

# Faculty Newsletter

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## Eric M. Steinberg: One Great Communicator

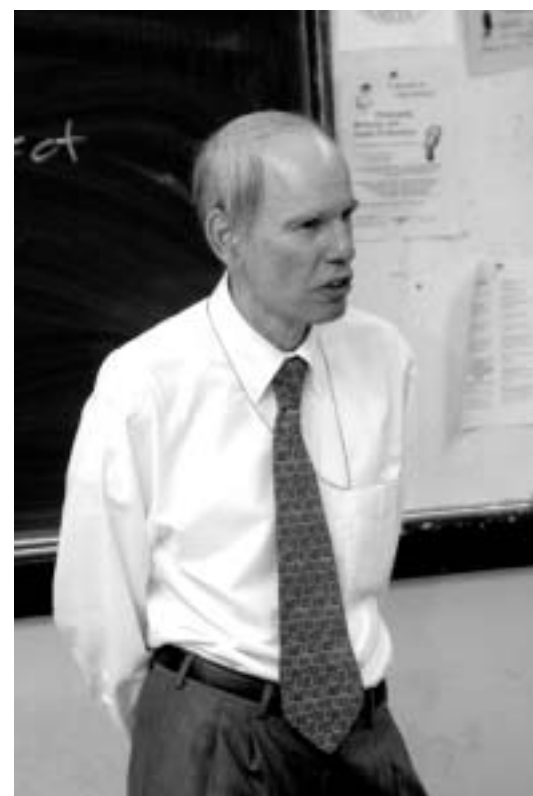
by Bruce C. MacIntyre, professor, Music

Twenty years ago, when our salaries, workloads, and workplace were quite different from what they are today, "online registration" meant just that: For endless hours, thousands of restless students would stand in line ("on line" in Brooklynese), awaiting their turn to see a department counselor in the hot, stuffy Roosevelt Hall gym before moving to yet another line to submit course requests to clerks at a dozen computers. Faculty members were usually required to put in time as counselors, and I tried to make the best of this often uncomfortable situation by chatting with representatives from Modern Languages and Literatures and Philosophy, seated on either side of me at the alphabetically arranged department tables. During several registration sessions it was my great treat to converse with Eric M. Steinberg, the polite, modest, and engaging deputy chairperson of the Philosophy Department. From our earliest talks I knew he was a special person, always even-tempered and with a mind that pierces complicated situations to get to the crux of nearly any problem or crisis.

So I, like many of my colleagues at Brooklyn College, was quite surprised to hear this past spring that Eric, our long-time associate provost, planned to retire.

Actually the feeling was more of shock than surprise because Eric, in the various posts he held, had become a cornerstone of effective management of faculty-administration matters, beginning with his role as chairperson of the Philosophy Department (1982–84; 1985–88). In 1988, after the untimely death of Daniel Mayers, he was appointed acting dean for academic administration. In July 1989, at the behest of then Provost Christoph M. Kimmich, Eric assumed the newly created position of assistant provost, taking on additional supervisory duties. Finally, in 2000, at the recommendation of Acting Provost Elizabeth Beaujour, Eric became associate provost, a title consistent with similar positions at other CUNY campuses. In addition to all of this, he has participated in some fifteen different College-wide committees and at least eight administrative search committees.

Eric received his B.A. in philosophy from Bucknell University in 1966. He completed his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1974 with a dissertation entitled "Hume's Attitude toward Common Sense," revealing a prime inspiration for the most outstanding of Eric's many virtues. His thesis adviser was the renowned philosopher/art critic Arthur



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Coleman Danto. In 1971 Eric happened into Columbia's Philosophy Department office, where the secretary asked if he would like to teach at Brooklyn College. A few months later, with Danto's recommendation to Martin Lean, then chairperson of the Philosophy Department at Brooklyn College, Eric was invited to teach a couple of courses as an adjunct. His classes were so successful that two years later he was appointed to a full-time position.

A respected expert on the philosopher-historian David Hume (1711–76), Eric boils Hume's philosophy down to "three principles of association or thought: resemblance, contiguity, and cause and effect"—principles that presumably "account for all usual processes of thought, that is, belief, inference, and judgment." Three years after completing his dissertation, he edited an edition of Hume's *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding and A Letter from a Gentleman to his Friend in Edinburgh* (Hackett, 1977). In 1993 a second edition was published, appending the *Abstract of a Treatise of Human Nature*, one of Hume's earlier publications. Now that he has retired from his administrative responsibilities, Eric is teaching an undergraduate seminar on Hume this fall, using some of the materials he has assembled in his large personal library on the philosopher. As a devoted Humeophile, Eric has visited Scotland and even managed to locate Hume's well-hidden grave site in Edinburgh.

The recently posted search for the assistant provost position provides an idea of the awesome responsibilities of Eric's former job: overseeing the effective management of administrative and faculty matters for all academic departments,

managing the promotion-and-tenure process, reviewing faculty workload reports from departments and submitting the College's workload to the university, supervising the external evaluation process, planning the new-faculty orientation, promoting faculty development activities (Faculty Day started under his watch and with his full support), supervising the Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, and preparing the College's administrative calendar. In addition, until the mid-1990s, the offices of the Registrar, Testing, Admissions, and Financial Aid were under Eric's aegis. Despite this intimidating set of assignments, Eric performed all with a rare combination of friendliness, commitment, precision, and aplomb.

When asked which aspect of the job made him happiest, he replied, "Working with lots of people I respect and enjoy working with—not only members of the administration but also the faculty. That was not really part of the original job description. I am also pleased with the success this office had in making life easier for the chairs and for the faculty in general."

In fact, if you ask any chairperson or faculty member for comments on Eric's contribution to the academic community over the years you'll hear only glowing tributes. Timothy Gura, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences, says, "If you wanted to know what the rules forbid—and, much more crucially, what they allow—it was Eric who could answer the question, often from his vast memory, sometimes after checking up, always with an explanation, occasionally with a suggestion for another track, never with dismay (that I could see) about having to answer the same question time after time after time."

Several chairpersons appreciate Eric's seemingly infinite patience. Roger Dunkle, Classics, commented on Eric's "availability and the universality of his knowledge of how things work (or don't work) at Brooklyn College." Philip Gallagher, History, termed him "one of the highlights of my life at BC...one of the most prudent, nonjudgmental, well-informed, and helpful persons I've ever dealt with." Sara Reguer, Judaic Studies, remarked on Eric's forbearance and calm: "He always managed to calm me down....His patience in explaining the intricacies of the bureaucratic system astonished me—that he could both understand and explain them. I never left his office without feeling better. He was a real *mensch*." William Sherzer, Modern Languages and Literatures, noted how Eric "responded to every call and e-mail within minutes. Never has any administrator been there for us like Eric." As Eric himself says, "One thing that I've always tried to do—and it's difficult to succeed in doing—is to get back as quickly as I possibly can when messages are left for me."

In countless ways Eric facilitated communication among chairpersons, faculty, and administrators. He cites the annual administrative calendar as one example: "I've tried to cut through some of the complexities of the processes here and to provide such aids as the administrative calendar to help people comprehend what's occurring and when. I think it's made life easier for a lot of people. The calendar lets new administrators know what the ebb and flow of the year is like."

Eric is equally candid about the worst part of his job: "Constantly having

to remind certain people of certain things. Faculty and chairpersons are busy people—I know that from having been both. But sometimes you have to say, 'I'd like this report or I'd like a draft of this document.' It would certainly have been more pleasant for me if I didn't have to constantly keep on people's backs."

Eric is especially appreciative of the Office of Human Resource Services, particularly Denise Flanagan and her staff, who helped with the coordination and oversight of the promotion-and-tenure processes. "Almost always we saw eye to eye," Eric recalls, "and that made it much easier." Denise remembers how she and Eric "worked closely and never had a sharp word. We zigged and zagged together. It was the easiest work relationship I've ever had. A gift!" She adds, "Sometimes we were working so hard to navigate the absurdities of the bureaucracy that we would be overcome with laughter. Eric is well known as a kind and caring person, but I don't know how many people were lucky enough to share some silly time with him."

Another aspect of Eric's role as a "great communicator" and unofficial campus ombudsman is his recent redesign and expansion of orientation sessions for new faculty. The improved orientation helps to "build up an association so that if the new faculty have problems, they will feel comfortable coming to me or Dean of Undergraduate Studies Ellen Belton," he explains. "It's changed the nature of this job to some extent because, although faculty with problems had always come to me or the provost, a lot of contact we

now have with faculty is with the new faculty." Typical of Eric's caring, personal touch is his offer of individual orientation sessions for new faculty whose schedule conflicts would prevent them from attending the group meetings.

Eric's tenure at Brooklyn College has not been all work and no play, however. Since 1997 he has conducted a superb and instructive wine-tasting event each spring for Faculty Circle. (His eighth annual tasting will be on March 31.) His interest in wine dates from about the same time he began teaching at Brooklyn College (surely a coincidence). His brother-in-law worked at a restaurant in Williamstown, Massachusetts, and brought Eric a couple of bottles of very good wine. Eric was astonished by the delightful taste of a 1964





red burgundy and wanted to know how to obtain more. Discovering choice wines in a shop near his Manhattan home at the time, he became deeply interested in all facets of wine cultivation, production, and selection. Over the years he has built up an impressive personal wine cellar, from which he often brings samples to the tastings, and he stays informed about the latest, best bargains on quality wines. So it is not surprising that Tim Gura, reflecting on what Eric has meant to the College, remarked, "To get this kind of service—and, if you wanted it, erudite discussion about tasting notes and the latest Riesling vintage—seems like a dream. Eric is, quite simply, irreplaceable. He is the '47 Cheval Blanc of administrators."

In 1983 Eric met Adele Smith, one of his students in the Master of Liberal Studies Program. Although they had not met before, Adele and Eric lived on the same block on East 26 Street. The following year, in December 1984, they were married. Adele, who worked for many years in the Office of Financial Aid, retired from the College this year.

Among his last contributions to the College as associate provost was overseeing the publication of the *Faculty Handbook*, the College's first in more than thirty years. This 140-page handbook was prepared over the past five years by a committee chaired by Eric. Those of us who participated in this project never ceased to be amazed by the seemingly endless range of Eric's knowledge of Brooklyn College and CUNY procedures, officers, departments, and programs. "When you are the senior administrator in terms of length of service," explains Eric, "people come to you for lots of

different things. I can't tell you how many times in the last year, for example, somebody would get on the phone and say, 'I don't know if you're the right person to ask about this, but here goes.' When you've been around for a long time, even if these are not issues that you can address directly, you can always refer them to the right place." Along with the administrative calendar and Faculty Day, the *Faculty Handbook* is another testimony to Eric's selfless dedication to improving life for all at Brooklyn College.

Life often leads us in unexpected directions. On the verge of his own retirement, Eric agreed in early September to serve as acting chairperson of the History Department while it undertakes a national search for a new chair. Brooklyn College, as well as Acting Assistant Provost Jerry Mirotznik, are extremely fortunate that Eric and his expertise will remain within easy communication distance.

In the introduction to his edition of *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Eric notes how Hume, at the end of his life, was dismayed that his works had been underappreciated. By contrast, Eric can approach his eventual retirement confident that the entire College community—faculty, administration, staff, and students—have deeply appreciated his patient, meticulous, and dedicated work for our institution. 🐾

**B**rooklyn College welcomes the following individuals who joined the full-time faculty on tenure-track lines this fall.

**Elisabeth Brauner**, Psychology, earned a doctoral degree at Georg-August-University, Göttingen, Germany. She was a faculty member at Humboldt University in Berlin where she received the *venia legendi* for psychology. Recently she served as guest editor of "Information Processing in Groups," a special issue of *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*. As a specialist in psychological group research, she is interested in how people learn what others know and how knowledge is managed in groups and organizations. She is preparing a book on transactive knowledge. She is a passionate photographer and runner.

**Zhonghui Chen**, Physics, comes to Brooklyn College from the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, University of Southern California. He earned a Ph.D. at Würzburg University, Bavaria. His research is in the area of photonics and nanotechnology, and his expertise is in semiconductor magneto-optical spectroscopy, ultra-high-vacuum surface analysis of semiconductor structure and chemistry, and semiconductor-nanostructure material synthesis, processing, and devices. His recent research concerns the interactions between terahertz/mid-infrared radiations and nanostructures, both for fundamental physical studies and for photonic/optoelectronic and chemical- and bio-sensing applications. He has written or coauthored sixty-six refereed papers and conference presentations.

**Clifton Clarke**, Economics, holds an M.A. in economics/accounting from Brooklyn College and an Ed.D. in higher education administration from Columbia University. His previous post was at La Guardia Community College, where he was associate dean for institutional planning and professor of accounting and management. His research focuses on the role of strategic management in organizational renewal, and he is writing a book on dynamic planning for mature organizations.

**Beryl Afeni Cobham**, SEEK, earned a Ph.D. in higher education and student affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington. Prior to joining the Brooklyn College faculty she worked in several areas of student affairs as an administrator. Her research includes black feminist epistemology and issues of equity and access in higher education. Cobham is also a spoken-word artist.

**James Davis**, English, earned a Ph.D. at Indiana University and has taught at Montclair State University and Nassau Community College. His publications include an essay about Ida B. Wells in *Women's Experience of Modernity* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003). He is working on a book about consumer culture and race in the United States.

**Betsy Eastwood**, Health and Nutrition Sciences, earned a Ph.D. at Brandeis University's Heller School for Policy and Management. Prior to joining the faculty, she developed outcomes management for medical rehabilitation at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. Her areas of expertise and publications are in health services research and management and include several years of health policy

*New Faculty,  
2003-04*

research in the city's hospitals as well as organization of palliative care services in the Veterans Health Administration. A recipient of a prestigious Aaron Diamond Post-Doctoral Fellowship for her work on women and HIV risks in the inner city, she is teaching health management courses in the graduate public health program.

**Joseph Entin**, English, holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale. A former visiting scholar at the American Academy

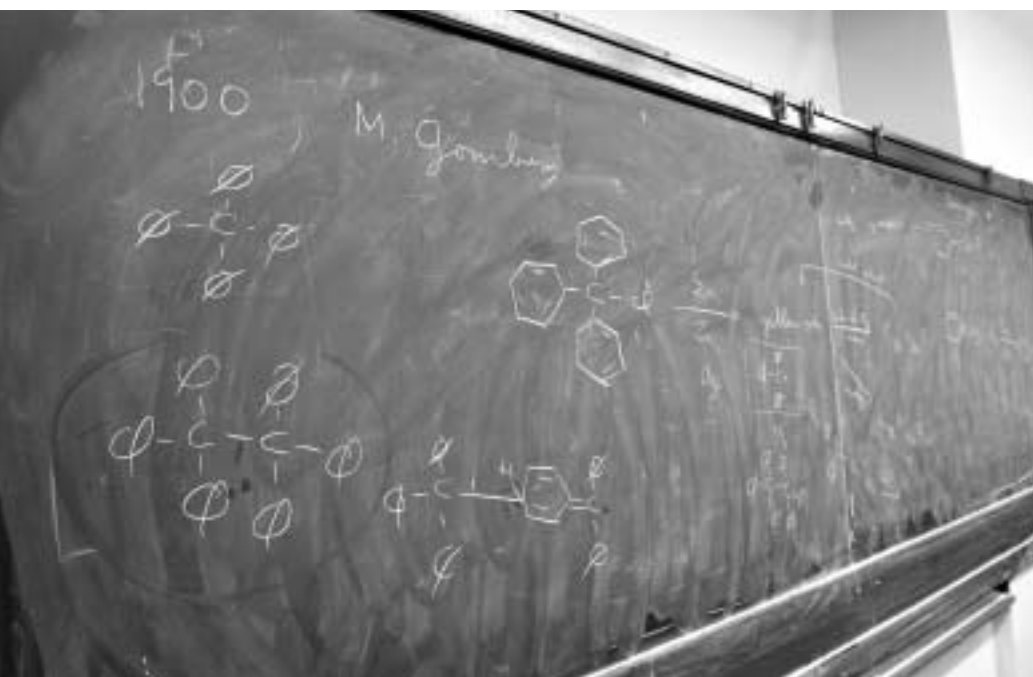
Detection in OSPF Networks," in the proceedings of the 2003 International Conference on Communications, and "Benefits of Restoration Signaling Message Aggregation," in the proceedings of the 2003 Optical Fiber Communications Conference.

**Janet Elise Johnson**, Political Science, has an M.A. and Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington, and was a postdoctoral fellow at the Havighurst

**Polina Klimovitskaya**, Theater, earned a Ph.D. at Yale University where she also taught for several years. She has worked internationally as an actress, theater director, and master teacher; she has performed with the Yale Repertory Theater and in *Molly's Pilgrim*, which won a 1985 Academy Award for Best Short Film—Live Action. She is also the founding director of the Terra Incognita Theater, and her most recent works were performed at Mass Moca and La Mama. She continues to develop her kinetic imagination training method for actors.

**Yoshihiro Koide**, Chemistry, earned a Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Before coming to Brooklyn, he was a research associate in the Department of Chemistry at Northwestern University. His research focuses on the syntheses and characterization of main group organometallic complexes, transition metal complexes, and molecular self-assembly of microelectronic devices. He is an avid tennis player and swimmer.

**Yoon-Joo Lee**, Education, earned an Ed.D. in early childhood special education at Columbia University Teachers College. As a practitioner, she taught infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in different early childhood settings—both general and special education classrooms. Her research covers the social experiences of children with developmental delays in early childhood special education settings, leadership skills during early childhood, and collaborative relationships between researchers and teachers.



of Arts and Sciences, he is completing a book entitled *Sensational Modernism: Disfigured Bodies and Aesthetic Astonishment in American Literature and Photography*. His other research interests are the history of the American avant-garde, the cultural history of social protest movements, and urban studies.

**Mukul Goyal**, Computer and Information Science, earned a Ph.D. at Ohio State University. His research focuses on the design and analysis of protocols used in the Internet. His recent publications include "Achieving Fast Failure

Center for Russian and Post-Soviet Studies, Miami University, Ohio. Her research examines gender politics and feminist comparative policy, especially in Russia and other postcommunist societies. Her recent publications include "Privatizing Pain: The Problem of Woman Battery in Russia," in *NWSA Journal* (fall 2001), and the chapter "Protesting the Privatization of Pain: Post-Soviet Social Movements against Domestic Violence in Armenia, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine," in *Zhenshchina v grazhdanskom obshchestve* (Women in Civil Society) (2002).

**Susan Longtin**, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences, earned a Ph.D. in speech and hearing sciences at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York. She is a licensed, certified speech-language pathologist, with extensive clinical experience with children ranging from infants through adolescents who have a variety of speech, language, and communication disabilities. Her research interests are in infant-toddler communication development, language facilitation, and cultural diversity. She is teaching courses in language development, communication disorders, and clinical methods in speech-language pathology.

**Geoffrey Minter**, English, is a native of the San Francisco Bay area and earned his undergraduate degree at Stanford and his Ph.D. at Harvard. His dissertation, "The Romance of Boyhood: Agrarian Idealism and the Anxieties of Economic Modernity in 19th-Century Representations of the American Boy," describes how boyhood compensates for losses sustained in the experience of American economic modernity; the boy, like the nation's increasingly distant foundational moment, functions as an idealized myth of origins from which, it is thought, the nation can purify itself through a fantasy of return. His research focus is nineteenth-century American literature and his critical interests include law and literature, opera, and film.

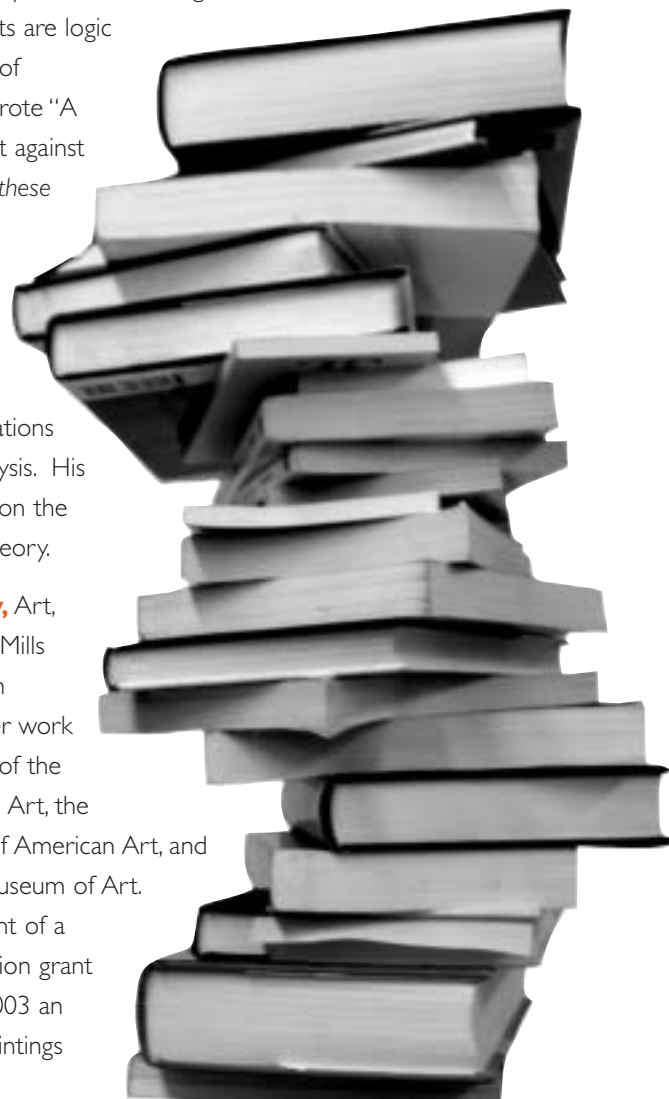
**Kelly Moore**, Sociology, earned a Ph.D. at the University of Arizona. Her areas of interest are the sociology of science and the environment, social movements, and organizations. She is the author of *Disrupting Science: Social Movements and the Democratization of Science in America*,

1945–1975 (Princeton University Press, forthcoming). Her current research is about the politics of nature in urban areas.

**Matthew Moore**, Philosophy, earned a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, Chicago. His research interests are logic and the philosophy of mathematics. He wrote "A Cantorian Argument against Infinitesimals," in *Synthese* 133 (2002) and "Archimedean Intuitions," in *Theoria* 68 (2002), both on the philosophical implications of nonstandard analysis. His work in progress is on the philosophy of set theory.

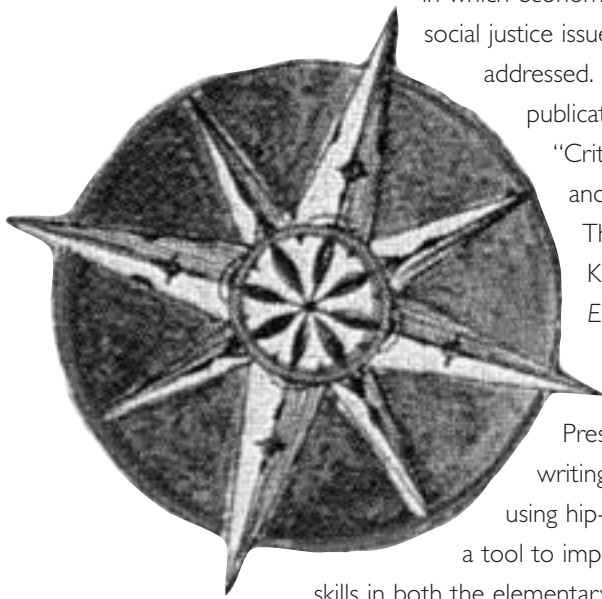
**Elizabeth Murray**, Art, earned an M.F.A. at Mills College in 1962. An established artist, her work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She was the recipient of a MacArthur Foundation grant in 1999. In spring 2003 an exhibition of her paintings was held at the Pace/Wildenstein Gallery in New York City. Her painting *Rescue* is installed in the first-floor Reading Room of the Brooklyn College Library.

**Martha Jane Nadell**, English, holds a Ph.D. in the history of American civilization from Harvard University. She is a specialist in American and African American studies and literature. Her book, *Enter the New*



*Negroes: Race and Representation in American Literary and Visual Culture*, is forthcoming from Harvard University Press. This semester she is teaching ENG 63.1, Brooklyn in Literature.

**Priya Parmar**, Education, earned a Ph.D. in language and literacy education at Pennsylvania State University. Her primary research is in the areas of critical literacies, multicultural education, and cultural studies in which economic, political, and social justice issues are



addressed. Her recent publications include "Critical Thinking and Rap Music: The Pedagogy of KRS-One," in the *Encyclopedia of Critical Thinking* (Greenwood Press, 2003). Her writing focuses on using hip-hop culture as a tool to improve literacy skills in both the elementary and secondary school student.

**Simon Parsons**, Computer and Information Science, earned a Ph.D. at the University of London in 1993 and has held faculty posts at the University of London and the University of Liverpool. His research is in the area of artificial intelligence and focuses on ways to get intelligent computer systems to make good decisions and to interact with one another.

**Wayne Reed**, Education, earned an Ed.D. at Columbia University Teachers College in 1999, the same year he came to Brooklyn College, where he has held several leadership roles in the School of Education, including undergraduate deputy (2000–01) and acting assistant dean (2002–03). His interest in urban education has led to the formation of several initiatives for preservice teachers in the East New York section of Brooklyn, and his research focuses on education and poverty, specifically the impact of teachers who are residents of the low-income neighborhoods in which they teach. He is the faculty liaison and coordinator of the School of Education's Teaching Fellows Program.

**Alfred L. Rosenberger**, Anthropology and Archaeology, earned a Ph.D. in anthropology at the Graduate Center of The City University of New York. His research is on primate evolution, with an emphasis on the phylogenetic and adaptive history of the New World monkeys, and the development of three-dimensional laser scanning as a tool for studying the form, function, and evolutionary history of dental and skeletal materials. His recent publications include "Platyrrhine Paleontology and Systematics: The Paradigm Shifts," in *The Primate Fossil Record*, a state-of-the-art compilation on the history of primate evolution.

**Laurie Rubel**, Education, earned an M.A. in mathematics education at Tel Aviv University and a Ph.D. at Columbia University Teachers College. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Diversity in Mathematics Education Center for Learning and Teaching at the University of

Wisconsin, Madison. She has begun research in the areas of practices of successful black students and teacher beliefs about the achievement gap. She is teaching middle and secondary school mathematics teachers who are graduate students in the School of Education.

**Dina Sokol**, Computer and Information Science, earned an M.S. at Polytechnic University in Brooklyn and a Ph.D. at Bar-Ilan University, Israel. Her area of research is pattern matching and compression. Her article "Inplace 2-Dimensional Matching in Compressed Images" will appear in a forthcoming edition of the *Journal of Algorithms*.

**Shirley Steinberg**, Education, holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Pennsylvania State University and is author and editor of many books and articles, including *Kinderculture: The Corporate Construction of Childhood*; *Multicultural Conversations: A Reader*; *Students as Researchers*; and *13 Questions: Reframing Education's Conversation*.

**Martin Telting-Diaz**, Chemistry, earned a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Dublin City University, Ireland, and pursued postdoctoral studies at both the University of Kansas and the University of Michigan, specializing in areas of implantable chemical-sensing devices to monitor the metabolic state of critically ill patients. After working on chemical sensors in private industry for many years, he returned to academe as a visiting scientist at ETH-Zürich and then as a senior scientist at Auburn University. His research centers around optical ion-sensing microspheres for biomedical imaging and diagnostics. He has published extensive original research and has a

pending patent on fluorescent microsphere-sensing technology for environmental analysis of metal ions.

**Harriet Tenenbaum**, Psychology, earned a Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education prior to coming to Brooklyn. Her research investigates children's social, emotional, and cognitive development within the context of important relationships (e.g., parents, peers), examining how these relationships differ depending on gender, maternal education, etc. She is the coauthor of "Parent-child Conversations about Science: Socialization of Gender Inequities," in *Developmental Psychology* 39, no. 1 (January 2003); "Are Parents' Gender Schemas Related to Their Children's Gender-Related Cognitions? A Meta Analysis," in *Developmental Psychology* 38, no. 4 (August 2002); and "The Role of Educational Background, Activity, and Past Experiences in Mexican-descent Families' Science Conversations," in *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 24.

**Howard Zeng**, Physical Education and Exercise Science, earned his doctor of physical education (D.P.E.) degree from Springfield College, Massachusetts. His expertise includes teaching and coaching in physical education and sport. His research focuses on instructional behaviors and the relationship between teaching strategies and teaching effectiveness. Among his recent research publications are articles on the differences in anxiety and self-confidence between team and individual sports college varsity athletes and the pedagogical behaviors of collegiate physical educators.

# *On the Lighter Side*

## **Arthur Reber: Poker Is His Pastime**

by Irwin Weintraub, associate professor, Library

**P**rofessor Arthur Reber, Psychology, knows how to relax after a busy week at Brooklyn College. He travels to his Atlantic City home where he unwinds with friends and acquaintances over a few hands of cards at a local poker club. There you'll see him laughing, swapping stories, weighing the odds of probability presented by the cards, and measuring the playing skills of his cohorts.

He is, after all, a trained observer. Reber is a cognitive psychologist who has been at Brooklyn College since 1970. He is a Broeklundian Professor, a former Fulbright Scholar, and head of the CUNY Ph.D. Program in Experimental Psychology. Over the years, his work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the Education and Research Council of Great Britain. He serves on the editorial boards of several journals in both psychology and philosophy and has published extensively in the areas of cognition, consciousness, and learning. So what brought this distinguished and erudite scholar to use his spare time to test his skills in the precincts of chance?

Arthur explains that it all started when he was a nineteen-year-old dropout from the University of Pennsylvania. That's when two favorite uncles took him to the track. Arthur was hooked. Not only was he

entranced by the crowd's response as the horses rounded the last turn to head home to the finish line, but he also became absorbed with all the factors of skill that were entailed in the wagering and handicapping process. It was this experience that touched off a lifelong interest in gambling and gaming. In the past, he has played them all—slot machines, craps, roulette, blackjack, and other games of chance, but these days he specializes in poker. As a psychologist, he understands the idiosyncrasies of human behavior and he enjoys watching people—their facial expressions and gestures—as they gamble. And he has documented these observations in a number of publications, including *The New Gambler's Bible* (Three Rivers Press, 1996) and *Gambling for Dummies* (Hungry Minds, 2002). Moreover, he is a columnist for several major gambling publications and a lecturer on gambling and risk-taking at various conferences around the country. Word got around, and before long *Time Out New York* made Reber the focus of an article on horse racing.

Gambling, he says, is a part of the human condition. Most of our decisions throughout life involve a gamble of some sort: investing in the stock market, falling in love, opening a business, going to college. Making his avocation even more challenging

are opportunities to apply his knowledge of probability theory to the odds of winning, such as card-counting techniques at the blackjack tables and other mathematical calculations. You can win at poker, blackjack, and horse racing with the right combination of skill, luck, and dedication, he notes, but you will never



beat the house in the long term on games like slots, craps, roulette, baccarat, keno, and lotteries.

As enthusiastic as he is about his hobby, Reber does not deny that problem gamblers are an issue. But he notes that the data show that a gambling addiction rarely occurs as a singular psychological disorder. Well-balanced people, he says, do not suddenly become addicted to gambling after a weekend at a casino. As a rule, problem gamblers manifest a wide variety of symptoms, among them bipolar and borderline personality disorders. If all of the casinos and card clubs were shut down, he observes, it might reduce the incidence of problem gambling, but it would not affect the overall incidence of dysfunctional behavior.

With that in mind he questions the sincerity of social critics who in recent years have railed against gambling. The typical gambler, says Reber, is a rational individual who knows his or her limits and is willing to invest some earnings in a pastime that gives pleasure. Moreover, he and his *Gambling for Dummies* coauthors point out that virtually every segment of American society, both government and private, uses various gambling approaches to raise revenue. In North America alone some \$500 billion is annually spent on wagering enterprises, generating nearly \$40 billion in revenues, says Reber. Americans spend more money on gambling than on entertainment events, movies, spectator sports, and all forms of recorded music combined.

Further evidence of gambling's fundraising lure is presented in "From Back Room to Living Room" (*Public Perspective*, August/September 1999), a survey of public attitudes toward gambling, which found that governments, churches, voluntary organizations, media, and even researchers and gambling rehabilitation treatment providers have become dependent on revenues from legal gambling to fund their services. Every state except Hawaii, Tennessee, and Utah permits government-sanctioned gambling. Thirty-seven states conduct lotteries, twenty-eight permit casinos, and twenty-two offer off-track betting. Public acceptance of government-supported gaming opportunities is a given when one considers the alternative revenue-generating option of perpetual tax increases.

It is the social interaction that is the driving force that motivates most people to gamble, Arthur says, and it galls him that the poker club is still illegal in New

York. He says the time has come for state and city governments to permit poker clubs to operate like any other legal sport. To test this legal statute, Arthur and the management of his favorite poker club have asked to be "busted." By reengaging the legal battle, they hope that they will win their case on the grounds that poker is not gambling but a game of skill—an argument that worked in California where poker clubs are now not only a fact of life but also legal, as they are in many Western and Midwestern states.

Until that happens, you will find Arthur playing poker with a group of friends who meet regularly to play cards, share stories, and enjoy a camaraderie, but don't expect his wife to ante up. Rhiannon Allen is a professor of psychology at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. Although they share similar interests in psychology and are coauthors of several articles, Rhiannon does not share Arthur's interest in gaming: While he plays poker, she's in the garden indulging in her passion—planting flowers, trimming bushes, seeding a lawn.

If you have never played poker but would like to learn, Arthur can teach you the rudiments of the game in an hour. Follow his advice and you'll play fairly well and may even win occasionally. Of course there is that element of luck that kicks in, but your skills get better as you play. So, follow Arthur's example—entertain yourself with a game of chance and flirt with Lady Luck. Buy a lottery ticket, bet on a horse, or throw some quarters in a one-armed bandit, but if it's cards you like, try a few rounds of poker. You'll relax, you'll laugh, and you might even come away a little richer than when you started. 🍀

## Faculty Notes

**Taiwo Amoo**, Economics, chaired the workshop session "Forum on the Viability of Traditional Unidisciplinary College Majors in an Interdisciplinary Age" at the Decision Sciences Institute Conference in Washington, D.C., in November.

**Kathleen Axen**, Health and Nutrition Sciences, presented the study "Effects of Dietary Fat Composition on Visceral Fat Mass and Islet Secretory Response" at the annual meeting of the American Diabetes Association in New Orleans in June. She presented the study "Effects of Dietary Fat and Prolonged Fasting on Adipose and Non-adipose Fuel Stores in Rats" at the October meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Obesity in Fort Lauderdale.

**Sally Avery Bermanzohn**, Political Science, is the author of *Through Survivors' Eyes: From the Sixties to the Greensboro Massacre* (Vanderbilt University Press, 2003).

**Luigi Bonaffini**, Modern Languages and Literatures, translated *Selected Poems of Carlo Felice Colucci* (Gradiva, 2003). He also translated *Earthly and Heavenly Journey of Simone Martini* (Green Integer Press, 2003) and *Orphic Songs* (Bordighera Publishing, 2003). He wrote the article "Giose Rimanelli e il linguaggio del desiderio," in *NAE II*, no. 2 (spring 2003).

**Alberto M. Bursztyn**, '73, Education, was invited by the New York City Department of Education to conduct training this fall on bilingual and multicultural practices for school

psychologists in the city's public schools. At the invitation of the New York State Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities and the Albany Law School-Union University, he delivered a lecture in July to a cohort of new impartial hearing officers on working with children and families of diverse backgrounds. In September, his article "Psychological Vistas on Pre-referral Interventions for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students" was included in a New York State Education Department monograph. In the September issue of *Monitor in Psychology*, an American Psychological Association journal, he was interviewed for an article on the controversy sparked by the redefinition of learning disabilities.

**Melanie E. L. Bush**, Sociology and Student Life, wrote the following articles: "Cracks in the Wall of Whiteness: Desperately Seeking Agency and Optimism," in *Dispute Resolution in Context: Cross-cultural and Cross-disciplinary Perspectives* (City University of New York Dispute Resolution Consortium Working Papers Series Third Compendium, 2003); "American Identity and the Mechanisms of Everyday Whiteness," in *Socialism and Democracy* (spring 2003); and "Everyday Whiteness," in *SOULS: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society* (fall 2002). She also presented papers at the "Sociology of Education Refereed Roundtable" at the ninety-eighth annual conference of the American Sociological Association in Atlanta in August and

served on a panel, "Intersections of Poverty and Cultures: New Issues and Perspectives," at the 102<sup>nd</sup> annual conference of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago in November.

**Paisley Currah**, Political Science, was awarded a \$30,000, two-year research grant from the American Psychological Foundation for her study of the ways in which gender and sexuality have been defined in U.S. court cases and the effectiveness of various types of arguments in persuading the legal system to seriously consider discrimination claims on behalf of transgendered people.

**Annette Danto**, Film, was approved as a Fulbright Senior Specialist for the 2003–05 term.

**Howard Davidoff**, Economics, wrote the article "Understanding Trusts" in *National Public Accountant* (July 2003).

**Christopher C. Dunbar**, Physical Education and Exercise Science, served as an invited reviewer for the *American Journal of Cardiology* and for *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, to which he was named an associate editor.

**Dave Franz**, Biology, presented a poster, "Pool Formation in a Jamaica Bay (N.Y.) Fringing Salt Marsh: The Mussel Berm Hypothesis," at the Estuarine Research Federation meeting in Seattle in September.

**Hershey H. Friedman**, '68, Economics, wrote the article "Should Moral Individuals Ever Lie: Insights from Jewish Law," in *Jewish Law* (summer 2003).

**Katherine Fry**, Television and Radio, presented a paper based on her recent book, *Constructing the Heartland: Television News and National Disaster* (Hampton Press, 2003), at the annual conference of the Eastern Communication Association in Washington, D.C., in April.

**William Gargan**, Library, reviewed Kirby Olson's *Gregory Corso: Doubling Thomist* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2002) in *Cithara: Essays in the Judaeo-Christian Tradition* 52, no. 2 (May 2003).

**Alexander Greer**, Chemistry, wrote "Chemistry Perspective: A View of Unusual Peroxides," in *Science* 302, no. 5643 (October 2003). He also presented a lecture, "A Physical-organic Approach to the Understanding of Reactive Intermediates in Sulfur Chemistry," at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, in October.

**Annie Hauck-Lawson**, '78, Health and Nutrition Sciences, wrote the article "Something's Kosher Here! Foodways among Brooklyn College Nutrition Students," in the *Journal for the Study of Food and Society* 6, no. 1 (winter 2002). Her conference abstract, "New York City Foodways Live at the Smithsonian: A Curator's Recipe," was published in the same issue. She spoke about the CUNY Faculty Foodways Seminar Series at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society in Austin, Texas, in June. She was a guest on Leonard Lopate's program on WNYC-AM in July to discuss the foodways of Sunset Park.



**Jonathan Helfand**,

Judaic Studies, delivered a lecture, "The Earth Is the Lord's: Judaism and Environmental

Ethics," as part of the Distinguished Scholars Weekend at the Center for Jewish Living at Cornell University in November.

**Ellie M. Hisama**, Music, delivered the following papers: "Polycultural Literacy: Teaching the Music of Asian Americans," at the Asian American Conference on Education Challenges and Perspectives at Baruch College in May; "'B-girl Stance in a B-boy's World': DJ Kuttin Kandi, Hip Hop Activist," at the biannual meeting of Feminist Theory and Music 7 at Bowling Green State University in Ohio in July; and "'All the Way from the Slums of Shaolin': East Asiaphilia in African American Hip Hop," at the annual meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Miami in October. In addition, she gave two keynote addresses: "The Politics of Polycultural Music: Afro-Asian Crosscurrents in New York Hip Hop," at the symposium Engendering Music: New Directions in Music Studies at McGill University in Montreal in March; and

“‘Knowledge as a Form of Power’: John Zorn and the Postmodern Condition,” at the South-Central Graduate Music Consortium at the University of Virginia in September.

**Zhen Huang**, Chemistry, wrote the articles “Selective Labeling of RNA in an RNA Mixture,” in *Analytical Biochemistry* 315 (spring 2003); and “Evolution of Aptamers with a New Specificity and New Secondary Structures from an ATP Aptamer,” in *RNA* 9 (fall 2003); and “Selective Labeling and Detection of Specific mRNA in a Total RNA Sample,” in *Analytical Biochemistry* 323 (fall 2003). He presented the paper “Systematic Nucleotide Oxygen Substitution with Selenium for Structure Determination Using X-ray Crystallography and NMR” at the 226<sup>th</sup> national meeting of the American Chemical Society in New York in September, at which he also served as the chief organizer and chairperson of the symposium “The Progress of Chinese Americans in Academia.” He delivered the following papers: “Selenium Derivatization of Nucleic Acids for X-ray Crystallography,” at the Nucleic Acid Gordon Research Conference in Newport, Rhode Island, in June; “Detection and Labeling of Specific RNA via Enzymatic Terminal Transfer for Pathogen Detection in Biodefense,” at the Research, Technology, and Applications in Biodefense Conference in Washington, D.C., in August; and “Selenium Derivatization for X-ray Crystal Structure Determination of Nucleic Acids and Protein Complexes,” at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, New York, in May. His invention and patent on RNA selective detection and quantitation using

RNA microchip and microplate has been filed by the CUNY Research Foundation. His invention of selenium derivatization of nucleic acids, patented by the CUNY Research Foundation, has been licensed by Dharmacon, Inc.

**Yiannes Iordanides**, Art, was selected by jury for the National Arts Challenge exhibition at the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi, Mississippi, November 7–December 31. His work was included in *Ceramics 2003*, the fourth biennial exhibit of North American clay ceramics, at the Guilford Handcraft Center, Connecticut, this summer. The La Rectoria Contemporary Arts Center, Sant Pere, in Barcelona, selected him as artist in residence this year, and his work is included in New York City’s Loveed Fine Arts Gallery *Catalogue of Clay Artists*. His work was also exhibited at the SOFA NYC Gallery.

**Mark Kobrak**, Chemistry, wrote the article “Error Estimation in Histogram-based Free Energy Calculations,” in the *Journal of Computational Chemistry* 24, no. 12 (September 2003). He also served as a faculty team leader on a faculty and student team grant funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

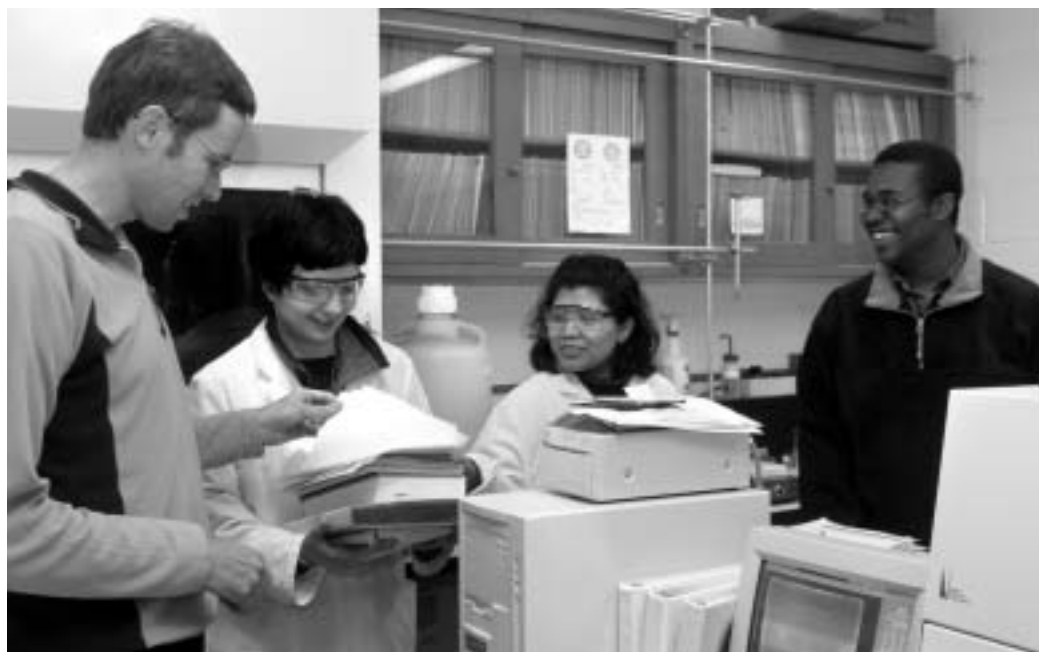
**Jerome Krase**, emeritus, Sociology, wrote the article “The Inner City: Teaching about Seeing,” in *Visual Sociology: Teaching with Film/Video, Photographs, and Visual Media*, fifth edition (American Sociological Association, 2002). He presented the following illustrated lectures: “Italian and Italian American Identity,” at the conference *Merica: convegno sulla cultura e letteratura degli italiani del nordamerica*, at the University of Rome in January; “Chinatown: A Visual Approach to Ethnic

Spectacles," at the Asian American Conference on Education at Baruch College in May; and "Ethnic Theme Parks: Images of Social and Cultural Capital" and "The New Italians: Immigrants in Rome," at the University of Western Australia, Perth, in June. He also gave a poster presentation, "Building a Campus 'Community of Diversity': Democracy Practicing and Citizenship," at the American Association for Higher Education Learning to Change Conference: Good Work in Challenging Times in Washington, D.C., in March, where he was also invited to participate in the research forum "Creating Research Agenda for Good Work in Challenging Times" and in the workshop "Communities of Practice, Role, and Identity: Student and Faculty Learning Partnerships in Teaching and Learning."

**Mitchell Langbert**, Economics, was appointed to the editorial board of *Case Research Journal*. He taught a seminar on business ethics to Chinese corporate executives in November at Zhong Shan (Sun Yat-sen) University, Guangzhou, China.

**Régine Latortue**, Africana Studies, chaired a panel at the College Language Association Convention in Washington, D.C., in April and participated in Brooklyn College Faculty Day in May, where she spoke on "Africana Studies and Global Issues." She also presented a paper, "L'héritage de Toussaint Louverture et d'Aimé Césaire, et le Bicentenaire de la révolution haitienne," at the International Colloquium on Aimé Césaire in Martinique in June.

**Judith Lorber**, emerita, Sociology and Women's Studies, was visiting professor in the Dynamics of Gender Constellations Research Program, University of Dortmund, Germany, May–June. She delivered a lecture, "Paradoxes of Gender Identity and Feminist Politics," at the official opening of the program and the keynote address, "Using Gender to Undo Gender," at a daylong workshop. She also lectured at seven other universities in Germany.



**Carolina Mancuso**, Education, is the newly elected associate chairperson of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning. In her new position, she cochaired "Body English: Understanding and Practicing Body Literacy from Kindergarten to College," a workshop featuring presenters from around the country at the NCTE's annual convention in San Francisco in November.



**Paula J. Massood**, Film, wrote *Black City Cinema: Visualizing African American Urban Experiences in Film* (Temple University Press, 2003) and the following articles: "The Quintessential New York and Global Citizen: An Interview with Spike Lee" and "Doyle's Law: An Interview with David Benioff," in *Cineaste* (summer 2003); and "City Spaces and City Times: Bakhtin's Chronotope and the Urbanscape in Contemporary African American Film," in *Screening the City* (Verso, 2003). In March

she served as session chairperson at the 2003 annual conference of the Society of Cinema and Media Studies. In April she delivered the lectures "Girls in the Hood: Young Black Women Coming of Age in City Films" at the Columbia University Seminar of Cinema and Interdisciplinary Interpretation, and "Black City Cinema" at the New York Metro Chapter of the American Studies Association. She was elected to the executive council of the Society of Cinema and Media Studies and is serving as the program chairperson for its 2004 annual conference.

**Clément Mbom**, Modern Languages and Literatures, presented two papers: "Une Tempête d'Aimé Césaire ou le dilemme du jamais plus et du pas encore" and "La périlleuse parturition des démocraties africaines au miroir de la Tragédie du roi Christophe," at the international symposium "La pensée du XXIème siècle d'Aimé Césaire" in Fort-de-France, Martinique, in June. He delivered the paper "Gouverneurs de la rosée ou le miracle de l'entente" at the May meeting of the Brooklyn College Francophone Club. Also in May he presented the paper "Une Tempête d'Aimé Césaire ou la problématique de l'espoir dans la confrontation des cultures et des civilisations" at the Année Internationale de la Francophonie, Francophonie en Amérique: Quatre siècles d'échanges Europe-Afrique-Amérique, in Québec.

**Lisa Novemsky**, Education, presented a paper, "Second Teaching: A Study of Small Group Physics Learning," at the National Association for Research in Science Teaching Conference in Philadelphia in March. The article was invited and accepted for publication by the Clearinghouse for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education, a division of the Education Resources Information Center. Her invited chapter, "Second Teaching: Small Groups as Mentors for Individuals in Physics Learning," written with the late R. Gautreau, was published in *Promoting Success of Individual Learners: Teachers Applying Their Craft at the Undergraduate Level* (Greenwood Press, 2003).

**Virajt Sahni**, Physics, wrote the article "Quantal Density Functional Theory of Degenerate States," in *Physical Review Letters*, 90, no. 12 (March 2003). He presented the paper "Electron Correlations Contributing to the Asymptotic Structure of the Effective Potential Energy at Metal Surfaces" at the Symposium on Frontiers in Condensed Matter Theory at Pennsylvania State University in April. He delivered the paper "Corollary to the Hohenberg-Kohn Theorem" at the eighth International Wigner Symposium in New York in May.

**Stuart Schaar**, History, gave nineteen radio interviews this spring on the war in Iraq and its aftermath. His coedited book, *The Middle East and Islamic World Reader*, published by Grove Press in April, was named October's Book of the Month by the *History News Network* (<http://hnn.us/articles/407.html>). He recorded the introduction to Chapter Six of the book for *Teacher as Historian* on WNYE-FM. The series is syndicated worldwide through the University of Missouri on the Voice of America. A half-hour interview, conducted by Robert Viscusi, English, aired on *BC Presents* on CUNY-TV in September.

**Jocelyn Solis**, Education, wrote the article "Rethinking Illegality as a Violence Against, Not by, Mexican Immigrants, Children, and Youth," in the *Journal of Social Issues* 53, no. 1 (2003). She was awarded an NIH-funded postdoctoral fellowship in developmental psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. She was interviewed this fall on the program *Study with the Best* on CUNY-TV.

**Daniel Sonenberg**, Music, wrote the article "Beethoven and the Philharmonic," in the New York Philharmonic's *Playbill* (October 2003). American Opera Projects performed the first scene of his opera in progress, *The Summer King*, at Brooklyn's South Oxford Space in September.

**Jeffrey Taylor**, Music, wrote the article "Earl Hines and 'Rosetta,'" in *Current Musicology* (spring 2001/spring2002), a special double issue on jazz. He wrote the introductory essay and liner notes for the compact disc "Zez Confrey: Piano Rolls and Scores" (Warner Brothers Classics CD, 2003). In the past year he presented the paper "With Lovie and Lili: Rediscovering Two Chicago Pianists" at the annual meeting of the Society of Music Theory and at the Institute for Studies in American Music's "Music in Polycultural America" series.

**Alex Vitale**, Sociology, is coauthor of "Arresting Protest: A Special Report of the New York Civil Liberties Union on New York City's Protest Policies at the February 15, 2003, Antiwar Demonstrations in New York City." Upon the report's April release, he was interviewed on WNYC radio and was quoted in the May 8 edition of the *New York Sun* in an article about the development of drug courts in Brooklyn. He also presented the paper "Challenges to Combining Problem-based Teaching and Service Learning Projects" at the third annual International Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at City University, London, in June.

**Frederick Wasser**, Television and Radio, received the Marshall McLuhan Award for the best book in the field of media ecology at Hofstra University's

2003 Media Ecology Conference in June. His book is entitled *Veni, Vidi, Video: The Hollywood Empire and the VCR* (University of Texas, 2001).

**Barbara Winslow**, Education and Women's Studies, served as a keynote speaker at the Women's Social and Political Union Centenary Conference on Women's History and Suffragette History at the Pankhurst Centre, Manchester, England, in October. Her presentation was "A Century of Pankhursts: Extraordinary Individuals in an Extraordinary Family."



## Collaborations

**Kathleen Axen**, Health and Nutrition Sciences, and **Kenneth Axen**, Health and Nutrition Sciences and Physical Education and Exercise Science, cowrote "Effect of Dietary Fat Composition on Visceral Fat Mass and Islet Secretory Response," in *Diabetes* 52, supplement 1 (2003).

**Kathleen Axen**, Health and Nutrition Sciences; **Kenneth Axen**, Health and Nutrition Sciences and Physical Education and Exercise Science; and Stan Vinokur presented "Effects of Dietary Fat and Prolonged Fasting on Adipose and Non-adipose Stores in Rats" at the joint meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Obesity and the American Diabetes Association in Ft. Lauderdale in October.

**Kathleen Axen**, Health and Nutrition Sciences; **Anthony Sclafani**, Psychology; and Aphrodite Dikeakos cowrote the paper "High Dietary Fat Promotes Syndrome X in Non-obese Rats," in the *Journal of Nutrition* 133, no. 7 (July 2003).

**Alberto M. Bursztyn**,<sup>73</sup> Shirley R. Steinberg, and **Joe L. Kincheloe**, Education, coedited *Teaching Teachers: Building a Quality Urban School of Education* (Peter Lang, 2003). Several chapters were contributed by School of Education faculty, including **Koshi Dhingra**, **Haroon Kharem**, **Carol Korn-Bursztyn**, **Carolina Mancuso**, **Wayne Reed**, **Alma Rubal-Lopez**, and **Florence Rubinson**. This volume represents the culmination of a project that emerged from a series of in-house scholarly presentations coordinated by Bursztyn under the title "Nourishing Inquiry."

**Christopher C. Dunbar**, Physical Education and Exercise Science; Michael I. Kalinski, Kent State University; and Zbigniew Szygula, chief editor of *Medicina Sportiva*, presented a paper, "Evidence of a State-sponsored Blood-doping Research Program in the Former Soviet Union," at the annual meeting of the American College of Sports Medicine in San Francisco in June. An abstract of this presentation was published in *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* 35, supplement 5 (2003). Information related to this presentation was the focus of a subsequent National Public Radio broadcast.

**Margarite Fernández Olmos**, Modern Languages and Literatures, and Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, Vassar College, are the coauthors of *Creole Religions of the Caribbean: An Introduction from Vodou and Santería to Obeah and Espiritismo* (New York University Press, 2003).

**Hershey H. Friedman**, '68, and **Taiwo Amoo**, Economics, presented a paper, "Is One Major Enough? The Growth of Multiple Majors," at the Decision Sciences Institute Conference in Washington, D.C., in November.

**Annie Hauck-Lawson**, '78, Health and Nutrition Sciences, and Jonathan Deutsch, Kingsborough Community College, continue to lead the seminar series "Foodways: Interdisciplinary Directions for Teaching and Scholarship" this academic year.

**Dominick A. Labianca**, Chemistry, and E. F. Fitzgerald cowrote the chapter "The 'Peak Area' Equation: Verifying Gas Chromatographic Alcohol Test Results," in *Intoxication Test Evidence*, second edition (West Group, 2003).

**Mitchell Langbert**, Economics, and D. Grunewald are coauthors of the article "The Real Estate Investor," in the *International Journal of Value-based Management* (fourth quarter, 2003).

**Carolina Mancuso** and **Barbara Rosenfeld**, Education, are coauthors of the paper "Technology & Team-teaching: Modeling for Graduate Literacy Research Students." Mancuso delivered the paper at the annual conference of the Northeastern Educational Research Association in Kerhonkson, New York, in October.

**Anthony Sclafani** and **Karen Ackroff**, Psychology, cowrote the article "Reinforcement Value of Sucrose Measured by Progressive Ratio Operant Licking in the Rat," in *Physiology and Behavior* 79, nos. 4–5 (September 2003).

**Anthony Sclafani**, Psychology, and John Glendinning, Barnard College, are coauthors of the article "Flavor Preferences Conditioned in C57BL/6 Mice by Intragastric Carbohydrate Self-infusion," in *Physiology and Behavior* 79, nos. 4–5 (September 2003).

**Jeffrey Taylor** and **Ray Allen**, Music, coedited *Behind the Beat: Jazz Criticism by Mark Tucker* (Institute for Studies in American Music, 2003)

# *Faculty Newsletter*

## **Brooklyn College**

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