

BCAA

News

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Message from the BCAA President



In a 1905–1906 publication of the Brooklyn Teachers Association, a three-page article gave the pros and cons on a Brooklyn branch of the City University. Finally, in 1930, Brooklyn College was established at 66 Court Street. The Midwood/Flatbush campus opened in 1937.

Comparatively speaking, it took me eight years to establish myself. Attending BC mostly at night, I received my B.A. in 1970. I went back to school and received a master of science degree for elementary school teachers in 1975. I taught science at P.S. 219, in East Flatbush for thirty-one years (1970–2001). I retired from the Board of Education in 2001 and then

taught science at the Yeshivah of Flatbush from 2001 to 2009.

The religious and ethnic makeup of the Borough of Brooklyn can easily be seen in the student body at Brooklyn College. Our diversity and how everyone gets along was the subject of a front page story in U.S.A. Today, on August 15, 2007. The article began: “What is it about Coney Island Avenue? That’s what Brooklyn College sociologist Jerry Krase wonders as he rides the B68 bus along this five-mile commercial strip, which is populated at various stops by pockets of West Indians, Latinos, Pakistanis, Indians, Orthodox Jews, Chinese, Russians, Israelis, and Ukrainians. How do so many different kinds of people live so closely yet so peacefully?” This is what makes Brooklyn and the college so special.

When we entered college, hopes and dreams for the future were in front of us. As alumni, the education we received and continue to receive from Brooklyn College professors serves us well and is second to none.

I am a lifelong Brooklyn resident and have, over the years, studied Brooklyn’s vast history. In 2002, Borough President Marty Markowitz, ’70, appointed me the Official Brooklyn Borough Historian. I

love promoting Brooklyn and its fabulous history and diverse neighborhoods and, of course, Brooklyn College.

Now, seventy-nine years after the Brooklyn branch of the City University began, Brooklyn College is going strong and getting stronger. Our alumni have excelled in every kind of endeavor all over the country and the world. The Brooklyn College Alumni Association is dependent on its members. There has never been a better time to become active and support the many activities offered to Brooklyn College alumni. I have been a member of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association Board of Directors since 1994. For the past two years I was vice-president. Now, as president of the board, I look forward to working with alumni as well as current students, and, of course, with Brooklyn College’s new president, Karen L. Gould.

Sincerely,

Ron Schweiger, ’70

Brooklyn College Welcomes New President

by Virginia M. Alonso-Rainsford



The Alumni Association extends a warm welcome to the new president of Brooklyn College, Karen L. Gould, who comes to us from California State University, Long Beach, where she had been provost and senior vice-president for academic affairs since March 2007.

Prior to that appointment, President Gould served as dean at the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Cincinnati from 2001 to 2007, and as dean at the College of Arts and Letters at Old Dominion University from 1996 to 2001. In addition, she has held tenured faculty positions and administrative appointments at Bowling Green State University, Virginia Polytechnic University, and Bucknell University.

President Gould, who received a B.A. from Occidental College in 1970, a degree from the Sorbonne, and a Ph.D. in Romance languages from the University of Oregon in 1975, is an internationally known scholar in the field of French-Canadian literature.

We know that our alumni—in New York City, across the country, and abroad—wish her a successful tenure as the college's ninth president and as the first woman to hold this position. In the coming months, many of you will have the opportunity to meet President Gould at alumni events.

Prelaw Advisory Council Off to a Judicious Start

The second meeting of the Brooklyn College Prelaw Advisory Council took place on June 8. The council is a key forum in which legal professionals meet with faculty and administrators to review the college's prelaw offerings, and to consider ways to provide the best possible undergraduate preparation for careers in law.

A key aspect of the council is representation from diverse areas of the law, including public interest, commercial, and environmental law, and jurisprudence. Among the notable members of the council are Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Harvard University; Barry E. Hill, senior counsel for environmental governance, Office of International Affairs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, the first woman attorney general of New Jersey (1994–1996) and first woman chief justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey (1996–2006); and the Honorable Jack Weinstein, senior U.S. district judge, eastern district of New York.

At the meeting, Provost William Tramontano discussed the college's

historical role in producing significant

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numbers of future lawyers and physicians. Dean Donna Wilson presented the action items from the November 5, 2008, inaugural meeting, which identified the need for a writing tutor, LSAT prep, and an increase in the number of BC student law school applicants.

Professor of Political Science Sally Bermanzohn reported on the upgrading of BC's prelaw education and shared the list of suggested new courses, spanning political science to chemistry.

Associate Professor of Philosophy Catherine Kemp discussed providing informal career counseling to students through various resources, including lawyers and law professors. Professor Kemp discussed a concern that not all self-identified prelaw majors may possess academic readiness to earn competitive LSAT scores and successfully complete a law education.

Among the many action items that emerged from the discussion are (i) the need for a fine-tuned and updated prelaw website; (ii) a flowchart delineating pathways of guidance in LSAT prep and completion of law school applications; and (iii) better tracking of BC legal alumni who are

employed at key law schools.

In recognition of their generous time and support, the college would like to thank the following council members who attended our inaugural and second council events: Professor Ashar Sameer; Professor Sally Bermanzohn; Alan Blum, Esq.; Professor William Hellerstein; Barry Hill, Esq.; Assistant Professor Sarumathi Jayaraman; the Honorable Sterling Johnson; Associate Professor Catherine Kemp; Betty Lugo, Esq.; Professor Martin Mendelsohn; Carmen Pacheco, Esq.; Chief Justice Deborah Poritz; Myra Rochelson; Professor Manouska Saint Gilles; Marla Schreiber; Vice-President for Institutional Advancement Andrew Sillen; Phylesia Steele; Provost William Tramontano; the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, and Dean of Undergraduate Studies Donna Wilson.

We would also like to thank Alan Dershowitz and Robert Oliva, director of the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships, who were unable to attend the meetings, but whose support and participation are highly appreciated.

President Kimmich



When President Kimmich assumed the office of president in February 2000, he set his sights on a term of ten years. Kimmich, who studied history at Haverford College and Oxford University, came to Brooklyn College in 1973 and was appointed provost in 1988. After serving as interim chancellor of The City University of New York from 1997 to 1999, he returned to Brooklyn College as its

eighth president.

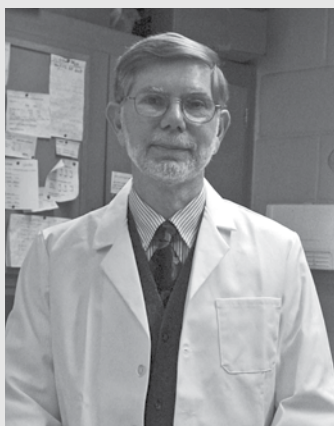
During his tenure there have been many changes and continual growth. The faculty has been rejuvenated, enrollment has increased, and we have an academically strong and award-winning student body. In addition, new construction and renovations have taken place on campus on a scale unseen for decades. While the Brooklyn College landscape has changed, it still continues to be one of the

most beautiful urban campuses.

Under Kimmich's visionary leadership our alma mater has taken its rightful place as a nationally renowned institution of higher learning. We now boast among our alumni two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, and the youngest person ever to win an Emmy Award. Our graduates include many who have made significant and lasting contributions in practically every field of endeavor. President Kimmich's commitment to an excellent education for all of our students provides a legacy that will certainly continue for generations to come.

As we come to the end of President Kimmich's tenure, we know that for him it is not just a conclusion but the beginning of a new and exciting future, a new work, and new phase of life. And so, the Brooklyn College Alumni Association thanks President Kimmich for all he's accomplished and offers a toast to his good health, success, and happiness. We know that his heart will always be at Brooklyn College.

Anthony Sclafani, '66, Director of the Psychology Feeding and Nutrition Lab



Entering James Hall to interview Dr. Anthony Sclafani, I felt a flutter of excitement. Among this distinguished professor of psychology's honors are a NIH Merit Research Award, a National Institute of Mental Health Research Scientist Award, and the Manheimer Award for Career Achievement in Chem sensory Sciences. He

has authored or coauthored more than two hundred scientific articles in national and international journals and books.

Born and raised in Staten Island, Anthony Sclafani traveled by ferry, train, and bus to get to Brooklyn College. As an undergraduate, he took courses in political science, only to find it too abstract. Seeking to better understand human behavior, he switched to psychology. Sclafani became interested in how the brain functioned. He began his research career in a Brooklyn College lab and pursued it at the University of Chicago, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on the dynamics of the brain controlling appetite. He has been working in this area ever since.

Professor Sclafani credits Professors Meyers and Raab as his most influential mentors at Brooklyn College. It was they who focused his interest on brain science. When Sclafani returned to his alma mater to teach, he inherited Professor Meyers's lab. His dream team comprises two senior scientists, two doctoral students, two research technicians, and two undergraduates. Their work revolves around the psychology of appetite. Using rats and mice they study the role of sweets and fatty taste in food choice. The sweet tooth of rodents shares similarities with humans—they are attracted to sugar, just as we are. Professor Sclafani and his team want to know what areas of the brain are involved.

In collaboration with St. Luke's—Roosevelt Hospital Center, a new technique, called translational research, has been developed to measure appetite in humans. Professor Sclafani continues to develop new methodologies to study the human appetite. Patents and grants are pending for these new advances.

In the United States, a spotlight is now focused on diabetes and obesity, and the quest for a cure. Professor Sclafani and his team may be the knights in shining armor who will discover answers that will benefit us all.

A Dozen Questions for Mr. Brooklyn, Borough President Marty Markowitz, '70



Interview conducted and edited by
Arlene Lichterman, '53

No one works harder for Brooklynites than Marty Markowitz. Enthusiastic, motivated, determined—his goal is to ensure that all of us have the opportunity to share in the historic renaissance of the borough. I had a chance to ask Markowitz about himself and what led him along the road to success.

What are your fondest childhood memories?

My fondest childhood memories are the Brooklyn Dodgers winning the World Series in 1955; Sid's Deli on Empire Boulevard, eating with my mother and Sid; the Famous Cafeteria on Sundays; and sleep-away camp.

What experiences in your childhood influenced your journey into politics?

From the earliest time, I can remember volunteering and joining groups and activities. I started volunteering in kindergarten.

What experiences at Brooklyn College led you down the political trail?

When I entered Brooklyn College I knew I wanted to be in politics and

I majored in political science. I was active in a house plan and was president of the evening student government organization [SGS] for seven years.

What keeps you feeling so strongly about Brooklyn?

I really believe that America will look like Brooklyn in years to come. Brooklyn has character and characters. It never gets boring in Brooklyn.

What do you feel was your greatest accomplishment as state senator?

Creating two of New York City's largest and longest-running free concert series. In addition, I cosponsored a bill against mandatory retirement.

As borough president, how do you influence tourism?

By working with the cruise line industry and Gray Line New York bus tours, I have been able to promote Brooklyn. It is now listed in books for tourists.

What other important projects have you spearheaded as Brooklyn borough president?

I will be bringing the New Jersey Nets to a new downtown arena, which will include housing around the site and a new park and amphitheater in the Atlantic Yards project. In 2010, I hope to bring back the Loew's Kings as a totally restored theater. I will continue to help restore Coney Island as "America's favorite playground."

Your enthusiasm is contagious. What motivates you to get so involved and what other programs do you have in the works?

I love my work. To me it is not work—it's my life. I always include health initiatives. On Valentine's Day, we celebrate couples in Brooklyn who

have been married fifty years or longer with a champagne-toast gathering at the Brooklyn Marriott Hotel. In addition, an annual restaurant week and a program to "Dine in Brooklyn" are on the agenda.

You are chairman of the Brooklyn League of Yiddish Sons of Ireland.

What is this about?

It is a Jewish-Irish group that walks every year in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Mr. Mann and his wife, Rosie, started the group, which was a labor group of Jews born in Ireland. When Mr. Mann died, Rosie took it over. When she passed away, I had the files and continued this tradition as a way of demonstrating my respect.

What do you see for Brooklyn's future?

I see continual growth. People are coming to Brooklyn for a better quality of life and a better place to raise children. I see it as a mecca, with large growth in the population of many ethnic groups. Lots of people enjoy living near an ocean. Brooklyn will be the best!

Who are the people most supportive of you?

I appreciate everyone's backing. Many different ethnic groups have supported me. My wife, Jamie, who is the greatest thing that has happened to me, is my staunchest supporter.

What comes after Brooklyn?

After my next term, I will end my public career. I will continue to work on health and other key issues. But whatever my future is, it will be in Brooklyn, and that includes Green-Wood Cemetery!

Brooklyn College Theater Alumni Helm Worldwide Project



Members of the Barefoot Theater Company (left to right): Michael LoPorto, '04; Stephen Gracia, '01; Francisco Solorzano, '01; and Victoria Malvagno, '00.

On March 31, 2009, the Barefoot Theater Company embarked upon the 70/70 Horovitz Project, a yearlong, worldwide festival celebrating the seventieth birthday of noted American playwright Israel Horovitz with readings and staged productions of seventy of his plays. Horovitz is the author of the award-winning *The Indian Wants the Bronx*, which introduced Al Pacino and John Cazale in its 1968 NYC premiere, and *Line*, which introduced Richard Dreyfuss.

The Barefoot Theater Company was founded in 1999 by a group of

Brooklyn College theater students: Nicole Haran, '00; Michael LoPorto, '04, associate director; Victoria Malvagno, '00, managing director; and Francisco Solorzano, '01, producing artistic director. They were joined in 2006 by yours truly, Stephen Gracia, '01, literary manager. Since its inception, the Barefoot Theater Company has successfully presented more than thirty productions, including original works and readings, as well as contemporary and classical plays.

The company found a natural fit with the work of Horovitz, which

has been described as visceral and important, with an energy that is unique in ontemporary American theater. As organizer and executive producer of the festival, the Barefoot Theater Company will lead more than fifty theater companies from nations around the globe, including: France, Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic, Scandinavia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Korea, Romania, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Israel, Canada, Scotland, and England in readings and fully staged productions.

A number of Brooklyn College alums will be working with Barefoot on this project, including: Luke Leonard, '98, and Andrea Paciottto, '97, in Italy; Si-Joon Yoon, '00, in Korea; Nessim Al-Yafi, '02, in Saudi Arabia; Yuki Nishiyama, '01, in Japan; and Euripides Laskaridis, '02, in Greece.

Here in New York, Barefoot Theater Company will present over thirty titles as readings, staged readings, and full productions, including the opening and closing nights.

A schedule of events, several of which are free to the public, is available at <http://www.barefoottheatrecompany.org/>.



When you speak of a loyal, dedicated Brooklyn College alumna, the name of Helene Garbow Mandel, '50, immediately comes to mind. Helene, who died this year, was the embodiment of an alumna who took pride in her background and became involved in matters academic.

Helene and her husband, Elliot, '50, both attended Brooklyn College. They are survived by their daughter, Sherry Mandel Copeland, Ed.D., '73; son, Gary, '80; and three grandchildren. Helene was looking forward to the birth of her first great-grandchild.

Helene was an education major and after graduation she became a teacher. She soon joined the Alumni Association and became an active member of the board of directors. Throughout the years she served on several committees and worked with the Activities Committee, which planned many of the social functions of the BCAA board. She was an active member of the Broward-Dade Chapter of the Alumni Association and reported regularly on its programs.

Her participation as well as her many endearing qualities will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

2009 Spring Homecoming-Alumni Reunion Dinner Dance

By Arlene Lichterman, '53

For those of us who attended the 2009 Alumni Reunion Dinner on April 27, it was a night to remember.

It was a sparkling event held on Stage 6 at Steiner Studios in the heart of the old Brooklyn Navy Yard. We enjoyed cocktails, dinner, and music as we sat overlooking the Manhattan skyline.

The spectacular view was matched by our sensational honorees. We saluted the 2008 and 2009 Alumna and Alumnus of the year, 2009 Young Alumni, the Classes of 1968 and 1969 (celebrating their 40th reunion) and all the alumni of the School of Education.

What a stellar group we had. Recipients of BCAA Awards are pictured below, left to right: Young Alumni Awards Jerry Goldstein, '93, and Young Jean Lee, M.F.A., '05; Alumnus of the Year Awards Irwin Schneiderman, '43, for 2008, and Fred M. Gerson, '71, for 2009; and Alumna of the Year Awards Hannah



Spring Homecoming

Alumni College Day

by Virginia M. Alonso-Rainsford

Three special alumni and three outstanding students were honored at BCAA Alumni College Day on April 26, 2009. Agnes Ford, '69, assistant vice-president, Contract Department at Guy Carpenter and Company, and former president of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association, and Don Lemon, '96, anchor of CNN's primetime weekend newscasts and CNN Newsroom with Don Lemon were presented with Distinguished Achievement Awards. Arlene Lichterman, '53, the former treasurer and current corresponding secretary of the BCAA and president of the BCAA Manhattan Chapter, was the recipient of the Jerome S. Milgram Award in recognition of her many years of service to the BCAA. At the association's Annual Meeting BCAA Student Awards were presented to Jennifer Sarhis, '09; Jia Xin Huang, '11; and Cassana Fisher-Ramos, '09.



Alumni College Day

Save the Date

Saturday Evening, April 17, 2010

Reunion of the Class of 1970,
Class of 1980, and Class of 1990
at Brooklyn College



Alumni College Day



BC Alumni News from the Central Texas Chapter

by Irene Danzker Deitch, '52

Greetings y'all from the newly formed official Central Texas Chapter of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (CTC/BCAA). Who could have known that so many BC'ers were lurking in the Lone Star State? We've met a wonderful, successful, and supportive group of alumni. SERENDIPITOUS INDEED!

Harvey, '55, and Sandra Seigel, '58, Pikoff, and Jack, '49, and Irene Danzker, '52, Deitch, all recent Texans, were invited to form and cochair an Alumni Chapter in Central Texas. The challenge of a Brooklyn College Chapter "out here" was appealing, and we remain mindful of what we as alumni can do for other alums living in Texas.

The Pikoffs and the Deitches met, liked each other, and found that they shared a commitment to the mission. Sandy and Irene collaborated on the organizational process. Each volunteered to host two brunches at her home. Then Iris, '65, and Barney Groten hosted a brunch. Each event attracted a different configuration of alumni, and resulted in a gradual increase in the number of participants. Several couples spontaneously met for dinner prior to a comedy club performance by another alum's wife.

A Sunday brunch at an Austin restaurant also proved to be a successful effort. In January our outreach strategies culminated in a Sunday brunch at the home of a member, which was enjoyed by twenty-six other alums, who appreciated a presentation by a noted music educator. Other members are now involved in planning events for the chapter, and thanks to another pair of dedicated volunteers, we now have a Google website.

Our group is diverse in years of graduation (from the late 1930s to 2007); geography (Central Texas, Northwest Austin, South/Southwest Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Houston, and even Dallas); and background (professional, business, education, arts). This has been a year filled with activities to attract and retain membership in our new chapter. We must thank an enthusiastic group of volunteers for a great chapter startup, including our group photographer. To celebrate our first anniversary Texas-style with tacos and margaritas, we enjoyed a Sunday brunch at Iron Cactus North in Austin. Hasta Luego!

Lord House Alumni Subject of Documentary

by Robert Sarnoff, '59

The reunion of the Class of 1959 was unique in that it has become part of a documentary, entitled *The ROMEOWS*, Retired Older Men Eating Out Wednesdays. These old Brooklyn College friends have known each other for half a century, ever since they won the All College Trophy as members of Lord House. Viewers will experience their armory of memories—comic, tragic, and dramatic. They sit at this round table, break pita, twirl pasta, and munch bok choy. When We Get Together, We Get Younger, an original

soundtrack, punctuates the film, highlighting the fun, affection, and intensity of these weathered, vibrant, immigrant sons of Flatbush, some first generation, as they continue to continue their affirmation of life.

For more information, kindly visit www.robertsarnoffilms.com.



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