

SPRING
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Wynton Marsalis

Jazz Legend Delivers Commencement Address

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Photo: John Abbott



THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The arts have always played a large and exciting role in the life of our College, and as this issue of *At Hunter* describes, they are flourishing today through our outstanding undergraduate and MFA programs, exhibitions and performances, and visits to our campus by many of the nation's foremost artists.

The speaker at our 209th commencement, at Radio City Music Hall, was the great Wynton Marsalis, whose renown in the music world is so universal that cities in France and Spain have actually erected statues of him. We presented him with both the President's Medal and a work by one of the stars of our MFA in Studio Art, Sharon Madanes (MFA '14), which celebrates the instrument that has made him so famous, the trumpet (photo at right). It was a delightful example of two art forms coming together on a Hunter stage.

Some of the other well-known guests who have appeared recently on campus were here for Homecomings — they're not only outstanding artists, but also Hunter alums! Among them was the late Bel Kaufman '34, author of the best-selling *Up the Down Staircase*, in one of her last public



appearances. Another was Dascha Polanco '08, star of Netflix's *Orange is the New Black* (photo at left). And yet another was the multitasking Arlene Alda '54, whose new book, *Just Kids from the Bronx*, has received glowing reviews.

Arts Across the Curriculum is one of the most successful of the innovative programs we've introduced into the undergraduate and graduate experience

(page 17). It brings the study of the arts into what seem to be completely unrelated classes like astronomy and chemistry and religion. The goal is to awaken students to connections they never realized before and make them aware of the dazzling possibilities that await them in the arts capital of the nation.

Our MFA in Creative Writing Program continues to win praise and national recognition for the quality of its programs, its prize-winning faculty — and its prize-winning graduates. Just last November, Phil Klay (MFA '11), won the prestigious National Book Award for Fiction for *Redeployment*, his collection of stories about Iraq (pages 4-6).

Speaking of award winners, Hunter undergraduates and alumni continue to capture many of the nation's most coveted prizes. As you'll see on pages 8-9, they are winning Fulbrights, Goldwater Scholarships, National Science Foundation grants and, for the first time in the College's history, one of the only 18 Luce Scholarships awarded nationally.

One measure of a school's greatness is where its graduates go in life and what they achieve. By that standard, it's clear Hunter has emerged as one of the nation's foremost public colleges.

I hope you enjoy reading these wonderful stories about all the changes and achievements at your alma mater. Please keep in touch with all that is happening by visiting our website (www.hunter.cuny.edu). And I hope you'll come back to campus soon for one of our many great programs or events, all of which can be found on our online calendar (www.hunter.cuny.edu/calendar). Thank you for all that you do to make Hunter College the extraordinary institution that it is.

Jennifer J. Laab



@HunterPresident



instagram.com/hunterpresident



Hunter at The White House



▲ President Barack Obama awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to physicist Mildred Dresselhaus (HCHS '47, HC '51).

In the East Room on November 24, Mildred Dresselhaus (HCHS '47, HC '51) received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. Dresselhaus, a professor emerita of physics and electrical engineering at MIT, is one of the world's most eminent research scientists. Her discoveries have significantly deepened the understanding of condensed matter systems and the atomic properties of carbon, leading to major advances in electronics and materials research.

"Her influence is all around us, in the cars we drive, the energy we generate, the electronic devices that power our lives," President Obama said. "When she arrived at MIT in 1960, only 4 percent of students were women. Today almost half are — a new generation walking the path that Millie blazed."



On February 4, Rishi Singh (BA '05, BS '13) (third from right) and five other "Dreamers" met with President Obama in the Oval Office. Named for the not-yet-passed Dream Act of 2011, the Dreamers are educated, highly motivated students and graduates who came to the U.S. as children — and have sought a route to permanent legal status. Singh, who majored in psychology and accounting at Hunter, currently works for DRUM — South Asian Organizing Center, an advocacy group in his home borough of Queens.

Protected by a 2012 executive order signed by Obama that limited deportations, Singh recounted to the assembled White House journalists that he was only 10 when his parents brought him to the U.S. from Trinidad. He only realized he was undocumented when faced with the request for a Social Security number on college applications. He told NBC News that the goal of those who met with the president is to let people "come out of the shadows and live and work in dignity."

Eleanor Clift: Cool at the White House, Tearful at Hunter



Eleanor Clift is a Washington journalist who has parried with presidents in the White House Press Room and tangled with pundits on TV's *The McLaughlin Group*. Clift has also written authoritatively about the Iran-Contra scandal, a polarized Congress, the presidential election process, and the still-unequal role of women in our democracy — all difficult, daunting subjects.

But last spring, when she took the stage at Hunter's 209th Commencement, Clift was overwhelmed by emotion.

"Hunter wanted to confer an honorary doctorate on me, and I needed to find the words to properly convey how honored I felt," she wrote later in *The Daily Beast*, where her columns appear regularly. "Looking out at the sea of students in caps and gowns, I saw the 21st-century version of myself, sons and daughters of immigrants and newcomers to America from every corner of the world."

She continued, "When I stepped to the podium to speak, I thought I had my emotions under control. But telling my family's story brought tears to my eyes, and it took me several seconds before I could continue."

In Clift's moving and funny speech to the Class of 2014, she reflected on her own years as a Hunter student. Although she noted that she had left before earning an undergraduate degree, she said she always took great pride in her association with Hunter.

Now, as her column soon after Commencement so aptly expressed, Clift has "A College Degree Worth the Wait."

Hunter's MFA in Creative Writing: A Program Nurtures a New Generation of Great American Authors

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© Joyce Ravid



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▲ (From top, left to right) Hunter College MFA in Creative Writing faculty: Peter Carey, Tom Sleigh, Colum McCann, Claire Messud, Catherine Barnett, Nicole Krauss, Kathryn Harrison, Alexandra Styron, Saïd Sayrafiezadeh.

“You can’t teach people to be artists,” says Peter Carey, a two-time winner of the Booker Prize. “But you can select talented, ambitious, hardworking people whose gifts you can develop.”

The Australian novelist should know. He is executive director of Hunter’s MFA in Creative Writing Program, which has developed over the last decade into the premier training ground for great American authors.

The number of applicants to

the rigorous two-year program — now ranked the most competitive in New York City — ranges from 600 to 800 each year, with an acceptance rate of a little over two percent. Prospective students apply to one of three genres — poetry, fiction, or memoir — and first- and second-year students work side-by-side in workshop, craft and literature courses, culminating in an intensive thesis project that, for many, becomes the basis for their first book.

Tom Sleigh, the director and senior

poet, who runs the program alongside Carey, speaks to its success. “My colleagues are deeply committed to being serious teachers, and that’s inspiring to me, as it is to their students,” said Sleigh, a frequent contributor to *The New Yorker* and winner of the 2008 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, a major literary prize. Another “huge, huge plus,” he noted, is the program’s intimate size. “With so few students, everyone gets a careful, close reading of their work, and we

get to know our students really well.” Because Hunter is in the nation’s literary capital, that community of teachers and students is fluid and ever-expanding, with an array of distinguished visitors. Faculty members regularly welcome other renowned authors to their classrooms, not only to teach and answer questions about the craft and life of a writer, but also to engage in one-on-one conversation with students.

Documentary filmmaker and fiction writer Sadia Shepard (MFA ’15) noted that Hunter’s faculty is actively engaged in teaching, which stood out as she compared various MFA programs. “There really was no question,” she said. “The idea that writers like Peter Carey, Colum McCann and Claire Messud would be accessible to me was tremendously exciting.”

Amy Jo Burns (MFA ’11) said that when she set out to write a memoir about growing up in the Pennsylvania Rust Belt, she “fell in love” with the MFA program’s methodology — and was excited by both “the opportunity to work for two years straight with Kathryn Harrison and Louise DeSalvo and the knowledge that Hunter brings other wonderful writers to the room.” During her first year alone, she said, those visiting authors included two of her favorites, Jonathan Safran Foer and Nicole Krauss.

When Burns’s memoir, *Cinderland*, was published last fall by Beacon Press, *The Boston Globe* praised its “compelling” depiction of growing up in a dying town — portraying football games, homecoming and summers at the pool as “not quaint but stifling and ominous.”

While Burns was writing about her hometown, Bill Cheng (MFA ’10) set his book *Southern Cross the Dog* in a place he’d never seen. Cheng had always loved the blues, and inspired by the MFA program’s exhilarating environment, wrote an ambitious, deeply meaningful work about an African-American boy growing up in the Mississippi Delta of the 1920s.

A *New York Times* book review marveled at this remarkable debut



▲ Maria Venegas (MFA ’09) began writing *Bulletproof Vest*, her harrowing memoir, while studying at Hunter.

novel “written in the finest Southern Gothic tradition [by] a 29-year-old Chinese-American from Queens who has never set foot in Mississippi.”

Cheng acknowledged that he came to Hunter with no thought of writing a sprawling historical novel filled with the life and language of an unfamiliar region and era. But at Hunter, he said “that was the atmosphere created for us.”

Cheng explained, “Among the students ourselves, there was a shared understanding of what was at stake — the idea that each of us wanted to do something that hadn’t been done before. For two years, you were surrounded by amazing people, and you wanted to bring the best of yourself into that classroom.”



▲ Bill Cheng (MFA ’10) says the challenging, supportive environment at Hunter inspired him to write a sprawling, ambitious novel set in a region and era he had never personally known.



▲ Salman Rushdie with Susan Hertog ’65. In addition to delivering a Distinguished Writers Series lecture, Rushdie served as a mentor to Hertog Fellow Vanessa Manko (MFA ’08).

The Hertogs: Lifting the Creative Writing Program to New Heights

The extraordinary generosity of Susan Hertog ’65 and her husband, Roger, has had a transformative impact on Hunter’s MFA in Creative Writing Program, now considered the most competitive in New York City. Their \$1 million gift has allowed Hunter to recruit and retain world-class faculty and develop unique programs like the Distinguished Writers Series (see page 6).

Their gift also makes possible the Hertog Fellowship, a signature element of the program and one of the major attractions for MFA applicants. The fellowship provides select students with a stipend and the once-in-a-lifetime chance to work as research assistants to some of the best known authors in the world.

The Hertog Fellowship stems from Mrs. Hertog’s conviction that careful research is the foundation of good writing, whether fiction or non-fiction. And, as a graduate of Columbia’s MFA in Creative Writing Program and the author of two critically acclaimed biographies, *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Her Life and Dangerous Ambition*; *Rebecca West and Dorothy Thompson*, Mrs. Hertog is keenly aware of the need for writing students to develop their research skills.

Peter Carey, acclaimed author and director of the MFA in

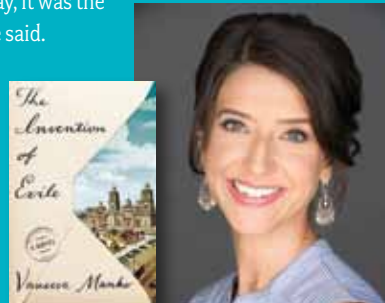
Creative Writing Program, asks literary stars — including Joyce Carol Oates, Jonathan Franzen and Richard Ford, to name a few — to serve as mentors to the students, who in turn work as research assistants on the authors’ latest projects.

Alex Gilvarry (MFA ’09) was paired with Gary Shteyngart to help research Shteyngart’s novel *Super Sad True Love Story*. “His book gets into the question of eternal life,” said Gilvarry, “and it culminates in a thrilling ferry chase on Staten Island, so I researched the science of trying to live forever and drove with Mr. Shteyngart around the northern tip of Staten Island, where he took photographs and noted details.” Gilvarry clearly gained a great deal from the experience: he was named to the National Book Foundation’s “5 Under 35” list for his novel *From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant*. “To this day, it was the best job I ever had,” he said.

Vanessa Manko (MFA ’08) was paired with acclaimed novelist Salman Rushdie as he gathered material for *The Enchantress of Florence*. She researched daily

life in Renaissance Florence, from food to architecture to 15th-century philosophy. “The Hertog Fellowship taught me about writing in ways that no amount of coursework could,” Manko said. She took the lessons to heart when writing *The Invention of Exile*, her novel based on the life of her immigrant grandfather, steeping herself in places and times she’d never known.

From these Hertog Fellows to the acclaimed faculty to the literary icons of the Distinguished Writers Series, the Hertogs’ commitment has been nothing short of transformative.



▲ Vanessa Manko’s own book, *The Invention of Exile*, was released in 2014.

Take the Hertog Challenge:

Susan and Roger Hertog have renewed their commitment to Hunter’s MFA in Creative Writing with a \$500,000 Challenge Grant. Please help us meet the challenge. Every dollar you contribute will be matched by the Hertogs’ generous grant, helping support the next generation of great writers.

Support Hunter’s MFA in Creative Writing Program

Please visit: <https://community.hunter.cuny.edu/creativewriting>

MFA in Creative Writing continued

Phil Klay (MFA '11) Wins National Book Award for Stories Honed at Hunter



▲ In December, Stephen Colbert chose Klay (MFA '11) for *The Colbert Report's* final interview.

When Phil Klay was named a National Book Award finalist in 2014 for *Redeployment*, his collection of stories about the Iraq war, he spoke of the guidance he'd received from the faculty in Hunter's MFA in Creative Writing Program, citing in particular Colum McCann and Peter Carey.

"As a vet, you feel like you can talk about war to civilians — and who are they to criticize you? Well, in the case of Colum and Peter, they're really brilliant writers who know when you're not being truthful," Klay said.

Klay earned his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth, where he was mentored by acclaimed poet — and future Hunter faculty member — Tom Sleigh. When Sleigh learned that Klay was joining the

Marine Corps and heading to Iraq, he urged him to read Hemingway, Tolstoy, Babel and Celine. "He figured if I was going to war, I should be learning from some of the most brilliant minds to ever write about it," Klay recalled.

When Klay returned, he felt compelled to write about his experience and those of his fellow soldiers. And at Hunter, he found a rich, creative environment. Sleigh had already joined

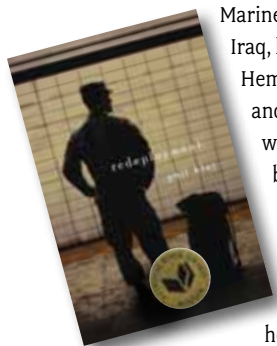
the faculty, and Klay — named a Hertog Fellow — was allowed to develop his research skills alongside the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Richard Ford.

"Hunter's MFA is incredible," Klay said. "One of the critical things for me was the other students. These are the people I still trust to read my work," he added, mentioning fellow graduates and published authors Bill Cheng (*Southern Cross the Dog*) and Christopher Robinson (*War of the Encyclopaedists*).

While at Hunter, Klay wrote and rewrote a powerful story that begins with a pet owner's plainspoken admission that he and his squad purposely killed dogs as well as people in Iraq. The literary magazine *Granta* accepted the story in 2011, the year Klay graduated.

It caught the attention of publishing houses, including Penguin, which published Klay's entire collection, *Redeployment*, in 2014. *The New York Times'* Michiko Kakutani praised the author's "keen awareness of language and storytelling craft," and *The Times* named *Redeployment* one of the 10 Best Books of the Year. In November, it won the National Book Award for Fiction.

After a year of accomplishment and accolades, Klay continues to write full time. And he still returns to Hunter to visit the very classrooms where he grew as a writer. The difference? *Redeployment* is now likely to be assigned reading.



The Distinguished Writers Series: Public Lectures, Personal Attention



▲ (Clockwise from top) Toni Morrison, Colm Toibin, Wallace Shawn, Margaret Atwood

One of the richest components of Hunter's MFA in Creative Writing Program is the Distinguished Writers Series, which brings the world's most influential and well-regarded poets, memoirists and fiction writers to the College.

Funded by a generous gift from Susan '65 and Roger Hertog, the series is a unique opportunity for MFA students to study with literary icons like Toni Morrison, Salman Rushdie, and Wallace Shawn, who visit the MFA classes to discuss their work and creative process and offer advice about finding agents and getting published. Each writer also gives a public lecture, reading from their latest work and engaging in a discussion with the audience.

Having these wonderful authors on campus has led to the creation of the Distinguished Living Writers course for undergraduate students through the Arts Across the Curriculum program (see page 17). The course is centered around the work of the writers on campus that semester and taught by an MFA student. The undergraduates attend the public lectures, and the writers visit their classrooms to talk candidly about their work.

"This course is life-changing for undergraduates, many of whom have never met a writer before, let alone had someone like Margaret Atwood come into their classroom," said Gabriel Kruis MFA '13, who taught the course.

"The great part about the Distinguished Living Writers class is that it creates a classroom experience that can't be duplicated, since it's tailored to the writers that come to school that semester," said Sarah Jackson '17, who as an undergraduate had the opportunity to talk with Colm Toibin, author of *The Testament of Mary*.

Seeking the Best, Mayor Taps 4 from Hunter

Running a city — especially one the size of New York — takes lots of brains, talent and ingenuity. So it was no surprise that when Mayor Bill de Blasio needed to fill key positions, he called upon Hunter graduates Mitchell J. Silver (MUP '93), Cynthia López '89, Donna Corrado (DSW '13) and Tom Finkelpearl (MFA '83). As citizens who live the Hunter motto, *Mihi Cura Futuri* — the care of the future is mine — they answered the call.

The appointment of these alumni as commissioners of Parks & Recreation, Media & Entertainment, Aging and Cultural Affairs is just the latest example of Hunter's commitment to educating public servants focused on strengthening New York City. It is also an example of how Hunter's diverse programs of study provide a pipeline for students and graduates to effect real change in ways as varied as their passions.



▲ Mitchell Silver (MUP '93), Commissioner of Parks & Recreation

Silver, who earned his master's degree in urban planning from Hunter, was tapped to lead the Department of Parks & Recreation. After spending his career advocating for the expansion of parks and open space as a means of achieving sustainable, healthy and livable cities, Silver is bringing that same holistic approach to New York City's parks. A former president of the

American Planning Association, Silver was awarded the 2014 Designers Guild Award for his "innovative urban design and planning" as the chief planning and development officer for Raleigh, N.C.

"Hunter was central to my becoming an innovator, creative thinker and urban planner," said Silver, who recalled in particular the dedicated faculty, engaged student body and stimulating course work.

López, who earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Hunter, was chosen to head the Mayor's Office of Media & Entertainment. Over the course of her career, Lopez has made it a priority to promote the work of filmmakers from traditionally under-represented groups. As commissioner, she is building upon the city's legacy as a film and television hub, while also building a more inclusive entertainment industry and expanding educational and training opportunities.

"So many people whom I admire, who were able to truly change New York City for the better, came out of Hunter," said López. "I wanted the chance to do the same." Reflecting on her time at Hunter, López added, "I've always considered myself the beneficiary of the best public education that New York City has to offer. It was the professors, researchers and mentors at Hunter who worked so tirelessly to help instill in me the fundamental principles of public service."

Corrado, who trained under Hunter's social work faculty, was chosen to lead the Department for the Aging. She worked for Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services for over two decades before being appointed commissioner.

"My graduate studies at the School of Social Work not only broadened my knowledge base of older adults, administration and organizational development, it also established me as a content expert in the aging and disabilities arena," Corrado said. "These lessons inform my work every day in my role as commissioner."



▲ (From left) CUNY board member Wellington Chen and NYC Department for the Aging Commissioner Donna Corrado (DSW '13) at a 2015 Chinese New Year event celebrating the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging with Professor Elizabeth Capezuti, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Chair in Gerontology, and Gail C. McCain, the Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of Hunter's School of Nursing.

Finkelpearl, who received an MFA in studio art from Hunter, was named commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs after serving for 12 years as the president and executive

Just as he has always been an advocate of unhindered access to world-class art, a commitment he demonstrated in his time at the Queens Museum, Finkelpearl says he will always be a



▲ Thomas Finkelpearl (MFA '83), Commissioner of Cultural Affairs

director of the Queens Museum. "I will always be grateful to Hunter for the high-quality education that I received, and also for its low cost," said Finkelpearl at a ceremony honoring the commissioners, where he recalled earning a master's in four years while working a couple of days a week and sharing a loft with friends.



▲ Cynthia López '89, Commissioner of Media & Entertainment

strong proponent of unhindered access to higher education by keeping student costs as low as possible.

As alumni, these leaders are at once an inspiration to students and testimony to the power of a Hunter education. As commissioners, they exemplify Hunter's shared belief in bettering the communities around us.

AN AWARD-WINNING RECORD

From Luce to Fulbright to Goldwater and More, Hunter Students Win the Nation's Top Academic Prizes



▲ Audrey Stienon '14, Hunter's first Luce Scholar, with nourishing brain food for her work at a leading Indonesian think tank.

If the true mark of a great college is the kind of citizens it sends into the world — where they go and what they do — then Hunter is excelling, and in the process is solidifying its status as one of the leading public colleges in the nation. Hunter students in growing numbers each year are winning many of the country's most prestigious scholarships — among them Luce, Fulbright, Goldwater, and National Science Foundation awards.

It is a direct reflection of the College's commitment to student success — a commitment that was recently strengthened with the establishment of the Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships, the mission of which is to raise awareness about selective opportunities and then guide students through the rigorous application process.

This past year, Audrey Stienon '14 became the first student from Hunter, and CUNY, to win a Luce Scholarship. The Luce program — designed to give future leaders of America a greater understanding of Asia — provides its fellows with stipends, intensive language training and professional placement in Asian countries. Stienon, a graduate of Hunter's Macaulay Honors College, is spending her Luce Scholar year working in the economics department of a major Indonesian think tank.

"I chose to come to Indonesia," she said, "because it is facing pretty much every developmental challenge you can think of — a large population spread across thousands of islands, ethnic and religious diversity and tensions, transitioning away from a dictatorship, rampant corruption, a sprawling

bureaucracy, lack of infrastructure, managing resource extraction, dealing with environmental challenges — yet it receives very little attention in the U.S."

While the Luce is the high-water mark for scholarships in Asian affairs, the nation's most prestigious prize for undergraduate scientists is the Barry Goldwater Scholarship, and here, Hunter continues to produce winners.

Kristina Navrazhina '14 won a Goldwater Scholarship in 2013 and is now an MD-PhD student in the Medical Scientists Training Program run jointly by Weill Cornell Medical College, Rockefeller University and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Nicola Kriefall '15 — who is both a Yalow and a McNulty Scholar at Hunter — won the Goldwater scholarship in 2014. An aspiring marine biologist,

Kriefall studies the behavior and neurophysiology of weakly electric fish. And Zach Gershon '16 — who works in a biomedical research laboratory at Hunter — was recently announced as a 2015 Goldwater winner. "My end goal is the development of a screening for genetic markers linked to learning disabilities such as dyslexia and auditory processing disorders," Gershon said.

As a "Top Producer" of Fulbright recipients, Hunter sends new graduates all over the world to teach, research and connect with local communities. Eddie Grinman '14, for example, is working with neuroscience researchers at Kurume University in Japan studying lorcaserin, a drug recently approved by the FDA for the treatment of obesity. One of this year's winners, Bianca Malhotra '15, will be an English teach-

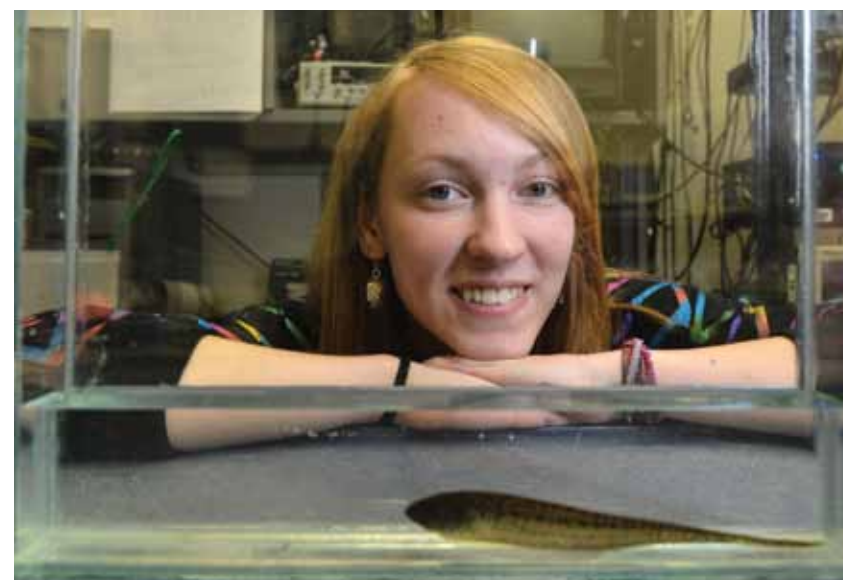


▲ Eddie Grinman '14, a Fulbright recipient, is in Japan conducting neuroscientific research.

ing assistant in Turkey, where she also hopes to start a community theater group. Hugo Genes '15 will be working with anthropologists at the Federal University of Santa Catarina in Brazil, helping the Xavante indigenous community to document and pass down customs

to the younger generation. Then there is Maggie Slavin (MSEd '15), who will spend her Fulbright year in Jordan as an English Teaching Assistant while volunteering in the areas of youth development and refugee empowerment.

In the past three years 12 Hunter



▲ Nicola Kriefall '15, a Goldwater Scholar, in Professor Chris Braun's Hunter Laboratory of Comparative Sensory Performance.

students have received National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships. They include Aaron Dolor '12, who developed a proposal to study the electrical charges of fat cells — research he hopes will increase the effectiveness of HIV and cancer drugs. And it was no



▲ Kristina Navrazhina '14, a Goldwater winner, is now studying cancer biology in a leading MD-PhD program.

surprise that Barukh Rohde '14 — with a triple major in biology-bioinformatics, chemistry and statistics, and a double minor in psychology and economics — won the NSF Fellowship last year. With his NSF grant, Rohde seeks to kill a disease-carrying insect that is ravaging citrus crops. Three other NSF Fellows from Hunter last year were Rebecca DelliCarpini '13, Yasmin Zakiniaiez '13 and Aliona Tsypes '13. Tsypes, who majored in psychology, is at Binghamton University, finding new ways to study the factors that cause suicide, and possibly save lives.

Zakiniaiez is studying the neural networks underlying the healthy and diseased brain at Yale University. And DelliCarpini is studying conservation science at the University of Texas at San Antonio; her primary field site will be at the Ranomafana National Park in Madagascar.

This year's class of NSF winners is just as impressive. Dalila Ordonez '13, who graduated with a major in psychol-

ogy and a minor in biology, is studying neuroscience at Harvard. Benjamin Ruisch '13, who graduated from the Thomas Hunter Honors Program with majors in psychology and German and a minor in media studies, is currently studying social psychology at Cornell. And Alexander Teachey '15 is majoring in physics at Hunter with a minor in math. Last summer, Teachey studied giant molecular clouds in the Milky Way at New Mexico's National Radio Astronomy Observatory. In his graduate work at Columbia, he will use that data to complete a major analysis of tens of millions of stars.



▲ Aaron Dolor '12 won an NSF Fellowship for his proposal outlining innovative research that could ultimately improve the effectiveness of drugs for cancer and HIV.

These extraordinary students — whether in Indonesia or Japan, Jordan or Texas — are practicing Hunter's motto across the country and around the world. They may be studying outer space or the human brain or electric fish. They may be preserving an ancient culture or millions of dollars in crops. And whether their goal is to cure cancer or cure poverty, the care of the future is firmly in their hands.



Tracy Dennis: Making Headlines with an Anti-Anxiety App

attention on happy faces while ignoring negatives ones. Sound whimsical? That's the point. Personal Zen incorporates a type of therapy called attention-bias modification training, by shifting the player's focus from a threatening stimulus, such as an angry face, to a non-threatening happy face.

Dennis, director of the Emotions Regulation Lab at Hunter, led a National Institutes of Health-funded study on the effects of Personal Zen. Working with a team of mobile-technology experts, she enlisted 75 participants. Half played Personal Zen, the other half a placebo game. As they tackled stressful tasks, those who played Personal Zen were much less anxious. The study, "Mental Health on the Go," was published in *Clinical Psychological Science*, where it

was recently named one of the 10 most-read articles.

Dennis's app and her associated research have been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, and Personal Zen was praised by CNN as "One of the Best Apps to Train Your Brain." It has been downloaded almost 100,000 times.

Dennis spoke of the pressing need for this kind of therapeutic mobile game. "There are some excellent, scientifically supported treatments for stress and anxiety disorders, but they're burdensome, expensive, stigmatizing and time-consuming," she said.

While Dennis continues to develop the app, Personal Zen is serving as a valuable classroom tool. She integrates it into course work, especially when lecturing about clinical treatment approaches for

mood and anxiety disorders. "I discuss the barriers faced by people seeking effective, yet available and affordable treatments, and how mobile mental health tools like Personal Zen may hold great promise for making prevention and intervention treatments available for everyone," she said



▲ Screen shots from Personal Zen



Gary Mallon: Advancing Child Welfare, at Home and Around the World

As a theorist, practitioner and teacher — and now as a fellow in the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare — Mallon has established himself as one of the top child-welfare experts in the nation. He is the author of over 24 books and senior editor of the peer-reviewed journal *Child Welfare*, and his publications are considered required reading by many in the field.

Mallon recently published the second edition of his book *Child Welfare for the Twenty-first Century: A Handbook of Practices, Policies, and Programs*, which is the go-to reference for professionals in the area of services to children, youth, and families — from social workers and psychologists to policy-makers and family court judges. He has written extensively on social work practices in the LGBT community, in particular the counseling of LGBT youth and advocacy

for LGBT adoptive and foster parents. Mallon not only provides resources and know-how to a wide array of professionals, but as executive director of the Silberman School of Social Work's National Center for Child Welfare Excellence, he is also deeply involved as a practitioner. Best known for providing technical assistance to children's services organizations around the world after natural disasters strike, the Center, under Mallon's leadership, is evolving to include education and training programs, technical assistance, research and evaluation.

Mallon's dedication to child welfare doesn't end when he leaves the office. Or as he puts it, "I put my money where my mouth is." A foster parent himself, Mallon has cared for three children, now all adults. He met one of his children, a girl with developmental disabilities,

when she was a nine-year-old growing up in an institution. Abandoned as a baby, she had never lived with a family before Mallon became her foster parent. Decades later, well into adulthood, she announced to Mallon, "I'd like to be adopted." Now, as her legal father, Mallon says his daughter is a happy, secure woman living in supervised housing in Brooklyn.

Mallon notes that while his professional experience has certainly affected him personally, it's also true that his personal experience has informed his work in deep and meaningful ways. "For the past 40 years, I have dedicated my life to working with children, youth and families — a wonderful decision I first made way back when I was 13 years old," he said. "I've never done anything else, never wanted to, and it has been a worthy lifetime commitment."

When Gary Mallon was 13 years old, he joined his Catholic Youth Organization peers on a visit to the Rockland State Psychiatric Hospital and the St. Dominic's Home for Children. "We tried to help people in need," Mallon said. "We were compelled to do something to ease their pain, and when we could, to advocate for better treatment and conditions."

Mallon, the Julia Lathrop Professor of Child Welfare at the Silberman School of Social Work, has since then dedicated his life and career to the cause of protecting at-risk children.



Steve Greenbaum: World-Class Researcher and Mentor Appointed Jefferson Fellow

what I've done all along but at the national level," said Greenbaum, "bringing science to those who otherwise aren't involved."

Part of what he's doing is organizing mentor networks to work with inventors and entrepreneurs on renewable energy and clean water projects in the developing world.

"An 18-year-old may have found a way to desalinate water, or a few people may want to start a small company that develops new products," Greenbaum said. "They may need to link up with local universities or investors, but they live in a country that doesn't encourage risk-taking."

The Jefferson Fellowship is just the latest in a long history of professional accomplishments for Greenbaum. He is a world leader in the field of spectroscopy of battery and fuel cell materials and a fellow of the American Physical Society. He has served at some of the top

research institutions in the world, including the Jet Propulsion Lab, where he was on the team that designed the lithium ion batteries for the Mars Rovers.

As a measure of his extraordinary research accomplishments Greenbaum has obtained grants totaling over \$9 million dollars from a wide number of agencies, including the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the Department of Energy and the Central Intelligence Agency.

What makes Greenbaum truly unique is that he is among the most successful mentors of physics students from underrepresented groups in the history of this country. He was recognized for this in 2002, when he won the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring, bestowed by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

"It means a lot to me," Greenbaum said. "I love doing the science, but what

gives me the most personal satisfaction is being a good mentor and helping launch careers."

His record in that realm is remarkable. The third and sixth African-American women to receive a PhD in physics from MIT — out of a historical total of seven — were Greenbaum's students. One of them, Gillian Reynolds (MA '89), is now a senior group leader in electronic materials at DuPont, and the other, Sandra Brown (MA '94), is a patent attorney who teaches intellectual property protection at MIT's Global Startup Lab. Another, Fatima Alleyne '02, is the first and only African-American woman to earn a PhD in materials science and engineering from UC Berkeley. In total, Greenbaum has directly supervised the research of 21 PhD students and 20 postdoctoral associates.

"It's tremendously satisfying to see these students succeed," said Greenbaum. "It's like a dream."



Tamara Buckley: Telling the Truth about Workplace Diversity

office workers, which in their analysis has been the dominant approach in the workplace since the 1960s. They argue that silence toward racial and ethnic differences is not constructive.

In a two-and-a-half year examination of a U.S. child welfare agency, they found that open conversations about race and ethnicity in the workplace — the "color cognizance" approach — led to a more inclusive organization.

For Buckley, who is biracial, this work started back in Berkeley, CA. where she was born and raised. "I've been navigating questions about identity my whole life," she said. "Who are you? What are you? That was just part of my development growing up."

Buckley earned her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and her master's and doctorate from Columbia. She has spent her career researching race and social

justice, connecting the dots between one's identity and disparities in health, education and the workplace.

She has been a Visiting Scholars Fellow at the Russell Sage Foundation and a National Institutes of Mental Health Fellow at Hunter's Center for Community and Urban Health, where she explored how race and gender socialization influence HIV-prevention behaviors in a diverse group of college women.

Of the book's findings, Buckley said, "We were surprised that few child welfare workers were talking in any real way about race. And they were almost all working with families that had backgrounds different from their own. If a counselor isn't comfortable talking about these differences, then it's hard for the patient to bring it up, which makes for less effective treatment."

She continued, "Understanding how

your own background influences you, that self-reflective piece, and being able to engage a client who was raised in a different background, is absolutely crucial."

In her classroom, Buckley helps students integrate these theories with their own experiences so they can better navigate the multicultural environment around them. These are transformative lessons for the graduate students she trains to become counselors at rehabilitation agencies, schools and mental-health facilities. As they emerge as leaders in their field, Buckley's students are comfortable broaching the topic of race and cultural differences, helping to create more inclusive organizations and more effective treatment.

Buckley is working on a second volume of her book, extending her research beyond the workplace to understand how the colorblind approach affects research and teaching.

HAPPENINGS AT HUNTER



▲ Jack Rosenthal (r), interim director of Roosevelt House, and Katie Couric with the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund's Rick Luftglass and Tisch Distinguished Fellow Thomas Farley (l), at a screening of the documentary *Fed Up*.



▲ Leon Cooperman '64, center, and President Jennifer Raab with Sandra and Edward (HCES '40) Meyer at Roosevelt House.



▲ Klara '54 and Larry Silverstein (r) welcomed CUNY Chancellor James Milliken and his wife, Nana Smith, to Hunter.



▲ The legendary rock star Sting took the stage at Hunter's Kaye Playhouse for an interview broadcast by *Inside the Actors Studio*.



▲ Professor and Pulitzer Prize winner Karen Hunter interviewing New York Times columnist Charles Blow about *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, his memoir of growing up in segregated Louisiana.



▲ Nobel laureate and New York Times columnist Paul Krugman explored "The Mystery of Austerity" in his talk at Assembly Hall.



▲ Judith Zabar '54 (r) and Zabar Visiting Artist Laura Owens. The Zabar Visiting Artist Program, endowed by Judith and her husband, Stanley, brings leading artists to campus to present a public lecture and work with students in master classes and private tutorials.



▲ At Hunter's 29th Commencement, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri addressed a graduating class that included her daughter Lily Exposito '14.



▲ Judy Zankel '67 and Norman Benzaquen at the welcome reception for CUNY Chancellor James Milliken at Roosevelt House.

Celebrating Hunter's Homecoming

Over 1,200 alumni returned to campus for Hunter's first all-class Homecoming. Attendees, many with their families, reunited with former classmates and had their choice of dozens of events throughout the day, including concerts, games and lectures.



▲ Arlene Alda '54, award-winning photographer and the author of 19 books — including her latest, *Just Kids from the Bronx* — spent the day entertaining the youngest members of the Hunter community with readings of her most popular children's stories.



▶ Lee '61 and Morty Kaufman, who became instant celebrities with their TV ad for Swiffer cleaning products, and their daughter, Myra Allen. Myra helped her parents land the improvisational gig that swept them from their Long Island home to nationwide fame.



▲ At a dessert reception hosted by the Thomas Hunter Society, Klara Silverstein '54 interviewed President Jennifer Raab about the enormous progress the College has made as a result of the generosity of its alumni.



◀ Dascha Polanco '08, star of Netflix's *Orange is the New Black*, with Beverly Rosenstein '43 at Homecoming. Rosenstein joined the Women's Army Corps soon after graduating, and while home on leave, sat for the portrait now on display at Roosevelt House. It was painted by Hunter's Joseph Cummings Chase, the Art Department chair famous for his representations of the military's high-ranking officers.



▲ Bel Kaufman '34, devoted alumna and renowned author, came back for one final visit to her beloved alma mater. Kaufman was as charming as ever when she gave her final campus address surrounded by (l-r) Waleed Alahari '14, Simratpal Kaur '13, Audrey Steinon '14, Amal El bakhar '11, and Ryan Baxter '12. Kaufman passed away in July at the age of 103.



▲ *Rolling Stone* contributing editor Anthony DeCurtis '74 interviewed bestselling author Carol Radziwill '95 about her new novel, *The Widow's Guide to Sex and Dating*.

HUNTER'S CHINESE FLAGSHIP PROGRAM:

This article is adapted from President Raab's *Huffington Post* blog of December 2014.

Preparing Students for a Global Future

First Lady Michelle Obama made a critical point recently when she told an audience of American and Chinese students at Peking University, "Studying abroad is about so much more than improving your own future. It's also about shaping the future of your coun-

languages like Mandarin is imperative. It is a matter of respecting the people with whom we are increasingly engaged in the new global economy. It's also a practical necessity: Communicating with others can be problematic when it is done entirely through translators — especially if

uates are certified as being professionally proficient in Mandarin, "professional" being the operative word. In the three years since the program began, enrollment has more than tripled.

Public colleges and universities like Hunter have a particularly important role to play, because the opportunity to learn Mandarin should be available to students from every background, not just an elite few. This is a core issue for Hunter, since our students come from 150 different countries, most of them from families of modest means. We're making sure to reflect this extraordinary diversity in our Mandarin program.

The in-country component of our program is its keystone. Mastering the four tones of the Mandarin language can be extremely difficult, and so practicing in Chinese-speaking surroundings is crucial. And while the term "student ambassador" may seem cliché, it contains an important truth: Students sharing in the daily life of their host country become the familiar, nonthreatening face of their homeland. Over time, as hosts and guests rub shoulders and cross-cultural relationships are formed, both sides begin to recognize their shared humanity, and suspicions grounded in isolation and ignorance fade away.

Hunter expects its growing number of Flagship graduates to put their knowledge of Mandarin to valuable use. They may become international lawyers or software engineers or translators or architects. Whatever they do, they will contribute to the U.S.-China dialogue that is crucial to mutual understanding.

And, bottom line, a large cohort of Mandarin speakers will contribute to our national security, helping guide U.S.-Chinese relations away from confrontation and toward cooperation. That's why the program is called National Security Education. And that is why it is one of the best and most cost-effective investments America can make in higher education.



▲ At a luncheon on February 18, international investment banker Emily Tong '76 (fourth from right) spoke to Chinese Flagship students about various ways of building bridges to strengthen Chinese-American business relations.

tries and of the world we all share." She might have added this: When the study abroad involves mastering the language, the opportunity for "shaping the future" increases exponentially.

The fact that the First Lady said this in Beijing is especially significant, because of all the foreign languages young Americans need to master, Mandarin Chinese ranks in the top tier; indeed, it may be first. Consider the facts: Economists believe it is only a matter of time before China passes the U.S. as the world's largest economy. More than 875 million of China's 1.28 billion people speak Mandarin, and it is also the language of Taiwan and large Chinese communities throughout East Asia. The total number of speakers is over 1 billion — about one-fifth of the planet's population — making Mandarin the world's most widely spoken first language.

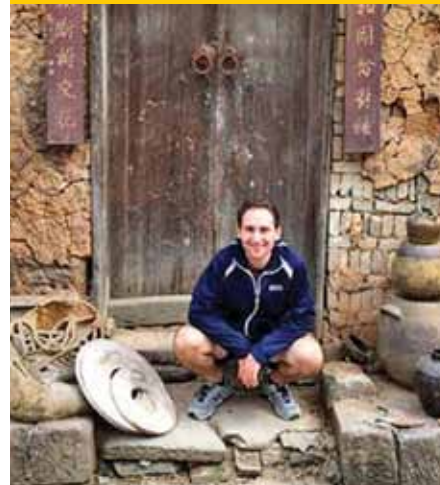
Yes, English will remain the lingua franca far into the future. Even so, learning

they lack real proficiency in English. "Lost in Translation" is more than a movie title.

Clearly the U.S. needs to field large numbers of Mandarin speakers in such realms as diplomacy, business, law and academics to relate effectively — and compete successfully — with the emerging world power that is China. In fact, America's future prosperity may depend in large part on how well we do in the Mandarin-learning business.

At Hunter, we take this challenge very seriously. We are one of just 11 colleges and universities designated as a Chinese Flagship Center, an initiative of the National Security Education Program. The program provides four years of intensive study in Mandarin and includes funding for two stays in China — a summer trip and a final, capstone year studying at a Chinese university and working as an intern with a Chinese organization. Grad-

An American in Tianjin



▲ Hunter Gross '15 exploring the corners and cultures of old and new China.

"Rù xiāng suí sù — it means, when you enter a village, follow the local customs."

For Hunter Gross '15, his favorite Chinese phrase is born out of experience. A student in Hunter's Macaulay Honors College and the Chinese Flagship Program, Gross won the prestigious Boren Scholarship for his capstone year, which he is spending in Tianjin, China. "The students in these programs are befriending their foreign peers and building connections," Gross said. "That will hopefully strengthen relations between the U.S. and China." Gross is supplementing a rigorous course of study with an internship in the Global Strategy and Logistics Department of the local Siemens plant, but often finds the best opportunities for learning are in his daily routine.

"By absorbing the culture and understanding the way people view the world, you gain knowledge you couldn't otherwise," he said. "The Chinese Flagship Program put me on a focused path, yet didn't restrict my education," Gross said. "It's opened up so many doors and introduced me to a whole world of possibilities."

ARTS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

Making Art an Integral Part of the Hunter Experience

The arts are alive at Hunter as never before, and they're finding a home in some unexpected places.

That's happening because, thanks to the generous financial support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Hunter has launched Arts Across the Curriculum, a program that is breaking down the barriers between the arts and other disciplines and encouraging students and faculty to think about learning in new and different ways.

"Many of our faculty members are eager to link the arts with their specific discipline, be it history, biology or public policy," said Professor Rebecca Connor, who leads the initiative. "It is deeply gratifying to collaborate with them and help facilitate applying their exciting

One of the most impressive examples of this is Jill Bargonetti's course *Choreographing Genomics*."

When Bargonetti, a professor of biological sciences, wanted to integrate her early love of dance into her teaching, she developed a course that teaches scientific concepts through movement as well as traditional scientific texts. "I get excited about teaching through multiple lenses and using movement and sound to articulate cancer biology as it relates to genomics," Bargonetti said. "The creativity and openness of the students is more easily tapped in this interactive setting." Similarly, psychology professor Tricia Striano created a course combining Japanese printmaking and neuroscience. The



▲ Multimedia artist Alejandro Durán talking to students about his exhibition at Hunter's East Harlem Gallery.

sary of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, Arts Across the Curriculum partnered with the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute — an ideal setting for a conversation on the arts, history and politics in 20th- and 21st-century America. The event brought together a distinguished panel of Steinbeck scholars, professors and authors, including Hunter's Colum McCann, who discussed the novel's enduring significance in spurring American authors to explore social issues.

And whether it's the Nobel Prize-winning neuropsychiatrist Eric Kandel discussing his book *The Age of Insight: The Quest to Understand the Unconscious in Art, Mind, and Brain, from Vienna 1900 to the Present*, or renowned French filmmaker Bertrand Tavernier discussing his creative process, the fundamental goal is the same: to bring distinguished visiting scholars into conversation with students and faculty whose academic, creative and professional interests intersect in unexpected and thought-provoking ways. A perfect example of this is the six-month campus residency by the Mexican-born multi-

media artist Alejandro Durán, whose work is at the crossroads of science, art, and public policy. Durán welcomed students from the undergraduate honors programs and from Hunter College High School to the East Harlem Gallery where he led an in-depth tour of his exhibition *Washed Up*, a work on plastic pollution in the world's oceans and on its coastlines. Colored bottles of trash on an otherwise pristine coastline makes for striking photography in an art gallery, but for these students it also inspired a deeper and more thoughtful conversation about the science and politics of environmental pollution.

"The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has allowed us to do something extraordinary at Hunter: to enrich our students' lives through exposure to the arts in all kinds of dynamic and exciting ways," Connor said. "Not only through direct interaction with important emerging artists like Durán, but also through innovative new courses, interdisciplinary programs, lecture and performance series and partnerships with cultural institutions."



▲ (From left) Susan Shillinglaw, director of the Center for Steinbeck Studies, with author Jeff Sharlet and Hunter's Colum McCann at Roosevelt House for the 75th anniversary celebration of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

ideas to new courses. My colleagues are creating innovative, arts-infused curricula that will become permanent additions to Hunter's course catalogue, and we are seeing the arts brought into the student experience in imaginative, stimulating and truly inspiring ways.

result was a popular, arts-infused cognitive-development course.

In addition to developing new arts-integrated science courses, Arts Across the Curriculum sponsors unique cultural events across the campus. When it came time to commemorate the 75th anniversary

ALL IN EAST HARLEM: Hunter's Commitment to Its Uptown Neighborhood



▲ East Harlem elementary school children visit the holiday book drive at Hunter's Silberman School of Social Work.

Soon after Hunter opened its state-of-the-art Silberman School of Social Work Building on East 119th Street in the heart of the neighborhood known as "El Barrio," it made a historic commitment. Known as *All in East*

Harlem, the commitment addresses the community's multitude of challenges — especially in health, education and the economy — by deploying Hunter's vast reserves of knowledge, experience, and creativity.

The program — under the leadership of Jacqueline Mondros, dean of the Silberman School of Social Work, and Joseph Viteritti, chair of the Department of Urban Affairs & Planning — rests on two fundamental principles. First, the College is bringing every available resource to bear on these challenges, with the participation of a broad range of schools and departments. Second, Hunter is directly engaged with local residents, neighborhood organizations, and public agencies. Instead of a top-down structure, *All in* is a grass-roots program in which the ideas for neighborhood improvement come from the source — or rather, sources.

Tapping into the community at

the grass-roots level means responding to the needs of residents and local institutions, from community planning boards to public schools, and health providers to neighborhood barber shops.

Out of this collaboration has come a series of partnerships — 65 so far — and their breadth is remarkable. Their missions range from helping senior citizens who are aging in place with social and health services, to helping women who are former prison inmates with issues like substance abuse and mental illness.

All in partners with READ East Harlem, a venture with local elementary schools that offers 2nd-grade teachers advanced training in reading instruction. *All in* also engages with community-based agencies, religious groups and Weill Cornell Medical College to provide palliative care for East Harlem's chronically ill.

More than 150 Hunter students have been placed in internships and field-work programs so far. And a broad range

of Hunter schools and departments are engaged in *All in East Harlem*, including Social Work, Urban Public Health, Education, Urban Planning, Art, Geography, and Nursing. To encourage community engagement, Hunter has hosted many public programs, including a free film series, discussions on health and social justice topics, and heart-health screenings. The College has also created an impressive new art gallery in the Silberman Building, the first of its kind in East Harlem.

It is an enormous pool of talent dedicated to the vitally important goal of working with the community to strengthen one of New York City's most storied neighborhoods from the grass roots up.

"*All in East Harlem* has given us the chance to live our mission every day," Dean Mondros said. "And with Hunter fully engaging with the community, this comprehensive initiative can serve as a model for others in the city and the nation."

New Way to Train Teachers: Embed Them in Schools

Hunter's School of Education, one of the nation's top education programs, joined with New Visions for Public Schools in 2009 to launch the Urban Teacher Residency (UTR) and Math and Science Teacher Education Residency (MASTER) programs. The purpose was to create teacher-training programs that integrate graduate course work with intensive, hands-on experience in New York City schools. The result resembles a medical residency more than a traditional teacher-training program.

"These programs are on the leading edge of teacher training," said David Steiner, the Klara & Larry Silverstein Dean of the School of Education, "immersing and mentoring student-teachers in New York City high schools, and ensuring they graduate as outstanding teachers serving in those schools."

For Joseph Grogan (MSEd '16), who already had an established career in nanotechnology, microfluidics, electron microscopy and radiation chemistry, the MASTER program was just what he was looking for. After earning his PhD

from University of Pennsylvania, Grogan conducted much of his post-doctoral research at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center before working as a scientist at a West Coast technology firm. "Throughout all of these endeavors, the most gratifying experiences were those that included a teaching component," said Grogan, who is completing his residency as a 9th-grade geometry teacher at Brooklyn's High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology. "I was aware of the burn-out rates for new teachers and didn't want to be part of that statistic," he said. "I felt Hunter's residency model would ensure my long-term success."

The programs are highly selective, drawing a wide range of applicants — from recent college graduates to professionals looking to change careers. Participants receive financial support and tuition and each is immersed as a resident in a host school alongside an experienced mentor. Upon completion, participants earn a master's in adolescent education and are eligible for the New York State initial teacher certification.



▲ MASTER resident Joseph Grogan (MSEd '16) teaching 9th-grade geometry.

In return, graduates commit to four years of teaching in high-need NYC public schools. "This program has provided me with endless support from my mentor and fellow residents and has given me the opportunity to be part of a community of creative thinkers with a passion for science and math," said Stefani Santana Ismail (MSEd '16), MASTER resident and a 12th-grade marine biology teacher at Pelham Preparatory Academy High School in the Bronx.

UTR resident Michael Kengmana (MSEd '16), a special education teacher at Hillcrest High School in Queens, leans

on his mentor through the daily ups and downs of teaching. "What is special about the program is they support you through what can be a turbulent process of learning how to be a teacher," he said.

Together, Hunter and New Visions are pioneering a new way to train teachers, and the success of this model is clear. Hunter's UTR and MASTER graduates are teaching far longer than their New York City peers, and in their first full-time year, as a group, they are matching or out-performing the already strong veteran teachers in New Visions schools.

NEWEST HUNTER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Joan Hansen Grabe, BSN '60

Joan Hansen Grabe, chair of the Hunter College Foundation, exemplifies the Hunter motto, *Mihi Cura Futuri*, by caring for the future at the United Way, as trustee of the Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter, by serving on the Independent Care System's Cancer Advisory Board and at the educational organization A Better Chance. After Hurricane Sandy, she supported Hunter students who needed money for essentials. She is founding chair of the Advisory Committee to the Hunter School of Nursing, and endowed the Grabe Deanship and Grabe Nursing Scholarship.



Jennifer Caserta, BA '93

Jennifer Caserta is a leader in broadcast media. In 2004, she was appointed senior vice president for marketing at the Independent Film Channel, and in 2012 became president and general manager. Under her leadership, IFC has created critically acclaimed original programming including the Emmy award winner *Portlandia*. She has won the National Cable and Telecommunications Association's Vanguard Award for Young Leadership, and has been named one of the Most Powerful Women in Cable by the industry publication Cablefax.



Lila Jentiles Prounis, BA '48

Lila Jentiles Prounis was inspired by a Roosevelt House portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt to pursue public service. She became an international broadcaster for the Voice of America, advised numerous U.N. bodies, and served on the NYC Commission on the Status of Women. One of the first women elected to the previously all-male Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council, she has been its U.N. representative since 1979. She received the Greek government's Medal of Freedom, and the Recognition Award for Distinguished Service from the Council of Churches of the City of New York.



Bruce W. Both, BA '73

Bruce W. Both is president of United Food and Commercial

Workers Union Local 1500. He represents over 22,000 supermarket employees in New York and New Jersey, works with the supermarket industry to promote greater access to nutritious foods in poor neighborhoods, and advocates for increased use of the federal Food Stamp program.



Anne Bové, BSN '78, MSN '85, MSN-ANP '02

Anne Bové is president of

the NYS Nurses Association HHC Executive Council, representing more than 8,000 government-employed nurses. A tireless advocate for nurses and patients

alike, and for making quality healthcare available to all, she has taught at Hunter, co-chairs the Patient Advocacy Committee of the Community Advisory Board at Bellevue, and leads the NYS Nurses Association delegates assembly.



Lucienne Carasso-Bulow, BA '67

Lucienne Carasso-Bulow was elected to

the Society of Maritime Arbitrators in 1980, becoming the world's first female maritime arbitrator. She is president of Interactive Dispute Resolution Services/Interactive Maritime Services, and on the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York. She is also president of the Board of the Shearith Israel League of the Spanish-Portuguese Synagogue.



James W. Davis, BA '71

Jim Davis is president of the national Blue and Gray Education

Society, which runs Civil War tours for injured servicemen and their families, publishes historical books, archives photo collections, and funds educational enhancements at historic battlefields. An accountant with advanced professional degrees, he has served Hunter's Alumni Association as director and treasurer.



Gustave Feissel, BA '58

Gustave Feissel, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations,

had a distinguished 35-year career at the United Nations. As assistant secretary-

general, he worked at the highest level of preventive diplomacy. He was chief of mission of U.N. Operations in Cyprus in the 1990s, and after retiring, led the Cyprus-American Archeological Research Institute.



Marcia L. McBroom Small, BA '72

Marcia McBroom Small is the founder of the

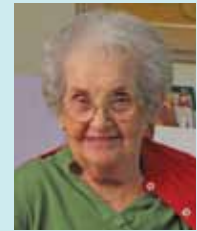
For Our Children's Sake Foundation, which empowers young people to become global citizens. A pioneering model, actress and teacher, she used her celebrity to create a poster that UNICEF and the NYS Department of Health used to promote the benefits of mother's milk. She has received UNICEF's New York Metro Committee Medallion and the Manhattan High Schools Teacher of the Year Award.

Class Notes

1930s

Belle Greene '32 celebrated her 103rd birthday with a belly dancing party in Setauket, NY this January.

Martha Rosenstock Gold '36,



who recently celebrated her 100th birthday, taught English and German at Lakewood (NJ) High School before her retirement in 1977. Now living at a continuing care facility in Columbia, MD, she is on the welcoming committee and assists with writing and editing the newsletter.

Beatrice Lumpkin '39, at the age of 96, issued words of encouragement to a crowd of striking steelworkers in northwest Indiana this past February: "Stay strong and don't give up what my generation fought for!"

1940s

After 17 years in local government, including eight years as mayor of Closter, NJ, **Sophie Dittmann Heymann '48** decided not to seek reelection. Among her accomplishments were boosting parks and sports facilities, preserving historical sites, and helping to broker a shared-fuel pact with the neighboring borough of Demarest.

1950s

Famed poet **Sonia Sanchez '55**, a



leader in the Black Arts Movement, recently co-authored *SOS: Calling All Black People*, which discusses

the movement. A winner of a PEN Literary Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Award, and a National Education Association Award, among others, she is the author of more than a dozen volumes of poetry as well as children's books, plays and other works.



Having the Time of Your Life: Little Lessons to Live By, the latest book by **Allen Klein '59**, has been published

by Viva Editions. Klein's first book, *The Healing Power of Humor*, is approaching its 40th printing.

1960s

Longtime Bronx activist **Hetty Fox '62** was interviewed for the upcoming documentary *Decade of Fire*, which recounts the 1970s, the borough's most challenging years.

Gail Ash '64 was elected the first female mayor of the city of Clermont, Florida.

President Obama has appointed **Katherine D. Seelman '64** to the National Council on Disability. Seelman is associate dean for disability programs at the University of Pittsburgh's School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences.

Hunter Professor **Richard Goldstein '65**, one of America's earliest rock critics, saw his memoir, *Another Little Piece of My Heart: My Life of Rock and Revolution in the '60s*, published by Bloomsbury Publishing.

Former Gallaudet University president **Robert Davila (MA'65)** was a featured speaker in "Sharing Stories: Deaf Latino Experiences," an onstage conversation in American Sign Language hosted by the Smithsonian Latino Center, part of a series of events celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

John LoFrumento '66, CEO of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers for the past 17 years, retired in January. LoFrumento first joined the ASCAP executive team as controller in 1981.

Jeffrey Friedlander '67, a member of the Hunter College Pre-Law Advisory Board and second in command at the New York City Law Department, has retired after almost 45 years of public service.

James Harrison '67, a history instructor and the chair of the Department of Social Sciences at Portland Community College in Oregon, was profiled in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. Harrison's courses focus on the accomplishments of African Americans.



◀ **Hoop-La (Park Avenue Paper Chase), 2014. Painted aluminum and steel, 19' high x 17' wide x 24' long. 53rd Street and Park Avenue, New York City. Courtesy Galerie Thomas Schulte and Fine Art Partners, Berlin.**

Internationally acclaimed artist **Alice Aycock (MFA '71)** created Park Avenue Paper Chase, seven large sculptures in aluminum and fiberglass that stretched from 52nd to 66th Streets during 2014. Aycock's works are in the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum, and other major museums in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

1970s

Judy Lipschitz Comitto '72, vice president and chief information officer at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth, NJ, has been appointed chair of the Jersey Health Connect Board of Directors.

Olivia Buery (MSEd '73) received the Women Celebrating Women Award at a Women's History Month ceremony in Brooklyn.

Evan R. Chesler (MA '73) has been appointed chair of the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library. Chesler, chair of the law firm Cravath, Swaine, & Moore LLP, has been a Library Board member since 2009.

Philip P. Rosenthal '73 has joined NY Orthopedics as CEO. His appointment follows a long career at Lenox Hill Hospital, most recently as the hospital's executive director.

New York State Senator **Tony Avella**



'74 (D-Queens) joined his chamber's powerful Independent Democratic Caucus, and prevailed in

a hard-fought primary battle in September 2014.

Gillien Goll (MA '76) appeared in the Off-Broadway production of *Voices of Swords*. She has also appeared in the Obie-winning *The West & East Village Fragments* and the solo show *Hector*. Her TV credits include *The Sopranos*, *Sex & the City* and *Chappelle's Show*.

Lilli Steinberg (MA '76) is CEO of TRI Utility Cost Reductions, a utility auditing firm. A past board chair of the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce, Steinberg has been featured in major publications, including USA Today, People and Crain's.

Leticia Martin '78 has been named director of marketing and communications for Flagler College in St. Augustine, FL. She was previously vice president and creative director of Prudential Advertising.

1980s

Kristine Bihun '82 has joined the physicians' group Middletown Medical as a registered dietitian-nutritionist and certified diabetes educator. She is a lecturer with the NYS Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, which educates school nurses, teachers, staff and students.

Robert Sandler (MUP '82), a real estate partner at the law firm Farrell Fritz, has been appointed treasurer of the Farmingdale College Foundation.

Drawings by **David Bailin (MA '84)** were on display at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, in 2014. Bailin is an adjunct professor at the university.

Kevin Law (MS '84), president of the Long Island Association, was named by Governor Cuomo to the New York State Gaming Facility Location Board. Since 2011, Law has co-chaired the Long Island Regional Economic Development Council.

"Works on paper" by **Carole Seborovski (MFA '87)** were recently featured at The Nohra Haime Gallery. Seborovski is represented in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and the National Gallery of Art.

Iris Linares '88 has been appointed associate director of marketing at the Miami firm Blanca Commercial Real Estate.

Jorge Montepique (MA '89), global editorial director of market reporting for Platts, a provider of energy, metals, petrochemicals and agriculture information, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from *Energy Risk Magazine* in 2014.

1990s

Linda Lausell Bryant (MSW '90) has been named Katherine and Howard Aibel Visiting Assistant Professor and executive in residence at the New York University Silver School of Social Work.

Suzanne Jary ('90, MSW '93)



received the Mary Warner Award for Service to Dance from the Dance Council of North Texas

for her 20 years of work with the

continued on next page →

Remembering Bess Myerson '45



In the pageant booklet for the 1945 Miss America competition, every contestant but one poses seductively in a bathing suit. The exception is Bess Myerson, who had graduated from Hunter a few months earlier. The Bronx-born daughter of blue-collar Russian immigrants instead poses proudly in her Hunter commencement cap and gown.

Myerson — who would return to Hunter 56 years later, again in cap and gown, to receive an honorary doctorate — went on to win the contest, becoming the first, and still only, Jewish Miss America. A music major at Hunter who dreamed of using the pageant prize to buy a Steinway and enroll at Juilliard, Myerson wowed the judges in the talent segment with her recital of Gershwin's "Summertime" on the piano and Grieg's Concerto on the flute.

Myerson's triumph over the era's anti-Semitism was widely remembered when she died in December at the age of 90. Also remembered were her subsequent careers — in show business and later in public service — beginning when Mayor John Lindsay appointed her New York City's first commissioner of consumer affairs. She lobbied successfully for some of the nation's strongest consumer-protection laws: for example, comparison shoppers still have Myerson to thank for making New York the first city to require that stores post unit prices for all products on their shelves.

Betty Reiser '47, who volunteered with Myerson at SHARE — which provides support to women diagnosed with breast and ovarian cancer — recalled Myerson at Hunter. "Bess was two years ahead of me," she said, "but I vividly remember her statuesque beauty as she walked the hallways in her unassuming manner." As an ovarian cancer survivor herself, Myerson became a high-profile advocate of early detection.

Myerson always held a special place in her heart for her alma mater, calling Hunter "one of the greatest educational bargains in history." And when she inscribed a copy of her biography, *Miss America, 1945*, to President Jennifer J. Raab, Myerson wrote, "Hunter was my best happening!"

We are grateful to Bruce Ratner and Henry Stern, who remembered Myerson with a \$15,000 donation in her honor to Hunter's Mother's Day Scholarship. Ratner and Stern worked alongside her in the Koch Administration and considered her a friend and mentor.

national not-for-profit organization Career Transition For Dancers. She had served as a counselor and director of client services for the organization while in New York and continues to conduct workshops across the U.S. from her home base in Texas.

Cynthia Roznoy (MA '90), curator of the Mattatuck Museum, participated in the September panel discussion "The Federal Arts Project in Connecticut, Then and Now" at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, CT.

A "TASK party", a spontaneous group-art event developed by **Oliver Herring (MFA '91)**, was covered in the September 7, 2014, New York Times. The event in Madison Square Park celebrated the 200th anniversary of the naming of Madison Square.

The National Association of Hispanic Nurses presented its 2014 Nurse of the Year Award to **Yolanda Nitti (BSN '91)** on Oct. 17, 2014, in Washington, D.C. The award is given annually to a nurse who has developed a creative and innovative program, intervention or strategy.

Karen Remy (MSW '91) was named chief program officer at Turning Point, a community organization that provides education, health and social services to high-needs Brooklyn residents.

Elias Rodriguez '92 writes a column for the Environmental Protection Agency's New York City blog, "Greening the Apple." Rodriguez serves as EPA Region 2's bilingual public information officer, and was formerly a researcher at Time, Inc.

Jennifer Caserta '93, president and general manager of IFC, has been named to *Variety's* "Power of Women: New York Impact List."

Edward Short '93 has been appointed executive director of the Tomorrow's Hope Foundation, which provides scholarships for students in Long Island Catholic schools.

Carrie Wilkens '93 was quoted in a July 3, 2014, *New York Times* article on a new way to combat alcoholism and binge drinking in young people. Wilkins is co-founder of the Center for Motivation and Change in Manhattan.

Maureen Baksh-Griffin '94 has been promoted to assistant professor at Cleveland State Community College. She joined the Nursing/Health and Wellness division in 2012.

Chrystal Kornegay '95 has been appointed undersecretary of the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development.

She was formerly president and CEO of Urban Edge, which works to develop and sustain stable housing and diverse communities in Roxbury, Jamaica Plain and surrounding neighborhoods.

Dan Kaufman '96, a Brooklyn writer who grew up in Wisconsin, was the author of an opinion piece in the New York Times Sunday Review critical of a proposed \$1.5 billion Wisconsin iron ore mine.

Pauline Yun (MFA '96) had her first solo exhibition in New York at the NY Public Library, Riverside Branch. **Pauline Yun: Improvisations**, 24 paintings, celebrated French joie de vivre, Mother Nature, and the spirit of improvisation.

Echo Conditioner, a solo exhibition by **Aidas Bareikis (BFA '97)** was

presented at the Galerija Vartai in Vilnius, Lithuania, in November and December. Bareikis, a New York-based Lithuanian artist, has also had solo exhibitions in New York City, Copenhagen and Berlin.

Dina Honour '97 won *Paste* magazine's 2014 summer writing contest for "An Otherwise Ordinary Day," about her father's passing. An American writer living in Copenhagen, Honour recently had a story selected for publication in *Precipice, Volume 3*.

Late last year, the renowned artist and commercial illustrator **Edel Rodríguez (MFA'98)** returned to his native Cuba for the first time since his family left on the 1980 Mariel Boatlift. He was honored with a solo exhibition at Casa de las Américas, a leading cultural institution.

2000s

Amy Herman (MA '00) is president of The Art of Perception, which trains professionals to enhance their observation and communication skills by analyzing works of art. She has provided training for the NYC Police Department, the FBI, the Department of Justice and the Secret Service.

A performance/installation by **Quintin Rivera-Toro (BFA'01)** was presented at the Bottle Rocket Gallery in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Rivera-Toro's presentations examine the history, culture and politics of the environments in which he works.

A new musical, *Shida*, by **Jeannette Bayardelle '02** was presented at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, MA, in November. Bayardelle wrote the text and music, and plays a half-dozen roles in her one-woman show.

Kristine Alpi (MPH '03), director of the William R. Kenan, Jr., Library of Veterinary Medicine and adjunct assistant professor of population health and pathobiology at North Carolina State University, was inducted as an honorary member of Phi Zeta, the veterinary honor society, in 2014.

Timothy Alexander Guzman '04 is a guest contributor to the journal *Before It's News*.

Vanessa Rauschenberger (MUP '04) has been named one of the Top 40 Under 40 by *Mass Transit Magazine*. She is planning manager at the Gold Coast Transit District in California.

Devin Katayama '05 has joined WFPL radio, Kentucky's NPR news station, as a general assignment reporter, and won public radio's Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize for "At-Risk," his exploration of child poverty, homelessness and truancy in Louisville.

Lauren Ross (MA '06) has been named curator of Virginia Commonwealth University's newly established Institute for Contemporary Art, scheduled to open in 2016. Ross was formerly the Nancy E. Meinig Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, OK.

Yelena Akhtiorskaya's '07 debut novel, *Panic in a Suitcase* (Riverhead Books), has received critical praise in *The New York Times*, *The Huffington Post*, *The Washington Post* and the *LA Times*, and on NPR radio.

Philip Tamberino (MA '07), a music education graduate of Hunter's School of Education, had his first book, *Uke Can Do It! Developing Your School Ukulele Program*, published in the fall. He spoke on the same subject at the National Association for Music Education's National In-Service Conference in Nashville.

The New York Transit Museum exhibition *Railroad Landscapes: Photographs*, by **John Sanderson '08**, traced the tracks of the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North through the natural and built environments of New York, capturing beauty and desolation in the landscape.

Alex Gilvarry (MFA '09) was named to the National Book Foundation's "5 Under 35" list. Gilvarry is the author of *From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant*, published by Viking/Penguin Group in 2012. His work has appeared in *The Nation*, *Vogue*, and *The Boston Globe* and been broadcast on NPR's *All Things Considered*. He teaches fiction at Wesleyan University and Manhattanville College.

Liz Moore '09 won the American Academy in Rome Prize in Literature, awarded to individuals who represent the highest standards of excellence in the arts and humanities. Recipients are provided with a fellowship in Rome.

Corinne Vidulich '09 was featured in a July 31, 2014, *New York Times* article about American students attending medical school in the Caribbean. Vidulich, who was a valedictorian of her Hunter graduating class, is now at St. George's University Medical School in Grenada.

2010s

Ariana Rabinovicz (MS '10) has been honored by the International Nurses Association as a Worldwide Leader in Healthcare. She is a board-certified family nurse practitioner and transplant coordinator in an outpatient liver and kidney transplant clinic affiliated with NYU Langone Medical Center.

The Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School named **Xevion Baptiste '11** one of ten inaugural Sheila C. Johnson Leadership Fellows. The fellows were selected for their outstanding potential and dedication to working in underserved communities. Baptiste is pursuing a master of public policy degree at the Kennedy School.

Chris Weikel (MFA '12) won The National New Play Network's 2014 Smith Prize for "Word from Kampala," conceived in reaction to Uganda's law making homosexuality punishable by life imprisonment. The \$5,000 prize is granted annually to a proposal for a play dramatizing pressing issues.

Paul Hesse (MUP '13) has joined the staff of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress as a senior research planner focusing on the revitalization of the region's urban centers.

Jennifer Jade Yeung '13 is a production assistant in W.W. Norton's college department.

"The Adventures of Dorrit Little," by artist **Monica Johnson (MFA '14)**, was published in *Women's Study Quarterly*. It tells the story of a student debtor in the U.S. today. The title is a reworking of Charles Dickens's serial novel *Little Dorrit*, about a child born into an English debtor's prison. Johnson completed *Dorrit Little* in Hunter's Integrated Media Arts MFA Program.

Danny Ramos '14 won a Math for America Fellowship to pursue a master's in adolescent math education at City College. Fellowship winners make a four-year commitment to teach in the New York City schools, grades 7-12.

Naomi Greenstein Shor, '33 • Bel Kaufman, '34 • Hilda Kraus, '35 • Grace Fenell Messiah, '35 • Winifred L. Norman, '35 • Ruth Marie Steffens Giebfried, '36 • Grace Calif Kay, '36 • Sylvia Canner Sladon, '36 • Emma Manieri Liddy, '37 • Arline Levy Mazonson, '37 • Eileen Moran Reilly, '37 • Jeannette Charlotte Klein Wasserman, '37 • Harriet Brown Bryer, '38 • Mabel E. Genz Jacobi, '38 • Josephine Propp Laitman, '38 • Lillian Perlmutter Rubin, '38 • Helen Samuels Schectman, '38 • Lillian C. Garber Smilkstein, '38 • Dorothy S. Bauer Stepak, '38 • Alice M. Stoll, '38 • Anna Boxer Bloom, '39 • Doris Holtner Paul, '39 • Miriam Kovner Ringo, '39 • Viola Metz Smith, '39 • Helen Hoffman Zeldin, '39 • Julia Martina Austin, '40 • Joanna Bamonte, '40 • Winifred Danwitz, '40 • Florence Goldstein Friedman, '40 • Frances Ellen Wilcox Koutnik, '40 • Shirley Dushkind Kraus, '40 • Florence Kaiser Sharff, '40 • Gladys Friton Shelton, '40 • Gladys Weingold Singer, '40 • Irene Brook Dickman, '41 • Mary Julia Jane Fennelly Duffy, '41 • Stella George, '41 • Doris M. Hering, '41 • Cynthia Rodstrom Kinsella, '41 • Vera Cohen Kramer, '41 • Blanche Topliozky Livingstone, '41 • Dorothy Fuhr Banker, '42 • Lydia Posner Brown, '42 • Rita Indrieri Conefry, '42 • Mildred J. Adler Goldin, '42 • Goldie Nass Natkins, '42 • Sylvia Nazdin, '42 • Ruth Kushner Rozner, '42 • Grace M. Chu Dong, '43 • Helene Moskowitz Flapan, '43 • Hilda Fisher Marx, '43 • Eileen A. Moynihan O'Connell, '43 • Sylvia Silken, '43 • Sylvia Salitsky Washton, '43 • Florence Beller Berken, '44 • Marion Schwartz Cohn, '44 • Thea De Bellis, '44 • Ruby Wallace Dee, '44 • Mary Meeks deWolfe, '44 • Muriel Rubin Fleischer, '44 • Florence Friedman, '44 • Marcia Halpern Gutcho, '44 • Mary Vidovich Kuvacic, '44 • Elaine Kuhn Osterweil, '44 • Margretta Lasch Wagner, '44 • Elinor Ann Krause Zegers, '44 • Shirley Ruth Sobelman Beaton, '45 • Millicent Penny Bigelow, '45 • Beatrice Sillman Frish, '45 • Virginia J. Shaw Lane, '45 • Florence Preiman, '45 • Helen Kunschian Valentine, '45 • Josephine Acocella Demarest, '46 • Marilyn Greenlick Drier, '46 • Rosemarie J. McCulloch Hughes, '46 • Doris Woehrlin Johannessen, '46 • Catherine M. Martini, '46 • Ruth Reichert Rosenberg, '46 • Josephine Macy Atlass, '47 • Fay Weinberg Binen, '47 • Rhoda Wiesenberg Brownstein, '47 • Theodora Christon, '47 • Arline Feinstein Corin, '47 • Beatrice Nathanson Eisman, '47 • Shirley Thau Perles, '47 • Marie Rousseau Peters, '47 • Betty Bojan Schoenhaut, '47 • Audrey Inez Clark, '48 • Sally-Anne Branower Milgrim, '48 • Josephine Marion Casaccio Perrelli, '48 • Elizabeth Schmeltzer, '48 • Victoria Marmo Wagner, '48 • Evelyn Papalexis Bales, '49 • Judith A. Fleischman Beroza, '49 • Ann Norton Gwynn, '49 • Natalie Robinson Krauss, '49 • Virginia Remington Olney, '49 • Emma Radtke, '49 • Elizabeth T. Bednarik, '50 • Elise Woltenweber Kramer, '50 • Muriel Marketto Landry, '50 • Enid Ruth Hammer Roller, '50 • Claire Archambault, '51 • Gloria C. Doyle, '51 • Hertha Fischer, '51 • Clara Walke Hall, '51 • Roland N. Karlen, '51 • Rose Marion McDermott Koch, '52 • Ruth Peltz Rubens, '52 • Gertrude Garbers Smith, '52 • Sheila Connolly Barry, '53 • Yolanda Gallo Bibbo, '54 • Joan A. Christie, '54 • Paula Joan Gerbrick Schivone, '54 • Dorothy H. Barth, '55 • Alfreda R. Jackson Henry, '55 • Carol E. Burnett, '56 • Otto Mond, '56 • Marion I. Levey Baer, '57 • Janice Helander Sayre, '57 • Theresa Susann Brockenauer Demay, '58 • Margaret E. Hetherington, '58 • Rosaline Connolly Kaminski, '58 • Rose Cannistraci Erwin, '59 • Leon I. Glovsky, '59 • Gerald Harrigan, '60 • Frances Hartman, '60 • Roy H. Johnson, '60 • Lorraine L. Ballard, '62 • Margaret McCrane Crapo, '62 • Ann Earley Walsh, '62 • Laurel D. Theise Gouveia, '63 • Paul E. Wistrom, '63 • Ronald Book, '64 • Donald R. Johnson, '64 • Howard Dobkin, '65 • Greta Selkove Fertik, '65 • Richard Holena, '66 • Susan Volpert Stein, '66 • Ernesto Butcher, '67 • Leon Frankel, '67 • Linda Lou Miner Hoffman, '67 • Frances F. Eng, '68 • Diane T. Rotondi, '68 • Gertrud Taussig Wolfner, '68 • Steven M. Sietz, '69 • Rita Spector, '70 • Mitzi Weinstein Ettinger, '71 • Marion S. Faller, '71 • Carol Jean McCulloch Lanagan, '72 • Richard N. Burke, '73 • Calvin L. Eddy, '74 • Jane Cohler Supino, '75 • Mary Howley, '76 • Alan B. Taylor, '76 • Eva S. Cantwell, '79 • Judith C. Herz, '79 • Martin D. McLee, '79 • John Allen Uhrich, '79 • Georgia A. Peachey, '80 • Pamela E. Burthwright, '81 • John L. Klebanoff, '86 • Gloria Sondheim, '86 • Jose Hernandez, '87 • Janie Mae Ferguson Lowe, '88 • Mary Theresa D'Attilio, '89 • Michael Doran, '90 • Susan C. Ribner, '91 • Ruth Jones Sammis, '91 • Stephen M. O'Brien, '93 • Arden J. White, '93 • Yolanda "Yolie" Simon, '97 • Christine Marie Normoyle, '99 • Carmen Bliss, '09

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FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER SHEILA L. BIRNBAUM ('60, MA '62)

Sheila Lubetsky Birnbaum's ('60, MA '62) journey to becoming one of the nation's most successful attorneys began on Hunter's former Bronx campus. Her path to the law was inspired by a female instructor in a Private Law course, a broad — and in Birnbaum's opinion, fascinating — overview of criminal law, property law and torts.

"I was hooked," she said. "It was clear to me that I wanted to go to law school."

After graduating *cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa, the Bronx-born Birnbaum taught fourth grade in her native borough. While teaching, she traveled to Hunter's Manhattan campus for night school where she earned a master's in history. Further inspired by an International Law course and her participation in a Mock World Court exercise,

she decided her future must be in the law.

Selected multiple times by *The National Law Journal* as "one of the 100 most outstanding members of the legal profession," Birnbaum graduated from NYU Law School before arriving at Skadden Arps, one of New York City's top white-shoe firms, where she practiced for 33 years. She has successfully argued three cases before the Supreme Court, and serves as "Special Master" of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund. She is currently a partner with the trial law firm of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan.

Like many Hunter students, Birnbaum was the first in her family to attend college. Her younger sister, Norma Lubetsky Friedman ('63, MA '67), followed in her footsteps, also earning her bachelor's and master's degrees from Hunter. In honor of her late sister, Birnbaum funded the Norma Lubetsky Friedman Scholarship for poetry students in Hunter's MFA in Creative Writing Program.

"Hunter is where I spent some of

my most influential years and picked up many of the skills I use every day," said Birnbaum, who continues to pay it forward to the next generation of aspiring lawyers at Hunter. Through her participation in the Hunter Pre-Law Program's Lunch with a Lawyer and Moot Court, she is able to impart her wisdom, insight, and advice directly to students.

"I am so pleased to be able to help Hunter students explore professional opportunities and consider their career paths," she said. "I have had a chance to see these future attorneys in action and it's clear that they will have successful futures."

Birnbaum and fellow Hunter College Foundation Board member Christopher Seeger '87 were instrumental in developing the Pre-Law Program's first benefit, *Concussion Litigation and Its Effects on the Future of Contact Sports*. They not only helped orchestrate this seminal event, but also engaged in a lively debate as part of a distinguished legal panel. That evening, Birnbaum and Seeger were



presented with the first Hunter College Distinguished Alumni Lawyer Awards.

When Birnbaum, a member of the Hunter Hall of Fame, was awarded an honorary doctorate of law at Hunter's 199th commencement in 2009, she declared, "It's time we rededicate ourselves to public education and public service."

As a member of the Hunter College Foundation Board and the Pre-Law Advisory Board, she lives up to that declaration daily, not only by helping guide the overall direction of the program, but also by being an active participant.