

Volume 4 | Number 2

# B

Brooklyn College Magazine



**BROOKLYN  
— MEANS —  
BUSINESS**

Brooklyn College is at the forefront of  
cultivating creative talent and helping to shape  
the economic development of our borough.



## From the President's Desk

Dear Alumni and Friends,

For the past seven years I have had the great pleasure of serving Brooklyn College and working with faculty and staff to ensure that we are providing the highest caliber education for our students who will be part of the next generation of doctors, teachers, researchers, business managers, entrepreneurs, and artists in our city, state, and nation.

By all accounts, Brooklyn is one of the most dynamic and diverse places in the country. Economic, cultural, and creative ventures and activities are flourishing, and the borough has indeed become a destination hub. At the same time, our faculty, students, and staff are increasingly engaged in learning, research, and creative work that are enriched by the exchange of cultures, languages, traditions, and new ideas that make our borough so unique.

In many ways, the transformations taking place across Brooklyn—the revitalization of neighborhoods, along with concerns over rising housing costs, the rethinking of public space and how best to use it in sustainable ways, the explosive growth of new economic sectors including tech, culinary arts, and media entertainment, and a marked expansion of small businesses—are all helping to forge a new sense of community pride and responsibility for our collective future.

Preparing our students for success in their chosen fields is an evolving academic project, and faculty members continue to develop new directions in their courses and the curriculum. In this issue, we highlight the naming of the Murray Koppelman School of Business, which represents a serious investment in our business school that will provide students with new opportunities in diverse business fields and also expand research support for the faculty. Thanks to the excellent work of the Magner Career Center, our alumni are assisting with a growing number of student internship opportunities and broadening access to major financial institutions, accounting firms, and local businesses. On another academic front, our recent launch of the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard will ensure a strong pipeline of diverse talent and creative expertise for the booming film and media industries in New York City.

We are proud that Brooklyn College embodies the “can do” spirit of our borough. We hope you enjoy this issue.



### Brooklyn Means Business

Checking in with Chamber of Commerce President Carlo Scissura on the borough's innovative economy.

### Breaking into the Big Four

Brooklyn College business students get a helping hand in gaining internships and jobs at some of New York City's most prestigious financial firms.

### A Man of the People

Philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57 wants to give business students the same chance at success that he received at Brooklyn College.

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Macaulay Honors  
College senior Jake  
Levin received a  
2015 Harry S.  
Truman Scholarship.  
Awardees are tapped  
for demonstrating  
strong leadership  
skills and a deep  
interest in careers in  
civic engagement.



Leadership Through Service

Senior scores prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship

**JAKE LEVIN ’16**, a political science and philosophy major and Macaulay Honors College student, joins a short list of students nationwide who have been recognized for their public service leadership potential. The 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholarship will grant him \$30,000 toward tuition for his graduate studies. Levin, a senior, is the third Brooklyn College student, and the ninth from the City University of New York (CUNY), to win the award, one of the most prestigious national scholarships in the United States.

“Jake has demonstrated the type of leadership and civic engagement that have distinguished so many Brooklyn College alumni who are at the top of their fields,” says Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould.

“It’s great to be recognized for an interest in public service, and this will be a very valuable credential,” says Levin, who plans to pursue a juris doctorate.

He is one of 58 Truman Scholars selected in 2015. His extensive résumé includes founding and organizing CUNY’s first TEDx conference, interning with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and the New York City Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs, and maintaining an active role within the Brooklyn College undergraduate student government.

This past summer, Levin traveled to Missouri to attend the Truman Scholars Leadership Week, where he met the other scholars and attended seminars and a policy boot camp.

“Hanging out and talking with 57 of the most engaged, socially conscious, and public-service-minded students I’ve ever met was refreshing,” he says of his fellow Truman Scholars. “It’s really cool to be a part of that community.”

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, created by Congress in 1975 as a living memorial to President Harry S. Truman, supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership. In addition to the tuition funding, after receiving their undergraduate degree the scholars will head to Washington, D.C., to work with the federal government or a nationally focused nonprofit organization.

Levin joins Ryan Merola ’07 and Rhodes scholar Lisette Nieves ’92, the two previous winners from Brooklyn College.

—Jamilah Simmons



BROOKLYN COLLEGE SENIOR  
**DAYANA MANASHIROVA ’15**, A  
PHILOSOPHY MAJOR, WAS THE  
ONLY CUNY STUDENT SELECTED  
TO BE ONE OF 11 INTERNS AT  
MANHATTAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
CYRUS VANCE’S OFFICE THIS  
PAST SUMMER. AMONG OTHER  
TASKS, SHE AIDED ASSISTANT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEYS WITH  
THEIR CASES BY REVIEWING  
VIDEO AND AUDIO FOOTAGE  
AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS  
FOR POTENTIAL EVIDENCE, AND  
OBSERVED TRIALS, DEPOSITIONS,  
AND SUMMATION.

Entertaining Success

Chantelle Teekasingh displays the entrepreneurial spirit of Brooklyn in her management venture.

When Chantelle Teekasingh ’15 attended the baccalaureate commencement ceremony in May, her career direction was already established. Inspired by her mother, Teekasingh created her own business, Rhythm Nation Entertainment (RNE).

RNE is a production company that manages entertainers—musicians, models, deejays, and other stage performers. Teekasingh and her team help their clients obtain bookings for shows, arrange their photo shoots, provide portfolio consulting, help to broaden their followings on social media and at public events, and create press kits. RNE also has an in-house team of engineers who assist with music and video production.

RNE evolved from Teekasingh’s mother’s variety show, *Rhythm Nation* (a nod to the Janet Jackson album of the same name), which first aired on television back in their native Guyana. When her family moved to Brooklyn, Teekasingh spearheaded its transformation into a full-fledged entertainment company—all while studying full time at Brooklyn College.

“The first step was registering for a license from the State of New York,” Teekasigh says. “Next was building a team of experts and updating our website and social media networks. Aside from that, we made sure all of our original content is copyrighted, from our artists’ music to our models’ photos.”

Teekasingh has had the opportunity to work with artists such as the legendary rap group EPMD and the YouTube comedic sensation Majah Hype. She says that the skills she obtained while at Brooklyn College, including producing shows for the college’s radio station, WBCR, proved invaluable in building and managing RNE. “What I learned during my time in the Department of Television and Radio I’ve been able to put to use in the most productive ways possible.”

Since graduating from Brooklyn College, Teekasingh has been hard at work shooting music videos and producing a talent showcases for the artists she represents. She has also been managing the promotion and public relations for her eight-year-old sister Anaya, whose first book, *The Day Mohan Found His Confidence*, was published by Rhythm Nation Entertainment.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



Chantelle Teekasingh ’15, right, in the studio at Brooklyn College radio station WBCR with Julianna Forlano (left), lecturer in the Department of Television and Radio, and fellow students. Teekasingh founded her own entertainment production company while completing her undergraduate degree.





## Brooklyn College Launches M.D. Sass Investment Academy

When Martin D. Sass '63 attended Brooklyn College, he lived in a basement apartment that had no real shower, just a showerhead next to the boiler, he told a group of Brooklyn College business students earlier this year. To cover his education, the Crown Heights native paid \$25 per semester plus the cost of books. Used books.

When he began to eye a career in finance, he wasn't certain exactly what he wanted to do and he didn't know anyone on Wall Street. "I just needed someone to take me on," he told the students. "I knew if I got the chance, I would work harder than anyone."

That's all he asks of the participants in the M.D. Sass Investment Academy, a student-run hedge fund for which Sass, now the CEO of his own investment management firm, donated \$1 million. The program gives students real-world experience by allowing them to learn how to manage and invest actual securities under the guiding hand of expert investment managers and security analysts. Participants are also

eligible for performance-based rewards that will be paid out of the profits of the fund.

Students are grouped into teams, which are assigned three to four stocks to analyze and track. Each team takes about three months to complete a report on each stock and then present the findings and a recommendation to a committee of their professional advisers. "This is a great experience because it is a key component of being successful in the world of finance," says Natallia Kozhukh, a senior majoring in finance and investments who is an analyst for the academy. "You need to be good at evaluating companies and seeing which direction they are headed in."

Sass began his career at the Wall Street brokerage firm Ira Haupt & Co. after graduating from Brooklyn College with a B.S. in accounting. In 1972, he founded M.D. Sass, which today has more than \$7 billion in assets under management for corporations, state and local governments, multi-employer funds, and individual investors.

—Jamilah Simmons

### SUMMER IN THE CITY

WHEN WENDY LI WU, A JUNIOR MAJORING IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE, HEARD ABOUT THE SUMMER FINANCIAL CAREERS ACADEMY, SHE KNEW SHE HAD TO APPLY. "I SAW THIS AS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN SOME VALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR IN POTENTIAL CANDIDATES," SHE SAYS.

THE ACADEMY IS A TWO-YEAR PROGRAM FOR MURRAY KOPPELMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENTS WHO TAKE A THREE-CREDIT CLASS, ATTEND WORKSHOPS ARRANGED BY THE MAGNER CAREER CENTER, AND THEN INTERN. BEGUN LAST SUMMER, IT SPRANG FROM THE EFFORTS OF FORMER BCF TRUSTEE MARGE MAGNER '69 TO OPEN MORE DOORS IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE GRADUATES.

THE STUDENTS TAKE THEIR CLASS AT THE COLLEGE'S GRADUATE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION, WHICH IS LOCATED IN LOWER MANHATTAN. THE COURSE IS PACKED WITH GUEST LECTURES BY INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS—MANY OF THEM ALUMNI—BROUGHT IN TO GIVE STUDENTS CANDID ADVICE ON SUCCEEDING IN THEIR FIELDS.

"THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN SO POSITIVE FROM THE SPEAKERS AND THE EMPLOYERS WHERE THESE STUDENTS END UP INTERNING," SAYS SUSANNE SCOTT, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

—Jamilah Simmons

## Making Mentorship Their Business

Two of the newest members of the Brooklyn College Foundation board, Doris Bien-Aime '13 and Pawel Walczuk '10, are helping to continue the good work of fundraising for scholarships and programs. But as successful business people in a landscape that has become more diverse, self-starting, and global, they see their roles as mentors and liaisons between academia and industry as equally important.



Luxury brand strategist **DORIS BIEN-AIME '13** was a member of the Student Leadership Council when she was approached by School of Business Dean Willie Hopkins about helping to plan a symposium. She had an idea for the theme.

"I had attended a graduate school symposium at Cornell earlier that year called Johnson Women in Business, an annual event for prospective women business majors at Cornell's Samuel Curtis Johnson Graduate School of Management. I was so impressed with the emphasis there on issues that are unique to women in business, that I wanted Brooklyn College to host something similar," says Bien-Aime.

Working with Dean Hopkins, assistant professor Toby Birnbaum, and other faculty members, Bien-Aime helped secure notable speakers and alumni and created a logistics plan for a panel talk that focused on Brooklyn businesswomen and female entrepreneurs. More than 600 students, faculty, administrators, and community leaders attended the first annual Business Matters symposium, among them trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation. Impressed with the event, they recruited Bien-Aime to join the Brooklyn College Foundation board.

She accepted gladly. "As a trustee, I could continue to be of service to the school," she says. And it is a role she took on with enthusiasm, participating in, through the foundation, events such as the annual Brooklyn College fundraising gala Best of Brooklyn.

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Brooklyn College Foundation trustee **PAWEL WALCZUK '10** says that growing up in Poland in the wake of the Solidarity movement and the collapse of the Berlin Wall was a big reason why he chose to major in philosophy and political science, along with economics, at Brooklyn College. "Our society in Poland was very engaged at that time," says Walczuk. "The Polish people were asking questions about freedom, equality, and economic growth."

During his undergraduate years, Walczuk studied abroad and elsewhere in the United States—at the University of Cambridge, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the CUNY-Brooklyn College Study Abroad in China program, UC Berkeley, and UC San Diego—but says that at Brooklyn College "you've already traveled extensively just by being there. It is located at a junction of so many ethnic and cultural groups. When you're in class you are able to view things from so many different perspectives."

Walczuk, who received a master of science degree in political economy from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2011, credits awards such as the Tow Undergraduate Stipend and the Furman Fellows Program with giving him the opportunity to travel and observe foreign economies in flux.

His current job at Accenture, a global management consulting firm with offices worldwide, is another step on a quest to answer the questions that arise at the juncture of social

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## Doris Bien-Aime's Tips for Success

**1** Face up/phone down: There is a huge gain in life and business—the two are widely interrelated—that comes simply by actively engaging others. The highest form of respect that we can ever show is undivided attention.

**2** Volunteer for projects for which you hope to be commissioned. Experience is golden, as is the satisfaction of contributing.

**3** Establish professional boundaries. In dealing with clients, be mindful that even when entertaining them you are always on duty. Be down-to-earth but always up to par.

**4** Outsource what you are not good at. You lose time and money by trying to be all things.

**5** Don't let money be your driver or you will end up poor in resources, friends, mentors, inspiration, and all the other things that lead to greatness.



# BROOKLYN MEANS BUSINESS

CARLO SCISSURA, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BROOKLYN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, TALKS ABOUT THE BOROUGH'S "INNOVATIVE ECONOMY" AND STRATEGIES TO MAINTAIN A STEADY GROWTH IN INDUSTRY BEYOND BROOKLYN'S BUSINESS UPSWING.

Brooklyn is experiencing a renaissance. From the influx of artisans and entrepreneurs to the revitalization of neighborhoods like Downtown Brooklyn and Coney Island, the borough is transforming in ways that make it an attractive location for businesses, residents, and tourists. Carlo Scissura, the president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, believes that it is not enough to marvel at this renewed interest. He thinks there is a need for strategies that take the utmost advantage of the opportunities presented to ensure the upswing is sustained. Where do those strategies begin?

"[With] the people of Brooklyn," Scissura says. "We are from everywhere in the world. We speak every language of the world. We look like the world. And we're pretty sure of ourselves. We know what we want and we know that if there's anything in the world to be done, Brooklyn is the place to do it."

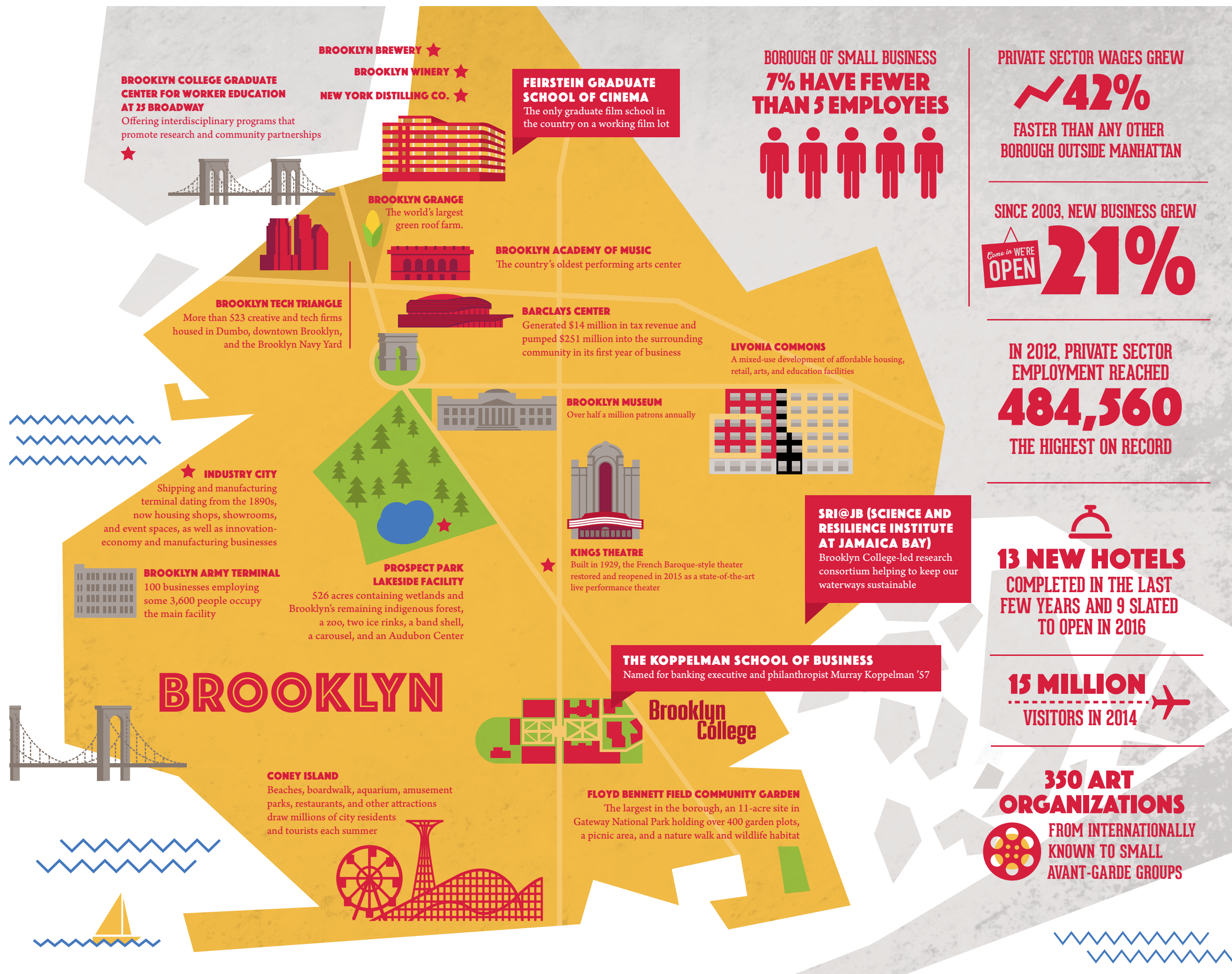
Born to Italian immigrants, Scissura grew up in the Bensonhurst section. He became head of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce in 2012. The chamber, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2018, is a premier agency promoting the economic health of Brooklyn by serving as a nexus for the advancement of policies, products, programs, services, and technologies that support the borough's businesses.

Just what makes Brooklyn so special? Scissura says that it's quickly becoming the creative capital of the world, a go-to location for industries such as the arts, retail, sports, entertainment, technology and more. And the borough is big enough to accommodate both multinational corporations and small businesses, a balance that Scissura says is crucial to its vibrancy.

"We can't have a city of only big corporations. It doesn't work. We need the mom-and-pops. We need the small entrepreneur who we hope will one day become the next big business. We need to have room for someone with an idea who can create new business."

A prime example of those ideas is the investment in Brooklyn's "innovation economy" with the development of the building complex known as Industry City. Located along the borough's western waterfront, the hub is slated to become one of the largest stimulators

*continued on page 18*





# BREAKING INTO THE BIG FOUR

The college's business students are getting a little help getting their foot in the door.

We realize the way to get students in the door has been through alumni.

**W**HEN RECRUITERS FROM THE MANHATTAN ARM OF THE GIANT ACCOUNTING FIRM KPMG CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE LAST FALL LOOKING FOR INTERNS, JUNIOR ALEX SAMSONOV SAYS HE WAS A BIT INTIMIDATED.

The accounting, finance, and business management major had never held an internship in his field and here he was, hoping to work for one of the largest tax, auditing, and advisory firms in the world. "I felt like a little fish in a big pond," he recalls.

What he didn't know when he sat down for his interview was that he was being screened by someone who once walked in his shoes. Anthony Castellanos '85, global accounts lead partner and industry leader at KPMG, had recently gotten back in touch with his alma mater after the Brooklyn College Foundation reached out to him. The senior partner was so impressed by some of the business students that he was single-handedly making a point of trying to recruit more of them for his firm, one of the "Big Four" in the accounting field, which had not been to the campus in more than a decade.

by Jamilah Simmons

"When Mr. Castellanos introduced himself to me and told me his story, I immediately felt more relaxed," says Samsonov, who finishes up his studies this academic year. "Knowing he was an alumnus made him easier to speak to."

Castellanos also liked what he saw, and pushed Samsonov on to the next round of interviews, after which he was offered a winter internship. The 60-plus-hour weeks that Samsonov logged during his four-month term at the firm drew the attention of his supervisors, and he was offered a full-time position there starting in fall 2016. As he wraps up his studies this fall, Samsonov will join Castellanos, now an informal mentor, in helping to recruit more Brooklyn College students at campus events.

"This is about passing on the torch and creating a large enough contingent of Brooklyn College graduates at KPMG so that this effort lives on," says Castellanos.

The effort has already paid dividends. Last year, some 40 Brooklyn College students and recent graduates were hired for internships or full-time positions at KPMG and Ernst & Young (known as EY), another of the Big Four, which also includes PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte. For years, that number had been only one or two students.

The reason for the huge uptick—though multi-factored—is due mostly to the dedication of two key alumni. Castellanos, and retired EY partner Elliot Tannenbaum '73 have taken the initiative to mentor students, giving them advice on everything, including what to wear and how to present themselves, and vouched for them with recruiters.

"I don't think I've ever said no to a student who wanted to meet me," says Tannenbaum. "I'm often really impressed. Many of these students just need a nudge in the right direction. EY doesn't hire them because of me, they are hiring these students because they are really good."

"I have a lot of gratitude for Brooklyn College," says Castellanos, a first-generation American whose parents are from Cuba. "There's a debt I owe and I know it."

Natalia Guarin-Klein, the director of the college's Magner Career Center, which has helped facilitate the mentor-mentee pairings, and Susanne Scott, associate dean of the Murray Koppelman School of Business, agree that a few key factors have aligned to move things forward. The

accreditation bid from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business has certainly helped. "Many of these firms hire off of reputation and frankly, we haven't always had that," says Scott. And the college's broad-based effort to engage well-positioned alumni has been a big boost as well.

"In general, we have been realizing that the way to get students in the door at more prestigious places has been through alumni," says Guarin-Klein. "With accounting, that has been particularly true."

Tannenbaum says when he first started trying to help students get in at EY he told the firm, "I'm not looking for you to make a promise to hire anyone; I'm just asking you to give them a chance." This past summer, he helped arrange a luncheon at EY between recent hires from Brooklyn College and a key EY recruiter.

"I stressed to the new hires that they really have to be the go-betweens for the college and the firm in order to get things going," he says.

Tannenbaum already comes to campus often to mentor students, and has conducted countless question-and-answer sessions and roundtable discussions, along with getting résumés into the right hands.

"One of the challenges with these firms is that they don't want to get 200 résumés, but as a career center, we are really not supposed to filter," Guarin-Klein says. Tannenbaum will often meet with scores of students to go through their résumés. "He won't let Ernst & Young forget about recruiting at Brooklyn College. He constantly keeps us in the loop with them," she adds.

**"I stressed to the new hires that they really have to be the go-betweens for the college and the firm in order to get things going."**



Gladstone Edwards, '15 can't remember when he first met Tannenbaum but says it was probably at one of the many forums the Wagner Career Center has held. Edwards was an accounting, business, management, and finance major who found in the older alumnus a mentor with whom he could talk about anything from his personal life to a realistic path for success in the accounting field. One key piece of advice: "He told me to just be myself," says Edwards. "He saw something in me that I probably didn't see in myself. It helped me relax." Edwards not only secured a summer internship at Ernest & Young but will also start a full-time position there this fall.

"These kids have so much to offer," says retired EY partner Elliot Tannenbaum '73. "Their diversity, their backgrounds, and their life stories are one thing. But when you add in the kind of enthusiasm and work effort they bring, we've really got something here."

Once their foot is in the door, the students and recent graduates help form an impression of Brooklyn College that, along with the hard work of Castellanos and Tannenbaum, becomes a gift that keeps on giving. "Each student who gets hired makes a path for the one who comes next," says Guarin-Klein.

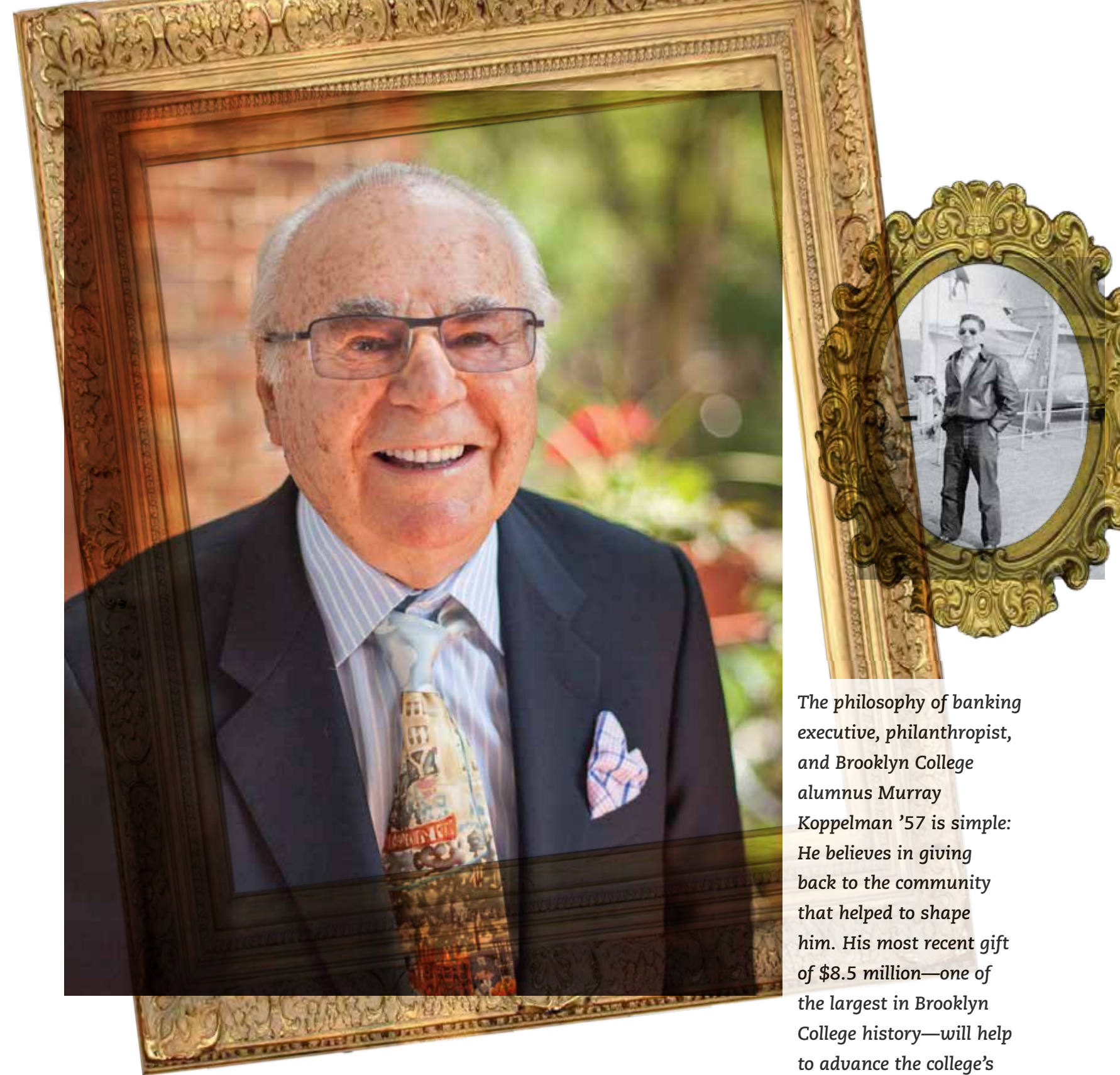
The Wagner Center has a network of more than 900 alumni who mentor students and help nurture corporate relationships with the college. Not only do the successful students keep Brooklyn College on recruiters' minds but they are also starting to create a cohort within the firms to continue to reach out to their alma mater for interns.

At KPMG, Castellanos has pulled together recent interns who will help him bring in the next group. Samsonov, along with senior Sabah Waheed—who also interned at the firm during the previous academic year—helped Castellanos answer questions last spring from students who were interested in applying for internships.

"The other students were very curious about how the firm works, why we were selected, and how much our classes really helped prepare us," says Waheed, who also secured a full-time position at the firm starting in January. "It felt good to be able to answer their questions and to assure them that they could do it, too."

**"These kids have so much to offer...their diversity, their backgrounds, and their life stories are one thing. But when you add in the kind of enthusiasm and work effort they bring, we've really got something here."**

Each student who gets hired makes a path for the one that comes next.



The philosophy of banking executive, philanthropist, and Brooklyn College alumnus Murray Koppelman '57 is simple: He believes in giving back to the community that helped to shape him. His most recent gift of \$8.5 million—one of the largest in Brooklyn College history—will help to advance the college's Murray Koppelman School of Business, giving today's students the same chance at a great education that he received as a young man.

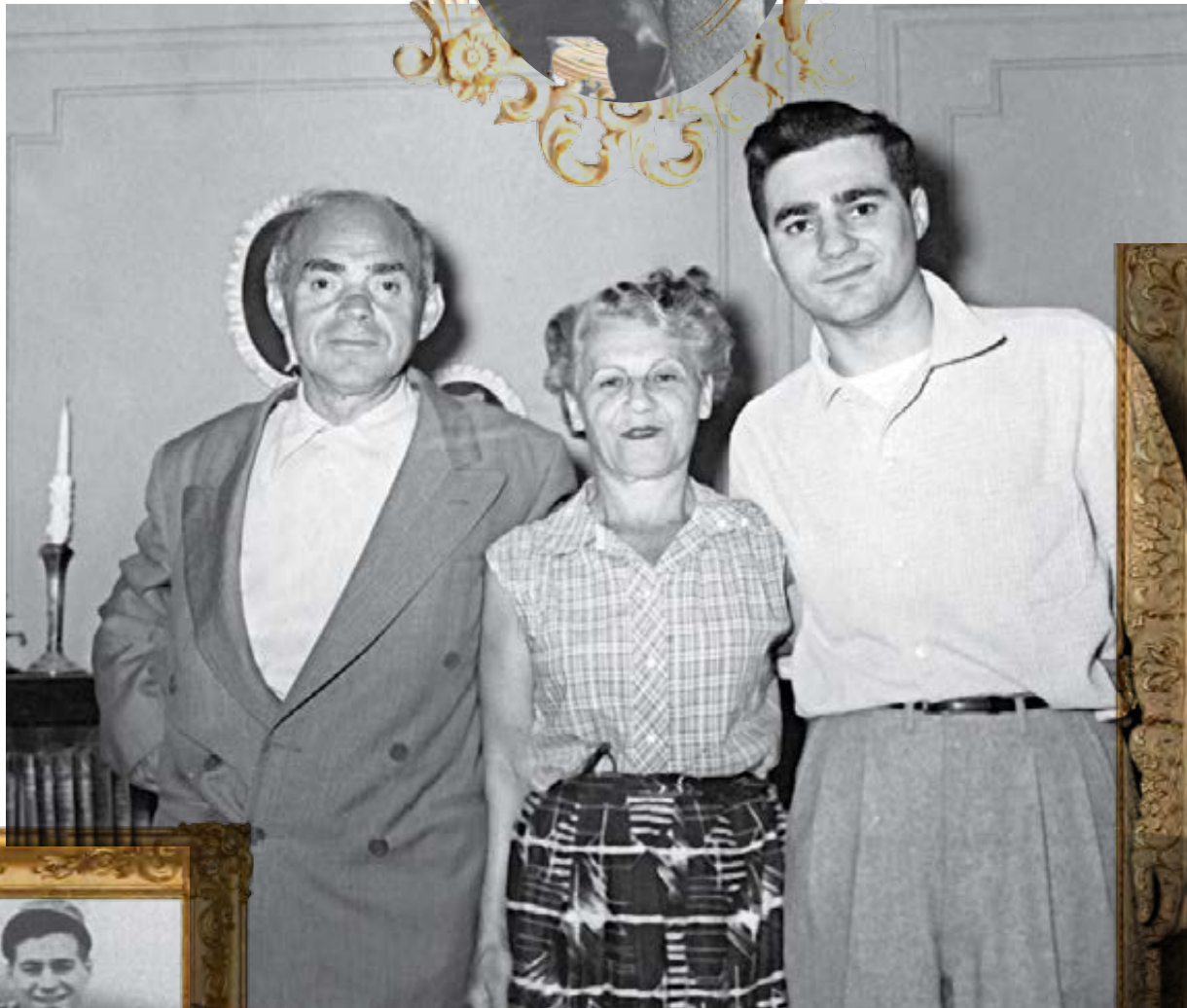
# A MAN of the People

By Audrey Peterson





Preceding page:  
Philanthropist Murray  
Koppelman. Inset: On  
his way to Israel on the  
ship Atlantic, 1949. This  
page (clockwise from  
top): Koppelman with his  
brother Sam; with his  
mother Ruth in Brighton  
Beach; with mother  
and father Isidore; Pfc.  
Koppelman on orders in  
Iceland in the early 1950s.



Credit: Unless otherwise noted, all photos from John Sklare: *Against All Odds*. Reprinted with permission of the Montefiore Press.

Prominent banker and philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57 is adamant when describing himself. "I'm a proletarian," he says with no hint of irony, and after spending any amount of time with him, one comes away understanding that this man counts himself, at least in spirit, among the everyday folk.

It is this spirit, and a deep conviction that students should continue to receive the same quality education that he did, that underpins his unflagging support of his alma mater, most recently in the form of an \$8.5 million gift to the new School of Business. This follows his earlier gifts to the college for a total of \$12.5 million. Koppelman's generosity spurred an additional \$2.5 million in gifts, made in his honor, from members of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, for a total of \$15 million in new support for the new school of business.

of three born to Polish immigrants Isidore and Ruth (née Pissetzky) Koppelman. His father was from outside Warsaw, his mother from a thriving village called Motele, which she had left to join her sisters in America.

Raised in Brooklyn's Borough Park, a teenage Koppelman sold ice cream and frozen candy bars at Brighton Beach to help support his family. "The police came and carted me away in their van and took me down to the station and fined me two dollars for selling without a license," he recalls.



Left: Koppelman (front row, left) with fellow kibbutz members on a trip to Italy, c. 1950.

Above: Koppelman's passport with an Israeli visa.

"I gave this a lot of thought," the 84-year-old says when asked about his hopes for the school that will bear his name. "I really care about all of the students who want to get a degree in business and are struggling financially in life like I did," he says.

He knows something about struggle because he was a child of the Depression. Koppelman was the middle child



The young entrepreneur and budding philanthropist made no complaint when he found out the ice cream and candy had been given to children in a local orphanage. And his business had been successful until it was shut down. He would come away from the venture with his mother's advice—"As long as you are working, everything will be okay"—and real-life business experience that, coupled with a solid work ethic, would be the foundation for his future success.

After graduating from high school, Koppelman volunteered at a kibbutz in the Negev Desert in Israel, then entered Brooklyn College—the first in his family to attend college—following two years of service in the Army during the Korean War. Koppelman credits his success at college to his early experiences.

"In the kibbutz, I was with concentration camp survivors. I said to one, 'I'm hungry, I'm hungry all the time here.' I weighed something like 120 pounds then; I'm 190 now," he says with a smile. "The survivor looked at me and said, 'What are you hungry about, there's always bread and chicory in the kitchen!' The bread was stale and there was chicory instead of coffee, but this gave me an insight—this guy lived in a concentration camp and I'm going to tell him I'm hungry when there is all the bread I want? He was a survivor. He was tough.

"The kibbutz and the military matured me. If I could have gone to college after I graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School, I might have failed, would have very likely done very poorly," he says. Instead, Koppelman excelled, graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in accounting in 1957. That same year, he married his first wife, Sarah, a nurse and fellow Brooklyn College student, with whom he had three daughters: Janet, Suzanne, and Lisa.

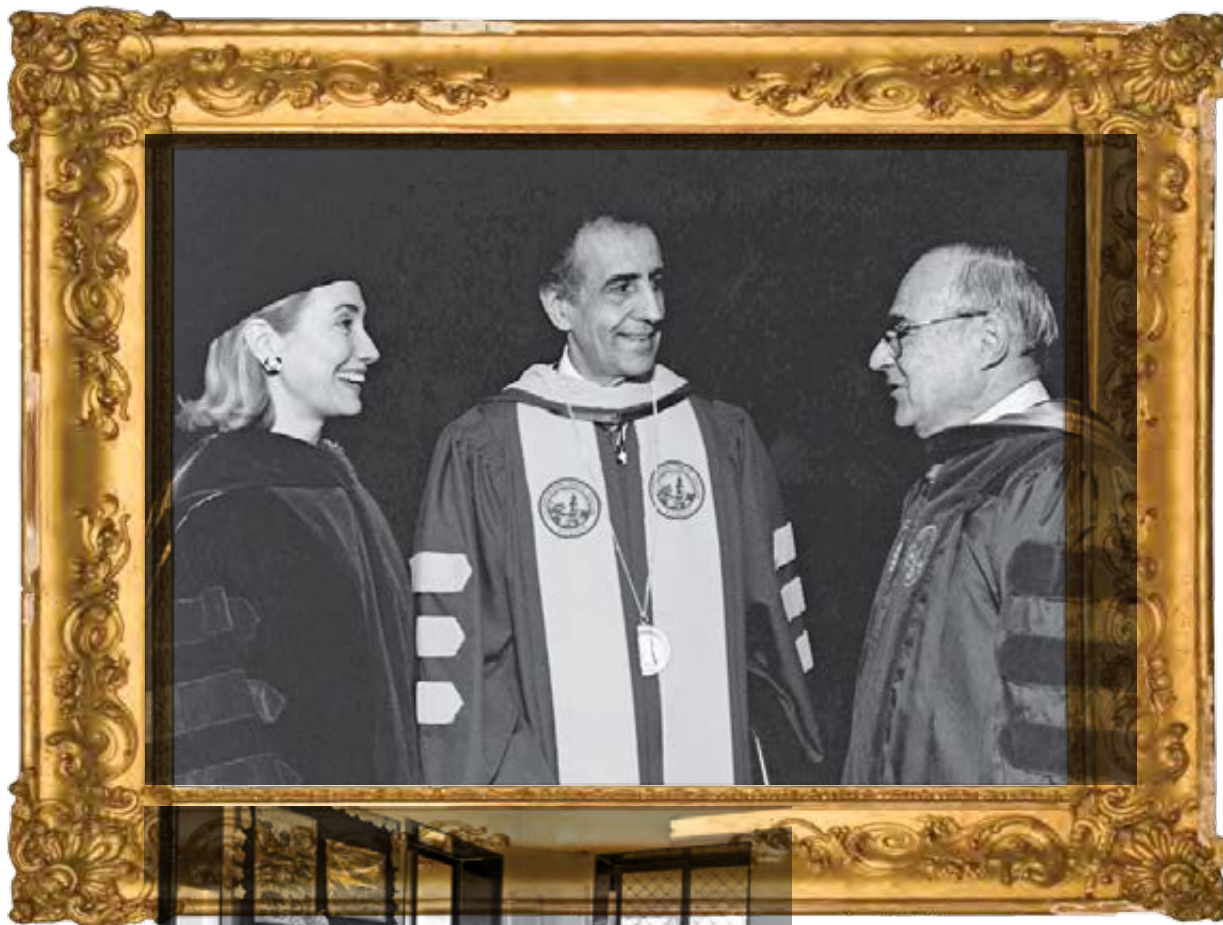
Koppelman cannot help but return to talking about the college when you mention his success. "I had a great professor who people know very well, Nathan Schmukler. He is in his 90s now. He was instrumental in helping me. He hired me as an accounting assistant when I was attending Brooklyn College." And it was a fellow student who brought him into investment banking.



Credit: Brooklyn College



*Top: Koppelman at Brooklyn College.  
Above: His wife, Ellen, and his daughters Janet, Suzanne, and Lisa.*



*Left: Koppelman with First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Brooklyn College President Vernon Lattin at the 1995 Commencement Exercises.*

*Koppelman participates in class with school children at the Indian headquarters of World ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training), a nonprofit group dedicated to global education.*



Credit: Courtesy of ORT India/World ORT.

"This brilliant guy [J. Morton Davis '57] graduated magna cum laude, was top 2 percent at Harvard," recalls Koppelman of Davis. He needed help with his tax return, remembered me, and called me. That started my professional relationship with him. He educated me in investment banking. He was a very tough guy. I worked 80 hours a week."

Koppelman rose quickly in the fields of finance and banking, serving as managing partner of the accounting firm Anchin, Block & Anchin, from 1961 to 1968, and then as an executive vice president and chief operating officer of D.H. Blair and Co., Inc., for some 20 years. In 1984, he became president and CEO of Eastlake Securities, Inc., a Manhattan-based banking firm, and in 2005 became vice president for private client services at J.P. Morgan.

Even with access to a great education, mentors, and connections, Koppelman says that success boils down to hard work. "I would give today's student the same advice that I gave the interns and graduates when I was running companies: Wherever you are working, be prepared to do any job, even if you think it's beneath you, and put a lot of hours in, because you never know who is watching you."

When the Murray Koppelman School of Business has completed the accreditation process, it will be the only accredited school of business in the borough, a boon to coming generations of business students at Brooklyn College. Affordable degree programs that prepare students for success in the global economy are key, says Koppelman, "since you never know what you're coming up against in today's diverse environment."

Koppelman's all-encompassing generosity is borne out by the number of causes he supports, including holding seats on several boards and earning distinctions for his commitment to the community and to academia. He is involved with such organizations as the American Organization for Rehabilitation Union, the American Jewish Congress, Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Inc., and the Anti-Defamation League. And he wants to make it clear that diversity is at the root of his philanthropy. "I believe very strongly in the rights of all groups—everyone should benefit."



**WHEN THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS WAS FOUNDED IN 2011**, the borough was in the early stages of becoming what is now a hub of entrepreneurship and technology. So when the college's newly built Murray Koppelman School of Business opens its doors, it will be well positioned to participate in Brooklyn's quickly burgeoning business economy.

Named for banking executive and philanthropist Murray Koppelman '57, whose ongoing generosity, along with that of other alumni and Brooklyn College Foundation board members, has helped to put in place programs and faculty that will underpin the college's bid for accreditation, the Murray Koppelman School of Business will be a key resource for the borough.



"We have a very active alumni base who have been generous, not only with financial support, but with advice and strategies needed to gain accreditation," says Willie Hopkins, dean of the Murray Koppelman School of Business. "Along with engaging the campus as well as the Brooklyn community, we are asking our alumni how we should enrich the curricula to reflect what's happening in Brooklyn commerce today. We want to make sure that our graduates can hit the ground running as they seek jobs and build careers, in the borough, the city, and the wider world."

Gaining accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) is key to ensuring top-tier status for the new School of Business. Accreditation by AACSB includes a rigorous review of faculty qualifications, curricula, the school's mission, self evaluations, peer reviews, committee reviews, and the development of in-depth strategic plans. The Koppelman School of Business will be the only accredited business school in the borough.

To give an idea of how selective the process is, fewer than 5 percent of the world's 13,000 business programs have AACSB accreditation. The advantages are many: AACSB-accredited schools have better programs, better faculty, and better students with higher overall GPAs. International students are recruited by more employers, and graduates earn higher salaries.

Brooklyn College has been assigned a mentor, California State University, whose committee was on campus this past May to help develop an initial Self-Evaluation Report (iSER), which is a necessary first step.

"Our plan is to submit the report to the Initial Accreditation Committee (IAC) for its meeting in December," says Dean Hopkins, who served on the accreditation team at California State University in Chico. "If the iSER is accepted, we then fill in any gaps the IAC identifies in the report. We are working toward a completion date of spring 2017 and requesting a site visit that fall," he adds.

Hopkins is quick to stress that accreditation is a widely collaborative process. "When the IAC comes to assess the school they talk to all the constituents of the School of Business," he says. "You need a strong plan and must let everybody know where you are in the process, how accreditation works, and how it's going to benefit students, faculty, the school, and in our case, the entire City University system."

—Audrey Peterson

**"We have a very active alumni base who have been generous, not only with financial support, but with advice and strategies needed to gain accreditation."**

—Willie Hopkins, dean of the Murray Koppelman School of Business

In 1993, he helped found the Accountants and Bankers chapter of ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) America, a Jewish nonprofit "committed to strengthening communities throughout the world by educating people against all odds and obstacles," according to its website. In January 2014, Koppelman and his wife, Ellen, visited a World ORT India headquarters in Mumbai—this was one of more than 50 countries around the world that the avid traveler has visited, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Iran. The ORT India national director, Benjamin Isaac, was surprised when Koppelman pulled out a check after touring the complex and seeing the Early Childhood Care and Education program, the Jewish Education Resource Center, and a computer center.

Koppelman received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1996 and was honored by the Brooklyn Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy in 1999.

As stated in his biography, *Against All Odds* by Joshua M. Sklare (Montefiore Press, 2013), Koppelman believes deeply in Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana's saying that "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." In 2013, Murray and Ellen Koppelman, together with his sister, Sandra Glicksman, became members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Founders Society with a gift of \$1 million that helps fund the museum's permanent endowment. Among those who perished in the Holocaust and those who survived were the residents of his mother's hometown of Motele, whose stories he relates in his biography. In 1942, German soldiers killed all of the Jews in that village, some 800 people, including his maternal grandmother.

Koppelman sits on the board of governors of Hillel International and has served as president of Brooklyn College Hillel. The Koppelmans have invited students from Hillel to their home in Manhattan for Friday night dinner and are known for generously hosting many of the organizations in which they are involved.

In 1994, Murray Koppelman was named Brooklyn College Alumnus of the Year. He was awarded the college's Presidential Medal in 1995 and honored at the annual Best of Brooklyn gala in 2004.

And he can add the latest gesture of his steadfast support of the college to a list of generous acts. Calling the School of Business an "anchor" that will secure Brooklyn College as an enduring destination for an excellent, affordable education, Koppelman says, "I've stayed connected because of what it did for me. I give all the credit to Brooklyn College—no ifs, ands, or buts." Of the citizens of his hometown he adds, "Brooklyn people are some of the most successful people in the world, and I'm proud to be from Brooklyn."



Top: Koppelman with students at the School of Business naming ceremony reception held in October in the Brooklyn College Library. Above: Koppelman, here with his wife, Ellen, and actor Jimmy Smits '80, was honored at the 2004 Best of Brooklyn gala.







*Carlo Scissura, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce*

of job growth in the nation, attracting businesses from a variety of areas including art, e-commerce, fashion, food, and media. According to Scissura, that is just the start for Brooklyn industry; it could be amplified if the borough committed to eliminating a few obstacles.

For example, Brooklyn needs more office space, priced for acquisition by businesses large and small. It also needs the infrastructure to support the growth: improved roadways, expanded mass transit, the creation of high-speed rail, and additional ferry routes. In particular, he believes that East New York, Brownsville, Ocean Hill, and Canarsie, neighborhoods in the eastern part of Brooklyn, hold some of the solutions.

"There are acres and acres of land on which manufacturing centers and packing facilities can be built. These neighborhoods are close to John F. Kennedy Airport and the highway, making importing and exporting extremely accessible."

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will be focusing on some specific areas to develop, including support for products made in Brooklyn and the companies that produce them, as well as tourism and hospitality. But again, Scissura stresses, it is the human resources that will continue to make Brooklyn shine brightest for business, and Brooklyn College, with its Murray Koppelman School of Business, plays a vital role in the development of those resources.

"Brooklyn is a college town," says Scissura. "Many people don't know that. The academic institutions are critical players here. If Brooklyn College doesn't succeed, Brooklyn doesn't succeed. Because you're the ones educating the future leaders."

—Robert Jones, Jr.

#### BIEN-AIME

Born in the borough to African-American and Haitian parents, Bien-Aime moved straight into the working world after graduating from high school, finding employment as a divisional manager and associate buyer of fragrance brands at Takashimaya, New York and La Prairie/Sak. In 2009 she parlayed her luxury retail experience into her own successful branding business, DBA Branding and Identity. Her clients include Dr. Uma Naidoo, a.k.a, "Chef Uma M.D." a Harvard professor of psychiatry and professional chef who combines her expertise in both fields to advance the science of food and its impact on neurochemistry.

"I needed direction vis-à-vis my professional development," says Bien-Aime of her choice to finally pursue a degree.

These days, Bien-Aime's focus is on diversity in children's literature, which she promotes through her organization Read and Rule. "My biggest inspiration for that is my daughters," says the mother of twins Mani and Maiya.

Still, as a member of the foundation development committee, Bien-Aime is never too far from her alma mater. She currently serves as the advisory chair for the Student Leadership Council and is planning this year's "Secrets to Success" symposium. "I am fortunate to work with so many senior board members who have distinguished themselves in the business world," she says. "And I am grateful to Brooklyn College for giving me the opportunity, as an alumna, to give back."

—Audrey Peterson

#### WALCZUK

and economic change. "In the U.S. it's about how labor is changing, how we engage with our partners abroad. What do we do to stimulate growth and avoid crises," Walczuk says.

It was an internship in then New York Senator Hillary Clinton's office from 2007 to 2008 that brought Walczuk into contact with political, social, and economic challenges on a more local level. "I worked mostly with Senator Clinton's constituents," says Walczuk. "I helped them tackle problems with procuring visas, medical issues, adoptions. It helped me shape my own thinking of how things could work on a practical level."

Although he is employed by a private company, Walczuk emphasizes that his being able to work in the public sector, such as with state governments, helps him identify best practices from both, something he sees echoed in the work of the Brooklyn College Foundation. "The foundation has been doing a fantastic job of strengthening the ties between the college and industry in the borough and New York City," he says. "There's so much room for growth and unbelievable opportunities for the school and its students." Walczuk, who joined the BCF this summer, is looking forward to working with his fellow foundation members: "They are so deeply invested in what it means to have gone to Brooklyn College. That inspires me."

—Audrey Peterson

# News-makers

**JOSHUA V. KURIAN '15** holds the distinction of being the valedictorian at the 2015 baccalaureate commencement at Brooklyn College.

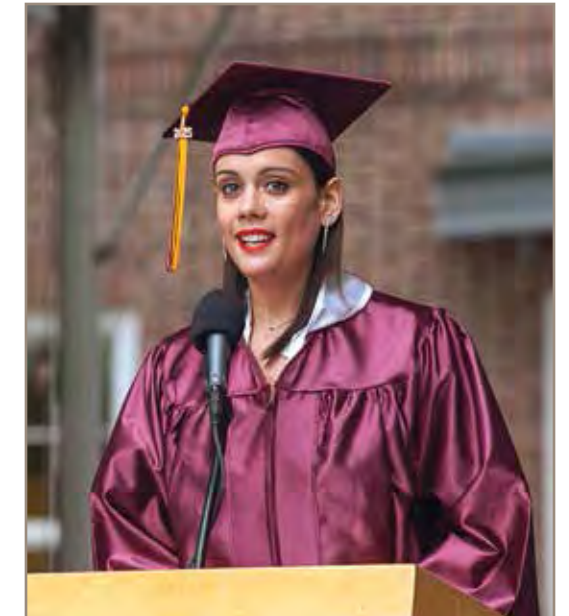
Kurian, who received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, was a student in the Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program, held a cumulative 4.00 GPA, and made the Dean's List every semester of his attendance. He was the recipient of the Christoph M. Kimmich Award for Academic Excellence. In addition to his scholarly achievements, he gained a great deal of work experience as a tutor at the SEEK Learning and Study Center as well as tutoring students privately in the sciences.

Kurian, treasurer of the Study Abroad Scholarship Association, participated in several civic activities, including serving as president of the Brooklyn College chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Under his leadership, the fraternity organized several community service projects that included helping to build a playground in Breezy Point, N.Y., and raising funds for the Military Heroes Campaign and the St. Baldrick's Foundation. Kurian volunteered with Global Medical Brigades in Estelí, Nicaragua, where he spent time helping to build latrines for homes and set up a medical center, which treated more than 900 patients.

Kurian's dream to become a physician will be realized once he completes his studies at the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine, which he began attending this fall.



## Meet Brooklyn College's 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian



**GISELY COLÓN-LÓPEZ '15** has the honor of being our 2015 salutatorian.

Colón-López, who held a cumulative 4.00 GPA and made the Dean's List every semester of her attendance, received her bachelor of arts in Puerto Rican and Latino studies, with a minor in cultural anthropology. She was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship for students who show academic promise and the New York League of Puerto Rican Women's College Award for academic excellence and service to the community, which she received in an on-field ceremony at Yankee Stadium before a home game. In addition to her academic accomplishments, she also worked as a campus college assistant during her tenure as a student at Brooklyn College.

A civic-minded student, Colón-López interned with SOMOS el Futuro and served as the lead intern for the chief of staff of Assemblyman Robert J. Rodriguez of the 68th district in East Harlem/El Barrio, N.Y. She also represented Brooklyn College and CUNY's Ernesto Malave Leadership Academy in Albany during two major caucuses. She serves as a member of the Alliance for Puerto Rican Education and Empowerment.

Colón-López's aspirations are to pursue her Ph.D. and become an activist, leader, philanthropist, and teacher.

—Robert Jones, Jr.





Prof. Stephen Chester, (second from right) with students on a dig in southeastern Montana in summer 2014.

Two Department of Anthropology and Archaeology professors have recently made discoveries that rewrite the textbooks on primates. Professor Stephen Chester has identified the anklebone (above, right) of the *Purgatorius*, a chipmunk-size species sometimes cataloged as a proto-primate, which proves that it was a tree dweller and not a ground dweller, as previous research indicated. Professor Alfred Rosenberger has discovered the largest lemur ossuary, thought to be the biggest collection of fossils representing the now-extinct giant lemurs.

"It's more accurate to say it is a precursor, or a possible common ancestor, to both *Plesiadapiformes* (a group of extinct primates) and modern primates," says Chester, who joined the Brooklyn College faculty two years ago, but has been digging in Montana for the past decade. While there is no complete skeleton of *Purgatorius*, dental remains first found 50 years ago at a fossil site in the southern part of the state called Purgatory Hill provided clues that matched the anklebones found later.

From the size of the molars and the shape of the anklebones that he found among unidentified bones housed at the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, Chester deduced two things: that the anklebones belonged to *Purgatorius*, and that this species of *Plesiadapiformes* was a tree dweller in the earliest Paleocene Epoch, almost 66 million years ago, directly after dinosaurs became extinct.

"While the dental records can tell us about the animal's diet, the ankle can reveal a lot about posture and locomotion," he says.

Chester, whose focus is the origin and evolutionary history of primates, conducts fieldwork mainly in western North America. He is also a faculty member at the CUNY Graduate Center and the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology.



## Buried Treasure

Through their latest research, Brooklyn College professors shed new light on early primates and historic climate change.

Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation and support from the National Geographic Society, a team that included Professor Alfred Rosenberger, together with University of Massachusetts Professor Laurie Godfrey and several professional freshwater divers, recently discovered three underwater caves in the Tsimanampetsotsa National Park in southwestern Madagascar holding the remains of now-extinct giant lemurs and other megafauna never seen before.

Lemurs share a common ancestor with other primates and have been known to inhabit Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean that is more than 600 miles from the African continent, for the last 10,000 years. While the fossil record shows that relatives of lemurs were once in Europe, Africa, and Asia, today they are solely found on Madagascar.

"Extinction in this case is driven by humans and is severe and sometimes irreversible because most ecological niches that were inhabited by several species endemic to the island are being destroyed," says Rosenberger.

"Like other islands around the world, Madagascar is at risk, and the gradual loss of flora and fauna, similar to the contraction of rain forests elsewhere, generally becomes irreversible," Rosenberger says. "That's why it's important to study the megafauna we found in those caves. It can help us understand the consequences of extinctions, past and present."

Rosenberger, a member of the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, who was recently granted a Tow Professorship at Brooklyn College in recognition of his contributions to the field, hopes this will become a multiyear project to further investigate the caves and evaluate the findings.

—Ernesto Mora

## Cultivating Doctoral Success

Rosamond S. King, the new director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, is glad to be in a position to provide promising Ph.D. candidates the same kind of mentorship that she received as a Brooklyn College student.

Associate Professor of English Rosamond S. King has hit her stride.

Last spring, she received one of the prestigious Tow Faculty Research Travel Fellowships to help fund her trip to Trinidad. There, she dug into the archives about a group of revolutionary emancipated slaves. In June, her book, *Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination* (University Press of Florida, 2014), won the Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Prize, given out by the Caribbean Studies Association for best book about the Caribbean. Later in the summer, she found out she had received tenure.

Yet, of the many things she can be proud of, her role as the new director of the college's Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program is one very close to her heart. The MMUF supports undergraduate students of color who want to pursue Ph.D.s and become professors by offering them faculty mentoring, research

stipends, and help paying undergraduate student loans. King is an alumna of the program, having joined when she was an undergraduate at Cornell University.

"It was instrumental in my earning a Ph.D.," she says. "I am excited to become the director so that I can give the kind of mentoring that was given to me."

The program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which supports it on more than 33 campuses nationwide. The Brooklyn College program, one of the oldest and most successful, is now celebrating its 25th anniversary.

This past year, all four Brooklyn College MMUF students had papers accepted to the prestigious National Council for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Conference. Two other students had their research published in the MMUF journal—no other CUNY school had more than one entry. And two fellows who applied to doctoral programs this year were accepted as fully funded students.

King meets with each student once a month and with the group three times a month to counsel the fellows on everything from their curricula vitae to how they should dress for academic events to how to juggle family and academic life. "I get a lot of satisfaction from sharing the kind of insider knowledge that students don't often have access to," says King.

The fellows say they receive much from the program, too. Dominique Young '15, one of the students whose research paper on black women's fiction, particularly that of author Terry McMillan, was accepted at the NCUR conference, says she didn't know the first thing about applying to graduate school or the process of becoming a professor until she became a Mellon fellow. She cried when she found out she had been chosen to present her research. "Learning that my abstract had been selected confirmed that my research was important," she says.

King is taking a sabbatical this year to pursue a number of scholarly pursuits, including lecturing at the University College of London and at a conference in Dublin. She will also be trying to secure more grant funding for the MMUF program. Liv Yarrow, an associate professor in the Classics Department, will be heading MMUF in King's absence.

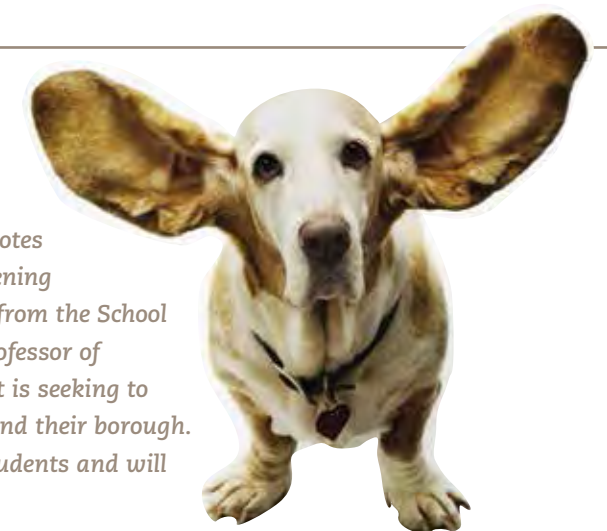
—Jamilah Simmons



## The Art of Listening

Beginning in spring 2015, Brooklyn College students have been interviewing and recording coworkers, friends, neighbors, relatives, and even strangers living in the borough. The result is compelling anecdotes from the life experiences of Brooklynites called The Brooklyn College Listening Project. An ongoing oral history initiative launched by faculty members from the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and spearheaded by Associate Professor of English and American Studies Program Director Joseph Entin, the project is seeking to make available the rich and often extraordinary histories of the people and their borough.

This semester we will be following a select group of participating students and will share their discoveries on Facebook and Twitter, so stay tuned.





English Professor Ben Lerner Named 2015 MacArthur ‘Genius’ Fellow

Brooklyn College English Professor Ben Lerner has received the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. The fellowship celebrates the creative potential of individuals by providing unrestricted funds to those “who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction.” Lerner, a novelist, poet and critic, is one of 24 MacArthur Fellows and is the only awardee from the City University of New York (CUNY).

The MacArthur Foundation describes Lerner as “transcending conventional distinctions of genre and style in a body of work that constitutes an extended meditation on how to capture our contemporary moment.”

“This honor is a fitting recognition of the high level of scholarship and dedication to craft that Ben has continually demonstrated,” says Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould. “The example that he has set will also positively impact Brooklyn College students.”

Lerner is the author of three books of poetry: *The Lichtenberg Figures* (2004), *Angle of Yaw* (2006), and *Mean Free Path* (2010), all published by Copper Canyon Press. His poetry has been translated into German, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese and his collected poems to date will be issued in a single volume by Granta Publications (U.K.) in 2017. He is the author of several chapbooks and limited edition volumes, including a recent collaboration with the German photographer Thomas Demand, entitled *Blossom* (Mack Books).

Lerner has been a finalist for the National Book Award in poetry, a Fulbright Scholar in Spain, a Howard Foundation Fellow, and a Guggenheim Fellow. In 2011 he became the first American to win the Preis der Stadt Münster für Internationale Poesie for the German translation of *The Lichtenberg Figures*. He is currently the youngest poet included in the *Norton Anthology of Postmodern Poetry*.



*Leaving the Atocha Station* (Coffee House, 2011), Lerner’s first novel, won The Believer Book Award and was named one of the best books of the year by *The New Yorker*, *The Guardian*, *The New Statesman*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The New Republic*, among other publications. His second novel, *10:04* (FSG, 2014), was named a book of the year by *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, NPR, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

“I’m humbled and more than a little surprised,” says the Topeka, Kansas native. “I think of the Fellowship as a challenge—in the most generous form imaginable—to do more and more adventurous work.”

The MacArthur Fellows Program is intended to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations. The fellowship is a “no strings attached” award in support of people, not projects. Each fellowship comes with a stipend of \$625,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. MacArthur is one of the nation’s largest independent foundations. Through the support it provides, the Foundation fosters the development of knowledge, nurtures individual creativity, strengthens institutions, helps improve public policy, and provides information to the public, primarily through support for public interest media.

Among Brooklyn College’s other MacArthur Fellows is English Professor Dinaw Mengestu.

—Keisha-Gaye Anderson



Mayor Bill de Blasio joined Barry R. Feirstein ’74, City University of New York (CUNY) Chancellor James B. Milliken, elected officials and distinguished guests in a ribbon cutting at Brooklyn College’s Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema on Oct. 6. More than 100 students, film industry professionals and esteemed guests were in attendance. The Feirstein School, located at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, is the only public graduate school in the nation housed on a working film lot and the first public graduate school of cinema in New York City.

“New York City has long been a global capital for film and television production, but today we are making an unprecedented commitment in the future of this industry and in New York’s finest young filmmakers,” said Mayor de Blasio. “By opening the Feirstein School, we are unlocking the door of opportunity for a talented and diverse group of students who want to get the best, most cutting-edge education in cinema, and then put those skills to use right here in New York City.”

The Feirstein School, which welcomed an inaugural class of 69 this fall, provides students with access to state-of-the-art production and post-production facilities in one of the largest sound stages in the country, as well as a full complement of lighting, grip

Inaugural Class Welcomed at Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



Ribbon cutting at the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard (from L to R): actor Fisher Stevens; Council Member and Chair of the City Council Committee on Higher Education Inez Barron; Rhoda Glickman of the Empire State Development Corp.; David Ehrenberg of the Brooklyn Navy Yard; Doug Steiner of Steiner Studios; Founding Director Jonathan Wacks; Founding Donor Barry R. Feirstein; Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould; CUNY Chancellor James Milliken; and Commissioner Cynthia López of the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment.

and electrical equipment. Degree programs include M.A. in Cinema Studies and M.F.A. in Cinema Arts, which is composed of six tracks—cinematography, directing, post-production, producing, digital arts, and screenwriting.

Another hallmark of the school is the involvement of seasoned directors, producers and actors, who contribute to Feirstein’s advisory board and help to guide the school toward fulfilling its mission. Among them are actor, author, and director Ethan Hawke; director Steven Soderbergh; and Emmy Award-winning producer Celia Costas.

“The visionary philanthropy of Barry R. Feirstein, CUNY, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, and the New York City and State Council, among others, has enabled us to develop an extraordinary education for our students,” said President Karen L. Gould.

“Brooklyn College provided an excellent academic foundation for me and I’m extremely pleased to return the favor by helping to build the 21st century cinema school that will both strengthen the college and provide access to

exciting careers for today’s students,” said Feirstein.

Emceeding the event was actor Fisher Stevens. Other speakers included screenwriter and director Darren Aronofsky; David Ehrenberg, president and chief executive officer of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp.; New York City Film Commissioner Cynthia Lopez; Maria Conelli ’80, dean of the Brooklyn College School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts; Feirstein School Founding Director Jonathan Wacks; and New York City and State officials.

The Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema is the result of an extensive public-private partnership among notable Brooklyn College alumni, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, Steiner Studios, the New York City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President, and the City University of New York. Founding donors include alumni Don Buchwald ’59, Roy Furman ’60, Jules Haimovitz ’71, and Michael Lynne ’61.

—Keisha-Gaye Anderson





International Immersion

A Brooklyn College student and alumnus gained experience in their fields with studies and internships overseas.

Tamar Shakiashvili, a senior, went to Rome to study the representation of women in Renaissance paintings, while Alex Brandt ’15 M.A. went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for an internship with international children’s rights group Save the Children.

Shakiashvili, originally from Tbilisi, Georgia, thought she already knew what it was like to be an international student, but she says nothing prepared her for Italy, where she traveled with the help of a Magner Career Center travel stipend. “Living for four months on my own in Europe taught me that I can achieve anything,” she says.



The double major in Italian and multimedia computing is eager to develop her computer science skills further and become a freelance 3-D animator, dividing her time between New York and Rome. While she was studying Italian literature and film at John Cabot University in Rome, she worked on her research project, “Female Representation in Renaissance Period Paintings and Its Connection to Modern-Day Feminism in Italy.”

She also savored the opportunity to socialize with locals on the piazzas in the evenings and cook fresh food for an international group of friends she made.

When one walks into Italian shops, “people behind the counter ask how’s your life, and stay there and listen to your problems for hours if you need them to,” she says. “Overall, people seem to dedicate a reasonable amount of time to relationships.

“My experiences in Italy gave me confidence,” she says.

Brandt, who earned a master’s degree in international affairs, says he chose Save the Children because of its long history of serving children in hardship areas overseas.

“It’s a well-respected organization and I wanted to work with it to learn more about how international development is handled,” he says.

While in Ethiopia, he assisted with multimillion-dollar proposals, worked with international donors and members, and helped write grants. He says he learned a lot about humanitarian assistance procedures and became knowledgeable in areas like child protection, education development, and emergency response.

“I have been able to put into practice what I learned from my graduate studies,” he says, adding that he would like to pursue a career in international development, providing support for disaster and emergency relief efforts.

“The best part of my experience has been working with a variety of different departments [at Save the Children] to see how such a huge organization implements projects,” he says.

—Jamilah Simmons

Top left, senior Tamar Shakiashvili in Venice, one stop on her research tour of Italy, supported by a Magner Career Center International Study Stipend. Inset, Alex Brandt ’15, at left, interned at Save the Children last summer.

International Engagement 2015–16

MORE THAN 300 BROOKLYN COLLEGE STUDENTS STUDIED ABROAD

TOP FIVE DESTINATIONS FOR BROOKLYN COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE CHINA, ITALY, INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTH KOREA

NEWEST PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES IN HEILBRONN, GERMANY; PUEBLA, MEXICO; BARCELONA, SPAIN; AND BEIJING, CHINA.

NEARLY 500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS FROM (IN DESCENDING ORDER) CHINA, TURKEY, SAUDI ARABIA, SOUTH KOREA, INDIA, GERMANY, NIGERIA, FRANCE, JAPAN, AND ISRAEL.

STUDENT AWARDS

Many of our students continue to have outstanding achievements in the form of awards and fellowships. Here are some highlights.

THE AWARD

THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, a fellowship of highly competitive, merit-based grants for international educational exchange, allows for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists, and artists to study, conduct research, or exercise their talents abroad.

THE RECIPIENT

Hogai Aryoubi ’13 CUNY B.A, anthropology of cross-cultural aesthetics

William Cheung, CUNY B.A., Philosophy

John Horgan, M.A. in education

Natasha Masub, sociology major in Macaulay Honors College

Nathaniel Sibinga, graduate student in biology

THE WORK

teaching English in Turkey

teaching English in Germany

teaching English in Malaysia

traveling to Bangladesh

studying sustainable fish farming and nutrition in Norway

THE MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM aims to address the underrepresentation of people of color in academia by encouraging high-achieving students of color and others of diverse backgrounds to pursue doctoral degrees.

Maryam Esperanza Razaz, English and chemistry

Jacqueline Retalis, history major, Caribbean studies/English double minor

Janaye Solomon, CUNY B.A., race/gender/class

Dominique Young, English

The work of the four Brooklyn College Mellon Mays students was accepted for the prestigious National Council on Undergraduate Research Conference.

ROSEN FELLOWSHIP Thanks to the support of Brooklyn College Foundation trustee Florence Rosen, for the fifth consecutive year Brooklyn College students have been awarded the competitive Rosen Fellowship.

Sofia Ahsanuddin, political science

Brielle Cardieri, psychology

Hannah Carl, sociology

Margaret Douglas, English

Jessica Khaimova, CUNY B.A., Scholars, atmospheric and environmental science/fiction writing

Yeen Lama, health and nutrition

Peter Lee, B.A.–M.D., anthropology

Savannah Rice, film

Rabia Sirin, history

Elena Valencia, communications

performing cancer screening in India

working with a nongovernment organization in Ecuador

studying the impact of language on schoolchildren in Sweden

hiking the Appalachian Trail and composing a book of poetry.

studying exoplanet atmospherics in Scotland.

teaching children in Nepal

working with the Global Medical Brigades in Nicaragua

apprentice with a shoemaker in Argentina

studying in Russia

traveling to Lindy Hop schools and competitions across Europe

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership.

Jake Levin, Macaulay Honors College student majoring in political science and philosophy

full funding for graduate school, mentoring, and an internship in Washington, D.C.

THE BEINECKE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM provides funding for graduate studies in the arts, humanities, and social sciences.

Sean DesVignes, creative writing (poetry)

traveling to Trinidad to research jazz and calypso

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Gilman scholars receive up to \$5,000 toward study abroad.

Veronica Chin Hing, psychology

Linda Huang, film production

Edwin Sue, business

traveling to China

traveling to Japan

traveling to Argentina

HOPE REICHBACH FUND FELLOWSHIP provides mentoring opportunities and pays for summer internships at Brooklyn-based organizations.

Arianna Flores, political science and Puerto Rican and Latin studies

working at Safe Horizon, a nonprofit that helps victims of violence and abuse



Research & Discovery

In 2015, Brooklyn College faculty received more than \$4.7 million in grants and awards for new and ongoing research. Here is a selection of those funded projects and recent faculty publications.

Lecturer in the Department of English **Matthew Burgess** published *Enormous Smallness: A Story of E. E. Cummings* with Enchanted Lion Books.

*Eye on Cricket: Reflections on the Great Game* by Philosophy Professor **Samir Chopra**, was published by Harper Sport.

Professor **Georgeen Comerford** of the Department of Art published *Bronx Faces and Voices: Sixteen Stories of Courage and Community* with the Texas Tech University Press.

Professor **Louise Hainline** of the Department of Psychology received \$273,965 from the National Institutes of Health to provide biomedical research training to minority honor students at Brooklyn College.

Speech Communication Arts and Sciences Professor **Shuming Lu**, with Modern Languages and Literatures Assistant Professor **Yong-Gang Huang**, coauthored *America Encounters Classical Chinese Culture: A Pedagogy for Philosophy and Literature*, published by Sun Yet-sen University Press.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Ryan Murelli** received one of five Junior Faculty Research Awards given at Brooklyn College this year. This award, sponsored by a grant to the University from the Sloan Foundation, provides \$50,000 to support research over the next year.

Judaic Studies Professor and Department Chair **Sara Reguer** published *My Father’s Journey: A Memoir of Lost Worlds of Jewish Lithuania* with the Academic Studies Press.

Conservatory of Music Professor **George Rothman** published *Marius Constant* with Riverside Symphony Records. The work is a recording of three major orchestral pieces by the Romanian-born French composer Marius Constant with the Riverside Symphony orchestra.

Professor of Political Science **Mark Ungar** received \$498,437 from the Department of State for the project entitled “Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,” an investigation of Iran’s human rights practices as specified in existing national laws and ratified international treaties.

*The Tow Professorship recognizes distinguished contributions in teaching, scholarship, and the advancement of the college’s mission. Recipients receive \$25,000 each through a renewed five-year grant of \$1 million from Leonard Tow and the Tow Family Foundation to the college. The following are the 2015–2016 Tow Professors:*

**Maria Contel**, professor of chemistry

**Douglas Geers**, associate professor and acting department chair of the Conservatory of Music

**Mojúbàolú Olúfúnke Okome**, professor of political science

**Alfred Rosenberger**, professor of anthropology and archaeology

**Robert Shapiro**, professor of Judaic Studies

*The following faculty members have received important research travel support from the Tow Foundation:*

**Jennifer Adams**, associate professor of secondary education

**Beth Ferholt**, assistant professor of early childhood & art education

**Christian Grov**, associate professor of health & nutrition sciences

**Rosamond S. King**, assistant professor of English

**Robert Lurz**, professor of philosophy

**Robert Shapiro**, professor of Judaic Studies

**Judylee Vivier**, professor of theater

Correspondence

“So to see a real way-out-there rock band at a safe place like Whitman Auditorium was a no-brainer. Richie Havens was the cherry on top.”

We received more recollections of concerts that took place on campus in the 1960s and 1970s.

Susan Amatzio ’72 writes: “My sister [Anna Amatzio ’75] and I have fond memories of concerts at Brooklyn College. We saw one of Barry Manilow’s early concerts there, and I remember that Barry was wearing a Brooklyn College sweatshirt. I also remember a program featuring the legendary New York City Ballet stars Suzanne Farrell and Peter Martins. It was an especially beautiful duet in one of their famous Balanchine-choreographed dances called Chaconne. I remember a beautiful blue light onstage as part of the pas de deux.”

“The Brooklyn College concert I recall to this day took place on Saturday, May 11, 1968. The Vagrants opened for Richie Havens,” writes Mark Rosenblatt ’73, who was a 17-year-old freshman at the time.

“In 1968, rock concerts in larger venues in New York City were limited. I remember going to the former Fillmore East [in Manhattan] to see Richie Havens headlining over the Troggs and one of my all-time favorite bands, the United States of America (to this day they remain the loudest band I ever saw). So when an opportunity came to see Richie Havens again at Brooklyn College, I rounded up a pair of friends and bought three tickets weeks in advance of the show.

“What made this particular show interesting was the opening act, the Vagrants, a band whose members were from Queens and Nassau County, and who had a regional hit with the song ‘Respect,’ the same Otis Redding song that is associated with Aretha Franklin. At the time, the Vagrants played predominantly in clubs that were either too rough

for me or required IDs that my friends and I lacked. So to see a real way-out-there rock band at a safe place like Whitman Auditorium was a no-brainer. Richie Havens was the cherry on top. I would see Havens a number of times in the immediate future, including at Woodstock in 1969, and at a live-to-videotape performance at the Brooklyn College TV Center in 1975 for the broadcast series Brooklyn College Presents Living Screen, which ran on the old WNYC-TV, Channel 31, and on Nassau County’s WLIW-TV, Channel 21.

“That Havens show took place in the basement of Whitehead Hall, where the TV Center still stands, and was directed by my grad school friend, and later co-worker at the ABC Radio Network, Barbara Silber ’72, who, like me, got her B.A. and M.S. at Brooklyn. The show was produced by Neil Heller ’73, ’75 M.A., another BCTV M.S. grad, and I worked the show as technical director. All three of us were under the guidance of longtime and now long-retired Department of TV and Radio chair, Robert C. Williams Ph.D. So for me, one Havens performance blended into another in the long run.

“Back at Whitman Auditorium, the Vagrants rocked loud and hard and soulful and put on quite a show. During their final song, which may have been a cover of a Who song, the band members began playing more and more discordant riffs, and then began trashing their instruments on stage, something that in 1968 the Who guitarist Pete Townsend was already known to do. Moreover, onstage anarchic instrument destruction had been committed to film in Michelangelo Antonioni’s 1966 movie Blow-Up, in which a very young Jeff Beck, guitarist

for the Yardbirds, destroys his guitar and throws pieces into a club crowd. So when the Vagrants started to trash their instruments, I turned to my friends and we all thought, as one, “Didn’t anyone tell them that this has been done before?” We then started joking that one us should go up on stage to tell the Vagrants to stop, or better yet, do something original. Had the Vagrants not attempted to shock their Brooklyn College Whitman Hall crowd out of its complacency, I would not remember the incident as vividly as I do.”

Our Photo Album feature on the Dooshk continues to draw responses from former Brooklyn College swim team members. Michael Cohen ’60 writes of our follow-up article (Vol. 4, No. 1 Fall/Winter 2015, page 32), “You stated that before 1968, the swim team had not won a swim meet for 20 years. I was on the team from 1956 to 1960 and was present when we won several meets. That is not to say we ever had a winning season—but we had our share of wins.

“The swim team was a positive experience,” he adds. “We swam against Morgan State and other traditionally black colleges, and that was a bright spot in my swimming career. I know they came to Brooklyn a few times and that we went to Baltimore, a very segregated city in 1959.”

And finally, a correction in the same article: The recollections misattributed to Mark Keyes were actually those of swim team member Mark Schwartzberg, ’84, ’91 M.A. Thank you, Mr. Schwartzberg, for sharing with us your memories of the Dooshk and your time on the team.

COMMENTS? SUGGESTIONS? QUESTIONS? ADDRESS CHANGES? PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS AT 718.951.5065.

B MAGAZINE IS ALSO AVAILABLE DIGITALLY AT [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php)



A snapshot of our diverse borough and city. Send your Brooklyn story to [communications@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:communications@brooklyn.cuny.edu); we'd love to hear from you.



Besides being an astute business person and entrepreneur, Doug Steiner is a visionary. At a time when few people recognized the potential for business and commerce in the borough of Brooklyn, Steiner invested in it. In 2004, he opened Steiner Studios on a 15-acre lot at the Brooklyn Navy Yard—a venture that has helped revitalize the surrounding area, open channels for new industries, and usher in a resurgence for Brooklyn. Steiner Studios is the largest and most sophisticated studio complex outside of Hollywood and has made Brooklyn one of the most sought-after destinations for the creation of content.

Now, Steiner has extended his vision by supporting the Brooklyn College Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. Housed on location at Steiner Studios, Feirstein is the first and only graduate film school in America to be built on a working film lot. It is also the first public film school in New York. And building on the rich culture of the borough, the school is dedicated to diversity, inclusion, and the cultivation of new and emerging voices in cinema. Together, Steiner and Brooklyn College have forged a relationship that ensures Brooklyn will be not only a chief contributor of creative product, but also the place where the best creative talent is developed.

Steiner took a moment to elaborate on his vision for the Brooklyn College Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema and the future of creativity in Brooklyn.

**IN WHAT WAYS HAS STEINER STUDIOS GROWN OVER THE PAST DECADE TO KEEP PACE WITH A FAST-CHANGING INDUSTRY?**

The business has changed in that I'd always figured the multitude of channels would continue and there'd just be a demand for content. I had no idea there would be a new golden age for television. Originally we had mostly feature films and now mostly television, and most of what's shooting in New York now is television. Content continues to be a great business for New York and media. Old media has always been based here, and now with tech and media converging, New York really has a greater opportunity to have a new economic future that's not solely dependent on finance, insurance, and real estate. What's unique about this business is, it can't be done offshore, it's not going to be done in China or India anytime soon, and to do it people have to be physically present and collaborative. They can't be working from home, other than the post-production phase. We call it manufacturing for the 21st century.

**TALK ABOUT YOUR LOCATION AT THE NAVY YARD. WHY IS IT SO IDEAL?**

We started in 1999, and people thought we were crazy to go into Brooklyn. "Nobody would ever go to Brooklyn," was the refrain. And we lucked out. I chose the Navy Yard because it was big. I liked the industrial aesthetic. When you are here, you see in the foreground a shipyard with cranes and all kinds

of crazy businesses, and in the background you see the financial capital of the world and the beautiful sunset. And being right by the water is really nice. There's the transportation nexus of the three bridges, Williamsburg, Manhattan and Brooklyn, all come very close to the Navy Yard. The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway is one block away, so that's also part of the attraction. And then the funky old building stock was cool.

**WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT BROOKLYN, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE BOROUGH POSITIONING ITSELF IN THE FUTURE AS A HUB FOR FILM AND TECH?** I think Brooklyn still has a long way to go in terms of its transformation. It's home to the creative class in New York and, really, of the world. It used to be a second choice for a lot of people moving to New York, choosing to live in Brooklyn for economic necessity. Now, it's not a discount to Manhattan—oftentimes, it's a premium. And I think it reflects a very different vibe and attitude of people who want a different urban model. More diverse, more quirky—all the things that attract people to New York in the first place. Manhattan is getting more homogeneous: it's bankers and lawyers, and a lot more elites. And I think Brooklyn is much more artsy, creative, and interesting.

**HOW DO YOU SEE FEIRSTEIN GRADUATES CONTRIBUTING TO THIS INDUSTRY IN THE FUTURE?**

I think what the city recognizes is that the educational system has to train people for the jobs that are going to exist. And by merging academia and industry, it's really ideal for making sure there are jobs for people when they get out of school. At Feirstein we say it's the opposite of an ivory tower education. You'll be set amid the industry you're being trained for. You'll see what it's really like, as you're learning what you're going to be doing in that industry and deciding what you might want to be doing. The city's been very supportive in merging academia and industry. This makes way for the building of a content-creation district where everything from the development of media technology to the distribution of media to the marketing and selling of the end product can be accomplished. The building that the Feirstein School is in had been vacant for about 40 years. Spectacularly beautiful building. The architects who did it are the same architects who had designed the Starrett-Lehigh Building in Manhattan, on the far West Side. We spent a lot of money to make a historical renovation. We had glass specially cast to preserve the round corners. The floor heights are great; the number of windows is great; the views are great. But overall, nothing could have prepared me for how beautiful it looks and how cool it is. And as a setting and a physical place to work and study and learn and to teach at, it has hugely exceeded my expectations and everybody else's. I think to be in the first class here is really something special. If Google was going to have a film school, this is what it would look like. This is a business that's good for New York. It wants to be in New York. There aren't many places that can really support this kind of industry. And you don't have to move to L.A. to be in the business. In fact, over time, we'll be equal to L.A. Maybe even bigger.

**FAST FACTS ABOUT STEINER STUDIOS**

580,000 square feet

26 acres

Home to the largest stage (27,000 square feet) on the East Coast

Ten soundstages, totaling 131,000 square feet

5.6 acres of backlot space

100-seat Screening Room

Located within the historical Brooklyn Navy Yard in the heart of Brooklyn

10 minutes from TriBeCa, 20 minutes from Midtown

*The Producers: The Movie Musical, The Tourist, The Nanny Diaries, Spider-Man 3, Men in Black 3, The Adjustment Bureau, Sex and the City 2, Revolutionary Road, Inside Man, Enchanted, Baby Mama, The Sorcerer's Apprentice, and Burn After Reading are some of the major motion pictures that have filmed at Steiner.*

Steiner Studios also has hosted many television series, including *Damages, The Unusuals, Pan Am, Bored to Death, Boardwalk Empire, Girls, Gotham, and Hip Hop Squares.*



### Global Goal

*Student-Athlete Marco Thimm-Kaiser is clear that his global education will not stop at graduation.*

Brooklyn College men’s soccer forward Marco Thimm-Kaiser has made a tremendous impact at the college and a home for himself in Brooklyn. The German native decided to study in New York City after his dad brought him here on a vacation for his 16th birthday. “After two years I can say that I would make the same decision to come here again, without a doubt,” says Thimm-Kaiser.

The junior has made the most of his time here; he has been a key player and starter on a very successful men’s soccer squad, while double majoring in economics and international business. Thimm-Kaiser has produced great results in both endeavors, scoring six goals over two seasons, and compiling a 3.99 grade point average, which was a 4.00 until an A- this past spring gave him his first blemish.

Along with his impressive marks in the classroom, the junior speaks three languages, German, Spanish, and English. Still, he admits his English was not great when he arrived at Brooklyn College. “I found it hard to express myself. Sometimes I couldn’t understand everything and my writing was not the best. The ESL classes helped me a lot with my grammar.”

“I often wondered why Marco left his native country to come this far to pursue his studies,” says Brooklyn College Head Men’s Soccer Coach Rawle Hensford, “but after his first semester and season I see that he is driven and has a clear sense of direction. I see a direct correlation between his performance as a member of the team and his academic success.”

Before Thimm-Kaiser’s journey here from his hometown in the rural outskirts of Hamburg, he spent a year doing charitable work in Mexico City. He explains that military or social service is mandatory in Germany for young adults. And while the law was changed before he left so that he didn’t have to do the service, he went anyway. He says he cherished the opportunity to learn about a different culture while sharing an apartment with volunteers from around the world.

Today he lives a few blocks from campus with four other Brooklyn College athletes: women’s soccer players Shani Nakhid-Schuster and Jordan Kerwin, teammate Kevin Bresnan, and men’s basketball player Chris McIlhatton. While Kerwin and Bresnan are from upstate New York, Nakhid-Schuster, who was featured in the Spring/Summer 2014 issue of *B*

is from New Zealand, and McIlhatton is from Australia. “I appreciate that I am not the only foreigner in the apartment,” says Thimm-Kaiser.

And the men’s soccer team is also diverse, with different nationalities and languages represented. “Since we have a lot of Spanish-speaking guys on the team, we often speak it in practice,” he says.

The highly motivated student-athlete plans to add a minor in political science, and would like to enter a master’s program in international relations or economics after graduation. “My dream job would be in an important, global-operating organization like the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, or the International Monetary Fund.”

Marco Thimm-Kaiser

—Alex Lang



Vanessa D’Ambrosi

### Bulldogs Take ECAC Division III Metro Crown in Overtime Thriller

*Vanessa D’Ambrosi Named Tournament MVP*

Senior guard/forward Vanessa D’Ambrosi scored nine of Brooklyn College’s 13 points in overtime to help lead the #1 seeded Bulldogs to 63–58 victory over #2 seed Rutgers-Newark, their first-ever Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Metro Women’s Basketball Championship in program history. D’Ambrosi finished the game with a game-high 20 points, to go with 12 rebounds to record a double-double. For her efforts, the fifth-year senior was named tournament MVP.

“Words can’t describe how it feels to win this championship and make Brooklyn College history,” says D’Ambrosi. “I am honored. We have so many great players on this team and any could have been named MVP.”

Along with D’Ambrosi, classmates Nicole Francomano (12 points and nine assists), Megan Campbell (11 points and seven rebounds), Nacirema Mann (nine points and five boards), and Asia Foster (13 boards) were crucial to the team’s final success.

The Bulldogs (22–7) were making their third straight ECAC Metro final appearance, having come away with the runner-up trophy in both 2013 and 2014.

“This was a great way to end our season and to send off this tremendous senior class,” says Head Coach Alex Lang. “We have been very close to winning this tournament and an ECAC Championship the last couple of years, and I am proud of our team for this outstanding accomplishment. This is something that will go down in the Brooklyn College record books.”

—Anthony Ramos

### CUNYAC All-Stars

#### Fall 2014

##### Women’s Soccer

Rookie of the Year: **Isabelle Lalami** (10 goals—5 game winning goals, 5 assists, 25 points)

First Team All-Stars

**Jordan Kerwin** (5 goals, 6 assists, 16 points)  
**Sayla Flores** (5 goals—3 game winning goals, 5 assists, 15 points)  
**Jasmine Fermin** Team’s top defender; helped lead team to 10 shutouts  
**Yaliz Campos** 1 assist; helped lead team to 10 shutouts

Second Team All-Stars

**Bergelie Louis** (8 goals—2 game winning goals, 4 assists, 20 points)  
**Allie Brocke** (Key defender, helped lead team to 10 shutouts)  
**Sangam Gurung** (assist; helped lead team to 10 shutouts)

##### Men’s Soccer

Second Team

**Kevin Bresnan** (Key defender, helped lead team to 5 shutouts)  
**Andres Pertuz** (4 goals—1 game winning goal, 4 assists, 12 points)  
**Fernand Grisales** (3 goals—1 game winning goal, 1 assist, 7 points)

##### Women’s Tennis

Player of the Year: **Yuliya Orkis** (7-0 at #1 singles & 7-1 at #1 doubles)  
 Second Team

**Diana Beshta** (6-2 singles record & 5-3 doubles record)  
**Suraya Maenhout** (6-4 singles record & 9-2 doubles record)  
**Muriel Dervich** (6-2 singles record & 6-2 doubles record)

##### Women’s Volleyball

First Team : **Francesca LoCascio** (207 kills, 162 digs, 44 total blocks, 41 aces)

Second Team: **Jessica Yin** (497 assists, 143 digs, 70 aces, 52 kills)

##### Women’s Cross Country

**Lygia Goulbourne** (Finished 11th overall—out of 89 runners—at the 2014 CUNYAC Championships, with a time of 28:27.5 (6K) )

#### Winter 2014–2015

##### Women’s Basketball

First Team: **Megan Campbell** (14.8 ppg, 9.4 rpg, 1.2 bpg)

Second Team

**Nicole Francomano** (10.9 ppg, 5.8 apg, 2.5 spg)  
**Vanessa D’Ambrosi** (13.3 ppg, 6.3 rpg, 1.6 spg)

##### Men’s Basketball

First Team  
**Egzon Gjonbalaj** (18.3 ppg, 8.6 rpg, 3.8 apg, 2.0 spg, 1.9 bpg)  
**Lorenzo Williams** (15.6 ppg, 8.2 rpg, 2.5 apg)

##### Cheerleading

Performer of the Year: **Amanda Strano** Led BC to a third straight CUNYAC Championship in 2015





### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BULLDOGS?

Brooklyn College is not the only school with a bulldog as a mascot. Can you match the schools to their dog?

- |                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mississippi State University    | a. Handsome Dan |
| 2. University of Minnesota, Duluth | b. Colonel Rock |
| 3. Yale                            | c. Bully        |
| 4. Georgetown                      | d. Jack         |
| 5. Brooklyn College                | e. Uga          |
| 6. Western Illinois University     | f. Champ        |
| 7. University of Georgia           | g. Buster       |

Answers: 1-c; 2-f; 3-a;  
4-d; 5-g; 6-b; 7-e.



### BC Cheerleading CUNYAC Champs for Ninth Time

The Brooklyn College cheerleading team once again dazzled a capacity crowd at the 2015 CUNYAC Cheerleading Championships, hosted by York College, CUNY capturing its ninth overall—and third consecutive—conference crown. Brooklyn finished first out of the five squads that entered into the team-scoring competition, earning a score of 78.33.

“I am extremely proud of this team,” says Head Coach Tonika Simmons. “We worked hard and never gave up when times got stressful. Our seniors are an amazing group that will be missed, but they had a tremendous impact, and led us tonight.”

The Bulldogs also won two of the three skills competitions, taking first in the stunt competition, while Jacey Friedlander won the jumping competition. Brooklyn College Junior Cristina Careri finished second in the tumbling competition. The Bulldogs were not done there, as senior Amanda Strano was named CUNYAC Performer of the Year in the first year of that award being given in the sport of cheerleading.

—Alex Lang

## Alumni Profile

### Paying It Forward



**BARRY SALZBERG '74**, the now retired global chief executive officer of Deloitte Global, had a full-circle moment when he returned to the Brooklyn College campus to receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the 2015 Commencement Exercises. He says the college is the place that gave him his foundation and nurtured his career aspirations. As the keynote speaker, he shared the secrets of the acumen that had brought him so far with more than 4,000 graduating seniors and their guests.

“If you had told me when I was younger that I’d end up global CEO of a company like Deloitte, I probably would’ve laughed,” says Salzberg. “And I wouldn’t have been the only one laughing!” Part of his success is attributable simply to his own tenacity, he says, and the faith he had in his abilities even when others did not. “My high school guidance counselor actually told me not to bother applying to college because she didn’t think I had what it takes to make it,” he says. “Even after law school, when I started my career at Deloitte, I certainly wasn’t what anyone would call CEO material. But I managed to beat the odds.”

There are three practical factors Salzberg believes enabled him to accomplish his goals. First, he remained with Deloitte from the start of his career and studied at the feet of the talented people he encountered there. Second, he was always willing to perform duties outside his comfort zone, gaining valuable experience and skill as he went. The third, and most important, he says, was mentorship—the kind that the Brooklyn College Magner Career Center creates between the college’s alumni and students.

“I had multiple mentors along the way,” he says, “each of whom cared deeply about me and my career success.”

What was it like to be the CEO of one of the largest accounting firms in the world? “If I had to describe the role, I would say that above all, it was a privilege,” says Salzberg. “I had to learn to think ‘firm first,’ to look beyond making a profit, and to prioritize between often conflicting needs.”

One of those conflicts, says the husband and father of two, was the balance of work and life. “There’s no question I had to sacrifice, but to be able to contribute at the level I did and work with the people I worked with was incredibly gratifying, and I’m grateful to have had the opportunity.”

And it is those kinds of opportunities that Salzberg wanted to ensure would be available to everyone. “The world is changing and companies need to have an internal demographic that reflects those changes,” he says. “Employees demand it; clients expect it. Diversity is a business imperative. The more unique points of view a company can bring to the table, the more innovative and well-rounded solutions it will have to offer.”

Salzberg has a grand, transformative vision for the role of business in the global exchange and the part captains of industry play in the social sphere. He makes little distinction between economics and ethics. “I believe in purpose beyond profit. I believe business has a far greater role in society than just making money, or delivering value for shareholders.” He is adamant that “business can and should be a force for good, and not just through its corporate social responsibility programs. I’m talking about the core activities of a business—the goods it produces or the services it delivers. Business should make people’s lives better. It should innovate and drive societal progress. It should use its resources to help address the big issues facing the environment and our communities.”

This is the only sustainable model of business, Salzberg says, and energy must be committed to preserving these principles for current and future generations of leaders. “As business leaders, we need to pay forward the experience we’ve gained throughout our careers. We didn’t get where we are on our own, and we weren’t dealing with half the challenges or complexities businesses face today. Just imagine what tomorrow’s leaders will face! We need to do our part to give them a leg up.”

—Robert Jones, Jr.





## 2015 Athletic Hall of Fame Plaque Dedications

1. Letterman of the track and cross-country teams, Stu Kessler '50, beams as his plaque is installed on the donor wall of the Brooklyn College Athletics Hall of Fame.

2. Rita Lubin Edwards, widow of Hall of Famer Dr. Joe Edwards '50, poses by her husband's plaque.

## 2015 Tow Luncheon

3. Leonard Tow '50 and Emily Tow Jackson of the Tow Foundation (left) are joined by President Karen L. Gould and recipients of the 2015 Tow Research Travel Fellowships (from left) Professor Laura Tesman, Elisa Libraty '16, and Tracy Pierre '17.

## Global Perspectives on Jazz featuring Rudresh Mahanthappa

4. Jazz alto saxophonist and composer Rudresh Mahanthappa performs.

## Gi60 One-Minute Play Festival 2015 USA

5. Students performed 50 new 60-second plays by 50 different authors at Brooklyn College as part of the three-country Gi60 festival.

## 6. Class of 1965 50th Anniversary Reunion

Jacqueline Woodson Reading  
7. National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson read selections from her book *Brown Girl Dreaming* on a visit to campus

sponsored by the Black and Latino Male Initiative.

## 2015 BCAA Student Awards

8. Front row (left to right) Daniel Scarpati '15, Nathan Bethea, M.F.A. '16, Samuel Ditchek '15, Gisely Colón-López '15, President Karen L. Gould, Jennifer Mikhli '16, Shella Khalili, M.S. '16, Geena Bell '16, Gloria Farciert Ramirez '17. Back row (left to right) BCAA President Jeffrey S. Sigler '92, Yitchok Norowitz '15, BCAA Student Awards Committee Co-Chairs Elliot Wasser.

## 2015 Best of Brooklyn Gala

9. Best of Brooklyn attendees Marshall Kaplan '49, who endowed the Marshall G. Kaplan Chair in Municipal Government at the Brooklyn College School of Business this year, and Lorraine Laighold '64.

10. Edwin Cohen '62, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation, accepts the 2015 Best of Brooklyn Award from President Karen L. Gould.

## Zicklin Summer Fellows Awards

11. Recipients of the 2014/15 Zicklin Summer Fellows award join (front row, from right) President Karen L. Gould, Brooklyn College Foundation trustee and program sponsor Carol Zicklin '61, and program coordinators Evelyn Guzman and Stephen Gracia.

## Brooklyn College Baccalaureate Commencement 2015

12. Guest speaker City Councilman

Jumaane D. Williams '01, '05 M.A. addresses the graduates.

13. Students celebrate their graduation.

## The Robert L. Hess Lecture

14. Nobel-prize winning columnist Paul Krugman discusses the Obama legacy with American political analyst, historian, and journalist Thomas Frank.





Dear Alumni,  
Brooklyn, the most populous of New York City's five boroughs (2.6 million), and the second most densely populated county in the nation, means business. Since 2003, the number of businesses in Brooklyn has grown by 21 percent and jobs have grown nearly twice as fast as in the rest of New York City, according to a 2014 New York State Comptroller's economic snapshot of the borough.



Brooklyn College, with its 120 undergraduate/graduate degree programs and world-class faculty is positioned to add to the growth and success of the borough. Today, more than 17,000 students, both undergraduate and graduate, hailing from 150 nations and speaking 105 languages, call Brooklyn College home. They deserve the opportunity to flourish in and beyond the classroom, and will do so with our support.

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) remains committed to fulfilling its mission to provide a lifelong association between Brooklyn College and its alumni by supporting its mission, students, faculty, and programs. If you are already actively engaged with the college, thank you and please continue. I invite all alumni to become involved with their alma mater whatever way they can—provide an internship, become a mentor, speak to current/prospective students, or support scholarships. There are many ways to give back.

I'd like to close by offering congratulations to my colleague and friend Marla Hasten Schreibman '87 on the occasion of her retirement. Thank you, Marla, for your outstanding leadership as director of the office of alumni affairs, your tireless support of the BCAA, and your 30 years of service to the larger Brooklyn College community.

In service,

Jeffrey S. Sigler '92, '95 M.S.

Don't see your class correspondent?  
Please contact Eileen Howlin at [ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu)

## 1947

**Reva Frumkin Biers**  
*Class Correspondent*  
4631 Ellenita Avenue  
Tarzana, CA 91356-4931  
[revabiers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revabiers@sbcglobal.net)

**George Fisher** was named the South Florida Veteran of the Year. He served in the Battle of the Bulge and Belgium and was a recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and French Legion of Honor.

## 1948

**Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy**  
*Class Correspondent*  
271-10 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G  
Floral Park, NY 11005-1209

**Walter Lipiner**, along with 13 other World War II veterans, received the French Legion of Honor from Philippe L  trilliart, consul general of France, who addressed the awardees with admiration and gratitude.

## 1954

**Marlene (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman**  
*Class Correspondent*  
255 West 94th Street, Apt. 6Q  
New York, NY 10025-6986

**Alice Pesner Friman** published a book of poetry, *The View from Saturn* by Louisiana State University Press. Alice is currently poet-in-residence at Georgia College in Milledgeville, Georgia.

## 1956

**Mike Saluzzi**  
*Class Correspondent*  
1351 East Mountain Street  
Glendale, CA 91207-1837  
[msaluzzi@earthlink.net](mailto:msaluzzi@earthlink.net)

A reception honoring retiring Stockton University professor **Dr. Murray Kohn**, rabbi emeritus of Beth Israel Congregation of Vineland, New Jersey, was held on May 4 at the Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, on the university's main campus in Galloway.

## 1960

**Saul Kravitz**  
*Class Correspondent*  
3382 Kenzo Court  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
[kravitzsaul@gmail.com](mailto:kravitzsaul@gmail.com)

Two books by **Fran Orenstein** were recently published, *Amber and the Magic Whipped-Cream Dress* (World Castle Publishing) and *Fat Girls from Outer Space* (Saguaro Books).

## 1961

**David S. Herskowitz**  
*Class Correspondent*  
1175 Kildeer Court  
Encinitas, CA 92024-1278  
[davidsh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidsh@sbcglobal.net)

**Isaac Blachor** was honored by the Nassau County Bar Association for 50 years of excellence in the practice of law. He currently serves as chaplain for the Jewish Lawyers Association of Nassau County.

**Lucy Shapiro**, a developmental biologist at Stanford University, received the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, awarded annually to women of outstanding achievement in science.

## 1963

**Cliff Rosner**  
*Class Correspondent*  
111 Blue Willow Drive  
Houston, TX 77042-1105

**Sheldon Krimsky**, Tufts University professor of urban and environmental policy and planning, recently published *Stem Cell Dialogues: A Philosophical and Scientific Inquiry into Medical Frontiers* with Columbia University Press.

**Kenneth Sherrill** coedited and contributed an article to a symposium, "The Politics and Policies of Ebola," in the January 2015 issue of *PS: Political Science & Politics*. He also delivered a paper, "Group Consciousness and the Policy Priorities of LGBT People," at the Midwest Political Science Association meetings in April.



**Leon Glass '63**, one of the world's leading theoretical biologists with the distinction of having made several scientific discoveries that are named in his honor, received the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 Master's Commencement Ceremony II. Glass was also a keynote speaker.

Along with theoretical biology, Glass is also a trained chemist and a trailblazer in applying physics and mathematics to understand the complex physiological phenomena that occur with certain human ailments. He is currently a professor of physiology at McGill University in Montreal, holding the Isadore Rosenfeld Chair in Cardiology.

Glass was born and raised in Brooklyn. His mother was an elementary school teacher and his father a mathematics teacher at Samuel J. Tilden High School. After graduating from Erasmus Hall High School, Glass came to Brooklyn College in 1959 as a New York State Regents College Fellow. He graduated cum laude in 1963 with a bachelor of science in chemistry and won the American Institute of Chemists Award for Undergraduate

Studies. He then studied at the University of Chicago, where he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. He also met his wife there. They raised two children and remained married for 45 years, until Mrs. Glass' death in 2014.

Glass' work involves the use of mathematical and physical approaches to study human cardiovascular, genetic, neural, and visual systems, with possible practical applications in the treatment of atrial fibrillation, cardiac arrest, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and neutropenia. In 1969, Dr. Glass made a major discovery, known now as "Glass patterns," that clarified understanding of how the human brain processes visual stimuli. In 1977 Glass and his colleague Michael Mackey introduced in the journal *Science*, an equation, now called the "Mackey-Glass equation," that illuminates how simple control mechanisms can lead to complex bodily rhythms such as the fluctuations in the number of circulating blood cells.

Dr. Glass' numerous accomplishments have earned him, among other distinctions, the Society for Mathematical Biology's 2013 Arthur T. Winfree Prize and a 2015 Lady Davis Fellowship at Jerusalem University. Additionally, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the American Physical Society, the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Glass is the coauthor of two books, one of which, *From Clocks to Chaos: The Rhythms of Life* (Princeton, 1988), has been translated into several languages. He holds several patents, including an algorithm to detect cardiac arrhythmias that is now used in medical devices. —Robert Jones, Jr.



A play by **Art Schulman**, titled *Doubling Thomas*, was performed at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood, California. The play ran from May 15 to June 21.

1965

**Barbara Berman Leveene**  
*Class Correspondent*  
24 Jubilee Circle  
Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

**Jonathan Chaves** received the Lucien Stryk Prize, an annual award recognizing the best translation into English of book-length texts of Asian poetry or Zen Buddhism, for *Every Rock a Universe*.

**Sara Goodman** was appointed the financial secretary for the Sisterhood of the Highland Park Conservative Temple in New Jersey.

**Roger H. Rubin**, associate professor emeritus, Department of Family Science at the University of Maryland in College Park, published *The Groves Conference on Marriage and Family: History and Impact on Family Science*, co-edited with Barbara H. Settles, with the University of Michigan Library.

1966

**Felicia Friedland Weinberg**  
*Class Correspondent*  
P.O. Box 449  
Clarksburg, NJ 08510

**Barry Goldsmith** was inducted into the USCAA College Men’s Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame in Plano, Texas. Goldsmith has coached tennis for 57 seasons, 43 at Kingsborough Community College, winning the National Championship in 1998 and 2009.

**Paul Jay Edelson** was elected Justice, Incorporated Village of Poquott, Long Island, for a four-year term. He was also designated Empire State Counsel of the New York State Bar Association for his commitment to pro bono service.

1967

**Sharon Weinschel Resen**  
*Class Correspondent*  
1740 Kimball Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304  
shabojc@aol.com

*History of the Linotype Company*, by Rochester Institute of Technology professor emeritus **Frank Romano**, was published by RIT Press.

Syracuse University’s Distinguished Professor **Sheldon Stone** aided in the discovery of a new subatomic process,

stemming from the study of proton collisions at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Geneva, Switzerland.

1968

**Eileen McGinn**  
*Class Correspondent*  
210 East 15th Street, Apt. 10N  
New York, NY 10003-3927  
Qedeileen@aol.com

**Antonio Nadal**, lecturer in the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies at Brooklyn College, was chosen for a 2014 Don Quijote Leadership Award, selected for his work in the field of bilingual education.

**Dennis Rosen** has been appointed the New York State Medicaid Inspector General.



Diana Rogovin Davidow ’66, ’73 M.S.

received the Presidential Medal at the 2015 Baccalaureate Commencement Exercises. She is a counselor, a painter, a leader in the field of speech pathology, and a philanthropist after whom the Brooklyn College Speech Language Hearing Center is named.

Born in the Manhattan Beach section of Brooklyn, Davidow’s mother was an American and her a father a Russian immigrant who, at age 15, escaped his home country with his mother. After attending Abraham Lincoln High School, Davidow enrolled in Brooklyn College. She graduated in 1966 with a bachelor of arts in speech, remaining at the college to continue her education, receiving a master of science in speech and hearing in 1973.

Davidow went on to teach speech communications in the New York City public high school system. Afterward, she returned to Brooklyn College as an adjunct lecturer. In

1978, she moved to Los Angeles, where she developed a successful private speech therapy practice and later launched a new career as a counselor. She founded the Davidow Counseling Center at A Place Called Home, a nonprofit youth program for at-risk children in the South Central section of the city. She is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of nine.

In 2007, Davidow donated \$1 million to Brooklyn College’s Speech Language Hearing Center. This donation allowed the center, already regarded as one of the best of its kind in the nation, to modernize with state-of-the-art digital classrooms and upgraded faculty research laboratories. The donation also established a scholarship fund for graduate students and expanded the department’s clinical programming. In her honor, the college renamed the center the Diana Rogovin Davidow Speech Language Hearing Center.

Davidow continues to use her vast skills and resources as a counselor, working pro bono to help those who are in need of her assistance. She is an avid painter and has been practicing her art for more than 20 years. She believes the key to success is to not fear obstacles, but find the courage to confront them, learn the lessons they provide, and use them as the fuel for forward action. The foundation for her understanding of these principles, she says, was laid at her alma mater.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

1969

**Edward M. Greenspan**  
*Class Correspondent*  
emgreenspan@optonline.net

**Dr. Stephen Jacobson**, distinguished professor of educational administration at the University at Buffalo-SUNY, spent the 2015 spring semester as a visiting scholar at the College of Education at the University of Otago in New Zealand.

1970

**Barry Silverman**  
*Class Correspondent*  
176 Stults Lane  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5815  
writeone@comcast.net

**Art Mones** recently published *Transforming Troubled Children, Teens and Their Families: An Internal Family Systems Model for Healing* (Routledge, 2014) and a psychotherapy board game, *Kids World: Inside and Out* (Stoelting Co., 2014).

1971

**Robert J. Miller**  
*Class Correspondent*  
494 East 18th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
rjmiller@courts.state.ny.us

**Victoria Schneps-Yunis M.S.**, the publisher of Schneps Communications, has acquired the *Times Newsweekly/Ridgewood Times*, recognized as the “paper of record” for the Greater Ridgewood area, covering civic meetings, community matters, school functions, and other local events.

1972

**Stanley A. Alexander**  
*Class Correspondent*  
98 B Charles River Road  
Waltham, MA 02453

**Fran London** works as the health education specialist at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, Arizona, and has been presented with three awards: Resource Nurse of the Year, 2015; Nurse of the Year, 2015; and the Legacy Award, 2015, which was given in recognition of her excellence in nursing practice at Phoenix Children’s Hospital, leadership in the community, and dedication to improving pediatric care in Arizona and the Southwest.

1973

**Linda E. Gross Carroll**  
*Class Correspondent*  
1732 Mistletoe Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958-6646  
lcarroll32@comcast.net

**Davita Silfen Glasberg**, associate dean of Social Sciences and Undergraduate Education, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Connecticut, co-authored, with William T. Armaline and Bandana Purkayastha, *The Human Rights Enterprise: Political Sociology, State Power, and Social Movements* with Polity Press.

1974

Diane Oeters Vaughn  
*Class Correspondent*  
42 Briarwood Drive  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
dianeleslie29@hotmail.com

The provost of St. Joseph’s College, **S. Loretta McGrann**, C.S.J., M.A., Ph.D., addressed the graduates at the college’s 96th commencement exercises this spring.

1975

**Rubin Leitner**  
*Class Correspondent*  
138 East 96th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11212-3534

**Paul Moses** recently published a new book, *An Unlikely Union: The Love-Hate Story of New York’s Irish and Italians*, with NYU Press.



**Dr. Rebecca Fuhrer ’67** was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 Baccalaureate Commencement Exercises for her vast achievements in the STEM fields and her lifelong committment to population and public health.

Fuhrer was born in Germany and spent the first several years of her life in France. When she was seven years old, she and her family immigrated to the United States and settled in Brooklyn—first in Brownsville, then in East Flatbush. At Samuel J. Tilden High School, she was one of four young women whose aptitude for mathematics earned them seats in advanced placement courses.

After graduating from high school, Fuhrer enrolled at Brooklyn College as a New York State Regents Scholar. Although she chose psychology as her area of study, she continued to nurture her interest in quantitative methods. In 1967, Fuhrer received a bachelor of arts in psychology. She earned a master’s

degree in medical information science in 1974 and a doctor of philosophy in the same subject in 1977, both from the University of California, San Francisco. She has three sons, Jonathan, Daniel, and Benjamin Fombonne.

Fuhrer went on to teach and conduct research in the Departments of Biostatistics and Health Services Research at the Harvard School of Public Health, in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London, and at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research in Paris. Her work focuses on the social determinants of mental health, especially in regard to gender, aging, social integration, and social position. This involves research in the areas of etiology and risk factors for certain diseases, such as depression and dementia, and the study of health care delivery and organization.

The current director of the Master of Science in Public Health Program and Immediate past chair of Department of the Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health at McGill University, in Montreal, McGill was the recipient of the Canada Research Chair in Psychosocial Epidemiology and the Strathcona Chair of Preventive Medicine, and was recently elected as a Faculty of Medicine representative to the university’s Senate. An elected Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, Fuhrer is also a member of the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) Scientific Advisory Committee in Paris.

Fuhrer has received numerous awards and honors for her achievements, including the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, the Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM)–John H. Fogarty (National Institutes of Health) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, and the American Association of University Women Graduate Fellowship Award. She has published over 90 peer-reviewed articles that have appeared in many of the most prestigious scientific journals and publications in the world.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



1976

Henry P. Feintuch  
Class Correspondent  
50 Barnes Lane  
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425  
henry@feintuchpr.com

**Lawrence S. Brown, Jr.**, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.S.A.M., chief executive officer of START Treatment & Recovery Centers in Brooklyn, New York, was appointed by Governor Cuomo and confirmed by the State Senate to membership on both the New York Behavioral Health Services Advisory Council and the Public Health and Health Planning Council for one term.

The American Bar Association Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section recently honored New York City lawyer **Larry P. Schiffer**, of Squire Patton Boggs, with its Andrew C. Hecker Memorial Award during its inaugural TIPS Spring Section Conference.

1980

A book by **Joseph Sciorra**, *Built with Faith: Italian American Imagination and Catholic Material Culture in New York City*, was recently published by the University of Tennessee Press. It offers a place-centric, ethnographic study of the religious vernacular artistry of New York City's Italian-American Catholics.

**Karen Weinstein Tenenbaum** was recently named one of Super Lawyers Top Women Attorneys in the New York Metro Area as well as one of Legal Leaders' Long Island Top Rated Lawyers of 2015. Karen was recognized as a finalist of the Smart CEO CPA & ESQ Awards in the Industry Practice area.

*Papers from a Harvard/Yale Man* and *Scholarly Papers from a Brooklyn College Columbia MBA* both by **Chris A. Puello**, were accepted for inclusion in the Library of Congress.

1981

Debbie Schiffer-Burke  
Class Correspondent  
debcolumn@gmail.com

**Susan Pikitch** joined the United States Golf Association as its first chief financial officer in June 2015.

1982

**Eileen Sherman Gruber**  
Class Correspondent  
69 Derby Avenue  
Greenlawn, NY 11740-2130

**Tama Kieves** has just published her third book with Tarcher/Penguin. Called *A Year Without Fear: 365 Days of Magnificence*, a daily reader to help people overcome fear and obstacles and live their life's purpose and dreams.

1983

**Michael Kosik**  
Class Correspondent  
866-327-5162  
michael.kosik@morganstanley.com

**Edward S. Cohen** has been promoted to professor in the Department of Political Science at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

1990

**Beth Debra Kallman Werner**  
Class Correspondent  
105 Husson Road  
Milford, PA 18337-7156  
bwerner@ptd.net

**John Federico** was recently named director of external affairs by The Cultural Data Project in Philadelphia.

1992

**Stephanie Longardo** is working at Sesame Workshop and currently line producer on Sesame Street. She has won five Daytime Emmy Awards for her work.

1994

**Ilene Berkowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
1575 46th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219-2726

Air Products, a leading industrial gases company, has appointed **Marie Ffolkes** to the position of president, industrial gases–Americas.

**Michael Plotkin**, assistant principal at Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School in the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District, has been named as a 2015 New York State Assistant Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

1995

**Nathan Solat**  
Class Correspondent  
2793 Lee Place  
Bellmore, NY 11710-5003

Former Governor Rick Perry appointed **Jason Pulliam** of San Antonio as justice of the Fourth Court of Appeals for a term to expire at the 2016 general election. Jason is the first African-American justice to serve on the court.

1996

*Bed Bugs and Beyond*, a play by **Mark Blickley** M.F.A., was performed in New York City at Dixon Place, the 13th Street Rep. and the Unchained Theater Festival.

1999

**David Moskowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
206 Murray Road  
Newark, DE 11971-4501

A solo exhibition featuring the works of **Mark Brotherton** M.F.A. was held from April 10 to May 10 at the Causey Contemporary Gallery

2002

**Kimy Mandil**  
Class Correspondent  
twixpop22@aol.com

**Jacob Preiserowicz** has been promoted to special counsel at the law firm Schulte Roth & Zabel.

2004

**Yael Abraham Fogel**  
Class Correspondent  
431 Broadway  
Lawrence, NY 11559  
yct.fogel@gmail.com

An article by **Wesley Paisley** entitled “What Is Active Response Continuum, and What Does It Cover?” was recently published in the *New York State Bar Association NY Business Law Journal*, Winter 2014, V.18, No.2.

2005

**Miriam Alexander**  
Class Correspondent  
118-03 228th Street  
Cambria Heights, NY 11411  
miriam118@aol.com

**Jonathan S. Weissman**, associate professor of computing sciences and IT program coordinator at Finger Lakes Community College, full-time lecturer in the computing security department at Rochester Institute of Technology, and lecturer in the School of Management at Nazareth College, was awarded the 2014 RIT Outstanding Teaching Award for excellence in teaching and ongoing devotion to enhancing the classroom experience and student engagement. He co-authored two recently published books by McGraw-Hill Education: *Mike Meyers’ CompTIA Network+ Guide to Managing and Troubleshooting Networks Lab Manual, Fourth Edition* and *Mike Meyers’ CompTIA Network+ Certification Passport, Fifth Edition*.

2007

**Ezra N. Rich**  
Class Correspondent  
309 S. 2nd Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904  
ezrarich@gmail.com

A selection of Colombian refugee portraits by **Meghan Keane** M.F.A. has been chosen by Princeton University to be installed in its newest building on campus.

2009

**Steven Juskowicz**  
Class Correspondent  
1485 East 32nd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403  
sjuskowicz@gmail.com

**Tanwi Nandini Islam** M.F.A. recently authored *Bright Lines: A Novel*, published by Penguin Books.

2010

**Micah Gottlieb** M.S.Ed has been appointed principal of the Little Red School House and Elisabeth Irwin High School, located in Manhattan.

2011

**Caroline Quinonez**, a reading specialist at McAuliffe Elementary School in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, was named McAuliffe's 2014–15 Teacher of the Year by Union Public Schools.

# Remembrance

As of July 15, 2015

Marguerite Marshall Driscoll '33  
Maxine Heiman '33  
Herbert A. Nestler '33  
Sarah Erbstein Glasser '34  
Ruth Willion Popkin '34  
Shirley Gittel Goldwag '42  
Tannenbaum '34  
Sylvia Dechowitz Aig '35  
Elsie Altholz '35  
Bertha Kanter Jones '35  
Sylvia Baunstone Lederman '35  
Sol Talanker '35  
Libby Lachs Anekstein '36  
Josephine Gottfried Bayne '36  
Ollie DeLoach Dent '36  
Ruth Goldstein Kaskey '36  
Molly Wishnatsky Rankell '36  
Richard C. Hottelet '37  
Martha Starlin Hurst '37  
Gertrude Gershowitz Litowitz '37  
Frank Rosenblum '37  
Max Blutman '38  
Jeanne Blum Brodsky '38  
Evelyn Kaplan Gilbert '38  
Roslyn Levine Grier '38  
Helen Meyerson Jacobson '38  
Charlotte Beier Scholl '38  
Rose Bernstein Sorkin '38  
Sylvia Kramer Stevens '38  
Thelma Cabot Winkler '38  
Miriam Laub Zweig '38  
Edith Nelson Denny '39  
Gabriel Elias '39  
Aaron Goldberg '39  
Raye Kanner Goldberg '39  
Sara Millman Hurwitz '39  
Saul Kruger '39  
Charles Lenchitz '39  
Ruth Brodsky Myers '39  
Vera Horowitz Rosen '39  
Georgiana Shimkowitz Sandberg '39  
Ruth Newman Spar '39  
Doris Gifford White '39  
Stanley Winston '39  
Rose Auster Alcott '40  
Ada Sokal Booth '40  
Irving Gelston '40  
George Hantgan '40  
Selma Epstein Leegant '40  
Evelyn Appell Lipkin '40  
Harry Oxenhorn '40  
Michael (Irving) Sexter '40  
Helen Lehrman Vissell '40  
Aaron D. Weiner '40  
Marian Bailey Williams '40  
Aaron N. Drucker '41  
Robert L. Fisher '41  
Helen Berkowitz Fried '41  
Herbert Horowitz '41  
Dorothy Lang Israel '41  
Eva Eisenberg Jacobs '41  
Beatrice Wolshine Kanigel '41  
Anne Seger Lubliner '41  
Rosalyn Schiff Morgenbesser '41  
Lillian Bachman Offner '41  
Martin (Moe) Platt '41  
Lydia Zolotorofe Rapp '41  
Josephine Viola Rente '41  
Charlotte Streifer Rubinstein '41  
Anita Rinzberg Shapiro '41  
Florence Mattern Solomon '41  
Max Weinstein '41

Burton Bernstein '42  
Ethel Riscalla Case '42  
Helen Gordon Davis '42  
Edith Fox Deutsch '42  
Lillian Shapiro Fisher '42  
Shirley Gittel Goldwag '42  
Murray Greenberg '42  
Emanuel Levine '42  
Jeanette Alperstein  
Lichtenstein '42  
Helen Solomon Midler '42  
Leon Silverman '42  
Augusta Silverstein Auerbach '43  
Harold D. Berger '43  
Lucille Israel Bond '43  
Mathilda Bushel Canter '43  
Martin Fingerhood '43  
Nathan Greenbaum '43  
Richard Karon '43  
Irene Muller Lodato '43  
Marjorie Dubner Plant '43  
Lydia Slepian Ratner '43  
Mira Kowarski Rothenberg '43  
Louis P. Schwartz '43  
Alex (Allie) Sherman '43  
David Sive '43  
Viola Gran Sorenson '43  
Elois Reinhard Swartz '43  
Jerome Peter Wallin '43  
Mary Dykes Ahnberg '44  
Frances E. Berkwitz '44  
Arline Dougls Deitch '44  
Evelyn Dovitch Friedman '44  
Estelle Sillen Fuchs '44  
Miriam Weinrib Graff '44  
Beulah Sperber Hamilt '44  
Seymour Levin '44  
Katherine Aronson Nicklin '44  
Roslyn Karpas Nitkin '44  
Annette Trankman Chernicoff '45  
Ruth Levy Dunkell '45  
Rhoda S. Fischer '45  
Doris (Dina) Adelstein Greene '45  
Bernice Malkind Rosen '45  
Carmella Catapano Torrisi '45  
Florence Lopiccolo Turley '45  
Marjorie Meyers Brockman '46  
Doris Goldman Cohen '46  
Eleanor Borkow Dubs '46  
Dorothy Chafkin Greenstein '46  
Alice Fisher Kessler '46  
Stella Israel Levy '46  
Felix Masucci '46  
Martha Schwartz Present '46  
Nellie Klein Sandler '46  
Cecile Pollack Segal '46  
Rita Comer Compain '47  
Jane Niederhoffer Freilicher  
Hazan '47  
Naomi Plavin Kurtz '47  
Helen Press Matsil '47  
Irving Perlman '47  
Arnold E. Rosenblum '47  
Doris Marksheid Hazelcorn  
Rothman '47  
Walter D. Rubinstein '47  
Clarice Kleinberg Ruskin '47  
Betty Ostrowsky Shapiro '47  
Claire Greenberg Shapiro '47  
Shirley Adler Smith '47  
David Spielsinger '47

Barbara Archer Weidenfeld '47  
Claire Freeman Weisbrod '47  
Sidney Beinart '48  
Rita Brandt Berger '48  
Morton Breskend '48  
Thelma Mattes Damast '48  
Anthony Debons '48  
Constantine Fedak '48  
Adele Cohen Glucksman '48  
Philip S. Goodman '48  
Vivienne Epstein Kaufman '48  
Judith Brodsky Koral '48  
Paul Kurland '48  
Jean Cumberbatch Leach '48  
Pearl Kaufman Milch '48  
Arthur G. Petterson '48  
Barbara Crichton Riddoch '48  
Betty Weck Rubin '48  
Marcia (Margaret) Sauberman '48  
Harriet Kaner Seligson '48  
Helen Stein Shack '48  
Ruth Silverman Shaffer '48  
Irvin David Steinman '48  
Ruth Friedman Tornick '48  
Melvin M. Belsky '49  
Abel King Fink '49  
Natalee Saxon Fogel '49  
Frederick Glickman '49  
Dorothy Kronovit Grossfeld '49  
Jerry Grossfeld '49  
Elaine Klebanow Kofsky '49  
Ezra Laderman '49  
Francis Lyon '49  
Riva Jean Weintrob Mandel '49  
William H. Mandel '49  
Myra Fishman Menlowe '49  
Eli Pearce '49  
Shirley Portnow Rosman '49  
Henry Sass '49  
Burton Schild '49  
Ruth A. Silverman Shaffer '49  
Marvin Sperling '49  
Harriet Posnak Swento '49  
Sheldon Tabak '49  
Barbara Rapoport Taylor '49  
Amy Myers Chapman '50  
Muriel Weir Hagerly '50  
Matilda Abramowitz Kitzen '50  
Selma Reichard Klett '50  
Robert S. Kranz '50  
Audrey Zuckernick Landau '50  
Vivian Kheel Lassman '50  
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**David Sive '43**, an attorney and professor recognized as a pioneer in the field of United States environmental law, passed away on March 12 in West Orange, New Jersey. He was 91 years old.

Born in Brooklyn on September 22, 1922, Sive obtained a bachelor's degree in political science from Brooklyn College in 1943, prior to serving in the Army. Wounded twice in the Battle of the Bulge, he received the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. In 1948, Sive earned a law degree from Columbia University, kick-starting an illustrious legal career

that also involved a run for Congress.

One of the founding partners of Sive, Paget & Riesel, a leading environmental law firm, he launched multiple environmental advocacy groups well before the issue took center stage in American politics and the public consciousness. The Storm King Mountain case, which Sive joined as a litigator in the mid-1960s, would stretch over nearly two decades and help establish precedent for cases brought on the basis of potential environmental and aesthetic harm.

In 2013, the Sive family contributed \$100,000 to found the David Sive Award, supporting tuition and other education expenses for select students who meet the established criteria.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

—Mark Zhuravsky



**Ira Harkavy '51**, a Brooklyn Civil Court judge renowned for his levelheaded approach to the frequently complex judicial system, passed away on May 17 in Old Bridge, New Jersey. He was 84 years old.

Famously known for a unique 1987 sentencing of an unscrupulous landlord to 15 days of house arrest in one of his own ramshackle buildings, Harkavy earned a reputation as a common-sense public official. The landlord in question, Morris Gross, had failed to address more than 400 housing code

violations in the six-story building he owned in the Prospect-Lefferts Gardens neighborhood of Brooklyn. Following the sentencing, the majority of the building's problems were resolved within a month of his release.

Born in Brooklyn on April 13, 1931, Harkavy graduated from Brooklyn College and Columbia Law School before serving as chairman of a local community board. That position would lead to his election to the Brooklyn Civil Court in 1981 and an appointment as an acting New York State Supreme Court justice in 1992. In 2007, Harkavy was elected to the state Supreme Court and served until his retirement in 2014. He was a member of the BCBA Board of Directors.

He is survived by his wife, three sons, and six grandchildren.

—Mark Zhuravsky



**Dr. Estelle Sillen Fuchs '44**, professor emeritus in the School of Education at Hunter College, CUNY, passed away peacefully at her home in Miami Beach, Florida, on May 31, one day short of her 93rd birthday.

Fuchs's long and productive career began in the 1940s when, as a graduate student at Columbia University, she conducted field studies among the Coast Salish people of British Columbia.

After World War II, she returned to Brooklyn College to lecture in the Department of Sociology-Anthropology, where she taught returning war veterans and developed numerous courses focusing on Africa and race. In 1960, she resumed her studies at Columbia, working under noted anthropologists Conrad Arensberg and Elliott P. Skinner.

A pioneer in the field of the anthropology of education, Fuchs addressed the application of cultural anthropology to problems of modernization across numerous continents and peoples. Most notably, she served as associate director of the National Study of American Indian Education (1969–70) with the educator Robert J. Havighurst. The study was published as *To Live on This Earth: American Indian Education* (Anchor Press, 1973).

Fuchs applied anthropological insight to the problems of inner-city schools in a number of articles and two volumes: *Pickets at the Gates: The Challenge of Civil Rights in Urban Schools* (Free Press, 1966) and *Teachers Talk: Views from Inside City Schools* (Doubleday Anchor, 1969). In her final book, *Trouble on the Navajo Reservation: The Raid at Four Corners* (Fulton Books, 2015), Fuchs closely analyzed events leading up to a raid by the U.S. Army on the Navajo reservation in 1908 in terms of the conflict between tradition and assimilation, specifically with regard to the education of children.

She is survived by her sons, Jonathan M. Fuchs of Huntington Beach, California, and Andrew Sillen of Brooklyn, New York, and grandchildren Julia Anne Sillen and Samuel James Sillen.



**Bertha Bendelstein**, head of acquisitions at Brooklyn College Library from 1959-2004, passed away last year at the age of 94.

She was highly respected throughout CUNY for her exceptional knowledge of the book trade and her eagerness to learn new things, successfully moving her unit from card catalogs to a digital database. Well organized, detail oriented, with a strong work ethic, she was a gifted teacher and supervisor, mentoring her staff and encouraging them to pursue higher education.



**Mira Rothenberg '43**, an influential clinical psychologist whose experiences caring for children orphaned by the Holocaust shaped her innovative therapeutic methods, passed away on April 16 in Beverly Hills, California. She was 93.

Born in Vilnius, Lithuania, Rothenberg emigrated to the United States in 1939, as rising anti-Semitism swept across Europe. After initially aspiring to be a shoemaker, she studied

education and psychology at Brooklyn College and Columbia University, later enrolling in a graduate program in psychology at Yeshiva University.

While studying at Columbia and volunteering at a local synagogue, Rothenberg encountered orphans rescued from Europe's concentration camps. Her work caring for the children nudged the young woman into the field of clinical psychology. Several years later, Rothenberg would engineer and execute an immersive therapy program for 11 children at a remote island in the Adirondacks. The experience would narrow her focus and lead her to found, along with her then-husband, Tev Goldsman, the Blueberry Treatment Centers for emotionally disturbed children.

Rothenberg wrote several books relating the stories of her young patients and her experiences working with them. Most prominent among her works was *Children with Emerald Eyes: Histories of Extraordinary Boys and Girls* (Dial Press, 1977), which is cited as having helped alter the public perception of mental illness. Rothenberg continued to publish into her 90s.

She is survived by her son, the Academy Award-winning screenwriter Akiva Goldsman, and two granddaughters.

—Mark Zhuravsky



## Bringing in the Harvest, Helping to Win the War

"I am glad you asked about memories of bean-picking days in Morrisville, N.Y.," Doris Wallach Guttentag '46 says of her time participating in the Brooklyn College Farm Labor Project, an initiative sponsored by both state and federal agencies that sent some 200 students to farms in New York and New Jersey, giving them summer employment in "essential war work" during World War II.

"I was there the summers of 1942 and 1943," Guttentag says. "Fortunately my sister Phyllis saw the squib and the picture in your magazine and alerted me. It was the highlight of my young life. I was a city girl in a commuter college and know little more than the community I was born into."

"We were housed in an old house. The girls were all from Brooklyn College and were in one house, and the boys were in another house, a mix of students from Brooklyn and City Colleges," writes Miriam "Mickey" Berkowitz Levine, who volunteered to work on a Dutchess County farm in Red Hook, New York.

In a 1942 article in the *New York World-Telegram*, Barbara K. O'Neil, placement associate in the Brooklyn College personnel department, gave details of the project: "I tell them that it means hard work, long hours and small pay"—the student workers' pay ranged from \$50 to \$75 for the summer. According to O'Neil, the low pay left no doubt that the students were serious about helping out with the war effort.



"We were all willing workers, getting up early each day," says Levine. "We all had a good time, aware that our effort was our way to contribute to the war."

The women students were assigned to lighter farmwork, such as berry picking, tending vegetable gardens, and helping in the milk rooms. But the work was not all farm labor. In the evening students studied farm biology, geology, rural sociology, and war service courses in military topography and navigation.

"In Morrisville I learned about country life and living with other girls like me. Some of my lifelong friends I made there," says Guttentag.

And although O'Neil insisted that socializing would be minimal because the tire and gas situation—rubber being scarce and gas being rationed due to the war—would cut down on any visits to villages for dances or movies, the students still managed to have a good time.

"ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) men from Colgate University and Hamilton College came to see us on weekends," says Guttentag.

"Songs were made up about the work we were doing," recalls Levine. "Several students and I hitched a ride to Tanglewood on a four-day time off. It was wonderful and we were young and very enthusiastic about what we were doing."

*In the early 1970s, alumnus Howard Haykin '73 was a member of the Dwight White House Plan, which was not an actual house, but "a social hub for students at Brooklyn College" as Haykin describes it. The D.W.'s, as members of the all-male organization were called, held parties and planned activities—as a way to socialize and maintain a place of central focus for students who commuted. Recently, Haykin assembled a large archive of photographs of Dwight House Plan members and events, which he donated to the Brooklyn College Library archives. Have any other alumni created archives of their Brooklyn College years? Share your memories with us by writing to [magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu) or Brooklyn College/2900 Bedford Avenue/Brooklyn, NY 11210.*

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