



A Newsletter published by the Brooklyn College Alumni Association • Vol. 7, No. 1
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BCAA Scholarship Awards Presented to Three Undergraduates

by Sam Rabinoff, '49



Left to right: Elena Antimova, '06; Brandon Bain, '04; Miriam Meserve, '06; Randall Ehrmann, '06; Nazzerine Charles, '05; and Melanie Hopkins, '05

For twenty years, the BCAA has awarded grants to students who have made significant contributions to campus and community life and/or the performing arts. The recipients are recommended by a committee of the Board of Directors, which reviews the applications, records of achievement, and faculty recommendations for every candidate.

The awards, originally named in memory of teacher and humorist Sam Levenson, '34, and his wife, Esther Levine Levenson, '34, are

now called the BCAA Awards. This year three awards of \$2,000 each were presented at the BCAA Annual Meeting on Alumni College Day, to which all alumni are welcome. The current recipients, as always, typify the best of Brooklyn College.

Elena Antimova '06 is a composer, vocalist, and pianist studying in the Conservatory of Music. She has performed original pieces in a number of New York City venues, including Weill Recital Hall and the consulate of her native Bulgaria. She is a member of the Brooklyn College Chorale

and has been praised by her mentors for tackling the most challenging works in the repertoire.

Nazzerine Charles, '05, is taking a double major in political science and Caribbean studies. She played a pivotal role, as advertising manager for the *Kingsman* in increasing the paper's annual budget from \$20,000 to \$40,000. She was the student representative on the Core Curriculum Revision Committee, which reexamined the required curriculum at Brooklyn College.

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We have a new look!

We hope you like the updated design and format! Articles, written by and for alumni, will continue to inform you about events at the College and across the country.

Letter from the BCAA President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Perhaps every so often, in our very busy lives, we should pause and reflect on where we stood in our college years, on our hopes, our dreams, our ideas and ideals. Those sentiments, expressed in old high school yearbooks and old *Broeklundians*, ring true today. One reads about “zealous devotion to our democratic way of life, to peace and to world government, and to our determination to promote the general welfare.” Others speak of a “willingness to wage war upon every form of totalitarianism and upon every type of exploitation and social injustice.” Still others noted the sacrifice, assistance, and support given by our families that enabled us to complete four years at Brooklyn College, years of arduous study and high scholastic achievement. Those years provided the foundation for building successful and satisfying lives.

Nil Sine Magno Labore! As we deal with the challenges of the new millennium, it is incredible to realize that although we have changed, so much remains the same. Brooklyn College, with its magnificent campus and amazingly diverse student population is still ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the country—with outstanding programs, a highly acclaimed faculty, and scores of gifted students. Our graduates include many who have made significant contributions in just about every field of endeavor.

A successful Alumni Association begins and ends with you! And the students of today need your help to support their hopes and their dreams. In this, the seventy-fifth birthday year of Brooklyn College, I ask that you give as generously as you can to help this generation achieve their goals and make this world a little bit better than they found it. Remain connected to Brooklyn College! Remember Brooklyn College, because Brooklyn College will never forget you!

Sincerely,



Roberta Rose Wallach, '53

President, Brooklyn College Alumni Association

Brooklyn College Alumni ID Card and Its Benefits

Upon graduation, alumni automatically become members of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association and begin a lifelong relationship with the College. Membership is free and every member of the Alumni Association receives an Alumni ID card. With your card in hand, you will be welcomed on campus, which is rich in resources for continued learning and enjoyment.

Brooklyn College Alumni ID card benefits include:

- On-site use of the Brooklyn College Library and Library Cafe
- Access to Student Center programs, lectures, and events
- Appointment-based personal counseling
- Career counseling and professional development services
- Discounts for concerts and programs at the Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College and at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College, featuring performances by national and international artists
- Discounts on registration fees for Brooklyn College Preparatory Center for the Performing Arts programs
- Discounted recreation pass for use of the College's fitness center, jogging tracks, and courts for squash, basketball, racquetball, tennis, handball, and paddleball
- Discounts on registration fees for Continuing Education classes
- A 10 percent discount on items, excluding textbooks, at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Brooklyn College
- Brooklyn College Alumni Association Platinum Plus MasterCard, issued by MBNA America Bank
- Discounts on long-term care insurance

To request your Brooklyn College Alumni ID card, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, (718) 951-5065 or Alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Alumni Association Highlights of Events for the Year 2005

by Roberta Rose Wallach, '53



Alumni College Day

Left to right: President Christoph M. Kimmich; Chone Naing Chen, '81; Roni Natov, '65; Marc Richard Mellon, '74; and Roberta Rose Wallach, '53.

In addition to all the events sponsored by the seventeen national chapters, the chapter in Israel, and the eleven affiliates of the BCAA, there are four major events hosted annually by the Alumni Association. On Sunday, April 10, the annual Alumni College Day was held on campus. This year celebrated "Brooklyn College: 75 Years!" The President's Welcoming Reception was followed by the Alumni Association Awards Luncheon. Recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Awards were Roni Natov, '65, professor of English at Brooklyn College (see "Faculty Spotlight"), and Marc Richard Mellon, '74, internationally renowned sculptor. Chone Naing Chen, '81, received the Jerome S. Milgram Service Award. The topic of the general session panel was the historians' perspective on "Brooklyn College: 75 Years and Counting, Where We Are and Where We're Going." Panelists included distinguished Brooklyn College faculty, authors, and historians. The final activity of the day was the BCAA annual meeting with a report by the president of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association and the presentation of the BCAA student awards.

The second spring event of the Alumni Association honors the fiftieth anniversary of a class. This year graduates of the Class of 1955 were celebrated at Commencement on June 2. A reunion supper the preceding evening featured a slide show

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Faculty Spotlight

by William Hall,
M.F.A., '04



Professor of English
Roni Natov's career
at Brooklyn College
is distinguished by
more than its
longevity and
personal

attachment—she received her B.A. here in 1965. A faculty member since 1969 and a leading scholar for almost three decades in the burgeoning field of children's literature, she is first and foremost a mentor to undergraduates in a variety of disciplines. She has developed a reputation for accessibility and is recognized for her prolific scholarly contributions, which, like her personal approach, are noted for their absence of pedantic dressing.

Natov recalls the "lack of community" that she experienced as a student at Brooklyn College in the sixties, which was compounded by the ever-present demands of work and family. But, she notes, as the seventies ushered open admissions onto the CUNY scene, a new and dynamic era began, one that has endured to the present.

When not speaking—Natov will give a paper at Trinity College, Dublin, this year—or producing papers and books—most recently, *The Poetics of Childhood* (Routledge, 2002)—Natov oversees the *English Majors' Zine*, which she has sponsored for over twenty years, conducts a CUNY Honors College seminar entitled "The Arts in New York City," and coordinates the *Boylan Blog* (www.boylanblog.blogspot.com) along with her usual teaching load. She is also founding editor, with Professor of English Geraldine DeLuca, of *The Lion and the Unicorn: A Critical Journal of Children's Literature*, which was the first of its kind.

Natov's classroom approach goes beyond the typical in drawing students to learning: for example, she encourages students to use personal experience to analyze readings. The outcome often transcends the written page, sometimes in the form of startling artwork that locates the pupil's emotional connection to literature. For her innovations in and out of the classroom, Natov was honored with the Claire Tow Distinguished Teacher Award in 2004 and has earned the gratitude of her students. She is currently at work on a book about Charles Dickens and the childhood experience.

BCAA Buzz

News from Chapters and Affiliates

Black Alumni Association of Brooklyn College

by Marsha I. Goldman, '57

Now in its thirtieth year, the Black Alumni Association of Brooklyn College, Inc., proudly looks back on its many accomplishments. Since its inception, the BAABC has conducted sixteen Alumni College Day workshops, convened engaging symposia, donated the bronze bust of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that is currently installed on the Quad, participated in such campus social and artistic events as last December's "An Evening of Expressions", given fashion shows, sponsored charismatic speakers, and thrown gala fundraising dinners. The BAABC also participates in welcoming incoming students every August as well as cohosting a reception for graduating seniors in May. Positive feedback from graduating seniors, faculty, and alumni made this year's affair particularly satisfying.

The Black Alumni Association has presented more than sixty scholarships to undergraduates—deserving and inspiring young people who have faced and overcome adversity. At the scholarship presentation program held on September 16, 2004, Nazerine Charles, '05, who also was awarded a 2005 BCAA Scholarship, received the Constance C. St. Cyr Award. Obiajulu Abiola and Alexander Ongundi each received the Black Alumni Association of Brooklyn College Award.

The 2005 scholarship process is under way. Submissions were due in April, and interviews were held in May. Presentations will be made in September. Valerie Burrus-Bess, '77, our scholarship chairperson for many years, has decided to retire from her post at the close of 2005. Anyone interested in joining the scholarship committee is encouraged to contact Valerie or Craig Collins, '98. Meanwhile, planning continues for an off-campus Clearing House Expo, and, as always, in May we will hold a reception for our graduating seniors.

For more information, contact Craig Collins, president, (917) 678-8003, Kingbootk@aol.com; or Heshla Ash, vice-president, (718) 951-5712, at the Student Center.

Manhattan Chapter

by Arlene Lichterman, '53

Rochelle Leventhal Moss, '59, our founding president, and I met about ten years ago at a Brooklyn College alumni event. At that time Rochelle realized that it would be wonderful to reconnect with other alumni who were living in Manhattan. The dream of forming a chapter became viable.

In the process of starting the new chapter, we learned how to organize and plan events. We had a variety of successes in the ensuing years, including an art show, film preview, wine tasting, guest speakers, museum trips, brunches, dinners, comedy club excursions, and more. We are justifiably proud of our work on behalf of Brooklyn College students and have renamed the scholarship that we support in memory of Rochelle, whom we sadly lost in 2002.

The chapter has ambitious plans for the future, and we want you to be part of them. Our education at Brooklyn College was special and, for many of us, free. Becoming involved in the Manhattan Chapter is a way to give something back while having a terrific time with old and new friends. If you are interested in joining us, please call Arnold Weiss, '54, (212) 319-4000, or me, Arlene Lichterman, '53, (212) 988-9471.

News from New Jersey!

by Jill Blaker-Gordon, '68

The New Jersey Alumni chapter kicked off its first year with several planning meetings at the Library of the Chathams in Morris County, two major functions, ambitious plans for next year, and laughter and memories of our college days.

At an evening reception in October at the Library of the Chathams, Brooklyn College Assistant Professor of History Steven Remy spoke to sixty alumni and guests about his recently published book, *The Heidelberg Myth: The Nazification and Denazification of a German University*, and his current research on German-Jewish refugees during the war against Nazi Germany. On May 15, our chapter visited the College for a tour of the magnificent new library, a welcoming reception in Boylan Hall, and a performance of the Department of Theater and the Conservatory of Music production of *The Threepenny Opera*.

The chapter's steering committee is always looking for new members. If you would like information about future chapter meetings and events, please contact Tom Hannan, '80, by telephone, (973) 337-2910, or e-mail, thomas.hannan@bankofamerica.com.

Northern Metropolitan Chapter

by Mel Barlin, '64

For the fall, we're planning a gala Las Vegas Night that will feature a Silent Auction.

This year we were honored to have President Kimmich speak to more than eighty alumni and friends at Alumni Appreciation Day. We toasted our brilliant and dynamic leader, Joan Tartell Stupler, '52, and celebrated awarding our fiftieth scholarship to a deserving Brooklyn College student.

We had an astonishing turnout for "What happened to America?" a stimulating discussion led by Professor Sally Bermanzohn, chairperson of the Department of Political Science. This provocative program focused on the change in American attitudes on civil and human rights since the 9/11 tragedy. Our alumni had incisive questions for Professor Bermanzohn and engaged in an energetic and critical debate of the issues.

If you would like more information on coming events, please call me, Mel Barlin, '64, (845) 425-3508.

San Diego Chapter

by Sandy Ceren, '54

Since the reactivation of the San Diego Chapter by David Herskowitz, '61, in November 2003, our efforts have been enthusiastic, reaching 366 West Coast alumni. The San Diego resurgence may have prompted, in part, the reprinting of *Brooklyn College: First Half-Century*, by Professor Emeritus of History Murray M. Horowitz, '38.

The year 2004 saw many wonderful events: a spring reunion dinner at Lomas Santa Fe Country Club; a summer picnic serenaded by the Quadrangle Quartet, headed by D'vora Gittelson, '55, at Solana Beach Park; and a brunch at Rancho Bernardo Clubhouse in November. Now well into its second year, the chapter recently held its 2005 spring reunion dinner dance at the Elks Club in Cardiff.

The chapter's active Executive Committee includes Gerald Rosenbaum, '43; David Herskowitz; Marty Lave, '52; and Ron Kay, '65. To find out how to join us, please contact Gerard Rosenbaum, (858) 759-0835, geraldruith@sbcglobal.net.



Members of the Brooklyn College Latino Alumni Advisory Committee enjoy their 2004 summer picnic.

Please see the BCAA Chapters and Affiliates column in this newsletter for a complete listing of chapter and affiliate contact information.



Gala Alumni Reunion

Honoring Marge Wagner, '69, and Stu Kessler, '50

The Rainbow Room, Pegasus Suites

Thursday, September 29, 2005

6 p.m. Reception • 7 p.m. Dinner

Your invitation is on the way! Save the date!

New Initiatives

by Marla Hasten Schreibman, '87

Why start a new chapter?

Whether they live around the corner from the College or thousands of miles away, Brooklyn College alumni have a special bond. Alumni chapters help keep alums connected to each other and the College by providing a social network and offering exciting activities and interesting programs to members of all classes. These regional groups extend a warm welcome to BC grads when they relocate to a new part of the country, and they help find "lost" alumni who may be living just down the block. Alumni chapter scholarship programs provide vital help to ease the financial burdens of worthy students.

Our new **Chicago/Milwaukee (Midwest) Chapter** was initiated by Estelle Felber, wife of the late Stan

Felber, '53. Stan loved Brooklyn College, and Estelle reactivated the chapter in his honor. The kickoff event was held at the beautiful Grand Geneva Resort in Lake Geneva. Larry Greenberg, '70, picked up the banner and helped to organize a gala spring event at the Mission Hills Country Club in Northbrook, Ill. Their guest speaker was Distinguished Professor Emeritus Martin P. Schreibman, '56, director of the College's Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC). The chapter invites all alumni in the area to participate and revel in their BC connection.

The **Washington, D.C., Area Chapter** is building its base. This chapter cuts across state lines and claims member alumni in Northern Virginia and Southern Maryland too. The chapter held an elegant affair at the Cosmos Club last October with D.C.-based alumnus Martin Mendelsohn, '63, an award-winning and often cited authority on international law, as guest speaker.

There are tantalizing schemes in the works for next year and the chapter invites its members to be a part of the planning and the fun.

Due to popular demand by the 8,000 alumni or so living in the borough, the BCAA launched the **Queens Chapter** at a meeting in the Queens Borough Public Library in Forest Hills on April 14, 2005. Even though they live nearby, this was the first time that alumni in Queens reconnected with each other and their alma mater. Excitement was palpable as plans for autumn events were hatched.

You may contact the Office of Alumni Affairs to learn more about getting involved with these up and coming chapters or starting a chapter in your new hometown. There are rumblings in Boston, Atlanta, and Dallas, so be on the lookout for e-mail and direct-mail announcements. And always remember, wherever you go, you began your journey in Brooklyn!

Scholarships *continued*

Miriam Meserve, '06, is a junior in the Theater Department. She aspires to work with the Abbey Theatre in Ireland; meanwhile she is an active member of the Undergraduate Theater Organization, promoting shows and arranging workshops. She was instrumental in the Women's Center successful production of *The Vagina Monologues* and, in her spare time, she volunteers with learning-disabled preschool children.

The BCAA Scholarship Awards are funded by alumni who wish to recognize such dynamic and worthy recipients. With rising tuition fees and diminished government aid, scholarship support is crucial. Alumni are encouraged to earmark their gifts for the "BCAA Scholarship Fund" when they send a contribution to the Brooklyn College Foundation.

2005 Highlights *continued*

of old Brooklyn. Commencement Day began with a wonderful breakfast in the Georgian Room and a class picture. Commencement exercises were followed by a luncheon in the Student Center, with time to rejoice and reminisce. Classes of 1956, 1957, 1958—start planning! Your day will soon be here.

There will be two fall events in September this year. The Post-Fiftieth Reunion will be held on Thursday, September 15, at a luncheon in the Brooklyn College Student Center. This reunion honors the Classes of 1950, 1945, 1940, and 1935, celebrating their fifty-fifth, sixtieth, sixty-fifth, and seventieth reunions, respectively. At that time, the Alumni Association will present Lifetime Achievement Awards and honor an outstanding alum with the Milton Fisher, '38, Second Harvest Award, which includes a

\$5,000 grant to be presented to a Brooklyn College department or program of the recipient's choice.

And finally, on Thursday evening, September 29, our annual extravaganza honoring the alumna and alumnus of the year and the Classes of 1965 and 1980 will be held at the Rainbow Room, Pegasus Suites. The spectacular view will be matched by our spectacular honorees, alumna of the year Marjorie Wagner, '69, chairperson and CEO of Citigroup Global Consumer Group, and alumnus of the year Stuart Kessler, '50, of Goldstein Golub Kessler LLP and managing director of American Express Tax and Business Services in New York. Join us as we dine, dance, and reminisce on what promises to be a most memorable evening. Hold the date and watch for your invitations in the mail!



BC Couples and Generations

by Stacey Backenroth, '02

Attending Brooklyn College is a tradition carried on by generation after generation in many families. The College is also the place where many a couple have started their romance. To celebrate, we are devoting a column to couples and families. If you would like to see yourself and your spouse or family listed in this column, please send names and class years to Stacey Backenroth, '02, Office of Alumni Affairs, Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11210, or staceyb@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Couples

Wuid Alexandre, '99, and Beverly Williams Alexandre, '99

Matthew Callan, '03, and Kristina Ramos, '00

Melvin J Davis, '44, and Beatrice Greenapple Davis, '46

Lee Firester, '52, and Joan Alexander Firester, '54

Stanley Gartenstein, '54, and Myrna Cohen Gartenstein, '55

Kenneth Lefkowitz, '72, and Janis Lefkowitz, '73

Jerry Rauch, '64, and Nancy Heller Rauch, '64

Neil Rubin, '82, and Pamela Silver Rubin, '82

Murray Schaffner, '35, and Dorothy Webber Schaffner, '35

Martin P. Schreibman, '56, and Marla Hasten Schreibman, '87

Morris R. Simonoff, '49, and Pearl Baron Simonoff, '48

David Sufian, '60, and Beverly Solomon Sufian, '60

Paul Weintraub, '79, and Deena Schaffer Weintraub, '79

Generations

Sarah Erbstein Glasser, '34; George Glasser, '57; Martin Glasser, '64; Shelly Sitver Glasser, '65

Paula Cooper Goldstein, '73; Andrew Ross Goldstein, '04

Naomi Boritz Golub, '58; Caryn Golub Siebert, '82; Evan Brett Golub, '90

Mina Leibowitz Herman, '53; Susan Herman Mendelowitz, '76; Bruce J. Herman, '80

Barbara Auerbach Korman, '53; Madlyn Stacy Korman, '84

Samuel J. Levine, '34; Steven G. Levine, '72

Pearl Weinberg Pincus, '37; Cynthia Pincus Rothstein, '64; Gerald Pincus, '69

Estelle Broome Schaffer, '53; Deena Schaffer Weintraub, '79

Beatrice H. White, '33, (deceased); Evelyn R. Newman Estrine, '64; Daniel W. Newman, '69, (deceased)

Anita Berger, '35; Henrietta Berger, '38; Justin Lewis, '38; Naomi Kane Nash, '38; George Rosenberg, '38; Mildred Schoenberg Lewis, '39; Lois Aboff, '41; Betty Berger, '41; Hortense Berger, '41; Evelyn Edith Kane, '41; Juanita Kane Kaye, '41; Saul Kaye, '41; Joy Rosenberg Borgos, '43; Kane Lowe, '43; Leon Kaye, '44; Rosalie Kirschenbaum Epstein, '48; Albert Alexander, '50; Rhoda Shapiro Alexander, '51; Barbara Kane, '66

Nominations for BCAA Awards

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association welcomes nominations for its annual Alumni of the Year, Distinguished Achievement, and Post-Fiftieth Alumni Lifetime Achievement Awards. Candidates should have achieved distinction in their field of endeavor, made noteworthy contributions to the community, and reflected credit upon the College.

Nominations of alumni who meet the criteria may be mailed to the Office of Alumni Affairs, Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11210, or e-mailed to alorain@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

B.A.–M.D. Alumni

If you are a graduate of the Brooklyn College B.A.–M.D. Program and would like to add your name to our B.A.–M.D. alumni database, please contact Ken Miyano, associate professor and director of the B.A.–M.D. Program, by telephone, (718) 951-4706 or via e-mail, kemiyano@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Please indicate your name (including your name while you were at Brooklyn College if it has since changed), your address, date of graduation, and any professional or personal information you care to share. We would love to hear from you!



Brooklyn College Alumni Association

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