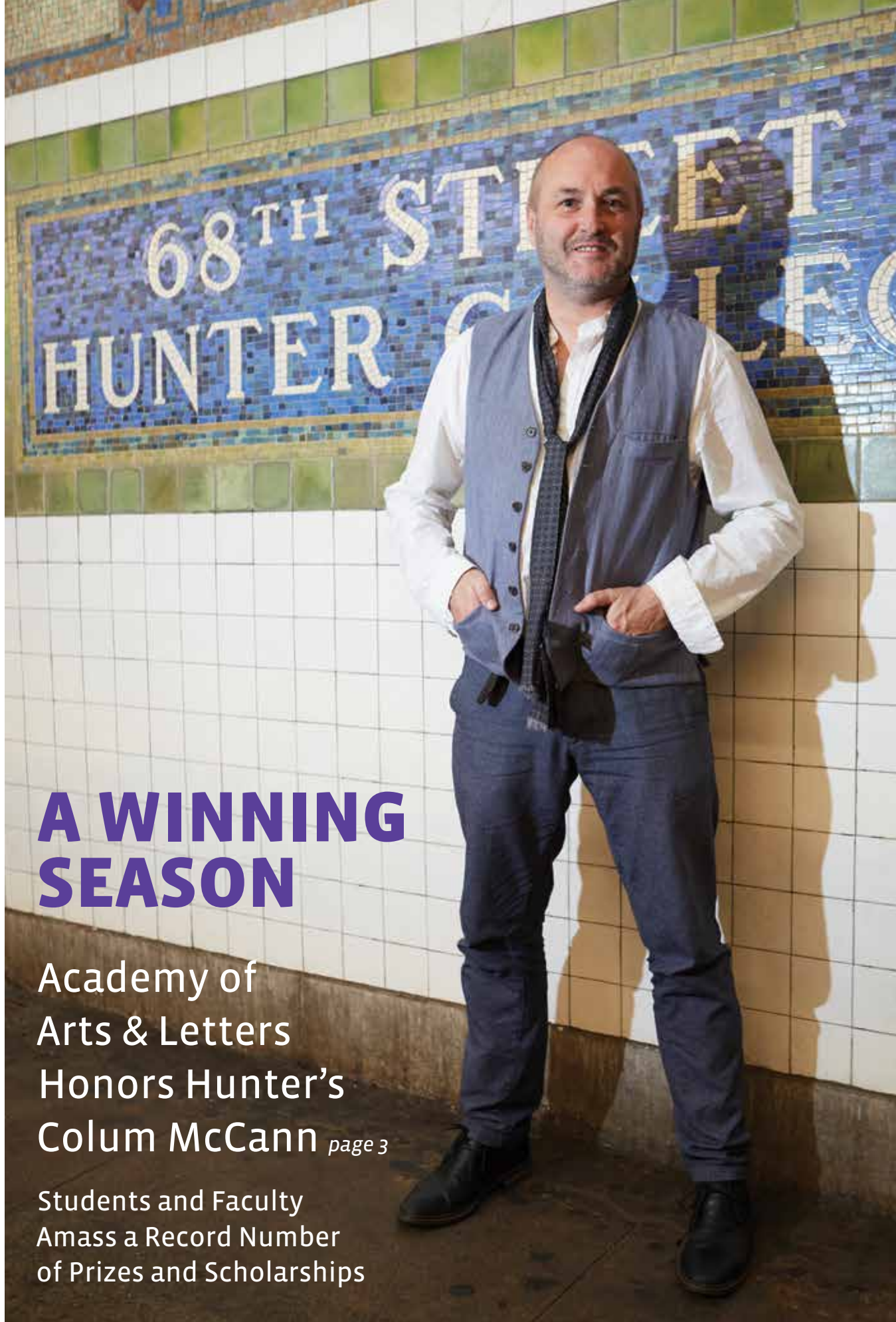


FALL
2017

ART HUNTER



A WINNING SEASON

Academy of
Arts & Letters
Honors Hunter's
Colum McCann *page 3*

Students and Faculty
Amass a Record Number
of Prizes and Scholarships

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Photo: John Abbott



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

At Hunter College, I'm proud to say, the American Dream is alive and well as we propel our students, many of them immigrants or the children of immigrants, up the economic ladder. This long and honored history received national recognition when *The New York Times* published the results of a comprehensive survey of American colleges that enable students to better their lives financially. I'm proud to say that Hunter placed high on that list.

Hunter's performance, in fact, so impressed *Times* Nobel-winning columnist Paul Krugman that he took to Twitter to make note of it and sing our praises (see below).

Princeton Review has designated Hunter "one of the nation's best colleges for students seeking a superb education with great career preparation," and listed us among the 200 schools in the nation that "give you the best bang for your tuition buck."

This praise comes as no surprise. Hunter has always taken students from working-class and immigrant families—often the first in their families to attend college—and provided them with a first-class education at a price they can afford. That education opens the door to great careers, major roles in public life, and long-term economic security.

You have only to look at the careers of this year's inductees into the Hunter Hall of Fame (page 20) to see how a Hunter education can lead to a highly successful life. Sylvia Weinstock '51, for example, was a teacher until a master cook noticed her talents as a pastry chef. She went on to start Sylvia Weinstock Cakes, filling special orders for an international clientele. I'm happy Sylvia could join us for Hunter's Summer Party. (See photo on page 13.)

Mitchell Silver, MUP '93, has risen to one of the most sought-after jobs in urban planning: commissioner of the New York City Parks Department, presiding over a vast array of parks, playgrounds, beaches and wilderness areas.

Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey '93 is an assistant dean at one of the nation's premier medical schools, Weill Cornell Medical College, where she plays a major role in increasing the diversity of the student body, thereby making one more invaluable Hunter contribution to fighting for social mobility.

CUNY trustee Sandra Wilkin '79 has proved yet again that there's no stopping a Hunter woman. She's CEO of Bradford Construction, one of New York's leading woman-owned businesses, in a field where women were long thought to have no business. I was so pleased she was with us at Commencement to address our grads. (See photo on page 10.)

Carmelle Bellefleur '82, MS '84, went on to earn a PhD in nursing, to teach and to write—and to help bring desperately needed health care to Haiti.

Award-winning author Phil Klay, MFA '11, is only 34, but he's already packed in a lifetime of accomplishment. (Read our story on page 3.)

There are innumerable personal stories like these in the Hunter history book. And there will continue to be such stories—we will never turn away from our mission of opening doors of opportunity. It is an achievement in which the entire Hunter community can—and should—take pride.

I want to encourage you to stay up-to-date on all the programs, events and developments that keep Hunter on the cutting edge of American higher education. You can follow us on our Twitter feeds (including @Hunter_College and @HunterPresident), Instagram accounts (@HunterCollege and @HunterPresident), Hunter's Facebook and Flickrpage, and the Hunter website (<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu>). And please contact me at president@hunter.cuny.edu with any questions or comments you may have.

Wonderful things are happening at Hunter, and I want you to know about them.

Jennifer J. Raab



@HunterPresident



instagram.com/hunterpresident



Paul Krugman @paulkrugman · Feb 6
Chart for Hunter is quite amazing: student body close to overall income distribution, success rates almost the same across quintiles 1/



Paul Krugman @paulkrugman · Feb 6
Replying to @paulkrugman
In other words, Hunter looks like the "equal chance at the starting line" of our ideal imagination. Unfortunately, overall US ed doesn't 2/

PRIZES FOR PROFESSORS

COLUM McCANN

Honored by the Academy of Arts & Letters, He Has a New Book for Young Writers

Colum McCann, Distinguished Visiting Professor of Creative Writing, calls his May 2017 election to the American Academy of Arts and Letters "one of the greatest honors a writer in this country can get." It's especially significant for this Dublin-born novelist and short-story master, because he's also a member of Aosdána, the Academy's equivalent in Ireland. "To be a person of both countries and be acknowledged in both countries," he says, "is the best possible honor."

McCann's induction into the Academy follows closely the publication of *Letters to a Young Writer: Some Practical and Philosophical Advice*, his latest book and, for once, not a work of fiction. *Letters* is exactly what it sounds like: The established author of six novels (including the best-selling *Transatlantic* and *Let the Great World Spin*) and three short-story collections offers the benefit of his experience to young writers like those in Hunter's MFA in

Creative Writing Program. "It's like retroactively giving my advice to my younger self," explains McCann, who has taught at Hunter for eight years. One example: "Put your faith in language—character will follow, and plot, too, will eventually emerge." McCann points out that the word "young" in "young writer" isn't always a matter of chronological age: "As I say in the book, a young writer can be like Frank McCourt," who was 66 when his best-selling *Angela's Ashes* was published.

Excited as he is by his induction into the Academy and the publication of his new book, what gets McCann really going is talking about the MFA program and the students in it. "This is one of the best writing programs in the country," he says, "and one of the most difficult to get into—more difficult than most other programs, Ivy League or whatever."

Naming recent graduates, he notes, "We've had Phil Klay, a National Book Award winner, who

also just won a Guggenheim (see story below); Kaitlyn Greenidge, who won a Whiting Award; and students who've won Lannan Foundation Awards.

"One of the program's signature elements," he adds, "is the Hertog Fellowship, funded by Susan and Roger Hertog, whereby every student gets to work as a research assistant for a well-known writer—people like Salman Rushdie, Toni Morrison, Jennifer Egan, Gary Shteyngart, Marlon James."

Finally, he reflects, it all comes down to the support the students get from their peers. "We have a really strong community. Our graduates look after one another; they start to find agents for each other; they start to find publishers for one another. They blurb each other's books." He's also seen that as a result of all this, "there's a great sense of loyalty to the College."

It's a loyalty shared as much by faculty as by students and alumni.



Photo: Dustin Aksland

The list of dedications at the beginning of McCann's *Letters* starts with a familiar name: Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab. "I think she's done tremendous things for literature," he says.

The admiration is mutual. News of McCann's election to the Academy brought this response from President Raab: "He's a great writer. There's no honor more deserved."



PHIL KLAY

A Call From Hunter's Hall of Fame and a Guggenheim Fellowship

Colum McCann, one of Phil Klay's teachers and mentors at Hunter, says this: "Phil Klay is a writer of our times. I can't wait to see what he does next."

Klay, MFA '11, has just been

awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship. This makes him one of two members of the Hunter community to receive a Guggenheim this year (see Nancy Foner story on page 4). A Marine Corps veteran of the war in Iraq, he's the author of

the much praised short-story collection *Redeployment*, which won the 2014 National Book Award for Fiction.

And, as of April 2017, Klay is a member of the Hunter College Hall of Fame.

PRIZES FOR PROFESSORS

NARI WARD

Wins the Vilcek Prize and Launches a Major Exhibition

Nari Ward '89, acclaimed sculptor and Hunter professor of studio art, has been awarded the 2017 Vilcek Prize. The \$100,000 prize honors immigrants who have made lasting contributions to American society through their work in the arts and sciences. Ward, who was 12 when his family came to the U.S. from Jamaica, is in excellent company: Previous Vilcek honorees include Yo Yo Ma and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Ward's latest and largest installation, *G.O.A.T., again*, opened last April at Socrates Sculpture Park on the Long Island City waterfront—the first time the five-acre Queens green space was turned over to one artist. The installation's six new sculptures address Ward's abiding themes of immigration, race and belonging.

Ward caught the attention of the

New York art world in 1993 with *Amazing Grace*, a haunting installation in a former firehouse in Harlem. To construct the work, he painstakingly scavenged 365 abandoned baby strollers. Then he arranged them into the shape of a ship's hull and dimmed the lights while Mahalia Jackson's soaring recording of the gospel standard played in a loop. The sadness and loss of the empty baby carriages stood in poignant counterpoint to Jackson's vocal paean to faith. Roberta Smith, writing in *The New York Times*, called the piece "both euphoric and elegiac, celebratory and grim."

Ward's works, all composed of found objects, have been exhibited at the Barnes in Philadelphia, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, and the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis. *Sun Splashed*,



a much praised survey of his work, originated at the Pérez Art Museum Miami and is on a nationwide tour that recently included Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art.

Ward has been the recipient of many distinguished honors, including a Joyce Award, a Rome Prize, and awards from the Guggenheim Foundation and the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

"Teaching at Hunter College," he

says, "has been very special because of the amazing instructors and my foundational experience as a student here. My Hunter teachers inspired and challenged me in ways that I could never have anticipated. Now, as an immigrant and artist of color, I see teaching as a privilege—and a form of social activism. The opportunity to have such an impactful role in the life of a student is extraordinary."

NANCY FONER

A Guggenheim, a Berlin Prize and a Book About Immigration

From *Ellis Island to JFK: New York's Two Great Waves of Immigration*. The two new prizes will allow her to devote time to her next book, *Immigration and the Transformation of America*. The Guggenheim provides monetary support, and the Berlin is a residential fellowship that will enable her to spend three and a half months at the American Academy in Berlin.

The new book will reflect a change of focus for Foner. "A vast amount has been written on immigration in the last 50 years; I'm one of the

people who has written it," she says. "Most of this literature is about how immigration has affected the lives of immigrants and their children. But there has been very little about how the immigrants themselves have been changing our society and culture. My new book will focus on that."

"In the U.S. now, 13 percent of the population is foreign-born. And if you also count the U.S.-born children of immigrants, we're talking about a quarter of the population, about 80 million

people. It's had a very big effect—food, the culture, the music, the new religions."

For an expert on immigration, there's nothing like living in New York—and teaching in a college like Hunter. "This is the immigrant city," she says. "And it's wonderful to teach at Hunter because I can learn about immigration from my students. They're wonderfully open about their experiences and the experiences of their parents. It fits right in with my writing and my academic life."

SUZANNE FARRIN

Playing a Rare Instrument, Rome Prize Winner Brings Music to Rikers

Last winter, Suzanne Farrin, Hunter's Frayda B. Lindemann Professor of Music, did a short stretch on Rikers Island.

The distinguished musician/composer, who has just been awarded the Frederic A. Juilliard/Walter Damrosch Rome Prize for her composition *The Hour of the Star*, was in the infamous East River jail as part of the cast of the Amazon series *Mozart in the Jungle*.

For the third season's premiere, the show's fictional New York Symphony Orchestra visited Rikers for a performance of works by French composer Olivier Messiaen. Farrin was there to play the ondes martenot.

Invented in 1928, the ondes is an electronic musical instrument that produces eerie wavering notes.

Farrin describes it as sounding "as if you crossed a cello, the human voice, and a radio signal." Only a handful of people play the ondes.

Ten years ago, Farrin heard a recording of "Louange à l'Éternité de Jésus," a segment of the work she would perform at Rikers. Messiaen composed it in a World War II POW camp, scoring it for six ondes martenots. "Not long after hearing that recording," Farrin says, "I woke up my husband to tell him that I was going to become an ondist."

So the producers knew whom to call. "To go into that prison was to see a humanitarian disaster," says Farrin. "It's very powerful to play this piece in a prison, confronted with exactly the topic of the piece. It was the most intense performance



situation I've ever been in."

Finished with her brief stint with the fictional New York Symphony, Farrin has been making strides with Hunter's music program, which includes the real-life Hunter Symphony. "Hunter has historically had a very strong academic program in music," Farrin says, "and now we hope to continue to nurture that strength as we develop into a center for musical performance and

composition." Along with an uptick in graduate enrollment since she joined Hunter, she has noticed, she says, "a blossoming of student composers in the past four semesters."

Plans for the future include a June 2018 project called *Pocket Operas*, in which Hunter students compose 20-minute operas for Hunter singers and a guest ensemble.

—Angel Eduardo

BRANDEN JACOBS-JENKINS

A Playwright's Genius Is Recognized With a MacArthur Fellowship

Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, wrote Ben Brantley in his *New York Times* review of *An Octoroon*, Jacobs-Jenkins's Obie-winning 2015 play, is "one of this country's most original and illuminating writers about race."

The MacArthur Fellows Program obviously agrees. Jacobs-Jenkins, a co-associate director (with Annie Baker) of the Rita & Burton Goldberg MFA in Playwriting at Hunter College, was named a 2016 MacArthur Fellow. He joins a distinguished list that includes *Hamilton's* Lin-Manuel Miranda, a

graduate of Hunter College High School, who won in 2015.

Popularly known as "Genius Awards," MacArthur Fellowships are awarded every year to writers, visual artists, scientists and other innovators. Recipients get \$625,000 with no strings attached.

In its citation, the MacArthur Fellows Program said, "Jacobs-Jenkins's subversive, fearless, and risky approach is challenging audiences to reconsider the integrated spaces we share and to reflect on opportunities for sympathetic connection."



The "Genius" award came as a shock to Jacobs-Jenkins, who soon had to turn off his phone to escape the flood of congratulatory text messages—but he is striving to maintain a sense of normalcy.

Planning syllabi and returning to the classroom help, and he is particularly proud to be part of the Hunter community: "I'm always inspired by my students and what they bring into class."

THE YEAR OF THE LIBRARY



“I am the son of a plumber, the first generation American born.” As Leon Cooperman '64 spoke movingly about Hunter and the opportunities it afforded him, his eyes welled up. “Now,” he continued, “we feel privileged to give back.”

What Cooperman and his wife, Toby Cooperman '64, gave back was an astonishingly generous \$25 million to fund the Leon and Toby Cooperman Library. The occasion of his emotion-filled remarks was the ribbon cutting last spring for the sixth and seventh floors, a major part of that ambitious undertaking.

It was, in fact, a season of ribbon cuttings for several resource-filled spaces, made possible by \$17 million in funds raised by the Hunter College Foundation and \$2.4 million from the New York City Council. The

new spaces include the seventh-floor Klara and Larry Silverstein Student Success Center (which includes the rededicated Mary P. Dolciani Math Center, the Skirball Science Center, and the Rockowitz Writing Center), the sixth-floor Bobbie and Lew Frankfort Education Library, and the sixth-floor Hannelore S. and Robert Bloch Commons. There's also a new space on the sixth floor for the Dorothy Kryger Center for the Hunter Macaulay Program, and on the seventh for the Elizabeth Hemmerdinger Screening Center.

For Hunter students, the new spaces mean the future has arrived: Studying and tutoring will now take place in areas designed for the 21st century. As Toby Cooperman put it: “We lived the American Dream, and we're very fortunate to be able to help the next generation wanting to do well in the world.”



▲ Leon and Toby Cooperman, who met in French class as students at Hunter, at the May 3 ribbon cutting: “If you can't support Hunter, which gave you a world-class education for \$25 a semester, and gave you a terrific wife,” he said, “who can you support?”



▲ At the opening of the Klara and Larry Silverstein Student Success Center, Klara Silverstein '54, MA '56, said: “I remember the libraries of my youth as silent spaces. If you so much as whispered, you were told to be quiet. Today, students come to the library for more than books; they come for guidance, for cutting-edge technology and for inspiration. We are so proud to be able to contribute to this exciting new endeavor.”



▲ The opening of the Bobbie and Lew Frankfort Education Library drew the Frankforts (center), Bobbie Frankfort's mother, Elaine Rosenberg '42, and a large group of their children and grandchildren.



▲ The Elizabeth Hemmerdinger Screening Center came about as a surprise gift from Dale Hemmerdinger (left), a member of the library renovation foundation, to honor his wife, Hunter College Foundation trustee Elizabeth Hemmerdinger (with their children Kate and Damon at the ribbon cutting).



▲ At the rededication of the Mary P. Dolciani Mathematics Learning Center, Mary Dolciani's stepdaughter and Dolciani Halloran Foundation CEO Denise Halloran (center), trustee Michael Matthew Thomas (3rd left), and former trustee Gene Callahan (far right) were joined by Hunter math education students Jumi Uddin and Michael Arguiles, and President Raab.

AN AWARD-WINNING SEASON

NEW MARSHALL IN TOWN

This year, for the first time in Hunter's history, one of our alumni—Faiza Masood '17—will travel to the United Kingdom as a Marshall Scholar. The scholarship, one of the most coveted and selective academic awards, was created in 1953 as a living memorial to U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, architect of the Marshall Plan.

The child of immigrants from Pakistan and a student in the Thomas Hunter Honors Program, Masood will study for her master's in Islamic law (with an emphasis on gender studies and family law) at the University of London. Her goal beyond that is to earn a PhD and teach in a public institution.

Masood is just one of a small army of Hunter students and alumni who

received prestigious scholarships and awards in the last year.

"Faiza won because she was well-prepared and is a very quick study," says Stephen Lassonde, director of Hunter's Ruth and Harold Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships. "She absorbed all of our coaching and obviously impressed the Marshall selection committee."

When Lassonde first met Masood, just returned from a summer of intensive Arabic instruction in Morocco, he says, she was unaware of the Marshall Scholarship. Lassonde, however, felt she would be a strong candidate . . . in another year: "I told her that everyone else applying for the Marshall had been working on their applications all summer and that the internal deadline was four



Photo: Craig Runtle

▲ Faiza Masood '17

days away. I advised her to wait.

"Instead, she said she would get the application in on time for 2017—

and she did," says Lassonde. "When I tell other students about her, I always say, 'Don't try this at home.'"

FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Once again, Hunter maintained a record-breaking pace, producing seven Fulbright Award winners this year, of whom four, pictured below, chose to accept the award:



Jane Breakell, MFA '14, will spend a year in Nova Scotia researching a novel that she describes as a chronicle of "Northeastern North America's unique spiritual and cultural heritage."



Norine Chan '17 will spend a year in Taiwan teaching English in a public school. A student at Hunter's Macaulay Honors College, she wants to pursue a career in both emergency medicine and public health.



Robert Roth, MA '16, graduated from Wesleyan University, went into the New York City Teaching Fellows Program, and earned an MA at Hunter's School of Education. He'll spend his Fulbright year at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá.



John Wetmore '17 will spend a year teaching English to students in Spain after taking a two-month summer course at Harvard in epidemiology and statistics. A graduate of Hunter's Macaulay Honors College, Wetmore plans a career in public health.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Hunter alumni scooped up six National Science Foundation Fellowships in 2017. The winners, pictured below, will use their fellowships to fund graduate school and research.



Dina Buitrago '17 always loved science but didn't know it could be a career. She discovered lab research via a special fellowship at Hunter. Now she will pursue a PhD in pharmacogenomics at the University of California, San Francisco.



Munazza Alam '16 is at Harvard pursuing a PhD in astrophysics. The McNulty Scholar is exploring the atmospheres of planets that orbit distant stars.



Hila Tzipora Chase '15, who was with Hunter's Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) program, is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Montana.



Hala Haddad '17, a Thomas Hunter Honors Program student, is in the PhD program in neuroscience at Brown University.



Thomas Hart '15, a bioinformatics graduate of Hunter's Macaulay Honors College, is doing doctoral work at Rockefeller University.



Lashawn Peña '15 is at Stanford pursuing a PhD in immunology. He is looking for the ways cancer cells can be reprogrammed into immune cells.

BOREN SCHOLARSHIP



▲ (l-r) Yelena Suponya, Omar Albert, David O'Connor, Jacob Kessler

Four Chinese Flagship Program students won Boren Scholarships, grants to study less commonly taught languages in areas critical to U.S. interests:

Jacob Kessler '17, a Hunter Macaulay Honors College student, will study Mandarin at Beijing Union University.

Yelena Suponya '17 will study at China's Nanjing University, while completing an internship.

David O'Connor '17 will do course work at Nanjing University, as well as completing an internship.

Omar Albert '17

After his parents died, Chinese and economics major Omar Albert put himself through school by selling backyard play sets. The first in his family to graduate from college, he won both a Boren award and a Gilman Scholarship. He will study at Nanjing University in China.

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Two Chinese Flagship students, **Omar Albert** and **Kelly Liang**, won the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship for the fall semester in China.

NYC URBAN FELLOWS

The program introduces top graduates to public service. Two grads, **Matthew Locastro '17** and **Thomas Hutton '17**, both in Hunter's Macaulay Honors College, were awarded fellowships.

Locastro, who had a double major in political science and economics along with a certificate in public policy, was president of the Undergraduate Student Government and spent the summer volunteering in a refugee camp in Greece. Hutton majored in environmental studies and political science, and earned a Public Policy Certificate.

A LAW SCHOOL TRIFECTA



▲ Callum Sproule

No list of Hunter achievers would be complete without a mention of **Callum Sproule '17**, whose remarkable journey continues. A former steamfitter from a family with no tradition of higher education, Sproule, 28, was accepted by the law schools of Yale, Harvard, and Stanford. He chose Yale.

COMMENCEMENT MOMENTS

SPRING 2017



▲ Graduation speaker Alphonso David, chief counsel to Gov. Cuomo



▲ Trustee Sandra Wilkin '79 brought greetings from the CUNY board

It was New York City at its best and its proudest. To the cheers of family visiting from five continents, Hunter's graduating students (minus one; see story opposite page), representing 150 countries, received their diplomas at Radio City Musical Hall. The new graduates, many of them immigrants or the children of immigrants, heard keynote speaker Alphonso David, chief counsel to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo,

tell his story of surviving terror in his native Liberia and discrimination in the United States. And they heard him exhort them: "Be unabashedly you. . . Be proud of who you are." It was a sentiment echoed by valedictorian Daniela Mikhaylov (one of the all-female quintet of valedictorians; see below). "Have faith in yourself," she said. "As Hunter Hawks, we are destined to fly high!"



◀ Five perfect 4.0s, five valedictorians (left to right): Victoria Lau, Qin Lin, Daniela Mikhaylov, Clarissa Torres, and Rina Schiller

Victoria Lau plans to devote her life to writing poems and novels. But she also wants to share her passion for writing with young people and will soon return to Hunter to pursue a teaching degree.

Qin Lin was 5 when she came to the U.S. from China, knowing no English. She excelled at school, interned in the psych unit of Lenox Hill

Hospital, and learned German as her third language. The first of her family to graduate from college, she's off to become a U.S. Navy field dentist.

Daniela Mikhaylov learned Russian from her Uzbek immigrant parents, mastered English in grade school, and became fluent in Spanish to serve as a translator in medical offices. She majored in music and biology

and conducted cancer research while studying abroad. Accepted by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center, she plans to become an oncologist.

Clarissa Torres, a child of Mexican immigrants and the first college graduate in her family, plans to use her psychology major in the world of business.

Rina Schiller's first computer science class at Hunter—where she was one of three women in a class of 25—ignited an interest that led to internships at AOL and Princeton Sci Tech. Featured in a *New York Post* article about barrier-breaking young techies, Schiller is joining JPMorgan Chase as a technology analyst and plans to earn an MBA.



ONE OUTSTANDING GRAD SALUTES ANOTHER

Chika Onyejiukwa applauds fellow Grove Scholar Darline Bertil, who followed an arduous, heroic path to her Hunter psychology degree. In 2010, Bertil was buried for days under the rubble of Haiti's earthquake and had to have both hands amputated. After coming to New York for prosthetics and the therapy to master day-to-day activities, she won a scholarship to Hunter. Bertil graduated with a 3.3 GPA and plans to return to Haiti to work with children with disabilities.

Onyejiukwa, a community health major and the third of five children born to Nigerian immigrants, was president of Hunter's undergraduate student body and went on to represent the 500,000 CUNY students on the CUNY Board of Trustees. There, she has been an advocate for more public funding for CUNY and for student opportunities. She did this while maintaining a 3.78 GPA.



BACK ON TRACK

Graduation Derailed by a Stalled Train, Jerich Alcantara Got His Diploma Anyway

Jerich Alcantara '17 got his graduation after all—his own private graduation. Nine days after he missed Hunter Commencement in Radio City Music Hall because he was stuck on a stalled E train, Alcantara, a nursing student from Queens, walked across the stage at The Kaye Playhouse to receive his diploma from President Raab and Grabe Dean of Nursing Gail McCain. In the front row, a small group of friends and relatives cheered him on.

Alcantara also received a \$500 continuing education scholarship to help him prepare for his nursing exams.

His subway saga began when his E train stopped suddenly between stations in Queens. For more than an hour and a half, Alcantara, wearing his cap and gown and eager to get to Radio City for graduation, waited . . . and waited. His fellow straphangers threw him an impromptu party that another commuter videotaped. The video quickly went viral on social media and local TV news.

For his second graduation—the one where he actually took possession of his diploma—Alcantara, 22, didn't have to rely on public transportation. He showed up in style, and on time, thanks to President Raab.

"Today—not that we don't have confidence in public transportation—we sent a car for Jerich to get to this graduation ceremony," President Raab said.

On August 18, Alcantara started his new job at New York-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center. The word is, he made it to work on time.

HAPPENINGS at HUNTER



▲ Having a ball at Hunter's Summer Party (left to right): Dr. Ruth Westheimer; President Raab; Hunter College Foundation trustee Klara Silverstein '54, MA '56; and Patti Kenner, president of Campus Coach Lines.



▲ At a Distinguished Writers Series reading: Author Rachel Kushner (right) and Shelly Lazarus, former CEO of advertising giant Ogilvy & Mather.



▲ Judith Zabar '54 is flanked by Helen and Jim Neuberger at a tour of Professor Nari Ward's exhibition in Socrates Park, Long Island City.



▲ Actress/philanthropist/Hunter master's candidate Isabella Rossellini at the Leubsdorf Gallery opening of *Fowl Play*, an exhibition of Patrice Casanova's photographs of Rossellini's flock of Heritage chickens.



▲ The subject was "How Did Clinton Lose? How Do Women Win?" at the March 13 Clinton Symposium at Roosevelt House. Speakers included (left to right): Hunter Distinguished Lecturer Karen Hunter; feminist icon Gloria Steinem; NOW New York president Sonia Ossorio; NY Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul; author/activist Tiffany Dufu; and Christine Quinn, president and CEO of Women in Need.



▲ At Hunter College Elementary School Commencement on June 22, political consultant/author Douglas Schoen, HCES '64, accepts the 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award from sixth-grader Harris Cohen.



▲ Among those at the April 6 launch party for Colum McCann's *Letters to a Young Writer*: the author's wife, Allison Hawke, and actor Gabriel Byrne.



▲ Hunter held a reception at Roosevelt House to honor N.Y. Secretary of State Rossana Rosado (right). Among the attendees: one of her predecessors, CUNY trustee Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez '75.



▲ New Hunter Hall of Famer Sylvia Weinstock '51 (left) enjoying the Summer Party with author/businesswoman/philanthropist Tina Santi Flaherty.

HUNTER'S VETERANS

HOME FROM THE WARS After Serving Their Country, Hunter's Vets Embark On the Next Campaign



▲ Ronald Del Rosario

After seeing *Top Gun*, the '80s hit movie about dashing fighter pilots, **Ronald Del Rosario** thought the U.S. Navy could make him into Tom Cruise.

He enlisted—and quickly realized that real life in the military isn't like the movies. For one thing, tour after tour in Iraq and Afghanistan kept him away from crucial milestones in the life of his daughter, Nicky, now 16.

Back in civilian life at 43, he says, he felt rudderless. Then, one day, visiting a friend in the hospital, he rediscovered the camaraderie he thought he'd lost—among the nurses. "I loved them, and they loved me," he tells *At Hunter*. "One of them said, 'Hey, you'd make a good nurse,' and I thought, 'I probably would.'"

Del Rosario applied to Hunter's highly selective School of Nursing, drawn by its excellent reputation and Hunter's listing as a Top School in *Military Advanced Education & Transition*, which helps vets make educational choices. Hunter also made the Best Colleges for Veterans



▲ Gilberto Soriano

category in the just-released 2018 *U.S. News* rankings, the only CUNY school to do so.

Del Rosario is slated to graduate in 2019 with a bachelor's in nursing.

Gilberto Soriano served in the Marine Corps Reserves in Iraq and Kuwait. After his discharge, he bounced around from job to job. "I just felt really isolated," he says. "Something was missing." Then he discovered a love of art—"something I wanted to go to school for"—and enrolled at Hunter to pursue his BFA. Now, Soriano says, "Since I came to



▲ Megan Lyon

Hunter, everything has changed."

Megan Lyon, who joined the U.S. Air Force when she was 17, wanted to spend her life in the military. After four deployments, however, she was forced into medical retirement at 27 and struggled with PTSD and the loss of community.

But back in her native New York City and enrolled in the archaeology program at Hunter, Lyon started to see a new future. "I'll always be military," she says, "but I'm getting to the point where I really enjoy civilian life."

For the veterans population at Hunter—an estimated 250 men and women ranging in age from their 20s to their 40s—college represents an opportunity to reintegrate into nonmilitary groups and routines.

"Veterans go back to school knowing that they've worked for it," says Army vet Jonathan Fermin-Robbins, president of the Hunter Student Veterans Association.

Once accepted to Hunter, a veteran gets a call from a student veteran adviser, letting him or her know that there's an ally waiting. That's followed by a one-on-one meeting to help the veteran with class schedules, financial arrangements, and advice on how to receive various benefits. Two social work interns with the Project for Return and Opportunity Veterans Education (PROVE) are also ready to help.

Lyon has been grateful to find the other vets at Hunter—people who speak her language. "It's like I'm coming from a small foreign country," she says. "It's nice to have somebody who understands me."

— Anna O'Donoghue

A HAVEN FOR VETERANS

Project for Return and Opportunity Veterans Education (PROVE) is entering its tenth year of helping vets transition to life in college.

Directed by Leora Shudofsky, MSW '90, and Army vet Professor Roger Sherwood, PROVE trains social workers to help Hunter's growing veteran population. Says Shudofsky, "One of the best parts of the work is watching veterans draw from their own experience to help one another so newer veterans have a smoother transition."

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Michael Middleton Reflects on His First Year as Education Dean



"I'm very happy here at Hunter," says Michael Middleton.

A year after he was named the Klara and Larry Silverstein Dean of the School of Education, Middleton doesn't even try to play it cool. He's delighted to be in New York City, delighted to be at Hunter—and delighted to tell you so.

"I love that Hunter is a

place where we take students from New York City, educate them, and return them to New York City," he says. "Ten percent of the teachers in the city are Hunter-educated, which is a phenomenal statistic."

Boston reared and Harvard educated, Middleton received his doctorate at the University of Michigan. He taught for 15 years at the University of New Hampshire, and came to Hunter after serving as the dean of UMass Boston's College of Education—all, he points out, strong public institutions.

Middleton started out in the Boston public school system and knows well what it takes to train the next generation. And he likes what he sees at Hunter.

Among the resources that impress him: the brand-new Frankfort Education Library, with its tech-enriched classrooms and video carrels where students can view examples of best educational practices and recordings of themselves teaching.

Then there's the School of Ed's work in clinical practice. Becoming a teacher, counselor or administrator requires extensive field work. "Our faculty, staff and partners are deeply dedicated to providing high-quality clinical practice experiences," says Middleton.

He's also impressed by the quality and dedication of the students and faculty. "Our students reflect the diversity and strength of New York City," he says. "And the high quality of our students is matched by the world-class faculty."

As for the future, keeping up with the ever-shifting technological culture is crucial. As Middleton puts it, "Curriculum and facilities need to be continually updated to reflect the ways in which technology permeates our culture, our thinking and the ways we learn."

Along with the ever-changing technology, there's the ever-changing population of New York City. "Racial, cultural and linguistic diversity are at the heart of the city and serve as its strength," says Middleton. "I would like us to focus on further diversifying the education profession to reflect the city we serve."

IMMERSED IN THE IMMIGRANT CITY

Teaching English as a New Language, Two School of Ed Graduates Walk the Walk—and Talk the Talk



At 40, forsaking a career in architecture and design, Greg Kilpatrick joined the New York City Teaching Fellows program, one of the country's largest alternative routes to teacher certification. For Kilpatrick, MEd '14, it meant going into a classroom "on Day 1" while studying at Hunter's School of Education.

Bonnie Unger, MEd '17, took a different route. After graduating from Clark University in Massachusetts, she worked for seven years at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City. Among her duties: coordinating the high school internship program. That stint triggered an ambition to teach, and she, too, enrolled in the School of Education.

Their paths crossed last year when Unger arrived at M.S. 256 (now Lafayette Academy) on West 93rd Street to fulfill her student-teaching requirement. The certified teacher assigned to guide and mentor her: Greg Kilpatrick. It's not surprising that two Hunter-trained teachers would encounter each other; School of Education grads make up about

10 percent of all New York City public school teachers.

Kilpatrick and Unger both specialize in ENL, teaching English as a new language; Kilpatrick's middle school is unique in New York City for its French-English dual-language curriculum tailored to immigrants from all over the Francophone world. When the two co-taught a science class, says Unger, "Greg made me feel welcome, like part of the team."

Both speak gratefully of the training at the School of Education. An initial teaching-methods class, says Unger, "made me realize very quickly that I was doing the right thing." And Kilpatrick says that throughout his course work, "I enjoyed the quality of education at Hunter."

When her semester of working with Kilpatrick came to an end, Unger quickly found a placement, at Newcomers High School in Long Island City, where her students speak a wide range of the world's languages.

She's prepared—and confident that, like her mentor, she'll be successful.

That's because, in Greg Kilpatrick's words, "We went to Hunter. We speak the same language."

DANCE ON! After 50 Years, Parades and Changes Returns to Hunter

The Summer of Love was just weeks away when Anna Halprin's *Parades and Changes* made its New York debut in the spring of '67 at Hunter. That didn't stop the city's moral guardians from being offended by the nude dancers on stage, and Halprin was issued a police summons for indecent exposure.

Fast forward 50 years to The Kaye Playhouse on May 31, 2017. Under the title *Radical Bodies*, "The Paper Dance" part of *Parades and Changes*—which caused such upset half-a-century ago—was back at Hunter in a program that also included Yvonne Rainer's *Chair Pillow*, José Limón's *Dances for Isadora*, and guest artist Simone Forti performing her own *News Animations*. The program was underwritten by Jody and John Arnhold, and Hunter donated The Kaye for the evening. A concurrent exhibition on the history of *Radical Bodies*, on view at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, ran through September 26.

"Nothing is as rebellious as *Parades and Changes*," says Jody Arnhold, founder of the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program. "It is social protest, and it is a masterpiece. I knew that this historic anniversary had to be marked at Hunter. I had to bring the radical body back to the scene of the crime."



▲ "The Paper Dance" at The Kaye Playhouse



▲ Ninotchka Bennahum (left), professor of theatre and dance at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and co-curator of the *Radical Bodies* exhibit, with Hunter College Foundation Board member Jody Arnhold, chair of the Dance Advisory Board.



REALTY SHOW Art Meets Business in a Showcase for Hunter Artists



▲ Hunter Art Advisory Board member Debi Wisch, MFA student Andy Van Dihn, Equity Office Senior VP Simon Wasserberger, and Blackstone Global Head of Real Estate Jonathan Gray.

Surrounding the 40th Street entrance to 5 Bryant Park, a Max Spivak mural from the 1950s celebrates Manhattan's garment workers. Covered up for years, the mural was restored by Blackstone Group, the building's current owner, motivated by an understanding of the importance of art in urban public places.

So when Debi Wisch, a member of Hunter's Art Advisory Board, looked for the perfect venue to showcase the talent of Hunter's art students, she approached Jonathan Gray, Blackstone's global head of real estate.

The result: in the marble lobby, a spectacular exhibition of eight large-scale works by Hunter MFA students Talia Levitt, Leonard Reibstein, Madhini Nirmal and Andy Van Dinh. Says Nirmal: "I'm excited and grateful to have my work exhibited in a space that isn't a typical art space."

Curated by Professor Carrie Moyer—her own work a highlight of the Whitney Biennial two miles downtown—the exhibition kicks off a collaboration between Blackstone and Hunter's nationally ranked MFA Program in Studio Art.

As President Raab put it at the exhibition's opening, "This is a partnership of two gold-standard institutions. And this is a gift that will keep giving every day, as people absorb, appreciate and are changed by this art."

BELLISIMA! The Lally Family Celebrates Hunter's Italian-Language Home

The townhouse at 132 East 65th street has had many identities. It was a gallery space, a spiritual home for members of the Baha'i faith, and an Italian-language school. But for decades it was also the home of Franca and John Lally, two immigrants to the United States, and their five children. On July 6, three generations of Lallys returned to the house to celebrate its



▲ Francesca Lally, with her mother, Fiona (left), grew up in the townhouse.

new identity as Casa Lally and toast its present and future life as part of Hunter College. Some things are unchanged, like the elevator with the Peter Max wallpaper, but much of the building has been transformed. Donated to Hunter by the Caravan Institute in 2010 and renovated extensively over the last several years, this hub of language and learning boasts new classrooms, modern flooring, a refinished staircase, and detail work replicating the original Italianate architectural features. Next-door neighbor Jane Hudis, mother of a Hunter College High School graduate and Hunter master's student, has helped to beautify the exterior with plantings and plaques.

For four decades before the gift to Hunter, the building known as Caravan House was home to Parliamo Italiano, the Italian language and culture school founded by Franca Pironi Lally and John Lally. When Franca died in 2009, it was stipulated that the space be handed over to a deserving institution. Hunter was deemed the perfect inheritor. The College took over Parliamo Italiano in 2010, and since then, more than 1,500 students have gone through the program.

Just down the street from Hunter's other Upper East Side townhouse, Roosevelt House, Casa Lally seemed the ideal home for two other programs: Hunter's LGBT Center and The Artist's Institute, an exhibition space dedicated to the work of one contemporary artist at a time.

"This is a wonderful development for our adult-education program at Hunter," says Director of Continuing Education Lorraine Gallucci. "It's a unique opportunity for people looking to expand their understanding and appreciation of Italian culture."

Four of Franca and John's five children, along with their children and grandchildren, returned for the July event. "This house was the heart and soul of our family," said Fiona Lally, "but we were so happy to hand it over. Hunter is a first-rate college, and one of its great strengths is the study of Romance languages. We knew that Hunter students would benefit enormously from this institution, carrying on its traditions, and creating their own."

— Anna O'Donoghue



▲ Italy's consul general, Francesco Genuardi, at Casa Lally's official opening.



▲ Among the attendees: Jane Hudis, with Joel Berson.



▲ Among the attendees: Writing Center patron Daniel Rose (left) and featured speaker/honoree Tom Wolfe.

GLAM CHOPS

The Writing Center Throws An A-list Dinner Party

“People basically go to our dinner for the great conversation,” says Lewis Frumkes, director of Hunter’s Writing Center, and co-host, with President Raab, of the annual event at Doubles private club in the Sherry-Netherland Hotel.

And what conversation! Among the 150 attendees, most of them friends and supporters of the center, which is part of Hunter’s Continuing Education program: **Gay Talese, Liz Smith, Enid Nemy, Daphne Merkin, Meg Wolitzer**, Nobel-winning scientist **James Watson** (the center’s

Jack Burstyn Memorial Lecturer this fall) and presidential portraitist **Everett Raymond Kinstler**.

The Writing Center presented its Logophile Award, given to distinguished voices in the literary community, to novelist and New Journalism pioneer Tom Wolfe.

Wolfe, who was also the featured speaker, used his time at the microphone to bemoan the rise of social media and the marginalization of print journalism. “When I go out to buy a newspaper,” he lamented, more or less tongue in cheek, “I always go out at night, so no one can see me doing it.”



OPIOID WARS

At Belfer, Collaborating Against a National Threat

Earlier this year, at the Belfer Research Retreat, scientists from Hunter and Weill Cornell Medical College marked the second anniversary of the Belfer Research Building. The scientists gathered to discuss the pioneering work being done at Belfer by Hunter and Weill Cornell professors and students, and to celebrate the great success of this public-private partnership.

Hunter’s purchase of the fourth floor of Weill Cornell’s new \$650 million building on East 69th Street rapidly brought about gainful collaboration between scientists from the two institutions. Today, 11 professors, 16 postdoctoral candidates and 97 students from Hunter work alongside their peers from Weill Cornell.

Throughout the daylong retreat, the researchers shared their latest findings in translational science, a fast-emerging field aimed at advancing research from bench to bedside. One urgent health threat being addressed by scientists from both institutions: the epidemic of drug overdoses, driven by opioid addiction, that accounts for most of the accidental deaths in the United States.

At the Belfer laboratory of Hunter’s Mandë Holford, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry, the hunt is on to find a painkiller that’s as potent as an opioid but isn’t addictive. Holford’s research focuses on venomics, using otherwise lethal sea snail venom to fight pain.

“One such therapy is ziconotide, a peptide found in the venom of predatory marine snails,” says Holford, whose research is the subject of an episode of NPR’s *Science Friday* podcast. “It alleviates pain by blocking certain calcium channels and is not addictive.” However, there is a drawback. So far, ziconotide can be delivered only via spinal tap because it does not cross the blood-brain barrier. “We’re using a Trojan Horse strategy where we hide the peptide inside a nanocontainer and shuttle it across the blood-brain barrier,” Holford says.

Holford collaborates closely with Weill Cornell biochemistry professor Timothy Ryan, whose expertise is neuron function, to identify new peptides that can be used as pain therapy.

That’s exactly the kind of scientific cooperation envisioned when Hunter scientists moved into Belfer.



▲ Professor Mandë Holford: exploring the possibilities of sea snails.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Teaching the Classics Via Tomorrow’s Technology

In a shining new classroom/laboratory in the basement of Hunter’s North Building, Professor Jared Simard is preparing his class in classical mythology. While he’s there, his students will be scattered all over the city, learning and participating on their computers.

Some of the images Simard, of the Department of Classical and Oriental Studies, shows his students were created thousands of years ago, but the technology he uses is ultra-modern. Simard is among the early adopters of Hunter’s online teaching initiative.

At Hunter, where many students juggle jobs, family responsibilities,

and class schedules, online courses offer an option to study when the students can and where they can, to squeeze in an extra course, and to hasten their graduation. “Our online initiative allows our students to fulfill their academic requirements in a timely manner and will help increase our retention rates,” says Assistant Provost Vanya Quinones-Jenab.

The Hunter program is much more demanding than most online courses available on the Internet. “There are multiple deadlines within each unit,” says Simard, who’s now pursuing postdoctoral studies. “The students have to do a



▲ Professor Jared Simard in Hunter’s online teaching center.

journal post first, which is seen only by me. Only after they do that do I release the next lesson.”

One obvious question: How does an instructor know that the student is actually the person taking the test? “There are tools that can do that,” says Simard. “For instance, if the computer has a video camera,

you can see who’s there. And you can’t pass the course without participating in the course. I’m finding that online students are more willing to engage; maybe it’s because they’re behind a screen.”

And it seems to have paid off: Close to 100 percent of Simard’s students finished the course.

FIELD WORK, FAR AFIELD A Hunter Professor Leads the Way to Healing Afghans' Trauma

In 2016, Hunter won a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development to help Afghanistan develop professional counseling programs at Kabul and Herat universities—the flagship schools of its public university system. Leadership of the project fell to Martha Bragin, an associate professor at Hunter's Silberman School of Social Work, chair of the school's Global Social Work and Practice with Immigrants and Refugees, and a veteran in helping people in damaged parts of the world. Professor Bragin had already worked with governments in Vietnam, South Sudan, and Nepal to help

traumatized populations by professionalizing social welfare services, from child protection to community-based counseling. She was thoroughly familiar with the challenges in Afghanistan. In 2010, she worked with the Afghan Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to develop social work as both an academic discipline and a profession. To lay the groundwork for that earlier assignment, Bragin and a Hunter-Afghan team toured the country to study how its many cultures understood social work and social welfare. The goal: to develop a uniquely Afghan version of social work. The project ended successfully



▲ Professor Martha Bragin (fourth from right, in Hunter-purple headscarf) with faculty of Kabul and Herat universities in Mumbai, India.

when Kabul University opened its first social work department in 2014. But much more remains to be done. In Afghanistan, according to public health officials, 80% of the people who seek help at mental health clinics are neither mentally ill nor substance users. They're suffering the effects of 40 years of uninterrupted warfare. To get Hunter's new USAID-funded project underway, the Silberman School arranged for Professor Bragin and faculty from Kabul and Herat universities to travel to Mumbai, India, to study with professors of the School of Human Ecology at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

Their efforts are starting to have an impact. "We've seen so many decades of war and destruction in our country," said Herat University's Basir Ahmed Karimi. "Now, awareness about psychosocial health is on the rise, and so is the demand for services like counseling." For Silberman Acting Dean Mary Cavanaugh, the Afghanistan initiative is just the logical extension of the school's mission. "When families and communities are in need of effective social services, we partner with them to provide support and assistance," she states. "When people are in need 7,000 miles away, we can do no less."

Celebrating Hunter's *Alumni Reunion 2017*

The invitations went out, and the alumni responded, from the classes of the 1930s and 1940s to the "2s and 7s"—'52, '62, '72, and '57, '67 and '77. Hunter's 2017 Class Reunion last April drew more than 200 grads. Old friends reunited, new friends found each other, and a good time was had by all.



▲ You can always tell a Hunter girl—and there's no mistaking a Bronx boy, either. When Hunter first admitted men, it quarantined them on the Bronx campus before eventually allowing them downtown. Among them: Hunter College Foundation Board member Sid Miller '57 (left), one of Hunter's most loyal supporters, whose name adorns the 7th floor student lounge in the West Building. Miller led a contingent of Bronx boys (2nd left to right)—Alan Handell '67, Dr. Jeffrey S. Kahn '67, John Nicolaysen '62, Jack Damman '58 and Marvin Kelemen '57—to get their T-shirts from President Raab.

45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNTER HALL OF FAME



◀ Introducing the Hunter Hall of Fame Class of 2017, (from left): Phil Klay, MFA '11; Elizabeth Wilson-Anstey '93; Carmelle Bellefleur '82, MS '84; Mitchell J. Silver, MUP '93; Sylvia Weinstock '51; Sandra Wilkin '79



▲ Shelley Fain Scherman '42 (left) and Blanche Wiesen-Cook '62 found they had someone famous in common—Eleanor Roosevelt. Wiesen-Cook wrote a three-volume biography of the first lady, and Scherman acted as Mrs. Roosevelt's student escort when she visited Hunter.

Hortense Landau '45, author of *Child Protection: The Role of the Courts*, got her JD from NYU Law School and became the first woman executive director of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. A noted advocate for the rights of children, she was inducted into Hunter's Hall of Fame in 1985. ▶



▲ Alexandra (Sandy) Fendrick '36, who is 101, majored in history, worked in advertising and became ad director of *The Village Voice* in its heyday. "They were lucky to have me," she says, "and I was lucky to have them."

A WINNER AT LAST For Billy Blitzer '76, a Cubs Victory Brought a Long-Awaited World Series Ring

When the Chicago Cubs finally won the World Series last year, Billy Blitzer said, "I yelled, 'We won!' and next thing you know I was hysterical. Crying."

For 35 years, Blitzer has traveled the country scouting talent for the Chicago Cubs—a tenure that includes almost a third of the 108 years, from 1908 to 2016, the team went without a World Series victory. So when they beat the Cleveland Indians in November, he said, "It was the greatest feeling in the world. It really was. All the years of working for the organization . . . it's very emotional."

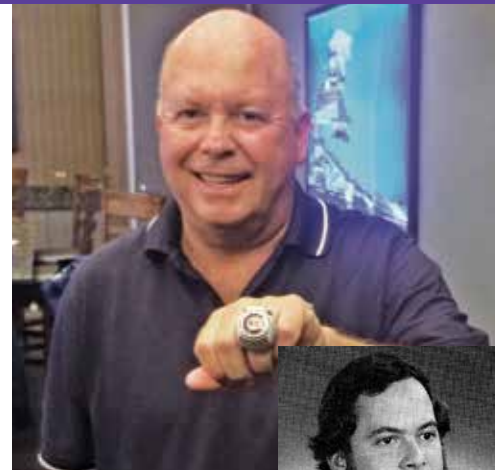
Blitzer is down-to-earth and generous with his reflections. He's also proud to be one of 12 major-league talent scouts recently honored with a card of their own by the Topps baseball card company. "I've never taken my job for granted," he said. "It's a hard job, and finding enduring talent is a longshot. For every hundred players signed, only five will get to the major

leagues. And it's a lot of miles, a lot of games, a lot of hotel rooms, a lot of bad food."

One of Blitzer's discoveries who did make it: pitcher Jamie Moyer, whose 25-year career in the majors included an appearance in the All-Star Game.

A Brooklyn kid, Blitzer had an hour-long subway ride to get to Hunter. "It was a great experience," he says. "I wouldn't trade it for anything." He majored in accounting and played outfield on the baseball team. Hunter's team, he points out, had the rare distinction of having three players who would one day wear World Series rings, although none as players: "Junior Roman with the Giants, Mickey Morabito with the A's and Yankees—he has six—and me."

Knowing he was never going to be a professional ballplayer, Blitzer looked for coaching jobs as a way to stay in the game he loved. "The first year I coached, it was junior high school-age players," he said. "The following year, it was high school-age players." A chance encounter with a major-league



▲ Blitzer sporting his World Series ring, and (right) in his Hunter days.



scout set him on the path to his career and the ring he received from Cubs GM Theo Epstein.

All those years have finally paid off. At the start of the last spring training, he recalled, "I'm walking past the ballpark, the PA announcer is going to name the starting lineups, and as I hear him say, 'And now the lineup for the World Champion Chicago Cubs!' I break into the biggest smile you've ever seen."

—Jonathan Rizzo



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CERTITUDE Centenarian Bea Klier '36 Is a Late-Blooming First Novelist

names of all concerned, and she waited until now to publish to avoid hurting the feelings of the people portrayed.

Foremost among those who inspired Klier's novel are her parents, named Martin and Stella in the book, who married at 15, had two children (Bea was the first), and eventually divorced. Their unlikely love story, starting with a chance encounter in the shop where young Martin worked, drives the narrative. There's also a sinister relative who's involved with bootleggers, and a precocious feminist daughter named Betty whose ambitions soon take her far from her home in Brooklyn.

As did the ambitions of the real-life Bea. "I went to Hunter," she says, "where everything was free. And I lived on a quarter a day." This was the tail end of the Great Depression, she adds.

"What did the 25 cents do? It was a nickel each way for the subway, and 15 cents for lunch. We had a dean who was Catholic and insisted on fish on Friday, when I'd have fishcakes and spaghetti and a cup of coffee, and that was the 15 cents."

Klier (her surname then was Levine) graduated at 19 with a major in geology and a minor in biology. In an era when women were excluded from so many professions, she made herself a career that included spells as a meteorologist for the Army Air Force during World War II and a climatologist for NASA.

Now that *Hidden* (available on Amazon) is out, Klier, a Forest Hills resident for 61 years and an active member of the Hunter alumni community, has no plans to slow down. She's already working on two sequels.

"This all took place in Brooklyn." Bea Klier is talking about the start of her long, event-filled life, taking a listener back to the vanished world in which she grew up and the people who populated it. At 100, she is one of Hunter's oldest living alumni—and one of the most engaged in new pursuits. *Hidden*, her first novel, just came out.

Many first novels tend toward the autobiographical, and so it is with *Hidden*, although the story of Klier's beginnings needs little in the way of novelizing. Still, she says, she changed the

PETER KWONG (1941-2017)

Peter Kwong, Distinguished Professor of Urban Affairs and Planning at Hunter, and Professor of Sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center, died on March 17. He was 75.

Born Chi-Choong Kwong in Taiwan and educated as an engineer (a profession he never practiced), Professor Kwong became a groundbreaking scholar of America's Chinatowns and Chinese immigration as well as a journalist, documentary filmmaker, and author. He was Hunter's first director of Asian American studies. And he invited the Dalai Lama to visit Hunter, which His Holiness did twice.

"Peter was a unique and powerful presence at Hunter," said Joseph P.



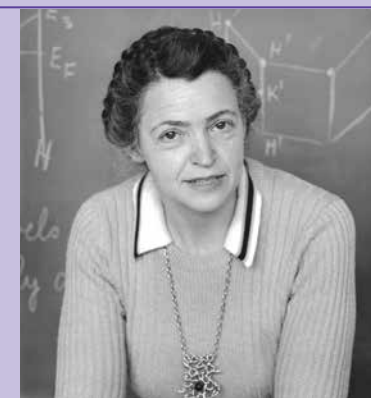
Viteritti, chair of the Department of Urban Policy & Planning. "He had a distinguished career as a scholar, teacher, journalist and filmmaker, and was a passionate advocate for social justice—all of which made him an inspiring influence among students—both inside and outside the classroom. We will miss him dearly."

MILDRED DRESSELHAUS '51 (1930-2017)

Mildred Dresselhaus—professor emerita of physics and electrical engineering at MIT and alumna of Hunter College High School (47) and Hunter College (51)—died on February 20, 2017. She was 86.

"Mildred Dresselhaus will be remembered for her intrepid leadership in the scientific community as well as her role as a champion for women in science," said President Raab. "Her life will continue to be an inspiration for all people who seek to break barriers."

Born to Jewish immigrants from Poland, Dresselhaus grew up in the Bronx. At Hunter, inspired by professor and Nobel laureate Rosalyn Yalow '41, she later reflected, she first "had the idea that women could study physics as well as men could."



After graduating *summa cum laude*, Dresselhaus received a master's from Radcliffe and a PhD from the University of Chicago. In 1968, she was the first woman to become a tenured full professor at MIT, and she was a fierce advocate for women in STEM.

Renowned for her pioneering research on the electronic properties of materials, she had a long career, marked by a host of honors, and in 2014, the woman nicknamed "The Queen of Carbon Science" received the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

JACK ROSENTHAL (1935-2017)

Jack Rosenthal, who became the leader of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at a pivotal moment in its history, died on August 23 at age 82. When he arrived at Roosevelt House in 2014, it had a growing reputation for leadership in addressing public policy and human rights, as well as for its world-class speakers forum. His challenge was to build on that reputation.

Rosenthal—a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, former public official and civil rights advocate—was perfectly suited for the task. Under his leadership, Roosevelt House saw a rapid expansion of its undergraduate programs, faculty research and special-events programming.

President Jennifer J. Raab said, "Jack Rosenthal made an indelible impact on Roosevelt House with his vision, talent and leadership, and we were grateful



that after stepping down in 2015, he continued to serve on the Advisory Board."

Rita Hauser, chair of the Advisory Board, said, "Jack Rosenthal's warmth, wisdom and wonderful sense of humor made it a pleasure to work with him, and his strong, experienced leadership took Roosevelt House to a new level."

Rosenthal won a Pulitzer in 1982 for editorial writing at *The New York Times*; he also served as *The Times* national urban affairs correspondent and editorial page editor. Earlier, in 1968, he authored a national commission's report on race relations that is best remembered for warning that America "is moving toward two societies, separate and unequal."

AGNES VIOLENUS '52 (1931-2016)

Agnes Violenus, who died on July 9, 2016, was a member of Hunter's Hall of Fame and former president of both the Alumni Association and the Wistarians alumni group. She also served as secretary of the Scholarship & Welfare Fund, chair of the Friends of the Library, and co-chair of the Class of 1952 Reunion Committee. She was a former president of the Board of Trustees of the Schomburg Corporation and a lecturer at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

After graduation from Hunter,

Violenus went on to earn her PhD and embark on a career as a New York

City elementary school teacher and assistant principal. She retired in 1991.

Says Helene Goldfarb '51, a lifelong friend, Alpha Omega Pi sorority sister, and fellow Hall of Famer: "No matter the circumstances, Agnes loved the work she did, and she loved Hunter College."





FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER CAROL GOLDBERG

Carol Goldberg '56, chair of Hunter's Art Advisory Board, was a social science major, but she discovered a new passion shortly after graduation, embarking on a lifelong involvement in art. "It was a fabulous time in the New York art world," she says, "and I realized that's where my true bent was. My husband, Arthur, and I began collecting art and continued for 50 years. I was an art adviser for about 30 years, and from 2001 to 2008, we operated an art space for curated exhibitions from our collection."

She renewed her connection to Hunter when Arthur began auditing classes at the College. She, too, began taking classes and attending Hunter events, and in 2009 she joined the board of the Hunter College Foundation. She is a champion of Hunter's art programs, and soon after joining the Foundation, she began helping to build a strong Art Advisory Board.

Among Goldberg's many recent Art Advisory Board projects was helping to arrange the MFA exhibition in the lobby of 5 Bryant Park (see page 17). She also regularly accompanies groups

on visits to museums and galleries where there is a Hunter presence, sharing her enthusiasm and her expertise.

One of Goldberg's special enthusiasms is Hunter's Artist's Institute. "The Institute," she says, "is a unique program where students work around the concept and vision of one well-known artist for a semester, providing a forum for dialogue and aesthetic inspiration. Gallerists and artists are aware of this program; the Institute provides a link between Hunter and the professional art world."

Goldberg is also generous as a donor. Among the Hunter programs funded by the Goldbergs' Foundation To-Life are the Arthur and Carol Kaufman Goldberg Curatorial Workshops, which bring curators of international stature—including such luminaries as Fabrice Stroun, Valerie Cassel Oliver, and Pablo Helguera—to Hunter to work with students in the MA Program in Art History and the MFA Program in Studio Art. Goldberg is especially proud of Hunter's Department of Art and Art History,

observing, "The department has an insistence on excellence for connoisseurship, and a wonderful reputation." The influential *artsy.net* just ranked Hunter among the 15 top art schools in the country, and *U.S. News & World Report* ranks it No. 20 for Fine Arts.

A highly respected player in the New York art scene—Goldberg serves on the Producers Council of the New Museum; is a trustee emerita of Independent Curators International, which trains curators and promotes art through traveling exhibitions; and is a member and former board member of ArtTable, an organization of professional women in the arts.

A longtime supporter of Hillel at Hunter, she's spearheading a drive to raise funds for the College's recently announced Jewish Studies Center.

"I had a wonderful education at Hunter," says Goldberg. "It is even greater today than when I was a student, because of expanded curriculum and the diversity of the student body which has added to the dynamism of the College. It has been very rewarding for me to serve on the Foundation Board."