



A Newsletter published by the Brooklyn College Alumni Association • Volume 10, No. 1  
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## *The Changing Face of the Campus*

by Arlene Lichterman, '53



Brooklyn College's landscape is not what it used to be. Actually it's changing for the better. All one has to do is look around the campus and the surrounding neighborhood to see that the old buildings and vacant lots are being replaced with new state-of-the-art facilities. After five years of work, starting with the removal of the Bedford Overpass and the demolition of the Plaza Building, the West Quad Project is now nearing completion. There will be a new beautifully landscaped quadrangle on the west side of Bedford Avenue between Roosevelt Hall and James Hall that will be ideal for campus events, student activities, and just for relaxing.

The new West Quad Building will consolidate important student services under one roof—the Offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, Scholarships,

Registrar, and the Bursar—and will also include food services and custodial support offices. This structure will also house the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science, and will include improved indoor sports facilities, featuring new gymnasiums, a swimming pool, indoor track, racquetball courts, and a fitness center as well as teaching and research labs. (Expect a ribbon cutting in November 2008.)

In addition to this new building, there will be new facades on James Hall and Roosevelt Hall; the latter will be transformed into a state-of-the-art science complex that will revolutionize how science is taught and research is conducted at the College.

The Student Center is also being renovated and now offers meeting rooms on the upper two floors, which

have new walls, ceilings, and “twenty-first century” audiovisual and sound systems that will enhance any event and activity. This new community center is open to neighborhood groups who wish to rent space for community activities.

There is continuing change on the east side of the campus as well. Brooklyn College has always been known for its dynamic arts curriculum, which provides highly regarded programs in music, theater, television, radio, and film. Now, thanks to a seed grant from Brooklyn College alumni Claire, '52, and Leonard, '50, Tow; the efforts of President Kimmich, Vice-President Andrew Sillen, '74, and Vice-President Steve Little, '77; and the support of CUNY Vice-Chancellor Iris Weinshall, '75, a new performing arts center; the Claire and Leonard Tow Center at BC, will be built. It will be 20 percent larger than Whitman Hall. It will offer rehearsal and performance space, set design workshops, exhibition space, a theater, and classroom, meeting, and reception rooms. It will be a perfect environment for our talented students and faculty and provide us with a comprehensive center for performing arts performances and visual arts exhibitions.

*continued on page 2*

## Message from the BCAA President



Welcome! Guests and visitors to Brooklyn College will see as well as be immersed in a “dynamic” college community that is changing to meet the needs of the twenty-first century. As a Florida resident and a member of the Class of 1956, I can tell you that my heart pounds when I am on campus.

A major capital construction program continues, including a new performing arts center (built in large part with private donations), a new West Quad building that

will include one-stop student services and a state-of-the-art fitness facility, and a renewed Ingersoll Hall. Roosevelt Hall will be renovated to become part of the new science facility.

The above changes, plus the availability of over two hundred housing units in a new building being constructed just a few blocks from the College, will assist in attracting an even more diverse student body from all corners of the earth.

These days all Brooklyn College students are offered challenging, current undergraduate and graduate curricula and programs, which help them to gain success in a very competitive world. Our wonderful faculty continues to be augmented with new, highly qualified hires. Indeed, more than fifty percent of the entire current faculty was not at the College seven years ago.

Some things remain unchanged. Brooklyn College continues to be recognized as one of the most beautiful urban campuses and one of the most highly regarded public institutes of higher learning in the United States.

I am, indeed, proud of the College and of the formal, as well as the informal, education afforded me by Brooklyn College. And, as an alumnus, I am also aware of my responsibility to help ensure my alma mater’s continued health and prosperity.

Come and visit. See what I’m writing about and take advantage of the College’s many programs and events. Hopefully many of you are already active in one of our fifteen regional chapters or ten academic and cultural affiliates as well as in the College’s fundraising efforts. If you are not, feel free to contact me or the Office of Alumni Affairs to find out how you can become active both on and off campus.

Sincerely,

Hal Schaffer, '56

## Changing Face continued from page 1

A renovation of Ingersoll Hall and the Ingersoll Extension are also in the works.

Meanwhile the Junction at Flatbush and Nostrand Avenues is being revitalized with the new Triangle Junction Mall. Target is the anchor store and offers employment to hundreds of students.

For the first time, a private multi-unit residence will offer students and new faculty housing only blocks from the College. A developer is erecting the eight-story building at the corner of Kenilworth Place and Farragut Road. It will have approximately two hundred housing units.

All of these significant changes offer Brooklyn College an opportunity to substantially improve its student services and academic programs as well as help revitalize the entire community. We’ve come a long way from the early days of Joralemon and Willoughby Streets.

## Bookends Again!

by Agnes Ford, '69

Fifteen years have passed since the twenty-fifth reunion year for the Class of 1969. At that time we joined our friends and fellow graduates to enjoy a weekend of fun, food, and dance. Athletes and members of house plans and clubs met to reminisce about the past. It is now forty years since that graduation date in May 1969. It would be wonderful for us to come together again to recall those times of sexual revolution, civil rights, women’s rights, and antiwar activism.

Bring your old photos from our times on campus and our fifteenth and twenty-fifth reunions to our fortieth reunion on Monday, April 27, 2009, at Steiner Studios. We will gather under the glittering lights of the Williamsburg and Manhattan Bridges, raise a glass in a toast, and see how we fared during the passage of time and remember when.

**Remember to go far. Go to Brooklyn.**

## *Administrator Spotlight*

### **Milga Morales, '70, Dean for Student Affairs**

by Marilyn Maten Spielman, '62

It was raining, with no hint of sun, the day I went to interview Milga Morales, but inside her office it was as if the sun shone brightly. There was a constant stream of warmth and enthusiasm.

Dean Morales came to the United States from Puerto Rico when she was a toddler. Her parents made a modest living, supporting five children. Her parents' personalities contrasted sharply from each other. The Dean's father believed girls should stay close to home, while her mother modeled a woman's strong role in society. Morales balanced the two personalities and incorporated both into her belief system. Both parents were nurturing. They taught their children to always do their best and work hard, and the family proudly stayed connected to their Puerto Rican heritage.

Starting with her graduation from Bay Ridge High School, the accomplishments of Dean Morales have been vast. She was chosen to be in the Queensboro Community College Discovery program. After Queensboro, Dean Morales entered Brooklyn College and earned a bachelor's degree in education. She attended the College at a time of unrest. It was the era of the Vietnam war and the Civil Rights movement. Active in the Latino organizations, Dean Morales recruited students for Brooklyn College, and became a counselor for the Discovery Program and SEEK. Dean Morales continued her studies and earned a master's degree in education, but she didn't stop there. She went on to earn a doctorate at Yeshiva University. Her focus was second language acquisition among adult Hispanic students in diverse cultures. After completing her doctorate, Dean Morales returned to Brooklyn College, where she served as associate professor in the School of Education, concentrating on bilingual education. She also worked as a faculty intern with the President of the College, and in this capacity Dean Morales was instrumental in bringing an important conference to New York City—The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. At this time, the position of Dean for Student Affairs opened up, and she was chosen for the post.

The accomplishments of Dean Morales continue to be many. She consistently seizes opportunities to guide her students to personal and academic success. Her projects are done in collaboration with the other departments of the College. She believes that everyone should be a "Campus Citizen," and know what is being done, and acknowledge the staff, faculty, and students for their initiatives. Now involved in the refurbishing of the Student Center, as well as updating the activities it offers, Dean Morales is also involved in SERVA (Students Engaged in Responsible Volunteer Action), a program which guides and recognizes the students who engage in approved volunteer activities.

Milga Morales is entering her tenth year as Dean for Student Affairs. She continually acknowledges her mentors and colleagues who share and enhance her projects. A favorite motto is "Every student is a leader and every leader is a student." It was my privilege and an inspiration to be in the presence of such an outstanding role model.



## *BC Accolades*

by Brandon Bain, '04

Brooklyn College students, alumni, and faculty continue to bring home more national and local accolades for the College. The achievements—first-time feats, in some cases—have been steady and range from academic and research fellowships to literary awards and chess championships.

In September, two third-year Brooklyn College students Nicole Lebenson and Aaron Gavin were named Jeanette K. Watson Fellows. This is the second time that BC students have received the fellowship, which provides internships and educational opportunities to students who wish to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others.

Last May, students Liliya Gershengoren, Jewel Liao, and Becky Naoulou received three out of the eight Jonas E. Salk Scholarships awarded to CUNY students planning careers in biological sciences.

In August, the National Science Foundation announced that a BC research team led by Professor of Biology Ray Gavin made a breakthrough discovery and found that a direct pathway exists between material outside a cell and the cell nucleus. The teams' research was published in the journal *Cell Motility and the Cytoskeleton*.

Professor of Modern Languages and Literature William Childers became the first CUNY professor to win the Modern Language Association's Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize for an outstanding book published in English that is focused on Latin American or Spanish literature and culture.

And don't forget our alumni. This December, in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, Gata Kamsky, '99, won the prestigious 2007 Chess World Cup and a \$120,000 prize. By winning this, Kamsky is guaranteed entry into other tournaments, including the World Chess Championship 2009.



# *Alumni Association*

## *Highlights of Events for the Year*

By Arlene Lichterman, '53, and Virginia M. Alonso-Rainsford, '84

In addition to BCAA chapter and affiliate programs during the year, the Alumni Association hosted three major events.

### **BCAA Holds First 75th Reunion**

On September 6, 2007 a memorable event took place on campus in honor of the Post 50th Reunion classes—the first 75th reunion ever celebrated at Brooklyn College.

We were honored to have as guests Gandolfa Aiosa DeFronzo, '32, and Ethel Lagarenné Hagquist, '32, representing Brooklyn College's first graduating class. To quote them, they were "Queens for a Day," and what a day it was—a day they will always cherish.

We look forward to crowning more royalty when we celebrate the second 75th reunion to be held at BC, this time for the Class of 1933 in conjunction with the 2008 Post 50th Reunion, when we will also honor the Classes of '38, '43, '48, and '53.

At that time the Alumni Association will present Lifetime Achievement Awards and honor an outstanding alumnus or alumna 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.

Please join your family and friends on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, for the Post 50th Reunion Celebration and Awards Presentation. Remember, mark your calendar now!

### **Alumni College Night**

Alumni College Night is an occasion for the Brooklyn College Alumni Association to acknowledge outstanding alumni and students.

On Alumni College Night 2008 Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to Madelyn Schwartz Gould, '72, and Elliott A. Norse, '69.

Ms. Gould was honored for her achievements as a professor of clinical public health—specializing in psychiatric epidemiology—at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Mailman School of Public Health and as a research scientist at the New York State Psychiatric Institute, and for the work she has done on behalf of suicide prevention.

Mr. Norse, who is an ichthyologist, the founder and president of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI) in Bellevue, Washington, a Pew Fellow in marine conservation, and an adjunct professor in marine conservation policy and



*Photo, top: President Christoph M. Kimmich speaks with Distinguished Achievement Award recipients Elliott A. Norse, '69, and Madelyn Schwartz Gould, '72.*



*Photo, bottom: BCAA Student Award recipients (left to right): Alexander Pyronneau, '08, Yitzchak Fogel, '08, and Kenny Advocat, '09.*

science at the Duke University Marine Laboratory, was honored for his continuing efforts to advance the science of marine conservation biology and secure protection for ocean ecosystems.

The Jerome S. Milgram Award was presented to Harriet Levy Rosenblum, '76, in recognition of her many years of service as a member and officer of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association, the Southwest Brooklyn Alumni Chapter, and the Accountants Alumni Affiliate.

BCAA Student Awards, which are presented to students who have made a contribution to the Brooklyn College community, were given this year to Kenny Advocat, '09, a member of several of the Brooklyn College music ensembles; Yitzchak Fogel, '08, a paramedic and an officer of the Brooklyn College Emergency Medical Squad; and Alexander Pyronneau, '08, a tutor with the Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) program.



In accepting their awards, the recipients expressed their appreciation, not just for the present honor, but also for the role Brooklyn College has played in their lives by providing them with a solid academic foundation. They also spoke of the importance of giving back to their alma mater.

### **Fiftieth Reunion of the Class of 1958**

The Class of 1958 returned to the campus from across the country to attend a fiftieth reunion celebration that was held in conjunction with Brooklyn College's eighty-third Commencement. The evening before Commencement several members of the class toured the campus and enjoyed a buffet supper before viewing *Vintage Brooklyn*, a slideshow presentation by Ron Schweiger, '70, BCAA Board of Directors vice-president and the Borough of Brooklyn historian.

On Commencement Day, after gathering for breakfast in the Georgian Room, the group donned gold caps and gowns and posed for a class photo. Following this they took part in the Commencement processional and marched to their seats amid cheers and applause. Brooklyn College Foundation Trustee Donald Kramer spoke on behalf of the class during the Commencement exercises.

It was an occasion with much hugging and laughter as acquaintances were renewed and new friends were made.

The day ended with a luncheon for the reunion class and their guests.

## *Brooklyn College Alumni Get Connected*

by Marla Hasten Schreiber, '87

Over one thousand of you have already joined the exciting new Brooklyn College Alumni Online Community. Alumni spanning eight decades, from the classes of the 1930s through the Millennial years, are creating personal profiles, posting photos and résumés, and networking with friends and classmates all over the world. And many are taking advantage of the e-mail forwarding service that allows you to register for an "alumni.brooklyn.edu" e-mail address that forwards messages to the e-mail account of your choice.

The Online Community is a great place to share professional accomplishments and personal news. It also enables you to get up-to-the minute information about happenings on campus and alumni events nationwide. So, aren't you curious to see what's up with your lab partner, your sorority sisters, the gal who sat next to you in Speech 1.2, and that guy in your Classical Civilization study group?

To get started e-mail [ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu) for your personal ID number, which will allow you to enter the Online Community, and visit [www.alumniconnections.com/bcalumni/](http://www.alumniconnections.com/bcalumni/) to register today. After all, it isn't a community without you!

**See you online!**

## *Save the Dates*

**Sunday, April 26, 2009**

**Alumni College Day**

**Brooklyn College**

The loveliest time of the year on campus.

Presentation of Distinguished Achievement Awards, the Jerome S. Milgram Award for Service, and BCAA Student Awards during the BCAA Annual Meeting.

**Monday, April 27, 2009**

**Reunion Dinner-Dance**

**Stage 6 at Steiner Studios**

Enjoy cocktails and dinner while overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Stage 6 is located moments from lower Manhattan at the foot of the Manhattan and Williamsburg Bridges. Fabulous catering by Abigail Kirsch.

Presentation of Alumna and Alumnus of the Year Awards. Honoring the Class of 1968, the Class of 1969, and alumni of Brooklyn College's School of Education.



# BCAA Buzz

News from Chapters and Affiliates

## Mid-New Jersey Chapter

by Abbott Gorin, '73

During 2007–2008, the Mid-New Jersey Chapter of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association hosted three events. One was practical. One was intellectual. And one of them was a bit of both.

In October, life coach Jeff Ambers gave a lecture entitled, “Caring for the Caregivers.” Mr. Ambers directed his talk to adult children of ailing parents and to spouses and companions of individuals who are in failing health. Mr. Ambers instructed those in attendance that the most important battle was not with the disease or affliction, but with the caregiver's despair. The lecture gave a life plan to audience members as to how not to get overwhelmed by such situations.

At our spring event, award-winning narrator Nels Runger read passages from David McCullough's *The Bridge*, about the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, and Doris Kearns Goodwin's *No Ordinary Time*, about FDR's leadership during the 1930s and 1940s. Needless to say, the audience enjoyed Mr. Runger's speaking voice. His readings carried us back in time to events we never witnessed—laying the foundation to the Brooklyn Bridge, and to what was happening behind the scenes in the White House during a turbulent time in the country's history, for instance.

The highlight of the season though, was the December dinner honoring past chapter presidents Roberta Hochlerin Salovitch, '59, and Jill Blaker-Gordon, '68, whose leadership, determination, and conscious effort made the founding of the Mid-New Jersey Chapter possible. The other guest of honor was former New Jersey Attorney General and Chief Justice Deborah Tobias Poritz, '58, still an active member of the New Jersey Bar, who told us that it helps to be a former English teacher if you are going to be an appeals court judge. Justice Poritz pointed out that, contrary to conservative political beliefs, judges do not look to stir up trouble, but they are honor bound to resolve the problems that are brought before them. Cases that former Chief Justice Poritz tried concerned

the following issues: capital punishment, school funding, and the use of eminent domain. In her time on the bench, Deborah Poritz set a high bar for her successors to follow.

## San Diego Chapter

by Elaine Rabbiner Eisenberg, '62

BCSDAA held a town hall meeting and luncheon on January 20 at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club. Over forty members were in attendance, even though the Chargers were in a playoff game at the same time.

The moderator for this first-time event for BCSDAA was Gloria Penner Snyder, '52. Gloria is a public figure in San Diego. She specializes in reporting and interviews on local public affairs. Her programs about San Diego government and issues have continuously provided viewers with in-depth knowledge since she joined KPBS in 1969. Gloria is currently KPBS Television's director of public affairs. She also hosts a weekly radio program, *Editors Roundtable*, and appears periodically as a host and interviewer on KPBS TV. Additionally, she writes a weekly blog, *Political Fix*, for the website, KPBS.org. The chapter is very grateful that, as busy as she is, she finds time to be a member and to participate in chapter activities. Gloria has told BCSDAA that she wouldn't be where she is today if it weren't for her start at Brooklyn College.

Gloria led a discussion about the pros and cons of the various presidential candidates for both the Democratic and Republican parties. She also explained the propositions on the California ballot. Afterwards, alumni and guests voted for both a Republican and a Democratic candidate. This took place just prior to Super Tuesday. It was a highly interactive session. In this group of BC grads, Hillary Clinton beat Barack Obama handily, and John McCain won the Republican ticket. The group then chose Hillary over McCain by a landslide and voted unanimously that it was a most interesting and worthwhile event.



Left to right, Gloria Penner Snyder, '52, and Matt Shakter, '64, of the San Diego Chapter.

## *Giving Back by Mentoring*

by Virginia M. Alonso-Rainsford, '84

Brooklyn College has many students who are among the best of the best. As such, these young men and women are candidates for some very prestigious awards. In addition to meeting all of the prerequisite criteria for these honors, students must meet with several interviewers and have the ability to respond well to their questions. How does a college student get the practice and acquire the skills to do this? The answer is often found with our alumni who are experts in so many fields of endeavor.

One alumnus who has volunteered his time and talent in this way is Judge Edward R. Korman, '63, the recipient of a 2002 BCAA Distinguished Achievement Award. When Ryan Merola, '07, was one of the nearly six hundred candidates for a Truman Scholarship, Korman, who at the time was the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, graciously agreed to offer his assistance.

Judge Korman welcomed Merola to his chambers and conducted a mock interview to help him prepare to meet with the judges who would evaluate candidates for the scholarships, which are awarded for exceptional leadership potential and commitment to a career in public service. Subsequently, Merola, in expressing his gratitude, would comment that Judge Korman "was on the money with his questions." This was confirmed when Ryan Merola was one of the two scholars from New York State chosen to receive a coveted Truman Scholarship.

### **Brooklyn College Alumni ID Card**

#### **To be the best, you need access to the best!**

With your BC Alumni ID Card, you have access to the campus and a variety of services and discounts. For a full list of benefits and services offered, please visit our Web site at <http://alumni.brooklyn.cuny.edu>.

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

### **Nominations for BCAA Awards**

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association welcomes nominations for its annual Alumni of the Year, Distinguished Achievement, and Post-Fiftieth 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 Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210, or e-mailed to [Alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:Alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu).

## *Simeon Iheagwam, '06, BCAA board member*

by Brandon Bain, '04



Simeon Iheagwam graduated from Brooklyn College in 2006 with a B.S. in business, management, and finance and a minor in accounting. His on campus activities included business manager of the yearbook (*Broeklundian*), manager of the women's basketball team, active member of NABA, and

mentor in the ERIS, the Black Male Initiative Program. As a student in the honors academy, he had the privilege to lobby in Albany and attend various alumni events. Upon receiving the BCAA Student Award, he expressed interest in serving the alumni community. Being the youngest member on the Board means that he has the opportunity to be a voice for recent graduates and bring in ideas that will contribute to their overall goals. His future aspirations include pursuing a career in finance as well as obtaining a graduate degree.

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## *BCAA Chapters and Affiliates*

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#### **Long Island Chapter**

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**Please visit our Web site at** <http://alumni.brooklyn.cuny.edu>

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