



# HUNTER

SPRING 2011



Official White House Photo by Pete Souza

Hunter College freshman Steven Gordon shows President Obama his winning new business idea, a tattoo ID, during a meeting with the student finalists of the NFTE National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge in the Oval Office. [Page 3](#)



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## THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

This year marks my tenth anniversary as president of Hunter College. Looking back, I am deeply moved by the immeasurable support I have received from you, the alumni and friends of Hunter, who have contributed in so many ways to making the first decade of the 21st century an era of transformative growth for the College. I am grateful for the countless memories and the triumphs, large and small, in which you have played so vital a part.

Our recent successes were acknowledged in February when, for the third year in a row, the *Princeton Review* named Hunter one of the top ten “Best Value” public colleges in the nation. But as this issue of *At Hunter* makes clear, the best is yet to come.

Ten years ago, Roosevelt House was empty and in disrepair. Today, it is a beautifully restored landmark and the home of Hunter's new Public Policy Institute. And in November, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, ushered in its future by cutting the ribbon and proclaiming Roosevelt House “one of the most important houses of the modern era.”

Transformation is also coming to Hunter's library. As you can read on page 4, it is on the verge of a major, remarkably visionary renovation that will make it what a college library should be: the heart of the university.

Hunter's advancements in the health professions since I began my tenure are a particular source of pride. We have seen the School of Nursing regain its freestanding status and develop programs that are changing the face of the nursing profession. Hunter scientists, such as physics professor Y.C. Chen, are at the forefront of revolutions in medicine and biological research. And the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College is set to open alongside our School of Social Work in the brand-new Hunter College Complex in East Harlem. What better symbols of Hunter's future in the field than the first graduates of our accelerated nursing program and the doctor of public health program at the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College!

Past, present, and future, our greatest stories of all come from our students and alumni: those who have made a lasting impact in their fields, those who are about to do so, and those who are well on their way.

Stories like these continually enhance the pride I feel in serving as president of this extraordinary institution. Again, thank you all for your support and inspiration.

*Jennifer J. Raab*

## Hunter Freshman Gives Obama a Tattoo

Thanks to Hunter College freshman Steven Gordon, Barack Obama will never have to worry about finding his way home. That's because on October 12, Gordon presented the president with a tattoo reading, “My Name is B. O. If I'm lost, please call the White House.”

Gordon's gift was a sample product of his new business, TattooID (pronounced tattoo-eed), for which he won the inaugural Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Elevator Pitch challenge. Meeting President Obama in the Oval Office, along with three other NFTE contest winners, was part of the prize, which also included \$2,500 and two round-trip plane tickets to Washington.

“Once I saw him in person, I felt like I was on cloud nine, just out of this world,” said Gordon. “The day before I was riding the train home to Brooklyn, and now I was about to meet with the president.”

Gordon conceived of TattooID after a few scary experiences babysitting his four-year-old brother, who had a tendency to wander off as soon as no one was looking. “It would just send me into a panic,” said Gordon. “So I began thinking of how you could make safety fun.” His solution: fun, safe temporary tattoos that display the child's initials and contact information. “I thought of temporary tattoos because I loved them a lot as a kid, and my brother does too.”



▲ Steven Gordon is all smiles as the president checks out his design.

The project developed through Gordon's participation in an NFTE summer program at Columbia University, where he met successful entrepreneurs and learned the basics of starting a business. At the end of the two-week program, he won the competition for the best business plan, earning \$1,000 and the means to put the plan into action. After further developing his business model, he entered and won the Elevator Pitch Challenge, in which competitors post 30-second video pitches online and the public votes on its favorite.

Gordon hopes to keep winning prizes to help fund this business, as well as a nursing practice he plans to start with his mother, a nurse who earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Hunter. But he doubts that any prize will compare with the “surreal” experience of exchanging gifts with Obama.

“He gave us a pen, a little coin, and presidential M&Ms on our way out. Probably never going to eat those.”

Photo: Courtesy of Valleycrest Productions Ltd



▲ Ellen Murray (left) with the show's host, Meredith Vieira.

Meet Ellen Murray: graduate student in Hunter's urban affairs program, research assistant at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute – and winning contestant on “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire.” Murray appeared on the popular quiz show on November 8 and 9 and walked away with \$12,500 in prize money.

The idea of auditioning for the

program came from a friend. But the decision did not come easily to Murray, who is, by her own description, “a shy person.” She decided to go ahead as a confidence-building measure – “I wanted to prove I wouldn't faint” – and because her boyfriend, Justin Strachan, a Hunter graduate student in history, promised he would match her courage by skydiving with her despite his fear of heights.

## Hunter Student is Winner on “Millionaire”

“Millionaire” is unusual among quiz programs because contestants appear alone rather than in competition against others and are given the question before they decide whether to go on. The questions are chosen randomly from a variety of fields, so winning the top prize of \$1 million is extremely difficult.

Murray got her first question right – she had to identify the source of the lyric “Summer fling, don't mean a thing” – giving her \$25,000 in the bank. (The answer is the movie musical “Grease.”) But confronted with a sequence of daunting questions – what is the latest speculation about the cause of Mozart's death, what is a snack food popularized by Howard Cosell, and what was NASA looking for when it crashed two rockets into the moon? – she wisely opted to play it safe and take

half her \$25,000 in prize money home. (The answers are strep throat, Nachos, water).

Murray, 24, earned her BA at NYU in an honors program that allowed her to design her own major, which she describes as a study of the human condition. In her graduate studies in urban affairs she is concentrating on two fields, education and food policy. After graduating, she plans to work as a policy analyst in one of the fields, with the goal of helping to narrow the income gap between the world's rich and poor. Meanwhile, her work at Roosevelt House includes conducting research, coordinating programs and helping to curate exhibits in the library.

The skydiving expedition with her boyfriend is tentatively planned for the spring.



# A Library — Reborn For the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



▲ Dan Cherubin, chief librarian

In 2006, President Jennifer Raab formed a task force to confront a common student complaint: the state of Hunter's main library.

their dorm rooms to study or to meet friends between classes, the library is truly the hub of the campus. Hunter students deserve more than a library they have to go to. They deserve one they want to go to."

Charged with envisioning a Hunter library for the 21st century, the 40-plus-member task force — chaired by Urban Public Health Professor Barbara Berney and consisting of students, faculty, librarians, and staff — developed an extensive report with recommendations on improving library facilities, holdings, and programs. Many of the most significant recommendations will be put into action when Hunter's main library begins a monumental renovation this June.

The first and most prominent change will be the conversion of

interactive reference and information desk inspired by the "Genius Bar" in Apple stores (complete with a scrolling LED "zipper" display). There will also be a new main reading room with backlit glass walls that serve as whiteboards, as well as the Barbara Lang Study Center, a gift from Eugene Lang in honor of his sister, a 1957 Hunter graduate.

Because the library's entrance is on one end of the third-floor bridge, the conception is to "re-engage the library with the rest of the campus and blur the distinction between the library and everything else," said chief architect Calvert Wright of Calvert Wright Architecture/Spatial Discipline. "We saw this as an extraordinary way to have library spaces be less static and more active."

Wright has a number of other exciting plans for the third floor, which he calls "the beating heart" of the library.

learning center, made possible by a \$350,000 gift from the Skirball Foundation. Through the efforts of Board of Trustees donors, the library's fleet of loaner laptops is being expanded to meet student demand. Sixteen laptops will be added, bringing the total to 86.

Turning the library into an active and thriving intellectual center for Hunter students and faculty is the goal, said Chief Librarian Dan Cherubin. "I'm a big proponent of collaboration, and this plan will ensure not only that we have these wonderful spaces, but also that people can come and use them together," he said. "The library faculty and staff have been very good at using what resources and space we have, and we are going to work hard to make the entire facility even better."

To help people find their way around the library, the floors will be covered with a custom carpet printed with signs, and wayfinding kiosks will be installed throughout. Transparent and translucent ceiling panels will give a sense of airiness and clarity and visitors will now be able to view the street from the library's windows.

Hunter's library will forgo the strict rules and somber setting of traditional libraries in favor of a comfortable, relaxed atmosphere. Food will be allowed in various parts of the main floor. "We are doing nothing less than creating a library of the future," said President Raab.

much of the library's main floor into an "information commons," to be named in honor of its donor, Richard Gilder, and his sister, Assistant Provost Peggy Tirschwell. The commons will include wide and welcoming gathering spots for students and an

For example, boomerang-shaped tables will encourage and enable both individual and collaborative work.

The newly renovated library will also be home to a Macaulay Honors Study Center, thanks to a gift from Hunter alumna Dorothy Kryger, and a science



▲ Rendering of the new reading room in the library, which will feature backlit whiteboards at the left and other furniture and spaces meant for individual and collaborative work.



▲ Rendering of the new information commons, which will include boomerang-shaped tables; the reference center (rear), inspired by the "Genius Bar" at the Apple stores; and a "zipper" of moving headlines around the space near the ceiling.

"Whenever I met with students to discuss ways to improve the College, they inevitably said they wished they had a more modern and welcoming library," said President Raab. "I realized that at a commuter school like Hunter, where students can't just go to

## Hunter Board Members Lead Effort to Raise Funds for Library Renovation

Raising \$30 million for the Hunter library renovation is an ambitious goal, but Foundation Board Members Lisa Witten ('81) and Abby Miller Levy say that reaching the goal is both possible and necessary. To ensure the success of the campaign, they signed on as fundraising co-chairs, with the dream of turning a 21st-century Hunter College library into a reality.

"This is a very exciting project to participate in, as it will positively affect the thousands of students and many professors who use the library facilities on a daily basis," said Witten. "We hope to reach out to all alumni, students, and Hunter families to participate at any level to help achieve our goal."

They are off to a strong start. Besides three individual gifts of \$1 million from Richard Gilder, Larry Robbins, and an anonymous donor, the campaign received \$1.1 million from the New York City Council and \$350,000 from the Skirball Foundation. The drive also received



▲ Abby Miller Levy (left) and Lisa Witten

individual gifts of \$300,000 from Dorothy Kryger, as well as money from other sources, bringing the current total to \$5.4 million.

Though much more has yet to be raised, Levy expressed enthusiasm about the library's future: "The new library will be the center of Hunter College life. It is incredibly rewarding to work on a project like this that will have a permanent and positive impact on the student experience."

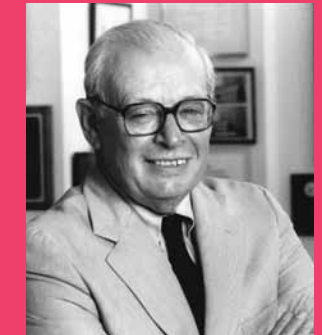
For information on giving opportunities, please contact the executive director of institutional advancement, Jayne Rosengarten, at 212.772.4085.

## In Honor of Their Sisters

Two major planned features of the library renovation — an information commons and a study center and lounge — will occupy significant portions of the main floor. They will also share valuable symbolic space. Both are gifts from a brother on behalf of a sister, commemorating lifetimes of learning and caring, and celebrating the unique bond between siblings.



▲ Richard Gilder



▲ Eugene Lang

The Gilder-Tirschwell Information Commons is a \$1 million gift from Richard Gilder in honor of his sister Peggy Tirschwell, Hunter's assistant provost. Gilder is co-founder of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, which has transformed the study and teaching of history in our schools, provides research fellowships for scholars, and sponsors three of the country's most prestigious scholarly book prizes. It has preserved American history by assembling one of the country's most extraordinary collections of rare historical documents and making the collection available online.

Tirschwell had worked at CUNY for more than 20 years — in the Central Budget Office and at the New York City College of Technology — before joining the Provost's Office at Hunter in 2002.

The study center and lounge will be named for Hunter alumna Barbara Lang ('57), sister of philanthropist Eugene Lang.

Mr. Lang is the creator of the "I Have a Dream" Foundation, which provides hands-on educational guidance and higher education tuition support for children in low-income communities. He is also the founder of Project Pericles, a civic engagement program for college students, and a major benefactor of the Eugene Lang College at the New School and the Eugene Lang Center for Entrepreneurship at Columbia Business School. His dedication to philanthropy in education earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1996.

"My family has always appreciated Hunter as one of the finest schools in the country," said Lang. "The library is a very important part of the college, and it has been a privilege to contribute to it."

Barbara Lang is a retired elementary school teacher and former director of Hunter's Scholarship & Welfare Fund. Her brother's \$100,000 donation is in some ways a continuation of a library fund she started in 1966 with a \$2,000 gift in honor of their mother, Ida, Hunter Class of 1915.

"It's not very often that a brother and sister can agree on something so big," said Mr. Lang.



# HAPPENINGS AT HUNTER

WINTER '10 - '11



◀ Students from Manhattan Hunter Science High School experienced a once-in-a-lifetime thrill when the Dalai Lama came to Hunter for a conference with students on Chinese/Tibetan relations.



▲ The Hunter College Theatre Advisory Board, chaired by theater producer Patty Baker ('82) (second from left), kicked off its inaugural meeting this fall. Board members include Chad Kimball (r.), star of *Memphis*, entertainment attorney Peter Breger, and Hunter Theatre Chair Barbara Bosch.



▲ Suspense novelist Mary Higgins Clark and her husband, John Coheeny, joined the festivities at the Writing Center's anniversary party in March.



▲ Hunter alumnae Evelyn Lauder (l.), a philanthropist and business executive, and Rita Hauser, an attorney and human rights activist, joined special guests to watch United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon cut the ribbon on the newly reopened Roosevelt House.



▲ Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney (l.) read to a standing-room only crowd, which included friend and compatriot Gabriel Byrne. Heaney visited Hunter as part of the Creative Writing MFA program's Distinguished Writers Series.



▲ Geena Davis, activist and Academy Award-winning actress, keyed the SPARK (Sexualization Protest Action Resistance Knowledge) conference at Hunter, organized by social work professor Deborah Tolman.



▲ Bill Gates visited Roosevelt House in January where he was welcomed by Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab and spoke at a conference on polio eradication and the power of vaccines.

Former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan meets with students at Roosevelt House for a conversation on human rights and international justice. ▶







▲ Ten of the 171 ex-service men and women at Hunter joined to celebrate the Veterans Day Parade.

## Vets Get a Hand as They March into Classrooms

Hunter students bring a variety of life experiences to the college, but two groups offer something unique: veterans of military service, and those still on duty, either active or reserve. According to the most recent count, 140 undergraduate and 31 graduate students fall into these categories. Most have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Many have served in both – some for multiple tours.

Hunter is honored to have these men and women in its student body and proud to help them advance their educations, said President Jennifer J. Raab in a recent meeting with a group of these students. But just as the veterans face challenges in readjusting to college life, Hunter faces challenges in helping them adapt.

To meet those challenges, the College offers 15 programs – some that it designed itself, others organized in cooperation with the CUNY Central Office – under an umbrella organization, PROVE (Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education). Much of the organization's work is helping service people deal with the unique problems they encounter, from a tuition deferral program that tides them over until their G.I. payments arrive, to a guide

through the Veterans Administration's mortgage benefits.

Even more important to these students is the presence of PROVE's office on the 7th floor of the East Building, which provides a gathering place where veterans can meet and bond with fellow service members. Many acknowledged that they are more at ease with people who are their own age (mid-20s to mid-30s) and have been through similar experiences, especially service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For example, Hank Brady, who served as an Army sergeant in both war zones, said: "When I come here [to PROVE], I meet guys who help each other out. We share books, which saves a lot of money, and we work on projects together. That's huge."

Kervin Hyacinthe, who served in the Philippines as a Marine Corps sergeant, said: "PROVE is a small community within a larger community, and that means a lot for us. We've all come from a life where everything is very structured to an unstructured situation, so this helps us get through."

Andrew McElroy, a corporal in the Marines who served two tours in

Mariette Kalinowski ►

Iraq, said: "A lot of the kids around us don't understand why anyone would volunteer to serve and don't appreciate what we've been through. That's why I'm more comfortable here."

Mariette Kalinowski ('11), who served two tours in Iraq as a Marine sergeant, was one of the first veteran mentors when PROVE was launched in 2007, and she is still active in its work (see page 15). Her goal is to earn an MFA in creative writing and tell the story of what she has been through.

PROVE is led by a team from the School of Social Work: Associate Professor Roger Sherwood is director, Leora Shudofsky is associate director, and Holly Fancher is project coordinator. All are experienced social workers and are backed up by social work interns, veteran mentors, veteran services officials and partnering agencies.



## Proven to be Invaluable



▲ Roger Sherwood

PROVE Director Roger Sherwood came to Hunter following his Vietnam-era military service and brings to the College a rare combination of social work skills and firsthand knowledge of the challenges facing veterans.

One of the founders of PROVE, Sherwood, who has a DSW from Columbia, has been teaching at Hunter's School of Social Work since 1979. He previously served as a social work officer at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and was in active reserve service with medical evacuation hospitals from 1973-1978.

Sherwood currently treats veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Montrose, NY, and was the project director for two grants that provided services to veterans and their families in Harlem and East Harlem.

Discussing his commitment to PROVE, Sherwood said, "Veterans bring invaluable life experiences to their campuses, and we must create venues to understand and utilize their special skills and talents."

## FACULTY PROFILE

## A Conversation with Physicist Y.C. Chen

A technological breakthrough in imaging that has applications in early diagnosis of eye ailments was the fruit of a recent collaboration between Professor Y.C. Chen, a laser specialist who is chairman of the Hunter Physics Department, and Dr. Ronald H. Silverman, then of the Weill Cornell Medical College Ophthalmology Department.

Silverman, a specialist in ultrasound imaging of the eye who is now at Columbia, was exploring the possibilities of combining ultrasound with light to improve image resolution; Chen wanted to apply his laser knowledge to the biomedical field. Together, the two invented a device that creates a detailed image of the eye, perhaps 20 times better than the images available with ultrasound alone – allowing doctors to see early signs of macular degeneration, tumors, oxygen shortages, and other danger signals.

The collaboration was a result of Hunter's partnership in the consortium of institutions headed by Weill Cornell Medical College in the Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). Established in 2008 with the aid of a \$49 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, the center will translate research advances made in labs into new clinical methods used at the bedside. The men hope to have a workable device in five years.

### How does the photoacoustic imaging process work?

The way ultrasound works, you direct an ultrasound pulse at a tissue. It is reflected, and from the delay of the echo, you know where the reflection is taking place. A computer processes the data and constructs the

image. Ultrasound is well developed: it can penetrate where light cannot. But ultrasound has a limitation: the smallest thing you can see is about the size of a human hair. Doctors need to see much smaller things such as microvasculature and the optic nerve, and ultrasound cannot reveal enough details.

What we came up with uses a technique called photoacoustics. We generate ultrasound by light: we direct a focused laser pulse toward the tissue. When the tissue absorbs the light, it warms up, expands and generates an ultrasound pulse. The laser beams can be focused better than the ultrasound. This way, we improved the resolution at least 20 times. With photoacoustic imaging, not only can you tell fine details, you can also tell what kind of tissue it is.

### Could you say a few words about the collaboration?

The sciences in the 21st century will be driven by interdisciplinary research. The CTSC supports interdisciplinary and cross-institutional research. I have limited knowledge about the human body and ultrasound, while my collaborator needs my laser technology to help break the limitations of his technology. The collaboration not only solves the problem that brought us together, but also opens up many new ideas and opportunities.

### What else could your technique be used for?

Dermatology. It's good for anything that is a few millimeters deep – or else for the eye, because it's transparent. We are also working to shrink the device so it may be used to examine places that can be reached by an endoscope.



### What's next in your lab?

We are developing techniques that will let us focus the laser beam through a non-transparent medium. It is like seeing through ground glass. Among the people in my lab are two students who just graduated with their doctoral degrees, Fanting Kong and Liping Liu.

### How did you come to Hunter?

I used to work in industry, but quite often, in industry, if something doesn't work in six months, then you will be asked to change direction. It is hard to do research if management has only six months of patience. So I came to academics, which allows me to set my own direction.

### What do you like about Hunter?

Hunter is very supportive. We have a very good academic program and smart students. And we offer very personal attention to students. In physics, we pretty much know every student, and my students helped in this project. We have a very close bond, and it's very enjoyable to see students starting productive careers. Also, New York City, of course, can't be beat.

### Is this technique patented, and do you have other patents?

We submitted an "invention disclosure" through Cornell. I have nine patents, mostly from industry – various mini-lasers, some already commercial products, because a large part of my work in the past involved shrinking

lasers from a bulky benchtop model to a little millimeter-sized chip without compromising performance.

### What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Teaching physics makes me understand physics better. You think about the problem more and from different angles, and you understand it much better.

### What are your pastimes outside of work?

Hiking. I have hiked parts of the Appalachian Trail. Wherever I go – to a conference, for example – I find the nearest place to hike, maybe a mountain, out in nature. Also, I like photography.

### What's your favorite electronic device, and what does that tell us about you?

I have a Sony e-reader. It's wonderful. I can read both English and Chinese on it. There are thousands of years of Chinese literature without copyright. And I have every book of Thomas Friedman's on my e-reader.

### What would your students be surprised to learn about you?

I cook very well. I like Italian cooking more than Chinese cooking, especially seafood. Cooking is great, especially now that you can find any recipe online. But when you do it once or twice, then you have your own recipe. It's mixed, blending flavors. I guess I'm an experimentalist.



# Five Hawk Teams Are Champs, First In CUNYAC History



▲ Hunter junior Jennifer Kraham

Hunter athletes have been setting records for years, but even in that fabled history the fall 2010 season hit a new high mark. Every Hawk team that competed for a CUNY Athletic Conference championships captured the prize. No college in

CUNYAC history has ever swept the board that way.

The winners were the men's and women's cross-country teams (the 13<sup>th</sup> championship for the men, 10<sup>th</sup> for the women), men's soccer (their fifth), women's tennis (their 19<sup>th</sup>),

and women's volleyball (their 20<sup>th</sup>).

Terry Wansart, director of Hunter athletics, called the achievement "a monumental moment in Hawk history," adding: "To have all of our fall teams win the CUNYAC championship shows dominance and diversity. This tradition of excellence has been built by our former student-athletes, coaches and various college administrators."

As one might expect of championship teams, individual Hawk players and coaches won top honors in their sports.

Ed Zarowin – Coach Z, as he is popularly known – was named Coach of the Year in both men's and women's cross-country. Sophomore Christopher Guerrero was named men's Runner of the Year, and teammates Alexander Arsian, Joseph Papa, and Jose Miranda were selected as All-Stars.

In women's cross-country, Jacklyn Henderson was Runner of the Year. Named as All-Stars were Lizzy Mahoney, Jennifer Arozamena, Johanna Keilwitz, Stephanie-Ann Dulipre and Kimberly Yeh.

In men's soccer, Mario Baez, who scored the goal that clinched the championship, was the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Ioannis



▲ Joe Papa ('13), Alexander Arsian

Theotakas was a First-Team All-Star, and Zade Haobsh, Hugo Durand and Leander Kotsopoulos earned spots on the Second Team.

In women's tennis, Epraksi Yushkova was Player of the Year, and Jane Selegean was Rookie of the Year. Jennifer Kraham was named to the All-Star team, and Arielle Kamin earned Second Team honors.

In women's volleyball, Ray Bello was Coach of the Year. Christine Luebcke was Tournament MVP as well as a Second Team All-Star. Mallory Grubler and Katina Boutis were named to both the All-Tournament team and the All-Star First Team.

Athletics Director Wansart put the Hawks' historic achievement in perspective by saying, "This 2010 accomplishment will be in the record books for a long, long time, and we welcome our other teams to try to break it in the future."



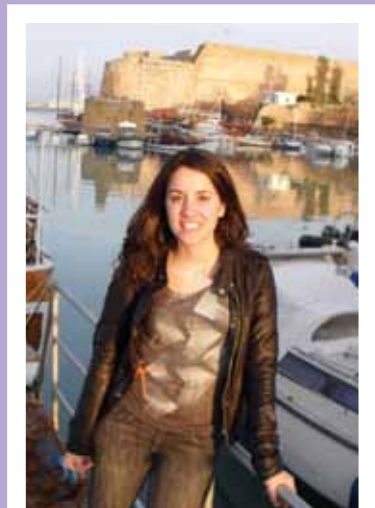
## Two All-Stars Come Out to Shine

The December Homecoming was graced by two special members of the Long Purple Line: Lenore Foehrenbach (left) and Helen Milone Allen, both members of the Athletic Hall of Fame.

Allen ('41) starred in field hockey and basketball for Hunter and played on the New York women's lacrosse team. Foehrenbach ('42) played varsity field hockey and was captain of the basketball team. The Homecoming held a joint 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for them. Allen recently reached that milestone, and Foehrenbach is approaching hers.

# The Fulbrights Keep Coming Hunter's Winners Take Their Prizes into a Variety of Fields

Hunter's best and brightest have been capturing Fulbright fellowships since the program was launched in 1946, and the past two years have continued the tradition. In 2010-11, Hunter ranked 10th in the nation among master's institutions with three winners, the same number the College boasted in 2009-10.



▲ Thomael Joannidis

Thomael Joannidis's Fulbright grant took her to Cyprus to research the impact of the island's division between a Greek-Cypriot majority and a Turkish-Cypriot minority on marginalized peoples, particularly women. Joannidis (BA '04, MS '06) found that although Cyprus is advanced in many ways – educational levels are high and prosperity is widespread – women remain thwarted in most attempts to assert their rights. "They are told they have to wait until the island's situation is resolved," she said. "The ethnic division overshadows other societal issues." Her journey to Cyprus was

intensified by her own background: she comes from a family of Greek-Cypriots who were displaced when the conflict led to warfare during the 1970s. Documenting the story of her experiences, including traveling with her family to visit the homes that they were forced to flee, is one of her future projects.

Tonia Tiewul, who graduated in 2009 from the Thomas Hunter Honors Program with a degree in psychology, spent her Fulbright term at the Caribbean Child Development Centre, part of the University of the West Indies. Her project was to examine the neurological development of children infected with, and affected by, HIV. Her research included looking at the delays in the children's motor, language and other cognitive skills. She was well prepared for her mission, since she spent two years at Hunter training in social science research on a fellowship from the National Institute of Mental Health. She said of her experience, "I would not have been able to accomplish what I have so far without the infectious sense of determination that I gained during my time at Hunter." Tiewul is now a first-year medical student at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

Matthew Willis, who graduated in 2009 with a degree in biology and German, took his Fulbright to Austria, where he taught English in a secondary school and studied communication and language in a health care setting. Willis's interest in health care is rooted in his personal experiences as a medical technician and emergency medical technician. Now back in the U.S., he plans to study

medicine and work in under-served communities.

Maria Arettines graduated in June '10 with a triple major in the Thomas Hunter Honors Program, women and gender studies, and political science. Her Fulbright has taken her to Cyprus where she teaches English at the university, using her background in American film, literature and art to enrich the classes. Long active in social causes, she founded a human rights club in high school, started up an independent library at a community center, worked with a women's collective and participated in Freewheel, a group that fixes old bicycles for people who can't afford any other transportation. When she



▲ Heidi Exline

returns to the U.S., she plans to attend Hunter's School of Social Work.

Heidi Exline, a graduate student in Hunter's urban planning program, spent her early years on a family farm in Iowa, which she considers a good background for her advocacy of a food



▲ Lauren Vriens

system that is both just and sustainable. She is now in India working at the Punjab Agriculture University, analyzing data on malnutrition and hunger and focusing on food security issues. One of her chief tasks is researching how spikes in world food prices affect Indian farmers. "The goal," she said, "is to help empower the residents to make some changes." After her Fulbright year, Exline plans to work for an international nongovernmental food organization.

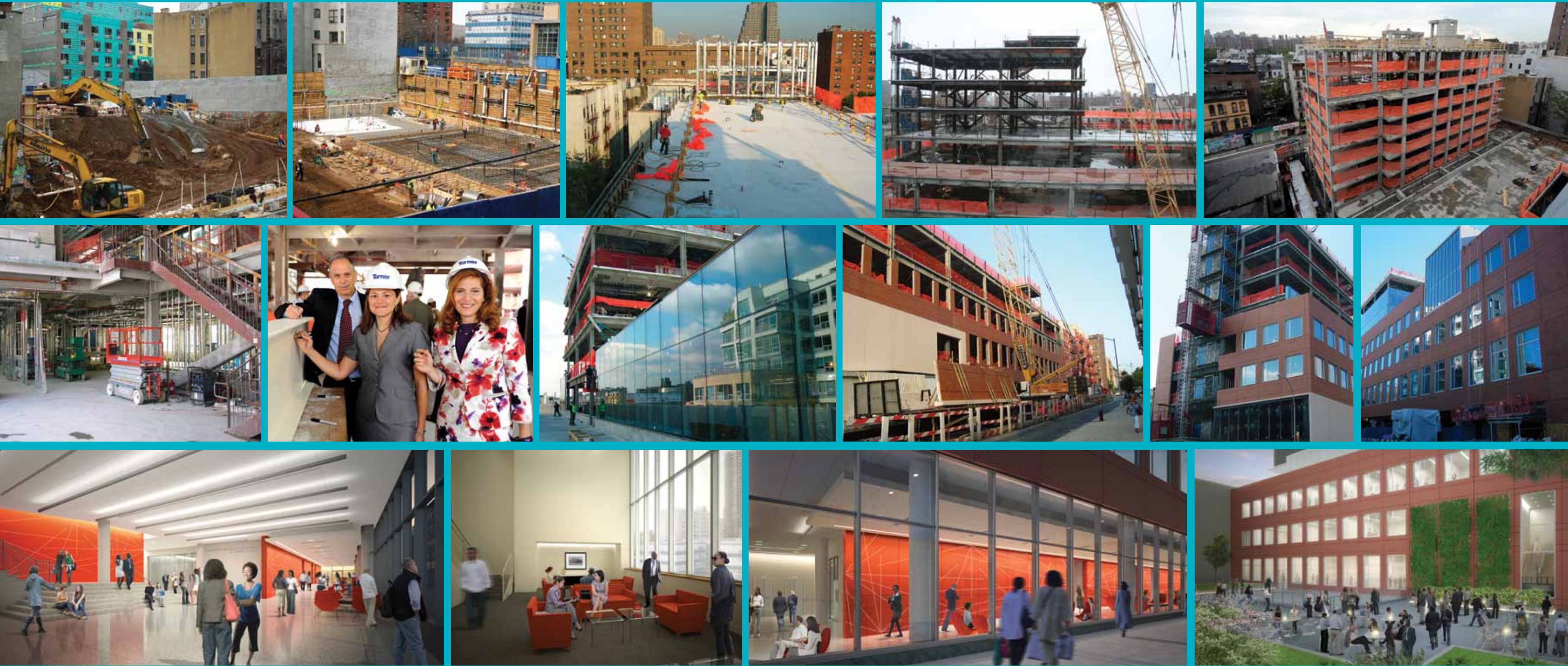
Lauren Vriens is in Bahrain, the island nation that has been making headlines since a tide of protests swept over the Arab world. Vriens, a June 2010 Macaulay Honors College graduate with a major in political science and a minor in Arabic, has followed events closely and offered insights in a column in the *Huffington Post* and an interview on WNYC's "Brian Lehrer Show." In her HuffPo piece ([http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lauren-vriens/bahrain-two-seas-two-sect\\_b\\_827028.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lauren-vriens/bahrain-two-seas-two-sect_b_827028.html)) she described the Bahrain she arrived in last fall as "the Las Vegas of the Middle East" and said the inequalities of wealth and privilege between a ruling Sunni minority and a Shia underclass fuel the protests. In her view, King Hamad cannot ignore the protests for long. She wrote: "Regardless of the tactics the monarchy takes, it needs to start soon."



# Hunter's New Social Work Building Nears Completion

Photo Sequence Shows Progress at the East Harlem Complex

*SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK*



From early excavations in the fall of 2009 (top row left), through the various stages of construction, to completion of the façade (second row right), work is on target for a June ribbon-cutting. President Raab was joined by Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito and CUNY Vice Chancellor Allan Dobrin at the topping-off ceremony. Renderings (bottom row) give a preview of what the airy, modern facility will look like when it opens.





# Hunter Celebrates its 202<sup>nd</sup> Commencement

Some 1,500 students – 1,000 undergraduates and 500 graduate students – were awarded their Hunter degrees in the Assembly Hall on January 20 before a joyful audience of parents, siblings, spouses and friends. The newly-minted alumni responded with equal enthusiasm, springing to their feet at regular intervals to cheer and wave purple and white pom-poms, while on stage the Hunter Hawk spurred them on. Speaking on behalf of the graduates

was co-valedictorian Rebecca Brown. (Her fellow valedictorian Alex Sheremet had agreed to let Brown speak on behalf of both of them.) Choosing to go against the grain of typical valedictories, Brown dismissed the notion that the graduates were about to take their first steps “into the real world.”

“We Hunter students have been living in this mystical ‘real world’ all along,” she said. “We have lived with a greater sense of independence than the typical college student. We have

not been sheltered by the confines of a campus in the middle of nowhere, an insular environment that only offers a one-dimensional college experience.”

“Our Hunter experience,” Brown concluded, “gives us a pretty substantial and distinct advantage, as it makes us better prepared to deal with the greater challenges ahead.”

The graduates were given a preview of what some of those challenges will be by the commencement speaker, Harold Ford Jr. As a five-term congress-

man from Tennessee (1997-2007) and a recent transplant to New York City, Ford brought a unique perspective to Hunter’s urban campus – one that was alternatively personal, political and idealistic.

Now a managing director at Morgan Stanley, Ford warned the graduates that “things can happen in life that you don’t expect but that change you and everything you do.” The advice took on added emotional force, since it was delivered less than two weeks after the shooting in Tucson, in which Congress-

woman Gabrielle Giffords was severely wounded and six people were killed.

“You have more technology and tools than any generation before you,” Ford told the graduates. “And you have more challenges than any generation before you.” He added: “America is looking for the leadership you offer. This is an opportunity, and you have

the resources to respond. We place hope and confidence in you.”

The former Tennessean – who many observers believe may take on some challenges of his own by running for political office in New York – finished with a line that brought smiles to the faces of President Jennifer J. Raab and the faculty and staff members assembled on the stage: “Always remember to love Hunter.”

As is her tradition at commencement ceremonies, President Raab singled out several students whose extraordinary personal stories of academic success and triumph over adversity brought cheers and applause from the audience.

One of the most inspiring accounts concerned Mariette Kalinowski, who served two tours with the Marine Corps in Iraq. Suffering from post-traumatic stress and struggling to adjust to civilian life, she reached out

to other ex-service people by starting a student-veterans club. It proved to be a win-win situation for her and her comrades, and she soon excelled in her classes. She now plans to earn her MFA and write fiction about her military experiences.

Another of the uplifting narratives concerned Aung Pyie, who graduated with a BA/MA in biology and a perfect 4.0 GPA – nearly a decade after escaping from a life under an oppressive military government in his native Burma. In October, with the support of his Hunter professors and six Nobel laureates familiar with his dedication and scientific work, Aung successfully petitioned the court to grant him permanent humanitarian asylum in the U.S. He will return to Hunter this fall to begin a PhD program in cell biology.



▲ Co-valedictorians Alex Sheremet and Rebecca Brown with Harold Ford Jr.



▲ After decades working odd jobs to put her two daughters through college, Teri Tilwick, 63, received her own diploma in January. A double major in special honors and English, she plans on starting a new career in international relations.



▲ Proud alumna Phyllis Kossoff celebrates grandson Joshua Hunter Kossoff’s graduation from her alma mater. Joshua was destined to attend Hunter not only because of his grandmother, but also because of his middle name!

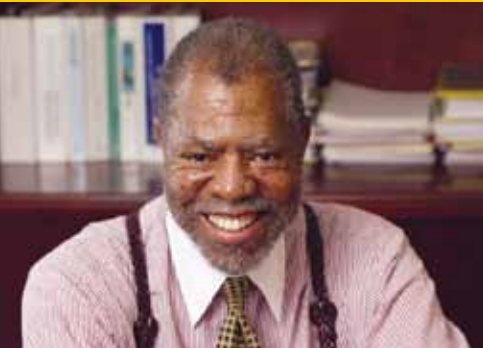
“America is looking for the leadership you offer. This is an opportunity, and you have the resources to respond. We place hope and confidence in you.”

— Harold Ford Jr.



# Historic Accomplishments For School of Public Health

Alice Welch made history in January by becoming the first graduate of the Doctor of Public Health program at the new CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College. Receiving a diploma alongside Welch was Joseph Kennedy, the first graduate of the School's



▲ Kenneth Olden

Master of Public Health program, where he had a concentration in biostatistics. Their degrees are not only extraordinary personal accomplishments, but critical milestones for the School of Public Health, whose accreditation requirements include graduating at least one doctoral student and one student from the MPH's biostatistics concentration.

"We were very pleased that we completed this requirement for accreditation," said Dr. Ken Olden, founding dean of the School of Public Health. But beyond that, he continued, "I was most impressed with the high quality of both of these graduates."

The school, which will officially open in the new Hunter College Complex in East Harlem this fall, consolidates CUNY's health programs at Hunter and is the College's first doctorate-granting institution. The Council on Education for Public Health, the national accrediting body, made a site visit in December and is expected to give formal accreditation in June.

Welch worked as a pharmacist for

eight years before returning to school. "It was extremely frustrating to be a front-line health care worker and witness incredible disparities in accessibility and quality of care and not be able to do much about it," she said. So she entered the Master of Public Health (MPH) program at Hunter, graduating in 2005 with a GPA of 3.92. After graduating, she was hired by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to lead a team helping people with 9/11-related health problems find appropriate care. In 2007, Welch applied to the new DPH program and was accepted into the inaugural class.

"I waited two years after I finished the MPH program because I was waiting for the CUNY School of Public Health to start," she said. Though it was definitely a challenge, Welch reminded herself often of the ancient Athenian oath to local civic duty she recited each day in high school. "As silly as it may sound, I guess 20 years later that is how I see my role in public health — making NYC better by trying to improve the health of its residents and leaving it better than we found it."

Welch has lived up to that pledge. For her doctoral dissertation, she analyzed World Trade Center Registry data and found that many 9/11 survivors remain at risk for multiple physical and mental health problems — including problem drinking and post-traumatic stress disorder — even several years after the disaster. Her work helped to provide evidence to support the \$4.3 billion 9/11 health care bill that recently passed Congress.

Welch's findings make an important contribution to the understanding of the impacts of disasters on the health of urban populations.

Like Welch, Kennedy pursued his degree at Hunter while working full-time at the Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene, where he analyzes birth and death records to uncover important disease patterns.

In addition to achieving important accreditation milestones, the CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College is making new efforts to cultivate support for the School. Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab has convened an external Public Health Advisory Board — consisting of leaders in academia, government, health care organizations, business, and labor — to provide guidance and expert advice to Dean Olden and the president on key initiatives. The panel, which will meet several times a year, comprises prominent officials from the local and national health care arenas including: Thomas Farley, commissioner of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Michael Stocker, chairman of the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation; Dennis Rivera, senior advisor to the International President of SEIU; Mark Wagar, president and CEO of Empire BlueCross BlueShield; and Harvey



▲ Peter Orszag (l.), former director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, is greeted by Hunter President Jennifer Raab and philanthropist Jonathan Tisch at the Joan H. Tisch Public Health Forum at Roosevelt House. Orszag was the guest speaker at the second annual forum, sponsored by Jonathan and his siblings, Laurie and Steve, in honor of their mother, Joan.



▲ Alice Welch

Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

With the recent opening of Roosevelt House as Hunter's Public Policy Institute, the College has also been renewing efforts to bring health policy scholars and practitioners to campus. John McDonough, an authority on national health reform, recently completed two semesters as the Joan H. Tisch Distinguished Fellow in Public Health and was instrumental in attracting other high-level health policy experts to Roosevelt House for lectures and forums. Among the experts were Peter Orszag, former director of the Office of Management and Budget; Howard Koh, U.S. assistant secretary for health; and Brian Smedley, a renowned researcher in the healthcare field.

# Accelerated Pathway to Nursing Transforms Lives in Mid-Career



▲ A2D nursing grads (from left) Diana Baker, Casey Flaherty, Amy Rubenstein, Hilary Thomas and Maria Browne.

In an effort to meet the critical nursing shortage in New York City, President Raab, Kristine Gebbie, former dean of the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing, and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn have joined forces to create a program that makes it easier for students to transfer into nursing from other fields. It's called the A2D (Accelerated Second Degree) Pathway, and it saw its first class graduate last fall.

"We wanted to make it possible for career-changers to move into nursing quickly, so we designed A2D as an intensive, 14-month program," Gebbie said. "There aren't enough programs to make such rapid transfers possible, and we were determined to change that."

Pamela Young Mahon, a professor at Hunter-Bellevue, is coordinator of the A2D program. "Our students come to us as brokers, accountants, administrators and social workers," she said. "After a rigorous course of study they emerge as professional

nurses. Their progress in such a short time is remarkable — they are truly transformed."

Among the 15 members of the first A2D class that graduated in September was Rebecca King, 32. After earning her undergraduate degree in anthropology from Hunter in 2001, King was working in forensics at the medical examiner's office when she decided to pursue the A2D degree. "I had been considering the medical field for years," she said. "Initially I thought physical therapy, but after caring for an ill family member, I realized that it was nursing that I had always been looking for."

She called the accelerated program "terrific," because the classes were small and the education extraordinary. She has passed the licensing exam for registered nurses and eventually hopes to be a nurse practitioner.

Diana Baker, 26, who was recruited into the program by a Hunter nursing graduate, Nina Annaloro ('91), was among King's classmates. Baker had

decided to move into nursing and was trying to decide what program to enter. "The school that always came up as one of the best was Hunter," she said, adding that Annaloro always spoke highly of her Hunter training.

The only male in the class was Jason Wong. He had been working at J.P. Morgan, crunching numbers and sitting in on conference calls, but feeling it wasn't the right career for him. "I really wanted to make a difference, to help people," he said. "I would look in the mirror every morning and ask, 'Do I want to do this for the next 30 or 40 years?' The answer was no." He found Hunter's A2D program "excellent in terms of cost and quality."

After getting his nursing license Wong started job-hunting. He said, "In this case, it pays off to be a guy" because institutions like to have males in a traditionally female profession.

# A Return to Hunter, in Honor of Nurses



▲ Donna Shalala

Thirty years ago, when Donna Shalala became the 10th president of Hunter College, Roosevelt House still served in its former capacity as a popular student activities center. Last December, Dr. Shalala returned to the House — newly renovated, and now the home of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College — to discuss the release of a new report on the future of nursing in New York City.

It was a happy return for Dr. Shalala, the former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services who is now president of the University of Miami. She praised current Hunter president Jennifer J. Raab for the "wonderful" work being done at Roosevelt House, including the Public Policy Institute's role in health care policy and debate.

The event, sponsored by the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, was the first of several regional meetings of nursing and health care leaders coming together to advance the recommendations of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing, at the Institute of Medicine. Dr. Shalala chaired the report committee.

"You really have to know a lot about nursing if you want to know a lot about health care," she said, noting the vital role nurses and the nursing profession must play in discussions of health care policy. "Nurses have to be full partners in the strategic designing of this new health care system."



# Florence Adams is Alive and Well and Living in Massachusetts



▲ Florence Adams poses with examples of her art.

“The deal in life,” says Florence O’Neill Adams, “is that you have to recognize your talents and use them.”

Adams has embraced that philosophy throughout her richly varied life, and she continues to do so now despite an embarrassing gaffe by *At Hunter*, which in its last issue included her in its *In Memoriam* section. (We even got her year of graduation wrong – it was 1955, not 1954, although she does go to reunions with the Class of ’54, where most of her friends are.) Apologies to all who were dismayed by the erroneous entry, especially Adams.

She came to Hunter as Florence O’Neill from Highbridge in the Bronx, worked nights for an accounting firm, and graduated with a degree in mathematics. Uncertain about how to begin

her career, she took the advice of an old boyfriend who urged her to “come out to California.” She promptly landed a job with North American Aviation in Los Angeles and was put to work on an assignment ahead of its time – studying liquid propellants for moon rockets.

A mere month into the job, she was directed to work with the firm’s computer. Her response: “What’s a computer?” This was, after all, 55 years ago.

Adams was soon good enough with the IBM 704 to be given increasingly complex assignments. In time, though, she began to doubt whether science programming was what she wanted to do and on a return trip to New York found a field that felt right, commercial computing. An actuarial firm hired her to install its first computer, then her

old accounting firm asked her to do the same thing. Along the way she wrote what is believed to be the first software for profit-and-loss statements.

By the early ’70s, Adams was suffering from what she calls “computer burnout.” It was a difficult time for her, since she was now a divorced mother of two with no clear idea of her next step. Writing called to her, but she was unsure of her ability. Once again, a friend’s advice proved crucial. “Write the way you talk,” the friend said, and Adams did. Her first book, *I Took a Hammer in My Hand*, was a do-it-yourself guide for women who had to maintain a home by themselves, and it was highlighted by *Ms.* magazine as one of the first feminist handbooks. It’s available to this day on Amazon.com.

Her second book, *Mushy Eggs*, about two little boys growing up with a single mother, was published by Putnam in 1973 and is considered a classic in the children’s field. (“Mushy eggs” is what her sons called scrambled eggs.) Two more books followed, one for teenagers about solar power, another for young parents on building and recycling children’s furniture.

In 1975, Adams moved to Cape Cod where she continued managing



▲ A colorful version of Lady Liberty.

computer departments until 1996 when she retired. But not really. She soon launched herself into a new love, painting, “to use my right brain talents.” A series of paintings of Cape Cod and New York, the hometown she still visits, followed. One of her works hangs in the home of her friend and neighbor, the actress Julie Harris, and the American Folk Art Museum is entering her archive into its database.

Adams still keeps up with her first vocation, computers, and often provides free advisory services. Asked why she doesn’t charge for something of such value, she replied with her usual cheerful directness: “I believe older people should give away everything they have to give.”

# Her First Novel Gives Life to Invisible People



▲ Victoria Brown

Victoria Brown will receive her MFA in creative writing this year, but as an author she’s already off to a running start. Her first novel, *Minding Ben*, is being published this spring by the Voice Imprint of Hyperion Books, and even in advance of publication it has caused a stir. *The New York Times Book Review* profiled her last summer, and the *Library Journal* has listed the

novel on its Editors’ Spring Picks.

The protagonist is a 16-year-old woman from Trinidad who migrates to New York and gets a job with a Manhattan couple taking care of their son Ben. That’s no surprise, since Brown is a Trinidadian whose first job as a teenager was as a New York nanny. She told *The Times*: “I was one of those anonymous women pushing a

child on the Upper East Side. I’d be in the building’s lobby with the little boy, and the neighbors would say hello to the little boy but not to me. There was a degree of invisibility. It may sound corny, but I wanted to give these women some inner life.”

Brown, 37, now married and the mother of two, is at work on her second novel, this one set in the Caribbean.

# A Broadcast Pioneer, and It Started at Hunter



▲ Panelists at Paul Kagan’s (c.) media conference at the Waldorf-Astoria in October included Jeffrey Katzenberg (l), CEO of DreamWorks Animation and former studio chairman of The Walt Disney Company, and Jon Landau, producer of *Avatar*.

When Paul Kagan (’58) got the chance of his dreams – to be the Hunter basketball announcer as a freshman in 1954 – it was a happy accident: The new automated scoreboard annoyed the student who was running it, so he passed that job to the student announcer, Sam Samuels (’57), sports editor of the *Arrow*. Samuels turned to his new cub reporter and said, “Paul, you take the microphone,” Kagan recalled. “I took it over, and I never gave it up.”

He worked as athletic announcer for four years, became sports editor for the *Arrow*, managed the baseball and soccer teams, helped organize the intramural tournament, and ran WHCB, the campus radio station at the Bronx campus. (The station, he said, was really a public address system on the roof of a building.)

Looking back on his college days, Kagan said, “What I remember most about Hunter is the opportunity it gave me to develop my skills. I was doing things that required responsibility right from the very beginning.”

His life at Hunter paved the way for his career in the communications

field. His first business – an investment newsletter he wrote and mailed from a dining-room table in Long Island – grew into an international powerhouse, with a 140-person staff and offices in California, Colorado, London and Hong Kong.



▲ Kagan discusses his career with Hunter business students at a forum sponsored by the Leon Cooperman (’64) Pre-Business Program.

The idea for the newsletter was born at E.F. Hutton where he began working in 1968 analyzing the nascent cable broadcasting industry for investors. He went on to develop a new method for analyzing the value of publicly held companies based on cash flow. The method is now in widespread use in many industrial sectors.

Kagan expanded his research to provide trend and financial analysis of media growth in Europe, and then extended his coverage to Asia. Eventually he was producing more than 100 publications.

He sold the newsletter in 2000 – only to begin another company in 2005, also focused on analysis and consulting. Kagan is now a director of the Cable TV Center in Denver.

He returned to New York in October as sponsor of the Paul Kagan Conference on 3D Media Markets at the Waldorf-Astoria, which attracted many of the nation’s top media executives. During the trip, he took time to meet with Hunter students at Roosevelt House.

“I tell young people to think about what you want to do after college – even if you change your mind later – and use college to learn about that,” he said. “I knew what I wanted to do, and I went to a college that gave me an opportunity to

## ALUMNI PROFILES

### Nod from Oprah Gives Painter A Career Boost



▲ Abbey Ryan

Hunter alumni win recognition for their achievements in many ways, and now Abbey Ryan (MFA ’07) has established a new mark. She was named an “up and coming artisan” in the February issue of *O, the Oprah Magazine*.

Ryan was featured in the column “Women Who Make Beautiful Things” for the paintings she posts on her website, [abbeyryan.com](http://abbeyryan.com). Her works focus primarily on food – from tangerines, grapes and figs to doughnuts. She explained, “Fruit and vegetables have a gesture and living energy about them that inspire me. Also, every one is different.”

She draws on the Italian and Dutch masters she studied for inspiration. In addition to her Hunter MFA, her art training includes undergraduate and graduate work at Arcadia University, Johns Hopkins and the Art Students League of New York.

Painting in oil on a daily basis is now a routine for Ryan. “I think my interest in ritual comes from playing basketball for so many years,” she told *O*, referring to her time on the women’s teams at Wall, N.J., High School and Philadelphia-area Arcadia University.

Responding to the national coverage in *O*, Ryan said, “I’m a little bit in shock, but every day I aim to focus on how fortunate I am that I spend my time doing what I love.”



## Show Your Love for Hunter by Donating to the Annual Fund

Hunter's Annual Fund supports student scholarships, Hunter's superb faculty, state-of-the-art labs, the latest technology, and other immediate needs of the College. Your gift, no matter what the size, makes a daily impact on Hunter. If you wish to give online, please visit: <https://onlinedonation.hunter.cuny.edu/> or write a check to The Hunter College Foundation and mail it to: **The Hunter College Foundation, 695 Park Avenue, Room 1313A, New York, NY 10065.**

Thank you for your support.



## Show Us Where You Are!

Send us a picture of yourself alone, or with family and friends, wearing Hunter T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats (any Hunter gear will do) as you are out and about: visiting the Seven Wonders of the World, vacationing on an island, or hiking near a volcano — you name it! Email photos to: [publications@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:publications@hunter.cuny.edu). Please make sure photos are high-resolution jpegs.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1940s

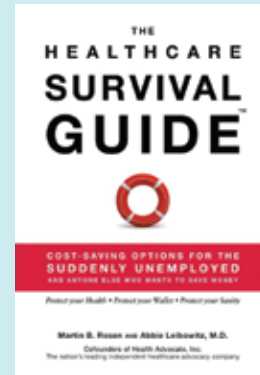


**Estelle Ellis Rubinstein (BA '40)** took the occasion of her 91st birthday to emulate Lady Liberty on board a ferry headed for the Ellis Island National Monument.

## 1960s



New paintings by **Hilda Green Demsky (MFA '63)** were shown in her solo exhibition at the Pleiades Gallery in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood in November. A widely acclaimed artist, Demsky has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for painting in Italy, a Fulbright Fellowship to the Netherlands, and a Christa McAuliffe Fellowship from the U.S. Government, among others.



*The Healthcare Survival Guide* (Health Advocate Publishing, Inc., 2009), coauthored by **Martin Rosen (BA '68, MA '75)**, has won a 2010 Benjamin Franklin Award for Best First Book/ Nonfiction, given by the Independent Book Publishers Association; and an Apex Award for Publication Excellence, given by the trade association Communications Concepts. Rosen is cofounder and executive vice president of Health Advocate, Inc., an independent healthcare advocacy and assistance company based in Pennsylvania.

## 1970s

Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., has named **Christopher Vecsey (BA '70)** the Henry Emerson Fosdick Professor of the Humanities and Native American Studies. A specialist in American religious history and American Indian religion, history, and culture, Vecsey has headed both the Native American Studies Program and the Division of the Humanities at Colgate.

"SubjectS Matter," a new exhibit of artworks by **Barbara Mathis (BA '71)**, was recently shown at the Bruce S. Kershner Gallery in the Fairfield Public Library in Connecticut.



Lenox Hill Hospital has named **Philip P. Rosenthal (BA '73)** its executive director. Rosenthal has been with Lenox Hill since 1980, most recently as chief administrative officer. He first served the hospital as assistant administrator of its Nicholas Institute of Sports Medicine and Athletic Trauma, the first hospital-based center for the study of sports medicine in the United States, and was instrumental in establishing the Lenox Hill Heart and Vascular Institute.



Galatioto Sports Partners (GSP) is pleased to announce that its president, **Salvatore Galatioto (BA '74)**, has been named to the *Sports Business Journal* 50 Most Influential People in Sports. GSP acted as the exclusive financial advisor for the sale of the Golden State Warriors and the Charlotte

Bobcats and also played a pivotal role in delivering the highest sale price ever for an American League baseball team in the Texas Rangers bankruptcy auction.

Music, activism, and real estate are some of the interests that have kept **Patricia Kennedy (BA '74)** busy since graduation. A real estate broker in Washington, she is the author of *The Irreverent Guide to Real Estate* (I-Universe, 2006), a blogger (Housepat.activerain.com), a former staff member of the Civil Aeronautics Board, and a former staffer with Nader's Raiders, where she was associate director of the Aviation Consumer Action Project.

**Eliza Goodwine Claxton (BS '77)** was awarded the NAACP Regional Service Award for her contributions to the Calhoun County (South Carolina) community. She has served as chaplain of the Volunteer Fire Department, co-founder of the Community Garden Club, and executive board member of the county's branch of the NAACP.

## 1980s



Fairfield University in Connecticut has been showing "Seeing

Things," an exhibit of works by **Joel Carreiro (MFA '82)**, a professor of art at Hunter and the director of the College's MFA program in studio art. The exhibit is a collection of collages composed of hundreds of tiny, vibrantly colored squares.

**Jacqueline Leighton (MA '85)** is the new director of the Davis International Center in Princeton, where she will promote cross-cultural understanding and provide support for international students and scholars in the Princeton University community.

**Maureen Liberth (MS '85)** is a clinical nurse specialist at the Lutheran Medical Center, where she specializes in labor, delivery, and obstetrics. Liberth has worked at the center, which is in Brooklyn, for more than 30 years. She has also taught as a clinical adjunct at NYU and is a registered nurse at Staten Island Community College, which gave her a Nursing Distinction Award.

**Lillian M. Moy (BA '86)** has been elected to serve as the vice-president for the third district of the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association. She is the executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Inc. Within the State Bar, Moy is chair of the Committee on Minorities in the Profession and a past chair of the Committee on Legal Aid. She is a member of the Membership Committee and the president's Committee on Access to Justice and a past member of the House of Delegates. She received the State Bar's Denison Ray Program Director Award in 2008.

## 1990s

**Robin Wakefield (BA '92)** is an attorney with the New York City Law Department—and also a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate Generals' Corps. When she is called to active duty, she puts her life as a civilian attorney on hold and handles everything from providing advice to service members navigating family-law issues to briefing soldiers on estate planning and ethics.

The cities of Larchmont and Mamaroneck (N.Y.) honored **Sister Mary Alice Hannan (MA '93)** with a Woman of Spirit Award for her community work and particularly her efforts among homeless people. Hannan, a member of the Dominican Sisters of Hope, is the founder of Desda's Grate, a center for homeless women and their children.

*Anton Chekhov: Five Plays* (Stanford University Press, 2010), a translation from the Russian by **Marina Brodskaya (MA '94)**, has been hailed as the most complete English translation of the plays ever published.

Concentric Pharma Advertising, a New York- and London-based advertising agency specializing in health care, has named **Rebecca Greenberg (BA '94)** senior vice president and account director. Greenberg was named a 2010 "Rising Star" by the Healthcare Businesswomen's Association.

**Erika Petersen (BA '95, MA '01)** teaches at the Professional Children's School in Manhattan. In Petersen's 14 years of teaching, her classroom goal has been to "raise the craft of teaching to an art."

**Maggie Abrego (BA '96)** was appointed development associate at The Black AIDS Institute in Los Angeles, where she plans, oversees, and executes the Institute's annual development strategy.

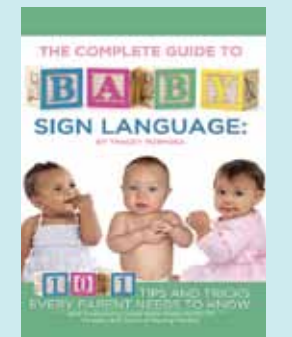
**Dawn Gugliaro (BA '97)** is the assistant commissioner for the Public Schools Athletic League softball section and the head bowling coach at St. Francis College in Brooklyn.

**Richard Aste (MA '99)** has been appointed curator of European art at the Brooklyn Museum. Aste was previously the associate curator at the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico.

## 2000s

**Natasha Leggero (BA '00)** made her stage debut at the Off the Hook Comedy Club in Marco Island, Fla. She has also appeared on several late-night comedy shows, including the "Tonight Show."

**Gary Parker (MSW '00)** is director of government and community affairs at NYU.



**Tracey Porpora (MA '00)** recently published her first book, *The Complete Guide to Baby Sign Language: 101 Tips and Tricks Every Parent Needs to Know*



## Honoring Julius Edelstein



Last spring, Hunter College raised \$50,000 to name Roosevelt House's entryway in honor of Julius C.C. Edelstein, the longtime senior vice chancellor of CUNY who died in 2005. Suzy Edelstein (MSW '80), Julius' daughter, and Kate Whitney Roosevelt, a granddaughter of Franklin and Eleanor, chaired the campaign and spoke at the dedication in September.



▲ Suzy Edelstein

Edelstein served as FDR's liaison to the U.S. Navy during World War II, a role he maintained under President Truman. He held several government positions, including personal adviser to the president of the Philippines and executive assistant and chief of legislative staff for New York Senator Herbert Lehman, before embarking on his career at CUNY in 1965. After formally retiring in 1984, Edelstein continued to work out of Hunter for the remainder of his life.

## CLASS NOTES CONTINUED

(Atlantic Publishing, 2010), a guide that takes parents through the process of non-verbal communication with children.

**Laurence (Lacy) Garcia Roosevelt (MSEd '00)**, who is based in Cambridge, Mass., is a director in the corporate division of the New York public relations firm Weber Shandwick Worldwide.



A memoir by **Jennifer Mascia (BA '01)**, *Never Tell Our Business to Strangers* (Villard, 2010), is an account of Mascia's unusual family life, which included discovering her father's murder conviction. Mascia, works as a news assistant at *The New York Times*.

**Melina Garcia (BA '04)** has been hired as a communications specialist at the Clinton Giustra Sustainable Growth Initiative, a partnership between the William J. Clinton Foundation and the private sector, local communities, government, and nongovernmental organizations to advance sustainable growth in the developing world.

**Will Meyerhofer (MSW '04)**, a former lawyer with Sullivan & Cromwell, now has a private practice as a psychotherapist in Manhattan. Meyerhofer shares his thoughts on psychotherapy, the practice of law, and life on his blog "The People's Therapist."

The artwork of **Asya Reznikov (MFA '06)** has recently been shown at several galleries including the Butler Institute of American Art in Cleveland, Ohio, and the High Line Open Studios in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

Poet **Ana Bozicevic (MFA '07)** gave a keynote speech at the Atlanta Queer Literary Festival, which took place in November, and was honored at the

Feminist Press "40 Feminists Under 40" Gala held this fall.

**Christine Curella (BA '08)** represented U.S. youth at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Mexico Nov. 29–Dec. 10. She served on a delegation from SustainUS, a volunteer-led youth organization for sustainable development. She has worked in Washington at the World Bank Inspection Panel.

Artwork by **Yeon Jin Kim (MFA '08)** was shown at the Times Square Gallery, the Islip Art Museum (Long Island), and the Storefront Artists Project (Pittsfield, MA), among other places. She has received awards from the Tony Smith Fund and the Ahl Foundation and is currently an artist in residence at the Henry Street Settlement in Manhattan.

"Cicada," a video produced by **Natalya Serebrennikova (BA '10)**, won several awards, including a student grant from the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures and a spot as a finalist in the Reel 13 competition for short videos, sponsored by Thirteen/WNET.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Ethel Garfunkel Berl (BA '27)** died on Apr. 11, a few weeks short of her 104th

birthday. A professor of educational foundations at Hunter, she was on the faculty from 1927 to 1974 and was known for her concern for her students as individuals as well as the excellence of her classroom instruction. She was a faculty adviser to a number of student clubs, and she also had a private practice as a psychologist in New York.

A graduate of both Hunter College High School and the College, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Berl earned her MA at Columbia and a PhD from NYU.

She was active in the National Conference of Christians and Jews, served on the Board of Higher Education (which later became the CUNY Board of Trustees) and the Metropolitan Committee on International Education, and, at Hunter, worked on behalf of Roosevelt House, the Concert Bureau, and the Opera Workshop, among many other College ventures. She was especially well known for helping students feel they were part of a vibrant community.

In 2001 Berl was awarded the President's Medal for her service to Hunter.



**Sophie Gurfield (BA '27)** was the first in her family to graduate from college.

The daughter of Russian immigrants, she graduated at 19 from Hunter with a double major in English and Latin. She became a teacher in the New York City public elementary schools and later

earned a master's degree in elementary guidance education. In 1933 she married Ralph J. Gurfield and had two sons, Robert and William.

After Gurfield's husband died in 1984, she remained in New York until 1998, when her sons persuaded her to move to California to be near them. Spirited till the end, in 2008 she celebrated both her 100th birthday and the outcome of the presidential election, demonstrating her elation at the latter by wearing an Obama t-shirt. She died on July 23. In addition to her two sons, she leaves four grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.



**Estelle Parnas Oringer (HCHS '27, HC '31)**, concert pianist,

music teacher and music director, died on April 2, 2010 at the age of 98.

After skipping several grades during her early school years, Oringer graduated from Hunter College High School at 15. At Hunter she was the college pianist, but because Hunter did not offer a music major, she received a BA in French. She later earned a BA in music from the Manhattan School of Music and a master's in music from Queens College. The Manhattan School awarded her a Special Artist Degree in 1956.

Oringer performed in many venues, from Haiti to Quebec to Carnegie Hall, and she was music director of the New Dance Group (1935-1945) and the accompanist for several Martha Graham dancers. She also worked with dancer/choreographer Anna Sokolow.

She taught in a number of well-known schools including the famed High School of Music and

Art, in the late '60s and '70s.

Returning to the concert stage in her 60s, Oringer was invited to perform in Haiti again and was so well received that she was invited to return for a second tour.

She continued to perform and teach until the age of 97. At her death, *New York Times* columnist Frank Rich called her "a remarkable woman," adding that he was "grateful [he] had a chance to meet her."



Sociologist **Suzanne Keller (BA '48)**, the first woman to receive tenure at Princeton

University, died in Miami on Dec. 9. She was 83.

Keller was a highly regarded scholar who conducted pioneering research on community life and the impact of elites in America.

Born in Vienna, Keller moved to New York City as a child. After graduating from Hunter, she earned her PhD in sociology from Columbia and a master's in social work from Rutgers. She went to Princeton in 1966 as a visiting lecturer and won tenure two years later. When coeducation arrived at Princeton in 1969, she played a major role in furthering women's studies.

She retired in 2004, and will be remembered as "a remarkable scholar, teacher and mentor, and a wise and generous colleague," in the words of Nancy Weiss Malkiel, Princeton's dean of the college.

A memorial service in Princeton is planned for the spring.



**Helen Ruth Singer (BA '45)**, (nee Scher), the fourth woman in a multigenerational line of Hunter graduates,

died at home in Southfield, Mich., on Sept. 23, 2009, at 85.

Her mother, Miriam Scher, graduated from Hunter in 1913, and her aunt, Leah Landesman, graduated in 1903. Her great-aunt, Fanny Rosenstock, graduated in 1885. Miriam and Leah were nieces of Isidor Straus, the owner of Macy's and founder of the Educational Alliance, who died with his wife, Ida, when the Titanic sank in 1912.

In addition to her degree in accounting, Singer also earned a teaching certificate and taught in the Bronx before moving to Michigan.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Frank Singer, host of a local Michigan TV show.



**Sam Kess (BA '97, MA '03)**, an inspiring figure who received his bachelor's

degree from Hunter at 77 in 1997 and his master's in geography at 83 in 2003, died Nov. 26 at 90 in Manhattan.

He was the oldest known degree recipient in CUNY history at his master's ceremony. At the time of his death, he was working on a PhD in earth and environmental sciences.

Kess served in the U.S. Navy from 1937 to 1945 and went on to serve in the merchant marine. He was a building engineer in New York for many years. He took his first course at Hunter in 1989.

He will be remembered as a thoughtful, caring person, with strong opinions and a great sense of humor. He was proud of his educational achievements, often saying education kept him young.



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## Foundation Board Member **Erik R. Oken**

*Investment Banker with an Eye for Education*

“It’s all about New York,” said Erik Oken when asked what made him interested in joining the Hunter College Foundation Board of Trustees. “I grew up in San Francisco, but I have chosen to live in New York, and I am understandably concerned about the city going forward.

“Hunter has a great role to play in New York’s future because it is such a dynamic academic community and because of its historic mission of serving first-generation college students. If New York is going to continue to be one of the world’s great cities, it must keep education in the forefront. And that means supporting a unique institution like Hunter.”

Oken’s interest in Hunter has a personal dimension, too. “I always wanted to live in a college

town,” he said. “My home is on 72nd Street, and while it took me a bit of time to see it, I realized that thanks to Hunter, I do.”

Oken brings a set of skills to the Foundation Board that are especially valuable in an era of limited finances. He is an investment banker who began his career as an analyst for Prudential Securities and is now a managing director for JP Morgan.

It was not surprising, he said, “given my background,” that one of his first assignments when he joined the Foundation Board two years ago was with the finance committee.

Since then, Oken has become involved in helping to map the future of the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. He welcomed the assignment,

first, he said, “because of my interest in foreign policy,” and second, because he sees Roosevelt House as an ideal vehicle for one of his visions for the College, which is “to broaden its outreach into the community.”

Oken graduated from the College Preparatory School in Oakland in 1986 and earned a BA from Amherst College in 1990. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters.

Hunter College is just one of Oken’s outside interests. He also serves on the boards of the New York Landmarks Conservancy and the American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, VT. Asked what drew him to such an unusual institution, he said with a laugh, “It’s simple. I love fly fishing.”