Brooklyn College Magazine

Taking It to the Streets: Learning Through the City
Last August, Brooklyn College set up accounts on Facebook and Twitter. One week later, more than 1,500 students became Facebook fans, and a little over two hundred began waiting for our next tweet on Twitter. The fans keep coming and our tweets are expanding as more of our community tunes to these social networking sites for important news and information about the college, events, and stories about students and professors.

You too can keep up-to-date on everything BC by becoming a fan on Facebook and following us on Twitter today! Just visit the college website and clink on the links.
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Editor-in-Chief
Pat Willard

Associate Editors
Stephen Garone
Elaine Weisenberg

Contributing Editor
Joe Fodor

Writers
Lisa Lincoln
Ernesto Mora
Richard Sheridan
Jamilah Simmons

Class Notes Editor
Eileen E. Howlin

Art Director
Joe Loguirato

Senior and Magazine Designer
Lisa Panazzolo

Production Assistant
Mammen P. Thomas

Staff Photographers
Claudia Mandlik
John Ricasoli

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E-mail: bcmag@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Website: www.brooklyn.cuny.edu

Front cover: Justin Davis in the heart of downtown Brooklyn.
Back cover: President and dignitaries cutting the ribbon for the West Quad Center.
Dear Readers,

With a new president at the helm and a major new building opening, Brooklyn College has experienced the shock of the new this fall. In their individual ways, President Karen L. Gould and the West Quad Center are reshaping the college, steering it in directions that are both startling and invigorating. President Gould, who we profile on page 9, is a renowned scholar of French-Canadian literature, with a stellar background in administration at several public universities across the country. Soon after she arrived in August, President Gould began to refer to herself as the college’s cheerleader and that is the perfect image for the enthusiastic way she has thrown herself into the job.

One of President Gould’s first duties was presiding over the opening of the West Quad Center—the first new building to be added to the campus in almost forty years. The 145,000-square-foot glass-fronted structure dominates a new quadrangle west of Bedford Avenue, and houses a one-stop student services center and state-of-the-art physical education, athletic, and recreational facilities. Take a peek inside the complex on page 18 and a slice of the ribbon cutting on the back cover.

We hope you will return to visit the campus and explore the new building for yourself—maybe swim a couple laps in the pool, work out in one of the fitness rooms, or just enjoy the new quad. And please let us hear from you. Your comments help us to create the magazine and inspire us to make steadfast improvements.

Pat Willard
Editor

To the Editor:

I would like to extend my congratulations to you for putting out such an interesting and meaningful issue. I received it yesterday and I think it was done very professionally.

Perusing it, I had numerous recollections. Your interview with departing President Kimmich was excellent. I met him twice: once at BC and once at a reunion of the BC graduates of South Florida. He always struck me as a very intelligent and sensible person. From all I have read and heard, he did an excellent job as president. I hope his successor will be as good.

Seeing the picture of Larry Gold made me recall my friendship with his father, with whom I shared the honor and privilege of being on the BC varsity soccer team for four years. I also recall his mother, Arlene, fondly. But it was the piece on Distinguished Professor of History Hans Trefousse that held special meaning for me.

Ever the type A personality, I wasn’t content to begin college in September; I started the summer before. The first teacher I had was Hans Trefousse. He was an excellent instructor—very knowledgeable and knew how to present the material to the students. He also had a great sense of humor, which he sprinkled throughout his lectures and presentations. I was very impressed with him. I even recall seeing him wheel a baby carriage around outside of the campus while wearing a World War II field jacket. What a tremendous pleasure it was to be exposed to such a terrific faculty member.
In recent years, I have received a number of honors. I was knighted by two countries (Italy and Spain), and I was also selected for the Distinguished Faculty Award, the Joseph Yenni Distinguished Chair for the Development of Italian Studies, and the Distinguished Research Master title, among other achievements. None of this would have been possible without the training and the inspiration I received from my teachers, or without the education I received at Brooklyn College. Keep up the good work!

Joseph V. Ricapito, Ph.D., ’55

To the Editor:
In regard to my letter about the passing of Professor Dante Negro, which you kindly published in the spring 2009 issue, please be advised that one of your editors misread my “apprised” as “appraised.” Please print a correction lest the BC community think that one of its former Romance Language instructors is in need of remedial work in English. Thank you.

Paul Ash, ’46

To the Editor:
As I scanned the spring 2009 issue of the Brooklyn College Magazine, I found among the names listed in the In Memoriam section, two individuals that touched me personally: George S. Rotter, ’54 and Grace Reinhardt Goldberg, ’48.

I was in the National Guard when the Korean War began. Two months later, my unit was drafted into the army and sent to Korea shortly thereafter. Upon my return to the U.S. and my discharge from the army, I resumed my college education, and, among other things, joined the Veterans Club at Brooklyn College.

The president of the Veterans Club was George Rotter, whose passing I had just read about. It saddened me because, unbeknownst to him, he did something that changed the course of my life forever.

We were chatting one day and George said that he was going to the school library to take out a book. I decided to go with him. He took out a book and I took out the librarian. Two years later, the librarian and I were married and have been together ever since—for more than 50 years now. George was the catalyst for one of the most significant events of my life.

I also came across the name of Grace Reinhardt Goldberg, ’48. She had been a dear friend for more than 40 years. May she and George rest in peace.

Paul H. Krupenie, ’54

To the Editor:
I was saddened to learn of the death of John Hope Franklin.

I served as a student aide in the LaGuardia Hall Library reserve room during part of his tenure. I recall the care he displayed toward the books he put on reserve. He wanted to ensure that they were readily available for his students.

I also remember how fond his students were of him. Their comments extolled his many teaching virtues. It seems that he was not only a great scholar, but a wonderful human being as well.

I was not fortunate enough to be one of his students, but I sure wish I had been.

Dr. Ira Brand, ’59; MS, ’61
Helen Phillips and Adam Thompson can’t fully explain it, but even though they had never visited, they felt called to Brooklyn. So, after they both finished undergraduate studies at Yale University in 2004, they moved, sight unseen, to a Sunset Park apartment.

It turned out to be a good move. As artists, he a painter and she a writer, they felt that the nuances of Brooklyn gave them “something to rub our ideas up against,” says Phillips. “Being here completely changed our work.”

They haven’t looked back. The couple, married in 2007, both completed M.F.A. programs at Brooklyn College—Phillips in creative writing in 2007 and Thompson in art the following year—and now have adjunct teaching positions at the college. Additionally, Phillips is the coordinator of the M.F.A. program in creative writing.

“New York is a very surreal environment,” says Phillips, who is originally from Colorado. “Many times it feels like you are walking through a dream. I go to Prospect Park in the mornings and get inspired. You’ll see the most surreal white swan, and then there’ll be an overflowing garbage can. There are so many contrasts, juxtapositions, and weird impossible things.”

The environmental inspiration has had a successful outcome. Phillips is the recent recipient of the prestigious Rona Jaffe Writer’s Award, which honors writers who show promise early in their careers. The award comes with a $25,000 prize that Phillips is using to take a year off from teaching in order to work on a novel and a collection of short stories. She is also the recipient of the 2008 Italo Calvino Prize in Fabulist Fiction, the 2009 Meridian Editors’ Prize, and a Ucross Foundation residency. In 2010, her work will appear in American Fiction: The Best Unpublished Short Stories by Emerging Writers, and her collection of short stories, “And Yet They Were Happy,” is under contract to be published in 2011 by Leapfrog Press.

Thompson, who says the M.F.A. program opened his mind to more conceptual work, has been featured in recent shows in Martha’s Vineyard, Chelsea, and Flushing. He also has a website, www.thedrawingarchive.com, that cleverly features his pencil sketches, which were created under rules that required that they all be done on 8.5 by 11 inch paper, with only plain lines and no shading.

It was an idea that inspired Phillips when she set about writing “And Yet They Were Happy.” “I had been slogging through a novel, and I started to hate it because it was such a long process,” she says. “Adam, on the other hand, was really thriving under his set of rules, so he suggested that I try the same. It was the best advice I ever got.”

Phillips applied the rules idea to her work, restricting the short stories that would become the “And Yet They Were Happy” collection to one page, or 340 words. “Sometimes I feel overwhelmed when writing, and to have one rule is actually really helpful,” says Phillips. (See an excerpt from “And Yet They Were Happy” on page 48.)

Both Phillips and Thompson say that working with Brooklyn College students has also been very inspiring. “A lot of these students sacrifice so much to be here,” says Thompson, a Maine native who teaches basic design classes.

“My students have schooled me,” says Phillips. “Teaching here is very humbling. We don’t think there could be a better life.” —J.S.
A Saintly Solution

In the early years of this decade, when a lot of Americans were eager to exact vengeance against the Islamic community for the deadly attacks of September 11, 2001, Professor of Journalism Paul Moses was quietly contemplating a long-ago mission of peace.

Moses’s thoughts have now been put into book form. The result—The Saint and the Sultan: the Crusades, Islam and Francis of Assisi’s Mission of Peace—was published in September by Doubleday.

The peace mission that caught Moses’ imagination took place in the year 1219, during the time of the bloody Fifth Crusade. The trip was conceived and undertaken by Francis of Assisi, an Italian nobleman’s son who as a young man was wounded in battle and held as a prisoner of war before turning to pacifism.

Francis went on to found the Order of Friars Minor—commonly called the Franciscans—and was later admitted to the roster of Catholic saints. Now recognized for his love of animals and his personal piety, in 1219 Francis also led a band of followers to the Holy Land, where he crossed enemy lines and met with Egyptian Sultan Malik al-Kamil, commander of the Islamic forces, in an attempt to convert the Muslim leader to Christianity.

Shortly after the events of 9/11 he chanced to read Little Flowers of Francis of Assisi. “I saw it as a bigger story,” says Moses.

Not until 2006 had he fleshed out that story sufficiently to engage an agent to approach Doubleday about a book deal. Using the advance for the book to finance a trip to the Middle East and the time off from teaching made possible by a Wolfe Institute Fellowship, he researched and wrote the book.

“We’ve all read so many stories about Christians and Muslims at odds with each other,” he says. “I felt we needed other stories.”

Francis’s mission was no simple walk in the park, says Moses. “The Fifth Crusade was a very miserable war,” he notes. “There was a lot of hand-to-hand fighting going on. . . . Francis risked being treated like a spy.”

But, adds Moses, “within Islam there is a tradition of being respectful of holy Christian monks. The sultan’s warm welcome to Francis reflects this tradition.”

In Moses’ view, “the fact is that if [Saint Francis and the Sultan of Egypt] could talk to each other back then, we should be able to talk to each other now.” —R.S.

The Kids Stay in the Picture

As a first-time director and screenwriter, Mark von Sternberg, ’00, wanted to work with people he felt comfortable with. So he called in a handful of his fellow Brooklyn College alums—Francisco Solorzano, ’00; John Harlacher, ’00; and Victoria Malvagno, ’99—and together they collaborated on a movie that made quite a splash at a slew of film festivals this fall.

Love Simple, featuring Solorzano and Harlacher, with costumes designed by Malvagno, was a hit at Los Angeles’ Feel Good Film Festival, the Orlando Hispanic Film Festival, and most notably at HBO’s New York International Latino Film Festival.

“This is a big festival. They have big movies with big stars,” says von Sternberg, who graduated with a B.F.A. in acting, along with Solorzano and Harlacher. “The fear is when you are a little film, you get lost in the shuffle.”

The eighty-six-minute movie made it into the HBO festival despite the fact that the event routinely nets nearly three thousand applicants. Von Sternberg says there were full houses at all the screenings.

“I was terrified, but people were really into it,” he says. “They were laughing at the funny parts and moved at the more serious moments.”

The exposure even landed the movie a review in the industry rag, Variety, which said it had “genuine flair and wit.”

“Once the positive feedback from the festivals gets out there along with the reviews, you just try to build from that,” explains vonSternberg. “The dream would be to get lucky with a small theatrical release. Or we might get Netflix. You never know what can come from these kinds of things.”

Watch a clip from Love Simple at www.lovesimplethemovie.com. —J.S.
Frankenstein’s Edge:
From Foreign Service to the Classroom

Shortly after obtaining his B.A. in English from Stanford University in 1961, John Frankenstein, the political scientist on the Economics Department faculty, joined the U.S. Navy and was shipped to the Philippines and Vietnam. Yet even before that, he was clear that he wanted to specialize in Chinese and Asian affairs.

“I grew up in a neighborhood close to Chinatown,” says the San Francisco native, “so I’ve always been interested in China. I realized it was a country people knew little about because it was always closed to outsiders. But its significance was growing in the post-war period and needed to be studied.”

Frankenstein went on to become a foreign service officer in Africa, Asia, and Europe from 1968 to 1976, an experience through which he picked up Mandarin Chinese and French.

“My Mandarin is a bit rusty nowadays, though sufficiently functional. And my French,” he quips with a smirk, “I learned it in Vietnam, and French people like to point out that it shows because I speak it like a Vietnamese.”

Then he decided to go back to school and went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he obtained a Ph.D. in political science in 1983.

“Fresh out of MIT, I went to teach at the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Ariz., one of the leading international business programs in the country.”

After seven years at Thunderbird, Frankenstein went to teach at the University of Hong Kong, where he stayed for nearly six years before heading to the Asian Research Center at the Copenhagen Business School. Later, he became a visiting professor at the University of International Economics and Business in Beijing, and the Institute for International Studies and Training in Japan.

“I was running a small nongovernmental organization and managing an exchange program between U.S. community colleges and Chinese vocational technical colleges, a project that was funded by the Ford Foundation,” he says, “when I heard from former Provost Roberta Matthews about a position in the Economics Department at Brooklyn College.” Frankenstein joined the college in 2003 as an adjunct.

Because some of Frankenstein’s academic work is on Chinese industrial policy, he was asked to teach about political economy and business in China and Asia.

“In my capstone course on strategy, for example, I teach students about Asian business and I ask them to use all the knowledge they have learned in other classes to write strategic analyses of competing companies in Asia.”

Asked whether China represents a threat to U.S. economic dominance, Frankenstein points out that the two economies are interdependent.

“At some point, China’s gross domestic product (GDP) will surpass that of the United States,” he says, although he points out that it will not happen any time soon.

“Our country’s GDP is three times larger than China’s, even if we have less than a third of that nation’s population.”

According to Frankenstein, despite China’s accelerating economic growth, its brand of capitalism has yet to develop a solid internal market for the goods its economy produces.

“Income distribution is more uneven than ours,” he adds and also notes that, “they have great difficulty in creating brands, even after buying entire factories from us and Europe.”

But after restating that the U.S. still leads the world in innovation and productivity, Frankenstein strikes a note of caution.

“The U.S. had better stay on its toes and keep its edge on technology, higher education, and scientific knowledge. And we also need to modernize our public transportation system and address issues regarding energy and conservation.

Unfortunately those powers rest with Congress, which sometimes seems to lack the political will to move the ball.”

–E.M.
Judicious Steps

It is ironic, but true, that sometimes taking a wrong step may lead in the right direction. For a student who has difficulty controlling anger or other negative impulses, a formal complaint about his or her behavior may result in more than a reprimand. It may lead to a lasting change in behavior through the intervention of the Office of Judicial Affairs.

Formerly known as Discipline, the Office of Judicial Affairs is part of the Division of Student Affairs. Led by Moraima Burgos, ’02, the office not only reins in misbehaving students, it educates all parties involved in a dispute about how to de-escalate a confrontation, resolve conflict, and negotiate. “It is such a pleasure to see a student change from being someone people avoid to a person people want to see,” says Burgos.

Burgos investigates complaints filed about a current student’s behavior, on or off campus, by speaking with all those involved and makes a recommendation for action to Dean of Student Affairs Milga Morales. If the behavior violates college rules, penalties can range from a verbal warning to expulsion from CUNY. In addition to penalties, community service, an ethics class, or a workshop in stress management or time management may be required. Counseling may be recommended.

In cases where no rule has been broken, but an individual was offended by a student, Burgos tries to coach the injured party on strategies to avoid similar situations. “We also often talk to a student even when there is no formal complaint,” says Burgos. “Students may not realize how they are making a person feel. It is often an issue of miscommunication.”

Burgos sees the primary function of the office as education. Last spring, the office invited Professor P.M. Forni, author of Choosing Civility (St. Martin’s Press, 2002) and cofounder of the Johns Hopkins University Civility Project, to do a workshop for the college. “Everyone gets angry,” says Burgos, “but there are different ways to express it.”

Working closely with the national Association for Student Conduct Administrators (ASCA) and its network of lawyers, Burgos continues to learn about the best practices in disciplinary action, conduct codes, and case law. “If Brooklyn College aims to be a model citizen, that means our students must be model citizens, too,” she says. –L.L.

Connecting Students

Brooklyn College loves its students and wants them to stay at the college until they earn their degree.

Learning communities are one type of high impact learning experience cited by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU) as essential in promoting student persistence and raising retention and graduation rates. In helping freshmen get the most out of their first year, academically and socially, they can’t be beat, but the college is finding ways to make them better:

Last year the college placed 35 percent of the students not already in special programs in learning communities. This year 60 percent of students enjoy them, and next year even more will benefit, reports Dean of Undergraduate Studies Donna Wilson.

A direct outgrowth of the award-winning Freshman Year College program begun in 1995 by Professor of English Ellen Belton, then dean of undergraduate studies, and Kathleen Gover, associate dean of undergraduate studies, learning communities have evolved to include much more for the cohorts of students who share the same classroom experiences.

Every freshman in the learning community, also benefits from contact with a team of staff members. “The Magner Center for Career Development and Internships assigns a career counselor for each section,” says Wilson. “A librarian, an academic adviser, and a peer mentor are also assigned. With the instructor, that is a five-person network for each section, and it works.”

Peer mentors were added to the communities last year: “Peer mentors help students to feel at home on campus and also introduce them to college life. This first part is fundamental,” says senior Tara Mulqueen, the peer mentoring program coordinator. “If you didn’t feel at home somewhere, why would you stay? Equally important, in order to successfully navigate the college system, you have to be able to make sense of it and find the resources you need.”

The difference that learning communities make to students becomes apparent in retention rates. Recent studies show that Brooklyn College students who participated in a learning community during their first year persist into the crucial third year at a significantly higher rate than those who did not. –L.L.
Taking a Headcount: BioBlitz 2009 Benefits Wetlands

Spending twenty-four hours in a damp marsh in the rain may not sound like the most pleasant weekend activity. But tell that to the students who spent two days last September collecting specimens of the various birds, reptiles, mammals, insects, and other creatures that call the wetlands home. Not only did they receive a hands-on education but they also did some good for the marsh and its inhabitants.

Rebecca Boger, an assistant professor of geology who helped organize this year’s third annual Jamaica Bay BioBlitz at Floyd Bennett Field, feels that students truly gained something valuable by the experience. “They benefited by the opportunity to work with scientific experts in the field and to see what resources there are all around us in the city’s natural environment.”

More than one hundred students, including forty from the Brooklyn College School of Education, took part in the event. Also represented were students from Queens College, Baruch College, and Adelphi and Hofstra universities.

Participants were originally scheduled to collect specimens and analyze them in the field from 3 p.m. on Friday to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Rainy weather, however, prevented them from remaining outside overnight.

“The weather this year led many nocturnal species to take shelter against the rain and reduced the number of species that could be collected,” Boger explained. Yet, despite the difficulties Boger said the students managed to gather a total of 123 different species of marsh residents and plants.

Among the species collected were red tailed Cooper’s hawks, mallard ducks, great blue herons, and numerous fish, including shad, striped bass, bluefish, and bay anchovy. The volunteers also collected painted turtles, gray tree frogs, red-backed salamanders, and the common garter snake, as well as opossum, raccoons, and the Norway rat.

Both terrestrial and aquatic plant life were well represented, too: poison ivy, white clover, yucca, brown kelp, and green and red algae.

Events like BioBlitz help the marsh and its resident creatures because collecting and analyzing wildlife advances research into the wetlands environment and encourages interest among students in pursuing scientific careers. These activities also provide officials and scientists responsible for maintaining marshlands with more information that can help them improve management of the area. A video of the BioBlitz may be viewed at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/multimedia.php. —R.S.
By Jamilah Simmons

On a mild fall evening, Brooklyn College’s new president, Karen L. Gould and her husband, Rick Simon, greet guests near one of the fluted columns in the rotunda of Brooklyn Borough Hall. They exchange pleasantries with various City University of New York officials who have gathered for Borough President Marty Markowitz’s cocktail party welcoming two new CUNY presidents: William L. Pollard, at Medgar Evers, and Gould.

She can’t recall how many of these functions she’s been to in the last month but Gould understands the kinds of connections that are made at these events, and that she’s the new face of the college. She’s happy to be its No. 1 cheerleader. So the president, a petite woman, is a good sport through Markowitz’s short jokes, as they apply to both parties, and even laughs heartily at his one-liners detailing the culture shock one might experience coming from Southern California to Brooklyn. She was just saying during an interview a few days earlier that she’s a little bemused at the impression that she’s still a California girl. Though born in San Francisco, much of her adult and academic life has been lived in the Midwest, the East Coast, and abroad, except for the last two years, when she served as the provost at California State University Long Beach.

In fact, she says she decided to apply for the job, her first presidency, precisely because it seemed that Brooklyn would be a good fit for her.

Madam President

Introducing Karen L. Gould, Brooklyn College’s Ninth President

President Gould has been an active participant in many campus events since assuming her position.
“I wasn’t looking,” she offers, from her second-floor office in Boylan Hall. “But when I got the call about this job, I felt a little pang. I said, you know, this sounds like a place I could really be connected to. And the more I heard and read, the more I said maybe I can’t not look into this.”

As someone who considers herself a global citizen, Gould, 61, says she feels right at home in Brooklyn. A former dancer, she says she’s always been attracted to the arts scene in New York. Her daughter, a graduate of New York University, has been a Brooklyn hipster for some time. And, a big proponent of public higher education, Gould says that Brooklyn College has many strengths she thinks she will be able to build upon.

“This is our time to be bold,” the college’s first female president promised faculty members, with some audacity, at her first general faculty meeting in October.

Leadership Opportunities

Gould may have first established her spunkiness as a high school junior. The Northern California native had been selected to go to France for a year as a foreign exchange student and though she had been taking French since seventh grade, she says her linguistic skills were mediocre.

“We set sail on the SS America for seven days. I remember landing at the port in Le Havre and meeting my French mother and the only word she could say in English was ‘hello,’” she recalls with a genial laugh, putting on a French accent when she says hello. “Then the French started. And I realized I couldn’t put together more than two words with any confidence.”

Gould leans back a little and folds her arms at her waist, digging into a story that clearly brings back fond memories. “I like to think of the experience as similar to a temporary immigrant experience. I really did have that sense of working in a language that wasn’t my own and all the struggles and challenges that that presents for any immigrant to any culture,” she says, noting that the experience may help her relate better to many Brooklyn human beings we can all be.”

The year of study abroad also helped form the foundation for her interest in French culture, which she would eventually parlay into a robust career as an internationally recognized scholar of French-Canadian literature.

She began her teaching career at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, where she met her husband, an economics professor turned tax and business consultant. After spending about six months in Montreal on a grant to conduct research, she returned to the states and got married. The couple moved on to Virginia Tech, where Gould was happy but was seeking more.

“I was looking for an academic environment where I could do a few more things,” she explains. “They didn’t have a graduate program at Tech and I wanted to have the sense that I could take on leadership opportunities if I wanted to.”

When she was offered a faculty position at Bowling Green State University, just outside of Toledo, Ohio, she took it. She quickly became coordinator of the graduate program in French and eventually, director of the Women’s Studies program, a position she thought she’d try out for a few years while also teaching some graduate courses.

“I was thinking that if I didn’t like it I would simply go back to being a full-time faculty member,” she says. “But it turned out to be a very important transition—I realized I enjoyed working with faculty members across the university. I liked lobbying administrators for programmatic advancement.”

At Bowling Green, she moved up through the ranks, becoming an associate dean and developing an interdisciplinary research center for the sciences and humanities. “I was beginning to see that I enjoyed this and I was being invited to apply for deanships,” she says.
She landed one at Old Dominion University, staying there for five years before moving on to another deanship at the larger University of Cincinnati, where she oversaw some eighty graduate and undergraduate programs. “After five and a half years there, I knew I was ready for provost work,” she says. “I really enjoyed working across the college and by this point I was getting the view from higher up of how all the pieces fit together.”

Setting Goals

In the short time she has been at Brooklyn College, Gould has already pinpointed some areas she’d like to work on. Chief among them is broadcasting the college’s successes. “Brooklyn College has a rich story to tell and yet we do not tell it well enough,” she says, noting that getting the college’s story out will help bolster fundraising and grants. “Moving forward, we cannot afford to be a well-kept secret.”

So, as she did at the Markowitz event, Gould has been getting out there, meeting Mayor Michael Bloomberg, engaging with officials from his office and getting to know other movers and shakers in the borough and the city at large in order to try to reposition the college to be more of a player. She’s hoping the hobnobbing will pay off with more partnerships that lead to programmatic enhancements and other resources for the students.

She’s also determined to improve retention and graduation rates and is setting up a committee of students and faculty and staff members to consider the obstacles that students face. She also says that improved retention and graduation rates will partly flow from enhancing “enrichment activities” like service learning, athletics, student involvement in research and study abroad—one of her pet projects.

“I want to make sure students at Brooklyn College have that opportunity if they seek it,” she says, adding that she’d like the college to have a more active study abroad office. “I will be finding ways to fundraise and promote the learning and cultural experiences beyond the United States.”

Gould notes that she was pleasantly surprised to see how much students participate in research at the college but she’d like to see more. She also wants to see the college and faculty members win more grants to support their hard work. “I will always be an administrator who is committed to the teacher-scholar model and to making sure that the academic environment is supportive of research, and that we are striking the right balance so that we don’t ignore the rich teaching tradition here,” she says.

Karen L. Gould

Personal: Gould is married to Rick Simon, a semi-retired tax and business consultant. Their son Aron recently graduated from medical school at the University of Cincinnati and is currently an intern at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is also an avid skier. Their daughter, Alisa, graduated from New York University and works as an online fashion critic. The president was an avid dancer, starting with tap at the age of three and eventually moving on to ballet. She studied dance in California and in Paris and did not altogether give up dancing until she became an administrator.

Previous Academic Experience:

Provost and Senior Vice President, California State University Long Beach, 2007–2009
Dean, McMicken College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of French and Francophone Studies, University of Cincinnati, 2001–2007
Dean, College of Arts and Letters and Professor of French and Women’s Studies, Old Dominion University, 1996–2001
Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of French, Bowling Green State University, 1985–1996
Associate Professor of French, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, 1980–1985
Associate and Assistant Professor of French, Bucknell University, 1973–1980

Education:

Ph.D. in Romance Languages, University of Oregon, 1975
B.A. in French, cum laude, Occidental College, 1970
Diplôme d’études, Cours de civilization française, La Sorbonne, 1969

Awards:

The Donner Medal in Canadian Studies, 2005
Governor General’s International Award for Canadian Studies, 2003
Fulbright Research Fellow in Canada, 1992–1993
Olscamp University Research Award, BGSU, 1991
Dean’s Award for Model Educator, BGSU, 1990–1991
Canadian Government Senior Fellowship Research Grant, 1986–1987
Woodrow Wilson NEH Fellowship, 1972–1973

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Dean, College of Arts and Letters and Professor of French and Women’s Studies, Old Dominion University, 1996–2001
Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of French, Bowling Green State University, 1985–1996
Associate Professor of French, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, 1980–1985
Associate and Assistant Professor of French, Bucknell University, 1973–1980

Education:

Ph.D. in Romance Languages, University of Oregon, 1975
B.A. in French, cum laude, Occidental College, 1970
Diplôme d’études, Cours de civilization française, La Sorbonne, 1969

Awards:

The Donner Medal in Canadian Studies, 2005
Governor General’s International Award for Canadian Studies, 2003
Fulbright Research Fellow in Canada, 1992–1993
Olscamp University Research Award, BGSU, 1991
Dean’s Award for Model Educator, BGSU, 1990–1991
Canadian Government Senior Fellowship Research Grant, 1986–1987
Woodrow Wilson NEH Fellowship, 1972–1973

Karen L. Gould

Personal: Gould is married to Rick Simon, a semi-retired tax and business consultant. Their son Aron recently graduated from medical school at the University of Cincinnati and is currently an intern at the University of Nevada, Reno. He is also an avid skier. Their daughter, Alisa, graduated from New York University and works as an online fashion critic. The president was an avid dancer, starting with tap at the age of three and eventually moving on to ballet. She studied dance in California and in Paris and did not altogether give up dancing until she became an administrator.

Previous Academic Experience:

Provost and Senior Vice President, California State University Long Beach, 2007–2009
Dean, McMicken College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of French and Francophone Studies, University of Cincinnati, 2001–2007
Dean, College of Arts and Letters and Professor of French and Women’s Studies, Old Dominion University, 1996–2001
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Canadian Government Senior Fellowship Research Grant, 1986–1987
Woodrow Wilson NEH Fellowship, 1972–1973
B orn to the borough or recent arrivals, most of our students live in Brooklyn, a region so rich in history and diversity that a liberal arts college couldn’t ask for a better teaching laboratory. To take advantage of our good fortune, and to form partnerships with organizations in surrounding communities, Brooklyn College is currently investigating ways to fully incorporate and support city-based learning in the curriculum.

City-based learning may not be as familiar to readers as community service or student teaching, but it similarly combines classroom instruction with direct experience, and is founded in such tried-and-true pedagogical practices as demonstration and learning by doing. What is novel and especially effective about it is its emphasis on a local place as the arena for investigation and the subject of analysis, and it embraces an interdisciplinary approach as the key to solving real-world problems. The benefits of city-based learning include enhancement of student motivation and increased comprehension and retention of course material. By rooting abstract concepts in examples close to home, city-based learning enables the student to see a personal connection and develop a deep understanding of the subject. This engagement often results in a lifelong love of learning.

A recent inventory of the faculty shows that more than one hundred professors currently utilize local contexts to convey complex subject matter to their students.

City-based learning is a natural in the Geology Department. Freshman offerings have been restructured to emphasize local settings as “anchors” for conceptual frameworks and core curriculum classes are partnered with other disciplines to achieve the verity that our students crave.

“This is about as authentic a research project as we can do,” Brett Branco, assistant professor of geology, told his students as they gathered on Plumb Beach last spring. “I can tell you how to collect and analyze the data and how to develop research questions, but I can’t tell you what we’re going to find.” It was the first of several expeditions to the beach.
“They didn’t seem to mind, because they got it,” Branco says, “that this is how science is done.”

“It was real!” sophomore Alessandra Coco confirms. “Going out and putting together the equipment, making observations about the time of day, the level of the tide, creatures on the beach, gathering samples — we were in the field! Now every time I go to a beach, I analyze it!”

In an email after she finished the course, Tamara Minott, a junior, noted that because of the class, “I am pursuing the B.A. in geology.” Referring to Branco’s demonstration of wave motion through the travels of a seashell across the shore, Minott said, “Actually witnessing the process instead of reading about it in a textbook made it easier for all of us to understand and remember what happened.”

Most apparent to the students was how human interventions wreaked havoc on the beach. Plumb Beach is only fifty yards away from the Belt Parkway. As Branco pointed out to his students, while sand is naturally removed by the ocean, “at Plumb Beach the sand supply has been interrupted, so the beach is slowly disappearing. Over time, that and other infrastructure could be threatened by erosion, so a natural process becomes part of a larger set of issues.”

“Plumb Beach gets students thinking,” says Branco. “They might have thought of the geology class as separate from their sociology, political science, philosophy, or economics classes, but when you bring them to local sites and you point out the connections, their courses come alive — they can see how they fit together.”
As for Plumb Beach, city-based educational opportunities often involve sustainability issues. For this reason, as the college continues to incorporate city-based approaches in the curriculum, it has established committees and appointed fellows to investigate the best practices of other educational institutions in city-based and sustainability education, and in the cultivation of community relationships.

Rebecca Boger, assistant professor of geology, a former fellow for sustainability education, has an international basis of comparison for city-based and sustainability education from her ongoing work with Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE). She has collaborated with the universities, colleges, and local communities of nineteen African nations on environmental science education programs for teachers, grades K–12. “Locality is the theme that brings people together,” Boger notes. “People take great pride in their localities, whether it’s Brooklyn or Nigeria. City-based education promotes being involved in community and understanding your surroundings. Sustainability education also requires a sense of place and understanding of the natural and human systems,” she explains. “In a highly urbanized environment, the human and natural systems are linked together.”

Two cohorts of incoming freshman are seeing this for themselves this fall. In two sections of a new and already popular environmental learning community, Boger is working with instructors from sociology and English. “We are integrating the core curriculum courses through PLAN YC as well as having students study community gardens in Red Hook and East New York,” she says. “From the geology side, the students learn about soils and their importance in growing food. On the sociology side, they learn demographics—who the gardeners are. In English 1, the focus is on environmental themes.”

Boger also co-teaches the foundation Geo 1 course. “The theme is particulate matters and air quality. We relate what students find in air samples to health issues,” says Boger. One group of students in the class found iron particulates in subway station air samples. “It made them aware,” she notes. “The long-term goal is to make them empowered and involved citizens.”

With the help of CUNY’s Coordinated Undergraduate Education (CUE) funding initiative, Dean of Undergraduate Studies Donna Wilson is coordinating the study of best city-based learning practices on behalf of the college as part of its ongoing effort to improve undergraduate education. Wilson notes that the “initiative is a way of expanding student access to high impact learning” throughout the college years and that these approaches are known to foster integrative learning, aid in student retention, and increase graduation rates. City-based learning also provides bountiful opportunities to realize the college’s mission to be a model citizen or civic partner in the dynamic mix of Brooklyn’s communities.
“It is important to remember that city-based approaches can be utilized in a number of ways,” notes Tammy Lewis, a visiting professor of sociology who specializes in community-based sustainability. She holds the Carol L. Zicklin Chair in the Honors Academy. “This is not about faculty and students extracting data from the community,” says Lewis, “We want to enable partnerships that work.”

When discussing how to make city-based learning benefit all participants, Jocelyn Wills, associate professor of history and the 2009–2010 fellow for city-based education, is optimistic. Wills has utilized this approach since 2005, when she created a project to test her “students’ abilities to undertake serious social history research, using my American Dreams and Realities course, which explores the everyday lives of Americans and our assumptions about mobility. I took my students to Green-Wood Cemetery and told them to pick five burial sites that seemed to tell different, class-based stories.”

“It was Wills’s class and the Green-Wood field trip that showed me how much education a student can get out of the surrounding environment,” senior Philip Cruise, a history major, wrote in an e-mail. “This discovery was accompanied by some useful life skills, such as analytical approaches to research and detective-like investigation . . . . through Internet lineage research and public archive investigation, using such tools as marriage licenses, draft registrations, steamship records, and the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and New York Times web-based archives.”

Wills has ample evidence in the work of her students that the city-based approach works. “Despite their complicated lives and work schedules, students value serious assignments when we give them something local to explore,” she says. “They find it easier and exciting to link the local to the global, and simultaneously improve their critical thinking and writing skills.”

“From walking along the winding paths of Green-Wood Cemetery,” writes history major Jesse Bayker, a senior; “to leafing through old city directories in a library reading room to deciphering the handwriting of nineteenth-century census enumerators, research into the lives of ordinary people has been a deeply fascinating and gratifying experience for me and has taken me many places, literally and figuratively speaking. Every piece of evidence,” he notes, “raises more questions.”

Philip Cruise, now working as an intern with Wills, is helping to compile the inventory of city-based practice in play at the college and has surveyed students himself. “Having been exposed to city-based learning in art, history, music, and many other areas of my education,” he writes, “I believe that this is a method of teaching that not only educates, but also creates an awareness of one’s surroundings and a sense of civic responsibility.”
Internships Boost Job Chances for Willing Students

By Richard Sheridan

As the nation’s unemployment rate has risen to over 10 percent, college students all across the country have begun to search far and wide for help in finding a job. But Brooklyn College students have the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships on their side.

The Magner Center for Career Development and Internships—the brainchild of alumna Marge Magner, ’69, whose generosity, guidance, and personal involvement have allowed the Center to expand its services to all students, and more recently to alumni—plays a critical role in the college’s commitment to enabling students to pursue their life goals and preparing them for careers once they graduate.

Internships have long played a major role in the Magner Center’s strategy for readying graduating students for careers after college, says Pam Brown-Laurenceau, an internship program specialist at the Center. “Internships allow students to see how a real-life business operates,” she says, “how managers manage and how workers perceive things and interact. This is important because many of our students have little or no on-the-job experience.”

Over the years the Magner Center has developed a diverse menu of services. Students can register for workshops to learn the secrets of writing successful résumés or to master interview techniques; they can sign up for Magner Center–organized tours of companies to observe what it takes to operate such different types of businesses as Madison Square Garden, Time-Warner Inc., and Goldman Sachs & Co. In addition, they can also scan online lists of corporations that offer various internships and apply for any that appeal to them. Hundreds of students have already gained real-world work experience in this way.

But perhaps one of the most innovative ideas in internships currently being offered by the Magner Center is through the Sustainable and Social Entrepreneurship Program. This type of collaboration between the center and the Economics Department is a first.

“We have worked together before,” says Brown-Laurenceau, noting that the two previously collaborated on a CitiBank-sponsored internship program that placed students in local small businesses with fewer than three hundred employees. The program lasted two years and, in its second year, sought to place women and minorities in internships.

“This time we decided to seek a CUNY Workforce Development Initiative grant,” says Professor of Economics Hervé Queneau, who notes that the partners decided to choose sustainable, or “green,” companies that aim to improve the environment or develop new forms of energy, as well as entrepreneurial enterprises with a social mission, such as providing housing to low-income people.

He adds, “We wanted to choose types of companies that would fit in with the local business community and ones that would be likely to receive funding.”

The partners agreed that Queneau would write the proposal, with input from Economics Department Chairperson Hershey Friedman, and look after the academic side of the program. Meanwhile, Brown-Laurenceau would handle the paperwork and find the student interns and the green businesses and socially conscious entrepreneurship organizations where they would be placed.

Queneau requested a total of $26,000 in funding, which included...
money to pay for eighteen $1,000 internship stipends (eight during the fall 2009 semester and another ten during spring 2010) as well as a $1,000 first prize and two $500 runner-up prizes that will be awarded at the end of the second semester in a project concept competition. In return, he promised a high-quality academic environment for the interns.

Meanwhile, Brown-Laurenceau put together a list of students who could fill the intern positions.

As students began to respond, says Brown-Laurenceau, “I sent them an application to complete, along with questions to answer. This process helped create a writing sample for us. I then met with each student in an interview.

“To select our interns, we looked at their GPA, communication skills, and level of maturity,” notes Queneau. “After all, these student interns would be going out as representatives of Brooklyn College to the community.”

Brown-Laurenceau was also reaching out to faculty members, contacting local employers with which the Magner Center had previously collaborated, and scanning library listings of green companies.

“I always use networking as a means of collecting a list of potential contacts,” she says. “I called them on the phone. In some cases, however; I met with them on campus—basically, to introduce them to the program and to explain the grant criteria regarding student placement sites, among other things.”

Jenny Lee, a senior business, management, and finance major, had spent the spring 2009 semester in an internship arranged by the Magner Center. Then, in the summer, she received an e-mail from the Magner Center regarding the Sustainable and Social Entrepreneurship Program. The e-mail offered her a chance to apply for an internship with a not-for-profit organization working either in the sustainability arena or with an entrepreneurial firm dealing with such social issues as housing or health. She was intrigued to apply and was accepted for an internship with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY). She currently is working ten hours a week for a total of 135 hours for the semester.

VNSNY “is a very multicultural place,” according to Lee. “Everyone speaks a second language. It’s imperative for the job. When you speak a language of your own and someone calls in requesting that language, you can understand the patient better and can help in making informed decisions.”

She credits her time at VNSNY with expanding her experience. She says, “The skills you gain from an internship can help greatly, contributing to the knowledge that is essential in your chosen career. You learn to hit the ground running because even though you may be an intern, you’re given responsibilities like other workers who are earning a salary. I would definitely recommend it to a younger friend or sibling because it is a great experience, and you will learn to appreciate life more through your internship.”

Like Lee, senior Yana Imberg is a business, management, and finance major. She arrived at Brooklyn College as a transfer student two years ago and is planning either to work for the government as a financial/business analyst or to become a manager in a social services capacity. Imberg says she finds the Sustainable and Social Entrepreneurship Program to be a valuable experience.

“I was assigned to a social, nonprofit organization—state Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs’s 42nd Assembly District office,” Imberg says.

The staff at the assemblywoman’s office, she says, “helps people in need. They provide assistance at different social levels, such as housing, health insurance coverage, mortgage/foreclosure prevention programs, employment assistance, college financial aid assistance, and assistance in getting appropriate and affordable day care and school opportunities for senior citizens, disabled persons, and low-income families.”

Working at the office as an intern, Imberg notes, has taught her “planning, research, development, communication, and management.”

She adds, “Working off campus is a brilliant idea. It involves not only theoretical knowledge, but also its practical use. In addition, you are able to expand your network and build business relations and personal contacts with the professionals within your field.”
The first building to be constructed on the Brooklyn College campus in nearly forty years officially threw open its doors on Tuesday, September 22. The West Quad Center, a 145,000-square-foot glass-fronted structure that dominates the new quadrangle west of Bedford Avenue, will serve as both a one-stop student services center and the hub of state-of-the-art physical education and recreational facilities.

With high-spirited enthusiasm, the college’s cheerleader squad opened and closed the ceremony.

“This is an auspicious day for Brooklyn College,” President Karen Gould said. “We are especially excited because the West Quad Center represents the fulfillment of a promise—to provide our students with one convenient location for many of the services they need, from applying to the college and registering for classes, to receiving financial aid information and scholarship assistance.

“No less important,” she added, “this new building will also serve a stellar array of athletic and recreational activities, offering our students opportunities to engage in the kind of sports events, training, and physical exercise that will enhance their academic experience at Brooklyn College and help them to realize their full potential.”

Gould went on to praise her predecessor, former president Christoph M. Kimmich, “for the brilliance of his vision and his steadfast commitment” to the completion of the West Quad Center project.

CUNY Executive Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Office Allan Dobrin and Vice-Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management Iris Weinshall also spoke at the ceremony.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz came to the podium to marvel at the immense changes that had been made to the west end of the campus since he graduated in 1970. A number of state legislators, including State Senator John Sampson, Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs, and Assemblyman Nick Perry, whose support for the project provided much of the funding that went into its construction, also spoke.

Arvind Badhey, a junior in the B.A.–M.D. Program and member of the track team, rounded off the speeches with a loud sigh, expressing the satisfaction felt by many athletes that the West Quad Center was at last long opened.

After the ribbon was cut, guests entered the building to enjoy a buffet luncheon and to join guided tours of the facilities.

The building’s ground floor is home to the Enrollment Services Center and a full-service café. The Admissions Welcome Center is on the second floor, along with offices for Admissions, Recruitment, Scholarships, and Student Financial Services. The Registrar’s and Financial Aid offices and the Office of the Assistant Vice-President of Enrollment Services are all on the third floor.

The fourth floor is given over to department and faculty offices for the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science; the Recreation, Intramurals, and Intercollegiate Athletics Office; a coaches’ bullpen; a teaching lab; and three research labs for physical education.

Athletic facilities are spread over three floors. The lower level houses an 11,700-square-foot competition gym with retractable seating for seven hundred in bleachers on both sides, and features a twenty-five-yard swimming pool with eight lanes and two diving boards. There are also three racquetball/squash courts; a two-court practice gym for basketball, volleyball, and badminton; two weight and fitness rooms; training and equipment rooms; an equipment check-out counter; and four sets of locker and shower rooms for men and women.

On the ground floor; there is a 2,500-square-foot weight and fitness room, access to the pool and competition gym spectator seating, and an observation area for the pool and gyms are on the ground floor.

The second floor contains a 3,400-square-foot dance studio and a 3,400-square-foot multipurpose room.
More than $1.9 million in stimulus grants have recently been given to Brooklyn College for six projects, including biomedical research and robotics, Governor David A. Paterson announced at a Manhattan press conference on September 22.

“The awarding of these grants is a testament to Brooklyn College’s increasingly significant place in science education and to the seriousness we bring to preparing our students for a future in the new economy,” said President Karen Gould.

Paterson said universities, medical facilities, businesses, and research institutions across the state have been awarded 1,164 research grants worth more than $600 million through competitive stimulus funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the Obama administration’s stimulus package, which became law in February.

“The key to a growing economy is investing in innovation—by turning discoveries into business opportunities,” Paterson said. “The $605.5 million that institutions all around New York have won will help ensure that New York remains a leader in research as we continue to work with our universities to build bridges from research to application.”

He added, “I thank the Obama administration and our New York congressional delegation for helping our state’s colleges, universities, and businesses obtain this critical funding.”

The six grants to Brooklyn College—four from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and two from the National Science Foundation (NSF)—totaled $1,926,967:

- $26,084 for the project “Cloning and Analysis of a Gamete Fusion Gene,” under the direction of Associate Professor of Biology Charlene Forest. The NIH grant was effective June 1–October 31, 2009.
- $1,147,782 for the project “REU Site: Islands of Change,” under the direction of Professor of Anthropology and Archaeology Sophia Perdikaris. The NSF grant is effective July 1, 2009–June 30, 2012.
- $345,000 for the project “REU Site: MetroBotics: Undergraduate Robot Research at an Urban Public College,” under the direction of Associate Professor Elizabeth Sklar and Professor Simon Parsons, both of the Department of Computer and Information Science. The NSF grant is effective July 1, 2009–June 30, 2012.
- $194,178 for the project “Amyloid-like Interactions in Yeast Cell Adhesion,” under the direction of Professor of Biology Peter Lipke. The NIH grant is effective August 1, 2009–May 31, 2011.
- $104,521 for the project “Gatekeepers and Roadblocks: Increasing URM Student Success in Science,” under the direction of Dean of Research and Graduate Studies and Professor of Psychology Louise Hainline. The NIH grant is effective September 1, 2009–May 31, 2011.
- $109,402 for the project “Biomedical Research Training for Minority Honors Students,” under the direction of Dean Hainline. The NIH grant is effective September 1, 2009–August 31, 2011.

The Brooklyn College awards are among a total of sixteen grants amounting to $4.6 million that were given to Brooklyn institutions, including SUNY Downstate Medical College, Medgar Evers College, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Corporation.

“I commend the Obama administration for investing stimulus funds in New York City that will enhance our research and innovation capabilities,” said Congressional Representative Yvette Clarke. “These funds will go a long way in boosting Brooklyn’s local economy by creating jobs.”

Clarke added, “Brooklyn College and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden have received in total over $2.1 million in stimulus grants. They have been leaders in research and innovation in our community for years, and it gives me great pleasure to know that these new grants will help push Brooklyn to the forefront of innovation in our nation.”

Congressional Representative Edolphus Towns said, “I am pleased these research funds will be invested in a diverse range of innovative projects in Brooklyn. Thanks to the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, our community will have the opportunity to participate in vital research projects with far-reaching benefits.”
Brooklyn College and the White House Project Announce Partnership

More than fifty Brooklyn College students, alumni, faculty, and staff were on hand at Brooklyn Borough Hall on Tuesday, September 22, for the unveiling of a partnership dedicated to advancing women to leadership positions in various communities and sectors—right up to the presidency of the United States.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, ‘70, addressed the crowd, as did Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham; Brooklyn College President Karen Gould; Erin Vilardi, national program director of the White House Project; and Namita Manohar, coordinator of the Brooklyn College Women’s Studies Program.

Under the terms of the partnership, the White House Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, will conduct Go Lead training, a unique daylong event designed to inspire young women to enter the world of politics by teaching them innovative skills and strategies they will need to run for office.

“The overall goal of the project is to foster a positive environment in which young women can actively contribute to and transform the political arena,” Vilardi said.

Go Lead training will serve as a foundation for young, smart, ambitious women at Brooklyn College to pursue promising futures in politics. The training aims to demystify the political process and inspire a richly diverse group of women to vie for entry to the leadership pipeline. Workshops will provide nuts-and-bolts advice on running for political office by focusing on such areas as communications, fundraising, and campaigning.

The project’s goals are to create a network of young activists who will continue to be involved in the political arena and to find ways to mentor and bring more women into the political process.
Children’s Studies Program Becomes a Major

This semester, Brooklyn College undergraduates are finally able to call themselves children’s studies majors.

The new 30-credit B.A. in children’s studies features breadth and depth, offering students the benefit of perspectives from a variety of disciplines as well as research opportunities with authorities in the field, relevant internships, and career counseling.

Eighteen years ago, a committee chaired by Professor of Sociology Gertrud Lenzer established the interdisciplinary field of Children’s Studies and rapidly turned Brooklyn College into a national leader in this emerging area. The Brooklyn College Children’s Studies Program, directed by Lenzer, has since been copied by a number of colleges and universities around the nation. Its enrollment and courses have increased steadily every year.

Since 1994, undergraduates have been able to take a children’s studies minor; and there has been a concentration for education majors since 2001.

“The vision for this new interdepartmental field of study was based on the insight that children from birth to age eighteen represent in every society a distinct sociocultural class and generational cohort,” says Lenzer. “This recognition set the agenda and mission for children’s studies—to view children as whole human beings and to integrate knowledge from disciplines in the arts, humanities, social and biological sciences, medicine, and law, which focus on specific aspects and propensities of children and childhood.”

As a result of Lenzer’s efforts, the Brooklyn College Children’s Studies Center for Research, Policy, and Public Service was established in 1997. It provides students with the opportunity to shape public policy that has a direct impact on the health and well-being of children and youth. Serving as a think tank and catalyst for change, the center has hosted four well-attended forums on public policy for legislators, teachers, health-care providers, and judicial and law enforcement personnel.

The center’s faculty and staff—experts in the field of children’s studies—regularly participate in panels, testify in support of legislation, and conduct research to further the rights of children.

New Conservation Lab Is Extending Life of Collections

“We each book is like a person,” said Slava Polishchuk, a master bookbinder and fine artist who has been restoring books in the collections of the Brooklyn College Library since 2002. “It needs constant care.”

Polishchuk was talking about his job in CUNY’s first and only Conservation Laboratory, located behind the glass doors in the library’s Archives and Special Collections section, where artifacts, memorabilia, manuscripts, and printed matter ranging from 17th-century handwritten journals and folio-size tomes to fragile 1950s Hank Kaplan paperbacks and boxing gloves are often on display.

The Conservation Lab opened this past May at a ceremony where invited guests enjoyed a talk and a tour.
Rain Doesn’t Cloud Bright Future for Eighty-Fourth Graduating Class

The first rain on Commencement day in twenty-three years failed to dampen the spirits of 3,332 undergraduate and graduate students, and their families and friends, who assembled on the Central Quad on May 28 for Brooklyn College’s Eighty-Fourth Commencement Exercises.

The newest alumni dodged raindrops to receive their degrees during the two-hour ceremony, presided over for a final time by President Christoph M. Kimmich.

Kimmich said, “As I graduate one last class at Brooklyn College, I am honored to be in the company of the city’s finest educators and students and am humbled by the generosity of so many alumni who give back to the college community that they came from.”

“As a graduate of Brooklyn College,” said Noam Rubinstein, one of this year’s new alumni, “I’m looking forward to using the tools I learned here.” Rubinstein said he was planning to work for one of the nation’s Big Three accounting firms. “Between what I learned in my business classes and my core courses,” he explained, “I feel that Brooklyn College prepared me not only for the world we live in, but also for the one that we’re transitioning to.”

Mathematician and computer scientist Lawrence H. Landweber, ’63, delivered the Commencement address. Widely considered to be a “guardian” of the modern Internet, he received an honorary doctor of science degree. Two other individuals also received honorary degrees for their impact on our local and global communities. Douglas C. Steiner, president of Steiner Equities Group, received a doctor of humane letters for his far-reaching belief in Brooklyn, manifested in his development of Steiner Studios at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Alexander (Sandy) Howe, a senior designer at the Boston architectural firm of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, received a doctor of fine arts degree for achievements in academic architecture, in particular for his beautiful, valuable, and greatly loved renovation of the Brooklyn College Library.

A Presidential Medal was presented to Howard (Woody) Tanger for his highly successful career in radio broadcasting, his unwavering commitment to classical music, and his bountiful philanthropy. A second Presidential Medal went to Barry R. Feinstein, ’74, for his achievements during his exceptionally productive career in finance, for his deep commitment to Brooklyn College, and for his leadership and financial support.

In addition, Distinguished Alumni honors were presented to Don Buchwald, ’59, for his long and principled career as a talent agent, his enduring belief in artistic potential, and his steadfast loyalty to and support of his alma mater; to Arne L. Kalleberg, ’71, for his important contributions to sociology and to our understanding of work and its impact on society; and to Nancy A. Lynch, ’68, for her broad knowledge and creative insights and for the impact she has had on the lives and careers of her colleagues and students in the fields of theoretical mathematics and computer science.

led by Polishchuk, who restores bindings and covers of books—some of which are four hundred years old—to resemble their original form. He also creates slipcases for fragile, fine, or fantastic volumes.

“The addition of the Conservation Lab will contribute to the preservation of the library’s precious holdings and benefit students as well as faculty,” said History Chairperson David G. Troyansky. “We historians think of libraries and archives as our laboratories for scholarly investigation.”

But this resource will do even more. “The Conservation Lab will afford Brooklyn College the opportunity to offer students enrolled in our interdisciplinary archival studies and community documentation minor a comprehensive course-cum-workshop in book and paper conservation,” said Anthony M. Cucchiara, the college’s chief archivist and coordinator of the ASCD minor, which is offered by the History Department in conjunction with the library.

“Generally, such a concentration is available only to graduate students seeking library master’s degrees or certificates in archival management,” he noted. “Brooklyn College is the first in the City University of New York—and the first nationally—to offer this specialized course of study to undergraduates.”
Carolina Bank Muñoz, Sociology, was awarded the Terry Book Award for best book of the year by the Academy of Management for her book, Transnational Tortillas: Race, Gender, and Shop-floor Politics in Mexico and the United States (Cornell University Press, 2008).

With funding from the National Science Foundation, Christian Beneš, Mathematics, presented “The Rate of Convergence of Loop-Erased Random Walk to SLE (2),” at the 33rd Conference on Stochastic Processes and Their Applications in Berlin, in July.


Rose Burnett Bonczek, Theater; recipient of the 2009-2010 Claire Tow Distinguished Teacher Award, directed and produced Gi60 2009 Live Edition U.S., the international interactive one-minute play festival produced in conjunction with Viaduct Theater and Leeds University, UK, and BBC Big Screen in June. She directed a staged reading of Israel Horovitz’s Barking Sharks at the Cherry Lane Theater for the Barefoot Theater Company as part of its 70/70 International Festival in June, and was a copresenter of “Downloadable Theater and the Global Ensemble,” at the Association for Theater in Higher Education Conference in New York, in August.


Robert Cherry, Economics, published “The Folly of Academic College for All” in Teachers College Record (August 24), and, in September, presented “Irish Catholicism: The Specter of Jansenism” at the American Conference for Irish Studies at Monmouth College.

Last July, Patricia Cronin, Art, exhibited her sculptures and photographs in “Battaglia al Castello di Civitella Ranieri,” at the Civitella Ranieri Gallery, in Umbertide, Italy. Through January 24, her...
watercolors “Harriet Hosmer: Lost and Found,” are on exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum. She is the author of Harriet Hosmer: Lost and Found, A Catalogue Raisonné (Charta Art Books, 2009). She received a Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship, Umbitide, Italy (summer); an Excellence in Creative Achievement Award, Brooklyn College (May); a PSC-CUNY Research Award, and a grant from the Research Foundation (June).

Robert Curran, Physical Education and Exercise Science and Health and Nutrition Sciences, was awarded the High Performance Award from the USA Swimming High Performance Network, the highly screened network of practitioners qualified to work with the USA National Swimming Team. He authored “The Vital Signs,” a three-part series examining the core metrics of emergency medical services, in the March–May issues of Emergency Medical Services Magazine.

Mary DeBey, Education, head of the Childhood Education Teacher program, was appointed to the board of the New York City Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council, which advises the Department of Health’s Division of Mental Hygiene on early intervention issues.

Jason Eckardt, Music, composed “Tangled Loops,” performed by Nathan Nabb and Winston Choi, on the Tangled Loops CD (Amp Records, 2009). He was also commissioned by pianist Benjamin Binder to compose a response to “Sphinxes” from Robert Schumann’s Carnaval.

The National Institutes of Health awarded Dan Eshel, Biology, a $39,580 supplement to his existing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant, “Signaling Pathways and Microtubule Function.”

Rennie Gonsalves, English, wrote “The Liar or the Mad Dog(s)?” Another LACUS Look at the Liar Paradox” in LACUS (Linguistics Association of Canada and the United States) Forum 35 (2009). He was also elected to serve on the board of LACUS.

Alexander Greer, Chemistry, was invited to be an associate editor of Photochemistry and Photobiology (Wiley-Blackwell) and was elected to the board of the Committee of Concerned Scientists and the American Chemical Society’s Subcommittee on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights. He presented “Singlet Oxygen Delivery Through a Hollow-Core Fiber Optic Device: Aiming towards Cancer Treatment and Wastewater Treatment,” at the University of Delaware in April, and at the Gordon Research Conference on Physical Organic Chemistry at Holderness, New Hampshire, in July.

David Grubbs, Music, played a solo concert at the Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA) in Barcelona for its summer Post-Rock? series. Anthony McCall’s film installation, Leaving (With Two-Minute Silence), featuring a soundtrack by Grubbs, premiered at Art Basel in June. Grubbs presented concerts with Susan Howe at the South Bank Centre (London) and at Cambridge University in June, and he performs on two new CDs: The Wingdale Community Singers, Spirit Duplicator (Scarlet Shame, 2009) and Niobe, Blackbird’s Echo (TomLab, 2009).

Christian Grov, Health and Nutrition Sciences, presented the following papers at the August International Academy of Sex Research (IASR) meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico: “Neurocognitive Deficits and Daily Diary Evaluations in MSM with Sexual Compulsivity and MSM without Sexual Compulsivity”; and “Symposium of Sexual Compulsivity and Co-Occurring Psychosocial Health Problems in a Community-Based Sample of Gay and Bisexual Men: Further Evidence of a Syndemic.” His paper “Consequences of Casual Online Sexual Activities on Committed Relationships” was presented at the Eastern and Midcontinent Regional Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, in St. Petersburg, Florida, in June.

Dan Gurskis, Film, interviewed film critic Molly Haskell about her book, Frankly, My Dear: Gone with the Wind Revisited, as a part of the Sunday Authors Series in Queque, Long Island, in June.


Annie Hauck-Lawson, Health and Nutrition Science, moderated and was a presenter on the panels “The Food Voice: Spheres of Meaning and Expertise” and “Gastropolis: Food and New York City.” She participated in the “Eating for Tomorrow: Nutrition Pedagogy” roundtable at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Food and Society at State College, Penn, in May. She presented “The Food Voice: Born in Brooklyn; Can Be Heard All Over” at the Food, Farms, and Community Conference at the Rural Heritage Institute of Sterling College, Vermont, in June.


Régine Latortue, Africana Studies, appeared on the “Creole Poems” episode of History Detectives series on PBS, in June. The program featured her book,

Hong-Jen Lin, Economics, received a one-year grant to study “Cost and Profit Efficiencies of Banks in China,” from PSC-CUNY in July.

Linda Louis, Education, presented “The Psychological Truth of Early Visual Imagery,” at the Annual Meeting of the National Art Education Association in Minneapolis, in May.


Kathleen McSorley, Education, has been selected as a member of CUNY’s New Community College Initiative: Assessment and Portfolios Committee.


Roni Natov, English, wrote “Child Power in Louise Erdrich’s Historical Fiction for Children,” in *International Research in Children’s Literature* 2, no. 1 (July 2009). She presented “Representing the Cultural ‘Other’ in Young Adult Fiction: Two Approaches” at the 19th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children’s Literature at the Institut fur Jugendbuchforschung, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, in August.


Irina Patkanian, Television and Radio, wrote, directed, and produced the short film *Armed Defense*, which was selected to play at the Women’s Film & Arts Festival in Austin, Tex., in May. Her documentary film, *My American Neighbor*, which she also wrote, directed, and produced, was licensed by Films for the Humanities & Sciences for distribution to the North American educational market.

Vanessa Pérez Rosario, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, was awarded a 2009 Library Scholars Summer Grant from the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard, where she explored the archives at the university’s Houghton and Schlesinger Libraries for a book project on Julia de Burgos. She also received a publication grant from the American Association of University Women, July 2009–June 2010.

Tanya Pollard, English, presented “Enclosing the Body: Tudor Conceptions of Skin,” at the Tudor Medicine and the History of the Body Symposium at Hampton Court Palace in East Molesley, UK, in June, and “Athens at the Public Theater: Kyd, Revenge, Tragedy, and the Greek Model” at the Authority and Authorities Conference at the Early Modern Research Center of the University of Reading, UK, in July.

Laura Reigada, Psychology, was awarded the Goldman Scholar in Pediatric Research honor from the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation of America for the highest scoring grant. Reigada cofounded and was elected the first copresident of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy–New York City.

Nava Renek, Women’s Center, presented “Indie Presses” at the Fifth Annual New York Round Table Writers Conference at the Center for Independent Publishing, in Buffalo.


Karel Rose, Education, presented an invited paper, “Unpacking the Cultural Suitcase of the Young Adult Reader: Aesthetic Experience and the Feeling Life of the Other,” at the 19th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children’s Literature in Frankfurt, Germany, in August.


Anthony Sclafani, Psychology, was an invited presenter of “Opioids and Food Hedonics Revisited,” at the 10th Benjamin S. Studies, organized by YIVOEPYC, invited presenter of “Opioids and Food Psycho Association National Convention in Toronto, in August.

Michael Sobel, Mathematics, won an Allendoerfer Award (his second) from the Mathematical Association of America for his article “A Brief History of Impossibility,” Mathematics Magazine 81, no. 1. He is also the author of Mathematics in Historical Context (MAA Press, 2009).


Stephanie Walker, Library, published the following articles: “Come-Outers” in American Countercultures: An Encyclopedia of Nonconformists, Alternative Lifestyles, and Radical Ideas in U.S. History, (ME Sharpe, 2009); “Purchase of Journal Portfolios is Not Cost-Effective and May Lead to Normalization of Collections,” in Evidence Based Library and Information Practice 4, no.1 (2009); and “Bioline International: A Case Study in Open Access and Its Usage for Enhancement of Research Distribution for Scientific Research from Developing Countries,” in OCLC Systems and Services, Special Issue on Open Access 25, no. 4 (2009). Walker was elected to the Board of the New York State Higher Education Initiative, an Albany-based advocacy group for academic libraries, and reappointed to the Scholarships and Grants Committee of the American Library Association.


Marjorie Welish, English, wrote “Inscription,” for American Poet (Fall 2009). She also discussed her poetry under the auspices of the Yale Working Group of Contemporary Poetry and Poetics, at Yale University, in October.

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association hosted the Nineteenth Annual Post 50th Alumni Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on October 18. The weather might have been frightful, but it did not dampen the spirits of the more than 160 alumni and guests who graced the campus that day and participated in the festivities. It was also the first official alumni event that Karen L. Gould attended since becoming the ninth President of Brooklyn College.

On this occasion, Lillian Jorgensen Secundy Lynch, '34, Murray Seeman, '34, and Kate Mandel Tuchman, '34 observed the seventy-fifth anniversary of their graduation from the college. Members of the classes of 1939, 1944, 1949, and 1954 celebrated their seventieth, sixty-fifth, sixtieth, and fifty-fifth reunions, respectively.


In addition, the Milton Fisher '38 Second Harvest Award, which is given in recognition of the achievements of alumni subsequent to their 50th reunion, was presented to Irene Danzker Deitch, '52. Dr. Deitch graciously designated the monetary portion of the award be shared with the M.F.A. Creative Writing Program for a reading series and the Department of Psychology for its mental health counseling program.
Honors Academy Gets New “Smart” Classroom

Alan Washkowitz, ’62, believes that “the future belongs to the techies.” That’s why he donated $250,000 to the Brooklyn College Foundation to establish the Washkowitz Technology Fund.

Washkowitz was motivated to create the endowment at a breakfast meeting with former President Christoph M. Kimmich, during which he learned that many BC students don’t own a computer. “That was shocking to me,” he said, “I’m not a big computer guy, but I do have a view about the future. Everyone majoring in liberal arts should know about technology.”

Through the Washkowitz fund a new “smart” classroom was created for the Honors Academy. The state-of-the-art classroom includes a lectern with a built-in PC, ceiling-mounted projector and screen, DVD/VCR player; sound system, network access, room to connect a laptop to the projection and sound system, and wireless Internet access. This semester, nine classes are using the room. Virtually all Honors Academy students will use the room at some point for a course or other activities.

“The students use the room to present their independent research, for peer-mentoring, and for cocurricular activities, such as viewing film,” said Tammy Lewis, who holds the endowed Carol L. Zicklin Chair in the Honors Academy and teaches a course on globalization and sustainability in the facility. “The technology provides them with opportunities to expand their communication skills, which will serve them in whatever career they choose.”

A recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly upgraded facility kicked-off the Brooklyn College Foundation’s “Class Act” campaign. Through this program a gift of at least $100,000 will establish a legacy at Brooklyn College by naming a classroom in honor of the donor. A plaque in the classroom will highlight the career of the generous supporter; serving not only to honor the donor but also to inspire current students.

Alan Washkowitz grew up in Midwood, received his B.A. in economics at Brooklyn College, and went on to earn both a law degree from Columbia and an M.B.A. from Harvard. For nearly thirty years he was a leader in investment banking and private equity management.

After the ribbon cutting, he sat in on Professor Lewis’s class while four students made presentations—on such varied topics as sustainability in Brooklyn and the effectiveness of micro-lending in Ecuador, each using the room’s technology.

“I was blown away by the presentations,” Washkowitz said. “It’s much easier to write the check than it is to learn about these new techniques.”
The second meeting of the Brooklyn College Prelaw Advisory Council took place on June 8. The council is a forum where legal professionals meet with faculty and administrators to consider the college’s prelaw offerings as well as ways to provide the best possible undergraduate preparation for careers in law.

A key aspect of the council is representation from diverse areas of the law—public interest, commercial, environmental, and others. Among the notable members of the council are Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Harvard University; Barry E. Hill, Esq., Senior Counsel for Environmental Governance, Office of International Affairs; Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, first woman attorney general of New Jersey, first woman chief justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey; and the Honorable Jack Weinstein, Senior U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of New York.

The discourse began with Provost William Tramontano’s discussion of the college’s historical role in producing significant numbers of future lawyers and physicians, followed by Dean Donna Wilson’s presentation of the action items from the November 5 inaugural meeting, which emphasized the need for writing tutors, LSAT prep, and an increase in the number of law school applicants from Brooklyn College.

Professor Sally Bermanzohn reported on the upgrading of the college’s prelaw education and distributed the interdisciplinary list of suggested courses spanning the spectrum of subjects from political science to chemistry.

Associate Professor Catherine Kemp of the Philosophy Department explained a method of informal career counseling through which students are directed to various resources, including lawyers and law professors. Professor Kemp raised concerns about whether all self-identified prelaw students possess the academic readiness to earn competitive LSAT scores and successfully complete a law education.

Among the many action items that emerged from the discussion are (1) the need for a fine-tuned and updated prelaw website; (2) a flowchart delineating pathways of guidance in LSAT prep and completion of law school applications; and (3) better tracking of Brooklyn College legal alumni at major law schools.

The council members who attended the inaugural and second events include Professor Ashar Sameer; Professor Sally Bermanzohn, Former New Jersey Chief Justice Deborah Poritz, Martin Mendelsohn, Esq., Barry E. Hill, Esq., Honorable Sterling Johnson Jr., and Brooklyn College Provost William Tramontano.

Department of Political Science: Alan Blum, Esq.; Alan Dershowitz; Professor William Hellerstein; Barry Hill, Esq.; Professor Sarumathi Jayaraman; the Honorable Sterling Johnson; Associate Professor Catherine Kemp; Betty Lugo, Esq.; Professor Martin Mendelsohn; Robert Oliva; Carmen Pacheco, Esq.; Chief Justice Deborah Poritz; Myra Rochelson; Professor Manouska Saint Gilles; Marla Schreibman, director of Alumni Affairs; Brooklyn College; Vice President for Institutional Advancement Andrew Sillen; Phylesia Steele; Provost William Tramontano; the Honorable Jack B. Weinstein; and Dean Donna Wilson.
Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

At the June meeting of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board, Barry Feirstein was elected chairman and two other alumni were elected as members.

Barry R. Feirstein, ’74
President, Feirstein Capital Management Corporation
Chairman, Board of Trustees of Brooklyn College Foundation (as of June 30, 2009)
Executive Committee Chairman
Development Committee
Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

Barry R. Feirstein joined the Brooklyn College Foundation in 2005. Prior to his election as president of the foundation, he served as chair of the foundation’s Audit and Finance Committee. He is the owner and president of Feirstein Capital Management Corporation, a top-tier private investment management firm. He and the members of his fund management team were among the first to recognize innovations that would bring new small- and medium-sized companies to the forefront. Many lesser-known companies he invested in have become household names—companies such as Genentech and Apple.

Jeffrey S. Fried, ’80
Fried & Company P.C.
Development Committee

Jeffrey Fried was elected to the foundation board at the June 2009 meeting for a three-year term beginning in July 2009. He is the primary partner of Fried & Company, P.C., a Washington, D.C., law firm he founded in 1994. The firm specializes in corporate, sports, and entertainment law. His firm represents some of the premier clients in the sports and entertainment industry and is involved in important domestic mergers, acquisitions, and worldwide shareholder and regulatory considerations. He is the agent for New York Knicks point guard Steve Francis. Fried is involved in community and charitable organizations, including the Special Olympics and the Starlight Foundation, and is establishing the Coney Island College Scholarship Fund.

Evan J. Silverstein, ’74
Audit and Finance Committee

Evan Silverstein, elected to the foundation board for a three-year term, is a financial analyst and hedge fund manager specializing in the energy industry. He began his career in 1975 at Drexel Burnham Lambert. He served as utility and energy portfolio manager for the Bass Brothers Companies, and as senior equity utility analyst for L.F. Rothschild, Unterberg & Towbin. He retired in 2005 as general partner and utility and energy portfolio manager at SILCAP LLC. In August 2006, Silverstein was elected to the board of directors of Reliant Energy, Inc., a Houston-based provider of electricity and energy services. Management and industry experts consistently seek Silverstein’s insights. He is a frequent professional speaker and has testified before Congress on a variety of energy-related issues. Mr. Silverstein has been involved in many industry organizations, including the Edison Electric Institute.
Lord of the Ring and His Corner Men

As chief archivist of the Brooklyn College Library, Professor Anthony M. Cucchiaro has had to research various arcane bits and pieces of literary and historical interest. Back in 2005, when he set out for Kendall Park, Florida, on the outskirts of Miami, he had both a professional and a personal interest in mind. Cucchiaro was on the trail of what he had been assured was the world’s largest and most extensive collection of documents, imagery, memorabilia, and artifacts from the history of boxing that covered a wide range of people connected with the sport.

Until television boosted the popularity of organized baseball and football, boxing was America’s most popular sporting activity—knocking the two team sports to the canvas. From the mid-1800s to the 1950s and afterward, a career in boxing served as a highway to social acceptance and financial viability for the nation’s underclasses and for waves of immigrants to this country—Irish, Italians, Jews, African Americans, Hispanics and many others had fought their way up and into the mainstream. Cucchiaro knew this intimately. In addition to being a respected professor teaching archival management, he is also a boxer who works out three times a week at Gleason’s Gym in Brooklyn.

A steady procession of sportswriters, authors, scholars, and other adherents of boxing had preceded Cucchiaro to the suburban Florida home of Brooklyn-born Hank Kaplan. Over the course of fifty years, Kaplan had filled thousands of boxes, cartons, and even suitcases with news clippings, record books, photographs, posters, boxing gloves, and an assortment of other materials—all related to what Kaplan liked to call the “fistic arcana” that detailed the history of boxing and the lives, and sometimes the deaths, of its characters.

The feat of pulling together such a sizable and far-reaching research collection and transmitting its most intimate secrets to the outside world had earned Kaplan the appellation “Lord of the Ring.”

Cucchiaro noted that former New York Times writer and Vanity Fair contributor David Margolick, author of the highly praised biography, Beyond Glory: Joe Louis vs. Max Schmeling, and a World on the Brink, recommended Kaplan’s collection as a research treasure trove for anyone interested in boxing history. The collection filled Kaplan’s entire two-car garage and overflowed into other rooms of his house. Cucchiaro admitted, “When I first saw it… I was stunned.”

Orphaned at an early age, Kaplan had become interested in boxing after he received a bloody nose in a fistfight with another youngster at summer camp in upstate New York. As a young man he fought as an amateur and then engaged in a single professional bout, which he won. He promptly abandoned the squared circle and instead of fighting himself, devoted all his spare time to chronicling the lives of those who did, amassing an encyclopedic trove of information about boxers and their world.

In December 2007, at the age of 88, Kaplan died. Though many worried that his death meant his potentially priceless collection would be lost or scattered, Cucchiaro knew otherwise: Hank’s will had left his entire collection to Brooklyn College. Now 2,000 cartons containing the collection have been shipped to Kaplan’s home borough, where they occupy a 10-foot-high space in the Archives and Special Collections Division of the library.

Conservatively valued at nearly $3 million, the books, records, photographs, news clippings, magazines, lists, and even personal items that had once belonged to such illustrious figures as Cassius Clay, Kid Galivan, Rocky Marciano, Jack Dempsey, Willy Pep, and others are in the
process of being sorted and catalogued. “We have already been deluged by calls from writers, researchers, and scholars eager for access to this major research collection,” says Cucchiara. To make this possible will require $250,000 to re-house and preserve the collection.

It is an awesome task, but Cucchiara now has a very valuable ally waiting to work in his corner. He is renowned Washington, D.C., sports and entertainment attorney Jeffrey S. Fried, a native of Coney Island and a 1980 Brooklyn College graduate. In addition, as of July 1, he has been a member of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees.

Shortly after joining the Board, Cucchiara says, Fried contacted him and offered his services and contacts to promote and grow the collection. According to Cucchiara, Fried expressed "great passion" in working on the collection. The two men plan to meet in New York sometime this winter to discuss the best ways to accomplish their goals.

After graduating cum laude from Brooklyn College with a bachelor of science degree in accounting, Fried went on to earn a law degree from the American University Washington College of Law. Before founding his own law firm, Fried & Company, in 1994, he worked as a CPA for Deloitte Haskins & Sells, specializing in the tax and corporate aspects of international corporate transactions. His firm now is involved in the commercial and legal aspects of corporate finance and sports and entertainment transactions. In addition to NBA stars, CBS sports broadcaster James Brown, and World Poker Champion Phil Ivey, Fried has represented a variety of boxing interests, including World Boxing Association Champions Riddick Bowe, Shane Mosley, Floyd Mayweather; Olympic Gold Medalist Andre Ward, and worldwide boxing promoter, Goosen Tutor Promotions, among others.

"I can certainly point Tony in the right direction, and likewise, to avoid the pitfalls sometimes associated with our industry," says the attorney and promoter of elite level boxing events for the past twenty years. "The Kaplan collection is a magnificent draw that can create wonderful opportunities. We plan on applying it in a diverse manner to widen the circle and bring an enhanced interest to the Brooklyn College community."

“Considering what Jeff has accomplished in the boxing industry and the uniform respect of his peers, I’m looking forward to working with him,” says Cucchiara.
“There is no higher calling than furthering the educational advancement of our nation’s young people and encouraging and inspiring our next generation of leaders,” according to President Obama, who has honored veteran Cal State Northridge biology professor Steven Oppenheimer, ’65, with a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring. Besides the honor, Oppenheimer, who has devoted his career to making scientists and training K–12 science teachers, received a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend a special White House ceremony and meet the president. The award, administered by the National Science Foundation, also includes $10,000 to support student research.

Barry Freedman, ’80, leading a team at Wake Forest University, discovered a single gene, MYH9, that researchers estimate is responsible for half of all cases of kidney failure among African Americans. The identification of the gene—common to all African Americans—will help researchers to focus on the environmental triggers that cause this particular gene to contribute to kidney disease. “This genetic finding will forever change the way that we categorize the causes of kidney disease,” Freedman told CNN. “It has the potential to lead to new treatment options to prevent this devastating disease.”

Judge Arthur M. Schack, ’66, is no fan of sloppy foreclosure motions. The New York Times recently profiled the New York State Supreme Court justice, who has tossed out forty-six of the 102 foreclosure motions that have come before his bench in the last two years, calling him, “a judicial Don Quixote, tilting at the phalanxes of bankers, foreclosure facilitators, and lawyers by the bale.” Schack was originally a schoolteacher who jumped to law school during the New York City fiscal crisis of the 1970s. He was then counsel for the Major League Baseball Association in the 1980s and 1990s, before winning election to the Civil Court in 1998 and to the Supreme Court for Brooklyn and Staten Island in 2003. “I’m a guy from Brooklyn who happened to become a judge,” he told the Times. “I see a bank giving a $500,000 mortgage on a building worth $300,000 and the interest rate is 20 percent, and I ask questions. What can I tell you?”

Nia Phillips, M.A., ’08, spent three years teaching first grade in a Brooklyn public school before attending law school, but instead of becoming a judge, she is joining the Obama administration as deputy general counsel for Departmental and Legislative Services in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Education, where she will oversee legal services to the department, which relate to business and administrative law and to proposed or pending legislation.

The Miller Theater at Columbia University is no stuffy recital hall. Led by Melissa Smey, M.F.A., ’97, since last...
fall, the Morningside Heights venue, which has traditionally has featured composer portraits, early music, Bach, and the Baroque, is increasingly known for jazz and alternative rock music. In profiling Smey, the New York Times remarked upon her “wide-eyed flashing ebullience” and noted that she has frequent recourse to words like “cool” and “awesome” when describing her coming season of performances.

Generating serious buzz in the literary world is Electric Literature, the new journal of short stories, coedited by Andy Hunter and Scott Lindenbaum (both M.F.A., ’08). Eschewing the traditional template, Electric Literature is primarily an Internet phenomenon, with electronic versions available for sale on Amazon, for Kindle, and as an iPhone application. Sporting the subversive motto, “Reading That’s Bad for You,” the publication has lured heavyweights like Michael Cunningham and Jim Shepard into its pages, and because the publication pays $1,000 per story, the editors have also received a flood of unsolicited manuscripts from hundreds of lesser-known scribes, hoping for their big cyber-break.

Stanford University Professor Lucy Shapiro, ’61, recently shared two prestigious scientific awards with her University of Pennsylvania colleague, Stephen Benkovic, for discovering a novel way to reformulate drugs by using boron atoms to replace carbon atoms: the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science from the Franklin Institute and the Gairdner International Award from the Toronto-based Gairdner Foundation. The discovery, which improves the efficacy of older drugs and makes newer drugs capable of targeting specific infections, also led to the creation of Anacor Pharmaceuticals in 2002, a company based in Palo Alto, Calif., that develops anti-inflammatory, antifungal, and antibacterial drugs. Winning a Gairdner Award is considered a precursor to winning the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, as sixty-nine prior Gairdner recipients have gone on to collect the big prize in Stockholm.

Animator Rob O’Neill, ’81, melded his interest in physical anthropology and computer imaging to help create the vivid characters in Shrek 2 and Madagascar as a character technical director with DreamWorks Animation, and he’s something of an expert on animation technology and 3D modeling. In fact, last year he published a 344-page textbook on the subject, Digital Character Development: Theory and Practice (Morgan Kaufmann, 2008). This summer he and two colleagues took the plunge and opened Kickstand, a research and development studio for animation production based in Brooklyn that promises to “breathe new life into 3D character animation.”

David Mintz, ’76, invented Tofutti, the tofu-based, nondairy ice-cream substitute, after nine years of trial and error: And, no, he is not going to tell you how to make it. The secret formula is so secret that no employee at Tofutti Brands knows it, and everyone works on only a small part of the Tofutti process. “It’s like Coca-Cola,” Mintz told the New Jersey Jewish Standard. “None of the bottling plants has the secret formula. If you take all of the ingredients and try to make Tofutti, you’ll never do it.” Tofutti is now sold all across the United States and in thirty countries worldwide, but Mintz almost gave up on his dream of creating the soy-based dessert, until Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher rebbe, encouraged him and assured him, “This is going to be huge!”

James Patrick, M.F.A., ’01, the executive director of the beautifully restored Warner Theater in Torrington, Conn., was a cruise director (“like Julie McCoy on The Love Boat”) before attending the Brooklyn College Theater Department Performing Arts Management Program. At the helm of the 1,700-seat theater since 2004, Patrick’s favorite memory is the day they screened vintage cartoons for nine hundred children. “All you heard was the sound of popcorn popping and the whole theater smelled the way it was meant to,” he told the Register Citizen. “To see the smiles on the kids’ faces and know that these kids were getting to see a 1931 movie palace the way it was really meant to be, was pretty special.”

Little Rock, a play by Rejendra Ramoon, M.F.A., ’98, about the attempt to integrate Little Rock Central High School in 1957, had a staged reading starring Broadway veteran Leslie Uggams at the Rebel Theater; where Ramoon is artistic director. The play is the result of three years of research and more than one hundred interviews concerning the dramatic events in September of that year.

The San Diego Union-Tribune caught up with Lila Rockstein, ’49, who starts out at 6:30, three mornings a week, to run four to five miles. On the mornings she doesn’t run, she swims. She recently competed a five kilometer charity run for the Parkinson’s Disease Association, and noted that the other participants in her age category (she’s eighty-one) were using walkers and wheelchairs.
Over the course of his long career, Mark Kroll has described himself by a variety of titles. A harpsichordist. A fortepianist. A conductor. A teacher. A scholar. An author. One wonders which label he likes the most.

“I guess it depends on which period of my life you ask me about and how much money I had at the time,” he says, with a laugh.

Then he answers more seriously: “I’m a musician. Musicians fulfill one or more functions at certain times in their careers . . . But, to be truthful, we are just entertainers. We always have been.”

Entertainer might very well be the description that he likes best. The Washington Post once called him “the ideal performing artist.”

He admits, “I hate to practice, but I love playing.”

Kroll did not set out to become a musician. Born and raised in Brooklyn’s East New York section, he attended P.S. 202 and Thomas Jefferson High School. He trained on the piano from an early age, but at fifteen, while still at Jefferson, he developed a fascination for a much older instrument, the harpsichord, a forerunner of the piano.

He adds, “It was both the kind of music that has been written for it and the sound of the instrument itself that attracted me to the harpsichord.”

The instrument was undergoing a revival in popularity at about the time Kroll was drawn to it. Now, it is an integral part of historical performance practice, which tries to recapture the sound and mood of music listened to in earlier times.

Kroll enrolled at Brooklyn College as a premed student. But that was not to last. “There’s an old saying, ‘You don’t choose music; music chooses you,’” Kroll states. “In my sophomore year I said to myself, ‘That’s it,’ and I switched to music.”

At the time Kroll was studying at Brooklyn College, there was no Conservatory of Music. “It was simply the Department of Music back then,” he explains. “If the Conservatory had existed, I likely would have continued at the college to work for my master’s degree.”

After graduating with a B.A. in 1968, Kroll stayed for one year of graduate study in musicology and then went to Yale University, where he received a master of music degree in harpsichord in 1971.

Kroll says he has no regrets for the choice he made back in his teens. “I’ve never looked back,” he says. “I’ve had a very active career.”

Also, Kroll notes, “I’m very grateful for the education I received at Brooklyn College. The professors provided me with a very high level of instruction. Throughout my academic career I’ve tried to teach the same way that I was taught at Brooklyn College.”

He has taught since 1971 after working as a teaching assistant at Brooklyn College while doing his graduate work in musicology. He is currently professor emeritus at Boston University, where he spent twenty-five years of his career before retiring, and a visiting professor at Northeastern University, where he has been for the last three years. In 1989 Kroll served as Fulbright professor and artist-in-residence in Yugoslavia, later returning for recitals in Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, and Zadar. In 1991 he was a visiting lecturer at the University of Padua, Italy, and in 1993 he was a professor at the Conservatory of Music in Würzburg, Germany. Recently he served as a member of the jury of the Prague International Harpsichord Competition. He is a member of the music panel of the Pro Musici Foundation.

Over the past decade, Kroll says, he has devoted more time to his role as scholar, producing three books, among them Johann Nepomuk Hummel: A Musician’s Life and World (Scarecrow Press), which earned high praise from critics.
1933
Herbert Nestler
Class Correspondent
8440 South Military Trail, Apt. 216
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Juliet Reis Bernstein recently received the Pioneering Women’s Award from Cape Cod Community College and the UN Human Services Award from Church Women United.

1935
Irwin Glick
Class Correspondent
5071C Nesting Way
Delray Beach, FL 33484-1705

1937
Harry W. Anisgard
Class Correspondent
2563 Greer Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

1939
Adele Barlin Pessen
Class Correspondent
853 East 18 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11230-3103
abp18@aol.com

Adele Barlin Pessen recently performed her original monologue, Breaking Up, for the Brooklyn College IRPE theater art performance directed by Martin Grumet.

1941
Shirley Edelman Greenwald
Class Correspondent
1 Washington Square Village, Apt. 16B
New York, NY 10012-1632

1943
Romola Ettinger Kaplan
Class Correspondent
P.O. Box 648
East Quogue, NY 11942-0648

1944
Renee B. Landau Eidlin
Class Correspondent
30 Oak Street Ext., Apt. 507
Brockton, MA 02301-1169

Caryl Berzin Shapiro recently retired after many years of teaching mechanical drawing at the Cooper Union, City College of New York, and the New York Institute of Technology.

1946
Bernard R. Schwartz
Class Correspondent
404 Beach 143 Street
Neponsit, NY 11694-1111

1947
Reva Frumkin Biers
Class Correspondent
4631 Ellenita Avenue
Tarzana, CA 91356-4931

1948
Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy
Class Correspondent
27110 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G
Floral Park, NY 11005-1209

Malvin E. Ring, ’39, considered the foremost dental historian in the country, was a guest at the gala celebration in Chicago of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the American Dental Association. It was a major honor, since of the 150,000 dentists in America, only 400 were invited. The ADA will publish a coffee-table book on the 150-year history of the association, to be edited by Dr. Ring.

1949
Marvin E. Newman was honored at the seventh Annual Lucie Awards in photography held at Lincoln Center. He was recognized in the category of Achievement in Sports.

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
1950
Louise J. Kaplan
Class Correspondent
175 West 12 Street
New York, NY 10011-8275

1951
Marion Unger Gordon
Class Correspondent
70 East 10 Street, Apt. 9P
New York, NY 10003-5112

1952
Sheila Talmud Raymond
Class Correspondent
3 Lakeside Lane
Bay Shore, NY 11706-8845

1953
Ben Suntag
Class Correspondent
1311 Franklin Lane
Rockaway, NJ 07866-5814
gatrus@gmail.com

1954
Marlene (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman
Class Correspondent
255 West 94 Street, Apt. 6Q
New York, NY 10025-6986

Marcia Jacoby Hillman is producer for the internet radio show, Lenore Raphael’s Jazz Spot, on www.purejazz.org. The show features performances by and interviews of top jazz musicians and vocalists.

The American Jewish Committee recently honored Harvey R. Miller, a partner in the firm of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, with its prestigious Judge Learned Hand Award for outstanding service to the legal profession.

1955
Geraldine Miller Markowitz
Class Correspondent
geraldine@nj.rr.com

Evelyn Steinberg Kaden enjoys volunteering as a clown with St. Paschal’s Ministry in Cleveland, Ohio, in her retirement. The group feeds the homeless and entertains in nursing homes. Evelyn believes she is the first and only Jewish clown in Ohio.

1956
Mike Saluzzi
Class Correspondent
1351 E. Mountain Street
Glendale, CA 91207-1837
msaluzzi@earthlink.net

Martin P. Schreibman, distinguished professor emeritus of biology and founder and director emeritus of the Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC), was invited to the U.S. House of Representatives to participate in brief congressional aides and staffers on the negative aspects of open-ocean aquaculture and to present a more viable alternative: land-based, water reuse-recirculation aquaculture systems, which he has used in his research at Brooklyn College for the past decade.

1957
Micki Goldberg Ginsberg
Class Correspondent
217 E. Maple Avenue
Moorestown, NJ 08057-2011
ginsberg10@gmail.com

Sandra Pawgan Koffler of Philadelphia was recognized as a “Distinguished Neuropsychologist” by the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology in June 2009.

1958
Marilyn P. Safir, ’59,
was selected for the 2009 Outstanding International Psychologist Award by Division 52 of the American Psychological Association.

1959
Sandra Seigel Pikoff
Class Correspondent
4500 Williams Drive #212-320 Georgetown,TX 78633
sspikoff@aol.com

For the last thirteen years Alan M. Rubin has been painting full time and now has a website showcasing his artwork, www.alanrubin.com.

Phyllis Goldstein Waldman was honored as a “Teacher of the Year” by the Commission on Jewish Education and Leadership of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. Waldman has been teaching at Congregation Adath Israel in Middletown, Conn., for forty-two years.

1957
Rosalie Fuchs Berle
Class Correspondent
260 Garth Road, Apt. 3J
Scarsdale, NY 10583-4057

The Onondaga County Bar Association has recently honored Rosemary Shankman Pooler, a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, with the William C. Ruger Award for her outstanding achievement and devotion to the principles of our justice system.

Elio Zappulla, ’54, reports that his verse translation of Dante’s Inferno is still doing well in the paperback version published by Vintage Books (Random House) as the tenth anniversary of its publication approaches. Zappulla, a professor of English and humanities at Dowling College in Oakdale, New York, is currently working on a grammar text “with a twist” for use by college students. He was recently honored with a BCAA Lifetime Achievement Award.
Robert Sarnoff, ’59, ’s movie THE ROMEOWS was recently shown on campus in the Tanger Auditorium. These “old” Brooklyn friends view the world with humor, melancholy, and hope.

1960
Saul Kravitz
Class Correspondent
3382 Kenzo Ct.
Mountain View, CA 94040
kravitzsaul@gmail.com

Helene Greenfield-Fisch Aylon has a new show, In G-d We Trust, at the Jewish Museum in New York. It will travel to the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.

A gala benefit evening of poetry in honor of Visions International, the World Journal of Poetry on its thirtieth anniversary will feature Bradley R. Strahan. A former Fulbright Senior Scholar who taught poetry for twelve years at Georgetown University, as well as all over the world, he currently teaches at the University of Texas in Austin.

1961
David S. Herskowitz
Class Correspondent
1175 Kildeer Court
Encinitas, CA 92024-1278
technologicalforecasting@yahoo.com

Ellen Shumsky recently had a retrospective of her photographic work published in book form by Graeae Press. The book is entitled Portrait of a Decade: 1968-1978. A show of forty-five images from this collection was on display at the LGBT Center in New York City from June to September 2009 and was covered by CNN. Ellen is a psychotherapist, psychoanalytic teacher, and writer.

1962
Steven J. Nappen
Class Correspondent
38 Troy Hills Road
Whippany, NJ 07981-1315

Barry R. Chiswick, distinguished professor in the Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Chicago, was awarded an Honorary Ph.D. by Lund University, Sweden, in May 2009. His most recent book, coauthored with Paul W. Miller, is The Economics of Language: International Analyses (Routledge, 2007). In 2007 he was the recipient of the Marshall Sklare Award from the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. His Sklare Lecture, “The Rise and Fall of the American Jewish Ph.D.,” was published in Contemporary Jewry, 29 (1), April 2009.

Richard Palumbo recently wrote an article on Samuel Johnson and his famous dictionary in honor of the 300th anniversary of Johnson’s birth.

Karen Friedman Stein is a professor of English and women’s studies at the University of Rhode Island.

Beverly Sussman, a former teacher, now a businesswoman and writer, has recently been elected trustee for the village of Buffalo Grove, Illinois.

Robert Rempell Temes is the author of many books and has a practice in psychotherapy and medical hypnosis in New York City and New Jersey.

1963
Cliff Rosner
Class Correspondent
111 Blue Willow Drive
Houston, TX 77042-1105

Ellen Tublin Taylor is director of Sacramento programs for California Lawyers for the Arts.

Alice J. Sheflin Zal was recently chosen president-elect of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, a statewide organization for physicians holding the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree. She is an active staff member at Mercy Suburban Hospital and Montgomery Hospital, and a clinical assistant professor in the family medicine department at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

1964
Jay Orlikoff
Class Correspondent
20 Beaverdale Lane
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2507
drjay@drjay.com

Mel Barlin was guest speaker on Money Matters, a nationally syndicated financial radio show, hosted by Gary Goldberg. It is the oldest financial program on the air today. Mel spoke about long-term care insurance.

Richard Steckel, ’64, is a director of the Milestones Project. Wise at Heart is an initiative of the Milestones Project, which is dedicated to healing the world’s divisions by sharing pictures of our common humanity.

1965
Barbara Berman Leveene
Class Correspondent
24 Jubilee Circle
Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

1966
Felicia Friedland Weinberg
Class Correspondent
P.O. Box 449
Clarksburg, NJ 08510

1967
Sharon Weinschel Resen
Class Correspondent
1740 Kimball Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304

Frank P. Tomasulo was selected to be the first recipient of the University Film and Video Association’s annual teaching award. This pedagogical honor is awarded on the basis of a member’s lifetime contributions to classroom teaching, curricular development, mentoring of colleagues and students, pedagogical publications, and organizational advancement related to teaching.
1968
Eileen McGinn
Class Correspondent
210 East 15 Street, Apt. 10N
New York, NY 10003-3927

1969
Edward M. Greenspan
Class Correspondent
1237 Avenue Z, Apt. 6G
Brooklyn, NY 11235-4360
eemgreenspan@optonline.net

Arnold Krotkin is the founder of a 9/11 listserv that sends a daily e-mail about September 11-related topics to nearly five thousand subscribers.

1970
Barry Silverman
Class Correspondent
176 Stults Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5815
writone@comcast.net

Louis A. DeNino has been appointed director of the Office of Strategic Analysis for the Veterans Healthcare Administration. VHA is the world’s largest health care system. Louis says “it is a distinct honor and privilege to serve our nation’s veterans.”

The tenth annual Midtown International Theater Festival presented a staged reading of an original play, Lesson for Life, written and directed by Phillip W. Weiss and produced by Phil’s Literary Works LLC.

1971
Constance Forte Pigozzi
Class Correspondent
7802 16 Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11214-1004

1972
Stanley A. Alexander
Class Correspondent
98 B Charles River Road
Waltham, MA 02453

Robin Fried Schwab retired from teaching Spanish in New York City. She now lives in Cary, NC., and tutors high school students.

1973
Linda E. Gross Carroll
Class Correspondent
212 Stony Point Drive
Sebastian, FL 32958
lcarroll32@comcast.net

1974
Diane Oeters Vaughn
Class Correspondent
42 Briarwood Drive
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
dianeleslie29@hotmail.com

Paul Zuckerman is assistant deputy superintendent and counsel at the New York State Insurance Department where he supervises the Opinions Unit and works on legislation.

1975
Rubin Leitner
Class Correspondent
138 East 96 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11212-3534

debraloloschenhoffman’s first book, Welcome to Kindergarten, is now in its fifth printing with Heinemann Publishers.

1976
Henry P. Feintuch
Class Correspondent
50 Barnes Lane
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425

At the fortieth Medical-Scientific Conference of the American Society of Addiction Medicine, Lawrence Brown, Jr., M.D., M.P.H., FASAM, and executive senior vice-president, was awarded the ASAM Annual Award for outstanding contributions to the growth and vitality of the society, thoughtful leadership in the field, and deep understanding of the art and science of addiction medicine. He was also recently elected to a four-year term on the board of directors for the College of Problems on Drug Dependence. The New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services named Dr. Brown the “2009 Addiction Physician of the Year.”

Randy Berne Cavaliere was promoted to portfolio administrator with Griffin Asset Management in New York City.

Henry Feintuch launched Feintuch Communications, based in New York City. The public relations and strategic relations firm was admitted into ECP Global, an international partnership of premiere independent PR firms.

Donald Loggins is a contributing photographer to Central Park’s Arsenal Gallery display, GreenThumb’s Gotham: A Photographic History of New York City’s Community Gardens, an exhibition celebrating the diversity of New York City’s community gardens. His photographs were also featured in three recently published books: Greening Cities, Growing Communities; Shaping the American Landscape: New Profiles from the Pioneers of American Landscape Design Project, and The Lower East Side Remembered and Revisited: A History and Guide to a Legendary New York Neighborhood.

Joseph Novick, a graduate of Seton Hall School of Law, is now practicing law in New Jersey. He served his community as an elected councilman in Flemington, N.J., for more than ten years.

Herbert Schonhaut just completed his thirtieth year with the New York City Transit Authority and is manager of station signage, overseeing signage in all 467 subway stations.
Mira Thomas Lowe, ’84, is editor in chief of JET magazine, the world’s number one black newsmagazine. She oversees all aspects of the magazine’s editorial content and staffing, and its evolving direction on both print and digital platforms.

1978
Susan A. Katz
Class Correspondent
120 Pinewood Trail
Trumbull, CT 06611-3313

Norene Wittlin is with the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. She was recently presented with the Karuna Heisler Award, which honors a past committee chairperson.

Diane Guzzi Zerega is a New York City Department of Education theater and art teacher and is looking forward to coming back to Brooklyn College for an M.F.A. in directing.

1979
Anthony Esposito
Class Correspondent
211 Highway 35 N
Mantoloking, NJ 08738-1420

1980
Top en Pointe, is a memoir in words and dance, with jazz, swing, R & B, and classical music. It was conceived, choreographed, and directed by Yvonne Curry and was performed at the Third Street Music School Settlement.

Christine Termini Passarella is founder of The Kids for Coltrane Project. Her mission is to encourage children to “follow their bliss” and her vision is to help create environments in which their multiple intelligences are truly respected.

1981
Debbie Schiffer-Burke
Class Correspondent
debcolumn@aol.com

Debbie Schiffer-Burke has added multiple saxophone gigs to her community volunteer work, entertaining preschoolers at a local HeadStart, and playing for the local library and American Red Cross chapter; and the United Way. She has also launched the website, Pocono Jazz and Poetry, a not-for-profit resource for local artists and musicians. Schiffer-Burke continues to love her salaried job as editor of Pocono Business Journal.

1982
Eileen Sherman Gruber
Class Correspondent
69 Derby Avenue
Greenlawn, NY 11740

1983
Michael Kosik
Class Correspondent
866.327.5162
michael.kosik@smithbarney.com

Caryn Golub Siebert is president and CEO of the national third-party claims administrator Carl Warren & Company, which has been named one of the twenty Best Companies to work for in Orange County, California. The company was also awarded an AACE award for ESOP Excellence and Ms. Siebert was asked to join the advisory board for the National Restaurant and Retail Defense Association.

1985
Peter Huertas
Class Correspondent
5135 Fedora Drive
San Antonio, TX 78242
alamodude2001@yahoo.com

1986
Ian Lee Brown
Class Correspondent
4631 Twin Lakes Lane
Long Grove, IL 60047
ian.Brown@erickson.com

1987
Eric Steinhardt
Class Correspondent
915 East 7 Street, Apt.1H
Brooklyn, NY 11230-2733

1988
Lauren Korn Popkoff
Class Correspondent
951 Wood Oak Drive
Baldwin Harbour, NY 11510

Robert M. Siegfried is a full professor in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Adelphi University in Garden City, Long Island, where he has been teaching for ten years.

Marco Oppedisano, ’96, is included in a photography book of more than eighty distinguished guitarists from around the world. It is by highly regarded art photographer Ralph Gibson. The book, State of the Axe: Guitar Masters in Photographs and Words, was featured in an exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston.

1989

1990
Beth Debra Kallman Werner
Class Correspondent
105 Husson Road
Milford, PA 18337

1992
Seren Marc Taylor is currently director of staff for the Republican Fiscal Committee of the Senate of the State of California.

1994
Iline Berkowitz
Class Correspondent
1575 46 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11219
1995
Nathan Solat
Class Correspondent
2793 Lee Place
Bellmore, NY 11710

1996
Anthony Vitale
Class Correspondent
1742 Gildersleeve Street
Merrick, NY 11566

1997
Tara M. Dowd
Class Correspondent
40 West 72nd Street, Apt. 23A
New York, NY 10023

1999
David Moskowitz
Class Correspondent
2327 East 18 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229-4416

2000
Mark von Sternberg wrote and directed a movie, Love Simple (see page 5), which recently premiered as part of the HBO Latino Film Festival starring Francisco Solorzano, ’00, and John Harlacher, ’00.

2001
Tatesha Bennett Clark
Class Correspondent
540 East 82 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236-3119

Derrick M. Guest is president and CEO of Griot’s Roll Film Production & Services, Inc., and was recently featured in Black Enterprise magazine.

Jack Shuler is assistant professor of English at Denison University. His work has appeared in the Columbia Journal of American Studies, South Carolina Review, Fast Capitalism, and Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture.

2004
Yael Abraham Fogel
Class Correspondent
570 Ocean Pkwy, Apt. 5C
Brooklyn, NY 11218-5822
yct.fogel@gmail.com

Anna-Alexandra Fodde-Reguer was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study in Taiwan for a year. She is in the doctoral program for Chinese religion and culture at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. This exciting news came to us from her proud mom, Brooklyn College Professor of Judaic Studies Sara Reguer.

2006
Johnmichael Rossi was awarded a travel grant through the Theatre Communications Group’s New Generations—Future Collaborations program. He will be working with LOTOS Collective of UK on Triangulated City, a collaboration with Zoukak Theatre Company of Lebanon, to develop a multilocation performance in Beirut, Lebanon. In June 2009 his theater ensemble, newFangled theatReR, featuring Brooklyn College alums Esra Cizmeci, Niluka Hotaling, and Justin Sturges, performed Short Kutz & Forks, an evening of thirteen short plays written by John Michael, at the Red Room in New York City. Earlier in the year he was named education director at Women’s Project.

2008
Stefanie Low
Class Correspondent
3-A Putnam Avenue
Glen Cove, NY 11542
stefanielow@yahoo.com

Vladislav Belyayev received his TESOL certification and is traveling to Peru to teach English for six months.

Playwrights Horizons presents the world premiere of Circle Mirror Transformation, a play by Annie Baker, ’09.
Betty Lugo, ’81, can still see the picture, which she probably has somewhere, that her then-classmate Carmen Pacheco, ’81, drew that day when a senior-year study session turned daydreamy. It showed a big building with their names on it, a nice atrium, and a driveway, even a heliport. It was where they would open their law firm one day.

“She announced, ‘we’re gonna be big,’” says Lugo. “I told her, ‘we’re two kids from Brooklyn. What makes you think that will happen? You’re crazy.’”

Crazy like a fox, it turned out, because, some ten years later, Pacheco would prod her buddy to join her in opening the first Latina-owned law firm in New York City. They also got that building with the heliport, when they set up shop at One World Trade Center in 1992. They were the youngest lawyers to charter a firm in the building at the time.

The two didn’t meet until their senior year, when they were classmates in Professor Edward Kent’s philosophy of law course, but they became fast friends. Pacheco had grown up in Gowanus, Lugo in Williamsburg, and in many ways neither of them had dared to dream until they got to Brooklyn College.

Lugo had graduated third in her high school class and had gotten a scholarship to Cornell University but first wanted to be a legal secretary. Pacheco, a Catholic school girl, says she figured she’d be a nurse or a secretary because, “at my high school, that’s what they told us we could be.”

But their undergraduate years affected them in ways they had not expected. “I took a philosophy of religion course, and I remember coming home and telling my mom I was going to be a Muslim,” recalls Lugo. “That’s how much Brooklyn College pushed you.”

Pacheco went on to St. John’s University School of Law, becoming a member of Professor Edward Kent’s philosophy of law course, and I remember coming home and telling my mom I was going to be a Muslim,” recalls Lugo. “That’s how much Brooklyn College pushed you.”

Pacheco went on to St. John’s University School of Law, becoming a member of Professor Edward Kent’s philosophy of law course, and I remember coming home and telling my mom I was going to be a Muslim,” recalls Lugo. “That’s how much Brooklyn College pushed you.”

Pacheco went on to St. John’s University School of Law, becoming a member of Professor Edward Kent’s philosophy of law course, and I remember coming home and telling my mom I was going to be a Muslim,” recalls Lugo. “That’s how much Brooklyn College pushed you.”

At their corner offices on floor 29 of One World Trade Center, they didn’t skimp on the furniture. “One client called and said ‘You have such beautiful offices, you must be doing something else,’” recalls Lugo. “We were so hurt by that.”

Others asked, “Are all your clients going to be Hispanic?” “Will all the attorneys be women?” No and yes. Pacheco and Lugo, PLLC, the two principals, are women. But their clients have ranged from mom-and-pop shops to rappers and international banking institutions. (Their forms of payment have ranged from chunks of cheese to turkeys and cigars.)

They left Manhattan in 2002 and bought a building on Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn. The firm tends to take on a lot of commercial loans for, yes, minority-owned and women-owned businesses, in addition to handling some cases on employment discrimination and labor relations.

In 1993, when Lugo headed the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Northeast chapter, she held a press conference, hoping to persuade then-President Bill Clinton to nominate a Hispanic to the Supreme Court. She could not have foreseen that some fifteen years later, she and Pacheco would find themselves traveling back and forth to Washington to cheerlead through Senate confirmation hearings for their old friend Sonia Sotomayor, the nominee for the Supreme Court seat vacated by David Souter. The women knew Sotomayor through circles both professional and personal.

“We couldn’t be happier,” says Pacheco. “She’s a dear friend and a very intelligent Latina, indeed.”

The two have also turned their attention to nurturing the next generation in their line of work, with a group of alumni in the legal profession who are members of the PreLaw Council. “We want to help the students network,” explains Pacheco, a former member of the Brooklyn College Foundation’s Board of Trustees. “These kinds of connections are what make the Ivy League so successful. We can do the same thing here; Betty and I have all kinds of connections. And through our own story, we’d like to encourage them to dream big too.”
recent
Books

Faculty Books


Jeff Suzuki, Mathematics, Mathematics in Historical Context, Mathematical Association of America, 2009, $58.50, hardcover.


Alumni Books


Ellen Levitt, ’95, The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn, Avotaynu, 2009, $32.95, paperback.


An important book ... The Saint and the Sultan is fascinating reading that will change the reader’s concept of who St. Francis of Assisi was.


Karen F. Stein, ’62, Reading, Learning, Teaching Toni Morrison (Confronting the Text, Confronting the World), Peter Lang Publishing, 2009, $32.95, paperback.


When Summer Davis is told by a substitute high school biology teacher that “DNA makes up everything inside you,” and that “you can’t escape your parents,” her ties to her vanished mother become more like a padlock as her mentally ill father becomes sicker. Summer’s own path eventually leads to the NYU genetics lab, but the opportunity to pursue her dreams may be undermined by her father’s deeply hidden secrets.


Jealousy, intransigence, incompetence, and even cowardice among Union generals resulted in a combination massacre and race riot, as white Union and Confederate troops turned on the black soldiers. Slotkin depicts all this, and the army and Congress’s subsequent whitewashes, with the verve and force that place him among the most distinguished historians chronicling the role of violence in the American experience.


Paul Treatman, ’48, Haiku PUNishment. iUniverse, 2009, $17.95, paperback.


Largo offers a kind of Ripley’s Believe It or Not for the excess-obsessed teen in everyone. The title is misleading as the historical personages that populate its pages are not necessarily geniuses or junkies. Instead, Largo gives an alphabetical biographical listing of actors, authors, and artists, politicians and Celtic queens, from the famous (Van Gogh, Sappho, Charlie Parker) to the obscure (Art Acord, Berthold der Schwarz).
Faculty
William Browne
English Department
Herbert Gambert
Administration, “Office of Academic Adjustments”
Béla Király
History Department
John William Kneller
Former BC President
Edith Leora
(aka “Lee” Dennis)
“Health and Physical Education” (Athletics Department)

Alumni
Gerald Lowenstein, ‘33
Lilyan Warshaw Weingart, ‘33
Herbert N. Blackman, ‘34
Theodore R. Friedman, ‘34
Lillian Keilson, ‘34
Bernard Klein, ‘34
Edna Pellegrino Romanell, ‘34
Jeanette Ross Roos, ‘34
Viola Anderson Ferretti, ‘35
Henrietta Blaustein Honeyman, ‘35
Florence Shainer Koenig, ‘35
Beatrice Stern Levine, ‘35
Thelma Futter Rothberg, ‘35
Lewis J. Allison, ‘36
Jack J. Brancato, ’36
Irving Breines, ’36
Selma Arginteanu Jaffe, ’36
Marguerite Vascimini O’Connell, ’36
Morris Tepper, ’36
Maxwell Werboff, ’36
Lauretta Greenberg Zegans, ’36
Vito Natrela, ’37
Elliott M. Ruben, ’37
Bessie Fuchs Moskowitz Dickman, ’38
Jack Dickman, ’38
Mina (Minnie) Friedwald Kulick, ’38
Harold Alma Nors, ’38
Sara Pilchman Spieghler, ’38
Roslyn Ulman Fishman, ’39
Amalia (Mali) Rapaport Pearlman, ’39
Muriel Lazarus Sacker, ’39
Sydney Axelrod, ’40
Morris A. Fishalow, ’40
Leon J. Kosofsky, ’40
Ira Kraines, ’40
Vita Clementi Marrone, ’40
Arnold W. Sametz, ’40
Alvin Shapiro, ’40
Bernard Davis, ’41
Anabel Schulman Friedman, ’41
Joseph Goodgold, ’41
Ruthe Galler Nadel, ’41
Ethel Bilchinsky Ratner, ’41
Harriet Cohen Safian, ’41
Thelma Imber Seifer, ’41
Mary Marchese Stolfe, ’41
Tess Geldzahler Forrest Barnett, ’42
Morton R. Eichel, ’42
Ira Weil, ’42
Eleanor Kaplan Weingast, ’42
Gloria Gordon Bolotsky, ’43
Samuel F. Coleman, ’43
Leonard Elterman, ’43
Herbert Gambert, ’43
Gerald Rosenbaum, ’43
Goldie Baron Rothenberg, ’43
Marie Cusato Salemme, ’43
Gladys Dellerson Shaffer, ’43
Arthur A. Stern, ’43
Franklin H. Epstein, ’44
Seymour Fromer, ’44
Shirley Greenstein Love, ’44
Millicent Eckstein Lowitz, ’44
Mary Platoff, ’44
Sylvia Rosner Rothchild, ’44
Sol Saporta, ’44
Dorothy Wool Tesser, ’44
Philip Thomsen, ’44
Edith Levine Turetsky, ’44
Anthony L. Danza, ’45
Samuel M. Ehrenhalt, ’46
Carolyn Mandle Layton, ’46
Thelma Greenblatt Mandelkorn, ’46
Arthur S. Richman, ’46
David I. Shapiro, ’46
Gloria Reisler Leeds, ’47
Harriet Gordon Machtiger, ’47
Martha Rosten, ’47
Phyllis Ratner Warschauer, ’47
Phyllis Posner Weinreb, ’47
Max Zwiebel, ’47
Oscar A. Grossman, ’48
Irwin Jacobs, ’48
Bernard Kaplan, ’48
Kadish Millet, ’48
Barnett Rosenberg, ’48
Jerome Eckstein, ’49
Marvin I. Friedman, ’49
Saul Lambert, ’49
Herbert M. Salkin, ’49
Raymond Schulman, ’49
Doris Freed Shaffer, ’49
Eleanor Cohen Treuhaft, ’49
Marlyn Nagel Gillman, ’50
Bernard Goldowitz, ’50
Bernard W. Klein, ’50
Stanley Kitzis, ’50
Mario C. Suarez, ’50
Betty Trolin, ’50
Christina Edwards Williams, ’50
Eli H. Baum, ’51
Elaine Rosen Engelberg, ’51
Selma Zucker Holme, ’51
Victor Milstein, ’51
Alfred Gottschalk, ’52
Walter O. Huegel, ’52
Salvatore P. Lipari, ’52
Robert J. Schultz, ’52
Sonda Sherr Silverman, ’52
Marcus Alexis, ’53
It is often said—and without too much hyperbole—that Brooklyn College alumni have influenced almost every field of human endeavor. This magazine strives to celebrate as many of those endeavors as possible and we always lament when we are belatedly introduced to some of our alumni’s most important contributions on the *New York Times*’ obituary page.

This November, we read one such obituary. Alice S. Rossi, ’47, died Tuesday, November 8. She was a noted sociologist and feminist scholar and, in 1966, one of the founders of the National Organization for Women. The two-columned *Times* article highlights her scholarly achievements, as well as her faculty appointments at Harvard, the University of Chicago, John Hopkins University, and Goucher College, but it was the following passage that held us most:

One of her most influential feminist articles was “Equality Between the Sexes: An Immodest Proposal.” First presented in 1963 at a meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, it was published the next year in the academy’s journal, *Daedalus*.

In the article, Professor Rossi argued that for most women motherhood had become a full-time occupation, a state of affairs that hurt not only women but also the larger society in which they lived. For the well-being of both the women and the culture, she wrote, parity of the sexes is essential.

Familiar today, Professor Rossi’s argument was considered subversive at the time. As a result, she was called a monster, an unnatural woman and an unfit mother, as she recalled in interviews afterward. Her article can be found in the anthology, *Life Cycle and Achievement in America* (Harper & Row, 1969).

Rossi’s proposal, immodest or otherwise, may no longer be considered subversive, but it continues to be wrangled over and hotly debated—privately in women’s lives and publicly in social and political policies. Brooklyn College is very proud of her alumna, Alice S. Rossi, for framing the discussion and helping to lead the way forward.

Rossi’s full obit may be read at: http://www.nytimes.com.
In the Factory
Where the Virgins Are Made

A short story by Helen Phillips

In the factory where the virgins are made, we’re given bread at noon. We eat it in the cement courtyard, sitting around the dry fountain, looking up at the broken windows. We are not ones to talk. We are virgins. This is the law, and a sensible law at that.

Our virgins are sent all over the world, to Guatemala, to South Africa, to France, to Cuba, to Brazil, to Poland, to Portugal. We mail them out naked. Father blesses the cardboard boxes. When they arrive at their destinations, they’ll be dressed in the velvet robes that have been stripped off the outdated virgins. Our newer, better virgins—high-quality plastic, real human hair from our heads, eyelashes from our lids—will be placed in glass coffins that have been dusted for the occasion. I’ve wondered, but never asked, what becomes of the old virgins.

Instead, I’ve turned my attention to picturing how our virgins must glow against the great stones of cathedrals, and against the wooden walls in poorer countries. I’ve thought of their sad peaceful faces. I’ve always wondered why I am instructed to paint their lips with slight frowns. I’ve worked here for two decades, and it is an honor to be the woman who paints the lips. Still, certain things have been given up along the way.

Six months ago, when I first did it, I made it so imperceptible that Father would not notice, nor anyone else, until some girl in some cathedral somewhere would pause before my virgin, and leave the building with a whoop, and go outside, and feel finally, for the first time ever, blessed.

The complaints have begun to roll in. Father’s displeased. The bishops cannot quite put their finger on what the issue is, but—something’s amiss. Father has told us to work harder, to be more perfect, to not falter in making the virgins we’ve been making for decades. He says the troublemakers will be found, and punished.

When they come for me, I’ll be ready, smiling an invisible smile.

Illustration by Adam Thompson
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