40 YEARS LATER:
Is Shirley Chisholm still relevant in 2012?

ALSO INSIDE:
The children of the
South African HIV epidemic

Scientists on the hunt for
alternative energy sources
The Audacity of Shirley Chisholm

Forty years ago, Shirley Chisholm ‘46 launched a groundbreaking campaign for the presidency — the first of many steps along the political path that led Barack Obama to the White House.

Fighting for Life

5.6 million South Africans live with HIV/AIDS. One student traveled to Africa in search of answers and discovered new indications that the disease may impact brain development in children.

The Race for Alternative Energy

Did you know that microalgae might soon power your car? Or that cleaner fuel might be locked in ice? Our scientists are on the trail of alternative energy sources to feed growing demand.
Forty years ago, the people of the United States voted in a historic presidential campaign emerge in Brooklyn and subsequently surge across the country. Many of the critical issues that our nation debated in 1972 are again the source of political debate in 2012: concerns over unemployment and economic insecurity, decreasing access to opportunity among the nation’s poor, the influence of big business in the public sector and the cost — both human and financial — of military intervention overseas.

During the 1972 campaign, Shirley Chisholm ’46, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first to make a credible bid for the presidency, called for change. “We are entering a new era in which we must, as Americans, demand leadership — leadership, which is fresh, leadership, which is open, and leadership, which is receptive to the problems of all Americans.” Regardless of one’s political point of view, Shirley Chisholm’s legacy is powerful, and her insights remain timeless in the sought-after change where she saw injustice. She held true to her convictions. She ignored those who said an African-American woman could not, and she broke the mold in the highest levels of government. Across the political spectrum, many now agree that Shirley Chisholm exemplified a boldness of vision that is the hallmark of true leadership.

At Brooklyn College, we educate our students to think critically, to excel across the disciplines and to become the next generation of leaders in all walks of life. Some of our graduates choose to follow in Chisholm’s footsteps and seek public office. Others become captains of industry, dedicated physicians, nonprofit leaders, community activists, research scientists, outstanding teachers and creative artists. Whatever their professional paths, our 100,000 alumni in New York City, across the nation and around the world are making a difference every day. Like Shirley Chisholm, their journeys began at Brooklyn College.

For women, for minorities and for the economically disadvantaged, American public higher education is an essential element of our democracy, providing equal access to opportunity for people from all backgrounds. Yet higher education — both private and public — is becoming increasingly unaffordable. Across the United States, public support for higher education has been steadily declining over the past two decades, and the burden of cost is being transferred to students and their families. Student loan debt is at a record high nationally and now represents a larger proportion of household debt than credit cards.

Although New York State is not immune to this national crisis, and although years of budget reductions have trimmed state support for the City University of New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY), Governor Cuomo and the legislature have recently pledged to maintain state funding for public higher education in New York at current levels through 2016. This historic agreement also includes a commitment to increase revenues from New York City, allowing students and their families to plan ahead rather than face large, unexpected spikes when they can least afford them.

Our state’s new commitment is a welcome step that will provide much needed stability to Brooklyn College and help us to secure our institution’s long-term fiscal health. As you may recall, until 1979, public funding covered 100% of the college’s operating budget. Today, it covers only 27%. While tuition and fees at Brooklyn College remain lower than 60% of all four-year colleges and universities in the United States, and while nearly 60% of our undergraduate students pay no out-of-pocket tuition costs due to federal and state grants, many other economically disadvantaged students still have difficulty paying tuition and fees and buying the books they need.

In order to maintain our commitment to provide access to excellence, we must pursue creative and entrepreneurial approaches to advance our mission. We are raising funds from alumni and other private sources to support students who may otherwise be unable to afford a Brooklyn College education. In the past 18 months alone, we have raised more than $3 million in funds for students in need of financial assistance. During the 2010-11 academic year, we distributed $12 million to 1,229 students, and we anticipate that this figure will rise in the current year. Please consider making a gift to support this ongoing effort to maintain our decades-long commitment to provide access to excellence and promote graduation success for all students of promise. With your support, we may ensure that our neediest students are still able to afford a Brooklyn College education.

Like so many talented alumni who have preceded them, the students of today and of tomorrow deserve an education of the highest quality, regardless of their economic means. To this end, on behalf of everyone at Brooklyn College, I pledge our steadfast commitment to continue our long legacy of excellence and affordability — the hallmark of a Brooklyn College education.
**JUMPSTART**

Students at Brooklyn College are helping to combat early childhood illiteracy, a challenge facing many of the nation’s major urban areas.

The School of Education is in its second year as a partner with the Jumpstart program, which is affiliated with AmeriCorps, to help ensure that Brooklyn preschoolers age 3 to 5 are properly prepared to start school by boosting their literacy rates, language skills and social development.

Jumpstart should not be confused with Head Start, the massive, publicly funded federal program aimed at kindergartners and older. “Jumpstart is privately funded and run by volunteers,” said Mary DeBey, associate professor of early childhood education. “Its mission is to work toward the day when every child in America will enter school prepared to succeed.”

That day may be some time off, according to Janice Goldfarb, Jumpstart’s senior development director for the tri-state area. “Average preschoolers know about 20,000 words by the time they are old enough to start school. In low-income areas, by contrast, they can possess a vocabulary of as few as 5,000 words. They are two years behind their peers.”

“We are particularly excited to have Brooklyn College as a partner,” said Goldfarb. “Brooklyn College is widely known for its School of Education and for its large and excellent early childhood program. They’ve made enormous progress under the leadership of Dean Shanley and dedicated faculty like Mary DeBey.”

In fact, the School of Education is nationally recognized as one of the top 20 in the United States.

Since 1993, when Jumpstart got its start, the program has trained and dispatched a total of 25,000 volunteer corps members who have worked with roughly 100,000 preschoolers around the nation, says Goldfarb.

Tracy Barnett, a Tawan who participated in the Jumpstart program back home in Lubbock, moved to Brooklyn to direct the program here. She says each partner institution recruits, trains and sends out teams made up of six or seven of its own students, who are called “corps members.” The teams go out twice a week and each time conduct two-hour sessions with their preschoolers. They also volunteer additional hours procuring, sorting and distributing books, crayons, drawing paper and other materials.

Here at Brooklyn College, “we started out with 21 corps members,” Barnett said. “Now we have 42.”

This semester, Brooklyn College’s corps members are working with preschoolers at four centers in the borough: Inner Force Daycare at Gates and Ralph avenues; Hawthorne Corners Daycare Center at Hawthorne Street and Bedford Avenue; St. Andrews Day Care Center in Sunset Park; and the Bay Ridge Childcare Center on 44th Street.

But if things work out, Goldfarb says, Brooklyn College may be named a super site. “If that happens, the number of corps members will increase to 80 and they will be working with 180 youngsters.”

Other universities in the tri-state area that participate in the Jumpstart program include Columbia University, New York University, Rutgers University and the University of Connecticut, among others.

—R. Sheridan

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**PROFESSORS WEIGH IN ON THE POLITICAL BLOGOSPHERE**

D o you blog? Should you? For Corey Robin, associate professor of political science, and Tanni Haas, professor of speech communication arts and sciences, the answer is simple. “It’s really where the conversation is happening,” said Robin, whose recent book, a collection of essays titled The Reactionary Mind: Conservatism from Edmund Burke to Sarah Palin, made waves last year. Many have praised his book; others have condemned it. The New York Times Book Review labeled it “a disgrace that preaches to the converted, so filled with exaggeration and ineptitude that the reader’s eye rolls.”

Reviews like these set off a storm of controversy across the Internet, with many readers coming to Robin’s defense. ClioPatria, the blog of the History News Network, honored him with its 2011 Best Writer Award and called him “the quintessential public intellectual for the digital age.”

Robin, an active political blogger who frequently communicates with his reader base, was inspired to write the book after profiling several founders of the modern conservative movement. “I got a much different sense of them as a kind of romantic warriors, people who really believed in the fight, the struggle,” he said.

Haas’ interest in political blogging is of the “how-to” variety. Currently there are 1.3 million political bloggers, with more appearing every day. In his book Making It in the Political Blogosphere: The World’s Top Political Bloggers Share the Secrets to Success, released in October 2011, Haas interviewed key bloggers like Arianna Huffington. “Political bloggers play a major role today in the dissemination and discussion of news, not just in U.S. society, but around the world,” said Haas, who is now working on a book that will explore the dark side of Internet labor around the world.

—M. Zhuravsky

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**NOTABLES**

A Brooklyn College student mentors Brooklyn preschoolers participating in the Jumpstart program.

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**Music Faculty Are Among Nation’s Noteworthy**

**COREY ROBIN**

Last November, the latest album from Jeffrey Biegel, an adjunct professor of music, topped the charts. A Steinway Christmas Album, which features a variety of holiday classics arranged for piano, reached number one on Billboard’s Traditional Classical chart. Biegel proudly referred to the album as “the most wide-ranging, eclectic group of pieces on a single holiday recording” and noted that the album “Showcases a range of sound that a really fine Steinway piano can produce.”

The Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation of the Library of Congress has commissioned a new chamber piece for piano and strings from Jason Eckhardt, associate professor of music. Eckhardt will travel to Salt Lake City to work with an ensemble on a piece that is likely to premiere during the 2013-14 season. “I am very interested in using nontraditional techniques on traditional instruments trying to create new and different sound wells out of instruments that already are readily identified with a particular type of sound and a particular way of plugging,” This is Eckhardt’s second Koussevitzky commission.

Concert pianist Ursula Oppens, distinguished professor of music, received her fourth Grammy nomination for her album Winging it: Piano Music of John Corigliano. The disc was the only non-orchestra album nominated in the Best Classical Instrumental Solo category. Oppens, who built her career on a sturdy mix of classical and contemporary performances, said, “I love great music of the past — it’s what we grow up on, but I am so thrilled to work with composers who are still alive.” In addition to teaching, performing and recording, Oppens leads a “musical think tank” of musicians and composers in training from the Conservatory of Music, collaborations on a variety of pieces.

—M. Zhuravsky

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**The percentage of children from low-income neighborhoods who enter kindergarten up to two years behind their peers.**

- 50%

**The average vocabulary of a child when entering kindergarten. In low-income areas, it can be as low as 5,000.**

- 20,000

**The proportion of children in America who enter school without the skills needed for success.**

- 1 in 3

**The lifetime cost to our nation for every high school dropout.**

- $260,000

**The number of preschoolers Jumpstart has worked with around the country.**

- 100,000

**Source:** Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.
Young Faculty Members Praised for Book Debuts

Eden on the Charles: The Making of Boston, the first book by Michael Rawson, assistant professor of history, has garnered critical acclaim and landed him on the list of three finalists for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in History. The book explores how the distinct natural setting of one of the earliest American cities shaped its urbanization. “We live in an increasingly urbanized world,” said Rawson. “I think it is fundamental for us to understand how the process of urbanization changes the way we think about and relate to the natural world.” Rawson is currently working on a book that will explore how “changing science and technology has shaped how we imagine the environmental future.”

Associate Professor Ben Lerner’s debut novel, Leaving the Atocha Station, was released to much critical praise and included among the best works of 2011 by the Wall Street Journal, The New Yorker, the Guardian and other prestigious publications. “I wanted to see what would happen if I took my critical ideas about poetry, art and authenticity and let them ramify throughout the life of a young artist abroad,” Lerner said of his novel. The book follows a poet meditating on the possibilities of life in 2004 Madrid on the eve of the Atocha station bombings.—M. Zhuravsky

On the Shelves

Listed below is a selection of the more than 50 books recently published by members of our faculty.


Gregory Smithsimon, Associate Professor of Sociology. September 32: Community and Neighborhood Recovery at Ground Zero. NYU Press, 2011.


Misha Tomkiewicz, Professor of Physics. Climate Change: The Fork at the End of New Momentum Press, 2011.

RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

This year, our faculty have generated nearly $13 million in funding for a variety of projects, from pursuing groundbreaking research in medicine to uncovering lost worlds.

Gregory Boutsin, assistant professor of physics, received $1,988,977 from the National Institutes of Health to explore the role of water in the function of tissues, an elastic fiber crucial to various vertebrate tissues.

Stacy Brunner-Meyer, assistant professor of chemistry, received $47,400 from the National Institutes of Health to develop new chemical reactions that can be used in the synthesis of inexpensive and environmentally friendly medicines.

Ronald Eaglehardt, professor of biology, received a grant totaling $77,415 from the National Science Foundation to improve undergraduate student retention in science, technology, engineering and mathematics programs in partnership with Kingsborough Community College.

Alexander Greer, professor of chemistry, received two grants totaling $202,145 from the National Institutes of Health to fund development of a site-specific, fiber-optic-based device that has the potential to destroy tumor cells in areas inaccessible to the most precise surgical methods.

Peter Lypka, professor of biology, received several National Institutes of Health grants totaling $3,053,846 to fund research into cell adhesion proteins in fetal life cycles and pathogenesis, a key factor in lung interaction with mammalian hosts.

Jürgen Polls, professor of biology, received $7,962,329 in funding from sources including the U.S. Air Force, the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center and the U.S. Department of Energy to investigate the potential for algae to produce a variety of commercially viable biofuels such as renewable gasoline, diesel or jet fuel.

Luke Quatr, professor of biology, received $1,088,990 from the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research in order to take formative steps in researching new antibiotics to combat pathogenic bacteria that may be used as agents of bioterrorism.

Thodore Rapha, professor of computer and information science, received $81,702 from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine to test known hypotheses and provide new therapeutic approaches for reducing motion sickness sensitivity.

Laura Regola, assistant professor of psychology, received $270,000 from the Cerevisia and Cottin Foundation of America to develop and test cognitive-behavioral strategies for adolescents suffering from inflammatory bowel disease.

Alfred Rosenberger, professor of anthropology and archaeology, received $34,990 from the National Geographic Society to explore fossils that are a recovered area of the Dominican Republic, which may give proof to an extinct Caribbean ecosystem that is virtually unknown.

Roberto Sánchez-Delgado, professor of chemistry, received $1,246,580 from the National Institutes of Health to research ruthenium-based anti-malarial agents that would provide a promising alternative to currently used drugs.

Anthony Scalfani, professor of psychology, received $1,707,735 from the National Institutes of Health to examine the processes by which carbohydrates and fats stimulate eating and lead to preference for foods high in these nutrients.

Elizabeth Sklar, associate professor of computer and information science, received $451,000 from the National Science Foundation to fund a year of research experiences for Brooklyn College undergraduates working in the field of robotics and multi-agent systems.

Barbara Studamire, associate professor of health and information science, received $345,000 from the National Science Foundation to fund a year of research experiences for Brooklyn College undergraduates working in the field of robotics and multi-agent systems.

Elizabeth Cusick. These statistics are nothing new to Elizabeth Cusick. In 2009, 5.6 million people in South Africa were living with HIV/AIDS. 310,000 died. 18.9% of child-bearing women were affected. 27.4% of the nation’s infants — approximately 250,000 — were exposed. 333,000 children under the age of 15 were living with AIDS. 1.9 million children had been left orphaned. These statistics are nothing new to Elizabeth Cusick.
A student of Gerald Oppenheimer, one of the leading public health experts on HIV/AIDS in South Africa, Cusick understood the complexity of how an epidemic comes to grip a country. South Africa has the highest number of HIV/AIDS infections in the world, a fact that may be explained by its legacy of apartheid that continues to be seen in the economic and social disparities between the races. As she approached her junior year, Cusick had a strong desire to understand what role the country’s history had played in the spread of the epidemic and the treatment of the most vulnerable populations in any healthcare system: women and children.

According to Oppenheimer, a professor of health and nutrition sciences, “Most people don’t have an idea what public health is, how complex and necessary it is to our well-being, with its multi focus on such elements as nutrition, populations and a country’s government.”

Cusick became interested in public health during her sophomore year after taking her first class with Oppenheimer. The subject intrigued her because of its all-encompassing view of health.

“Medicine looks at the end results and tries to figure a result back from the end. Public health considers the root causes by taking in the whole spectrum of a person’s life, including environment, living conditions, hereditary issues and lifestyle, to help explain and eradicate a disease,” she said.

By her junior year, Cusick was exploring potential opportunities to travel to South Africa and participate in research. She applied to the Brooklyn College Foundation with funding from Florence Cohen Rosen ’59. One of nine students to receive an award during the program’s inaugural year, Cusick left for Cape Town in early June.

Before Cusick arrived at the clinic, Dr. Barbara Laughton, a pediatric neurologist, and Dr. Mark Cotton, a pediatrician and the principal investigator at the clinic, had begun conducting a study that looked at the correlation between head size and developmental growth in children with HIV/AIDS. They had noticed an abnormal head growth pattern among the young patients, but no one at the unit had systematically studied why it occurred. The doctors asked Cusick to conduct a study that would clinically describe head growth patterns. Most of the children Cusick studied were the infants of women who came into the hospital to give birth. Others were referred by other clinics or from the surrounding communities. Many of the women were willing for their children to participate in a clinic’s research because they saw it as an opportunity to receive extra support with their illnesses and their children. They also thought it might help them to be seen by specialists in the field.

Based on her studies in the areas of nutrition and public health, Cusick considered not only the role HIV played in the children’s health but also that of poor nutrition and living standards. In order to learn more about how the people who came to the hospital lived, she traveled with doctors to the clinics run by KID CRU in surrounding townships. She visited people’s homes, saw where the children played and slept, and learned how a mother tended her family with the little she had.

Invariably, the women participating in the study could not provide their children anywhere near the 4,000 calories required each day. In most cases, the children were lucky to get less than half that amount. In recent years, the government has worked to improve conditions by ensuring mothers receive a year’s worth of formula. But the supply is often limited, and, Cusick discovered, the mothers often dilute the formula with breast milk or water of questionable sanitation.

Her individual contribution to the clinic’s research had much to do with its public health training, which causes her to consider factors beyond those directly related to the disease. She quickly became involved with the clinic’s community advisory board comprised of volunteers from the surrounding townships. The board’s role is to help inform researchers about how the community might receive their studies and what impact, if any, it would have on the residents.

“When I arrived at the clinic, I noticed that patients would spend hours in the waiting room. I took it as an opportunity to turn the room into an intervention opportunity by creating a stimulating environment for the children,” she said. “We developed workshops to support specific child development, such as language, reading and motor skills. We encouraged the mothers to become engaged in their children’s workshops. Before I left, I trained women from the community advisory board to continue the workshops. They report back that they’re still going strong.”

After she returned home, Cusick continued to work on the study, which eventually included about 500 children, roughly 175 in each group. The clinic continues to send her information in addition to that which she collected directly. Although the data are far from final, already she has identified a pattern that occurs among HIV-infected children but not in the control groups. According to her research, the head growth of HIV-infected children begins to decelerate around age 2 and continues to age 5, a critical period for brain development. Once all of the data are compiled and analyzed, she and the doctors will formulate a unique picture of how HIV/AIDS affects a child’s development.

“There hasn’t been this kind of layered research, not even in a developed country,” Cusick said of her experience at the clinic. “It could reveal so much about how to treat a disease but, even more so, it can tell us a great deal about the people who need our help.”

As it has for more than 80 years, Brooklyn College prepares students to become the next generation of leaders, and leaders for the 21st century must be knowledgeable of the global context in which we live. Our student body, which reflects the diverse populations in our borough, speaks nearly 100 languages and represents 136 countries. It includes more than 500 international students on non-immigrant student visas studying a broad range of disciplines including business, the sciences and the arts. These students come from India, China, Russia and South Korea, from the African continent and Latin America. This alone offers all of our students an educational experience rich in global understanding.

But it is increasingly important that we provide our students with opportunities to study abroad, and it is equally important that our faculty are able to pursue research and scholarship overseas and bring these experiences back to the classroom.

Last fall, in an effort to expand and deepen international opportunities for students and faculty, we established the Office of International Education and Global Engagement. The office promotes international education to the entire campus community, helps students identify opportunities to prepare for study abroad programs, and establishes partnership agreements with institutions overseas.

The Brooklyn College Foundation also plays an important role in global engagement. Grants such as the Rosen Fellowships, which enabled Elizabeth Cusick to conduct her research in South Africa, and the Tow Undergraduate Travel Stipend provide students the funds necessary for study abroad. The foundation also provides funds for faculty to conduct research in other countries.

This year, more than 125 students from Brooklyn College will travel abroad for academic and co-curricular experiences. Some will volunteer, providing basic healthcare to underserved communities in Panama or working with orphans in India. Others will conduct hands-on research, such as excavating ancient sites on archaeological digs in Israel and Serbia. Still others will engage in more traditional classroom study at institutions from China to Italy to Argentina. And our faculty will expand their research and scholarship and teaching in more than two dozen countries around the world. We expect all of these figures to grow over time.

Brooklyn College has a long-standing legacy of providing access to opportunity to students from all backgrounds, and in today’s global world we are delivering an education that can be described in one word: borderless.
An African-American politician from the U.S. Congress, a graduate of Columbia University with a community activist background, decides to run for president. This politician — who galvanized an underestimated and underutilized population to participate in the political process like never before — is a child of immigrants and spent formative years abroad. The candidate faces opposition for being an aloof upstart who didn’t allow more senior politicians to have their turn at bat. Bright, brash, hopeful and seeking to implement change in a broken democratic system, this politician endures criticism that veers from constructive differences in sociopolitical ideology into bigoted, sometimes violent territory. One might imagine that this is a fitting synopsis of President Barack Obama’s campaign; that is correct. But it also describes another groundbreaking bid for the presidency: the 1972 campaign of Shirley Chisholm ‘46.

Chisholm’s political awakening began in the 1930s at her parents’ home, first in Brownsville, then in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Her father, Charles St. Hill, a follower of radical Jamaican separatist Marcus Garvey and a member of the Confectionery and Bakers International Union, would often engage his daughters in political discussions at the dinner table. Of his three daughters, it was Shirley who was most interested in his political opinions.
Shirley Chisholm born in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**Attends Girls’ High School on Madison Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.**

**Returns to Brooklyn.**

**Becomes active in Bedford-Stuyvesant, the neighborhood where she grew up, shortly after graduating from Brooklyn College.**

**(right) With a background in education, Chisholm knew the importance of young people to the future of our nation.**

“Idolized my father. He was an opinionated reader. Even during the depression, he always bought two or three newspapers a day,” she said in her memoir, Unbought & Unbossed. “Much of the kitchen-table talk had to do with unions. Sometimes Papa would hold forth on his idol—hardly too strong a word—Marcus Garvey. When any organization had a Marcus Garvey tribute, he would dress up and go. Sometimes, he took me, and there I heard my first Black Nationalist oratory—talk of race pride and the need for unity, despite all the differences, because the speaker stressed, ‘We have a common enemy.’”

It was not until the mid-1940s, however, that Chisholm began to develop a political consciousness outside of her home. She said that as a student at Brooklyn College, she was exposed to a great deal of activism. It was there that she began to pay closer attention to the social problems that affected her generation and benefited from participation in lively discussions with a community of like-minded individuals.

“There were more organizations and political activities than anyone could count,” she said. “Many of them were politically oriented and most of those were ultra-progressive. There was one all-black student group, the Harriet Tubman Society. There, I first heard people other than my father talk about white oppression, black racial consciousness and black pride.”

It was also at Brooklyn College that she became keenly aware of the complex challenges black people faced, not only from those who were openly racist toward them, but even from those individuals who thought of themselves as having the best of intentions.

“I belonged to the Political Science Society, which naturally thought itself progressive. Some of its speakers, I became aware, looked at my people as another breed, less human than they. Politicians came to talk and gave us such liberal sentiments as ‘We’ve got to help the Negro because the Negro is limited,’” or “Of course, the Negro people have always been the laborers and will continue to be, so we’ve got to make it more comfortable for them.”

This enraged me that we, black men especially, were expected to be subservient even in groups where ostensibly everyone was equal.”

This observation made Chisholm angry at first, particularly in those situations where she felt that the black participant was clearly more intelligent and talented than the white one. She realized that much of the racism she saw was unconscious, simply part of the American pathology. Initially, she felt powerless against the onslaught. But soon, the people around her—including a blind political science professor named Louis Warsoff—began to convince her that maybe she was not as powerless as she felt.

“More and more people, white and black, began to tell me things like, ‘Shirley, you have potential. You should do something with your life.’ I felt they were right. There must be a role for me to play, but what?”

Initially, she thought the best way to serve would be to teach. When given the opportunity to do so, she was, in her own words, “recalled. ‘Law, medicine, even nursing were too expensive, and few schools would admit black men, much less a woman.” So she chose to enter the field of social work, where she believed she had legitimate functions that would serve not only the children she wished to help but all of the residents in her community. The clubs often helped residents with legal services, housing, federal economic assistance and employment problems.

“When college was over, I went to a few club meetings when there was a speaker I wanted to hear. After the city councilman or commissioner had finished, there was a question period. But hardly anyone ever asked any questions.”

Chisholm rectified that by becoming one of the figures at those meetings who would routinely ask pointed questions.

“I asked councilmen why they hadn’t delivered on their promises. Such questions were unwelcome, and after the meeting someone was likely to tell me so. I pretended innocence.”

After a chance encounter with Brooklyn political activist Wesley M.O. Holder, who eventually became her mentor, Chisholm’s interest in politics grew, and she attended political club meetings more regularly, volunteering to participate on one of the committees in the Bedford-Stuyvesant Political League. She did all of this while teaching during the day and attending graduate courses at night. Finally, she managed to be elected third vice president. The problem, she admitted, was that she refused to be “bought.”

“I kept bringing questions back to the club meetings, and began to harass the speakers systematically. I couldn’t control him in meetings—my mind said that the experience taught her a great deal and prepared her for how the American political system functions at large.

“Political organizations are formed to keep the powerful in power. Their first rule is ‘Don’t rock the boat.’ If someone makes trouble and you can get him, do it. If you can’t get him, bring him in. Give him some of the action; let him have a taste of power. Power is all anyone wants and if he has a promise of it as a reward for being good, half’ll be good. Anyone who does not play by those rules is incomprehensible to most politicians.”

When she finally decided to run for public office, she became the first African-American woman elected to the state legislature in New York. Her bid was not without its opposition. As a black woman, Chisholm faced discrimination on the basis of both her race and her sex. This meant that she often found herself at odds with those who would, under other circumstances, be considered her allies: the African-American civil rights movement, for instance.

“Did you get your husband’s breakfast this morning? Did you straighten up your house? What are you doing running for office?”

She spoke eloquently of the kind of challenges Chisholm faced.

“Discomfort moves us forward. There were people who were uncomfortable when Mrs. Chisholm declared that she was going to be running for presidency. Some people thought she should cede that role to someone more established, one of the more professional politicians. Or that she should cede that role to an African-American woman. ‘How much are you comfortable about politics.’ The beauty of her experience was that, as she said, she was ‘unbossed.’ I would like to also say that she was unbossed. She did not allow those detractors to deter her.”

1924
1928
1939
1942
1943
1946
Shirley Chisholm became active in Bedford-Stuyvesant, the neighborhood where she grew up, shortly after graduating from Brooklyn College. (right) With a background in education, Chisholm knew the importance of young people to the future of our nation.
Undeterred, Chisholm continued to gain momentum, and in 1968, she ran as the Democratic candidate for New York’s 12th congressional district. During the campaign, she used the sexism she faced to her advantage.

“Women are a majority of the population, but they are not treated like the majority group,” she said. “My campaign manager studied the voter rolls and found that for each man registered in the district there were 2.5 women. It was not my original strategy to organize women to power to elect me; it was forced on me by the time, place and circumstances.”

She won the election, tellingly, by a margin of 2.5 to 1. As a member of the U.S. Congress, Chisholm maintained her characteristic critical thinking skills, honesty and outspoken manner, even when what she said might have put her at a political disadvantage. She was not above reaching across the aisle to engage and find common ground. But she called politicians, as practiced in the United States, “a beautiful fraud that has been imposed on people for years,” and she was very vocal about what she considered the dangers of government inertia: backroom deals; corporate interests; interference with a woman’s right to choose, even before the Roe v. Wade decision; the prison industrial complex; unjust wars — the Vietnam War was in full swing at the time; civil rights errosion; and America’s seeming unwillingness to live up to its democratic and equalitarian creeds. On that final point, she believed it was particularly important to engage young people. She admired their idealism and spent a great deal of time touring college campuses.

“Most young people are not yet revolutionary, but politicians and police and other persons in power almost seem to be consorting to turn them into revolutionaries. Like me, I think, most of them are no more revolutionary than the founders of this country. Their goals are the same — to insure individual liberty and equality of opportunity, and forever thwart the tyrannous tendencies of government, which inevitably arise from the arrogance and isolation of men who are securely in power. All they want, if it were not too fashionable for them to say so, is for the American dream to come true, at least in its less materialistic aspects.”

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Some of Chisholm’s colleagues regarded her as aloof, which many political analysts, particularly those in the black and liberal communities, believe to be a veiled euphemism for “spite.” A term historically used by whites to describe African Americans who refuse to be subordinate. Chisholm addressed the critique directly and even managed to offend a few folks.

“Quite a few people think I’m aloof and antisocial. Actually I’m gregarious, but I am selective about whom I want to be with. The cocktail and dinner party circuit is mostly made up of hangers-on, dealers and self-promoters. The people who really do things are not party people. They have too little free time to spend it at parties listing people who are glossy eyed with alcohol and making little sense.”

When she announced her candidacy for the Democratic nomination for president during the 1972 election season, she knew well how the political game was played but refused to play by rules she believed worked to the detriment of American citizens. “I had watched the rotten political system that stands in the way of change because its operators are beneficiaries of the status quo.”

“I stand before you today as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for presidency of the United States,” she said when she announced her bid. “I am not the candidate of black America, although I am black and proud. I am not the candidate of the women’s movement of this country, although I am a woman and equally proud of that. I am not the candidate of any political bosses or special interest. I am the candidate of the people.”

Chisholm’s critics were determined, however, and did not shy away from personal jabs at her when they lacked other means to attack her.

“I remember how her looks became a major talking point of her detractors,” remembers Jacqueline Williams, associate dean of student affairs. “Her curly African features — especially her dark skin — offended a great number of them, and they made it known.”

She also faced the prospect of losing, another talking point of her critics. Unfortunately, in this case, her critics were correct. Chisholm made it to the Democratic convention floor but did not secure enough delegates to allow her name placed on the ballot. But she remained realistic not only about her bid, but her reasons for it.

“I hope people are politically sophisticated enough to be aware of the fact that the campaign I am not to be regarded as a candidacy in which I can win the presidency of this country at the moment, but a candidacy that is paving the way for people of other ethnic groups, including blacks, to run and perhaps win the office.”

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Chisholm’s presidential campaign. It was commemorated by “Be a Catalyst for Change: Shirley Chisholm Campaign Trail” a conference held at Brooklyn College on March 29 that featured a host of noted luminaries, scholars and political figures, including Congresswoman Barbara Lee; Shola Lynch, director of the Shirley Chisholm documentary, Chisholm ’72: Unbought and Unbossed; and MSNBC political analyst and columnist for the Nation, Melissa Harris-Perry.

This is also the year that America will decide whether or not to re-elect its first African-American president. And yet, despite all of the obvious similarities, it is rare that political commentators — including those closest to the president — view Chisholm as the natural antecedent to Obama. When asked why she believes more is not made of the obvious political lineage between the two, Barbara Winslow, associate professor of education, had much to say.

“Part of it is because black women’s lives are more easily erased than even those of white women,” she said. Another reason, she believes, is that “once dangerous social justice heroes die, after a certain period of time, they are sanitized.”

Focusing on connections between Martin Luther King Jr. and Obama, like many political pundits, rather than those between Obama and Chisholm, makes it a “simple narrative,” Winslow continued, for a variety of reasons, including the fact that both King and Obama are men. “Chisholm complicates the narrative: She’s from the south; she’s an ‘immigrant’; she’s a bossy, feisty, working-class woman who actually admires, I’m going to argue, Malcolm X more than King.”

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Energy is in high demand. With powerful economies like China, India and Brazil emerging around the world, finite resources are being depleted at an increasing rate. At Brooklyn College, scientists are searching for solutions.

Sustainability means different things to different people. While there is no universally accepted definition of the term, the meaning most often cited comes from the World Commission on Environment and Development, an initiative of the United Nations during the 1980s. According to the commission, the purpose of sustainability is “...to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The concept of sustainability tends to be confused with social movements such as environmentalism, a distinction many scientists are quick to point out. In fact, sustainability is, quite simply, an effort to manage the earth’s finite resources in a responsible manner that protects our planet and all of its species, including us.

In the United States, much has been done during the last half-century to protect our air, improve our water and identify cleaner sources of energy. But the increasing level of fuel emissions is raising the earth’s temperature at an unsustainable pace. Climate change, scientists know, has been a growing threat since the dawn of the industrial era.

“We are pumping more carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere than nature can absorb and process,” warned Constantin Cranganu, professor of earth and environmental sciences. Several members of the faculty from our School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, including Cranganu, are actively engaged in research designed to address the depletion of energy resources. Some are working to improve existing fossil fuels, others are identifying methods to access cleaner fossil fuels, and still others are developing alternative energy sources with zero emissions.

Cleaning Heavy Petroleum

While many scientists are seeking new forms of clean, renewable energy, research into cleaner ways of using existing fuels is equally important. Roberto Sánchez-Delgado, professor of chemistry, is exploring methods to reduce emissions from the fossil fuels that currently provide the vast majority of energy.

Hydrogenase is an enzyme that can catalyze the reaction of organic molecules with hydrogen in order to saturate them. First discovered in the 1930s, these enzymes play a key role in metabolism that is now being replicated by scientists, including Sánchez-Delgado, to design cleaner gasoline and diesel fuel.

“The petroleum fields seem to have peaked, and the industry is extracting heavier hydrocarbons than in the past,” said Sánchez-Delgado. Until we find alternative fuels to replace hydrocarbons, or fossil fuels, we will not only continue to release carbon dioxide into the planet’s atmosphere but also a higher volume of a family of well-known carcinogens called aromatic compounds, which are very stable and don’t react easily or burn well. Present-day technology used in refineries cannot fully eliminate the aromatic compounds from gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

“Some of these aromatic molecules contain nitrogen or sulfur. When they are burned in an engine, they release sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides,” he explained. “When they go into the atmosphere, they come back as acid rain.”

Sánchez-Delgado plans to mimic the hydrogenase enzyme using chemical catalysts to break up the aromatic compounds, particularly those containing nitrogen and sulfur, with hydrogen, a reaction that will allow them to be extracted as hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and ammonia (NH₃). Both are subsequently used to manufacture useful chemicals.

One challenge, however, is that hydrogen molecules aren’t naturally inclined to bond and react, so scientists must break them into atoms or charged ions. Even then, neither sulfur nor nitrogen aromatics are willing to accept the hydrogen. No scientist has found the catalyst that will completely remove these two carcinogenic compounds by reaction with hydrogen.

“In other words, we need a catalyst that can perform not one, but two functions,” said Sánchez-Delgado. “It must activate the hydrogen molecules and activate the aromatic compounds in order to make them take the hydrogen molecule.”

Even then, sometimes the sulfur- and nitrogen-containing molecules bind so strongly that they kill the catalyst. “It’s called...
catalyst poisoning,” a common occurrence when you work with fuels. What we need is a catalyst that is stable enough to exist but unstable enough to hydrogenate the aromatics in a cyclic manner.” The professor is now trying modified carbon nano-tubes as supports, never before used for hydrogenation. It will allow, the theory goes, greater exposure of the metal used in the catalyst.

“It’s cheap and resistant, and you can place metallic particles on it. We are trying to increase its alkalinity or its acidity in order to promote the formation of hydrogen ions and avoid the poisoning. It worked well for ruthenium, rhodium and palladium, with different levels of efficacy.”

Sequestering CO₂
Professor Cranganu, a Romanian geologist who has been with the college since 2001, is exploring two potential means of improving our energy future. One is to store CO₂ in a safe manner, called geological sequestration and the other to extract gas hydrates from the ocean floor without harming the environment.

Although CO₂ occurs naturally, Cranganu is concerned that emissions from fossil fuels are pushing the natural level over the edge. Geological sequestration starts by removing CO₂ from the biggest producers, such as power plants or cement facilities.

“We have the scrubbing technology to do just that,” said Cranganu. “Using high-pressure reactors, you convert the gas to liquid, put it into tanks, and store it underground.”

Underground storage of CO₂ is not a novelty, but Cranganu’s proposal suggests using depleted natural gas or oil deposits to inject CO₂ through the existing pipes and then sealing it, simply replacing the gas previously stored there. It wouldn’t affect the water we drink, which occurs at shallower depths.

“They are deep enough to be stored safely for the next 1,000 years,” he said, which the U.S. Department of Energy considers standard.

Unlocking Gas from the Ocean Floor
A graduate of the University of Bucharest, Cranganu knows a great deal about energy dependence. Except for Britain and Norway, no European nation has oil to be harvested. However, it wasn’t until he went to the University of Oklahoma, where he obtained his second Ph.D. in 1997, that he heard about gas hydrates.

First discovered in Siberia in the mid 1970s, and then in Alaska and northern Canada, gas hydrates are methane gas trapped inside cages of frozen water molecules as a result of very low temperatures and high pressure.

“It’s methane that has become as solid as a rock of ice. When it burns it releases natural gas at the same time it melts.”

Russia and Canada have such enormous oil and gas reserves that they don’t have an immediate need to exploit their gas hydrate deposits. Bigger gas hydrate deposits have been found in the ocean floor – in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific, off the shores of California and Oregon, and in the Gulf of Mexico.

For nations like Japan, China and India, whose expanding economies depend on oil supplies from the Middle East and Russia, this is a potential source of energy independence.

Cranganu has devised a method called “in situ thermal stimulation” performed by an apparatus he invented to extract hydrates from the ocean floor in a commercially viable way.

“This apparatus,” for which he holds a patent, “will produce a localized heat to melt the hydrates while at the same time it controls the pressure to avoid any explosion and thus, collect the gas safely.”

Big energy corporations have been looking into using this technology, but thus far have concluded it is still more expensive than exploiting the Canadian tar sands or extracting gas from the Marcellus Shale that extends all along the Appalachian states.

However, compared to coal and oil, methane produces smaller amounts of CO₂. Using methanol to power vehicles, as they do in Brazil, could help slow down global warming until other forms of energy are made viable. It produces smaller amounts of CO₂ than coal and oil.

“Imagine this, a nearly pure gas hydrate rock — which looks as white as ice — can contain 160 times more gas than its actual volume. One cubic foot of the solid can create, by decomposition, 160 cubic feet of gas.”
Scientists are exploring microalgae as a potential source of clean biofuel.

Energy from the Swamp

As organisms normally associated with the green growth in swamps, algae certainly are not something you would think to put in your gas tank.

“They look like simple organisms, but they are highly complex,” said Juergen Polle, professor of biology, who has been studying algae for the better part of two decades.

Algae date back nearly three billion years. Like plants, they are phototrophic, meaning that from inorganic material and light they can produce complex organic compounds, such as fats or oil, to feed themselves.

Polle’s research, which today is funded by a $1-million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that he shares with Sánchez Delgado along with $800,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy as a member of the collaborative National Alliance for Advanced Biofuels and Bioproducts (NAABB), seeks to identify those species of algae that yield more oil at a minimum cost. In addition to the algae biology team to which he belongs, there are cultivation, harvesting and extraction, fuel conversion and sustainability teams.

While I do a bit of cultivation at the one-gallon level, the consortium’s cultivation team goes out and places the algae in big ponds or next to bio-reactors at 100-gallon levels and beyond.” He is trying to identify the most efficient strains to produce oil in different seasons.

There are three major approaches to growing algae: using light and CO₂ (photomixotroph); or using sugar and darkness (fermentation), or using light and Co₂ (photoautotroph); using light and organic molecules (photomixotroph); or using sugar and darkness (fermentation), which stimulates the algae to yield oil.

Since some of the algae he is investigating are fresh-water species, his research may pose yet another environmental problem. Water used to cultivate the algae will compete with agriculture and human consumption. “The sustainability team will have to look into those quandaries,” Polle said. “Maybe waste water can be used to do this.”

Because, like plants, algae can break down carbon dioxide, there are those who think placing algae farms close to a CO₂ source, like the gas tank.

Some colleagues of mine in Israel, for example, made a hole in a chimney and fed flue gas to the algae. But then you have to think about filtering systems in order to eliminate toxins or make sure that no heavy metal or mercury residuals go into the process.”

The Storage Conundrum

More than one civilization has waned because it exhausted its limited resources. A sustainable future requires not only the ability to renew resources, but also to avoid being wasteful. An efficient way of distributing and storing domestic energy has been an elusive goal.

Most modern power plants supply consumers’ demand for energy using a network of transmission lines connected across states to smaller, local networks that carry it to businesses and homes. Yet this 20th-century technology does not have storage capacity, making the system inefficient and wasteful.

“You have numbers of these large power facilities that sometimes sit idle and are only operational when demand peaks,” explained Sophia Suarez, assistant professor of physics. “If you could store energy, however generated, in flow batteries, you would significantly reduce the need for those plants.” Suarez is working to improve the electrolyte that conducts, or blocks, electrons in fuel cells.

A car’s battery, like a power plant, converts the chemical energy in a fluid into electrical energy, but it is also capable of storing that energy until it’s needed. Flow batteries operate following a similar principle, but instead of using hydrogen, like standard fuel cells, they use solvents that are rechargeable. Suarez is currently testing vanadium.

In addition to being expensive, however, batteries produce toxic waste and generate emissions, too, posing new dilemmas for energy storage. Although some small, locally operated wind power plants have supplied homes with special batteries to store excess electricity to be released later, this is not a practical solution that will work at a large scale.

“Consumers may be wary of having fuel cells or flow batteries in their homes,” Suarez cautioned.

Mark Kobrak, associate professor of chemistry, concurred. “The advantage of a flow battery is that it can be as large as you need it to be.”

Kobrak, who is currently doing research on the use of molten aluminum salts, thinks it is possible to design an aluminum-based battery with performance characteristics similar to those of lithium.

“Unlike lithium, aluminum is one of the most abundant elements in the earth’s crust,” he said, noting that lithium batteries, also used in some hybrid vehicles, are a very expensive technology. Thus far, however, the aluminum battery’s life cycle is much lower than that of a lithium battery.

While Kobrak continues to work on a solution, he agrees with Suarez that having facilities with flow batteries would actually make the power grid more efficient.

“You plan for electricity generation at the peak usage of the power grid, and at night, as demand drops, you run your plant to generate excess power and do not release it until the next day. This ‘load leveling’ would make a smarter use of the power grid.”

Vanadium
College Reorganizes Academic Programs

AROUND AREAS OF EXCELLENCE

Four Schools Established, New Deans Hired

After two years of careful planning, the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year marked the onset of a new era at Brooklyn College as all of its 34 academic departments were organized into five schools representing areas of recognized excellence: business; education; humanities and social sciences; natural and behavioral sciences; and visual, media and performing arts. Of these five schools, only the School of Education existed previously.

“In an administrative sense, with 17,000 students and more than 500 full-time faculty, the college had simply grown too large and unwieldy,” said William Tramontano, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “We were in need of a management model more closely aligned with national best practices.” School deans, he noted, are better able to help the president and provost make informed decisions.

The college took a fiscally responsible approach to the academic reorganization. By streamlining operations in the Office of the Provost, distributing oversight of graduate programs and research to each of the schools, and reassigning existing staff, the schools were established without creating additional positions and with minimal investment of new funds.

The college conducted a national search for deans to lead each of the four new schools. The new deans, who bring a wealth of academic and administrative experience to their roles, join Deborah Shanley, dean of the School of Education since 1998. Community partnerships have been a hallmark of Dean Shanley’s leadership, who views collaboration with the region’s school systems and community organizations as essential to building strong degree programs; and Kleanthis Psarris, dean of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, joined Brooklyn College as its first dean of natural and behavioral sciences. With an impressive record of leadership, research and scholarship over the past two decades, Psarris has delivered more than 40 presentations, published 70 articles and secured more than $8 million in grant funding for research and infrastructure, including multiple awards from the National Science Foundation.

Kimberly Phillips, dean of humanities and social sciences, comes to Brooklyn College from the College of William and Mary, where she served as dean of educational policy and, since 1996, as the Frances L. and Edwin L. Cummings Associate Professor of History and American Studies. Phillips has a distinguished record of scholarship as a historian of the African-American experience. A prominent lecturer, she has received fellowships and awards from Harvard University and Wellesley College, among others.

Klaantioh Paarris, who most recently served as chair of the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, joined Brooklyn College as its first dean of natural and behavioral sciences. With an impressive record of leadership, research and scholarship over the past two decades, Paarris has delivered more than 40 presentations, published 70 articles and secured more than $8 million in grant funding for research and infrastructure, including multiple awards from the National Science Foundation.

Maria Ann Conelli, an alumna from the class of 1980, has returned to her alma mater as dean of visual, media and performing arts. Most recently, she served as the executive director of the American Folk Art Museum in Manhattan. She has also worked as a dean of graduate studies and acting dean of art and design at the Fashion Institute of Technology and as a professor and department chair at Parsons School of Design. Conelli has a strong background in curriculum development, strategic planning, global partnerships, audience development and fundraising.

As the leaders of their respective schools, the deans will provide strategic vision and operational leadership to all aspects of the academic programs; create an environment that supports students and faculty; streamline pathways to graduation through a commitment to effective recruitment, retention and persistence; promote excellence and diversity in graduate and undergraduate programs; and advance the scholarly activities of the faculty.

The deans also will work closely with the Brooklyn College Foundation to attract external funding from federal agencies, corporations, foundations and individual donors to support the schools, fund new initiatives, complement the resources provided by the state and tuition revenues, and identify priorities and directions for future growth and innovation.

—R. Sheridan
Famed defense attorney Alan Dershowitz '59 returned to Brooklyn College last November for a ceremony to celebrate the unveiling of thousands of letters, case files, photos and other materials. The collection was compiled from nearly 1,200 boxes he donated to the library so that they could be made available to researchers and legal scholars. The Dershowitz papers, which were carefully cataloged and preserved, now comprise 1,841 document cases in the college's archives. It took nearly a decade for a score of archivists to sort through and classify the renowned lawyer's papers and correspondence dealing with such high-profile clients as John Lennon, Mike Tyson and numerous others. Letters from such celebrities as John Lennon, Woody Allen and President Bill Clinton also appear in the archives. Documents covered by attorney-client privilege will remain private.

"Every aspect of my life grew out of what happened here," Dershowitz said, explaining why he agreed to donate his papers to Brooklyn College instead of Yale, where he attended law school, or Harvard, where he has taught for four decades. "Without Brooklyn College there would not be no papers."

At the November ceremony, Dershowitz said that in high school he "had about a 68 percent chance of dropping out." He is grateful to his English teacher, who told him: "You're going to be a great professor." Dershowitz said his teacher "was right." He added, "I would be very interested in having a building. It could function as a reception area."

Especially exciting is the multitude of functions the center will be able to accommodate and the community at large. "It's a multifaceted building. It could function as a reception space, a reading space, an art gallery... I would be very interested in having an opportunity to showcase what our BFA and MFA students are doing," said Conelli. "What I really love is that our students will have a home that is as beautiful and equal to the talents they bring to the college."

—M. Zhuravsky

New Performing Arts Center
On Track to Open in 2014

The Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts is quickly becoming a reality as demolition of Gershwin Theater begins and the project moves forward. Construction of the $10 million facility was made possible by a generous $10 million donation from Brooklyn natives Leonard '50 and Claire '52 Tow along with funding from other alumni and public sources.

The center, designed by Pfeffer Partners Architects, will include rehearsal and performance space, set design and construction workshops, classrooms, ground-floor exhibition space, a double-height theater seating 225, a grand lobby surrounded by two-story windows, meeting and reception rooms, and a beautiful new entrance to the eastern end of the campus. The facility is also set to feature the latest tools of the trade, including a fully outfitted recording studio.

Engaging people from the communities surrounding Brooklyn College will be a cornerstone of the center’s outreach program. "It will allow us to bridge two constituencies — our college community and our neighbors — and to involve more people in," said Maria Ann Conelli, dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts. Besides providing rehearsal, production and performance space for the Conservatory of Music and the Department of Theater, the center will actively promote new works by engaging emerging playwrights, directors and composers, providing them an opportunity to premier works.

The controlled demolition of Gershwin Hall will conclude by June 2012, paving the way for construction of the new performing arts center.

Foundation Acquires Property for Future College Development

O nce home to Scranton & Lehig Coal Company’s towering storage facility and a large stable, the only remaining piece of property adjacent to our campus has been acquired by the Brooklyn College Foundation. The lot was purchased by the foundation for $3.85 million in February 2011. Sold by a private equity company, the 25,000-square-foot triangular plot of land presents the possibility of nearly 75,000 square feet of new development when coupled with an adjacent site already owned by the college.

The purchase was made possible in part by Murray Koppelman ’57, president and CEO of Manhattan-based Eastlake Securities, who donated $2.5 million. The foundation allocated funds toward the lead on the project, engaging in a two-year dialogue with the owners and providing the remainder of the sum via private donations. Speaking with the Wall Street Journal, Koppelman said, “This was a special opportunity to help the institution that continues to help students realize their full potential. I feel honored to be part of that mission.”

Andrew Sillen ’74, vice president for institutional advancement and executive director of the foundation, called the purchase “one of the most strategic contributions the Brooklyn College Foundation has ever made to the college.”

Once the property is likely to be home to the School of Business, which serves more than 3,000 students pursuing business-related majors. The school currently comprises 20% of the student body, but has access to only 15% of the assigned space on campus.

College Partners with Steiner Studios for New Graduate Programs in Cinema

T he largest studio complex on the East Coast will soon serve as host to a new graduate school at Brooklyn College, as well as the only one in the United States seamlessly integrated into a working studio lot. Brooklyn College is on track to launch several graduate programs in cinema in 2014 at Steiner Studios, located at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Steiner has most recently served as production hub for the blockbuster sequel Men In Black III, the hit sequel Cloudy With the Chance of Meatballs, and the Golden Globe-winning HBO miniseries Mildred Pierce starring Oscar winner Kate Winslet.

Complementing an undergraduate film program that is already robust, the graduate programs will provide master of fine arts degrees in cinematography, directing, production design, postproduction, adding that producing, acting and visual effects and animation, culminating in the production of a thesis short film during a student's third year of graduate study. Master’s degrees in extended education, industry management and cinema studies also will be available.

In sharp contrast to the ballooning cost of graduate film schools around the country, some of which exceed $150,000, “we’re trying to keep it under $35,000 for in-state students,” said Dan Gurskis, professor and chair of the Department of Film. Earlier this year, Mayor Bloomberg announced that 2011 was New York’s busiest year for film and television production. With over 188 films and more than 140 TV shows shot around the city, and no less than 100,000 New Yorkers working behind and in front of the camera, the Big Apple is quickly becoming a strong contender and alternative to Hollywood. Bolstered by marketing incentives and tax credits, the incoming productions contribute $5 billion a year to New York’s economy.

The graduate programs in cinema will also provide a compelling opportunity for international students to study at Brooklyn College. For example, having recently returned from a business trip to China, Gurksis believes there is “a lot of interest in having students from Chinese institutions come to Brooklyn to study, sometime summer. We would create curriculum for them to study with our faculty and collaborate with our students on projects.”

Another possibility currently being explored is the establishment of a production company that would provide graduates with microfinancing to make feature-length films. “After the thesis year, students would get another six to eight months to work on something of their own,” Gurksis said.

—M. Zhuravsky

Foundation Acquires Property for Future College Development

A home for the School of Business, among other college facilities, will be built on this property adjacent to the campus. The site may also include college-related retail, student residences and other facilities. The college will engage in conversations with the campus community and neighbors as plans for the property take shape, but there’s no question it will provide new facilities necessary to sustain the superior quality of a Brooklyn College education for current and future generations of students.

—M. Zhuravsky

School under Dershowitz with the likes of Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan, Jim Cramer, the anchor of CNBC’s Squawk Money; and Elliott Spitzer, the former governor of New York. "He is still fighting like a lion for all his clients," said Toobin. "The world will treasure this window into his scholarship, advocacy and restless, restless mind."

In addition to his legal work, Dershowitz has also written several books, including Reversal of Fortune inside the von Bismarck Case, which was for the Academy Award-winning 1990 film of the same name. The college’s chief archivist, Anthea Cucchiara, was behind the acquisition of the prized papers. When Dershowitz plowed the library with a research question in 2001, Cucchiara asked, “Have you considered where you’re going to deposit your papers?” Dershowitz didn’t need much prodding.

Among the papers donated to the college were materials from the 33 murder cases he defended, including von Bismarck. Also included were papers from beer doctor he did in the legal defense aimed at freeing Soviet dissidents Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Andrei Sakharov, and First Amendment cases from the Pentagon Papers to Wikileaks. —R. Sheridan

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**Q: How important are internships and work experience for recent graduates?**

**A:** If you are a traditional college-aged student and have just graduated, you most likely will not have any significant work experience in your field, so having some internships under your belt will be an important competitive factor during your job search. If you are a recent graduate and considering graduate school instead of landing your first real job, my advice to you is this: Don’t even think about it!

**Q: Do you recommend unpaid internships?**

**A:** Taking an unpaid internship can sometimes give the impression that you are desperate to get any type of work-related line on your resume. If you do take an unpaid internship, be sure it is the right type of internship — one that is related to your degree and the type of job you eventually would like to land, and take care that you are not being used.

**Q: What is the better, an unpaid internship in a big company or paid internship at a small company?**

**A:** I don’t think it makes a difference. The whole idea of an internship — whether paid or unpaid, in a small company or a large company — is to get work experience for your resume. Any experience that can give you a competitive edge is good to have.

**Q: Most job postings require a cover letter. Do they really matter?**

**A:** Cover letters are so seven these days, but electronically these days, but of course, communicating effectively can talk and trade networking opportunities are always looking for guest speakers, so coming back to campus to speak to students is another way of practicing communication skills.

**Q: How can alumni find a job in a particular field?**

**A:** Professional networking is a must — you might not have any skills that focus on skill building or educational benefits that can cover tuition for such courses. There are also blogs and journals that focus on skill building in several professional fields. In addition to reading trade journals, academic journals related to their field can also help to freshen up their skills.

**Q: How can alumni effectively network?**

**A:** Sometimes give the impression of being for recent graduates. "I am a member of the School of Business, which is the founding dean of the School of Business, which will be an important competitive factor for your job search. If you are a recent graduate and considering graduate school instead of landing your first real job, my advice to you is: Don’t even think about it!

**Q: Do you recommend unpaid internships?**

**A:** If you are a traditional college-aged student and have just graduated, you most likely will not have any significant work experience in your field, so having some internships under your belt will be an important competitive factor during your job search. If you are a recent graduate and considering graduate school instead of landing your first real job, my advice to you is this: Don’t even think about it!

**Q: What is the better, an unpaid internship in a big company or paid internship at a small company?**

**A:** The whole idea of an internship — whether paid or unpaid, in a small company or a large company — is to get work experience for your resume. Any experience that can give you a competitive edge is good to have.

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ATHLETICS

Anthony Chan
Two-sport athlete

Anthony Chan, a junior, has been a key member of both the men's tennis and cross country teams during his time as a Bulldog. As a member of the cross-country team, Chan has shown himself to be one of the top runners in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC), medaling at numerous meets. But this past fall he accomplished a personal goal, running his first New York City Marathon with an impressive time of 3:35:54.

The marathon's 26.2 miles are far from the distances of CUNYAC meets, which are generally five miles long. Chan maintained his own training for the marathon, supplementing the team's rigorous training schedule with his own. “My training consisted of a steady build-up of miles, long runs and interval training followed by three weeks of tapering,” said Chan of his workouts. “It was difficult to stick to a strict regimen and running schedule, but the training effects were amazing!”

Even though his time ranked him 89th among the 778 runners in his age group, the modest Chan was eager to improve on the result of his first marathon. “I wasn’t too ecstatic about my time. It definitely gives me plenty of room for improvement in 2012.”

Chan is pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in economics. Named a CUNYAC scholar-athlete due to his stellar grade point average, Chan hopes to pursue graduate studies in medicine or business after completing his undergraduate education. When asked if all of the miles he had to log interfered with his studies, Chan said, “My training hardly ever conflicted with my academics since I would do most of my workouts at the start of my day. When I was logged down with exams, I found myself giving up a few workouts to focus on school.”

Chan’s older sister, Catherine, is a senior at Brooklyn College and a member of the swimming team. A member of the college’s competitive BA-MD program and student in the Macaulay Honors College, Catherine has set a high bar for success within the family. “I am proud of Anthony’s accomplishment,” said Catherine of her younger brother. “He strives to excel and always follows through on his goals.”

When asked if the two had any sort of sibling rivalry, Anthony quickly denied the notion, saying, “Catherine and I are very close. I’ve always looked to my sister for her support and opinion. We’re only a year apart, so we have many similarities that tie the both of us together.”

The two are also similar in their ability to accomplish great feats. Catherine is among 10 female finalists for the Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award selected from more than 600 female scholar-athletes from around the country and one of eight CUNY students awarded a Jonas E. Salk Scholarship for 2012. She also won one of eight CUNYAC Jr. Sports Scholar Awards selected from more than 600 female scholar-athletes from around the country.

Freshman Named CUNYAC Player of the Year

Women’s Tennis Enjoys Most Successful Season in History

Led by the 2011 CUNYAC Player of the Year, freshman Yulyia Orkis, the women’s tennis team had its most successful season in history last fall finishing with a 14-3 overall record, including an unblemished 8.0 mark in conference play to claim the regular season championship. Entering the championships as the number one seed, Brooklyn College defeated #8 Lehman College (5-0) in the quarterfinals before downsing #4 College of Staten Island (5-1) in the semifinals. The season ended in the championship final, where the Bulldogs lost to #2 seed Hunter College by a score of 5-1. The highlight of the regular season came on October 6, when the Bulldogs ended Hunter’s incredible 103-match winning streak. The Bulldogs lost to #2 seed Hunter College by a score of 5-1. The highlight of the regular season came in the semifinals, when the Bulldogs ended Hunter’s incredible 103-match winning streak against conference opponents, defeating the Hawks 6-3.

Along with succeeding on the court, the Bulldogs also excelled in the classroom, as eight of the 10 members of the women’s tennis team accumulated a 3.4 GPA or higher. In her first semester of college coursework, Orkis earned a 4.0 GPA while registering a perfect 12.0 record playing at the number one singles spot and an 11-2 record at the number one doubles position.

Two Bulldogs Join Elite 18 in Men’s Basketball

John and Russell Score 1000th Points, Podias Earns 200th Victory

The 2011-12 men’s basketball season was one of milestones. Seniors Amir John and Tyshawn Russell each surpassed the 1000-point plateau for their careers and Head Coach Steve Podias earned his 200th career victory.

On December 8, John was the first to reach his personal milestone, becoming only the 17th player in the history of men’s basketball at Brooklyn College to surpass 1000 points.

On being asked if he felt like joining the elite 1000-point club, John stated, “It felt great. I was able to accomplish one of my goals of being recognized as one of the few players in school history who scored 1000 points.”

Russell wouldn’t have to wait much longer to join his backcourt teammate. He notched his 1000th point just two games later on January 4.

“I felt good to score my 1000th point because it officially means that I am among the ‘top players whose names will forever be a part of Brooklyn College men’s basketball history,’” said Russell.

After decades of hard work and teaching the game of basketball, Coach Podias joined an elite coaching club with his 200th career victory after the Bulldogs defeated John Jay College (93-73) on January 25.

When asked about his proudest moments at Brooklyn College, which span 18 seasons, Coach P. responded, “Starting the program from scratch and evolving it into a first class program, which includes back-to-back CUNYAC Championships (2009 and 2010) and two straight NCAA Division III tournament appearances. My longevity with the program means a lot.”

The energy the team created last year truly pushed us to go further than any women’s tennis team at Brooklyn College has gone before,” said Orkis. “With all of the effort, commitment and desire to win burning in each of us, I know we can come out on top next year with a conference championship.”

Along with Orkis, sophomores Maria Sanz and Giana Gelosi also played major roles in the team's success. Both were named to the 2011 CUNYAC All-Star Second Team. Head coach Ahmad Odetalla was also honored by his peers as the 2011 CUNYAC Coach of the Year.

As great of a season as we had this past year, we missed out on being the conference champions. That remains our primary goal in the future,” said Coach Odetalla. “I truly believe we have all the pieces to make that championship run.”

The 2012 season looks to be just as exciting for the women’s tennis team as the Bulldogs are set to return eight of the 10 players from 2011.

—A. Ramos

2011-2012 CUNYAC ALL-STARS

Women’s Tennis
Player of the Year: Yulyia Orkis
Coach of the Year: Ahmad Odetalla
Sportsmanship Award: Norma Lynn Chabbott
All-Star (second team): Maria Sanz
All-Star (second team): Giana Gelosi

Men’s Soccer
All-Star (first team): Brandon Sewnath
All-Star (second team): Miguel Veliz-Fitz

Women’s Volleyball
Sportsmanship Award: Kathy Chu
All-Star (first team): Caitlin McMullen
All-Star (second team): Jillian Escobar

Men’s Cross Country
Rookie of the Year: Benjamin Ireland
Sportsmanship Award: Patrick O’Leary-Gullo

Women’s Cross Country
Rookie of the Year: Eysemin Yunus
Coach of the Year: Alex Lang
Sportsmanship Award: Deana Carrington
All-Star: Deana Carrington

Men’s Basketball
All-Star (first team): Amir John
All-Star (second team): Tyshawn Russell

Women’s Basketball
All-Star (first team): Lauren Flagnos
All-Star (first team): Justice O’Callahan
Coach of the Year: Alex Lang
CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

Do you have notes to share with the Brooklyn College Community? Please send your notes to our correspondents listed below. If your class or group has no correspondent, you may send items directly to alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu or Brooklyn College Magazine.

Do you or someone you know have a publication that you would like to share with Brooklyn College students? Then submit your class notes and we will feature them in a future issue. We are always looking for more class notes to include in future issues.

Shirley Gold Kramer ‘77 is an adjunct professor of art education at Queens College.

Marion Izaacson Greenstone ‘46 passed away in 2005, but the paintings discovered in the basement of her house in Carroll Gardens have become an essential collection in the modern art world. Her works drew crowds of art lovers during the Vincent Van Gogh, one of the world’s most highly regarded art exhibitions.

Alila Alpert Snow ‘48 is now painting and hosting The Art Scene on Channel 16, which airs in Manhattan and Brooklyn. She was appointed chairman of the advisory board for the Brooklyn Museum. Muriel is an advisor to the Brooklyn Museum.

Donald Kramer ‘58, the CEO of ILS Capital Management Ltd. and chairman of the American Ballet Theater in New York, was recognized for his work in Bermuda with an honorable commendation on the Queen’s List. The award, given on December 31, 2011, honored Kramer for his work in the international insurance and reinsurance industry and for his contributions to Bermuda society. Kramer is also chairman of the National Dance Foundation of Bermuda, which gives scholarships, runs master classes and offers a summer intensive program with the American Ballet Theater in New York.

Kramer founded Tempest Re in 1993 and subsequently merged it with ACE Limited, where he became vice chairman of the board of a company that is one of the world’s largest reinsurers in the world and ACE, with nearly $40 billion in total capitalization, is one of the world’s largest and most successful global insurance companies. Following his retirement from ACE, Kramer started Ariel Re with one billion dollars. It has since earned more than one billion dollars and has returned about $750 million to its original investors.

In 2010, Kramer stepped down as chairman of Ariel Re and, in 2011, he joined ILS Capital Management in the United States. Kramer earned an MBA from New York University and a BA in economics and honorary doctorates in business from Brooklyn College. He is a trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation for more than two decades.

Deena Metzger ‘57 published La Negra y Blanca with Hand to Hand Publishing.

Richard Weinstein ‘37, who retired from the Xerox Corporation, has been appointed chairman of the advisory board of the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. As a Dodger fan growing up in Brooklyn, he has always been a baseball fanatic.

Fraen Orenstein ‘60 published The Story of the Fuge with Sleepytime Publishing.

Richard Polenberg ‘60 retired from Cornell University, where he served on the history faculty for forty years and taught about more than 25,000 students. "My approach in both seminar and lecture courses was to address these broad issues affected real people," he said in the interview for the Cornell Chronicle after his last lecture on December 1, 2011.

Martin Abramowitz ‘61 was featured in a documentary for his role as president of Jewish Major League Leaguers Inc., a Boston-based not-for-profit organization with a mission to "transform American Jews into America’s Jews." Muriel Feldschuh ‘62 has recently had a book exhibit celebrating children’s books at the Mississippi Children’s Museum. Muriel is an advisor to the books for Kids Foundation and a member of the National Storytelling Network, and the Author’s Guild and many other professional organizations.

Lenny Silverberg ‘62 collaborated with Steve Kowit ‘64 to publish Crossing Borders with Spiny Duyul Press. The book, which was featured in an exhibition at the Brooklyn College Library, includes poetry by Kowit and drawings and watercolors by Silverberg.

Jay Feldman ‘63 published Manufacturing Hysteria: A History of Suspense, Scouring, and Scare in Modern America. Roberta Johnson ‘63 has retired from the University of San Francisco. She retains to write and lecture. Her most recent activities include a presentation on Obama and China in Chengdu, China, publication of an essay, and a chapter on homeless African Americans in the Black Encyclopedia of Housing and Homelessness.

Because of Dr. Harvey J. Cohen ‘61, older people with cancer are able to live longer with a higher quality of life. Cohen has played a major role in establishing a discipline of geriatric oncology — a field in medical oncology dedicated to the elderly population. His research aims at improving the quality of life of people who are able to undergo medical intervention for their cancer. Cohen has been a graduate of Duke University, where he helped to establish Duke’s Division of Geriatrics in the 1970s. Cohen currently maintains an office at the American Society for the Study of Aging and Human Development. He also has received a number of distinguished medical awards, among them the B.J. Kennedy Award, the Lecture for Scientific Excellence in Geriatric Oncology by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, and the Paul Calabresi Award.
Dear Alumni,

Hollywood has the Academy Awards, Broadway has the Tony Awards and here at Brooklyn College we have the Alumni Awards. Each year, the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) recognizes and honors alumni who have excelled in their various fields of endeavor. At a gala event on October 27, the honorees entered on our own red carpet and delivered acceptance speeches that reflected the influence of their Brooklyn College education. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the members of our activities and awards committees, who put a great deal of effort into selecting the honorees and planning this event.

On March 1, the BCAA hosted its Sixth Annual Wine Tasting and Galleries Open House in DUMBO. Many alumni enjoyed the event with good friends, fine wine and art. For those not familiar with DUMBO, it stands for Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass. The neighborhood’s Civil War-era warehouses are now high-end condos and art galleries.

On May 18, Brooklyn College will celebrate its 50th reunion. Many will march in the procession at graduation wearing the traditional gold caps and gowns. Among the class of 1962 are Senator Barbara Boxer of California; Edwin Cohen and Bernard Garl, trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation; New York State Assembly Member Rhoda Jacobs and Joan Millman; WDR personality Shelly Strickler; educator, entertainer and lecturer Lawrence Strickler; Ella Weiss, director of the Brooklyn Arts Council; award-winning film, television and stage director Joel Zwick, and many more.

I invite you to join us for the annual meeting of the BCAA on May 24. Several student awards will be presented, and I will give the State of the Alumni Association address. If you have escaped our radar, we would love to know where you are and what you've been up to. Contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu or 718.991.5065.

Ron Schweiger
President
Brooklyn College Alumni Association

Letty Aronson ’64, a film producer and sister of 39-time Academy Award nominee Woody Allen, received her first Oscar nomination for Best Picture for Midnight in Paris, which has earned more than $56 million since its release last June.

Edward Broad ’65 is the world’s top spokesman on top of negotiation. He has appeared as a negotiating expert on PBS, ABC News, Fox News, Inside Edition and Fortune Business Report. He also has 20 years of experience negotiating for various contracts, among them Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, AT&T, Starbucks, Philip Morris, Johnson & Johnson and the Pentagon.

Hal Alfert ’66 has been selected as chairman of the board and government finance committee for the California Association of Realtors, which has a membership of over 140,000 active members and is a part of the National Association of Realtors.

Edward Baron Turk ’67 published an essay entitled “The Lestrade Award from the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes at its annual scientific meeting held in Miami Beach, Fla.

Robert N. Friedland ’70 published I Cool Used with China’s New World Press.

Alan Nadel ’70 published Murphy Weber ’72 launched the Murphy Weber Agency, which has been promoted to head the company’s global operations.

Fred W. Girshick ’75 received the Sydney D. Andrews Award of Achievement to honor his work in the field of petroleum products and lubricants. At Brooklyn College, Girshick earned a bachelor of science in chemistry. He is now working on formulating engine oils for more than 30 years.

Judith Lugo ’76 has been named the director of institutional and strategic planning at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. She previously served as the director of the Hamilton Holt School at Rollins.

Tawne Allim ’77, a renowned journalist and broadcaster, has successfully organized presidential debates for Nigeria’s general elections, radio, television and satellite.

Richard A. Hubfeldt ’77, a curriculum and training specialist with the Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, has been appointed to the criminal justice adjunct faculty of Stevenson University in Maryland. He continues to serve as adjunct for another department.

A Trip Down Memory Lane on the Brighton Line

F or the past 75 years, thousands of students have traveled to and from Brooklyn College using the Avenue H Station on the Brighton Line, today’s Q train, on tracks originally laid in 1878 by the Brooklyn, Flatbush and Coney Island Railroad (BF & CIRR).

In 1899, the BF & CIRR was purchased by Brooklyn Rapid Transit. At the time, developers were beginning to see the advantage of acquiring land along the existing rail line. By the turn of the century, Brooklyn’s Atlantic shores were one of the biggest and most popular resort areas in the United States. Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach, Sheepshead Bay and Coney Island were attracting millions of people to their hotels, amusement, theaters, restaurants and horse-racing tracks.

But what was predominately a summer excursion railroad transporting people to resorts along the Brighton and Coney Island shore would soon become a commuter line connecting the borough of Manhattan via the Brooklyn Bridge. One of the first stops to be established on the Brighton Line was Fiske Terrace, now called the Avenue H Station, with a station house resembling a wooden outhouse. Fiske Terrace was a mostly wooded property that extended from the railroad tracks east to Ocean Avenue. In 1905, the land was purchased from George and Elizabeth Fiske by the T.B. Ackerson Construction Company for $285,000. Ackerson began to build beautiful Victorian, Queen Anne, Colonial and Tudor homes on the property along with a sales office on Avenue H on the east side of the railroad tracks. The office had several rooms and a fireplace. The peaked roof was topped in the center with a brick chimney. Along the perimeter of its open porch were big columns supporting the roof. In August 1907, Ackerson completed his Flatbush projects and moved out to Suffolk County, leaving his sales office to become the new railroad station. The walls of the offices were removed and the fireplace was replaced with a cast iron potbelly stove, which remained until 1970.

Concerned by the potential loss of the neighborhood’s iconic building, the community board contacted the NYC Landmarks Commission and provided copies of old photos as well as the original blueprint from 1905. In less than one year, the station house was designated as an NYC landmark, protecting it from demolition.

In December 2011, the BCAA completed a major renovation of the Avenue H Station. It is now the New York’s only wooden, street-level station house. — R. Schweiger
Don Lemon ’96 was named the nation’s most influential journalist at the age of 35, and the 14-year-old newsman and commentator returned to the megalopolis for news and commentary from the African-American perspective. In 2011, the weekend primetime anchor for CNN noted for his coverage of Hurricane Katrina and the expansion of Space Shuttle Columbia published Total Prototype, a personal memoir in which he revealed his homosexuality and childhood sexual abuse. Although Lemon did not make it a secret, his memoir was the first public acknowledgment of his sexual orientation.

Lemon, born and raised in Baltimore, earned a journalism degree from Brooklyn College. During his studies, Lemon got a job at WNYW in New York City as a newsman. He then worked as a weekend anchor and general assignment reporter for WCAU-TV, an NBC affiliate in Philadelphia; an anchor and investigative reporter for KTVI-TV in St. Louis, Mo.; and an anchor for WRCB-TV in Birmingham, Ala. He also has worked as a correspondent for The Today Show and NBC Nightly News.


Joe Woodward ’91 and Michael Grohman ’80, managing partners of the firm’s New York office, have been named leaders of the firm’s wealth planning practice group.

Richard Avedon’s black-and-white photographs of high fashion, portraits of movie stars and politicians, and his fine art images of the city’s streets helped establish him as one of the most influential American photographers in the 20th century.

Luis Moreno ’92, the president of La Boule company that develops applications together with Santosh ’99, is a president of a company that develops applications together with Santosh ’99. He leads the firm’s emerging media and entertainment practice, counseling clients on a broad range of matters.

Johnmichael Rossi ’06 is moving to New York State. He leads the firm’s emerging media and entertainment practice, counseling clients on a broad range of matters.

2007: Twenty-five years ago in January, students traveled to Monticello, N.Y., for a ski weekend at Ketchum’s Country Club. The Young Republicans sponsored a talk on bringing the Reagan Revolution to Brooklyn. Pink Floyd gave a concert on campus for a music and art festival. Republican-sponsored events — including the Bobby Rose “After Hours” party and a dance party — were well attended. The band’s hit song “Wish You Were Here” — along with a number of disco dance parties — was popular. Five of the most popular songs were “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” “You Only Live Twice,” and “The Monkees’” “Last Train to Clarksville.”

2012: Ten years ago, the spring edition of the magazine honored the dance alumni who lost their lives in the attacks on September 11: Ernest Alkabes ’89, Ezra Aviles M.A. ’87, Susan VanDyke ’81, and Steven S. H. Berger ’79, Andrew Cox ’01, Peter L. Freund ’84, John Giordano ’80, Paul Lissim ’80, Gregory T. Suacedo ’92, Ian Schneider ’78, Robert Tomarcy ’78 and Paul T. Zola ’78. They may never be forgotten.
Will Rodriguez ‘09 has been able to merge his Brooklyn College degree in television and radio with his minor in marketing into one career as CNBC on-air promotions planning associate. He is responsible for scheduling and promoting all CNBC television shows along with coverage from NBC Sports and shows from other NBC-owned networks such as Oxygen and the Golf Channel.

Sorrell Felix ‘09 has been named a 2011 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellow. The Pickering Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State, will provide support for her completion of a graduate degree at Syracuse University as she prepares to enter the United States Foreign Service.

Matthew Vann ‘11 is one of only 25 college students and alumni from across the country accepted to the prestigious NYC Urban Fellows program. The fellows work at various city agencies and mayoral offices. Since last fall, Vann has been working at the Office of Immigrant Affairs, where he analyzes policies and works to provide language access services to adult immigrants seeking to develop their English language skills through the We Are New York project.

After a serious accident prevented her from continuing to work as a police officer, Eliana Ujueta ‘07, the daughter of Colombian immigrants, found a new passion as a movie director, transforming her work experience into a movie script.

Raised in Bushwick, Ujueta witnessed many dangerous situations; she lost four of her brothers to drugs and saw many street fights. Her early life experience motivated her to become a police officer. For nearly a decade she patrolled the streets of East Village, where drug deals were an everyday activity. Ujueta said that, at that time, a man named Santiago controlled drug sales on East 7th Street between avenues B and C.

“Most of the people that lived on the block either worked for him or were silenced by him,” Ujueta said, adding that when police officers drove through the streets Santiago silenced their radios. “It was a sign for us to stay out of his block, because if we needed help we could not transmit either worked for him or were silenced by him,” Ujueta said, adding that when police officers drove through the streets Santiago silenced their radios. “It was a sign for us to stay out of his block, because if we needed help we could not transmit.

Ujueta’s career as a police officer ended in 2001, when she fell down a flight of stairs and injured her foot. As a result of the accident, she lost the ability to run or walk long distances, which forced her to retire.

After her accident, Ujueta enrolled in Brooklyn College, where she intended to study law.

Her first film, Beneath the Rock, won the award for Best Narrative Feature from the East Harlem International Film Festival and has been screened throughout the United States, the United Kingdom, and several cities in Brazil. Beneath the Rock, filmed on the streets of East Village, where drug deals were an everyday activity, features Eliana Ujueta’s daughter, a young girl named Anya. Beneath the Rock is a story about a community struggling to provide a safe haven where children can grow up healthy.

Eliana Ujueta ‘07, the daughter of Colombian immigrants, found a new passion as a movie director, transforming her work experience into a movie script.

Beneath the Rock, which has been distributed throughout the United States, has won several international film awards including the Best Narrative Feature award at the East Harlem International Film Festival. Beneath the Rock premiered at the New York Latino American Film Festival and has been screened in New York, Los Angeles, and Brazil. Beneath the Rock is a story about a community struggling to provide a safe haven for children.

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Hyland in 1960 as a way to promote the bikini, which \( \text{Sesame Street} \) and \( \text{Tovarich} \) Pockriss worked for musical theaters, writing songs During his composing and songwriting career, musicology at New York University. After the war he went on to graduate school to study history. He formed a stock brokerage firm and real estate career in real estate, construction and development. Lyons earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Brooklyn College and a master's degree from American University, at which he retired in 1984. It is listed on the New York Times. Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow who
Sometimes being a tall girl isn’t easy. That is why, in the 1940s, the tall girls of Brooklyn College established a club called the Hi-Hites, which accepted only girls over 5’7”. The club president made sure all members were at or above the minimum height. For some, like Lissa Fine ’54, the club’s social activities were not just pleasant, they were life changing.

“I met my husband during one of the events,” she recalled in a phone interview from her home in Loudonville, N.Y. “It was close to 58 years ago.”

Fine met her husband Leonard during one of the events organized by the Hi-Hites, when the girls invited their former boyfriends — nice guys, but ones they didn’t want to date anymore. “My husband was dragged by somebody else,” she said. “It was a one-time visit for him, because he was a very busy law school student at that time, but he was hooked by me.”

Fine married Leonard the winter before she graduated; he was drafted soon after. once she earned her education degree, Fine joined her husband in Germany, where they lived for a year.

Memories about the Hi-Hites Club bring a smile to Fine’s face. “I remember having some nice friends there,” she said. “We had good time. I remember taking the Brighton Line to the city and our shopping trips. We were very tall women. I barely made the requirement.”

The 1944 edition of the Brooklundian, the college’s yearbook, says the club created a social activities program because of “present shortages, necessitating activities with greater feminine appeal.” Five years later, the yearbook gives more insight into the club: Before World War II it was a coed organization, but in 1944, “during the era when men were harder to find than the Golden Fleece, the girls took over.”

Members of the Hi-Hites Club always participated in the country fair, an annual event that continued at the college into the 1980s. Pictured above are Frances Schottland Slotkin and other club members enjoying the fair.Slotkin, a member of the club from 1945 to 1947, donated the photo and other memorabilia from her private collection to the Brooklyn College Library after reading the fall 2005 edition of the magazine.

Slotkin passed away in 2010, but Brooklyn College’s archivists have a record of a phone conversation with her. In February 2006, Slotkin said she was almost disqualified from the country fair because “no girls ever wore dungarees.” — I. Rutkowski

Are you one of the alumnae pictured above with Frances Schottland Slotkin? Were you a member of the Hi-Hites Club?

Send your memories to magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu or write Brooklyn College Magazine, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210.

The streaking craze swept the country during the 1960s and ’70s, and our campus was no exception. Do you know who is pictured on the left? Did you ever streak across the campus or see somebody who did? We’d love to hear from you. Email us at magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu.
Brooklyn College
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The City University of New York

We're in! We're in!

Debra '73 & Nate Howard

Brooklyn College Foundation Annual Fund

This is why we give: As technology and the skill sets required to succeed change quickly, we need to be creative and flexible in order to continue to thrive.

This is especially true for educational institutions. We started to support the Brooklyn College annual fund because only unrestricted funds allow the college to react quickly to new challenges — and turn them into opportunities.

In today's global economy access to a quality education must remain affordable. Our biggest asset has always been our people and every single one of us depends on the positive difference the next generation can make:

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