did research on the roles of cell-derived genes in cancers caused by such viruses in animals.

He graduated from Yale in 1957 with a BA in physics and philosophy. He then went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, returning to the U.S. two years later to get a PhD in biochemistry at Columbia. After receiving his degree in 1963, he joined the laboratory of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Fritz Lipmann at Rockefeller University — and then went to Sloan-Kettering in 1966.

He was the author of more than 75 scientific research papers. In 2004, he published a book for a wider audience, *Vital Harmonies: Molecular Biology and Our Shared Humanity*. It unlocked the amazing mysteries of cell biology and molecular genetics for lay readers — and told of landmark discoveries made in the field over the past 50 years that had changed the world.



Dr. Erwin Fleissner

PHOTO BY BARBARA WINTERS



All the Write Stuff

Hunter’s Peter Carey Featured in *New York* Magazine with MFA Student

One can never anticipate who will bob up on the front page of the *Book Review* and how long it will take to get there.

“I look around the familiar faces in Room 1243 and imagine I can see the toll it takes to be a young unpublished writer in this town. How hard it is to make a living, pay the rent, have a relationship, write a book.”

Carey was selected by *New York* magazine to write the keynote piece because of his work with so many promising young students at Hunter as well as his own phenomenal success as an author. He has won the prestigious Booker Prize twice, for *Oscar and Lucinda* in 1998 and *True History of the Kelly Gang* in 2001. His most recent novel is the best-selling *Theft: A Love Story*.

After establishing a formidable reputation as a teacher at NYU, Columbia, and the New School, Carey came to direct the MFA in Creative Writing Program at Hunter in 2003.

In the article, he talked about his own beginnings as a writer during the ’60s in his hometown of Bacchus Marsh, Australia. “Writing after work at the kitchen table, I was risking nothing except my sentence,” Carey wrote. “No one knew I was there...as for an MFA in creative writing I’d never heard of such a thing.”

He contrasted that to his students at Hunter today who have opportunities such as the Hertog Fellowship Program, which allows them to work and learn from famous writing mentors such Salman Rushdie, Richard Price, Toni Morrison, Nathan Englander, Patrick McGrath and Colum McCann.

But he also pointed out that young writers today are

under tremendous pressures to find an agent, sell their work and somehow break through in the competitive market for publishing fiction. “Of all the things I do at Hunter, this seems to be almost the most important, to close that huge, lonely gap between the kitchen table and the world of literature,” he writes.

Carey said he constantly stresses to young writers in the MFA program that the business of writing should be about the sentence, the story, the language. “My Hunter students do not ask when the agents will visit,” he says. “They are there, I tell them, to be writers. Everything else will follow.”

The Hunter MFA Creative Writing Program is a full-time, two-year course of instruction which offers students the opportunity to work with and learn from top writers of fiction, memoirs and poetry. In 2005, the College’s new Hertog Fellowship Program, established by Roger and Susan Hertog (’65), began pairing up selected MFA students with famous writers as mentors.



10 Questions For...

Peter Carey, Director of MFA Program in Creative Writing

As part of a regular series in *At Hunter* spotlighting members of the Hunter College faculty, Peter Carey answers 10 questions that we put to him:

1. What book has inspired you the most in your writing career?

If there was only one book, I could not have been a writer. There have been many. For instance: Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*, when I was 20; Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse – Five*, when I was 25; *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, when I was 30; *Tristram Shandy*, when I was 40; Sebald’s *The Rings of Saturn*, when I was 55; Schulz’s *Street of Crocodiles*, now I’m 63. And I have somehow omitted the work of Joseph Conrad, Henry James and Alice Munro.

2. Tell us about a memorable moment for you in the MFA Creative Writing Program.

One recent night, reading with my colleague Tom Sleigh at Hunter, looking down at the audience and seeing, scattered amongst the crowd, the extraordinary writers who teach with me. I’m sure you will not find, anywhere in the U.S., this concentration of talent devoted to such a select number of students.

3. What’s your favorite movie?

Crumb and *Nor Born For These Times* — two documentaries dealing with art and dysfunction.

4. Favorite food?

Chili crab in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

5. What’s in your iPod or CD player? And do you listen to music while you write?

I could listen — and have been listening — to Bob Dylan forever. Of course I can’t listen to him while I write, anymore than I could read Thomas Bernhard.

6. Best advice you give your students about writing and getting published?

Remember that will may be even more important than talent.

7. How would you compare yourself as a young writer with your students today?

On the basis of my early work I would have had to reject my own application to Hunter.

8. Do you think that the diversity of so many of the students at Hunter helps them to become better writers?

Think of Picasso and Joyce — the force of voice from the periphery addressing the metropolitan center.

9. What’s the best thing about the Hunter MFA Program in Creative Writing — and how do you hope to make it even better?

There’s a long list on both sides. One amazing gift we have is the Hertog writing fellowships. This has allowed our fiction and nonfiction students to work as paid research assistants for Toni Morrison, Salman Rushdie, Jonathan Franzen, Siri Hustvedt, Kathryn Harrison, AM Homes, Patrick McGrath, Jenny Egan, Jonathan Safran-Foer, Richard Price. The list is much longer. The writers are generous. The students work hard. One feels lives being changed.

10. What do you still hope to accomplish in your career?

Write each day, find novels to write, hope to stumble into territory that will take me to a higher, weirder place. I’m just finishing a novel titled *His Illegal Self*.

Greenfield to Grads: Here’s the Scoop...

The stage was Radio City Music Hall, and Hunter’s commencement ceremony there on May 31 featured some real star power as TV news commentator Jeff Greenfield, Coach CEO Lew Frankfort and Broadway’s Jeannette Bayardelle (an ’02 alumna) helped give the 1,900 graduates a rousing sendoff.



Jeannette Bayardelle, star of Broadway’s *The Color Purple* and a graduate of Hunter’s medical lab sciences program.

The keynote address was delivered by Greenfield, an acclaimed political, media and cultural reporter who’s covered virtually every major political event over the past two decades — for ABC, CNN and now CBS. He’s also a best-selling author and host of his own show on PBS.

Referring to himself as an old “geezer,” Greenfield made the graduates both laugh and think with his wry, insightful observations about the future that now lies ahead of them.

“Hey, I work in television news, so why believe me?” Greenfield joked, but told the graduates: “If you listen, I might save some of your lives. You don’t get a do-over. There is enough out there of work and play and joy to fill a hundred lifetimes. You have one.”

And he left them with this final piece of advice about following

their dreams and playing what he called the game of life: “If you want to be where you have to be, you win!”

Frankfort, on the anniversary of his own graduation from Hunter 40 years ago, was the recipient of a Doctorate of Humane Letters. He talked passionately about how much Hunter has meant to him.

“Hunter is a mosaic of New York; it is also a microcosm of the wonderful diversity of our great country,” Frankfort said. “Exactly 40 years ago, Hunter was my gateway to the world. Today it is the gateway for all of you who are graduating.

“In truth, much of what I have accomplished in my life is because of the opportunities that Hunter gave me. So today, in honoring me, Hunter is also honoring itself.”

“Remember Hunter College,” he told the graduates. “Wherever you go, whatever you do, Hunter will always be a part of you, and you will always be a part of Hunter.”

Bayardelle brought the house down when she sang “I am Here” from *The Color Purple* — which she has starred in on Broadway and now on national tour in Chicago.

“It’s good to be back,” said Bayardelle, who graduated from Hunter with a degree in medical lab sciences and was given an Outstanding Alumna award by program director Regina Linder. Talking about her success in show business, Bayardelle joked about how it was appropriate she was in *The Color Purple* because it’s “our school color.”

Also at the commencement ceremony and speaking to the graduates was New York Senator Chuck Schumer, a longtime friend and supporter of Hunter.

Clara M. Szego (’37), a prominent cell and molecular biologist, was the recipient of a Doctorate of Science degree. Dr. Szego, who is in her 90s, was not able to attend the commencement.

“Much of what I have accomplished in my life is because of the opportunities Hunter gave me... so in honoring me, Hunter is also honoring itself.”

— Coach CEO Lew Frankfort
Recipient of a Doctorate of Humane Letters



Jeff Greenfield addresses the 2007 graduating class.



Lew Frankfort received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Extraordinary Students, Extraordinary Stories

For class valedictorian William Biondolino, the commencement ceremony was his “debut” at Radio City — but not for performing on stage.

Biondolino spent more than a decade dancing professionally before coming to Hunter — performing with top ballet companies around the world and with national tours of musicals like *West Side Story* and *Damn Yankees*. He continued to dance even while at Hunter. Now, after graduating at the top of his class as a Latin major with a 3.991 GPA, Biondolino begins a new career in the fall as a high school Latin teacher.

Salutatorian Natalya Berezovskaya also had a long road to get to Hunter, after she and her family were forced to leave Moscow when she was 7 because of anti-Semitism and political unrest due to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Although she spoke no English, Berezovskaya quickly achieved a

remarkable American Dream of success and graduated as a Hunter honors student with a 3.99 GPA in biochemistry. A volunteer at hospitals in the city, she now plans to be a doctor herself — and will attend New York University School of Medicine on a prestigious Salk Scholarship.

But perhaps the student who traveled the furthest and overcame the most insurmountable odds to get a Hunter diploma was Suman Pradhan. Pradhan comes from a tiny village in Nepal near Mount Everest, which was so remote it had no roads and no schools for him to get a proper education.

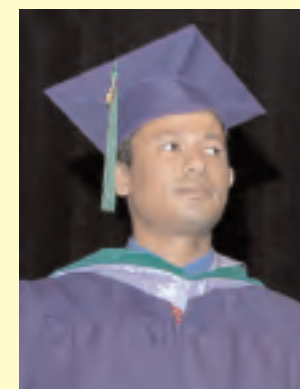
But through perseverance and a bit of luck (he won a lottery in Nepal to get a visa to the U.S., where the odds against him were 150 –1), Pradhan graduated from Hunter with a degree in medical lab sciences. He hopes one day to go back to Nepal to help treat people suffering from diseases like malaria and typhoid.



William Biondolino



Natalya Berezovskaya



Suman Pradhan



Spreading the big news at Radio City: We graduated!



Charlotte K. Frank (MS '66), who received the Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement, is senior vice president of research and development for McGraw Hill Education of the McGraw Hill Companies. She joined the company in 1988 following nine years as executive director of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction for the New York City Board of Education, where she was also a teacher and supervisor.

She has authored numerous articles and lectured extensively at major universities on critical issues of education and their importance for the business community. She has received more than 60 awards for her achievements in education, including the “Women of the Year Award” from the National Council of Administrative Women in Education, the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award, and the “Outstanding Educator of the Year” Award from the Doctorate Association of New York Educators. Frank, who was inducted into the Hunter College Alumni Hall of Fame in 1999, received a PhD from New York University and is now a N.Y.S. Regent Emerita.



Patricia Spence Rudden (BA '72, MA '77), recipient of the Award for Distinguished Service to the Association and the College, holds a doctorate from the CUNY Graduate Center and is an associate professor of English at New York City College of Technology/ CUNY. A longtime Alumni Association board member, she is currently the Association's secretary and has served several terms as assistant secretary and vice president. She has chaired the Recent Graduates Committee and the Futures Committee, is a founding member of the Book Club, and was one of the early leaders of the alumni mentoring component of the Public Service Scholars Program. She has also served on the Homecoming Committee, Nominating Committee, Fall Celebration Committee, and Birthday Luncheon Committee. Actively involved in her community, she is a founding member of the Women's Democratic Club of NYC, leads services for Jewish patients of the Cabrini Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, and has served as cantor for High Holiday services at local synagogues.

Alumni Weekend 2007



Mollie Sabinson Schildkrout (left) and Henriette Judels Rattner (center) of the Class of '32 reviewed a copy of their yearbook as part of their 75th reunion.

Memories That Last a Lifetime



Marvin Kelemen (left), Michael Frankfurt (center) and Jack Dammann were among the members of the Class of '57 celebrating their 50th reunion.



Famed entertainment lawyer Floria Lasky (left) and opera star Regina Resnik (right), both members of the Class of '42, flank Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.

Hall of Fame 2007



New Hunter College Hall of Fame inductee Judy Francis Zankel (BFA '67) took everyone on a wonderful trip down memory lane at Alumni Weekend — regaling them with delightful stories about her “extraordinary” years as an art student at Hunter.

“We BFA students were frankly bratty,” Zankel recalled as she and 12 other honorees officially became Hall of Fame members on April 28. “We felt very entitled. And that the rules for the rest of the College simply did not apply to us.

Judy Francis Zankel '67 “Hunter Park Avenue had only recently been made co-educational, and most of the men there were art students. And while women students were just beginning to wear pants to school in bad weather (can you believe it? It was truly the Stone Age), we art students routinely wore jeans.

“I remember sailing into a philosophy class immediately after a sculpture class,” she said, “arriving in a cloud of plaster dust with my portable ashtray (yes, we also smoked in class) and the other students cleared a path, not really sure what to make of me.”

Zankel went on to become an award-winning freelance illustrator. She recently finished a term as president of the Society of Illustrators in New York and serves on that organization's executive committee. She was recently invited to join the Advisory Committee of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.

She has been actively involved in music as well as art. She and her late husband Arthur gave the lead gift to build the third stage of Carnegie Hall, named Judy and Arthur Zankel Hall, which opened in 2003. In addition, she serves as a trustee on the Board of Carnegie Hall.

But Zankel looks back fondly on those happy days at Hunter in the mid '60s as the place where it all started.

“At the time I took my teachers for granted,” she said. “They were simply my teachers. I had no real idea of how important they were and would become in the art world. I studied with Tony Smith, Bob Morris, Lyman Kipp, Bob Huot, Doug Olsen, Ray Parker, Ralph Humphrey, Ron Gorchov, Julius Goldstein, Ursula Meyer and Leo Steinberg, among others.”

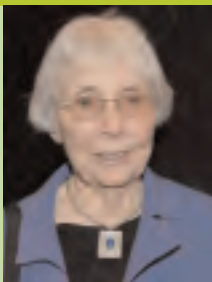
She said that two of them — Goldstein and Smith — particularly helped shape her future. It was Goldstein who suggested she might like fashion drawing. And she recalled Smith as “quite a character” who opened her eyes about many things, including working with illustrations.

“One day Tony came up to my easel and stood looking at my work, stroking his beard. Then he smiled and said: 'Ever heard of Aubrey Beardsley?' No, I hadn't, but I certainly started looking at his work and loved it. Another day he asked if I had seen the 'Socialist Realism' posters of the '30s celebrating the workers in communist Russia. Again, no, I hadn't. But what a revelation when I did!”

Despite her love for art and painting, Zankel decided not to go on for a master's degree in fine arts. “I realized that while I had loved every minute of school and had graduated cum laude and with art honors, I didn't want to be an art teacher or an easel painter. I was ready for the real world. I embarked upon what has been a very successful career as an illustrator, mostly in fashion.”

But she still recalls the advice she got from her high school guidance counselor, who told her “you can't get better than Hunter” when she was trying to decide where to go to college.

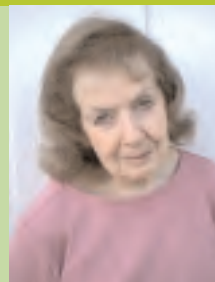
“I am so lucky not only to have had a first-class liberal arts education, but also to have been exposed to the teaching and direction of so many brilliant artists,” Zankel said in thanking Hunter for the Hall of Fame honor.



Joan R. Acker (BA '46) is a professor emerita of sociology at the University of Oregon and the founding director of the university's Center for the Study of Women in Society. She has received the American Sociological Association's Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award and its award for feminist scholarship. Her many publications include *Class Questions: Feminist Answers*, published in 2006. *Gendering Sociological Theory: Class and Organizations*, a collection of her articles, will be published in late 2007.



Denise Johnson (MS '89), acting chief of the Polio Eradication Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has worked at CDC since 1978, when she became a public health advisor in the Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. She went on to work in CDC's programs related to toxic substances, injury prevention, and global immunization, where she has held leadership positions dealing with issues ranging from hazardous waste sites to domestic violence to immunization.



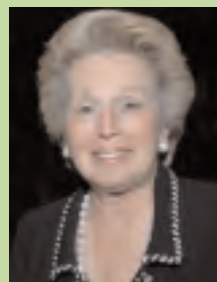
Ann L. Blackwell (BA '52), currently an engineer at NASA Ames Research Center, was the first woman to earn a master's degree in electrical engineering from Yale (1955). After holding various jobs in such areas as aerophysics and environmental planning, she earned a PhD from the University of Texas, Arlington, where she was an adjunct professor and engineer until assuming her present position. Among her honors are numerous awards for exceptional performance from the Research Center and a 1962 Alumni Achievement Award from Hunter.



Allen Edward Klein (BFA '59), a self-described “Jollytologist” and the president of the Association for Applied and Therapeutic Humor, has made a career of showing people how to use humor to cope with and triumph over challenging situations. An award-winning writer and public speaker, he has 15 books to his credit. His first book, *The Healing Power of Humor*, is now in its 31st printing and eighth foreign-language translation.



Stanley Cohen (BA '55) has written eight books and numerous articles for newspapers and magazines and has taught at Hunter, NYU, and the New School. His book *The Game They Played* was a *New York Times* “notable book of 1977” and was included in *Sports Illustrated's Top 100 Sports Books of All Time*. His awards for journalistic excellence include several from the New York State Press Association and the highest award offered by the American Business Press.



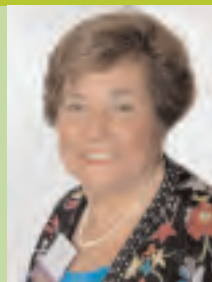
Freyda B. Lindemann (BA '60) has a lifelong history of scholarship in music and art and broad experience as an educator, editor, and supporter of cultural and civic organizations. She earned a master's degree and a PhD in music from Columbia University, taught music both at Columbia and at Hunter, and was an editor of the publication *Current Musicology*. She is currently active in organizations aimed at promoting exceptional young musicians, and is also on the board of the Metropolitan Opera.



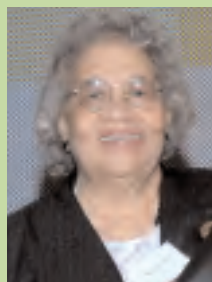
Hester Klein Diamond (BA '49), a graduate of Hunter College High School as well as the College, had one career with the NYC Welfare Department, another assisting her late husband, Harold Diamond, in his work as an art dealer, and a third as the head of her own interior design business. After her retirement, she became the founding president of The Medici Archive Project, a nonprofit that supports research in art history and history. She has also achieved some second-hand fame as the mother of Mike D of the Beastie Boys.



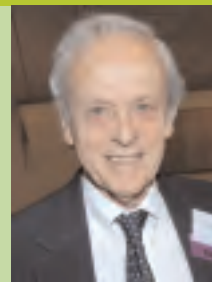
Harriet Pruitt McFeeters (BA '48) In her 50 years in the NYC school system, McFeeters taught biology, general science, and special education and was a teacher trainer, a community relations coordinator, and a district deputy superintendent. She is currently involved in the Fordham University Bronx African American History Project, the Bronx County Historical Society, and a leadership training program for city children. She has been honored by educators' organizations, the N.A.A.C.P., and the State Senate, among many others.



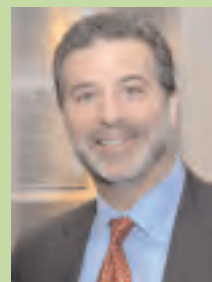
Rosalia A. Gioia (BA '53) has been an educator and administrator in health and physical education for over 50 years, serving as a school athletic director, a supervisor of adult programs, and a community recreational program director. A nationally recognized leader in sports and advocate of equal educational opportunities for girls and women, she recently became involved with quality-of-life issues for the elderly and is strongly committed to Olympic-style Senior Games. As a participant in these games, she has received hundreds of medals for track and field, tennis, basketball, and softball.



Bessie J. Pruitt (BA '52), a longtime health and physical education teacher and administrator in NYC schools, has been managing director of the South Bronx Community Action Theater and is the founder of Bess Pruitt & Associates, a highly successful artists management company. She is a founding member of the Bronx Council on the Arts and a consultant for the New York City Board of Education, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and Carnegie Hall. She holds an MA from NYU.



Alex Gitterman (MSW '62) is a professor of social work at the University of Connecticut, a former associate dean at the Columbia University School of Social Work, the editor of a series for Columbia University Press, and a former president of the Association for the Advancement of Social Work with Groups. He is the author of the award-winning *Handbook of Social Work Practice with Vulnerable and Resilient Populations*, among many other books.



Christopher A. Seeger (BA '87) is a founding member of Seeger Weiss LLP, a leading law firm. He has risen to national prominence for his work in medical and pharmaceutical litigations and regularly serves as lead or co-lead counsel in class actions throughout the country. Seeger has lectured extensively on complex litigation topics and teaches at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, where he earned his law degree magna cum laude. He has been included in “The Best Lawyers in America.”

To nominate an alumnus/a for Hall of Fame 2008 please call 212.772.4087 or download an application at www.hunter.cuny.edu/alumni/events.shtml. The deadline for nominations is 11/1/07.

Alumni Association

By Agnes A. Violenus
President, Alumni Association
of Hunter College



PHOTO BY LLOYD W. YEARWOOD

I am delighted to greet not only the new graduates of May 2007, but all Hunter alumni.

First, please plan to join us on Saturday, October 27, for our Fall Alumni Association Meeting and Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with classmates, update you on College news and report new information for the upcoming year.

Second, our annual Alumni Holiday Party is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend a marvelous evening of camaraderie, music, door prizes and more!

Third, save the date of Sunday, May 18 for our Spring 2008 Birthday Luncheon to be held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel! Join us to celebrate your milestone.

Watch the alumni website for news about other Hunter alumni get-togethers, concerts, lectures, book clubs and more.

You are invited to communicate with us by writing to the Hunter College Alumni Office, 695 Park Avenue, Room 1314, East Building, New York, NY 10065 or by calling 212-772-4087 or e-mailing alumni@hunter.cuny.edu.

Please stay in touch!

Class Notes

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

1940s

At the age of 80, **Marie Miller (BA '42)** is one of the most energetic and hardworking teachers at Simsbury High School in Connecticut. She teaches two honors English classes, one regular English class, and one public speaking class, in addition to guiding students in the mock trial program and coaching graduation speakers. For her contributions to the school, where she has taught for 36 years, principal Neil Sullivan declared her birthday, February 16, as Marie Miller Day.

Opera legend **Regina Resnik (BA '42)** received an honorary doctorate from Boston's New England Conservatory at its 136th Commencement Exercises at Jordan Hall in May. Currently, her concert series *Regina Resnik Presents*, with its recent performances in New York and San Francisco, can be seen on CUNY-TV.

A biography of longtime equal rights advocate **Ann Julianio Jawin (BA '43)** has been included in the book *Feminists Who Changed America 1963-1975*. A member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame, Jawin is the recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Award and the Ralph Bunche Award for Human Rights.

Two-time Emmy-winning actress **Ruby Dee (BA '44)** was honored at the 23rd annual Westchester Women's Hall of Fame Luncheon, held in March at the Rye Town Hilton. Dee was recognized for her contributions to the community and her advocacy for human, civil, and women's rights around the world.

Mary Ellen Rochon (BA '47) was recently named to the board of directors of New Concepts, a community non-profit organization committed to people with disabilities and their families. In 1958, Rochon—a pioneer in educational television—co-hosted the Eastern Educational Television Network's *Fun at One*, an early childhood program.

1950s

Philip Litman (BA '50) is a former audit manager for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Mildred Dresselhaus (HCHS '48, BA '51), the first female tenured professor in the engineering department at MIT, received L'Oreal-UNESCO's 2007 Women in Science Award in February. The award, which comes with a \$100,000 grant, acknowledges Dresselhaus's dedication to understanding the fundamental physical elements of carbon fibers and nanostructures, and honors her for overcoming obstacles to women in the field of science.

Prints and paintings by Pennsylvania artist **Barbara Zietchick (BA '56)** were featured in an exhibit entitled "Contrasts" at the Barone Photography Studio in March. Zietchick is a member of the Printmaking Council of New Jersey and the Doylestown Art League.

Vera F. Chapman (BA '59) has joined the Short Hills office of Burgdorff ERA/Gail Lowenstein, a New Jersey residential real estate firm, as a sales associate. She has been a licensed New Jersey real estate sales associate for 12 years.

1960s

SUNY Geneseo recently hosted a retrospective of **Michael Teres' (BA '62)** photography. His work is featured in 14 major collections, including the Houston Museum of Modern Art, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the International Museum of Photography and Film at the George Eastman House, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Eileen Armour (BA '66) is a retired teacher with 26 years of combined teaching experience at Pasodale Elementary School and Loya Primary School in El Paso, Texas. She and her husband

Rick have volunteered as docents at the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center for the past three years.

Richard G. Fromewick (BA '66) is chair of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein PC's certiorari and condemnation practice in Garden City, N.Y., and has been with the firm since 1981. Fromewick previously served as the deputy county attorney in the land division and deputy bureau chief in the Tax Certiorari Bureau of the Nassau County Attorney's Office.

A new book by **Mike Epstein (BA '67)**, *Oblivious in Washington Heights*, traces the author's life in his New York community during the 1950s and 1960s. Epstein, who has worked for numerous companies in the financial, pension, and consulting areas, is also the author of *The 401(k) Guide: How to Start and Run a 401(k) Plan*.

Marilyn JS Goodman (BFA '67) wrote *Arteeducarte: Arte ecuatoriano para niños*, which was published in November 2006. Filled with language arts and drawing activities, the book highlights 25 outstanding examples of Ecuadorian art from ancient civilizations to contemporary artists. Five thousand copies of the book will be distributed free to underserved teachers and elementary school students throughout Ecuador.

Dianne S. Moore (BSN '68) is executive dean of nursing at West Coast University in Southern California. She was recently elected president of the California Association of Colleges of Nursing and appointed to the Board of Directors of Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center.

Emmy Award-winning actress **Rhea Perlman (BA '68)**, of *Cheers* fame, debuted as Bertha in Matthew Warchus' production of Mark Camoletti's comedy *Boeing-Boeing* at the Comedy Theater in London on June 25.

1970s

Artist and author **Stephen Yaeger (MA '70)** participated in a panel on children's literature at the first literary festival at the Rockaways in southern Queens in April.

Jeff Albies (MS '72) retired in June 2007 after 33 years as the head baseball coach and associate athletic director at William Patterson University. Albies coached two national championship teams and is eighth all time in Division III victories. He earned his BA in physical education from Long Island University.

Artist **Solomon Kadoche (BFA '74)** won the prestigious Newington Award for Best of Show from the American Artists Professional League of New York for his portrait, "Mike." Retired from a successful career in commercial art, Kadoche currently creates paintings reminiscent of mid-19th century realism.

Attorney **Harold S. Steinberg (MUP '74)** has been named first vice president-senior attorney at Valley National Bank. He has a BA in political science from Yeshiva University and a JD from Brooklyn Law School.

Kwando M. Kinshasa (BA '75, MA '76) is a chairperson of the African American Studies Dept. at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He was recently profiled in "We Honor Outstanding African-Americans," an article in *Education Update*.

Tanya Drake (MSN '76), a professor of nursing at Rockland Community College, received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence from SUNY Chancellor John J. Ryan. She currently teaches courses in fundamentals of nursing, calculations in pharmacology, physical assessment, and education. Drake holds a BSN from Long Island University.

Realtor **Larry Glaister (MA '76)** works for Fazzone and Harrison Realty. For years, he taught interpersonal communications at several

colleges and universities, including Brooklyn College and Pace University. Additionally, he worked at an international marketing firm in Manhattan.

"Shadow Echo", **Nadine Gordon-Taylor's (BA '76)** series of watercolors, is currently on display at the Katonah Museum of Art. Taylor received her MFA in painting from Long Island University.

Master programmer **Richard Licata (BA '76)** is executive vice president of corporate communications at Showtime Networks, Inc. He has worked as a reporter at the *New York Daily News*, a public relations practitioner at HBO, and a senior vice president of publicity and public relations for Fox Broadcasting Company. Cushman & Wakefield, the world's largest privately held real estate services firm, announced that **Clifford J. Mortara (BA '77)** has been promoted to director of the firm's Client Solutions Group. Mortara joined the company in 1998 as a property manager.

Abbe Raven (MA '77) received, on behalf of The History Channel, the 2007 Preserve America Presidential Award in the Rose Garden at the White House. The award, presented by First Lady Laura Bush, was in honor of the establishment of the Save Our History grant program for preservation and promotion of the historic heritage of America.

1980s

Amy Churgin (MA '81) has been named senior vice president of Condé Nast Media Group, and is responsible for overseeing corporate sales. She has served as vice president and publisher of *Gourmet* and *Architectural Digest*, group publisher at Primedia, associate publisher at *Seventeen*, and advertising director at *Elle* and *European Travel and Life*.

Abstract painter **Jill Moser (MFA '81)** recently held a joint exhibit with her mother Joy, an adjunct associate professor of art education, in the Gallery of Graphic Arts in Manhattan. Moser graduated from Brown University, taught at Princeton for six years, and was on the faculty of the School of Visual Arts in New York City and State University in New York. Her paintings and drawings are represented in the permanent collections of the MoMA and the Met, and in other museums around the country.

Edward Barbier (BA '82) has been appointed assistant vice president and officer in charge of the Long Island City branch of the State Bank of Long Island.

Patricia Lamanna (MSW '83) was recently honored for 15 years of service at Dutchess Community College/SUNY where she currently serves as field laboratory supervisor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences.

Sculptor **Maria Lupo (MFA '84)** presented a mixed media drawing from her "Porca Miseria" series in an exhibit at the College of NJ for the 2007 National Drawing exhibition. A creative arts therapies coordinator at the Atlantic Integrative Medicine Division, Lupo is a member of the NJ Art Therapy Association Executive Board.

After a 22 - year career working at the New York City Administration for Children's Services, **Zeinab Chahine (BA '85)** has been appointed executive deputy commissioner of Child Welfare Programs. She was profiled in *The Daily News*' "Big Town, Big Dreams: Stories About Immigrant New Yorkers Who Make This Town The Great Place It Is."

J. Phillip Thompson (MUP '86) is a political scientist and associate professor of urban planning at MIT. He received a BA in sociology from Harvard in 1977 and a PhD in political science from the CUNY Graduate Center in 1990.

Joseph S. Verde (MA '86) is the director of food and beverage for the Heldrich restaurant in New Brunswick. A graduate of the French Culinary Institute of New York City, Verde previously served as the assistant director of food and beverage for the New York Hilton.

In 2006, elementary school teacher **Michelle Bodden (MSE '87)** published the children's book, *Obara and the Gatekeeper*, which won honorable mention at the 13th Annual Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards.

Platanos and Collard Greens and *From Auction Block to Hip Hop*, two plays by **David Lamb (BA '87)**, have been critically acclaimed in the New York City theater market. Lamb, a native of Queens, is a graduate of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and New York University School of Law.

Angela de Lourdes Ortiz (BA '88) is the managing director at Besen Capital, LLC, a division of Besen and Associates, an investment realty company.

Bassist **Calvin Hill (MS '89)** is a studio musician who has taught music and special education in public and private schools in New York and New Jersey, and in colleges throughout the U.S., Europe, and Japan. His band, "The Calvin Hill Trio," recently performed a jazz concert at the Englewood Public Library.

1990s

Curator, writer, fine artist, and educator **Frank Martin (MA '90)** has long served as a contributing critic in the fine arts for the *Charleston Post and Courier*, one of the oldest newspapers in the South. His artwork was recently displayed in the Gallery at Black Creek Arts Center in South Carolina as part of a show entitled, "A Collection of Contemporary Black Artists."

Kelvin Alexander (BA '92) is the deputy chief of staff to New York State Senator Eric Adams, and a former NYPD sergeant. An active member of his Staten Island community, Alexander belongs to Community Board 1, the Staten Island NAACP, and the West Brighton Civic Association.

Michael Parness (BA '94) has sold the world rights to his new book, *Rule Your Freakin' Retirement*, to St. Martin Press. The book will be for sale in stores in early 2008.

Jann O'Toole (MA '94) is a volunteer with Trident Literary Association at the Sherman House in South Carolina. She teaches English to Russian-speaking immigrants from the former Soviet Union, and acquaints them with American customs and traditions.

Michael Figueroa (BA '95) is a member of the Science Department at Monsignor Scanlan High School in the Bronx and an adjunct lecturer at Queensborough Community College and Dominican College. He graduated from Brooklyn

College in 1998 with an MS in exercise science and rehabilitation, and recently received his PhD in applied physiology from the Teachers College of Columbia University.

Lisa Solomon (BA '95) was recently hired as a second grade teacher at the Nantucket New School.

Ezra Shales (MFA '96) received a grant from The Craft Research Fund to support research on John Cotton Dana's pioneering work and exhibitions on the machine esthetic. Shales is currently an assistant professor of art history and theory at Alfred University

Newsday foreign correspondent **Mohamad Bazzi (BA '97)** has been awarded the Council on Foreign Relations' 2007 Edward R. Murrow fellowship. Bazzi, who began his *Newsday* career as a summer intern in 1996, plans to join the journalism faculty at New York University at the end of his fellowship.

Rabbi Rigoberto Emanuel Viñas (MSW '98), who leads the Lincoln Park Jewish Center in Yonkers, spoke at a Holocaust remembrance event at Lehman College in April. He assumed leadership at his synagogue in 2003, and congregation membership, which was on the wane, has grown steadily since then.

Eric Arlin (MS '99), assistant principal of Birch Elementary School in Nassau County, will be promoted to principal next year. Arlin has worked as a special-education teacher and a district-wide staff development coach.

Ryan Humphrey (MFA '99) recently competed on *Top Design*, a Bravo reality show. His work, which often addresses the sensibility of pop-culture space, time, and place, has been included in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the country.

2000s

Legally blind since the age of three, **Ahn-Tai Tran (BA '00)** is an award-winning musician, composer, and classical guitarist. Drawing on a repertoire that covers five centuries, he often performs in concert halls and libraries. A native of Ho Chi Minh City, Tran was profiled in *The Daily News*' "Big Town, Big Dreams: Stories About Immigrant New Yorkers Who Make This Town The Great Place It Is."

Formerly the manager of online presentations for *The New York Times*, **Mike Nizza (BA '01)** has been named reporter and overall manager of *The Times*' general news blog, "The Lede." Nizza joined *The Times* in 2000 after working for the Council on Foreign Relations.

Barry Jacobs (BA '01) has joined the Dallas office of the law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP as an associate in the firm's Banking & Finance Group. Before joining Weil Gotshal, he worked for Thacher Proffitt & Wood, LLP, as an associate in the New York office. Jacobs earned a JD from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2004.

Timothy J. Barber (MA '03) has been appointed a member of the W.L. Gilbert Corporation's board of directors. Barber is the assistant principal at Jumokey Academy Charter School in Hartford.

Stacy Shubitz (MSED '04) teaches fifth grade students at P.S. 171 in East Harlem. She and fellow teacher Christina Rodriguez guided a group of their female students in writing *Deal With It! Powerful Words From Smart, Young Women*, published in 2007.

John Byrnes (BA '05), an Iraq veteran, is the Student Veterans Coordinator at New York City College of Technology. He assists former soldiers with everything from getting credits transferred to dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Laura Fayer's (MFA '05) contemporary, abstract works debuted in Denver at the Rule Gallery in May 2007. She is a graduate of Harvard University.

Peter Allen Hoffmann (MFA '05) had a solo show in Chicago exhibiting a series of his painted landscapes. Running from June 8 to August 4, his exhibition, entitled "Given," was at the Thomas Robertello Gallery. His work has been featured in various group exhibitions in New York, Berlin, Chicago, and Philadelphia.

Jonathan Yee (MA '06) is a Latin teacher at Brooklyn Latin School, a new high school that gives gifted students an education in the classics. Yee was featured in a May 2007 article in *New York Teacher*, entitled "Vivat longe Schola Latina Brooklynensis!"

A collection of **Stephen Canino's (MFA '06)** paintings were on exhibit from March 24 to April 22 in the Artists' Loft, a gallery in Highland, NY. The artist presented strongly composed landscape-based abstractions inspired by the surroundings of New York City and the Hudson Valley.



Alumni Association Events

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

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

October 14: Meeting
Location: TBA Time: TBA
Contact: Rona Wilson 518-465-7763

GREATER NEW HAVEN CHAPTER

September 29: Fall Luncheon with guest speaker Manny Strumpf, an expert on the Statue of Liberty
Location: TBA Time: 12pm
Contact: Beth Schaefer: 203-796-4236

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

October 16: Meeting; more information TBA
January 15, 2008: Afternoon book review
Location: East Meadow Time: TBA
Contact: Helen Gittleman 516-705-6277; Rhona Goldman 516-599-2719 or rhonagoldman@gmail.com

NATIONAL CHAPTER

September 15: Luncheon with guest speaker Hunter graduate Sara Massey of Massey Media, who will talk about the effective use of media.
Contact: Sylvia McCollum 301-951-0613

NORTH BROWARD CHAPTER/FLORIDA

December 3: Meeting with guest speaker Kristin Jacobs, Broward County Commissioner
Location: North Broward/BCC Library, Coconut Creek Time: 1pm
January 28, 2008: Book discussion led by Helen Kulick Lanzner Wool ('43); book TBA, call in September for title
Location: North Broward/BCC Library, Coconut Creek Time: 1pm
Contact: Naomi Weintraub Lubarsky 954-971-4596 or Edythe Werner Rishin 954-978-9824

PALM BEACH COUNTY CHAPTER

Date TBA: Backstage tour of Kravis Center Time: TBA
November 15: Brunch and a Book
Location: Coral Lakes Café Time: 11am
January 22, 2008: Brunch and a Book
Location: Coral Lakes Café Time: 11am
Contact: Ellen Rice Brotman ERBrotman@aol.com (Please put Hunter in email subject line)

ROCKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

September 25: Fall Luncheon
Location: TBA Time: TBA
Contact: Evelyn Cohen 845-735-3380 or Len1927@hotmail.com

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

September 30: Tour of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the San Diego National History Museum, followed by a museum rooftop lunch
October: Fall luncheon
Contact: Rhoda Leopold 858-613-9022 or rho4realstate@aol.com

STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER

October 27: Education Grant Luncheon
Location: Waterfalls Restaurant Time: 12pm
Contact: Dolores Celentano 718-981-4916

WISTARIANS CHAPTER

October 20: Regular meeting
Location: Hunter College Time: TBA
Contact: Grace Smallwood 212-222-4048

In Memoriam



Janet Sainer
1919-2007

Janet Sainer '38

Hunter College mourns the loss of Janet Salpeter Sainer ('38), a pioneer in the field of aging who died on June 4 at 88. Her work helped improve the quality of life for millions of elderly New Yorkers. From 1978–1990 she was commissioner of New York City's Department for the Aging, where she oversaw a wide range of services including senior centers, nutrition programs, home care, and information and referral programs and developed such innovations as intergenerational programs, the department's health promotion unit, and an Alzheimer's unit. Before being named commissioner, she directed programs for the aging at the Community Service Society, where she developed the demonstration program that led to the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, which now operates in hundreds of communities nationwide.

A dedicated Hunter alumna, she was a key member of the Grandparent Caregiver Advisory Committee of the Sadin Institute on Law, Public Policy, and Aging of Hunter's Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging & Longevity. She received the Alumni Association's Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement in 1988 and the Sadin Institute's Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Hunter Remembers...

Ruth Arthur Licata, 1931
Charlotte Sagoff, 1933
Ruth Green Sorkin, 1933
Blanche R. Goldberger, 1934
Ethel Friedman, 1938
Anna Barber, 1939
Serena Winer, 1939

Blanche Seltz, 1939
Otile H. McManus, 1939
Jean A. Smith, 1940
Marian Schomer Greene, 1943
Gladys Green, 1945
Rosemarie Calabrese Kacivisti, 1945
Claire Thomsen, 1947

Eleanor Gerns, 1951
Eric Roman, 1958
Rita Drake McMahon, 1965
Kenneth Bolt, 1971
Richard (Jeni) John Colangelo, 1979
Diana Glass, 1990
Ronald Eaton Mochle, 1995

Evelyn Kossak Gives \$1M to Hunter for Art



Evelyn Kranes Kossak ('42), one of Hunter's most generous alumni, has made a \$1million gift to the College's Department of Art.

In honor of her extraordinary donation, the Hunter College Painting Program is being renamed the Evelyn Kranes Kossak Painting Program.

The gift will be used by the Department of Art to attract and retain outstanding faculty members; renovate work spaces; support student artists; develop advanced art programs; purchase new supplies; and update and maintain art equipment.

"I was an art major myself," says Kossak, who is the president and CEO of Jolen, Inc., the manufacturer of Jolen Crème Bleach, a women's beauty product used to bleach facial hair. "I donated this money so that somebody else will be fortunate to be able to go to school at Hunter. Giving back to the institution that helped me is an appropriate way to repay that."

"I think it's wonderful to be able to help young people go to college and get an education and go out into the world and do the same for others as well. By going to school and working hard, you can do that."

It is the latest in a series of major gifts to Hunter by Kossak, whose contributions now total more than \$2 million.

"This generous gift will enable the College to further strengthen one of its highly regarded departments and continue to attract top art students and faculty," said Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab. "We are so grateful to Evelyn for giving so much back to her alma mater."

Kossak and her late husband, John, founded Jolen, Inc., together in 1964. They also financed the Kossak Foundation, which supports the arts and medical research through gifts to a number of other places in addition to Hunter.

Kossak is a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees and was named to the Hunter College Hall of Fame in 1997 to honor her success as a businesswoman.

She says that she has kept her love for painting over the years since graduating from Hunter in 1942 as an art major.

"I have not been painting myself," Kossak says. "But I use my art education for advertising purposes in my business. I also purchase paintings and I have a collection of art."

She says she worked, did some student teaching and raised her children after graduating from Hunter. Then she and her husband started a mail order business that grew into what Jolen, Inc., is today.

In 2005, she gave \$544,000 to establish the Evelyn Kranes Kossak Endowed Professorship in Art History. The Kossak Chair is currently held by Professor Bill Agee.

She also made a \$350,000 gift to create the Evelyn K. Kossak Lecture Hall, a state-of the-art multi-media classroom. In addition, she contributed more than \$200,000 for enhancements of the lecture hall and to establish an endowment for its upkeep.

Her son, Steven, has been associate curator in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Department of Asian Art. Her other son, Jeffrey, is an entrepreneur in real estate development as well as other ventures such as hydroelectric power, domestic oil, gas production and international forestry. He is president of National Renewable Sources.

Both are officers of the John & Evelyn Kossak Foundation.

Pissarro at Hunter

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One of the books about his great grandfather by Joachim Pissarro.

Pissarro talked enthusiastically about the significance of the Bershad gift. "The creation of this new position will enable the College to take the galleries to new levels of prominence and excellence," he said.

Pissarro — who has taught at Yale, the University of Sydney and the University of Texas at Austin — also wanted to make it clear that he's no stranger to Hunter, where he taught as a visiting professor from 2002 to 2004.

"I was very, very happy at Hunter," Pissarro said. "I even say that in front of my Yale friends. I could hardly tell the difference between the two schools. People here were so smart, so eager to study and so dedicated. I missed that experience after I left Hunter."

Pissarro has some exciting ideas for what he'll do as director of Hunter's two art galleries — the Bertha & Karl Leubsdorf exhibition space at E. 68th Street and the considerably larger MFA Building on W. 41st Street.

"The teaching will merge into the art galleries," he says excitedly. "The benefit for the students is they will not just be students, they're also going to be turned into curators — helping with catalogues and the exhibitions."

Pissarro completed his undergraduate studies in France in philosophy, received his master's degree in art history from the Courtauld Institute in London in 1982 and his PhD in art history from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001.

"Joachim Pissarro will be an inspiration to today's students," said Dr. Bershad, who — along with her husband — is one of Hunter's most generous benefactors. "Years ago Hunter College helped me to achieve my dream of attending medical school. Our gift is to say thank you to this great institution."



Emily Braun Named CUNY Distinguished Professor

Emily Braun of Hunter's Art History Department has been named a CUNY Distinguished Professor. This honor is for her outstanding achievements in art scholarship and criticism — as well as for her extensive, highly acclaimed work as a curator.

Dr. Braun is the leading North American expert on Italian modernism and an internationally recognized authority on the fine arts of the Fascist period. Other areas of research include late 19th and early 20th century European painting; modern American art; women's studies; Jewish cultural history; and contemporary painting and sculpture.

Braun is also a prominent figure in the museum world for her innovative cultural history exhibitions. She most recently co-organized the groundbreaking *The Power of Conversation: Jewish Women and their Salons* for the Jewish Museum of New York. And her book about the exhibit won a National Jewish Book Award in 2005.

Agnes Gund, president emerita of the Museum of Modern Art and chairman of the Mayor's Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission of the City of New York, said of Braun: "Emily's breadth and depth of knowledge and expertise are truly amazing...I cannot think of any person more qualified than Emily to receive the honor and position of Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York."

Braun is also curator for Leonard Lauder, chairman of the board of Estée Lauder, Inc. and a major supporter of the arts.

Among her honors and awards, Braun has been the recipient of a Senior Research Grant from the Getty Foundation; the Hunter College Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship; and the Mel and Lois Tukman Fellowship of the New York Public Library's Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. As a contributing author, she twice received the annual Henry Allen Moe Prize from the New York State Historical Association for best art catalogue.

Braun joined the Hunter faculty in 1992. She was appointed to the doctoral faculty at the Graduate Center in 2003.



MFA student Selena Roy Kimball (front) describes her thesis project, "Looking at People Looking," to President Raab who is flanked by Hunter alumnae and benefactors Ruth Newman '54 (left) and Harriet Gruber '51 (right).

Student Art on Display

Emerging Hunter College student artists had the opportunity to present their work to the public at the 2007 MFA Thesis Exhibition, held from May 16 to June 16 at the Hunter College/Times Square Gallery.

The exhibition, which is required for completion of the MFA degree, featured art by 21 MFA candidates who worked in a wide range of media, including photography, painting, drawing, and sculpture.

Hunter's MFA program is one of the foremost art programs in the nation. It offers students an opportunity to work and study in an artistically rich city, guided by a faculty of prominent artists and art historians. Competition for acceptance into the program is steep. Out of a recent pool of nearly 700 applications, only some 40 students were selected. A total of 150 students are enrolled at any one time.