

A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a blue jacket and a red scarf. They are performing a gesture with their right hand, palm facing down, fingers spread. The background is black.

# Brooklyn College *Magazine*

Fall 2008

## **Conquering the Stage**

The Performing Arts  
at Brooklyn College



*We knew we would have much to celebrate when we began to plan this issue about the performing arts at Brooklyn College. After all, the Theater Department and the Conservatory of Music have historically attracted celebrated artists to join their faculty and, in a city as rich in performing arts schools as New York City is, extremely talented students consistently seek us out, knowing they will be taught by a stellar faculty and given unique guidance for their careers.*

*Known in full throughout the theater and music world, where our alumni and faculty can be found in every performance venue—from backstage to the footlights; from costumers to voice coaches; from theater administrators to talent agents—our success might be a surprise to those beyond these realms.*

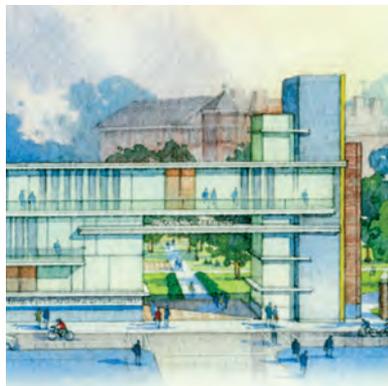
*Let this issue, then, serve to broadcast one of the College's many strengths. You'll read about a major artist who recently joined our faculty—the renowned concert pianist, Ursula Oppens; about our talented young alumni making their mark in theater—including Sarah Benson, the new artistic director of the celebrated Off-Broadway Soho Repertory Theater and her staging of the controversial play *Blasted*; and about the plans for a new performing arts center on campus that will house the departments and serve as a beacon of the arts to the borough and beyond. There are other terrific stories as well in this issue—including the late-breaking news that Salim Washington, associate professor of music, has received a Fulbright Fellowship to study jazz in South Africa. You can read all about it on page 12.*

*And, as always, we're continuing to make improvements to the magazine. Check out the Faculty and Staff News section, where you'll learn about the recent accomplishments and works of the people who put Brooklyn College on the map. We've also redesigned the Class Notes and Recent Books sections to make them more engaging and informative.*

*Enjoy the read. And let us hear your thoughts and comments.*

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To the Editor:

I just finished reading your wonderful and informative article about Professor Hobart Jarrett. As a college assistant at Brooklyn College, I had the good fortune to find this magazine on my desk this morning, and since I really enjoyed the movie so much, I was eager to read about what inspired the screenplay. The in-depth article was well written, and I learned a great deal about Professor Jarrett, whom I found out not only taught here at Brooklyn College but inspired so many toward personal growth and achievement. This June, my son graduated from this great institution with a master's degree in education after receiving his bachelor's degree from Brooklyn as well, and I am even more proud of his achievement now that I have learned about the legacy of this great man and his contributions to the history of Brooklyn College. Thank you!

Tina Rice  
Office of the Registrar

To the Editor:

I was saddened some years back to learn of the death of Hobart Jarrett, professor emeritus of English, whom you profiled in the spring issue of *Brooklyn College Magazine*. While teaching at the College, I came to know Professor Jarrett quite well and recall once being invited to a party at Glad's and his West End Avenue home.

During those years, I was one of a group of nine or ten faculty who met regularly at a watering hole not far from the College. We styled these informal get-togethers as "deans' meetings," and in fact among the group there were deans and department chairs. Hobart enjoyed these opportunities to kick back and relax, and as I recall, was one of the regular participants. I still recall Hobart's

story of crossing the Atlantic on the *Queen Elizabeth* and how, in order to keep from overindulging at the buffet table, he had to call on depths of self-discipline that, until that time, he hadn't known he possessed. On another occasion he and I talked at length on the music and dancing performers of the '30s and '40s, people like Astaire and Rogers and Buck and Bubbles. Hobart was insightful, funny, and ready to talk about anything. You could shoot the breeze with him for ages without ever realizing how much he knew about Shakespeare and the Elizabethans.

Your article was correct in saying that Hobart and Professor Franklin never spoke of the riots or the effects they had on Hobart's family and his father's business. Although I knew he came from Tulsa, I hadn't known about the events of the Greenwood years. But if you knew Hobart, you could readily imagine him as an outstanding debater. Along with being intelligent and articulate, he was extremely engaging. And probably because he'd seen and experienced so much, he was unflappable.

Albert Ashforth

To the Editor:

I was privileged to be a student of Professor Jarrett's. I still cherish my copies of Dover Wilson's *What Happens in Hamlet* and Bradley's *Shakespearean Tragedy*, which were much discussed and read in class. If I open the pages I can hear his voice. The moment I heard it I knew I was in the presence of greatness. What a joy to learn that he was one of the great debaters from the film I loved. He remains one of the treasured memories of my experience at Brooklyn.

Lynn Kolk Easton, '67

To the Editor:

Thank you for the incredible article on Professor Jarrett, the man who introduced me to Shakespeare. I took his course in 1969 when BC was roiled by anti-war demonstrations. With a brother fighting [in Vietnam], I came to campus every day feeling like I didn't belong. Then, in Professor Jarrett's class, all that fell away and I was just a student uncovering new worlds. His readings of *Othello* were fit for the stage. I could never have imagined the indignities he endured throughout his younger years, and nothing in his demeanor ever betrayed them. He was a phenomenal teacher. My condolences to his family on his passing.

Delia McQuade Emmons, '73

## Brooklyn College Anti-War Coalition

To the Editor:

I read with great interest the article about the Brooklyn College Anti-War Coalition that includes many people with very diverse backgrounds. At the same time, the article made me reflect that it was my education at Brooklyn College that had strengthened my belief in having my own independent opinion and expressing it. While ending the U.S. military presence in Iraq sounds like a great idea on the surface, few realize the negative consequences of that approach.

Currently, Iraq produces about 2.5% of all the world's oil supply and much more is produced in the neighboring countries. The U.S. military acts as a stabilizing force in Iraq and the whole region. If our troops leave, the situation will more than likely escalate within Iraq and might pull Iran and Saudi Arabia into the conflict. Even an increase in the perceived risk of disruption in oil production affects the price of oil.

The U.S. should not have been in this situation in the first place. Dating from the oil embargo thirty years ago, many opportunities have been missed to develop viable alternative energy sources. However regretful that fact may be, we have to deal with the situation at hand while catching up on the long-term solutions, such as nuclear power, conservation, and renewable energy. Once we solve our energy dependence and make sure the Iraq army can control their country and resist Iranian influence, we should be able to gradually pull most if not all American troops out of Iraq.

I thought it was important to provide an alternative view. While we should end the war in Iraq, it can only be done once we end our dependence on Middle Eastern oil.

Dmitry Abramson, '04

### Communications

To the Editor:

The communications from Brooklyn College have been getting better and better over the past few years. Now, the spring 2008 issue of *Brooklyn College Magazine* is really OVER THE TOP!

I enjoyed every article, and it made me ever so proud of my alma mater. I'm sending my issue around to my four children, who, although graduates of different schools, will enjoy the humane spirit and energy that proudly bursts forth from the pages.

Keep up your good work.

Andrew Dibner, '48

To the Editor:

Kudos to the editors, who turned out a slick and intelligent publication.

Just to get the record straight about my blurb on page 36, my graduation class was not 1942.

Paul Treatman, '48



## Honoring a Performing Arts Impresario

*When Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts opened its doors in March 1955, Leontyne Price was on stage, and Dante Negro was in the wings. A former Brooklyn College dean of administration and professor of French and Italian language and literature in the College's Department of Romance Languages, Negro was tapped to preside over the new center and was instrumental in bringing a wide range of outstanding artists to the Brooklyn community. For more than twenty-three years, Negro programmed celebrated operatic singers and instrumental soloists as well as symphonic and chamber orchestras. He also presented many emerging artists, including Luciano Pavarotti, Van Cliburn, and Peter Nero. He created the Great Artists/Music and the Great Artists/Dance series. In an innovative move, he supported a resident chamber music ensemble of notable stature—the Carnegie String Quartet—which gave intimate performances in Gershwin Theater and music seminars on the stage at various times throughout the season.*

*Negro died on January 10, 2008, at the age of 101. On the Performing Arts Center's season roster were the famed Moiseyev Dance Company of Russia and the Tony Award-winning Acting Company in *The Tempest*—ample evidence that Dante Negro's vision for the Performing Arts Center remains as his living legacy.*



## The Challenge of the Future

### The New Provost and the Future of Brooklyn College

*We sat down with the new provost, William A. Tramontano, a distinguished educator and researcher in the biological sciences, shortly after he took up his official duties this summer to ask him about the goals and challenges ahead.*

#### ON HIS GOALS

**What is your top priority as provost?**

To increase the amount of grants and contracts our departments obtain. We are a state-assisted—not state supported—institution, and we have to get more financial assistance from outside sources.

**What kinds of grants or funding can the College get?**

We can divide them as those devoted for pure research and those that are programmatic, i.e., to develop new programs. We're totaling \$14 million in outside funding.

**What should be our goal?**

Considering that we have a large faculty, a legitimate achievable goal would be in the \$20-million range a year, between private foundations and public programs.

**How long should it take us to get to the \$20-million mark?**

Roughly, five years. Keeping in mind that not all of the federal programs are always available, we need to be more efficient at getting funding from private foundations.



William Tramontano holds a B.S. in biology from Manhattan College, an M.S. in biology from New York University, and a Ph.D. from New York University with a major in physiology. In 2002, he received the Distinguished LaSallian Educator Award from Manhattan College. Tramontano served the City University of New York on the Research Deans Committee and

the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science (National Science Foundation).

He is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Sigma Xi Honor Society, Botanical Society of America, Council for Undergraduate Research, and National Association for the Advisors for the Health Professions. Tramontano taught at Manhattan

College from 1981 to 2003.

From 1988 to 2002, he served as chairperson of the Biology Department at Manhattan College/College of Mount Saint Vincent, where he also taught biology with the rank of full professor since 1991. He attended the Jesuit Brooklyn Preparatory High School, today the site of CUNY's Medgar Evers College.

## ON MASTER PLANNING

### Could you explain master planning?

We bring in academic program planners who will take an inventory of each department, factoring in the number of students and classes, the size of the faculty, and equipment and space needs. They ask where we want that department to be ten years from now.

### How soon will we see the Master Plan?

The process started in October and will probably take us at least nine months to finalize. Our quest is to bring the beauty of the Quad into the buildings. Take the library: It's as beautiful on the outside as it is efficient on the inside. We need to do that to Ingersoll, to James, to Roosevelt.

## ON THE FACULTY

### The College just hired forty-one new professors.

#### That's good news.

We're trying to make up for lost time. We had a long period in the 1980s and 1990s where CUNY didn't do any significant hiring. When we underwent our last Middle States review in 1998, 60 percent of our faculty members were full-time professors. Today only 40 percent are full-time professors. We still have a number of faculty members that are near retirement.

### What do you expect from the faculty, both new and veteran?

I need them to be great researchers, scholars, and teachers of our students. I think it's very important that we mentor our young faculty members and show them that there is a way to manage their time effectively, and that they can excel in the classroom, in the lab, on the concert stage, in the art gallery.

## ON THE FUTURE

### With all the changes that are taking place in the world, will our school be ready to help new students?

I think the fact that the College selected me, a scientist, to become the new provost is a statement. CUNY is in the middle of the decade of the sciences, and our College needs to be a bigger contributor in this effort.

### How will students contribute to this?

There are new doctoral science students who are coming into CUNY and need comprehensive packages as incentives to stay here. President Kimmich has committed College resources to support this.

### What kind of work can the school do to have a significant impact in our community?

Our school needs to be a good citizen by responding to the needs of our borough. Take, for example, the issue of sustainability. Ours is a very fragile urban environment. Nearly three miles down the road we have the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a stop for migratory birds and one of the most visited national recreation areas in the United States. We can find many ways of providing direct help to improve the health of the bay and the ecosystem, while allowing the residents of the borough and beyond to be able to utilize that resource in a sustainable, ecologically wise fashion.

### Anything you want to add?

We cannot afford to be stagnant for even a day, as President Kimmich said. We have to keep moving, always changing. That's the nature of education. We're a living lab.

## Cultural Studies Sleuth Scores Prestigious Biography Fellowship



*James Davis stands in front of the building in Bedford-Stuyvesant where Eric Walrond made his home in the 1920s.*

This year James C. Davis, an associate professor of English who garnered a 2005 Whiting Award for Excellence in Teaching, is one of the first four fellows of the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the CUNY Graduate Center. The highly competitive award releases fellows from teaching for one year to focus solely on their research.

In his book *Commerce in Color* (University of Michigan Press, 2007), Davis investigated the construction of consumer culture and concepts of race during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by analyzing the literature, advertisements, social trends, and historical

events of the times. As a biography fellow, Davis will zero in on an influential black writer of the Harlem Renaissance as he completes his new manuscript on the life of Eric Walrond (the working title of the book is *Eric Walrond: Writing Beauty, Race, and Rage Across the Caribbean Diaspora*). “So many aspects of Walrond’s life and work are mysterious that I feel like a detective,” says Davis, with pleasure.

Born in British Guiana and brought up in Panama, Walrond spent only ten years in the United States. “He was widely known within Harlem Renaissance circles; he was even published outside of those—in *Vanity Fair*, for example,” notes Davis. Walrond quickly became involved with political work—with Marcus Garvey and the Urban League. In 1926 his only book, *Tropic Death*, was published. “It was considered a real turning point in black writing,” says Davis, noting that the book appealed to both black critics and white publishers.

Then, in 1928, Walrond received a Guggenheim Fellowship. “He just took off and moved to England,” says Davis, “and as far as anyone in the United States was concerned, he stopped writing. In fact, he didn’t. In later life, he wrote about anti-colonialism, but he seems to have sabotaged his career. I don’t know what happened,” declares Davis, “but I’ll find out.”

As intriguing as solving Walrond’s riddle will be, Davis will be glad to return to the College. “It is such a privilege to be able to devote time to research and writing, but I also look forward to my classes,” he says.

## Amy Hempel

She made a name for herself by keeping things brief and is often compared to Chekhov for her precise dissection of her characters with an off-handed tenderness and compassion. The recipient of the 2008 Rea Award for the Short Story—the most prestigious award in the genre—Amy Hempel is now taking on a new long-term project.

Hempel, a Guggenheim fellow, took over the Brooklyn College M.F.A. program in fiction writing from Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Michael Cunningham this fall. Thanks to the reputation Cunningham helped build, the program this year had more applicants than ever—some four hundred for its fifteen places.

“The good news for students and continuing faculty is that Michael and I are very much in line in thinking about fiction, teaching, and what works best,” said Hempel. “So it’s not like people will

arrive and find something they don’t recognize.”

Hempel plans to make the program more interdisciplinary by adding more aspects of poetry and playwriting to the curriculum.

“Amy is enormously popular with younger writers, and our students are very excited to have her here,” said Ellen Tremper, chairperson of the English Department.

*Fight Club* author Chuck Palahniuk once said of Hempel, “Every sentence isn’t just crafted, it’s tortured over. Every

# Up for Grubbs

In his twenty-year music career, assistant professor and avant-garde rocker David Grubbs, director of the Brooklyn College Performance and Interactive Media Arts Program, has never hesitated to explore new art forms and collaborate with other artists.

Trained as a classical piano player from the time he was a child, Grubbs picked up the guitar in his teens. "I became interested in punk rock and new wave music," he says. His high school band, Squirrel Bait, toured the country and opened for such punk rock bands of renown as Husker Du and Big Black. After attending Georgetown University, Grubbs went to the University of Chicago to study modern and contemporary American poetry in the English Department, which encompasses film, television, and recorded music studies.

"Rather than becoming a poet or a literary critic, I developed a keen interest in writing about music," Grubbs says. "I wrote extensively about music mediation and reception," he adds, pointing out that his first teaching job was in the Sound Department of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Grubbs has produced a vast number of scholarly creations and nine solo CDs, including *An Optimist Notes the Dusk*, an album that uses his native Kentucky as a motif and displays a more pronounced spiritual undertone than was evident in his earlier productions. In addition to such accolades as the grant he received from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts—an organization founded by John Cage and Neo-Dadaist-painter Jasper Johns—he has collaborated with poet Susan Howe on *Souls of the Labadie Tract* and has composed the soundtracks for award-winning movies (Augusto Contento's *Onibus*) and for art installations with Angela Bulloch, the Canadian-born sculptor who resides in Germany.

This fall Grubbs was invited to compose a piece for an upcoming collective exhibit in which Bulloch will



*Above, David Grubbs holds a harmonium (peti), an accordian-like instrument popular in Asia and India. Right, cover of Grubbs's newest CD.*



participate, *theanyspacewhatever*, which is running until January 7 at the Guggenheim Museum. As Grubbs describes it, his new composition for Bulloch's *Hybrid Song Box.4* is a twenty-six-minute soundtrack that incorporates six distinct variations on a four-minute composition, creating a sense of both the familiar and the unexpected for the careful listener.

It will no doubt be something to be see—and hear.



quote and joke, what Hempel tosses out comedian-style, is something funny or profound enough you'll remember it for years."

Her first collection of short stories, *Reasons to Live*, was published with the help of the famed writer and literary editor Gordon Lish, with whom Hempel studied in a series of workshops. She said that Lish greatly influenced her teaching style.

"Really the first thing that turned on the lights for me was his absolute certainty that being able to do this is not

about talent but will. I thought, well, then I could do it. I wanted it as least as much if not more than anybody else," Hempel said. "That was a real vote of confidence at the start. Things like that have really stayed with me and profoundly affect the way I try to help students."

In the fall, Hempel helped bring writers Rick Moody, Jim Shepard, and Joseph O'Neill to the campus to do readings for students. And Cunningham made a cameo appearance at a Q&A with students.



# The Play's the Thing

by Jamilah Evelyn

*Using ingenuity, creativity, and the strong network they built in college, theater alums create a lot of buzz.*

By late summer, critical reviews and previews for the coming season were out.

The *Village Voice*, the *New York Times* and *TimeOut New York* all had chimed in on how excited they were about the lineup Sarah Benson, '04, had assembled for the coming season at Soho Repertory Theatre, where she is the artistic director. A thirty-three-year-old production company rooted in Manhattan's downtown theater scene, Soho Rep has made a name for itself by producing off-kilter, thought-provoking plays for a largely young, hip audience.

"The astoundingly kick-ass season that artistic director Sarah Benson has lined up... makes us a little more hopeful about the future," wrote David Cote in *TimeOut New York*.

Meanwhile, the reviews for *Dog Day Afternoon*, a play based on the famous Brooklyn movie of the same name, had come in as well. Produced by Barefoot Theatre Company, a close-knit group of Brooklyn College alumni, *Dog Day*, the play, had just wrapped up four weeks of mostly sold-out performances at a small studio on Theater Row. Francisco Solorzano, '00, the group's artistic director, who also wrote, directed, and starred in *Dog Day*, notes that the play was reviewed by *Backstage New York*, the *Times*, and *TimeOut*.

The *Times* wrote that the play was "clearly a labor of love for Francisco Solorzano," saying he had done a "credible job," and applauding much of the cast. Solorzano says the group was stoked that their nonprofit theater company was intriguing enough to be reviewed in the lofty pages of the Friday arts section of the *Times*. "Everyone in the arts world reads that," says Solorzano. "It was the first thing you saw when you turned to that section."

Both Benson and the Barefoot ensemble have created substantial buzz recently in the New York theater world. Along with their determination and their commitment to their separate visions, they both push the limits and engage new audiences in ways that have left their former professors impressed.

To boot, they all credit much of their success to a network that Theater Department Chairperson Tom Bullard says is beginning to pick up some steam: the Brooklyn College Mafia, a theater-making posse of increasing stature.

"It's a simple idea, really, that I stole from the Yale Mafia, and it's just about making sure that our theater alumni stay connected to each other; that they network and create job opportunities for each other," Bullard explains. "It's great to see both Sarah Benson and the Barefoot Theatre group taking that to heart."

## TAKING IT DOWNTOWN

Benson, in fact, landed an internship at Soho Rep while she was still a student in the M.F.A. directing program with the help of Jens Boutrup, '03, who was working there at the time. The Rep's staff is stocked with BC alums, including her executive director, Tania Camargo, '04; the cochair of the theater company's writer/director lab, Danny Manly, '07; as well as Benson's assistant for *Blasted*, Meghan Finn, '08, a development associate at Soho Rep. "I am an über fan of Brooklyn College," says Benson, who received a Distinguished Alumna Award at the 2008 Commencement Exercises.

"I think it attracts really talented and unpretentious people, so I am always eager to work with them."

Benson has also commissioned a play by Thomas Bradshaw, '04, who has long admired the work of Professor of English Mac Wellman, head of the playwriting section of the English Department's M.F.A. program in creative writing. A noted playwright, Wellman also serves on Soho Rep's artistic council alongside playwright and Obie Award-winner Young Jean Lee, '06. "It's nice to have a place I can send students and know they are taken seriously," says Wellman.

British-born and not yet thirty when she was named artistic director of Soho Rep, which was in the midst of upgrading its stature, Benson is a bit of a wunderkind in this hard-luck industry. During her first year, the company moved to Off-Broadway status from Off-Off-Broadway, thanks to successful fundraising efforts, and announced a plan to increase its production run to three shows, up from the one or two it had done in recent years. And, adds Wellman, in an increasingly bottom-line-oriented industry, Soho Rep is one of a dwindling number of theaters committed to doing edgy work by up-and-coming writers, which only underscores Benson's task.

"She'll be fine," says Wellman, who was a member of the committee that hired Benson—along with the executive vice-president of Disney Creative Entertainment and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's executive director. "But it will be important for her to take risks."

## A RISKY FIRST STEP

Which brings her to *Blasted*, written by another British prodigy, Sarah Kane, who committed suicide before she was thirty. But if she's at all anxious about kicking off her latest season by staging the New York premiere of a highly controversial play that features cannibalism and two rape scenes, Benson's laid-back demeanor belies it.

On a warm September day just before rehearsals, Benson shrugs off any suggestion that this premiere will be anywhere near as contentious as it was when it debuted in London and stirred what has been described as one of the biggest theatrical scandals in some decades. Though many of them later recanted, most theater critics scoffed that the play was gratuitously shocking. (One of the play's most high-profile detractors at the time was the famous British arts critic Michael Billington of *The Guardian* who, ironically,



*Sarah Benson, on the set of her new directorial effort, **Blasted**, at Soho Repertory Theatre.*

wrote a glowing recommendation for Benson when she applied to Brooklyn College.)

"Hopefully enough time has passed that it can happen without all that baggage," says Benson. "You can just never tell how people are going to respond to work. But I feel like I can trust the text so much, and I have a great group of people, from the actors to the designers."

Benson also has the support of Simon Kane, the playwright's brother and executor of his sister's estate. He comes to Benson's rehearsals and has been described as very protective of Sarah Kane's legacy, having

rejected several production requests for *Blasted*. Benson humbly relates that she secured a meeting with Simon Kane, "and by the end of the conversation, we decided we both wanted to make it happen in New York."

But Bullard, who has kept in close contact with Benson, doesn't see any coincidence in the fact that she was chosen to direct the New York premiere of the infamous play. "It's part of what makes her unique," he says. "Her ability to gain people's trust."

## CREATING THEIR OWN THEATER

And that would be just one more thing Benson has in common with the Barefoot Theatre Company, whose next big production will be a festival of classic plays and new works by celebrated playwright Israel Horowitz, who won an Obie for *The Indian Wants the Bronx* and also wrote *Line*, which is now in its thirty-third year of continuous production. He turns seventy in March.

In 2000, Barefoot secured the rights to two short plays by Horowitz and was in the middle of casting when they got an e-mail from him asking if he could swing by rehearsals and discuss some ideas. Solorzano says the two of them hit it off and Barefoot went on to produce some

thirty Horowitz plays, including several original works.

Founded ten years ago, Barefoot originated when a group of theater students saw creating their own company as the only way to work on plays that spoke to the kinds of issues they cared about.

"I never was cast in any of Brooklyn

College's Mainstage productions, so I started thinking about ways to create my own work," Solorzano says.

Together with Victoria Malvagno, '99, and friend Michael LoPorto, '04, he set about seeking plays to produce and looking for theater space. Another Brooklyn College student, Eric Nightengale, '94, who is now a member of the theater company's board, had connections with the 78th Street Theatre Lab, where the company staged many of its early productions. They pulled in Stephen Gracia, '02, who currently works in the College's Scholarships Office, to write plays, and many of the actors (including LoPorto's wife, Lisa Melita French, M.F.A., '97) are Brooklyn College alumni.

Today, Malvagno is managing director; LoPorto is associate director (he also works in the College's Academic Advisement Center), and Gracia is literary manager.

"Ten years is a long time for a theater company to still be around," says Rose Bonczek, head of the undergraduate theater program in acting, who knew most of the group when they were students. "But I'm not surprised because I always saw the passion in them."

## CREATIVE AND CHALLENGING

The group also has a passion for intimate and experimental theater: They once staged a fight in the middle of the audience, and for another play featuring a rehab clinic, they had everyone in the audience wear name tags.



*Members of the Barefoot Theatre Company, left to right: Michael LoPorto, Stephen Gracia, Francisco Solorzano, Victoria Malvagno.*

"We tend to be attracted to avant garde theater tricks," says LoPorto. "We like to do plays that are challenging to the actors and to the audience. We're not looking to do a sitcom. Why bother? Theater is hard work for the audience, so it had better be interesting." "We've taken a lot of risks, but we've always

hit more than we've missed," adds Gracia.

Bonczek, who is a member of Barefoot's advisory board along with Judylee Vivier, head of the College's graduate program in acting, couldn't be more proud. Bonczek asks, "Would you ever have something creatively exciting if people didn't take risks?"

After ten years in business, the Barefoot group says they feel like they are starting to turn a corner. They received that *Times* review thanks to the help of another alumna, publicist Penny Landau, '76. They are looking into establishing a permanent presence, possibly in downtown Manhattan, and are forming some committees to write for more grants. During the *Dog Day* run, several producers and investors expressed interest in securing the rights to do productions of the Barefoot version. A representative from Drama Desk, which doles out awards not only to Broadway shows but to Off- and Off-Off Broadway as well, came out on the final night of the show. "*Dog Day* was our most successful production to date, and we just want to build on this momentum," says Malvagno.

## OPENING NIGHT

Meanwhile, more reviews, this time in early October as the Rep's production of *Blasted* opened.

"A must-ticket for those interested in contemporary drama," wrote New Jersey's *Star Ledger*, before warning: "Better not eat your dinner before you go."

*continued on page 31*

# Raising the Stage

## A New Performing Arts Center for Brooklyn College

Lately, Brooklyn seems to be physically vibrating from all the music, theater, and performances taking place day and night across the borough. From the new theater district springing up around the Brooklyn Academy of Music downtown, to the makeshift marquees for performance venues beginning to grace former storefronts and factories in Bushwick, pathways to accommodate the sparkling stream of new talent are popping up everywhere. The cream of the crop, though, will surely be the Brooklyn College Performing Arts Center.

Construction is scheduled to begin next fall, and the center is expected to open in 2012. It will house two performance spaces. The mainstage, a versatile modular 250-seat theater, will be the most technologically advanced performance space in the borough and will include audio and video control rooms wired digitally for television and radio transmission. A smaller, 200-seat theater will have variable acoustics and flexible stage configurations to accommodate everything from chamber orchestras to experimental theater.

Designed by Pfeiffer Partners Architects—whose projects include the Disney Hyperion Theater and the

Los Angeles County Museum of Art—and ARUP Engineers, it will be the College's first "green" building, making use of environmentally sustainable building materials, systems, and finishes. As the future home of the College's Department of Theater and Conservatory of Music, the center also will accommodate rehearsal rooms for theatrical, orchestral, and choral and vocal music; a state-of-the-art recording studio; a center for computer music; over thirty music studios and practice rooms; and a large scene shop for set construction. The large windows and cantilevered facade will provide passers-by with a dramatic peek inside the building, while in back of the building, an unused asphalt amphitheater is scheduled to be partially transformed into a gracious, art-filled outdoor

# Fulbright Fellow Takes Jazz to South Africa

Associate Professor Michael Washington, a faculty member of the Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College, has been honored with a Fulbright Fellowship. He will spend the first eight months of 2009 in South Africa courtesy of America's flagship international educational exchange program.

Under the terms of his Fulbright Fellowship, Washington—who is known to colleagues, students, and fellow musicians as "Salim," a name he chose for himself in his youth—will devote his time to lecturing and carrying out research at the University of Kwazulu-Natal, in Durban, from January through August 2009 on the subject of "The Aesthetics and Social Valences of South African Jazz."

By social valences, Washington means "the ways in which the music—the aesthetics of music—informed or are informed by the social practices of the nation that the music comes from." He noted that South Africa, along with Cuba and Brazil, is a place where musicians have adapted jazz to their own particular cultures. "The jazz press has lionized Europe and Japan as the great centers of jazz outside of New York," he said. "But it seems to me that the kinds of jazz that are played in those places are very derivative of the kind of jazz you hear in the United States."

His particular interest, he said, "is in the narrative that surrounds jazz in South Africa, which has a deep jazz tradition and has been playing it for over a century. I'm interested to see how the music has changed over the years."

Washington added, "I've wanted to go to South Africa since the seventies. But going back then would have meant being there under apartheid where I would have had to travel as an 'honorary white.' African American performers who went there had to perform for white-only audiences. That was repugnant to me."

A native of Memphis, Tennessee, Washington grew up in Detroit. In his teens he mastered the saxophone, flute, and oboe, and he studied piano as well. He attended Harvard University for a while, taking time off to further his career as a jazz musician, composer, and arranger.

Washington founded a Boston-based group, the Roxbury Blues Aesthetic; played with a number of ensembles; and traveled extensively—playing music festivals in Canada, Latin America, and Europe. He also conducted music workshops. Since moving his base of operations to New York, he has become pretty much a Friday-night fixture at St. Nick's Pub in the Sugar Hill section of Harlem, frequently appearing as leader of his latest group, Harlem Arts Ensemble.

courtyard, reminiscent of the Museum of Modern Art's sculpture garden.

Almost equally as exciting is the opportunity the project affords to redesign one of the most heavily used entrances to the College campus. An elegant thirty-foot-high portal off Hillel Place and Campus Road will align the entrance with the library's tower. The illuminated portal will appear to glow at night, offering a welcoming beacon for both students and visitors.

The center is the first public/private partnership supporting higher education in Brooklyn. Private fundraising began with a \$10 million challenge grant from Leonard, '50, and Claire, '52, Tow in May 2003. In 2006, the College and the Brooklyn College Foundation raised some



\$46 million in public and private funds for the project. Alumni benefactors who joined the Tows in making the center possible include Sam E. Beller, '59; Don Buchwald, '59; Morton L. Topfer, '59; James Fantaci, '68; Murray Koppelman, '57; Howard

Wohl, '64; Edwin H. Cohen, '62; Barry R. Feirstein, '74; Michael S. Gardner, '61; Michael Lynne, '61; and Marge Magner, '69. Woody Tanger and the estate of Walter Cerf, a former professor of philosophy, also contributed.

In the latter half of the 1990s, "I went back to Harvard to complete my B.A. and to go on for my Ph.D.," he said, intending at first to concentrate on the Wynton Marsalis revolution of the 1980s but eventually turning to John Coltrane instead. He received his doctorate in 2000.

He revealed that his mentor at Harvard University, Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., did not want him to come to Brooklyn College.

"He wanted me to stay in the Ivy League," Washington said. "But I was attracted to teaching at Brooklyn College. Besides, I'm a musician first and foremost, and I wanted to be in New York. Brooklyn College students are for the most part hardworking and appreciative. It brings special challenges from time to time—for instance, in one class I will typically have some students with excellent preparation and who perform at a level consistent with the nation's elite universities, and in the same class students who have had much less preparation and exposure. But just like the many different ethnicities and religions represented in our student population, I view this as a strength and a testament to our commitment to democracy."





# The Formidable Heart of Ursula Oppens

By Richard M. Sheridan

Ursula Oppens is a peerless concert pianist with two Grammy nominations to her name—and now a distinguished professor in the Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College—but you wouldn't know it as she sat down on the deck under the spreading branches of the linden trees outside Whitehead Hall.

Oppens's name shines brightly among the stars that populate the rarefied universe of classical music. She has earned acclaim not only as an interpreter of the standard repertoire—Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, and others—but also as a champion of contemporary American classical music. Her artistry led *Time* magazine to write: “To each work, no matter how disparate in content and style, Oppens brings both a formidable technique and an unerring ear for seductive sonority. . . . [She] understands that the same pianistic virtues called for in Beethoven and Mozart are necessary in new music.”

But as she chatted about her life and the reasons that brought her to Brooklyn College, there was nothing of the diva about this diminutive, silver-haired star. Wearing a simple red top, khaki slacks, and flats, she appeared almost girlish at sixty-four. She had just conducted her first piano studio-class on campus, and a warm smile lit up her intense brown eyes.

“I'm thrilled to be here,” she said. “Really, I am.” Before coming to the College, Oppens spent fourteen years teaching the twentieth-century repertoire at Northwestern University, where she was the John Evans distinguished professor of music.

“Brooklyn College's was an offer I couldn't refuse,” she laughed. “I'm a New Yorker, and all the while I was out there in Chicago, I was commuting. Besides, the parents of everyone I know graduated from here.”

Professor Nancy Hager, who was director of the Conservatory from 1989 to 2006, played a significant role in bringing Oppens to Brooklyn, and she filled in some of the details.

“The Conservatory previously had two distinguished professors on the faculty, but both had retired,” Hager explained. “At the suggestion of a

former Conservatory faculty member, Amnon Wolman, who had been Oppens's colleague at Northwestern and who indicated that she might be interested in coming to Brooklyn, I called her."

"There were other candidates, but no one else could match her. She is a recognized champion of American music," Hager added, noting that the recommendations for Oppens were among the strongest the City University had ever received in support of a candidate for distinguished professor:

Oppens was very receptive to the idea of joining the Brooklyn College faculty, said Hager. "When we talked about her coming here, she asked about everything and had very high standards. What would she be expected to do? What were the facilities like that would be available to her? She was very thorough. And she was very concerned for her students. She even deferred coming here for a year so that she did not have to leave the students she had at Northwestern in the lurch."

Oppens's dedication is just as obvious to anyone who has sat in on one of her piano studio-classes, conducted on the stage of Levenson Recital Hall. Oppens stands, body bent forward, feet planted in an open stance, hands outstretched as if to lift the spirit of the student musician. Her voice is gentle but lively, urging the performer to rise to the musical challenge.

"You're doing so beautifully," she says encouragingly to a young woman who has chosen to play a section of composer Felix Mendelssohn's *Song Without Words*. "That was very nice."

"Brava!" she exclaims, clapping her hands at the conclusion of the lesson. "When you take a musical chance like that, people listening to you get very excited."

Later she tells her visitor: "You don't want to make your students fearful, you don't want to browbeat them."

Explaining her personal approach to teaching, she adds, "you want them to do better and to enjoy what they're doing."

The young Ursula Oppens seemed predestined to become a star of the musical world; she was brought up in an unusually musical household, on Manhattan's Upper West Side. Her German-born father, Kurt, and her mother, Edith, born in Transylvania, had both earned doctorates in musicology in European universities. They met and married during the turbulent 1930s and, in 1938, when the couple was living in Prague, they were forced to flee for safety to America.

"They were Jewish," their daughter explains simply.

In New York City, Kurt Oppens made his living tuning pianos. He also published books about music and authored the program notes for the Aspen Music Festival and School, an annual event in Colorado now in its sixth decade and ranked among the world's most illustrious training grounds

for young musicians. The family spent the summer months in Colorado, and Edith Oppens taught piano to students at the Aspen School. She also served for many years on the faculty of New York City's Mannes College of Music (now a division of the New School) as well as offering private piano lessons to students in her home.

"At three-and-a-half I could read music," Ursula Oppens says. "By five I was taking lessons—little five-finger exercises," and between the ages of seven and eleven she received piano lessons from her mother. She credits her mother with setting her on a musical career path, even though she later studied with such well-respected teachers as Leonard Shure—who took charge of her piano instruction from the age of fifteen—and Guido Agosti, her teacher at the Chigiana Musical Academy, in Italy, from 1969 to 1970.

In a 1995 interview with Oppens, Richard Dyer, the long-time music critic of the *Boston Globe*, quoted her as saying of her early years, "I was talented, but I was not a prodigy." Later in the same interview she explained: "I simply went along with it, and at some point along the way, it became voluntary. There was always music in the house, which was an advantage, although I didn't enjoy having my mother hear every note I was practicing."

As a teenager she liked attending the Aspen festival in the summertime and hanging out with all the pianists. "But I still didn't think of myself as a pianist," she says. "If you had asked me at age seventeen what I wanted to be when I grew up, I'd have said, 'I don't know, but one thing I do know is that I certainly don't want to become a musician.'"

After attending the Brearley School in Manhattan, Ursula entered Radcliffe College, where she graduated cum laude in 1965 with a B.A. in English literature, minoring in economics. She returned to New York City to attend the Juilliard School at Lincoln Center, where she studied with Felix Galimir and Rosina Lhévinne and, in 1967, received her master's degree.

"I was very happy at Juilliard," she notes, "but I still told myself that 'Next year I'll take the law test.'"

Her one regret, she recalls, was that "I didn't get my doctorate, which I was aiming for. There were too many other things to do."

Among the other things Oppens had to accomplish was making her Carnegie Hall debut, which she did in 1969, with the encouragement of Juilliard's Lhévinne. That same year she won first prize in Italy's prestigious Busoni International Piano Competition, and the following year she was awarded the Chigiana Musical Academy's Diploma d'Onore. She went on to win an Avery Fisher Career Grant in 1976, which led to a performance with the New York Philharmonic.

Since then, Oppens has often appeared as a soloist with virtually every major orchestra in the United States, including the Boston Symphony, the Chicago Symphony,



the Cleveland Symphony, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. She has also performed frequently with major European orchestras and with chamber orchestras, and at music festivals both at home and abroad: in Aspen, Ravinia, Santa Fe, and Tanglewood as well as in Montreal, Tokyo, and Edinburgh.

Critics have praised her as a “compelling musician” whose interpretations are “formidably eloquent” and characterized by “energy and subtlety, finding the muscle and poetic heart in the music.” Reviewers have often commented on “her ferocious technique and compelling intensity.” Her performance of Beethoven’s *Emperor Concerto* with Bonn’s Beethoven Halle Orchester was described in the press as a “sovereign performance.”

Besides her two Grammy Award nominations, her recording with the Arditti Quartet of the Piano Concerto by twentieth-century composer Elliott Carter was voted the best recording of chamber music in the 1999 awards issue of *Gramophone*. In 1989, *New York Times* critic John Rockwell listed *American Music of Our Time, Vol. 2*, her recording of twentieth-century piano works, together with her recording of Carter’s work, in his “Best of the Year” survey. She was cofounder of *Speculum Musicae* in 1971, one of this country’s premier new-music ensembles, and is known for both commissioning and performing works by such other contemporary composers as John Harbison, Gyorgy Ligeti, Witold Lutoslawski, and Conlon Nancarrow.

“I like working with contemporary composers,” Oppens says. “You can’t ask Beethoven what he was thinking when he wrote a piece of music.”

According to Bruce MacIntyre, the director of the Conservatory, Oppens’s appointment augments the number of superb faculty already at the College; she will be coaching chamber music, directing *conTempo* (the Conservatory’s contemporary ensemble), and recruiting and teaching advanced piano students as well as offering seminars on piano repertoire and contemporary music and its performance practices.

Asked why she wanted to include teaching in her already long list of accomplishments, Oppens says that she had long felt she should pass on some of the good fortune she has received through her music.

“It gives me an opportunity to give back

some of what I’ve gotten out of my musical education and my career.”

She adds that, “I’m a big supporter of public education. Teaching here at Brooklyn College makes me a part of a great public educational system that offers students not just a musical education but also a full core curriculum. And as a public institution, it also offers the chance for a great education to students who might not otherwise be able to afford it. I like the idea of being part of that.”

*The Conservatory of Music boasts another distinguished professor, Tania León. A highly regarded composer, León has taught at Brooklyn College since 1985. She was born in Havana and received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from New York University.*

*Last year, León was invited to serve as a U.S. artistic ambassador at the United States Embassy in Madrid. Embassy officials also asked her to serve as the keynote speaker for their Black History Month program last March. León has carved a niche for herself in the field of contemporary music as a composer, conductor, and music director. She has worked closely with *conTempo*, the Brooklyn College Conservatory new-music ensemble, which Ursula Oppens will be directing beginning this year.*

## At the Crossroads of Civilization, Colors of the Past

When it comes to archaeology, nothing beats hands-on work—as in hard, hot, filthy work. And what better place than the cradle of civilization to get your hands soiled?

That is just what eight students from Brooklyn College did last summer—joined by six of their counterparts from other CUNY colleges—at Bet Shemesh in Israel, under the guidance of H. Arthur Bankoff, chairperson of the Brooklyn College Anthropology and Archaeology Department. Exciting though the archaeological dig experience became for the students, it was certainly no vacation.

“We had to get up at 4 a.m. in order to get there by 5 a.m.,” says anthropology major Kathleen Haubrich, explaining that the team usually took a thirty-minute break each morning from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Scarcely twenty-five miles south of Jerusalem, present-day Bet Shemesh—or house of the sun, in Hebrew—is a small agricultural town nestled in a fertile valley dotted by farms, forests, and local businesses. But it is also close by the site of an ancient city that thrived from the middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age (1650–700 B.C.E.), located just a mile east.

Originally unearthed in the early 1900s, the ruins remained closed until eighteen years ago, when professors Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman of Tel Aviv University’s Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology reopened the promising excavation site.

According to Egyptian records, Bet Shemesh’s rulers and inhabitants made a last stand around 1400 B.C.E. against marauders from the north they called the Habiru. When help from their Egyptian overlords failed to materialize, the fortified late Bronze Age city fell, to be succeeded by several Iron Age occupations.

“Our job is to bring back the lives of everyday people, those like us who didn’t make it into the official documents of the past,” Bankoff says, noting that his discipline combines the intellectual rigor of other professions with a back strong enough for manual labor.

“Without archaeological work, history becomes a very gray endeavor. Our work provides the colors to paint a complete picture of the past,” Bankoff says.



Divided into groups of five, students were assigned a small area, or trench, that they had to clean with care, lest they inadvertently destroyed something of value. Each trench uncovers a functional area within the city—an alleyway, a pantry, an olive press, the house of worship, a refuse pit, and so on.

“It appears that a significant amount of biblical history took place here,” says Lorenzo Cerva, who is pursuing a double major in psychology and anthropology.

For Rafe Shafer, a junior who will major in anthropology, the work in Bet Shemesh was his first-ever dig. “We found intact vessels in my trench, painted jugs, even fossilized olive pits that we cannot touch until we radiocarbon date them,” he says, noting he’s learned things he had only read about before. “A change in the soil composition—more clayish, or loose, or pebbly—should alert you to a change in the layer.”

Johanna Carillo, a Hunter College anthropology major who worked in Kathleen Haubrich’s trench, explained how she helped slice the soil to delicately uncover an Egyptian scarab, an ornamental piece that bears a royal seal. When a find like this comes to light, the whole team stops their work to admire it.

“This is just one of the rewarding aspects of our work,” says Akiva Fialkoff, another student-member of the team, who grew up only a few miles away from the site.

## A Vision for **Going Green**

The most effective efforts toward greater responsibility for the environment begin at home. That's a lesson Brooklyn College has taken to heart. It hopes to incorporate environmental awareness into the fabric of college life by integrating sustainability into its curriculum, facilities, and campus activities. The goal is to reduce the College's environmental impact by 30 percent over the next decade, and key to that challenge is the collaboration of the Center for the Study of Brooklyn.

As part of its EcoBrooklyn initiative, the center has been holding a series of "visioning sessions" jointly with the College's Sustainability Committee. Set up to help the College comply with a CUNY-mandated request to formulate sustainability plans at each CUNY campus, the sessions, which began this past June, are open to all sectors of the College community. Feedback from the sessions, as well as survey data generated at the center, will be incorporated into the draft of the College's first ten-year sustainability plan.

"The key to crafting a sustainable sustainability plan is to ensure that all voices on campus are heard," said Gretchen Maneval, the director of the public policy center, which is headquartered at Brooklyn College. "The ideas for

Brooklyn College 'going green' need to be generated by the people who are actually doing the work every day of maintaining campus facilities, teaching courses, and attending classes."

Maneval, a city planning specialist appointed last year to head the newly founded center, praised CUNY for allowing each campus "the autonomy to draft its own plans," and the Brooklyn College administration for "seeking input from such a vast cross section of the College community."

So far, the visioning sessions have addressed food, health, and nutrition issues. During the latest session, held on September 15, participants discussed plans for reducing the College's environmental impact in the area of waste management and recycling. Future sessions will look at possible initiatives in the areas of transportation, water and energy use, and curriculum and student engagement.

## The Things You Find **on eBay!**



On September 5, Brooklyn College Archivist Anthony M. Cucchiara was alerted that an American flag, described as "presented to Brooklyn College, June 14, 1936," [Flag Day] was being offered

on eBay, the online auction site. He immediately recognized it as the flag that once flew over the old Ditmas House at the corner of East 26 Street and Campus Road when the house was used as the College's faculty lounge. With three hours to go before the auction closed, he placed a bid of \$44.99. Since there were no other bids, Cucchiara was sure he had won the flag but, to be certain, he placed a final bid of \$50. But it wasn't to be: with a minute to go, a final bid for \$51 was made and the flag fell through Cucchiara's hands.

Or so he thought. Five days later, President Christoph M. Kimmich received an e-mail message from an alumnus, Hal Panchansky, '80, who wished to donate a flag to the College. Embroidered on the flag, he said, was "First flag presented to Brooklyn College by Theodore B.T. Merkt and Phineas S. Berry, raised by Charles A. Ditmas on June 14, 1936."

On October 2, Panchansky came back to the campus and, with a thrilled Cucchiara at his side, presented the flag to President Kimmich and the College. No one is certain how or why the flag left the campus, or how it ended up on eBay, but it's back home now—safe in the archives.

# Extending the Horizons for Teaching Teachers



An activist perspective on teacher education is one way to improve teaching and learning in the public schools, and the career of Deborah A. Shanley, dean of Brooklyn College's School of Education, is a case in point.

Shanley was recently asked to serve on the National Parks Second Century Commission, charged with developing a plan for the system as it approaches its one hundredth birthday in 2016. She says the appointment

“aligns with my vision to challenge the traditional notion of the ivory tower:

“It's rooted in a commitment to cross multiple borders and demonstrate to future educators how collective knowledge, place-based experiences, and expertise can improve educational practice and policy.”

Her work on the commission will help shape the future direction of this national treasure. Shanley notes that the affiliation will be a good one for Brooklyn College as well, allowing greater access to the resources the national parks have to offer.

Shanley's current work focuses on creating collaborations with New York City schools and cultural institutions, as vehicles for extending teacher preparation beyond the walls of academia. With that goal in mind, she has established working relationships between the School of Education and numerous local organizations and institutions, including the Lincoln Center Institute Teacher Education Collaborative, the National Parks of New York Harbor, and the American Museum of Natural History.

Shanley, who earned her doctorate in 1982 from Teachers College, Columbia University, previously served as dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education at Medgar Evers College (CUNY) and has been dean of the School of Education at BC for the past decade. Over the course of her thirty-five-year career in teacher education, she has contributed her vision and leadership to such national educational partnerships as the National Network for Education Renewal, the Council for Great City Schools, Teachers for a New Era, and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future.

*The Brooklyn College Bridges had their best basketball season in nearly sixty years, rising to number four seed in the first round of the Eastern College Athletic Conference's (ECAC) Division III Metro Basketball tournament in March. In a game against Rutgers-Newark, they overcame a thirteen-point halftime deficit to win 87-79, thanks to sophomore forward Richard Jean-Baptiste, who led all scorers with a career-high of thirty-seven points. Although they lost the semifinals against Stevens Institute of Technology (which went on to win the championship), the Bridges led the conference in 2008 in both scoring and scoring margin, and Jean-Baptiste was the conference's leading scorer. It was the team's best season on record since 1949-50, and for head coach Steve Podias, his most successful season in thirteen years at the helm of the Brooklyn College team.*



# Commencement 2008

To great fanfare and loud cheers, Brooklyn College celebrated its 83rd Commencement Exercises last May, awarding graduate and undergraduate degrees to 3,566 students—the largest class in the College's recent history.

Renowned National Public Radio host and BC alumnus Leonard Lopate, '67, delivered the keynote address after receiving the College's Distinguished Alumnus Award. "There's a lot of satisfaction in receiving an award from the College that played such an important role in transforming my unformed and uninformed mind," Lopate said during his remarks. "Although I still don't know all the answers, this school inspired me to be curious and receptive enough to ask my guests some of the right questions on my weekday talk show on WNYC. I hope that your years at Brooklyn College have inspired you to continue to question conventional wisdom."

Class speaker Mary Pennisi graduated with a 4.00 grade point average after completing a dual major in political science and philosophy of law. "Attending the College that is called 'Harvard at the Junction' has made us citizens of the world," Pennisi said with great pride.

President Christoph M. Kimmich presented honorary degrees, doctors of humane letters, to three extraordinary individuals who have had a significant impact on the arts and social sciences, including acclaimed author, translator, poet, and director Paul Auster; Pulitzer Prize- and Pen/Faulkner Award- winner, departing Brooklyn College Professor Michael Cunningham; and alumnus Philip G. Zimbardo, '54, celebrated professor of psychology, author, humanist, and activist.

A Distinguished Alumna Award was presented to Sarah Benson, M.F.A. '04, recently named the artistic director of the prestigious and internationally acclaimed Soho Repertory Theatre in New York City (see story, page 8).

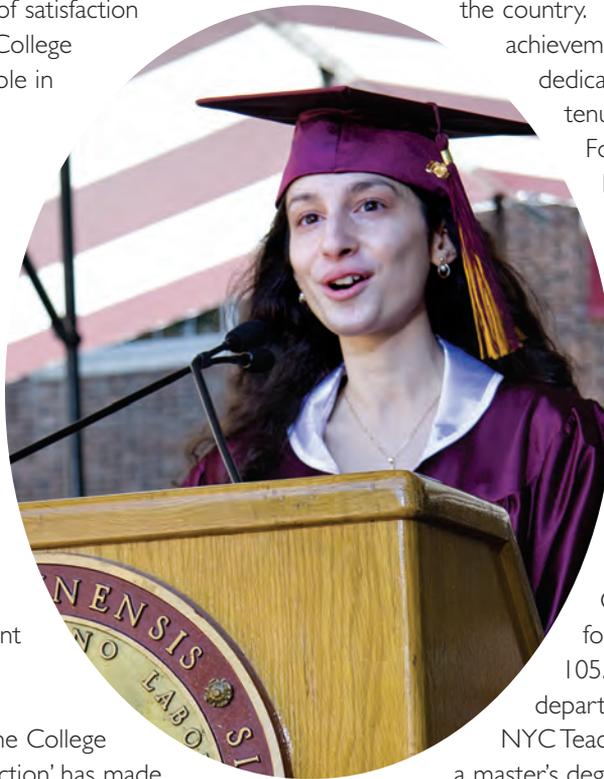
The Presidential Medal was awarded to Willard N. Archie, '68, CEO of Mitchell & Titus, the largest minority-owned accounting and management consulting firm in the country. In addition to his professional achievements, Archie was honored for the dedication and support that includes his tenure on the Brooklyn College Foundation's board of directors.

His generosity led to the Willard and Eleanor Archie Professional Skills Training Program at the Brooklyn College Magner Center for Career Development and Internships.

After the ceremony, television and radio production major Satyra Gonzalez stated: "It took me five years; I worked two to three jobs and went to school. . . Coming [to BC] allowed me to focus." Gonzalez currently works at 105.9 FM's promotions and marketing department. She plans to apply for the NYC Teaching Fellows program and pursue a master's degree and a career in teaching.

Edyk Mohamed, an accounting and business, management, and finance major, moved to Brooklyn from Morocco five years ago—and he was thankful for it. "I feel I've achieved my goals," he said, elated to have made the right choices. "I've fallen in love with the campus, and the College helped me achieve my dream!"

"I'm the first in my family with a master's degree," said Robert Jones Jr., who received an M.F.A. in fiction and is thinking about getting his Ph.D. in English next. "I can't take it all in right now."



## Two Brooklyn College Students Win **Study-Abroad Scholarship**

Junior Christopher Browne and senior Jillian Justh won scholarships from the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program to study abroad during the fall 2008 semester. Browne will go to Switzerland and Justh is headed to Egypt.

The scholarship program, founded by Congress in 2000, encourages low-income students and others who are underrepresented in study-abroad programs to travel to nontraditional destinations, especially those outside of Western Europe and Australia. Browne and Justh are only the second and third Brooklyn College students to win the scholarship, following Pangelina Edwards, '08, who used the scholarship to help pay for study at China's Yangtze International University last year.

Browne, a business, management, and finance major, said he wanted to go to Switzerland because "they are



the economic envy of the world with their Swiss Bank, and they have been very progressive in the area of social justice." An American citizen born into a Jamaican family, Browne grew up traveling back and forth between the two countries and said he's always been interested in learning about different cultures. Browne received \$3,500 from the scholarship competition to study at Schiller International University/The American College of Switzerland in Leysin, which is near Geneva.

Justh received a \$4,500 scholarship to study at the American University in Cairo. A linguistics major, she said she doesn't like to "learn a language in isolation. I want to know the religion, the culture. This is the



best way for me to do that." She added that she had a personal desire to learn more about Islam.

The Gilman scholarship, a Congressionally funded program, is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State and is administered by the Institute of International Education—Southern Regional Center in Houston. For the fall semester, the program will award more than 1,200 scholarships of up to \$5,000 to students in such underrepresented fields as the sciences and engineering as well as to students from diverse ethnic backgrounds, and students with disabilities.

## Brooklyn College Rates Label **“Harvard” for the Budget-Conscious**

Brooklyn College was again tapped by Princeton Review, one of the country's most influential college guides, as a leading academic institution in its *Best 368 Colleges*, 2009 edition.

The College, which has been previously cited for the bucolic beauty of its Georgian-style campus, was rated, along with CUNY sister Baruch College, ahead of New York University and Columbia.

Princeton Review's report, based on interviews with 120,000 students attending colleges across the country, found that Brooklyn College "provides a great education for an unbelievable cost." The review also singled out the College for its small class sizes, dedicated and knowledgeable professors, state-of-the-art computer facilities, and great library. One student even

described the College as a "Harvard" for students seeking an affordable tuition.

Brooklyn College also ranked third in the nation among the colleges surveyed for the diversity of its student body. Undergraduates at the College call 140 countries home, the Princeton Review report said.



## A Fulfilling Pre-law Program

Many of the best ideas have evolved over dinner. A plan of action to help Brooklyn College undergraduates interested in studying law was hatched by a group of legal luminaries at a dinner held at the Brooklyn College House last May to honor Alan Dershowitz, '59, criminal appellate lawyer of fame and Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

By the end of the dinner, the College had begun to establish a pre-law advisory program under the tutelage of Sarumathi Jayaraman, who earned her law degree from Yale Law School as well as a master's degree in public policy from Harvard, and who joined the faculty in 2007.

"The need I saw," said Jayaraman, "is that some students at Brooklyn College think they want to go to law school but don't even know what the law profession is really about. They don't know what it entails on a day-to-day basis and they don't know what kind of law they'd be interested in."

The program will include internships, training in legal writing, and tutoring for the preparation of law-school applications.

"The dinner became a brainstorming session to imagine how we might better use the resources of our alumni in a strategic way—to help our pre-law advisers help our students," said Andrew Sillen, '74, vice-president

for institutional advancement at Brooklyn College and executive director of the Brooklyn College Foundation. "There are literally thousands of lawyers who have gone to Brooklyn College, but we're not yet as good as private colleges at capitalizing on that network."

Sillen was delighted that William E. Hellerstein, '59, was among those attending the dinner. Hellerstein has argued two hundred appeals in federal and state courts, including several before the U.S. Supreme Court, and has been on the faculty of the Brooklyn Law School since 1985. "He has his finger on the pulse of what law schools are looking for," Sillen said.

Soon after the dinner, Judge Jack B. Weinstein, '43, senior justice of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, prepared a memorandum, summarizing the dinner discussion and outlining some proposals. The goals are to enhance students' writing skills and their connectivity to the legal profession, and to financially support their studies. The proposals include more active participation in clinical programs for the Eastern District of New York at Brooklyn Law School, CUNY Law School, St. John's Law School, Hofstra Law School, and Touro Law School.

Judge Weinstein agreed to arrange appointments for paralegal clerks in his court and to approach other Eastern District judges to do the same. Lawyers who are graduates of the College will be contacted to hire pre-law students as paralegals and mentor them. There are also plans to arrange internships with the Corporation Counsel of New York and the Brooklyn district attorney's office as well as with such groups as the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights Watch.

"I really want to encourage the students to think about the law degree as preparation for careers beyond the practice of law—careers in public policy, public administration, and political science," Jayaraman said.

# Magner Center: A Career Magnet for Brooklyn College Students

In a city that never sleeps, it makes sense that the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships is now open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

"Any student can log onto the Brooklyn College portal and we're there," said Bob Oliva, '70, who's been the center's director since it began five years ago. "They can sign up online for everything we do."

The center hosts job fairs, training programs, workshops, and internships. It also offers advice on choosing the right major and selecting the right graduate school.

"We see ourselves as a center that deals with every aspect of a student's career development," said Oliva.

So far about 3,000 students, out of a total enrollment of about 16,000, have participated in the program, with the numbers increasing each year by about 10 percent. And the push is on to attract more.

"The business students use us the most," Oliva observed. "They're the most aware of what you need to do to have a career. We need to put a little more effort into getting to the liberal arts students—the history majors, the sociology majors. We're very committed to the liberal arts students—this is a liberal arts college. You don't have to be a business major!" This semester the center held a workshop in November on careers for liberal arts students.

"We're here to help students make the right decisions early," Oliva said. "We have students who became computer majors and hated it. So why go through all that? We can help you make an informal decision now on who you are, and what you really want to do."



The program starts with a careful assessment of the students, with the goal of designing a four-year plan that culminates with landing an entry-level position upon graduation. Besides interview skills and résumé writing, there's been a growing emphasis, Oliva explained, on professional development, such as how to write a letter or an e-mail, how to deal with a supervisor and work on a team, how to communicate effectively.

"You can't have an e-mail address that is pornographic," Oliva said. "You can't show up in blue jeans. Things you assume they know, but many students don't. We give them all the fundamentals that any career center would give, but we add on top of that an awareness of what it means to be a professional and what is expected of you as a leader."

Thanks to the generosity of alumni like Marge Magner, '69, and Willard Archie, '68, the center has been able to improve the lives of countless young people.

"The Magner Center is an outstanding resource that helps our students prepare for the world of

*Bob Oliva, '70, (right),  
director of the Magner Center,  
chats with alumnus*

*Willard Archie, '68.*

work," said Andrew Sillen, '74, vice-president for institutional advancement at Brooklyn College and executive director of the Brooklyn College Foundation. "By providing internships, career advisement, guest speakers, and other resources, the center is a major resource supporting our core mission of helping our students succeed!"

## Ilene Gold Supporting the Arts



Ilene Gold, '62, is a Brooklyn girl through and through, but some of her favorite childhood memories are of Manhattan and the weekly family outings she enjoyed there. She and her mother would take the subway to the store her father owned at 34 Street and Second Avenue, and from there all three would go out to dinner and to the theater. "That was our night together as a family," Ilene fondly recalls.

Ilene has always enjoyed the performing arts, whether it be Broadway or ballet. That may explain why she and her husband, Stanley Gold, chief executive officer of Shamrock Holdings, the investment arm of the Walt Disney Company, have set up a \$250,000 fund to support student productions at the new performing arts center at Brooklyn College.

"The center is important not just because it may train the next big star," says Stanley. "We get too excited about producing the next Academy Award winner or the next big pop artist. The idea is to round out the life of the college student, giving the entire student body an opportunity to participate and see what that part of life is all about."

Beverly Hills, which the Golds call "home," is a long way from Flatbush. Ironically, her father had forbid her to travel more than five miles from her house to go to college. "But Brooklyn gave me a wonderful education. Think about it: I paid \$6.50 a term to go there!" she says. "You look around the College today, and you see that it's back to where it was when I went there. I see first-generation Americans going there and becoming valedictorians. It's a great feeling. I'll always have a tie to Brooklyn."

But while she was still going to school at Brooklyn College, Ilene flew out to California to attend her cousin's wedding. During the visit her cousin's neighbor invited her to a high school basketball game; he worked for Ilene's uncle, delivering dry cleaning, and his name was Stanley Gold. "That was it!" Ilene recalls with a laugh.

They began calling and writing to each other, and at the next semester break, Ilene made another visit to Los Angeles. Her father apparently approved of her choice, once he finally met her new steady boyfriend, but he imposed a new rule. As Ilene recalls, he said, "Stanley will move to New York because you're not moving to California!"

That was not meant to be. Shortly after Ilene graduated with a B.A. degree from Brooklyn College, her father died suddenly, and she and her mother moved to Los Angeles. Ilene and Stanley married the next year, as he was about to start law school.

"And we've been together forty-four years," Ilene says. "We take each

day as it comes."

Their daughter Jennifer, thirty-nine, talks fondly about their marriage. "My dad says he married my mother for her memory, because she always remembers everyone. Within a second, she knows exactly who he's talking about."

Ilene laughs as she says, "Stanley doesn't even remember who was in a movie he saw!"

As Stanley's star rose in the legal world—he eventually became Roy Disney's personal attorney—Ilene devoted herself to raising the family, Jennifer and Charles, forty-one, who runs his own company. "My mother's first focus was my brother and me," Jennifer says. "Our education was really important to her." And Ilene was there for her husband. "She's always been a sounding board for him," Jennifer says. "My mom always knew what was going on with my dad, and she's been by his side through everything."

For Stanley and Ilene, it's been a wonderful journey all along, one that doesn't show any sign of slowing down.

"She and my dad travel the world together," Jennifer adds. "She does a great job keeping up with him. You never know where she is. She's always out and about. She doesn't sit still for a moment."

Jennifer also notes that her parents always found many good causes to contribute to, and "they always seem to find new ones." Higher education is one of their priorities, so helping the performing arts at Brooklyn College fits right in.

"I feel you have to give back to any school that you've gone to and that has given you something," Ilene says.

"And Brooklyn College gave me my education."



## Where, Oh Where Is the **Country Fair?**



For nearly fifty years, Country Fair was the high point of the spring season at Brooklyn College—a festive afternoon when house plans, fraternities, and sororities turned the campus into a carnival. Small cities of papier-mâché and cardboard sprouted from the dusty athletic field, and thousands of man-hours were poured into making ridiculous monuments to any of the sixty organizations that were once the backbone of the College's social life. Sororities and fraternities came back from the brink of extinction during the 1970s and remain active at Brooklyn College. The house plans are long gone, but may come back, soon.

Inspired by the men from DuBois House and Phi Lambda Delta, who recently returned to create lasting memorials at the Lily Pond, the Brooklyn College Foundation is calling upon the leaders of these fabled institutions to once again gather your brothers and sisters to do something crazy for Brooklyn College. If you were an officer of one of these organizations, you will soon receive a note from the Foundation inviting you to rejoin your comrades to create another memory at Brooklyn College—one that will last for generations. Benches, scholarships, classrooms, and even buildings will carry forward the names of these memorable organizations and serve as a reminder of a time when Brooklyn College students really knew how to have fun. If you're interested in learning more about the House Plans/Fraternities/Sororities campaign (or have in mind another club or organization you would like to memorialize), call the Brooklyn College Foundation at 718.951.5074 and ask to speak with Bill Healy or Shara Richter.

## GOT CLIPS?

*If you've been in the news lately, let us know. Items for*

**Alumni Newsmakers**

*may be e-mailed to*

*[bcmag@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:bcmag@brooklyn.cuny.edu)*

*or mailed to Brooklyn*

**College Magazine.**



Photographer **Marvin E. Newman, '49**, is best known for his sports photography—iconic images of Jackie Robinson and “The Mick” shot from locker rooms and sidelines. This year, an expansive exhibit of his work at the Bruce Silverstein Gallery in New York highlighted his color photography and street photography. The show had numerous unforgettable images, including a series of shots from the Mustang Ranch, the notorious legal whorehouse in Nevada that Newman lensed in 1971. A reviewer in the *New York Sun* linked Newman's extraordinary sense of composition to his years at Brooklyn College, when he was a student in the Design Department, then dominated by Bauhaus refugees from Germany.

“Wherever I go these days I'm asked about the television show *Mad Men*, writes **Jerry Della Femina, '57**, in a recent column of his in the *Independent*, published in the Hamptons, ““Was advertising really like that in the 1960s?” is the question. “Worse,” is my answer.” Much of the craziness of those days is distilled in his 1971 memoir, *From Those Wonderful Folks Who Gave You Pearl Harbor*, and Della Femina read a few of the more outrageous chapters recently at the NYPL's Science, Industry, and Business Library. In June,

Della Femina became the fortieth member of the One Club Creative Hall of Fame, a pantheon of past and present advertising greats that includes such names as David Ogilvy, Leo Burnett, and Jay Chiat. The honor came with a retrospective of Della Femina's best work, entitled, naturally, “Still Crazy After All These Years.”

**Saul Katz, '60**, president of the New York Mets, was joined by players and Mayor Mike Bloomberg to break ground in September for the Katz Women's Hospital at Long Island Jewish-North Shore Hospital. Another Katz Women's Hospital at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset is already under construction. Together, both hospitals will provide 161 private rooms for women and their families (not to mention the 11,000 babies born annually at the two hospitals). Along with their focus on maternity, the hospitals will treat the full gamut of women's health issues, from birth to end-of-life.

**Jerry Goldfeder, '68**, one of the nation's top experts on election law, was hired by New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo last year as special counsel on public integrity issues. Well known for his ability to advise candidates on the intricacies of New York State election law—a notoriously complicated field—Goldfeder announced in July that he would leave the Attorney General's office and return to the private sector. He joined Stroock, Stroock & Lavan's litigation and government relations practice as a special counsel. Last December saw

the first edition of Goldfeder's *Modern Election Law*. The book will be the standard reference for anyone looking to stay on the right side of the law while engaging in politics.

The 2006 documentary film *The Everyday: Benedictine Life at Mount Saviour Monastery*, by **Matthew Kells, '93**, records the lives of a group of Benedictine monks in an upstate New York monastery. Kells told the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* that the inspiration for the film, which won two New York Emmys, was a residency at the monastery for which he applied at the recommendation of Sister Camille D'Arienzo, his professor in the Department of Television and Radio. The documentary has been shown on dozens of PBS stations in the past year and is sold in the monastery gift shop.



**Fred Lonberg-Holm, '88**, is a classical cellist with a rock-and-roll attitude. In the 1980s, he gave up the cello to play in a rock band. Drawn by the electronic music program at the Conservatory of Music, he arrived at Brooklyn College in the mid-1980s. Required by the Conservatory to play an instrument or sing in the chorus, he picked up his cello again and began redefining the instrument—essentially crafting a new identity as an “anti-cellist.” After moving to Chicago in 1995, he was fortunate to come upon a thriving music scene that was less structured and more vibrant than New York City’s and soon made his

mark, playing hundreds of gigs and recording with dozens of new music ensembles. “Chicago’s like a production town,” he told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. “New York is a finished goods town. We don’t think so much about barriers between scenes and genres—a free improviser can play with rock bands and jazz bands and [even] Courtney Love-type pop.”

**Reed Farrel Coleman** enrolled in Brooklyn College in 1974 with the intention of becoming a poet and studied with John Ashbery. But after nearly completing his degree he soured on the idea of making a living as a poet and left college to work as an air freight handler at JFK Airport. In spring 1983, he returned to enroll in a detective fiction class taught on Wednesday nights by Professor William Reeves. Coleman told the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* that he took the class only because it “fit my schedule,” but his introduction to detective fiction was life-changing. “I read Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett. I fell in love with the language of their writing. And I realized that their writing was as poetic as any poetry I’d read. So, in my overly ambitious way, I said, ‘Hell, I can do this.’” In 1991, Coleman debuted with *Life Goes Sleeping*. In 2002, he came out with *Walking the Perfect Square*, his first crime novel featuring ex-NYPD detective Moe Prager. The third book in this series, *The James Deans* (2005) won a slew of awards and was nominated for an Edgar Award (the literary award for mystery writers). *Soul Patch* (2007) was also nominated for an Edgar Award and was followed by *Empty Ever After* (2008). Coleman told another interviewer, “Good thing I didn’t take a class in modern dance!” For more information on the author, check out [www.reedcoleman.com](http://www.reedcoleman.com).



**Laraine Perri, '80**, never forgot the classes she took with Professor James D. Merritt (1934–2005), who taught in the English Department from 1966 to 1995. He seemed to live and breathe the nineteenth century poems and poets that were his stock in trade, but he also loved the stories of H.P. Lovecraft. In the years after graduation, Perri was taken aback one afternoon a few years ago to see her elderly professor in a wheelchair, pushed by an attendant, in a stationery store in her Manhattan neighborhood. The gist of their encounter that afternoon, and her vivid memories of Merritt, were published in the October 2008 issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine* in an essay entitled “To Sir, with Love.”

## Art

**Doug Schwab, '99; M.F.A., '03**, had ten prints featured in the group show *Summer Nudes*, at the Lana Santorelli Gallery in New York this summer. He was the prepress digital editor for *On Reading: André Kertész* (W.W. Norton, 2008).

## Biology

**Charlene Forest and Munevver Aksoy** presented "Cloning Gamete Fusion Genes in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*," at the Thirteenth International Chlamydomonas Conference, in Hyeres-les-Palmiers, France, in May-June.

## Chemistry

**Alexander Greer** served as guest editor for an issue of *Journal of Sulfur Chemistry* 29 (2008). He was invited to join the editorial board of *Research Letters in Organic Chemistry* (Hindawi Publishers) and of *Molecular Diversity* (Springer Publishers).

**Andrzej Jarzecki** gave an invited speech, "Lead Toxicity: Computational Insights," at the University of San Antonio, in April.

**Mark Kobra** wrote "The Chemical Environment of Ionic Liquids: Links Between Liquid Structure, Dynamics, and Solvation," in *Advances in Chemical Physics* 139 (2008). **Joy T. Kunjappu** presented "Molecular Recognition and Supramolecular Chemistry—A Modern Physical Chemistry Approach," at a national seminar, Molecular Interactions in Pharmaceutical Chemistry: Recognition and Analytical Aspects, at St. James Medical Academy in Chalakudy, India, in August. **Roberto Sánchez-Delgado** presented "Ruthenium Complexes as Potential Antiparasitic and Antitumor Agents," and acted as chairperson of the Inorganic Chemistry, Bioinorganic Chemistry, and Metal Complexes in Diagnostic and Chemotherapy Sessions of the 40th Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, in New York in May.

## Classics

**John Van Sickle** reviewed Denis Feeney's *Caesar's Calendar* (Sather Classical Lectures 65) for the online *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*. In March and April, he made presentations related to his new translation of Virgil's *Book of Bucolics* at several universities in Italy.

## Computer Information and Science

**Rohit Parikh** has recently given presentations

on knowledge and language at conferences and universities in France, Austria, England, the Netherlands, and the United States.

## Economics

**Myles Bassell** coached ten teams of four students to develop and present a comprehensive merchandising plan aimed at the multicultural consumer, for which they won \$3,000 as part of the Target Case Study Program this past spring.

**Robert Cherry** wrote "Why Welfare Critics Went Astray," in the *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy* 29 (2008). He presented "Do (Liberal) Experts Know What Is Best for Community Colleges," at the University of Pennsylvania in September. **Hershey H. Friedman, '68**, wrote "Human Dignity and the Jewish Tradition," in the online *Jewish Law*, www.jlaw.com (July 2008). **Hong-Jen Lin** wrote "The Strategies of International E-Finance under Basel II: A Complementary Asset Approach," in the *Journal of Internet Banking and Commerce* 12, no. 3 (December 2007). **Tomás López-Pumarejo** presented "United States: Spanish-Language Television Grows Stronger as Television in English Weakens" at the Ibero-American Television Fiction Observatory International Seminar, in Rio de Janeiro in June. **Hervé Queneau** wrote "A Note on Gender Diversity in Managerial and Professional Occupations," in the *Journal of Collective Negotiations* 32, no. 2 (2008). With **Robert Oliva** and **Pam Brown**, Magner Center for Career Development and Internships, Queneau received a CUNY Work Force Development Grant. **Joshua Fogel, '93**, and Sam Shlivko, economics undergraduate student, presented "Spam E-mail and Romance: Consumer Responses to These Solicitations" at the 116th American Psychological Association National Convention, in Boston in August.

## Education

**David C. Bloomfield**, along with the New York City Department of Education and other partners, received a \$3.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the School Leadership Program Initiative, a five-year online school leadership development project. **Alberto M. Bursztyn** presented "Coping with a Student's Death: A Cross-Cultural Approach" at the Annual Convention of the Council for Exceptional Children, in

Boston in April. He conducted professional development on school bereavement at the Henry Viscardi School in Albertson, New York, in June. **Paul McCabe** wrote "Academic Functioning and Quality of Life of Children and Adolescents with Allergic Rhinitis: Part I & II," in *Communiqué*, (September and October 2008). **Michael Meagher** presented "Mathematics Instruction in High-Needs NYC Middle Schools" at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the North American Chapter of the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education and Thirty-Third Meeting of the International Group for Psychology of Mathematics Education, in Morelia, Mexico, in July. **Sonia E. Murrow** presented "Shaping the Destinies of the Nation: Teachers and the Social Frontier, 1934-1943," at the April 2008 American Educational Research Association Conference in New York. **Barbara Rosenfeld** wrote "The Challenges of Teaching with Technology: From Computer Idiocy to Computer Competence," in the *International Journal of Instructional Media* 35, no. 2 (2008). **Laurie Rubel** has been awarded a career grant (\$625,137 over five years) from the National Science Foundation for her project "Teacher Learning Communities: Centering the Teaching of Mathematics on Urban Youth." She has been named to the review board of the American Educational Research Association's Division C Teaching and Learning Section 3 Mathematics.

## English

**Eric Alterman** is the author of "Out of Print: The Death and Life of the American Newspaper," in *The New Yorker*, March 31; "Accounting for Kristol," in *The American Prospect*, April; and "N.H. Upset Shows Media Focus Should Be on Issues," in *Newsday*, January 13. Alterman presented lectures on "The Future of Liberalism," at the Center for American Progress in Washington, D.C., in June; "The Future of News," at the Canadian Research Consortium in Toronto in May; and "Why We're Liberals," in several cities in March and April. **Tanya Pollard** presented "Translating Greek Drama: Schoolbooks and Popular Theater in Early Modern England," at the Forms of Early Modern Writing Conference, at Columbia University in April; and "After Aristotle:

Theorizing Dramatic Genres in Early Modern England," at the English Renaissance Classicisms Conference, at Cambridge University in June. **Jessica Siegel** presented "Using the Web to Critique and Learn from Global Journalism" at the Convention of the Conference on College Composition, in New Orleans in April.

## Geology

**John Marra** was a group coordinator at the Group on Aquatic Productivity Workshop, at the Inter-University Institute in Eilat, Israel, in April, where he also presented "Interpreting Measurements of Photosynthesis in the Ocean: Weighing in with  $^{14}C$ ." During the workshop, he conducted experiments in the Gulf of Aqaba to measure phytoplankton respiration. **E. Lynn Savage** received a Certificate of Appreciation voted on by the officers and members of the 2006–2007 Council of the Geological Society of America and GSA Headquarters to commemorate the three years she dedicated to create her concept of a new division in the GSA to recognize the influence of geology and the environment on human, animal, and plant health and disease.

## Health and

### Nutrition Sciences

**Kathleen Axen** presented "Long-Term Effects of Very Low-Carbohydrate Weight Reduction Diets," developed with **Kenneth Axen**, at the Endocrine-Metabolic Conference Series at the Obesity Research Center of Columbia University in June. **Annie Hauck-Lawson, '78**, made two presentations at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society in New Orleans in June: "Keeping the Food in Nutrition" and "Composting Up, Down, and Around Flatbush Avenue." At the same meeting, she moderated the "Gastropolis: Food and New York City" panel. **Tom Lewandowski** participated as an instructor in a NATO Advanced Study Institute in Borovetz, Bulgaria, in July.

## History

**Swapna M. Banerjee** delivered a paper on the changing history of children and childcare in India at an international conference, From the World of Wet Nurses to the Networks of Family Day Care Providers, at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, in April. In May, her paper based on the autobiography of a

female domestic worker in India was presented at the conference Waged Domestic Work and Making of the Modern World, at the University of Warwick, England. **Christopher Ebert** spent the summer in Brazil with funding from the PSC-CUNY Research Foundation investigating the colonial economic and social history of Salvador da Bahia. He delivered "Provisioning Colonial Salvador da Bahia: The Urban Market in a Global Port City," at Ohio State University's Center for Historical Research in October. **Margaret L. King** wrote: "The Emergence of Mother as Teacher in Early Modern Europe," in *The Renaissance in the Streets, Schools, and Studies: Essays in Honour of Paul F. Grendler* (Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2008); and "Childhood," in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship, and Sexuality throughout History, Volume 3: The Early Modern Period* (Greenwood Press, 2008).

## Judaic Studies

**Jonathan Helfand** wrote "The Chief Rabbi Who Wasn't: Rabbi Asher Ginsburg's Response to the Central Consistory," in *Turim: Studies in Jewish History and Literature Presented to Dr. Bernard Lander, Volume 2* (Touro College Press/KTAV, 2008). He delivered a lecture on "Environmental Protection: Perspectives from Jewish Law and Ethics" at the Fourteenth Conference on Talmud and Contemporary Law, in Clayton, Missouri, in June.

## Library

**Jill Cirasella** presented "Reference Retooled: How Google Tools Strengthen and Streamline Reference Service," at the Brooklyn Public Library in May and at the annual conference of the International Library Information and Analytical Center, in Sudak, Ukraine, in June. **Stephanie R. Walker** wrote: "Patron Confidentiality and Privacy in Public and Academic Libraries After the Patriot Act," in *Evidence-Based Library & Information Practice* 3, no. 3 (2008); and "Computer-Assisted Library Instruction and Face-to-Face Library Instruction Prove Equally Effective for Teaching Basic Library Skills in Academic Libraries," in *Evidence-Based Library & Information Practice* 3, no. 1 (2008).

## Mathematics

**Christian Beneš** wrote "Counting Planar Random Walk Holes," in *Annals of Probability* 36, no. 1 (2008). He spoke on "Some Properties of the Complement of Planar Random Walk" at New York

University and the University of Geneva in the spring. Beneš presented "A Large Deviations Estimate for Simple Random Walk Via a Sharp LCLT" at the 7th World Congress in Probability and Statistics, in Singapore in July. **Olympia Hadjiladias** made three presentations at the annual meeting of the International Workshop in Applied Probability, in Compiègne, France, in July: "On a Stopped Collision Local Time," "Drawdowns and Rallies in Games of Finite Horizon," and "Quickest Detection in Multi-Source Systems." **Jeff Suzuki** delivered the keynote address, "The Changing Nature of 'College Algebra': Lessons from the Nineteenth Century," at the New York State Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges annual conference in Suffern, New York, in April.

## Music

**George Brunner** was a guest composer at the following, all of which featured his music: the University of Kansas (where he gave a composition lecture/demonstration), in February; the Boston Conservatory of Music, in March; the Natchez Music Festival, in May; and, in New York, the Bechstein Center, in April, the CUNY Convergence Concert at the Graduate Center in May, and Galapagos in September. Brunner's *Songs from Another Place* were recorded and included on the CD of the same name (MSR Classics, 2008). **David Grubbs** recently released *An Optimist Notes the Dusk* (Drag City/P-Vine, 2008), his tenth solo album. He spent a month in Portugal and Spain this summer, playing concerts and team-teaching an intensive course in performance, interdisciplinary collaboration, and interactive media offered through the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon. **Monica Harte** performed concerts featuring contemporary music at the University of Kansas in February, where she also gave a master class; the Natchez (Mississippi) Music Festival in April and May, where she also ran the education program; and, in New York, the Bechstein Center in April and the CUNY Convergence Concert in May. Harte is the soprano soloist on *Songs from Another Place* (MSR Classics, 2008). **Brian Willson** performed as drummer on three CDs—*Border Crossing* (Nottwo Records, 2008), *Tim Siciliano Trio* (CIMP Records, 2008), and *JDB: Giant Steps* (Cadence Records, 2008)—and as conductor for *Songs from Another Place* (MSR Recordings). He was featured guest conductor; percussionist,

and clinician at the Dublin Percussion Festival in April. He also participated in concerts with Roberta Flack, in Kingston, Jamaica, in March, and reggae legend Freddie McGregor, in Miami, in April.

## Philosophy

**Catherine Kemp** spoke on "The Pre-history of Pragmatic Notions of Experience in Charles Darwin and David Hume," at the 11th Annual Summer Institute of American Philosophy, at the University of Colorado in Boulder, in July. She delivered "Experience as a Cause in Hume," at the Hume Studies Britain meeting on Hume's "Treatise," at the University of Cambridge, in September.

## Physical Education and Exercise Science

**Donald W. Michielli** wrote an invited commentary on the article "Exercise and Cardiovascular Risk Reduction: Time to Update the Rationale for Exercise?" by D.J. Green, G. O'Driscoll, M.J. Joyner, and N.T. Cable, in the *Journal of Applied Physiology* 105, no. 2 (2008). **Howard Z. Zeng** and **Raymond W. Leung** presented four research articles at the Pre-Olympics Scientific Convention, in Guangzhou, China, in August, all of which were published in the convention proceedings: "Competitive Anxieties and Self-Confidences among NCAA Division III College Varsity Athletes," "Learning Outcomes of Three Teaching Styles in Collegiate Volleyball Classes," "Time Allocation in Physical Education Classes among Three Levels of Teachers," and "Perspective of Physical Educators on Current Issues and Solutions of Physical Education in a Public Education System."

## Physics

**Viraht Sahni** presented two papers at the American Physical Society meeting in New Orleans in March: "Construction of Wave Function Functionals" and "New Perspectives on the Fundamental Theorem of Density Functional Theory." He contributed "Quantal Density Functional Theory: Beyond Hohenberg-Kohn-Sham Theory" to the *Proceedings of the 26th International Colloquium on Group Theoretical Methods in Physics* (Springer-Verlag, 2008).

## Psychology

**Elisabeth Brauner** gave an invited workshop on "Interaction Coding Methods for Transactive Memory" at the Technical

University of Braunschweig, Germany, in July. With doctoral candidate Rommel Robertson, M.A., '01, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, Brauner presented research projects on "Transactive Memory in Organizations," at the Conference of the European Association for Experimental Social Psychology in Opatija, Croatia, in June, and at the International Congress of Psychology in Berlin, in July. **Curtis D. Hardin** has been appointed editor-in-chief of the journal *Social Justice Research*.

**Margaret-Ellen (Mel) Pipe** presented "Interviewing Children about Abuse" at the International Conference of the International Childhood and Youth Research Network: Child and Youth Research in the 21st Century: A Critical Appraisal, in Nicosia, Cyprus, in May. She presented two papers that she coauthored at the American Psychology-Law Society Conference, in Jacksonville, Florida, in March, "Do Best-Practice Interviews Have an Impact on Case Outcomes?" and "Show Me on the Drawing Where She Touched You. The Impact of Interview Technique and Delay on Children's Recall of Bodily Touch." **Deborah J. Walder** received a National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depression 2008 Young Investigator Award for the project "Diffusion Tensor Imaging and Structural MRI Abnormalities in Adolescents At-Risk for Depression: The Role of Early Life Stress and 5-HTTLPR," along with **Anthony Sclafani** (mentor); Jeremy D. Coplan, SUNY Downstate Medical Center (mentor); and numerous.

## Sociology

**Kenneth A. Gould** and **Tammy L. Lewis**, Honors Academy, coedited *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology* (Oxford University Press, 2009). **Gertrud Lenzer** (and Children's Studies) prepared a wide-ranging proposal, now going through college governance procedures, for the creation of a CUNY Children's Studies Institute for Research, Policy, and Public Service, and secured the collaboration of the CUNY School of Law, the CUNY Graduate Center, and distinguished faculty from these institutions and Brooklyn College. In addition to the projected startup funds from the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs (\$125,000 each for three years), Lenzer obtained advance matching funds of \$125,000. She served on the "Right to Participation in Education System Panel" at the Child Right to Participation: Ethical Challenges

Conference, at Columbia Law School in April. **Alex S. Vitale** was quoted on Minnesota Public Radio and in the *Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune* concerning the policing of demonstrations at the Republican National Convention. He appeared on WNYC's *Leonard Lopate Show* in July, and he gave a paper on the criminalization of homelessness in San Francisco at the American Sociological Association meetings in Boston in August.

## Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

**Timothy Gura** received the Wallace A. Bacon Lifetime Teaching Excellence Award for 2008, the only award authorized by the National Communication Association, the oldest professional organization in the discipline, which recognizes the distinctions of an entire teaching career. **Susan Longtin** presented a short course on her research, titled "A Communication Enhancement Program for Preschool Children with Autism," at the annual convention of the New York State Speech, Language, Hearing Association, in Saratoga Springs in April. Longtin and **Renée Laura Fabus** cowrote "The Use of Videotape Self-Monitoring to Facilitate Interactive Intervention in Speech-Language Therapy with Preschool Children with Autism," in *The Clinical Supervisor* 27, no. 1 (2008).

## Television and Radio

The documentary film *My American Neighbor*, written, directed, and produced by **Irina Patkanian**, played at the Indianapolis International Film Festival in April; the Connecticut Film Festival in Danbury in May; the Seattle True Independent Film Festival in June; and BridgeFest in Vancouver, Canada; Belgrade, Serbia; and Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, in June.

## Women's Center

**Nava Renek** moderated two panels, "Going Commando" and "Wreckage of Reason," at the &Now Literary Festival at Chapman University, in Orange, California, in April.

## BCAA Post-50th Alumni Reunion and Awards Ceremony

On September 23, the Brooklyn College Alumni Association hosted the Eighteenth Annual Post-50th Alumni Reunion and Awards Ceremony. More than 120 alumni and their guests celebrated the fifty-fifth reunion of the Class of 1953, the sixtieth reunion of the Class of 1948, the sixty-fifth reunion of the Class of 1943, the seventieth reunion of the Class of 1938, and the seventy-fifth reunion of the Class of 1933. Six members of the Class of 1933, Margarite Marshall Driscoll, Bessie Goodson Katz, Israel Kravitz, Lottie Levine Morris, Morris Sabbeth, and Frances Wasserman, all of whom graduated from Brooklyn College when it was housed in several buildings in downtown Brooklyn, came to the campus for the College's second seven-fifth reunion. Irving Glickman, '33, was represented by his son, Alan, on this occasion.

The event included the acknowledgment of the accomplishments of the following alumni with Lifetime Achievement Awards: Howard C. Klein, '39; Arthur M. Rubenstein, '39; Arthur A. Oliner, '41; Ralph T. Brande, '43; Mildred Bialeck Cohn, '43; Sidney W. Mintz, '43; Phoebe Honig Schlanger, '43; Sylvia Schatz Deutsch, '47; Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy, '48; Michael J. Costelloe, '53; Meyer Eisenberg, '53; Donald T. Forman, '53; Mina Leibowitz Herman, '53; Phyllis Corsbie Hyacinthe, '53; Leanora B. Katzman, '53; Richard Lerer, '53; Arlene Lichterman '53;



Marilyn Levy Sarhis, '53; Estelle Broome Schaffer, '53; Malcolm Sellinger, '53; Gerald M. Siegel, '53; and Roberta Rose Wallach, '53.

The Honorable Jack B. Weinstein, '43, Senior U.S. District Judge, was recognized with the Milton Fisher, '38, Second Harvest Award. This honor is given to acknowledge the accomplishments of an alumnus subsequent to the fiftieth anniversary of graduation from Brooklyn College. Judge Weinstein designated the monetary portion of the award for the Pre-Law Advisory Council of Brooklyn College to provide benefits for pre-law students (see story on page 22). In their acceptance remarks, all of the alumni spoke about the significance and impact of the education they received at Brooklyn College.

### THE PLAY'S THE THING

*continued from page 11*

Benson doesn't spare the audience, packed tightly in the dark and cool ninety-nine-seat black box theater; any of the play's grotesque, graphic, and tricky-to-stage moments: a bombing in a hotel room that leaves it (and perhaps the audience's sense of safety) shattered; a particularly savage rape scene featuring partial nudity, and a soldier

leaving a blood-drenched, eyeless actor to play out the rest of his scenes, to name a few.

In one early performance, a woman had to be escorted out of the theater about three quarters of the way through, companions clutching her by the arm, because she just couldn't stomach it. Benson, aware of the heavy themes in the play, says she is surprised there weren't more such walkouts.

Yet the young director's staging was "impeccable" said the *Times* and, in fact, "rhythmically beautiful," according to *Theater Mania*. Benson manages, according to *AM New York*, "to emphasize the human drama in addition to all the blood, guts and gore."

"I had just hoped that my passion for the play would translate," says Benson. "I've been really happy with the outpouring we've received from audiences." ■

# in Memoriam

## Faculty

### James Day

*Television and Radio Department*

### Harmon L. Finston

*Chemistry Department*

### Harry Jagoda

*Psychology Department*

### Clara Loomanitz

*School of Education*

### Fred Hugo Pollak

*Physics Department*

### Pat Holmes Sterbenz

*Computer and Information  
Science Department*

## Staff

### Scott Yates

*Information Technology Services*

## Alumni

Julia Fischetti Bosco, '32  
Edna Posen Coleman, '33  
Reuben Horlick, '33  
David Vitrogoan, '33  
Sylvia M. Gold, '34  
Pearl Epstein Greenwald, '34  
Martin Weiner, '34  
Leo Zwell, '34  
Mary Callahan Garde, '35  
Goldie Lerner, '35  
Jack Lorell, '36  
Josephine Conk Robillard, '36  
Eva Tenenbaum Hindus, '37  
Lawrence Plotin, '37  
Arthur (Rogovsky) Rogers, '37  
Ruth Guttman Schofield, '37  
Edith Sanger Wertheimer, '37  
Sol (Zaretsky) Zaret, '37  
Rita Weinstein Gold, '38  
Robert M. Koenig, '38  
Olive Rungier Lawlor, '38

Shirley Book Leve, '38  
Yorka Condeles Linakis, '38  
Sidney Lubar, '38  
Reuben Luckens, '38  
Vera Man Michaelson, '38  
Rita Nahum, '38  
Robert Rosenthal, '38  
Helen Schrieffer Ruppap, '38  
Myra Kovar Wallach, '38  
Helen Smith Blumenfeld, '39  
Jack Blumenthal, '39  
Herbert Greif, '39  
Miriam Sand Siffert, '39  
Morton Barrow, '40  
Tracy (Sylvia) Siedman  
Kendler, '40  
Genevieve Kenney, '40  
Muriel Wiesner Samuelsen, '40  
Sydelle Edelstein Brenner, '41  
David Ser, '42  
Sylvia Schertzer Small, '42  
Marvin N. Cantor, '43  
William H. Fox, '43  
Bernard Jacobs, '43  
Raphael Rich, '43  
Sonya Brachman Toluzzi, '43  
Edwina Brooks  
DeCreny, '46  
Ruth Wilk Krotosky, '46  
Robert Gelston, '47  
Julian Keilson, '47  
Ruth Schapira Pierce, '47  
John H. Morawetz, '48  
Harriet Reiman Roberts  
Williams, '48  
Harold Berman, '49  
Leon Cooper, '49  
Celia Mintz Fishman, '49  
Elinor Leventer Selame, '49  
Francis Joseph Schneider, '49  
Henry Seiden, '49  
Beatrice Silverman  
Weinreich, '49  
Irving Bernstein, '50  
Dorothy Block Braverman, '50

William Green, '50  
Seymour Fox, '51  
Irwin Newman, '51  
Walter Rubin, '51  
Sander Alexander, '52  
Melvin I. Feit, '52  
Irma Guberman Roschelle, '52  
Bertram Bronzaft, '55  
Myron A. Kanter, '55  
Lee Batch Hilsenrath, '56  
Jack L. Roemer, '56  
Harry M. Jagoda, '57  
Joseph S. Kochman, '57  
Charles J. Loria, '57  
Maureen Oshever Amster, '58  
Janice Rolon Bruno, '58  
Carol Hecht Chamberlin, '58  
Bernard D. Cohen, '58  
Doris Tomasulo Dorr, '58  
Fred J. Feldman, '58  
Theresa Maschio Galano, '58  
Gerald Gerstel, '58  
Herbert M. Hurwitz, '58  
John J. Pisani, '58  
Michael Ruocco, '58  
Judith Gilburne Kreuger  
Schulman, '58  
Stanley L. Schwartz, '58  
Barry W. Sherman, '58  
Lenore Greenberg Strober, '58  
Zarah Ainbinder, '59  
Lawrence Bergman, '59  
Fred E. Ochs, '59  
Chester Spence, '59  
Hadassah Galinsky Wehl, '59  
Arnold Werner, '59  
Helen B. Boylan, '60  
Roslyn F. Coburn, '60  
David Davis, '60  
Linda Herman Gordon, '60  
Thelma Saltz Harrison, '60  
Eugene Kaplan, '60  
Herman S. Kraskow, '60  
Helene Wachs Whitman, '60  
Toby Milberg Walfson, '60  
Joan Immergut Wiener, '60  
Gertrude Bender Hart  
Baran, '61  
Nathan F. Epstein, '61  
Helga Jacobi Feingold, '61  
Harriet Hollenberg Fey, '61  
Gary Meyers, '61  
Moya Moynahan Phillips, '61  
William Schiffer, '61  
Patricia Sklar Schreiber, '61  
Sheila Friedman Seitz, '61  
Bernice Berland Waga, '61  
Deanna Milder Arnone, '62  
Myrna Drechsler Reich, '62  
Karen Schneider Schwartz, '62  
Rochelle Kotzen Simon, '62  
Dennis J. Munjack, '63  
Edward J. Smith, '63  
Barry Roth, '64  
Jay R. Wechsler, '64  
Robert I. Reisner, '65  
David A. J. Macey, '68  
Joyce Bousley Massey, '68  
Margaret Mallon Kelly, '69  
Kenneth A. Polokoff, '69  
Nathaniel H. Soskind, '69  
Jules Tygiel, '69  
Nicholas Aretoulis, '70  
Judith Sheer, '71  
Randy Geneson Adler, '72  
Rebecca Ausubel, '73  
Albert Posner, '73  
Linda Ellen Cantor Baron, '74  
Barry Feuerstein, '74  
Peter T. Mackler, '74  
Kenneth J. Killian, '76  
Joseph W. Beckles, '77  
Alberto Ferris, '84  
Jacqueline Rahming, '84  
Ilya Spagnoli, '86

## 1933

### Herbert Nestler

*Class Correspondent*  
5850 Sugar Palm Court, Apt. B  
Delray Beach, FL 33484-1093

## 1935

### Irwin Glick

*Class Correspondent*  
5071 C Nestingway  
Delray Beach, FL 33584-1093

## 1937

### Harry W. Anisgard

*Class Correspondent*  
2563 Greer Road  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

## 1940

### Beatrice Persin Faden

*Class Correspondent*  
7185 N.W. 9 Court  
Margate, FL 330631936

## 1941

### Shirley Edelman Greenwald

*Class Correspondent*  
1 Washington Square Village, Apt. 16B  
New York, NY 10012

**Walter James Miller** was recently honored at a special meeting of the Liberal Arts Program faculty at New York University. The occasion was the sixtieth anniversary of his appointment in 1948. He retired in 1984 with the title of emeritus

**Joel Lipson, '37**, is the very embodiment of a lifelong learner. The ninety-year-old retired advertising copywriter has taken more than one hundred courses at SUNY Rockland Community College as a senior adult auditor in the past three decades and especially enjoys classes in computers, history, and philosophy (at BC he was a history major). He's a member of the Rockland Senior Action Coalition and a founder of the Rockland Community College Seniors Club. He is also a poet, and he wrote an ode to turning ninety this past February, which concluded with the lines "And so to the Question: Is ninety a boon, a milestone, a nothing—or something to fear? I guess you'll just have to ask me—next year!"

**Gertrude Mokotoff, '38**, is also deeply involved in the State University of New York system—the former professor of laboratory technology was just appointed by Governor David Paterson to a seven-year term on the SUNY Orange County Community College Board of Trustees. It's her second time on the board, and she's a familiar figure in Middletown, New York, where she served as mayor and was president of the city council. Like Joel Lipson, she's another big proponent of lifelong learning, and she founded the college's Encore program for senior learners.

## 1939

### Leo Aschenbrenner

*Class Correspondent*  
52 Mackey Avenue  
Port Washington, NY 11050

**James Boisi**, retired vice-chairman of JP Morgan and founder of the Mentoring Partnership of Long Island, was inducted into the Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame, honoring his advocacy for mentoring.

professor of English and has since served as mentor to the faculty. His most recent publication is an annotated edition of Jules Verne's original manuscript of *The Meteor Hunt*. This is his sixth work on Verne since his edition of *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* in 1965. His preface to that edition started a massive rehabilitation of Verne's reputation in the United States, for which he was honored at the Library of Congress in 2002. Forty scholars have joined Miller's rescue mission to give American readers "the real Jules Verne."

*To all alumni:  
Many class years  
include the name and  
address of a class  
correspondent, who  
is the link between your  
class and  
Brooklyn College  
Magazine. When you  
have news about your  
accomplishments that  
you would like  
published in the  
magazine, please write  
to your correspondent.  
If your class has no  
correspondent, please  
send items directly to  
Brooklyn College  
Magazine, Brooklyn  
College, 2900 Bedford  
Avenue, Brooklyn,  
NY 11210-2889.*

*You may also  
reach us by fax,  
(718) 951-5962,  
or e-mail, alumni@  
brooklyn.cuny.edu.*

*If you wish to  
volunteer to serve as a  
class correspondent,  
please write to Eileen  
Howlin at  
ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny  
.edu.*

*—Class Notes Editor*

## Terri Thal, '59

What lover of literature wouldn't want to lounge in Gertrude Stein's apartment on the Rue de Fleurus, or the salons of Bloomsbury, or the Algonquin Hotel roundtable filled by the first *New Yorker* staff? For fans of folk music, the Greenwich Village scene that Terri Thal knew ranks with the most glittering of golden ages. That period of her life, and her intimate involvement in folk music history—including a brief stint as Bob Dylan's first manager—begins with a chance meeting at a party in the Village in 1957.

"This guy kept trying to get me to go into another room," Thal said with a tone of amusement. Someone else came up and said, 'Leave her alone!' We spent the rest of the evening talking." Her champion, as it turned out, was folksinger Dave Van Ronk, who was just starting to make a name for himself in the downtown music scene.

Eventually, the couple got married at City Hall. Van Ronk's career, meanwhile, was looking up. In 1959, he had made his first record for Moses Asch's Folkways label, and by 1961 he was getting work outside New York. When a club in Pennsylvania stiffed him after a two-week-engagement, he felt that his manager was not doing enough on his behalf.

"David fired him," Thal recalled, "and said to me, 'You do it!' It seemed like a good idea." Although there wasn't much money in folk music, she had been handling her husband's finances already because he didn't like doing it. The only time he ever set foot in a bank, she joked, was to open their joint checking account. She left his music alone.

One night, Van Ronk came home raving about a new singer in town. "He said he'd heard someone who was great and a genius and I had to go hear him," Thal remembers. "I went down to Gerde's [club], and I agreed with Dave. We hung out together, and became very good friends. At some point, Bobby said, 'Will you get me gigs?'"

It wasn't easy. "Nobody wanted Bob," Thal said. She sent a demo to the couple who ran Café Lena in Saratoga Springs. They didn't like his music, but they owed Thal a favor because she had helped them book many other acts, so they took him reluctantly. It was Dylan's first out-of-town engagement. Although "the audience booed him," Thal believed in him. "He was very rough in the beginning, but he had a wonderful stage presence," she observed. "I thought that eventually, people would learn how good he was."

One of those people was Albert Grossman. When Dylan told Thal that Grossman wanted to manage him, she let him go graciously. "I said, 'Oh, great! He can do so much more for you than I can.' Albert was incredible as a businessman."



photo by Ann Charters

Asked if she has any regrets, Thal says no. She managed plenty of other musicians including the Holy Modal Rounders, Maggie and Terre Roche, Tom Paxton and blues singer Paul Geremia.

By the late 1960s, the folk scene had changed—and Thal's marriage to Van Ronk was faltering. Eventually, they separated.

She continued to work in the music business, but finally stopped managing because she needed more income than she was earning. "I did not have any idea what kind of job I might be equipped to do," Thal said. Then, sculptor and actor Paul Orentlich, aka Paul Kent, the man she lived with until his death twelve years ago, pointed out that what she'd been really good at—getting a performer on radio and television, for example—was public relations. And that's the path she took, adding fundraising and management to her skills.

It led her to the New York Society for Ethical Culture ("the most civilized place I have ever worked," she said), Rockland Community College, a hospice, an agency for people with developmental disabilities; and in 1990, she became executive director of Maternal-Infant Services Network of Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster Counties. She never wanted to have kids herself, so her friends were shocked when she got a job helping uninsured pregnant women and children get health care. To her, it was "a public health issue and a women's issue." She was there for fifteen years, helping more than 60,000 people get health care and garnering a national award for a social marketing campaign she designed.

Now as full of energy as ever, Terri Thal says she's still amazed to find how many of the threads in her life seem to come together. For instance, it turns out that the man she's involved with now shot the cover photograph for Dave Van Ronk's first album. They joke about the album cover because "David and I hated it!" The producer had picked it; the musician and his manager had no final say.

Taking stock of herself today, Thal said, "I was a radical woman. Less so now. My politics have become more practical. I am no longer working to change the entire world. I focus more on my home area. Incremental changes rather than total transformation!" She laughed, but she meant every word.

## 1943

### Romola Ettinger Kaplan

*Class Correspondent*  
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East Quogue, NY 11942

**Sidney Mintz** is the William L. Straus Jr. Professor Emeritus, a research professor of anthropology at the Johns Hopkins University, and the author of *Tasting Food, Tasting Freedom*. His new book is entitled *The World of Soy*.

**Stella Giordano Salerno** has retired after a total twenty-nine years as associate professor at both Fordham University and York College. She won first prize at the Amity Artists Circle for her poem "Walk into Dementia."

**Jack B. Weinstein** is the recipient of the 2008 Milton Fisher '38 Second Harvest Award. This honor is given to an alumnus for achievements in the years after the fiftieth anniversary of graduation. Judge Weinstein was also recently honored with the Thurgood Marshall Award for Capital Representation by the New York Bar Association. This award, given only twice in the last ten years, is for pro bono services in capital cases, in which lawyers offered their representation to those facing the death penalty.

Good teachers may get apples on their desks, but great teachers, like

**Robert Manheimer, '53**, dean of the C.W. Post School of Education at Long Island University, receive "golden" apples, in this case the 2008 March of Dimes Golden Apple Award. A Brooklyn high school science teacher at the start of his career, Manheimer moved up the ranks to principal and spent fifteen years as superintendent of the Jericho School District on Long Island. He joined the faculty at C.W. Post in 1980 and was named dean of the School of Education in 2002.

## 1944

### Renee B. Landau Eidlin

*Class Correspondent*  
30 Oak Street Ext., Apt. 507  
Brockton, MA 02401

**Charlotte Lifschutz Mandel** has published her seventh book of poetry, *Rock Vein Sky* (Midmarch Arts Press).

## 1946

### Bernard R. Schwartz

*Class Correspondent*  
404 Beach 143 Street  
Rockaway, NY 11694

## 1947

### Reva Frumkin Biers

*Class Correspondent*  
4631 Ellenita Avenue  
Tarzana, CA 91356

## 1948

### Eneas Sloman Arkawy

*Class Correspondent*  
27110 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G  
Floral Park, NY 11005

## 1949

### Constantine K. Hall

*Class Correspondent*  
190 Maple Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11225

**Joseph Berger** was the sole recipient in 2007 of the prestigious W.E.B. Dubois Award of the American Sociological Association. It is the highest lifetime achievement award given by the association for a career of distinguished scholarship.

**Francis Xavier Cunningham** has written *A Huge Happy Pageant*, in which he presents a collection of short stories and essays about growing up in an Irish-Catholic culture and the experiences of the Irish-American people.

**William D. Isaacson**, a former lecturer for twenty years in the Department of Romance Languages at Five Towns College, on Long Island, is dean of instruction there and an adjunct professor of English at Nassau Community College. He serves on the Board of Trustees of Si, Se Puede, a mentoring partnership with the Brentwood Union Free School District, where he is also a mentor.

## 1950

### Louise J. Kaplan

*Class Correspondent*  
175 West 12 Street  
New York, NY 10011

## 1951

### Marion Unger Gordon

*Class Correspondent*  
70 East 10 Street, Apt. 9P  
New York, NY 10003

**Allen W. Rothenberg** has been appointed the first executive director of the newly formed Madison House Foundation based in Potomac, Maryland. The foundation will work in the field of autistic services for youth and adults.

## 1952

### Sheila Talmud Raymond

*Class Correspondent*  
3 Lakeside Lane  
Bayshore, NY 11706

**Irene Danzker Deitch** is a media ambassador for the New York State Psychological Association and was interviewed for *Maximum Fitness* magazine, "Strategies to Overcome the 7 Deadly Sins." Dr. Deitch has helped with an article for the *Baltimore Senior Beacon* on the importance of the grandparent-grandchildren relationship. Recently, she received two awards from the American Psychological Association, one from the Division of Sports and Exercise Psychology Section: Running Psychologists for Lifetime Achievement and another from the Division of Psychotherapy for Distinguished Service and outstanding contribution as Domain Representative for Public Policy and Social Justice.

**Ethel Lipschitz McClatchey** was recently re-elected president of the Emeritus Chapter of the Los Angeles College Faculty Guild, AFT 1521 and was an elected delegate from the local to the AFT National Convention in July. She continues to play violin with the Los Angeles Doctors Symphony Orchestra and serves as director of development for the Orchestra Council.

**Gloria Stern Penner Snyder** is KPBS radio's director of public affairs and host of KPBS's *Editors Roundtable* in San Diego. She has won seven Emmys, five Golden Mikes, and two Gracies from the American Federation of Women in Radio and Television. The annual Gloria Penner

Award for Civic Service was established in 2003 by the League of Women Voters of San Diego County.

## 1953

### Ben Suintag

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1311 Franklin Lane  
Rockaway, NJ 07866  
gatnus@gmail.com

**Robert Ricken** was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to the field of education by the C.W. Post Long Island University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. He is the retired superintendent of the Mineola Public Schools. The National Association of Middle Schools has just announced that his latest book, *Love Me When I'm Most Unlovable*, is a best seller.

## 1954

### Marlene (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman

*Class Correspondent*  
255 West 94 Street, Apt. 6Q  
New York, NY 10025

**Allen M. Alper** is president of Alper Consulting, an advisory firm specializing in mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures, in the fields of mining and manufacturing. He is also editor-in-chief of *Metals News*, a free online publication about mining companies, exploration, and manufacturing.

**Sandra Levy Ceren** is the author of *Essentials of Premarital Counseling* (Loving Healing Press).

## 1955

### Geraldine Miller Markowitz

*Class Correspondent*  
geraldine@nj.r.com

**Karl Bernstein**, an active Scout and leader for sixty-two years, has been awarded the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth by the Brooklyn Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This is the highest award that a local Boy Scout council can bestow, with the confirmation of the Boy Scouts of America National Council upon one of its registered volunteer Scout leaders.

**Gloria Sananes Stein** has written *Leaving Fingerprints*, a collection of stories about ordinary persons with extraordinary commitment.

## 1956

### Mike Saluzzi

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Glendale, CA 91207-1837  
msaluzzi@earthlink.net

The National Arts Club held an artist's reception and book signing entitled "Beauty, Near and Far," for **Janet Gurian Lippman**.

**Martin P. Schreiber** and his tilapia farming program are included among the work mentioned on the "Future of Aquaculture" placemats being used at King's Fish House Restaurant in San Diego.

## 1957

### Micki Goldberg Ginsberg

*Class Correspondent*  
217 E. Maple Avenue  
Moorestown, NJ 08057  
ginsberg10@gmail.com

**Angela Belli** is a professor of English at St. John's University in New York and has served as president of the New York College English Association. Her newest book is *Bodies and Barriers*.

**Melvin Lipman** recently retired from a thirty-year law practice in Las Vegas and from the position of college instructor in constitutional law. For the past six years he has been president of the American Humanist Association (the oldest and largest humanist organization in the United States).

**Rena Rosenbaum Rotenberg** is currently teaching early childhood education at Villa Julie College, Maryland, after serving for thirty years as the early childhood consultant at the Center for Jewish Education in Baltimore. While at the CJE, she developed such programs as In The Beginning...A Jewish Lamaze Experience, a childbirth program within a Jewish framework, and Machon L'Morim, a professional development program for Jewish early childhood educators.

## 1958

### Sandra Seigel Pikoff

*Class Correspondent*  
4500 Williams Drive #212-320  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
sspikoff@aol.com

**Arnold J. Hauptman** is a practicing attorney on Long Island and has represented the local 7-Eleven Franchisee Trade Association for twenty-five years.

He was recently appointed general counsel for the National Coalition of Associations of 7-Eleven Franchisees. The coalition is the umbrella organization for local trade associations throughout the nation, which, in turn, represent more than 2,500 7-Eleven franchised stores.

After working for the Internal Revenue Service for thirty-three years, **Howard Schwartz** intends to retire this year and is thinking of day trading—stocks and options.

## 1959

### Rosalie Fuchs Berle

*Class Correspondent*  
260 Garth Road, Apt. 3J5  
Scarsdale, NY 10583

**Harvey Edell** recently coauthored with his daughter Loraine Alderman, '91 *Don't You Get It? Living with Auditory Learning Disabilities*. This book describes what an auditory learning disability is, how to get tested for it, and treatment options. It also includes personal experiences across three generations of a family living with this learning disability.

**Harvey J. Cohen, '64**, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, Stanford University School of Medicine, was elected to a five-year term on the organization's national board of trustees. Dr. Cohen, a longtime volunteer for the March of Dimes, has made great strides in treating various types of childhood leukemia and is one of the world's leading experts on a mysterious syndrome called Kawasaki disease, a childhood fever that results in coronary aneurysms in about 20 percent of cases. To date, there is no known cause for Kawasaki disease.

## 1960

### Saul Kravitz

*Class Correspondent*  
3382 Kenzo Court  
Mountain View, CA 94040  
kravitzsaul@gmail.com

**Frances Gitterman Orenstein** recently published a book of poetry for children, *Five, Six, Pickup Sticks*, which she also illustrated. She also has a new 'tween novel, *The Goblin Murder Mystery*, and a second 'tween series of fantasy stories starting with *The Wizard of Balalac* and *The Book of Mysteries – the Gargoyles of*

*Blackthorne*. She won first prize for an adult short story and second prize for a free verse adult poem in the Florida AAUW annual writing contest.

## 1961

**David S. Herskowitz**

*Class Correspondent*  
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Encinitas, CA 92024  
technologicalforecasting@yahoo.com

## 1962

**Steven J. Nappen**

*Class Correspondent*  
38 Troy Hills Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981

**Muriel Feldshuh** is on the board of advisors to the Books for Kids Foundation. She was honored when the foundation named a small library in Williamsburg for her. Her children's quilts have been exhibited at the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature in Texas, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Massachusetts, and the San Antonio Children's Museum.

and to the osteopathic profession. She was also a recipient of the Woman of Achievement Award, given by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Division of the March of Dimes.

## 1964

**Jay Orlikoff**

*Class Correspondent*  
20 Beaverdale Lane  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

**Alan S. Goldberg**, a past president and inaugural fellow of the American Health Lawyers Association, has been appointed to the adjunct faculty of George Mason University School of Law, Arlington, Virginia, and will teach health law. He continues to teach health law as a member of the adjunct faculty of the GMU College of Health and Human Services, Department of Health Administration and Policy, in Fairfax, Virginia.

**Richard Steckel** and his wife, Michele, are cofounders of the Milestones Project. The purpose is to raise awareness and acceptance of our likenesses rather than focusing on our differences. The project involves the photographing of children

**Michele Eisemann Shimizu** is professor of physical therapy and chairperson of the Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Health and Welfare at the Prefectural University of Hiroshima, Japan.

## 1966

**Felicia Friedland Weinberg**

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

## 1967

**Sharon Weinschel Resen**

*Class Correspondent*  
1740 Kimball Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Neuroscience researcher **Michael Chopp** (married to Bela Koothane Chopp, '68) has published more than three hundred articles in professional journals on his research on strokes and other neurodegenerative diseases. He presents at conferences throughout the world and is an honorary professor in China.

## 1968

**Eileen McGinn**

*Class Correspondent*  
210 East 15 Street, Apt. #10N  
New York, NY 10003

The Association of American Colleges and Universities appointed **Frederick A. Winter** senior director of advancement and leadership development.

## 1969

**Edward M. Greenspan**

*Class Correspondent*  
1237 Avenue Z, Apt. #6G  
Brooklyn, NY 11235-4360

**Karen Wiggins Possner** has retired after ten years with the federal government and twenty-five years in the private sector. At the time of her retirement she was BellSouth's vice-president for national security and strategic policy. She and her husband are spending more time with family and friends and enjoying traveling.

Two works by **Linda Friedman Schmidt**, *Daddy's Dummy* (2008) and *Self Portrait as a Bird* (2006), have been selected for the juried show with catalog published at the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton.

It may not be as elegant as H.G. Wells's legendary *Time Machine*, but **Dr. Alan Lambowitz, '68**, and his colleagues at the University of Texas at Austin and Purdue University have come up with the next best thing: the *Fungus Time Machine*. Lambowitz, who is the director of the Institute for Cellular & Molecular Biology at the University of Texas, is an expert in mold and observed that certain proteins work to help the fungus's RNA to perform certain tasks, much the same way biologists theorize that the earliest organic molecules began replicating themselves with the help of proteins—long before DNA arrived on the evolutionary scene. Researchers at Purdue University created a three-dimensional model of the protein, and now scientists are able to see how this early process worked. "Now we can see how RNA progressed to share functions with proteins," Lambowitz told the *Purdue University News Service*. "This was a critical missing step."

## 1963

**Cliff Rosner**

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

**Alice Sheflin Zal** was recently elected vice-president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association (POMA), a statewide organization for physicians holding the doctor of osteopathic medicine degree. Previously, Dr. Zal received the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society's Raymond J. Saloom, D.O., Memorial Award for dedication to the art of family practice

of all races, religions, and cultures during the milestones in life that are common to all of us.

## 1965

**Barbara Berman Leveene**

*Class Correspondent*  
24 Jubilee Circle  
Aberdeen, NJ 07747

**Roger H. Rubin** is associate professor emeritus of family science of the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland.

1970

**Barry Silverman**

*Class Correspondent*  
176 Stultz Lane  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816  
Barry@successful.com

**Carren Wagner Strock** had the second edition of her book *Married Women Who Love Women* published by Routledge Press.

**Walter Weissman** is a photojournalist who has numerous exhibitions, both solo and group, in area art galleries.

**Joseph Wronka**, a professor at Springfield College in Massachusetts, recently published a book entitled *Human Rights and Social Justice*. The book examines how human rights and social justice can serve as a conceptual framework for policy and practice in the helping and health profession.

numerous articles in both legal and insurance trade publications on insurance regulatory, reinsurance, and insolvency law.

1974

**Diane Oeters Vaughn**

*Class Correspondent*  
dianeleslie29@hotmail.com

**Pola Bradman** published *Retos y Reacciones: Diario Poeti* in June. This book is a collection of poems in English and Spanish, her native language from Cuba.

She is an independent test administrator.

**Karen Stepler-Krieg** is enjoying a career as a financial adviser in the Washington, D.C., area helping people realize their financial goals.

1978

**Susan A. Katz**

*Class Correspondent*  
120 Pinewood Trail  
Trumbull, CT 06611-3313

Incisive Media has named **Anthony Paonita** editor-in-chief of *Corporate Counsel Magazine*, a publication for chief legal officers at U.S. companies, government agencies, and nonprofits.

1979

**Anthony Esposito**

*Class Correspondent*  
265 Hamilton Drive  
Red Bank, NJ 07701

**Lynn Levine, '73**, is a woodswoman. For the last thirty years, she has been a forestry consultant in Vermont, assessing wooded areas and writing and implementing plans. Levine, who received her master's degree in forestry from the University of Massachusetts, originally trained at Brooklyn College to be an elementary school teacher but became involved in the environmental movement around the time of the first Earth Day. Last year Levine coauthored *Mammal Tracks and Scat: A Life-Size Tracking Guide*, a waterproof field guide that helps hikers identify the various tracks and animal droppings they encounter on the trail. "The word is spreading," she told the *Brattleboro Reformer*. "Even the Smithsonian is selling it."

**Sister Mary Ross, CSJ, M.S., '76**, is both a nun and a

lawyer. And this summer Governor David Paterson appointed her to the nineteen-member New York State Board of Parole for a six-year term. The board decides which of the 62,620 inmates currently in the New York State penal system qualify for early release and also supervises the 45,000 former inmates who are currently on parole. Sister Ross has been a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society in Queens since 1998, and before that she was one of the founders of Providence House, an organization that provides transitional and permanent housing for female ex-offenders.

1971

**Constance Forte Pigozzi**

*Class Correspondent*  
7802 16 Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11214

1975

**Rubin Leitner**

*Class Correspondent*  
138 East 96 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11212

1972

**Stanley A. Alexander**

*Class Correspondent*  
4 Indian Valley Road  
East Setauket, NY 11790

1976

**Henry P. Feintuch**

*Class Correspondent*  
50 Barnes Lane  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

1973

**Linda E. Gross Carroll**

*Class Correspondent*  
212 Stony Point Drive  
Sebastian, FL 32958  
lcarroll32@comcast.net

1977

**Robert Gurbo** is curator of the estate of Andre Kertész and has just published his fourth book on the artist/photographer; *On Reading: André Kertész* (W.W. Norton, 2008.)

**Francine Levitt Semaya**, a member of the law firm Cozen O'Connor, was a recent lecturer at the American Conference Institute's Fourth National Forum on Reinsurance Agreements. She spoke on "Protecting Your Interests in the Event of Insolvency or Run-Off." She has authored

The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants recently installed **Anthony Maltese** as director-at-large. He is the sole practitioner of the Maltese CPA Firm PLLC in Staten Island.

**Mark Sochaczewsky** has been appointed by the commissioner of the Social Security Administration as the regional chief administrative law judge for the New York Region of the Office of Disability Adjudication and Review. The New York Region includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and United States Virgin Islands.

In August, Harper Collins published **Morton Zachter's** award-winning memoir, *Dough*.

1980

**Jeffrey Fried** cohosted the Annual Poker Tournament of the Congressional Award, of which he is a member of the board. He is a sports and entertainment attorney in Washington, D.C.

**Ann Woolford-Singh, '77**, arrived at JFK Airport from Guyana in 1968. In the years that followed she worked full time to help support her family and graduated from Brooklyn College in seven years. She later earned graduate degrees at New York University and Old Dominion University. Newly appointed as the vice-president of academic affairs at Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg, Virginia, Woolford-Singh appreciates the history of the campus, which is built on the site of an eighteenth-century German immigrant community. "As an immigrant myself, I felt that immediate connection," she told the *Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star*.

**Judith Franz** is teaching ESL to adult women from many countries at Fifth Avenue Committee. She also represents her site on the Brooklyn Health Literacy Collaborative. This organization hopes to partner health facilities with adult education facilities in order to bring enhanced health literacy skills and access to the adult community and greater understanding of the needs of the community by the medical establishment.

### 1985

**Peter Huertas**  
*Class Correspondent*  
5135 Fedora Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78242  
alamodude2001@yahoo.com

### 1986

**Ian Lee Brown**  
*Class Correspondent*  
13978 Sawteeth Way  
Centerville, VA 20121

**Jacob Richman, '80**, builds websites in Israel for a living, but his most notable achievement is his free website Computer Jobs in Israel ([www.cji.co.il](http://www.cji.co.il)), which hooks techies up with jobs in the industry. He received his introduction to computers in 1979, working at Brooklyn College on a transportation project for the city of New York. "We did it with punch cards," he told the *Jerusalem Post*. "It makes me feel old to say that."

### 1981

**Debbie Schiffer Burke**  
*Class Correspondent*  
debcolumn@aol.com

**Debbie Schiffer Burke** recently celebrated her first anniversary as editor of the *Pocono Business Journal*. An amateur sax player, she writes the "Midlife Sax" column for the Northeast Music Organization and each winter plays Christmas music for local nonprofit fund raisers.

### 1982

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

### 1983

**Michael Kosik**  
*Class Correspondent*  
331 Newman Springs Road, Building 1  
Red Bank, NJ 07701  
michael.kosik@ubs.com

Cosmetics exec  
**Connie Tang, '92**, has taken over the reins at JAFRA USA, an American cosmetics manufacturer that pioneered the "skin care party," through which sales associates marketed the company's line of moisturizers and beauty products. Tang would seem to be the perfect choice—she comes to JAFRA after thirteen years at BeautiControl Cosmetics, a subsidiary of the Tupperware Brands Corporation, the organization that pioneered home-based selling in 1946 with the "Tupperware Party."

**Eli Landy** served for ten years as senior counsel for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation before relocating with his family to Israel. He is now working as a lawyer for a start-up publishing company that is growing every month.

### 1987

**Eric Steinhart**  
*Class Correspondent*  
915 East 7 Street, Apt. 1H  
Brooklyn, NY 11230

**Retta Blaney** is the founder and producer of Broadway Blessing.

### 1988

**Lauren Korn Popkoff**  
*Class Correspondent*  
951 Woodoak Drive  
Baldwin Harbor, NY 11510

### 1990

**Beth Debra Kallman**  
*Class Correspondent*  
8718 Ridge Boulevard  
Brooklyn, NY 11209

### 1991

**Loraine Alderman** and her father, Harvey Edell, '59, recently wrote *Don't You Get It? Living with Auditory Learning Disabilities*. This book addresses treatment options and includes personal experiences across three generations of a family living with this learning disability.

### 1993

**Rick Ernst** released his first indie feature documentary film, *Get Thrashed: The Story of Thrash Metal*, which covers the evolution, cultural impact, and musical influence of thrash metal, an extreme form of heavy metal.

**Ruby Ippolito** can be heard weekends working as on-air talent at Pulse 87 in Brooklyn, New York.

### 1994

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

## Judge Jack B. Weinstein, '43

Judge Jack B. Weinstein, '43, had his first brush with the law one night at Brooklyn College—when he was almost arrested. The future federal district judge had gone out to the newly constructed campus with his pals, eager to register for classes. Spying a deserted building that sparked his curiosity (it turned out to be the power plant) young Jack had his buddies give him a boost up to the window so he could look in. Just then some of Brooklyn's finest came by and caught him in the act, imprisoning him there in the glare of their flashlights. "What are you doing here?" they demanded, guns drawn. His closing argument must have been persuasive. "Get out of here!" they ordered him.

"And that was my first real encounter with Brooklyn College," Judge Weinstein recently related in his spacious corner office on the fourteenth floor of the Brooklyn federal courthouse. There was a mischievous gleam in his eyes as he leaned back in his chair and folded his hands on his chest. He bears an uncanny resemblance to the actor Jack Warden, but it came as a surprise to learn that he himself had once been a child actor on Broadway, appearing in several forgettable plays. His aunt had gotten him and his mother involved in the theater. "We needed the money," he explained.

The courtroom, not the stage, is where Weinstein has made his most memorable performances. Formerly the chief judge of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, he now serves as a senior judge, still writes prodigiously, still speaks prominently, and still maintains an impressive caseload that would stagger most jurists, let alone a man in his eighties. Naming a handful of the complex mass tort cases he's been involved with is to get a brief legal history lesson of late-twentieth-century America: Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide sprayed during the Vietnam war, and the ensuing veterans' disabilities; silicon breast implants and risks to women's health; the famed "Mafia Capo" case; and the Staten Island ferry crash settlement case.

"The two most important decisions of my time I've participated in," he said solemnly, were "*Brown v. Board of Education*, which set aside segregation; and one person, one vote, which protected the right to vote. I was there."



Behind his chair is a framed poster of a paraphrased quote from Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "If you believe in great things, you may be able to make other people believe in them." That could certainly sum up his own philosophy, although Weinstein says that Holmes "was less romantic than I am. I believe people are good. But I don't think people are all good. I'm a romantic, but I'm not stupid! I've worked on the docks, so I know how people act."

The judge can look down from his office and recall what the area was like when it bustled with industrial activity before the Second World War, and he was a young man unloading trucks and going to night school. "Everybody at the trucking firm was trying to help me get through college," he said. "Most of them didn't have more than a sixth-grade education, including my boss. I was the first of their generation to get a higher education and they wanted me to succeed." He took the trolley from Williamsburg to the College and walked home to save a nickel. "My only thought was to get through the days."

After Pearl Harbor he enlisted in the Navy (the Army and Air Force had turned him down because of his allergies) but they gave him a year to get his degree, so he switched to day classes. "I must have taken a huge number of courses," Weinstein said, "but to me it was a snap because I wasn't working."

One day he was sitting by the campus reflecting pool, reading his economics books, when a very attractive woman came up to him. She was giving away free samples of Marlboros, he recalled. "I looked her over, and said, 'No thanks, I don't smoke.'" A week or two later he saw her at the Grand Army Plaza library doing some research among the stacks. It turned out she was also a student at Brooklyn College. "I had a couple of bucks in my pocket, and I

bought her a seventy-five-cent dinner and we saw a movie.” Evelyn Horowitz, ’43, was from East New York, and as he recalls, the long subway rides were “an inducement to marriage,” but he waited until after the war to propose. A Navy lieutenant on a submarine (he saw action in the Battle of Leyte Gulf), he said, “I assumed I’d get maimed or killed, so I didn’t ask her.”

But he survived, she waited for him, and they married, ultimately raising three boys while he went through law school on the G.I. Bill and she supported the family doing social work (she’s also been honored by Brooklyn College).

After being admitted to the bar in 1949, he clerked for New York Court of Appeals Judge Stanley H. Fuld. In the 1950s, he was a member of the NAACP’s legal team in the *Brown v. Board of Education* case. A decade later he served as the Nassau County attorney after the Democrats had wrested control from the Republican machine. When Senator Robert Kennedy offered Weinstein the federal judgeship in the Eastern District, he accepted.

Nominated by President Lyndon B. Johnson, he was accompanied to the Senate floor by both New York senators, Kennedy and Jacob Javits, a Republican. “They introduced me to the committee,” Weinstein recalled, “and the chairman said to me, ‘Professor, I have one question for you.’ I waited. ‘Did you have a nice trip coming down?’ I said, ‘It was very pleasant, Senator.’ And that was it.”

He proudly calls himself an activist judge because “it means I have a firm belief in the Constitution and the rule of law,” and he actively enforces it. “I believe in precedents, I believe in logic, and I believe in history. And I’ve relied on all three in my opinions.”

To Judge Jack B. Weinstein the law is a living thing. “It’s constantly changing,” he said in his office, looking out the window where he once could see the World Trade Center. “We’re at a crossroads. It could go in the direction of less freedom and a more coercive state—and a poorer country that can’t afford civil liberties and generosity—or we could be going in the other direction. We don’t know. The greatest adversary for a country like this is ignorance.”

## 1995

### Nathan Solat

*Class Correspondent*  
2793 Lee Place  
Bellmore, NY 11710

**Sydney Steinhart** recently accepted the position of assistant director of communications at Fordham University, New York.

## 1996

### Anthony Vitale

*Class Correspondent*  
554 Beach 129 Street  
Belle Harbor, NY 11694

## 1997

### Tara M. Dowd

*Class Correspondent*  
440 West 34 Street, Apt. 10A  
New York, NY 10001

**Boris Mirkin** has been promoted to the rank of sergeant with the New York City Police Department.

## 1999

### David Moskowitz

*Class Correspondent*  
2327 East 18 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

## 2001

### Tatesha Bennett Clark

*Class Correspondent*  
540 East 82 Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11236

## 2002

### Igor Galanter

*Class Correspondent*  
1342 East 18 Street, Apt. 6C  
Brooklyn, NY 11230

**Theresa Kwofi** has released her self-published book of poetry, *Time in Conflict: My Poetry Collections with an African Flavor*. Her first book was *Mother Africa: Thou Art a Continent*, a collection of essays.

**Claudia Saul** has self-published two books of poems, *Poetic Inspirations* and *The Different Flavors of Words*, and is currently working on a children’s book.

## 2004

### Yael Abraham Fogel

*Class Correspondent*  
570 Ocean Parkway, Apt. 5C  
Brooklyn, NY 11218  
yct.fogel@gmail.com

## 2007

### Ezra Rich

*Class Correspondent*  
205 West 95 Street  
New York, NY 10025  
EzraRich@gmail.com

## 2008

### Stefanie Low

*Class Correspondent*  
3-A Putnam Avenue  
Glen Cove, NY 11542  
stefanielow@yahoo.com

Bigfoot may still lurk undiscovered in the forests of the American Northwest, but when the creature is ultimately found,

## Orah Raul Greenberg,

’97; M.S., ’00, will have a line of stylish large-sized shoes for he/she/it to wear. Greenberg founded Cosmosis in 2005 after finding it nearly impossible to locate trendy footwear for her own size twelve feet. This stay-at-home mom now designs and produces a line of sophisticated shoes, sized five to fourteen, doing most of her work when her two children, ages two and four, are asleep. The shoe maven has so far sold more than 10,000 pairs of big shoes, she told the *Brookline* (Mass.) *TAB*. Most of the footwear is produced in Turkey from her designs.

**Carolina Bank Muñoz**, Sociology, *Transnational Tortillas: Race, Gender, and Shop-floor Politics in Mexico and the United States*, Cornell University Press, 2008, \$18.95, paperback.

**How does a company from the Global South behave differently when it also produces in the Global North? Carolina Bank Muñoz reveals how management regimes and company policy on each side of the border apply different strategies to exploit their respective workforces' vulnerabilities.**

## Faculty

**Moustafa Bayoumi**, English, *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem?*, Penguin Press, 2008, \$24.95, hardcover.

**Christopher Ebert**, History, *Between Empires: Brazilian Sugar in the Early Atlantic Economy, 1550–1630*, Brill, 2008, \$104, hardcover.

**Joseph Entin**, English, coed. with Robert Rosen, William Paterson University, and Leonard Vogt, LaGuardia Community College (emeritus). *Controversies in the Classroom: A Radical Teacher Reader*, Teachers College Press, 2008, \$24.95, paperback.

**Kenneth A. Gould**, Sociology, and Tammy L. Lewis, Honors Academy, coed. *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, Oxford University Press, 2009, \$42.95, paperback.

**Mark Kobrak**, Chemistry, ed. *Experiments in General Chemistry*, Kendall-Hunt, 2008, \$37.95, paperback.

**Ira Levine**, Chemistry, *Physical Chemistry*, 6th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2008, \$145.50, hardcover; *Student Solutions Manual Accompany Physical Chemistry*, 6th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2008, \$62.77, paperback; *Quantum Chemistry*, 6th ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008, \$134.60, hardcover; and *Student Solutions Manual to Accompany Quantum Chemistry*, 6th ed., Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008, \$40.20, paperback.

**Annie Hauck-Lawson**, Health and Nutrition Sciences; Jonathan Deutsch, Kingsborough Community College, *Gastropolis, Food and New York City*, Columbia University Press, 2008, \$29.95, paperback.

**An irresistible sampling of the city's rich food heritage, *Gastropolis* explores the personal and historical relationship between New Yorkers and food. Touching on everything from religion, nutrition, and agriculture to economics, politics, and psychology, *Gastropolis* tells a story of immigration, amalgamation, and assimilation. This rich interplay between tradition and change, individual and society, and identity and community could happen only in New York.**

**Ian McMahan**, Psychology, emeritus, *Adolescence*, Allyn & Bacon, 2008, \$113.33, paperback.

**Nava Renek**, Women's Center, ed. *Wreckage of Reason: An Anthology of Contemporary Xperimental Prose by Women Writers*, Spuyten Duyvil, 2008, \$20, paperback.

**Edwin Burrows**, History, *Forgotten Patriots: The Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War*, Basic Books, 2008, \$27.50, hardcover.

**New York City became the jailhouse of the American Revolution because it was the principal base of the Crown's military operations. Beginning with the bumper crop of American captives taken during the 1776 invasion of New York, captured Americans were stuffed into a hastily assembled collection of public buildings, sugar houses, and prison ships. *Forgotten Patriots* is the first-ever account of what took place in these hell-holes. The result is a unique perspective on the Revolutionary War as well as a sobering commentary on how Americans have remembered our struggle for independence—and how much we have forgotten.**

**Tobie Stein**, Theater, and **Jessica Bathurst**, Theater, *Performing Arts Management: A Handbook of Professional Practices*, Allworth Press, 2008, \$50, paperback.

**Pat Willard**, Communications–Editorial Services, *America Eats! On the Road with the WPA—The Fish Fries, Box Supper Socials, and Chitlin Feasts that Define Real American Food*, Bloomsbury USA, 2008, \$25.99, hardcover.

## Alumni

**Loraine Alderman, '91**, and **Harvey Edell, '59**, *Don't You Get It? Living with Auditory Learning Disabilities*, Skip Watt Publishing, 2008, \$15.95, paperback.

**Angela Belli, '57**, *Bodies and Barriers*, The Kent State University Press, 2008, \$29.95, paperback.

**Arnold Bresky, '61**, *The Secret for Caregiver Success*, PRLog Press, 2008, \$12, paperback.

**Sandra Levy Ceren, '54**, *Essentials of Premarital Counseling*, Loving Healing Press, 2008, \$19.95, paperback.

**Frank J. Coppa, '60**, *Politics and the Papacy in the Modern World*, Greenwood Publishing Group Incorporated, 2008, \$49.95, hardcover.

**Michael Corris, '70**, *Ad Reinhardt*. Reaktion Books, 2008, \$39.95, hardcover.

**Francis Xavier Cunningham, '49**, *A Huge Happy Pageant*, Vantage Press, 2008, \$12.95, paperback.

**David Everitt** (writes about his mother Sylvia Everitt, '42), *Remembering Sam: A Wartime Story of Love, Loss, and Redemption*, Ivan R. Dee, 2008, \$22.50, hardcover.

**Sidney Mintz, '43**, coed. *The World of Soy*, University of Illinois Press, 2008, \$40, hardcover.

**Mildred Palmer Mortimer '60**, trans., *The Seine Was Red: Paris, October 1961*, by Leila Sebbar, Indiana University Press, 2008, \$17.95, paperback.

**Fran Gitterman Orenstein, '60**, *Five, Six, Pickup Sticks*, TRIAD Kids, 2008, \$8.95, paperback.

**John Parascandola, '63**, *Sex, Sin, and Science: A History of Syphilis in America*, Praeger Publishing, 2008, \$49.95, hardcover.

**Gloria O. Schragar, '44**, *Medicine, Matzoh Balls, and Motherhood: The Complex Life of a Woman Doctor*, Xlibris, 2006, \$21.99, hardcover.

**Gloria Sananes Stein, '55**, *Leaving Fingerprints*, Xlibris, 2008, \$19.99, paperback.

**Carren Wagner Stroock, '70**, *Married Women Who Love Women*, Routledge Press, 2008, \$59.95, hardcover.

**Pat Koch Thaler, '53**, and Edward I. Koch, *Eddie's Little Sister Makes a Splash*, Penguin Group, 2007, \$16.99, hardcover.

**Joseph Wronka, '70**, *Human Rights and Social Justice*, Sage Publications, 2007, \$55.95, hardcover.

**Joyce Zonana, '77**, *Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, An Exile's Journey*, The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2008, \$15.95, paperback.

**Alex S. Vitale**, *Sociology, City of Disorder: How the Quality of Life Campaign Transformed New York Politics*, New York University Press, 2008, \$40., hardcover.

**Vitale analyzes the drive to restore moral order that resulted in an overhaul of the way New York views such social problems as prostitution, graffiti, homelessness, and panhandling. Through several fascinating case studies of New York neighborhoods and an in-depth look at the dynamics of the NYPD and of the city's administration itself, Vitale explains why Republicans have won the last four New York mayoral elections and what the long-term impact of Rudolph Giuliani's zero tolerance method has been on a city historically known for its liberalism.**

**Richard J. Feinstein, '64**, *Evrey Goodman, A Novel*, Infinity Publishing, 2008, \$15.95, paperback.

**Erin Golembiewski, '07**, *Mario Cuomo's Private Affairs and Public Responsibility*, Lulu.com, 2008, \$30.51, hardcover; \$8, download.

**Michael Kaplan, '97**, (Oliver Covington) *The Wake of Words*, CreateSpace, 2008, \$13.95, paperback.

**Theresa Kwofi, '02**, *Time In Conflict: My Poetry Collections with an African Flavor*, Theresa Kwofi, 2008, \$20, paperback.

**Michael Largo, '76**, *Genius and Heroin: The Illustrated Catalogue of Creativity, Obsession, and Reckless Abandon Through the Ages*, Harper Collins, 2008, \$15.95, paperback.

**Marion TD Lewis, '04**, *A Summer in Brooklyn, A Summer in Paris*, The Waterfall Press Inc., 2008, \$25, hardcover.

**Charlotte Mandel, '44**, *Rock, Vein, Sky*, Midmarch Arts Press, 2008, \$15, paperback.

**Robert Gurbo, '77**, *On Reading: André Kertész*, W.W. Norton, 2008, \$29.95, hardcover.

**André Kertész (1894–1985) was one of the most inventive, influential, and prolific photographers in the medium's history. Taken between 1920 and 1970, these photographs capture people reading in every conceivable place—on rooftops, in public parks, on crowded streets, waiting in the wings of the school play. Kertész's images celebrate the absorptive power and pleasure of this solitary activity and speak to readers everywhere.**

**Claudia Saul, '02**, *The Different Flavors of Words*, Claudia Saul, 2004, \$12.95, paperback.

**Andrew J. Schiff, '92**, *Henry Chadwick: The Father of Baseball*, McFarland, 2008, \$29.95, paperback.

**Morton Zachter, '79**, *Dough: A Memoir*, Harper Collins, 2008, \$13.95, paperback.

**After losing his job as an accountant, enrolling in night law school and taking out a second mortgage to support his family, Zachter answered the phone in 1994 and was asked by a banker if he would like to take control of his Uncle Harry's seven-figure money market account. What he at first assumed was a practical joke turned out to be true—Harry had been living like a pauper while running a day-old bread store on Manhattan's Lower East Side for 60 years. Upon stumbling on a stockpile of crumbling two-dollar bills stashed away in Harry's fruitcake boxes, a relative jokes that Zachter really is from old money. In seeking to reconcile decades of financial stress with his sudden inheritance, Zachter notes, multiple lifetimes of nothing but hard work and deprivation had amassed this fortune. This rich story pays off with honest but lighthearted discoveries about loyalty and wealth.**

# a road *Less traveled*

## The Light at the End of the Subway Tunnel: From Grit to Glitter with **Michael C. Martin**

Sometimes you can lose, but still come out a winner. Don't believe it?

Just ask Michael C. Martin, whose determination enabled him to turn the misfortune of a serious car accident in 2005 into the stuff that dreams are made of.

A film student at Brooklyn College until 2004, Martin was making slow but steady progress with a film-directing thesis project and working for New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) at the time of the accident. He knew immediately that he would have to shelve the thesis, at least temporarily, and with it the degree he had been working toward.

But not for one minute was Martin resigned to giving up his goal of working in the film industry, or to letting all he had learned in the College's Film Department, under the mentorship of Rebecca McDonald and Bill Hornsby, go by the wayside.

While Martin was still in physical therapy and still working in the subways for the MTA, he entered his first film script, *Brooklyn's Finest*, in a screenwriting competition, hoping to win the \$10,000 first prize and at least replace his car. He came in second, but it was enough to win him the attention of an agent in Hollywood and a brief stint as a writer for Showtime's *Sleeper Cell* series. The agent also brought Martin and his film script to the attention of a Hollywood producer who was looking around for someone to write the sequel to the 1991 thriller about Detroit drug lords, *New Jack City*. Martin was hired for the job, but meanwhile *Brooklyn's Finest* had caught the attention of the producer too, and soon it was optioned.

Martin's film script, shot this past spring in the neighborhood where he grew up—Brooklyn's East New York—is now a major motion picture, due to be released some time next year. Directed by Antoine Fuqua of *Training Day* fame, the production stars Richard Gere, Don Cheadle, and Ethan Hawke, all of whom praised the grit in Martin's writing and took pay cuts to play roles in the movie.

"I didn't fashion myself as a screenwriter," said Martin, who was focused on becoming a director. "But there are no contests for directors. I wrote the script thinking that it

would take me in a different direction than it actually did."

Martin denies that being in the film industry was a lifelong dream. "It wasn't until I took a film appreciation course in my last two years in high school; it opened up what was, for me, a new art form. I started watching as many movies as I could."

It was a teacher at Canarsie's South Shore High School who suggested that Martin try to pursue his new passion at Columbia University or Brooklyn College, both famous for their undergraduate film departments.

The son of a working-class family, Martin ruled out going to Columbia. When he came to Brooklyn College seeking advice, Martin realized he could study cinematography, directing, theory and history, and screen writing for a fraction of the cost of the Ivy League school.

Like many aspiring filmmakers at the College, however, Martin had no scholarships or aid and had to work to pay his way through school and fund his own productions. "You have to continue your nine-to-five job while you pursue your goals," he said, recalling that McDonald and Hornsby motivated and pushed him to continue studying against all odds, when he was on the edge of failing. When he landed his first writing job in Hollywood, on the Showtime series, it was more than he had bargained for.

"I was given two weeks to write an episode that had already been worked on by other writers. It was a somewhat frustrating experience to write something that wasn't originally yours."

"Only 10 to 20 percent is talent," he pointed out, noting that making movies is not baseball. "The rest is ambition, the drive you have to make it. Now I enjoy the challenge of writing on somebody else's project. You can't keep repeating yourself."



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## Paul Newman and the Brooklyn Kid



Reporter, Larry Gold, Newman, President Robert Hess.

*Paul Newman appeared so glamorous in a white cashmere sweater and aviator sunglasses when he showed up to speak about his career at Brooklyn College that December day in 1981 that everyone wanted to be near him.*

*But only one student got the chance. Larry Gold, twenty years old and majoring in film, won the enviable role of chauffeuring Newman from the airport to campus. With a little extra time to spare before the return flight left, Larry took Newman on a tour of Brooklyn and the pair ended up at the gas station near Larry's home. Newman—a veteran of the raceways—emerged from the car a little shaky and said to the*

*attendant, "You see this kid? He's great. But he's a terrible driver!" With that, he gave Larry a hug and got back into the car, and they took off for the airport.*

*Larry's father, Hilary Gold, the former vice-president of student affairs at Brooklyn College, told us the story a few days after Newman passed away this October. Larry, himself, was suffering from leukemia when Newman met him, although his father says Newman probably never guessed. Larry died in fall 1982 and his parents and family have established editing studios and a scholarship in his name.*

*"He was a great kid," Gold said of his son. "And he had a lot of fun showing Newman around Brooklyn."*

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