

## News & Announcements

### Welcome, New Faculty Members

We are delighted to welcome our new full-time faculty members who joined Hunter this semester:

**Terry Babcock-Lumish**, Distinguished Lecturer and Newman Director of Public Policy

**Joanne Mariner**, Director of Human Rights Program, Roosevelt House

**Douglas Mennin**, Associate Professor, Psychology

**Herman Pontzer**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology

**Ofer Tchernichovski**, Professor, Psychology

**Christina Zarchadoolas**, Professor, Urban Public Health

We are also pleased to welcome author/journalist **Alyssa Katz**, who is serving as the **Jack Newfield Professor** this semester, teaching a course titled "Who Owns Public Housing?" Inaugurated in 2006, the Jack Newfield Professorship honors the legendary reporter and Hunter graduate by bringing a distinguished journalist to teach at Hunter each year. Katz is the author of *Our Lot: How Real Estate Came to Own Us*, about the combination of Washington and Wall Street factors that led to the housing bubble and mortgage crisis. The former editor of *City Limits* magazine, she writes for *The American Prospect*, *The Big Money*, *Salon*, *Housing Watch*, *Mother Jones*, and *The Nation*, among other publications.

A new app created by **Tom McIntyre** (Special Education), believed to be the first-ever app on parenting, is now available at the iTunes store. Called "Positive Parenting Practices," the app contains two hours of narration accompanied by fast-moving, hand-drawn images "to help parents raise ethical, moral, well-adjusted and well-behaved children." The goal of the app is to give parents strategies to teach their children how to make good choices even when no adults are around. McIntyre is coordinator of Hunter's graduate program in learning and behavior disorders.

Writing on the letterhead of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice & Human Rights, Ethel Kennedy sent a letter to **Larry Shore**

(Film and Media Studies) about "RFK in the Land of Apartheid," a film that Shore and **Tami Gold** (Film and Media Studies) made. Wrote Kennedy, in part: "The amazing film you made about the trip to South Africa in 1966 sparked many wonderful memories. I love that with the airing of 'RFK in the Land of Apartheid' you inspire new generations with the story of that historic visit."

"The film is a gem," Kennedy concluded.

### Faculty Honors and Awards

The University of Oslo in Norway will present **Linda Alcoff** (Philosophy) with an honorary doctorate "for the enormous impact of her philosophical work on the international scene." The degree will be awarded at a ceremony in Oslo in September 2011. Additionally, the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University has asked Alcoff to donate all of her papers on feminist philosophy to the "Feminist Theory Papers" Archives at the Center. The "Feminist Theory Papers" is an important archival collection representing scholars who "have transformed their disciplines and the intellectual landscape of universities in the United States and internationally."

Distinguished Professor **Meena Alexander** (English) has been selected for a Fulbright Specialists Project in Italy. For this project, Alexander will visit the University of Venice Ca' Foscari in March, when she will hold a graduate seminar in multicultural poetics and give a public lecture on post colonial memory as part of the university's year-long focus on the theme of "Cultural Memory."

The International Society for the Study of Argumentation gave **James Freeman** (Philosophy) its 2010 Distinguished Research Award, given to "a scholar who has made substantial contributions in his scholarly work to the study of argumentation." Freeman received the award at the Society's biennial international conference in Amsterdam in June 2010, where he gave the keynote address.



Alyssa Katz



Tom McIntyre



Rupal Oza



Larry Shore



Joanne Mariner



Robert Henry Stanley



Herman Pontzer



Christina Zarchadoolas

## Faculty Honors and Awards (continued)

**Jill Simone Gross** (Urban Affairs) was awarded a US-EU Fulbright to conduct research on migrant political participation in London and Dublin during 2011-2011. The Fulbright-Schuman program focuses on research and/or post-graduate study on EU affairs or US-EU relations.

**Elizabeth Nunez** (English), who teaches creative writing, has won a 2011 Barnes and Noble Writers for Writers Award. The author of seven novels including *Anna In-Between* (Akashic Books, 2009), *Prospero's Daughter* (Ballantine Books, 2006), and *Bruised Hibiscus* (Seal Press, 2000), which won the American Book Award, Nunez co-founded the National Black Writers Conference and served as its director for 18 years. She chaired the PEN American Center's Open Book Committee, and was executive producer for the Emmy-nominated CUNY-TV series "Black Writers in America."

**Jeffrey Parsons** (Psychology) has been named the winner of the 2011 John Money Award by the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. The award is given annually to a scholar for "significant scientific contributions to our understanding of human sexuality." The award was given in March at the Society's meeting in Philadelphia, where Parsons addressed a plenary session and accepted the award.

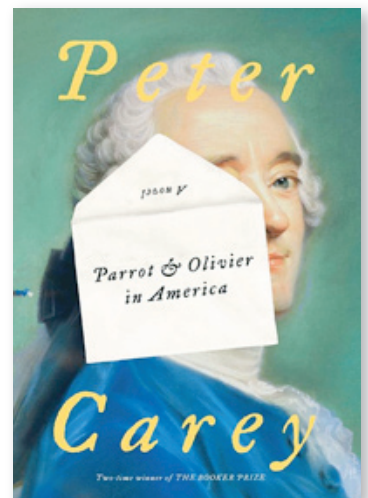
**Tom Sleigh** (English) has been chosen by the American Academy of Arts and Letters to receive the inaugural John Updike Award. This award, established by Mrs. John Updike in memory of her husband, will be presented biennially to a writer in mid-career whose work has demonstrated consistent excellence. The American Academy of Arts and Letters is an honor society of 250 architects, composers, artists, and writers who are elected for life.

**Michael Stieper** (Anthropology) was selected to be an Erasmus Mundus Scholar in the new Erasmus Mundus Master Programme in Evolutionary Biology. The Erasmus Mundus program is an

EU-wide funding agency that funds fellowships and curriculum in higher education. Stieper is also scheduled to give a talk at the Anthropological Institute & Museum at the University of Zurich this summer.

## Must Reads: Faculty Books

*Parrot and Olivier in America* (Vintage International) by **Peter Carey** (English), executive director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, has been listed on *The New York Times Book Review's* list of Paperback Best Sellers Trade Fiction. *Parrot and Olivier*, Carey's 11th novel, was also highlighted in *The Times's* "Paperback Row" section of January 30, which quoted an earlier *Times* review that said, in part, "Sentence for sentence, Carey's writing remains matchlessly robust." Carey is a two-time winner of the Man Booker Award (and was short-listed for the most recent Booker prize) as well as a finalist for the recent National Book Award.



**Hendrik Dey's** (Art) newly published book, *The Aurelian Wall and the Refashioning of Imperial Rome, AD 271-855*, (Cambridge University Press, April 2011) explores the relationship between the city of Rome and the Aurelian Wall during the six centuries following its construction in response to Barbarian invasions. It was during this time that Rome was



Linda Alcoff



Meena Alexander



David U.  
Himmelstein



Steffie  
Woolhandler



Jeffrey Parsons



Michael Stieper



Tom Sleigh

## Must Reads: Faculty Books (continued)

transformed from the political capital of the largest empire in the world to the spiritual center of Western Christianity.

In her newly-published book, *Photography and Italy* (Reaction Books, February 2011) **Maria Antonella Pelizzari** (Art) traces the history of photography in Italy from its beginnings to the present. While other collections have documented Italian history in photographs, the focus has often been on architecture and political heroes. However, in this book, Pelizzari includes previously unpublished works and a rare selection of more than one hundred images of some bold and controversial subjects.

Following the publication of her new book on school food, *Free for All: Fixing School Food in America*, **Janet Poppendieck** (Sociology) was interviewed at length in a two-part series in *TheTimes-Tribune.com* (January 5 and 12). "In my all-time favorite school lunch program," she says in the interview, "the fifth-graders at Pacific Elementary School in Davenport, CA prepare and serve the school lunch. They plan the menu, find the recipes, do the math...and prepare and serve the food..." Poppendieck goes on to discuss "the Lunch Lady," budgets, PTA committees, and other facets of school lunches in various parts of the country.

In *Since '45* (Reaktion Books, March 2011) **Katy Siegel** (Art) studies the collision of American history and modern art by examining the works of various artists, including Rothko, Warhol,

Richard Prince, Robert Longo and others in the context of artists' works, art museums and galleries, cultural influences and significant historical events. Since World War II, New York has been the center of world art and Siegel explores how American culture dominated not only American artists, but created conditions that affect artists around the world.

Senior poet **Tom Sleigh's** (English) new book, *Army Cats*, is out and the reviews are starting to come in. Here's what *The Library Journal* had to say: "As he moves with masterly control from section to section, style to style, yet pulling along a constant narrative thread, Sleigh shows just how accomplished he is. Most devotees of contemporary poetry should try."

*The Movie Idiom: Film as a Popular Art Form* by **Robert Henry Stanley** (Film and Media Studies) was published in November 2010 by Waveland Press. The title, says one report on the book, "is an apt moniker for the wide-ranging issues addressed in film studies courses and examined in Stanley's accessible volume." Adds the report, "Stanley's analysis of significant movies illuminates essential points, connects readers with actual 'moviemaking,' and stimulates the reader's own creativity."

## On the Go

In March, **Donald Hernandez** (Sociology) co-authored a report, "Children in Immigrant Families" which was the lead report for a recent congressional briefing where he testified. He was also a panelist at a congressional briefing in November on "Children in the Recession" in an effort to improve child well being in the United States, and in December at another congressional briefing, "Tackling Child Poverty & Improving Child Well-Being: Lessons from Britain."

The findings of a report by Hernandez "Declining Fortunes of Children in Middle-Class Families" published by the Foundation for Child Development resulted in a major online media story in *The Huffington Post*, followed by greater readership when Arianna Huffington tweeted it to her large following. The report also was picked up by 210 other media outlets across the country. According to Hernandez, "For the past eight years... middle-class families have increasingly counted on essential public health care and early education supports to safeguard their children's well-being." However, he added, "If these programs face the budget ax, middle-class and low-income families will see the foundation for their children's prospects dramatically undermined."



## On the Go (continued)

**Joanne Mariner** (Human Rights Program) gave a talk on February 17 as part of a panel on “Diversity in the World” at an event to celebrate MIT’s 150th anniversary. The previous week, Mariner took part in a panel on “Law of War Detention” at the American Society of International Law in Washington D.C.

When Culture Ireland launched its year-long initiative “Imagine Ireland” at Alice Tully Hall in January, **Colum McCann** (English), a winner of the National Book Award for his recent best-selling novel, *Let the Great World Spin*, and a distinguished lecturer in the MFA Program in Creative Writing, was one of the main speakers.

## In Print and On The Air

“Vision 2020, New York City’s plan for its waterfront, seems to offer something for every New Yorker: promenades along the shore, bucolic wetlands with lots of fish and wildlife, ferries and kayaks, industrial jobs, and new condos with waterfront views.” So begins “On the Waterfront Plan: Real Estate Dreams and Future Conflicts” by **Tom Angotti** (Urban Affairs and Planning) in the *Gotham Gazette* on January 24. Angotti’s article goes on to discuss the politics, economics, aesthetics, environmental impact, community aspects, and conflicts related to the waterfront plan.

When “app” was selected by the American Dialect Society as 2010’s Word of the Year, it beat out several other words including “nom,” defined in the competition as a small piece of food. However, the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, in its January 8 article on the meeting of the Dialect Society, quoted professor **Maryam Bakht-Rofhart** (English), who defended “nom.” She cited the word’s versatility, saying it can be used as a noun, a verb (meaning “to eat”), or used to describe something’s “nomishness.”

In a *Newsday* (March 11) op-ed, “Surcharge doesn’t erode the tax base” **Howard Chernick** (Economics) and Princeton economics professor Douglas Massey make the point that despite availability of hard evidence, “Even with the surcharge (to top earners), New York retained one of the densest concentrations of high net-worth households in America.” They go on to say that with the presence of the wealthy, “New York’s economy would benefit ... as wealthy residents of Connecticut and New Jersey visit Manhattan and often do business with New York-based firms ... that the added revenue can fund important public investments, like infrastructure maintenance and better health care ... the benefits of higher taxes to high earners and business owners are likely to outweigh the disadvantages... and extending the ‘millionaire’s tax’ should be a crucial part of the budget package.”

In a February 19 *New York Times* article “Ethnic Differences Emerge in Plastic Surgery,” **Margaret Chin** (Sociology), who specializes in Asian immigrant culture, is quoted on an eyelid surgery that can make the eye look rounder, a much sought-after procedure among Asians. “You want to be part of the accepted culture and the accepted ethnicity, so you want to look more Westernized,” Chin says, adding: “I feel sad that they feel like they have to do this.”

**Tracy Dennis** (Psychology) is quoted in a February 23 *HealthDay News* article about a study on the psychological effects of violent video games on young people. Says Dennis, “The premise here is that we think people who are exposed to violent video games might be desensitized to violence, and if they are, they should not remember disturbing, violent pictures as much.” She adds: “And while this is an important study, what they’re asking people to remember isn’t necessarily linked to video game memories, so I think it’s important to draw only moderate conclusions.”



## In Print and On The Air (continued)

**Roseanne L. Flores**, (Psychology) newly nominated to the American Psychological Association's Committee on Children, Youth and Families (CYF), was profiled in the APA publication, *CYF News* (Winter 2011).

On January 25, **Nicholas Freudenberg** (Urban Public Health) was quoted in *The New York Observer*, the *New York Daily News*, and other publications when he commented on CUNY's recent announcement that, starting next September, a full ban on smoking will be implemented on all 23 of the University's campuses. Said Freudenberg, "All the evidence shows that any exposure to smoke has adverse biological consequences."

In the article, "Hungary Targets Philosophy" in the "Noted" column of *The Nation* on March 21 **Judith Friedlander** (Roosevelt House, Anthropology) reports on the crack down on free expression in Hungary last April with the passage of a censorious media law that has provoked a great deal of opposition from Hungary's liberal philosophers, major European figures and some Americans. Their criticism has been met with vicious attacks by right-wing media outlets.

"*Medical Bankruptcy in Massachusetts: Has Health Reform Made a Difference?*" by **David U. Himmelstein, MD** (Public Health), **Steffie Woolhandler, MD, MPH** (Public Health) and Deborah Thorne, PhD of Ohio University is one of four articles selected to run in "The Sorry State of Health of US Medicine," in the March issue of *The American Journal of Medicine*.

In their article, the authors found no change in the rate of medical bankruptcies after enactment of Massachusetts legislation, closely mirrored by national health reform law which has expanded the number of people with insurance but "did little to upgrade existing coverage or reduce costs, leaving many of the insured with

inadequate financial protection." In addition, the researchers go on to say that "... reducing bankruptcy rates in the United States will require substantially improved – not just expanded – insurance, as well as better disability insurance programs to provide income support to ill individuals and family caregivers."

As China reverses its poverty trend, civil rights have become more important to its citizens, according to China expert **Peter Kwong** (Urban Affairs and Planning; Asian American Studies), whose views are quoted in an article titled "Report Shows Rollback on Rights in China" that appears in the January 11 edition of the *IPS Inter Press Service*. Economic improvements in China, says Kwong, have led to an increase in "very large and serious protests all over the country" over the past decade. "You have a very polarized society and a very centralized political party, and as China opens up to develop there are all these conflicts of interest," Kwong adds.



## In Print and On The Air (continued)

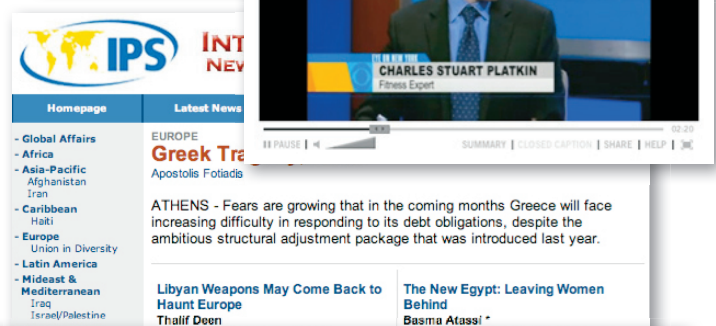
In an article titled "U.S. checks Egyptian prisons for terrorist escapes," the *Washington Times* (February 10) quoted **Joanne Mariner** (Human Rights Program), who said that Egypt's prisons were "notorious incubators for al Qaeda." Mariner, director of Hunter's newly inaugurated Human Rights Program at Roosevelt House, formerly worked at Human Rights Watch, most recently as the director of the organization's Terrorism and Counterterrorism Program.

**Jeffrey Mongrain** (Art) is quoted in an article in the February/March 2011 issue of *American Craft Magazine* that asks "What's the Best-Crafted Element of Nature?" Mongrain's answer is that "Water makes up over 70 percent of the world and 70 percent of us," adding: "It is the only substance found naturally on the earth in three ever-changing forms: liquid, solid and vapor.... All nature is defined at least in part by its engagement with water."

The political newsletter *Counter Punch* (January 21) featured an in-depth article by **Rupal Oza** (Women and Gender Studies; Geography) titled "The Feminist Critiques of Sahgal and Bennoune: With Us Or Against Us." In her article, Oza, who is director of Hunter's Women and Gender Studies Program, says that "2010 was marked by two public cases in which members of prominent human rights organizations expressed grave concerns that their organizations were supporting what they have termed 'misogynist individuals with jihadist leanings.'"

On January 2, **Charles Stuart Platkin** (Public Health) appeared as a guest on the WCBS show "Eye on New York," where he spoke about keys to getting fit in the New Year. Among his tips, he suggested that the would-be-healthy determine the connections between healthful behaviors and their ultimate goals, plan their behaviors, and realize that "willpower" is not the key to success.

In an article titled "Spring-Loaded Heels Gave Extra Step to Early Humans" in the February edition of *Wired Science*, **Herman Pontzer** (Anthropology) is quoted as saying that a recent study "provides a new line of evidence that Neandertals were not as adept at long-distance running as modern humans were." Pontzer goes on to discuss why modern humans—*Homo sapiens*—evolved to run farther than Neandertals, noting that the answer is unclear since no heel fossils of other *Homo* species have been unearthed.



## In Print and On The Air (continued)

An article on the New York City budget in *Crain's New York Business* on January 19 quotes **Kenneth Sherrill** (Political Science), who predicts that "There are going to be cuts and there are going to be painful cuts" in the city's budget.

Department chair **Charles Tien** (Political Science) was the author of a news quiz about the 112th Congress in the "Education Life" supplement to *The New York Times* on Sunday, January 9. The quiz, an interactive feature, keeps a running tally of your successes (or failures). Here's the link: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/01/09/education/edlife/20110109-edlife-quiz.html>



## In Memoriam

### Professor Emeritus Francis Conant

We are saddened to report that Professor Emeritus **Francis Conant**, a widely esteemed anthropologist and member of the Hunter faculty from 1962 until he retired in 1995, died on January 29 at the age of 84. A decorated veteran of World War II, following the war he worked as a journalist and later studied English, Russian, and engineering at Cornell and anthropology at Columbia, where he obtained his PhD in 1968. Most of Conant's research was in Nigeria and in East Africa. He pioneered the use of satellite imagery, remote sensing, GIS and GPS technologies in on-the-ground social science research. As a teacher, he strongly encouraged the study of sex and gender and published widely on these issues well before women's studies became part of the mainstream. In the 1980s and 1990s he published extensively on how to evaluate HIV-AIDS data from Africa and on cultural factors in the AIDS epidemic.

### Carol Weir

We note with sorrow that **Carol Weir**, an adjunct assistant professor in the English Department from 2000 through 2010, died on January 8th. She taught Expository Writing and Introduction to Literature as well as Immigrant Literature and Jewish-American Literature. Those who knew her remember her as a dynamic, inspiring teacher and how much she loved Hunter students.