A Time of Joy, a Time of Reflection

It’s a reflection of the richness of a campus when its scholars study topics ranging from one end of a disciplinary spectrum to the other.

Last spring we offered you a tantalizing essay from Christine Vitrano on happiness. This time we give you reflections of David Balk, on a subject that has been his occupation these past years—grief.

There is an atmospheric clash here of sorts, in that May is the month of traditional graduation ceremonies and other gatherings, where new degree-holders and their families joyfully recall the road to this moment of achievement.

This is a time of joy; but almost every graduate has stumbled at some point or other, maybe even fallen, on pocks that bespotted the road to the cap and gown.

Balk knows these pock marks well, especially the ones that grew from the wrenching sadness of personal loss, of a parent or sibling or close friend. In my three years at Brooklyn College, I have witnessed it, once even being nearby as a student received a call about a family member who had just passed away.

Balk’s message is that coping with bereavement is a human rite of passage, but it is one that is especially fraught with difficulties for young people, many of whom have no accumulated experiences with death. He is uniquely qualified to be writing here about this. You see, his recent book is titled Helping the Bereaved College Student, published last year by Springer Publishing Company.

Rather than ask you to enjoy, we’ll simply urge you to read and learn. — Ron Howell, editor

To Ensure the Success of Students, Colleges Must Confront Bereavement

By David E. Balk, Health and Nutrition Sciences

Most people do not realize the significant proportion of college students who are grappling with bereavement over the death of someone they care for. Numerous surveys on campuses in the United States, as well as in Europe and in Australia, have reported continually that between 22 and 30 percent of college students are in the first 12 months of grieving the death of a family member or friend. Conversations with Deans of Student Life and with university counselors have reinforced this finding. In the early 1990s, the initial reaction to this prevalence finding was disbelief. The finding was rejected as a fluke. When repeated surveys produced similar results, not only on one campus but on several, people began to take notice.

It is not only administrators and faculty who are unaware of the prevalence of college student bereavement. By David Balk .................................................. Pg. 1
Loss Counseling at BC ............................................................... Pg. 4
Top Teacher Says Science is Also Art ................................... Pg. 5
Young Cheong, a Video Hero .............................................. Pg. 7
Faculty Notes ................................................................................. Pg. 8
Collaborations ............................................................................. Pg. 25
bereavement, bereaved college students themselves are not aware of how many others on campus are dealing with grief. One reason for this lack of student awareness must be the discomfort that surfaces when a person mentions her (or his) grief; so students keep the stories to themselves. If bereaved students knew of each others’ feelings and decided to do something proactive, they could lobby for powerful campus-wide policies regarding bereaved students.

Who among us has had the emotionally disjointed experience of sharing something very personal with another person, only to have that person change the subject? Bereaved college students learn early that others do not want to hear about their loss, and if they don’t curb such sharing they discover they will lose their friends. What do we know about the impact of bereavement and its influence on the life of a grieving college student? There is no archetypal blueprint of the college bereavement experience, but there are enough commonalities to recognize patterns. Some of these similarities come from bereavement’s pervasive effect on human beings physically, emotionally, cognitively, behaviorally, interpersonally, and spiritually. Here are some examples to illustrate what I mean.

**Physical impacts:** Examples of the physical effects of bereavement are numerous. There is incontrovertible evidence that the immune system is compromised by the distress of bereavement, thereby leaving persons vulnerable to opportunistic diseases they would have otherwise successfully blocked. Bereavement leaves persons easily fatigued. It can lead to chills and diarrhea. Problems sleeping are common.

**Emotional impacts:** A cascade of emotions engulfs bereaved persons. Among these emotions are guilt, anger, anxiety, fear, dread, confusion, self-doubt, and sadness. People feel guilty for being alive when their loved one is dead. They may blame themselves for not preventing the death or for being complicit in the death. They may be angry, even enraged, at the person for having died and left them. Anger and guilt can both interplay when the death was a suicide. Survivors may be anxious and fearful over their future when money becomes scarce because the major source of income has died. They may dread interactions with people. They may feel incapable of accomplishing things that matter to them, and thus in their helplessness show insidious self-doubt.

**Cognitive impacts:** Difficulty concentrating or remembering are common cognitive impacts of bereavement. A person can read a whole page in a book and realize she has no clue what the author wrote because her mind was elsewhere. Auditory and visual hallucinations are reported by a significant minority of bereaved individuals: they either see or hear the person who died, such as standing in the kitchen doing the dishes or walking across the campus.

Cognitive impacts on bereavement can jeopardize a student’s academic record and career dreams, should grades plummet. And research demonstrates that, not uncommonly, in the first semester in which a student is dealing with bereavement “grades go into the toilet,” as one person put it. I have met many students who needed a reprieve from the academic rigors of school in their first semester after a death, but I have not found any students who said their schools had instituted policies to provide an amnesty for them, given their circumstances.
Behavioral impacts: Crying is common, as is restless agitation. Some people start smoking or drinking alcohol to excess. Keeping to a schedule and remaining organized is challenging, to say the least. Praying and reading scripture remain familiar activities for believers in religion, unless the death has undermined faith in God and religious teachings. Grieving individuals may lash out at other people with a rage that leaves everyone, including the bereaved, baffled.

Let’s shift gears now and talk about practical issues, namely, what can be done to help bereaved college students. What better way to acquire loyal alumni than to provide students needed help during their undergraduate years, help that will enable students to finish their degrees? Student retention and graduation will be enhanced by devising policies and practices pertinent to students struggling in school due to bereavement.

Bereaved students are in a special position to discuss what they wish to be available to assist them in their time of need. Counseling programs need counselors who understand bereavement, grief, and mourning. It is clear—though ironic—that few counselor preparation programs spend much if any time on the topic of human responses to loss, and therefore college counseling programs may well be staffed with persons who are not familiar with the nuances and complexities of bereavement. There very likely need to be continuing education workshops run by qualified persons, such as persons who could be identified through contact with the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) (www.adec.org). What we don’t need are clinicians who are convinced that bereavement recovery occurs in stages and who attempt to push people along.

Here is what one student wanted:
A way to pair up students with other students who have lost someone. I go to a big school and there are so many people, but you don’t really know of others who have lost someone. A way to connect with other bereaved students has helped me cope the most. Also, to be more open to students who are grieving and give them time to grieve.

Greater awareness of and understanding about issues central to bereavement and college students is taking hold. Several persons see that campus responses to college student bereavement are embedded within the university mission. That awareness provides some hope for leverage. I hope that bereavement on the college campus becomes a matter of serious discussion and planning by the various stakeholders involved. These stakeholders include student affairs professionals, college counselors, campus ministers, faculty members, and academic officers. Not the least, these stakeholders include the bereaved college students.

I hope decision makers on college campuses see that student bereavement presents an opportunity to offer care and compassion, an opportunity to win the suffering hearts of students who, with good fortune and their colleges on their side, will become grateful alumni.

***
The loss of a loved one is not at the top of the list when it comes to psychological problems faced by young adults.

But it is high enough, says Gregory Kuhlman, psychology professor and director of Brooklyn College’s Personal Counseling Program, pointing out that bereavement can underlie the depression that causes a young person to seek counseling.

Kuhlman leads a staff of more than two dozen professionals who work with students needing assistance with the stresses of life.

The psychologist is soft-spoken and direct. One takes him at his word when he says Brooklyn College has a standout reputation when it comes to counseling students.

“Brooklyn is one of the stronger campuses,” he says.

Kuhlman concedes that his colleague David Balk, Brooklyn College professor and author of *Helping the Bereaved College Student*, is the national expert on student grief. But Kuhlman and his staff are equipped to assist students suffering loss, and Kuhlman further believes that offering such assistance is part of the college’s mission.

“We want our students to be strong . . . people who can deal with challenge and deal with loss . . .”

In recent years there have been substantial cutbacks in counseling services in New York City and the state, Kuhlman points out.

But he proudly says that Brooklyn College has struggled and succeeded in maintaining strong counseling services.

“We’re fortunate to be able to provide our students with a level of access to counseling services that might be difficult for them to obtain in other settings.”

That is good for students and good for Brooklyn College, Kuhlman says.

“The college has a specific interest in helping its students stay in college and do well, getting past experiences like loss or other problems that might cause them to discontinue, stop or have poor academic performance,” he says.

“The more we can help a student to bounce back, the better the student will do.”

And the better the college will do.

[The Website of the Personal Counseling Program is pc.brooklyn.cuny.edu.]

— Ron Howell
Top Teacher Says Science is Also Art

In April, The Princeton Review named Jennifer Basil one of 300 “Best Professors” in the nation. Here Professor Basil tells us how she works with students:

I teach Zoology, and part of that is students having to learn how to describe and observe animals: For instance, how to take a three-dimensional object and make it into something you can recall when you are asked about it or shown it later.

Many students nowadays want to take photos; but I insist that they draw, because every single student will have their own way of remembering the specimen at hand, a bird, for instance, or a starfish.

At first they think I’m crazy. But what they find over time is that their sketches capture and help understand the scientific categories of the animals:

It has spikes all over it? Phylum echinodermata, or spiny skin.

Students come to realize that this is not about memorizing the names or taking the perfect photo, but about really understanding what they are looking at.

By drawing, they pull out from the animal what makes sense to them, what it actually is. Everyone is different in what they see, but some common elements come out.

Science is about creativity, curiosity, and trying many things before something finally works. It’s not memorization and knowing the exact right answer for everything.

I had a very bright student, probably seven years ago. I’ll call her Grace (though that’s not her real name).

In the class at that time, we gave students two timed mid-terms, in which they had to go around the laboratory room to certain stations (there were 24 of them) and spend two minutes at each station, answering questions about the specimens at the stations.

Wisdom: “Everyone is different in what they see.”
Two minutes is an eternity when you know the answer, and nowhere near enough time if you don’t. Generally, when you come to lab each week, and really take the time to observe, sketch the specimens and slides, you do fine.

Now Grace was an excellent laboratory student. She had fine microscopy skills, and always asked insightful questions. She was the first to arrive, and the last to leave. She helped everyone around her. She really knew her stuff and loved it.

When she took the first practical, however, I was astonished that she did terribly. There were blanks left (despite my always telling students to guess, because our brains may recall things we do not). Grace’s answers had no rhyme or reason. There were blanks on questions I knew she knew, and it got worse as the exam progressed. Something was wrong. I asked her to my office during office hours. I think she thought I was going to be angry with her (Brooklyn College students have such strong senses of duty to learn).

After I sorted out that she was physically and personally okay, I asked her a few questions off the exam. She got them right, and fast. I asked some harder questions, she got them right, too. Then I asked: “What the heck happened, Grace?” She thought for a while and said that knowing there were only two minutes per station caused her to freeze. “I just can’t take timed tests,” she said.

So, we decided since the problem wasn’t learning or recall, that we’d practice context. I said, “Come to lab early and I’ll give you timed mock practicals.” Grace came every week, for seven weeks, and we did those timed “mock” exams, slowly reducing the time she had to answer questions.

On the last week’s practice, before the final practical, she got through the practice quickly. She was at 30 seconds. She was answering in one-quarter of the time she needed.

The slow realization on her face, then the smile and the look of pride – the light in her eyes that she could do it, that she’d taken on her fears and overcome them—I will never forget.

These are the teaching moments that are like winning the lottery. We are lucky we get to win the lottery almost every day.
The Revolution is Being Televised

If the video revolution were to rank its soldiers, Young Cheong would be a three-star general. Cheong teaches video postproduction and theory in the Department of Television and Radio, and his classes are always full. It seems everyone these days wants to do a video, long or short, for the rest of the world to see.

A tech practitioner and scholar, who also has an artist’s eye, Cheong has a glowing reputation here in New York and in his native South Korea. Last winter he was a producer on a grand documentary that celebrated the 50th anniversary of that nation’s oldest television company, MBC (Munway Broadcasting Corporation).

At the United Nations headquarters, over by the East River, Cheong interviewed U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, learning about recent world events from the perspective of that key figure, who also happens to be the most prominent Korean national living in New York City.

Cheong also interviewed Jim Yong Kim, who, when Cheong met with him, was president of Dartmouth College. (Kim, in fact, is the very first Asian American to head an Ivy League college.)

Maybe during their time together, Cheong bestowed pixie dust on Kim. This past March, Kim was named by President Barack Obama as the next president of the World Bank, a position he will assume in July.

Going beyond world politics and the academy, Cheong got a taste of the high art scene. He spent face and chat time with Ufan Lee, a Korean artist, who had an exhibit at the Guggenheim Museum.

Cheong reviewed and edited those and other videos and dispatched them to MBC in South Korea, where they became well-watched documentary profiles of Koreans (or people of Korean descent) who have achieved at the highest levels around the globe.

Cheong himself has achieved quite a bit in South Korea, where his parents still live. He is the author of Advanced Editing with Apple Final Cut Pro, South Korea’s first how-to book on the world’s top video editing software.

In addition to teaching, Cheong is the college’s Education Coordinator for New Media and Digital Technology. He also delights in coordinating the TV Center’s renovation project, which involves replacing all Standard Definition (SD) facilities with High Definition (HD) ones.

Cheong has done films that have been screened at important festivals, including the Cannes Short Film Corner (in 2009).

He is especially proud of his “A World Within,” a documentary featuring Asian students at campuses throughout the CUNY (City University of New York) system.

Colleagues note that Cheong smiles a lot.

— by Ron Howell
Alan Aja, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, published “Latinos and the one-way road to the Iowa Caucuses: A Fictional Reimagining” in the National Institute for Latino Policy’s web publication and email newsletter on January 13, 2012, as a guest essay. Aja also presented preliminary findings from his Whiting Fellowship research entitled “Eviction and Invisibility in the Cuban Enclave: Afro-Cubans on Miami’s Margins” at a conference panel on Cuban Political Perspectives called “SIGLO XXI: Forging the Future of Latinos in a Time of Crisis” held at John Jay College on February 25, 2012.


Kenneth Axen, Health and Nutrition Sciences, made an 11-minute documentary entitled “Burning Man” that was screened at the City University Film Festival (CUFF) at the Macauley Honors Building on March 18, 2012.

Jennifer Basil, Biology, was chosen by The Princeton Review in April to be one of the “Best Professors in the United States” book for the year 2012.
Christian Benes, Mathematics, presented “An Introduction to the Schramm-Loewner Evolution” at the CUNY Probability Seminar in November 2011, and at the CEMAPRE Seminar at the Technical University of Lisbon in April 2012.


Stacey Brenner-Moyer, Chemistry, recently was awarded the National Science Foundation CAREER award. This $450,000 grant is “the National Science Foundation’s most prestigious award” and will enable Professor Brenner-Moyer to continue her research in organocatalysis as well as her work with the Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) student group she founded in 2010.

Pauline E. Bullen, SEEK, has been in Zimbabwe since March 1, 2012 as a Visiting Scholar in the Women and Gender Studies Department at the Women’s University of Africa. She has lectured to over 200 students on “Feminisms” and U.S. Feminism(s), “Stereo and Social types, Prejudice and Discrimination” and shared a part of South African’s history - the story of Saartje Baartman, the “Hottentot Venus” who was stolen out of South Africa in the 1800s and exhibited in a cage throughout England and France. Prof. Bullen was also invited to present on counseling and teaching students from low socio-economic backgrounds, historically under-represented in academia to an audience at the American Embassy in Zimbabwe. She has interviewed several writers and artists within the Zimbabwean community and coordinated two major events for students at the university: to meet renowned Zimbabwean...
poet Albert Nyathi and host an evening of art and film that she organized in conjunction with the curator of the National Gallery of Zimbabwe. Her article “The Continued Relevance of Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom” was accepted in the Journal of College Teaching and Learning Vol. 9 No. 1.


Sarah J. Christman, Film, premiered her feature-length documentary film “As Above, So Below” at the 50th Ann Arbor Film Festival in March 2012, where it received a Jury Award. The project was funded by two PSC-CUNY Research Awards.

Robert Curran, Physical Education and Exercise Science and Health and Nutrition Sciences, was invited this semester by USA Swimming to present on “Therapeutic Taping” at their annual Sports Medicine and High Performance Convention after the summer Olympics.


Faculty Notes

Recordings: Undersong (Mode 234). Notable performances include: Tanglewood by the Signal Ensemble and pianist Ursula Oppens, SONiC Festival by the JACK Quartet, and The Kitchen by cellist Fred Sherry and the International Contemporary Ensemble.

Beth Evans, Library, presented on Dec. 2, 2011, about her month-long residency at Shanghai Normal University as part of the CUNY-Shanghai Library Faculty Exchange Program. The residency ran from October 10 through November 4, 2011. Evans presented on the program with other CUNY library colleagues at the ACRL/NY 2011 Symposium.

Namulundah Florence, Secondary Education, was invited by Kenyan local radio talk shows, the Francis Luchiwa, a breakfast presenter at the Kenyan The Radio Citizen (Swahili Radio) and Sulwe Fm (Bukusu Radio), to a public engagement of her books on Bukusu folktales and proverbs in April 2012. The anchors plan to select proverbs and folktales from her books, From Our Mothers’ Hearths: Bukusu Folktales and Proverbs and the book’s sequel, The Bukusu of Kenya: Folktales, Culture and Social Identities for broadcast. Both stations offer alternatives to the mainstream media.


Paul Forlano, Biology, was selected as a 2012 Whitman Investigator, and received the Erik B. Fries Endowed Fellowship Fund Award, the H. Keffer Hartline and Edward MacNichol, Jr. Fellowship Award, and the Laura and Arthur Colwin Endowed Summer Research Fellowship Fund Award to conduct research entitled “Neurochemical and synaptic connectivity of the auditory efferent system in a vocal fish” at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, MA. He also presented “Neurochemical substrates for modulation of vocal-acoustic circuitry and behavior in a teleost fish” at City College of New York, October 31, 2011, and “Neurochemical and neuroanatomical substrates underlying auditory-driven social behavior in a vocal fish” at the 1st annual CUNY Animal Behavior Initiative (CABI) conference, Hunter College, March 31, 2012.


Brian Gibney, *Chemistry*, was invited to present “Heme Electrochemistry: Lessons from Natural and Synthetic Heme Proteins” at the University of Nevada in Reno on October 7, 2011; “Heme Protein Design” at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Karlsruhe, Germany on October 25, 2011; and “Development of an electrochemical method for predicting ferric to ferrous heme binding constants in heme proteins” at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Tel Aviv, Israel on October 28, 2011.


David Grubbs, *Music*, is one of five musicians featured in Augusto Contento’s recently completed documentary film *Parallax Sounds*, for which he also contributed original music. Grubbs composed music for *Auf dem Dach der Welt*, Bavarian Radio’s tribute to filmmaker and writer Alexander Kluge. He delivered invited talks at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago’s Sound Art Theory Symposium and U.C. San Diego’s “The Performer as Subject: Interpreting American Experimental Music.” His recent publications include “Remove the Records from Texas: Parsing Online Archives,” *American Music Review* XL, no. 2.
(Spring 2011) and “Teardrop,” in The Book of Guilty Pleasures, ed. Song-Ming Ang and Kim Cascone (Singapore: Circadian Songs, 2011).


**Olympia Hadjiliadis, Mathematics**, presented “Insurance against Market Crashes” at INFORMS Annual Meeting in Charlotte NC, held in November of 2011; “Drawdowns and the Speed of a Market Crash” at Cornell Financial Engineering Manhattan Seminar in November of 2011; “Drawdown Insurance” at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in October of 2011; “Quickest Detection in Coupled Systems” at a seminar course series at Columbia University in December of 2011; and most recently presented “Sequential Detection and Applications” at Hunter College in April of 2012. She also contributed to the presentation of “Drawdowns and the Speed of Market Crash” at Rutgers University in November of 2011 and is the associate editor since October of 2011 of the Journal Probability in Engineering and Information Science, published by Cambridge University Press.

**Katie Hejtmanek, Children and Youth Studies Program and Anthropology and Archaeology**, was invited to present “You Gotta Do You: Racial Sincerity, Mental Health Treatment, and Institutionalized African American Youth” at a Behavioral Science Seminar on Mental Illness Across Cultural Divides hosted by Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, held on February 22, 2012. She presented on a panel about “Engaging Education” held in April of 2012 at the American Ethnological Society Annual Conference in New York, New York; and presented her paper entitled, “If You Want a Hug, Ask for a Hug, I Will Give You a Hug: Toward an Understanding of Intimacy Through Touch for Institutionalized Youth” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, held in November of 2011.

**Ron Howell, English**, in January brought a class of Stony Brook University students to Cuba as part of a foreign reporting course he created. Under his supervision, the students created and published a Website titled “Journalism Without Walls.” Between January and April he, published: an article on the op-ed page of The New York Daily News titled “What the Jesuits Taught Joe Paterno,” about the late football coach’s experiences at his alma mater, the now-shuttered Brooklyn Preparatory; articles on the
Columbia Journalism Review’s Website, including one, “The New York Times is Going to the Dogs,” which showed the newspaper was publishing more dog-related stories under its new dog-loving editor-in-chief, Jill Abramson; articles in The Amsterdam News and Our Times Press, both weekly newspapers, about the bitter race to succeed retiring Congressman Ed Towns in Central Brooklyn.


Laura Juszczak, Chemistry, wrote “A Spectroscopic survey of substituted indoles reveals consequences of a stabilized \( L_b \) transition” in Photochemistry and Photobiology 2012 (in press). She also presented a poster “A Spectroscopic survey of substituted indoles reveals consequences of a stabilized \( L_b \) transition” at the International Biophysical Society Meeting in San Diego, California, February 2012.

Sandra Kingan, Mathematics, wrote “Restrictions as Stabilizers,” which appeared in Advances in Applied Mathematics 47, 194-97 (2011). She gave a talk to students in the York College Tensor Scholar program titled “Excluded minor results in matroids” in November; she gave two talks at the New York Combinatorics Seminar titled “Excluded minor results in matroid -- survey and techniques” in February; and she presented a poster titled “Two Problems in Matroid Theory” at the New York Women in Mathematics and Computer Science Conference at City Tech in March. She also gave a presentation titled “Strong Splitter Theorem” at the special session on Matroid Theory at the American Mathematical Society meeting in Washington DC.

Mark Kobrak, Chemistry

Mark Kobrak, Chemistry, was an invited speaker at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in March 2012, where he presented a paper titled “Analysis of the Influence of Ionic Charge Distribution on the Dynamics of Ionic Liquids.” At the same meeting, Prof. Kobrak contributed an oral presentation titled “A Thermodynamic Model for the Extraction of Metal Ions from the Aqueous Phase Using Room-Temperature Ionic Liquids.” He also contributed an oral presentation at the National Meeting of the Electrochemical Society titled “Collective Dynamics and Charge Transfer in Room-Temperature Ionic Liquids,” in October 2011; and contributed a poster titled “Structure-Property Relationships in the Dynamics of Ionic Liquids,” at the 4th annual Conference on Ionic Liquids in Washington, D.C. in July 2011.


Gertrud Lenzer, Sociology and Children and Youth Studies, was the chairperson and organizer of the Fourteenth Charles R. Lawrence II Memorial Lecture called “Confronting Precarious Work: Toward a New Social Contract,” featuring guest speaker Arne L. Kalleberg, the Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The event was sponsored by the President of Brooklyn College and the Department of Sociology. The Children’s Studies Center for Research, Policy, and Public Service convened a National Consultation on November 4, 2011, on “Social Justice for Children: To End Child Abuse and Violence Against Children” held at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, for which Prof. Lenzer was the organizer. She moderated a discussion on “How can the history of humanitarianism or other rights movements illuminate our understanding of human rights? How pertinent to the practical application of human rights law today is an understanding of prior movements?” held at the International Conference on “Human Rights and the Humanities” in North Carolina in March 2012. She was also the keynote speaker in March of 2012 at the first conference on Children Studies in Poland at the University of Bialystok, where her presentation “Children’s Studies and the Human Rights of Children: Future Challenges” has been translated into Polish and will be published in the conference proceedings.

Sharona A. Levy, SEEK, was the principal investigator for “Math Success for Pre-Freshmen at Brooklyn College,” College Access Challenge Grant, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation. The grant, which runs from April-August 2012, brings approximately 120 high school seniors who do not meet CUNY certification in mathematics to the Brooklyn College campus on
Saturdays for eight weeks to work on their math deficiencies through an individualized web-based math program called ALEKS. This project uses an emporium model redesign in which students work independently on computer-based modules while tutors step in only when needed. The students will also attend workshops on study skills, math anxiety, and college life.

Tammy L. Lewis, Sociology, presented “How Biodiversity Science Shaped Ecuadorian Environmental Organizations” at the International Conference on Science Participation and Sustainability at Universitat de Valencia, Spain, Faculty of Social Sciences, October 2011.

Carla Lewis-Irizarry, Children and Youth Studies, was appointed in January 2012 for a three-year term by the New York State Board of Regents, The New York State Education Department’s Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), and Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSLIC) as a State Council Member.

Anthony Mancini, English, wrote an article, which appeared on April 1, 2012 in the New York Times travel section, about his trip to the remote South Atlantic island of St. Helena where Napoleon died in 1821, in connection with research for his hybrid novel/memoir/history title Napoleon’s Ghost.


Paul Moses, English, wrote “Can U.S. Bishops Regain Their Clout?” for CNN.com on Feb. 14, 2012; and “St. Francis of Assisi—Hero of Interfaith Peace During the Crusades” for Reuters on Oct. 27, 2011. He was also a panelist at “A Roundtable on Brooklyn and Development” at Kingsborough Community College (CUNY), held in Brooklyn on Oct. 13, 2011.

Ryan Murelli, Chemistry, was awarded an NIH SCORE SC2 grant ($471,000) to fund research aimed at synthesizing and studying antitubercular natural products.

Sonia Murrow, Secondary Education, gave a presentation on “Collectivists and Freemarketeers: Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Reform” at the American Educational Research Association in Vancouver, British Columbia in April 2012; and

Sonia Murrow, Secondary Education, was appointed in January 2012 for a three-year term by the New York State Board of Regents, The New York State Education Department’s Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), and Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve on the New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSLIC) as a State Council Member.
“Racial Inequality and the Social Reconstructionists at Teachers College” at the American Educational Studies Association in St. Louis, Missouri in November 2011.


**María E. Pérez y González, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies**, spoke at an historical inaugural launch of Comité Noviembre’s monthly, a one-hour cable show on Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN) as an expert on the role that Puerto Rican women have played in the empowerment, education, institution-building, and success of the Puerto Rican community in New York City. Comité Noviembre’s mission is to commemorate and acknowledge Puerto Rican life from the social and cultural to the educational, economic and political aspects and to create awareness of and preserve the rich Puerto Rican culture, language, and heritage. The inaugural show was entitled “Comité Noviembre on Puerto Rican Women—Celebrating Women’s History Month Contributions of Puerto Rican Women in the U.S.” and aired on March 25, 2012.

**Vanessa Perez Rosario, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies**, recently published the article “Julia de Burgos Inscribed on the Cultural Map of New York City” in the refereed journal *Translation Review* published twice a year by the University of Texas-Dallas. She also published the essay “Field of DREAMs” in *Huffington Post’s Latino Voices* on the need for the New York State DREAM Act.

**Helen Phillips, English**, received the 2011 *Iowa Review* Award in Non-Fiction for her piece “Life Care Center” and appeared in the December 2011 issue of *The Iowa Review* (Vol. 41, Issue #3). Her story “The Messy Joy of the Final Throes of the Dinner Party” was commissioned by Symphony Space for NPR’s Selected Shorts and was performed at Symphony Space on April 11, 2012. Her story “Chai Wan 4” was commissioned by *BOMB Magazine* and appeared in the Fall 2011 issue (BOMB 117), and her story “R” was featured in the debut issue of *Unstuck* (November 2011).

**Aaron Poochigian, Classics**, was the 2011 Recipient of the CUNY “Salute to Scholars” Award for outstanding contribution to scholarship and the winner of the New England Poetry Club’s Daniel Varoujan Poetry Prize, along with Pulitzer-prize-winning poet Franz Wright in March 2012. He wrote *The Cosmic Purr*, poetry collection. Able Muse Press (80 pages) in March 2012 and a book review on Ann Carson’s *An Oresteia*, in *Translation Review* No. 80, pp. 115—123 in Fall 2011. Poochigian was also the featured author and panel discussant at the UND Writer’s Conference on March 24-28, 2012, in Grand Forks, ND.


Sara Reguer, Judaic Studies, presented “The Last Converso of Sardinia” at a conference entitled Within and Without: Jews in Italy throughout the centuries, at BenGurion University of the Negev, Beersheba, Israel on January 11, 2012.

Laurie Rubel, Secondary Education, authored a chapter titled “Centering the Teaching of Mathematics on Urban Youth: Learning Together about Our Students and their Communities,” which appears in the 2012 Yearbook of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Professional Collaborations in Mathematics Teaching and Learning: Seeking Success for All.

Paul Russo, Management and Finance and Computer and Information Science, presented at the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) in Shanghai, China, in December on his research on Trust in Location-Based Social Networks such as “FourSquare” and “Facebook Nearby.” Russo was also a selected participant in the University of Maryland iSchool’s Social sponsored by NSF. The Webshop brings together an interdisciplinary group of researchers—whose backgrounds spanned computer science, information systems, sociology, communications, political science, anthropology, psychology, and journalism—to explore the ways that social media can address national priorities such as health, energy, education, disaster response, political participation, environmental protection, business innovation, and community safety.

Virahat Sahni, Physics, wrote “Wave Function Functionals for the Density” in Physical Review A Vol. 84 (2011) and “Generalization of the Hohenberg-Kohn Theorem to the Presence of

**Roberto Sanchez-Delgado**, Chemistry, gave seminars at the following institutions: “Ruthenium-based Antiparasitic and Antitumor Agents” at The Department of Chemical Physics, University of Lund (Sweden) on Feb. 2, 2012; and “Ruthenium-based Antiparasitic and Antitumor Agents” at The Chemistry Department of The University of Texas at El Paso on March 30, 2012.

**Anjana Saxena**, Biology, was awarded the AACR Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) Faculty Scholar Award in Cancer Research for participation in the AACR 102nd Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, April 2-7, 2011.

**Roseanne Schnoll**, Health and Nutrition Sciences, was awarded a grant from the Office of the University Dean for Health and Human Services to fund a pilot program to establish a nutrition clinic to serve Brooklyn College students in February 2012. This grant supports clinical training for graduate nutrition students while providing nutritional counseling and education to Brooklyn College students to improve their nutritional status and health outcomes.

**Robert Moses Shapiro**, Judaic Studies, conducted a three-week graduate seminar in January 2012, “Archival Research in Yiddish Sources,” at the Bard College-YIVO Institute of East European Jewish Studies, held at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. The participants in the seminar included doctoral students from Russia, Germany, and Israel.

**Teresa Snider-Stein**, Theater, designed the costumes for a new off-Broadway musical in the East Village. The “Hereafter Musical” opened on April 24th, 2012 at Theater 80 on St. Mark’s. It was written by Brooklyn College Alum, Vinnie Favale and Frankie Keane; Music and Lyrics by Vinnie Favale. Prof. Snider-Stein also presented a juried poster titled “Transformative Layers” at the USITT conference in LA at the end of March 2012.


Robert Tutak, Film, was director-producer of a feature documentary on labor exploitation and human rights abuses in Dubai, UAE, called Dubai: A City of Dreams. Screenings of his work were featured at the 7th Annual UNAFF Traveling Festival in Waukesha, WI, in collaboration with Carroll University and United Nations Association Waukesha Chapter on March 21, 2012; at the Fifth Annual New Orleans Middle East Film Festival, Zeitgeist Multi-disciplinary Art Center, in New Orleans, LA on December 18, 2011; at the 14th United Nations Association Film Festival, Palo Alto, CA on October 22, 2011; and also at the Kumu Doumentaal, Eesti Kunstimuuseum (Art Museum of Estonia), Tallinn, Estonia on October 19, 2011.

Mark Ungar, Political Science, was elected to the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the investigative branch of the Western Hemisphere’s inter-governmental system, at the end of 2011. In 2012, his publications included a New York Times opinion column titled “In Honduras, A Catastrophe Long Foretold,” on February 20; a report on environmental policing for the Inter-American Development Bank; a study of private militias for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and an evaluation of Mexico’s police reform for the Mexican Federal Security Minister.


Mark Ungar, Political Science


Christine Vitrano, Philosophy, recently wrote an article “Meaningful Lives?” that was accepted for publication in the journal Ratio. She also presented her paper “The Value of Unhappiness” at the Felician Ethics Conference this April.

Judylee Vivier, Theater, served as the vocal coach/consultant on the Off-Broadway production of Regrets, at Manhattan Theatre Club, New York, NY, in February-March. Vivier has also been voted onto the five-member Board of Directors of VASTA (Voice and Speech Trainers’ Association).

Marjorie Welish, English, presented a paper, “The Case of the Black Quadrilateral,” at Mostly Modern: A Symposium-Festschrift for Joseph Masheck’s 70th Birthday, Hofstra University, on January 21. She published a new volume of poems, In the Futurity Lounge / Asylum for Indeterminacy, (Coffee House Press, 2012), which became the occasion for a reading and colloquium by the Modern Working Group at N.Y.U., on April 6, as well as for a reading through the Kelly Poets House, in Philadelphia, on April 17.

Barbara Winslow, Secondary Education, had two major publications, “Education Reform in Antebellum America,” Gilda Lehrman Institute, History Now #30, Winter 2012; and “The Shirley Chisholm Project of Brooklyn Women’s Activism,” in The Journal of Women’s History, Fall 2011. On March 29, 2012, Professor Winslow organized a conference for the Shirley Chisholm Project called “Be a Catalyst for Change: Celebrating Shirley Chisholm’s Lifelong Legacy,” Over 1000 Brooklyn College students, faculty, staff, community members and elected officials listened to speakers
including Professors Beverley Guy Sheftal, Barbara Ransby, Martha Biondi and MSNBC host Melissa Harris Perry.

**Trina Yearwood, Secondary Education**, this spring wrote an article about successful Black CUNY students and engagement for the *Journal of General Education*.


***

---

**Develop as a Teacher**

Check out the

**Roberta S. Matthews Center for Teaching**

CFT@brooklyn.cuny.edu
**COLLABORATIONS**

*Alan Aja, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies*, along with Professor Miranda Martinez, also Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, wrote “Democratic Rights and Nuyorican Identity in the Partido Socialista Puertorriqueno (Puerto Rican Socialist Party),” to be published this summer in a special edition of *Latino/a Research Review*.

*Kenneth Axen and Kathleen Axen, Health and Nutrition Sciences*, wrote “Relationship among body fat, hepatic lipid, and intramuscular TAG during weight gain and weight loss” for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Obesity Society later this year. Kenneth Axen also submitted a collaboration with Kathleen Axen and others on “Effects of High-Fat Dietary Obesity on Hepatic Lipogenic Mechanisms in Rats” for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Obesity Society in 2012.

*Jill Cirasella, Library, and Miriam Deutch, Library*, published “From Art on the Wall to Something for All: How an Academic Library Turned Its Art Collection into a Campus Attraction” in *Journal of Library Innovation*, Volume 3, Number 1, 2012. Professor Cirasella and Margaret Smith, NYU, were invited to present “Open Access Publishing in Science: Simple Idea, Complex Reality” at the Open Science Summit at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, CA, on October 22, 2011; and she presented with Alycia Sellie, Library, Kathleen Collins, John Jay, and Rhonda Johnson, Hostos, on the panel “Copyright, Fair Use and Open License Tools Online” at the CUNY 10th Annual IT Conference, December 2, 2011.

*Maria Contel, Chemistry*, published an article in collaboration with Dr. Doru Royban from Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Babeș Bolyai University, Romania, titled: “ Reactivity of unsaturated 5(4H)-oxazolones with Hg(II) acetate. Synthesis of methyl N-benzyolamino-3-arylacrylates” in Synthetic Communications. 2012, 42, 195.

*Robert Curran, Physical Education and Exercise Science and Health and Nutrition Sciences*, presented three research posters at the annual Emergency Medical Services Today conference in Baltimore in March 2012, based on his work with Professor Christopher Dunbar (Physical Education and Exercise Science). They were: “Can Female College Students Perform CPR Chest Compressions?,” “The Effect of Resting Between Compression Cycles on CPR Chest Compressions,” and “Fist CPR Compressions: Evaluation of an Alterative Compression Technique.”
Louise Moreira Daniels, *Children and Youth Studies Program*, is co-editor, along with Isabel Ortiz and Solrun Engilbertsdóttir, of a UNICEF book entitled *Child Poverty and Inequality: New Perspectives*, a UNICEF Policy and Practice publication (UNICEF 2012), about the vast inequalities for children in terms of income, access to food, water, health, education, housing, or employment for their families in the 21st century. Daniels also contributed a chapter, “A Recovery with a Human Face: Insights into the Global Crisis” in another UNICEF book, entitled *A Recovery for All: Rethinking Socio-Economic Policies for Children and Poor Households* (UNICEF 2012), about how the world’s financial and economic crisis has taken a toll on children and poor households.


Paul Forlano, *Biology*, co-authored with Chao Zhang and Roger D. Cone of Vanderbilt University “AgRP and POMC neurons are hypophysiotropic and coordinately regulate multiple endocrine axes in a teleost,” which appears in *Cell Metabolism* 15:1-9 (2012).


David Grubbs, Music, performed between this past winter and spring with Bollingen Prize-winning poet Susan Howe at Harvard University, Yale University, the University of Chicago, and The New School. In April, Grubbs and visual artist Anthony McCall premiered their collaborative work Leaving (With Four Half-Turns) at Sprüth Magers Gallery in Berlin, and McCall’s solid-light installation Leaving (With Two-Minute Silence), with a soundtrack produced in collaboration with Grubbs, appears in McCall’s retrospective exhibition at the Nationalgalerie im Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin.

Olympia Hadjiliadis, Mathematics, wrote “Maximum drawdown insurance” in the International Journal in Theoretical and Applied Finance, issue 8, vol.14, pp. 1195-1230, 2011, with Dr. Peter Carr, director of quantitative research at Morgan Stanley, and Dr. Hongzhong Zhang, assistant professor of Statistics at Columbia University, a former student of Hadjiliadis’. Recently she was notified of an NSF-CCF grant renewal for her work with Professor Ioannis Stamos from the Computer Science Department at Hunter College, CUNY, entitled “Sequential Classification and Detection via Markov models in point clouds of urban scenes.”

Gail Horowitz, Chemistry, and Graciela Elizalde-Utnick, Psychology, this spring were awarded a PSC—CUNY traditional A award ($3500) to fund the research project: “Can Providing Training to New Graduate Students Improve Their Teaching of Organic Chemistry Recitation? An Action Research Study.”


Natalie Kacinik, School Psychology, Counseling and Leadership, co-authored “Stirring images: Fear, not happiness or arousal, makes art more sublime” in the journal Emotion (online first publication, Feb 6, 2012) with her former PhD student Kendall Eskine, now Assistant Professor at Loyola University, New Orleans, and Jesse Prinz, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at the CUNY Graduate Center. In January, she and Eskine co-presented a poster on “The bitter truth about morality: Exploring the effects of mindfulness and moral event types on gustatory perception” at the 13th annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, in San Diego, CA. In November, she presented a poster titled “Are there cerebral asymmetries in generating literal versus figurative meaning” in collaboration with her PhD student Rita El-Haddad and undergraduate assistant Isabel Rodriguez, at the 52nd annual meeting of the Psychonomic Society in Seattle, WA.
Abdelahad Khajo, Chemistry, collaborated on “Protection of Melanized Cryptococcus neoformans from Lethal Dose Gamma Irradiation Involves Changes in Melanin’s Chemical Structure and Paramagnetism” with Ruth A. Bryan, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York, Matthew Friedman, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York, Richard M. Burger, Chemistry, Yan Levitsky, Chemistry, Arturo Casadevall, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York, Richard S. Magliozzo, Chemistry, and Ekaterina Dadachova, Department of Nuclear Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York and Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, Bronx, New York

Sandra Kingan, Mathematics, and Manoel Lemos, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco, co-wrote “Matroids with at least two regular elements” which appeared in the European Journal of Combinatorics 33, 1022 - 1029 (2012). In January she presented a poster titled “Mathematics and Social Advocacy” at the Joint Math Meetings in Boston together with Jeff Suzuki, Mathematics. In March, together with Joe Bonin, George Washington University, Professor Kingan co-organized a special session on Matroid Theory at the American Mathematical Society meeting in Washington D.C. She continues to organize the New York Combinatorics Seminar at the Graduate Center together with Jonathan Cutler, Montclair State University, Christopher Hanusa, Queens College, and Kerry Ojakian, St Joseph’s College.

Mark Kobrak, Chemistry, this spring contributed a paper, “Instantaneous Normal Mode Analysis of a Series of Model Molten Salts,” to a special issue of ChemPhysChem, and did so in collaboration with Dr. Hualin Li of the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, Texas. Professor Kobrak and Dr. Li also this spring published “The Influence of Charge Distribution on Ion Diffusion in Molten Salts: A Model Study,” in Electrochemical Society Transactions, in press.

Aaron Kozbelt, Psychology, co-wrote with Scott Dexter, Computer and Information Sciences, Melissa Dolese, doctoral candidate in Psychology (CUNY), and Angelika Seidel, doctoral candidate in Psychology (CUNY), “The aesthetics of software code: A quantitative exploration,” which appeared


**John Marra**, Earth and Environmental Sciences, wrote “Primary productivity, new productivity, and their relation to carbon flux during two Southern Ocean Gas Exchange tracer experiments” in *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Vol. 117, 2012, with V. P. Lance, analyst with Space Science Applications; P. Sutton; R. D. Vaillancourt, of Millersville University; B. R. Hargreaves, of Lehigh University; and J.-Z. Zhang, research scientist, of NOAA, Miami. He also wrote “Potential grazing effects in incubations with ¹⁴C.” *Aquatic Biology*, Vol. 14, March 2012, pgs. 283-288, with V. Montecino, of the University of Chile, Santiago; and E. Capuzzo, of the Center for Environmental, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), Lowestoft, UK.


Xia (Lisa) Li, Early Childhood and Art Education, collaborated with her advisor, Dr. Arthur Baroody at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and colleagues on a study about how the use of singular/plural markings (e.g., apple, apples) and number words in English and Chinese affect young children’s acquisition of number concepts. She presented this collaborative study “The Effect of Language on Chinese and American 2- and 3-Year Olds’ Small Number Recognition” on April 16 at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada. She received the William Stewart Travel Award for attending the conference. Prof. Li was also selected to serve as a reviewer for Division C – Learning and Instruction of AERA 2011-12.


Susan Longtin, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences, and Ilene Tannenbaum, Brooklyn College Health Clinic, recently received a grant for $18,968 from the University Dean for Health and Human Services for “Interdisciplinary Collaborative Support Services for Students on the Autism Spectrum.” This grant is designed to enhance the academic and social experience for Brooklyn College students with Asperger Syndrome and/or other high functioning autism spectrum conditions. This pilot project allows for the integration and expansion of those services within the Division of Student Affairs, (Health Clinic, Personal Counseling, Center for Disability Services) with services offered through academic departments and programs: The Learning Center, the Diana Rogovin Davidow Speech-Language-Hearing Center, and the Magner Center for Career Development.

Dadachova and Arturo Casadevall, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York, in writing: “Protection of melanized Cryptococcus neoformans from lethal dose gamma irradiation involves changes in melanin’s chemical structure and paramagnetism,” in PLoS One. 2011;6(9):e25092.

Peter Matt, Earth and Environmental Sciences, gave an oral presentation to the northeast sectional meeting of the Geological Society of America on March 20. His work was done in collaboration with his advisor, Wayne Powell, Earth and Environmental Sciences.


Yusheng Peng, School of Economics, collaborated with Philip Huang, professor emeritus from UCLA and Yuan Gao, faculty member at Renmin University (China) on “Capitalization without Proletarianization in China’s Agricultural Development” Modern China 38(2): 139-173 (2012).


Vanessa Perez Rosario, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, joined the CUNY-New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (NYSIEB) as an Associate Investigator this spring. NYSIEB is a project of the CUNY Graduate Center’s Research Institute on the Study of Languages in Urban Society (RISLUS) and the PhD Program in Urban Education. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Ricardo Otheguy and the co-Principal Investigators are Drs. Ofelia Garcia and Kate Menken, all of the CUNY Graduate Center.


Paul Russo, Finance and Business Management and Computer and Information Science, presented at the International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS) in Shanghai, China, in December on his research on the topic of trust in location-based social networks such as “FourSquare” and “Facebook Nearby.” The study examines issues
of trust, motivation, and risk for people sharing their location online with a network of other users—some friends, others strangers. The paper was part of an ongoing collaboration with Oded Nov, a professor in the Technology Management Department of NYU-Polytechnic Institute.


**Roseanne Schnoll, Health and Nutrition Sciences**, co-authored with **Robert Curran, Health and Nutrition Sciences**, “Freshman Health Initiative Survey: A Pilot Study,” a presentation at the 76th Annual Meeting of The American Society for Nutrition (ASN), San Diego, CA, April 21-25, 2012. Schnoll also co-authored with Renee Dufault, of the Food Ingredient and Health Research Institute, Ocean View, HI, and United Tribes Technical College, Bismarck, ND; Walter J. Lukiw, Department of Neuroscience and Ophthalmology, Louisiana State University; Raquel Crider, Shepherd University, Shepherdstown, WV; David Wallinga, of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Minneapolis, MN; and Richard Deth, of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, “A macroepigenetic approach to identify factors responsible for the autism epidemic in the United States.” *Clinical Epigenetics*, April 10, 2012.