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Brooklyn



and
beyond...

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Bringing Medical Care to Latin America
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Brooklyn College Magazine

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The Past Materialized

Students unearth clues to life in eighteenth-century Brooklyn at the historic Lott House.

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Thinking Outside the Box

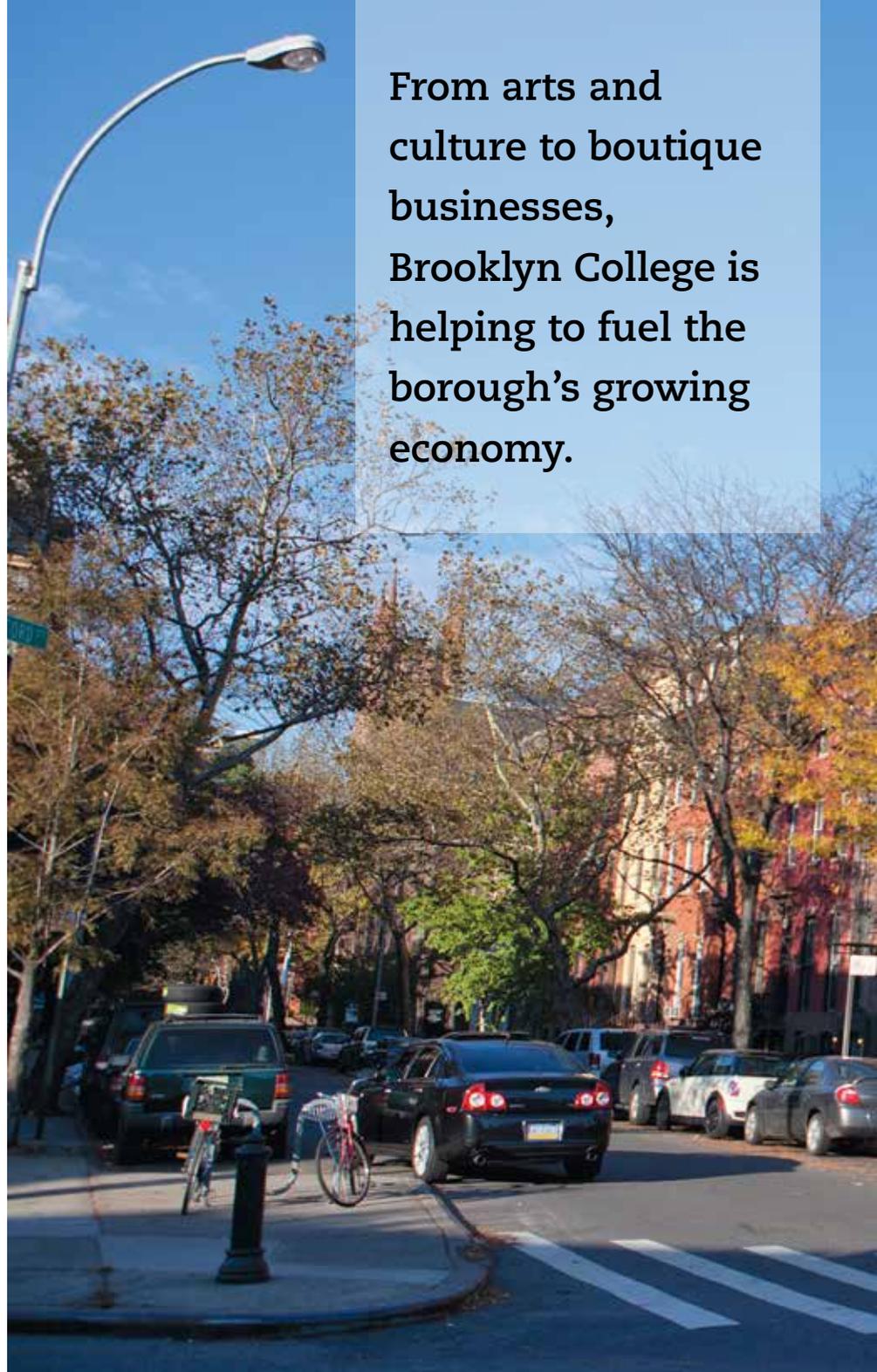
Three alumni turn their passions into small businesses, tailor-made for Brooklyn's eclectic and diverse neighborhoods.

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Brooklyn's New Creative Class

M.F.A. alumni hone their literary voices and find a launchpad for their work right here in the borough.

From arts and culture to boutique businesses, Brooklyn College is helping to fuel the borough's growing economy.



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from
the

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Earlier this fall, more than 150 alumni from the first three decades of our eighty-two-year history came to campus to celebrate at our annual post-fiftieth reunion. The event was filled with fond memories of Brooklyn College—favorite professors, country fairs, and old friends. It was wonderful to be reminded once again that our legacy is not simply about courses, grades, degrees, and diplomas; it's about making a difference in people's lives.

I was particularly pleased to meet Ethel Lagarrene Hagquist and Gandolfa Aiosa DeFronzo, alumnae from the college's very first graduating class in 1932. These two women, ages 101 and 99, spoke of Brooklyn College with great affection and gratitude. That they chose to return to campus more than eighty years after receiving their degrees is just one example of the lifelong impact of a Brooklyn College education. Ethel and Gandolfa remind us of our great history, and they are remarkable role models for our students.

With more than a hundred thousand alumni living in every neighborhood in New York City, every state in the country, and all around the world, the positive influence of our graduates extends well beyond our campus. At the same time, Brooklyn remains an intrinsic part of Brooklyn College. It is the borough we call home, and it is in this great city that we set our direction and measure our success.

In fact, nearly forty thousand of our alumni live in Brooklyn—one in every twenty Brooklyn residents with a college degree. With average earnings well above

those with only a high school diploma, our alumni bring nearly \$800 million more into our borough's economy every year, simply because they earned a degree at Brooklyn College. By this measure alone, our impact on the borough of Brooklyn is substantial. Add to that the two thousand faculty and staff we employ; the jobs we generate through multimillion dollar construction projects, such as the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts; and the research leading to real-world innovation, and it is clear our institution is a critical economic engine for Brooklyn and for the entire city of New York.

Even so, just as our legacy is not only about classes and degrees, our impact on the city is not only about dollars generated and jobs created. At Brooklyn College, we care about people helping people, about making a difference in our neighborhoods. Every year, our students and faculty volunteer thousands of hours to important causes in our community. Like many others throughout Brooklyn, we volunteer for homeless shelters, mentor struggling teens, and tend to much-needed green space in our urban setting.

At this difficult time for the entire region, our college has once again demonstrated a commitment to caring. In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, we banded together to respond to the needs of our students, faculty, staff, and neighbors, some of whom lost everything to the storm.

We are particularly heartbroken by the death of Jacob Vogelman, a twenty-three-year-old student pursuing an M.F.A. in our theater

department, who lost his life during the height of the storm. Our entire campus mourns for Jake and his family and for all of those who experienced Sandy's full devastation.

In the aftermath of the storm, our college community has come together to help those in need, giving generously of their time and resources. In fact, as I write this message, alumni have already donated nearly \$14,000 to help our students who were affected by Hurricane Sandy. On behalf of everyone at Brooklyn College, I am truly grateful.

Several students, faculty, and alumni who are profiled

Arthur Bankoff '65, professor of archaeology and anthropology, guides college and high school students in an effort to preserve one of our borough's important historical sites. And several graduates of our world-renowned M.F.A. program in creative writing are sustaining Brooklyn's decades-old tradition as a literary hub.

In this edition, we turn our focus to Brooklyn. Some of us give back to Brooklyn by building a stronger economy. Some contribute by volunteering in their neighborhoods. Still others turn a lifelong passion into a source of community pride. Together, all of these efforts enhance the

Our alumni bring nearly \$800 million more into our borough's economy every year simply because they earned a degree at Brooklyn College.

in this edition of the magazine have found personal ways to make a difference here in Brooklyn. Former model Amy Gunther turned a love of skateboarding into a retail business in Williamsburg that grew to become one of the most popular hubs in New York City's skateboarding scene.

quality of life in our city. With students, faculty, and alumni, our college community is more than fifty thousand strong in Brooklyn alone, and we are working to build a better Brooklyn every day.

Rosen Fellow Gives Back to His Rural Community with **TECHNOLOGY**

Apollo Namalu touched a computer keyboard for the first time just seven years ago. Growing up in Budadiri, a village of about ten thousand people in Eastern Uganda, computers were only something he knew about from movies. When his school opened a new computer lab, he would initially stand over his classmates' shoulders and look on.

"It was one of those situations where, even to touch it, you had to get permission," the Brooklyn College senior recalls.

Then someone showed him how to turn one on. "That was huge for me," he says now, remembering how he tentatively moved the mouse around.

That moment sparked something within him, inspiring him to pursue a career as a software designer in the United States. But even before he graduates next spring with a bachelor's degree in computer information science, he is trying to help update his native country's technology.

A 2012 Rosen Fellow, Namalu used his \$5,000 award to create a patient record-management software system to be used in a Ugandan hospital. The scholarship, launched two years ago by Florence Rosen '59 provides grants to undergraduate students to create an out-of-classroom experience that promotes creative or career advancement. Namalu, a member of the second cohort of students to receive this annual award, used his fellowship funds to travel to Uganda for three weeks this past summer to get the system off the ground.

"One of my biggest memories growing up is standing in line for a really long time to get treatment at a hospital," he says, explaining that a big part of the holdup at many healthcare centers is due to the jumble of records on patient medical histories. Records are kept on paper, often stacked in an overwhelmingly cluttered closet, as Namalu witnessed this summer when he visited his hometown hospital. Patients also have the option of purchasing their own medical record book that they keep for a doctor to update after each visit, however the books—though they cost fractions of a penny—are too expensive for many Ugandans to afford.

So Namalu called the head of the hospital in Budadiri to feel him out. "I was offering my services, but at the same time, I wanted it to come from him," Namalu says.

Having witnessed many well-intentioned projects fall flat after their benefactors left town, he knew he would have to come up with a way for the hospital staff and the community to feel a sense of ownership over the system if it were to do any lasting good.

After listening to the hospital administrators' needs, Namalu touched base with several local computer programmers to see if he could enlist them for their ideas. After touching ground last May in the capital Kampala, the place where a consistent Internet connection was most likely to be found, Namalu holed up in a hotel for three days with his



group of programmers. There were about twenty students and recent college graduates who developed applications for the project.

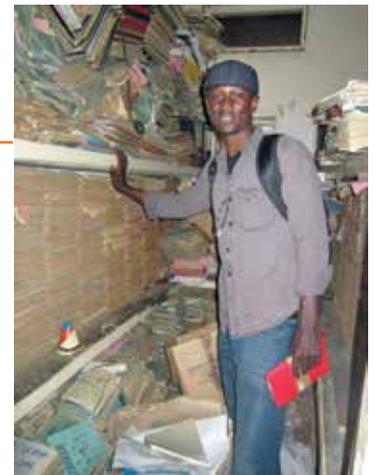
Then, Namalu spent time at the hospital, interviewing staff in each department, learning their lingo for use in the software his programmers were creating and trying to get a good grasp of their current methods for recordkeeping.

"I wanted to involve everyone as much as possible throughout each stage so that this wouldn't feel like something strange when it's implemented," he says. "I knew we weren't going to switch from writing all the time to typing overnight."

In just three weeks, Namalu was able to develop and test a system that allowed hospital staff to enter information weekly from their huge ledger book into a software program. He also provided training to the healthcare workers.

The system, which he named "Kyitara," the local word for granary, proved to be an effective way for the staff to enter information to generate community health reports. It's a start—one that the son of an elementary school teacher, who never owned a textbook until he came to the U.S., is proud of.

"Instead of storing food, this system is storing information," he says. "But I hope it will be just as useful." —J.S.



Rosen Fellow Apollo Namalu stands in the cluttered closet of a hospital in his native Uganda, where patient records are routinely stored.

Graduate Student Co-directs *Macbeth*

WITH INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS



Tony Award-winning director John Tiffany, M.F.A. candidate Andy Goldberg, and Tony Award-winning actor Alan Cumming

M.F.A. candidate Andy Goldberg has turned his bold idea about staging *Macbeth* as a one-actor play into reality.

"I've always loved Shakespeare," says Goldberg, who worked for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival after graduating with a B.A. in English from Stanford University in 1993. Goldberg has spent twenty years working in theatre.

Two years ago, he shared his decade-old idea of staging *Macbeth* as a soliloquy with John Tiffany, winner of the 2012 Tony Award for *Once* in the Best Direction of a Musical category. His goal was to strip away the political and historical elements from *Macbeth* in order to delve into the mind of the murderer.

The two ended up co-directing Goldberg's vision of *Macbeth*, which contains no battle scenes or costumes. The play, which premiered at the National Theater of Scotland and ran during the Lincoln Center Festival this past summer, starred Tony Award winner, Alan Cumming, who is known for his 1998 performance in *Cabaret* and currently appears in *The Good Wife*.

Goldberg's production is staged in a psychiatric ward where *Macbeth* has been admitted. The character re-enacts, in Shakespeare's original words, the tragedy of the king of Scotland.

"There are no other programs like it," says Goldberg, of the Performance and Interactive Media Arts program (PIMA). He is scheduled to receive his M.F.A. next spring. Being exposed to Brooklyn College classmates with interdisciplinary backgrounds helped him rethink the relationship between theater and the other arts, as well as technology's relationship to the arts. "Its influence has changed the way I think about virtually everything."

Goldberg's directing credits include the Shakespeare plays *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *Twelfth Night* for La Mama theatre in Manhattan, among others. —E.M.

Film Major Makes His Mark in Cannes



Avtandil Chachibaia

When twenty-two-year-old Avtandil Chachibaia shot footage of his native Georgia with his MiniDV camera a few years ago, he did not expect it to become a film.

"I found the tapes accidentally," explains the film major, adding that his mother was the first person who stumbled across them. "They were somewhere in the closet. I checked them out and brought them to school."

The tapes contained shots of a local institution for mentally challenged people, supervised by two nuns.

Four years later, his short atmospheric film, *Smell of Old House of Ours*, was selected for the Cannes Film Festival. Chachibaia was also a semifinalist for the

Student Academy Awards, which took place at the Theatre at Lighthouse International in New York at the end of April.

Distinguished Lecturer Thomas A. Reilly of the film department worked with Chachibaia to finalize the film. The final cut was made in late 2011.

"I just asked my instructor what he was thinking, and he said that I should submit it to the Cannes Festival," Chachibaia says. So he did.

The festival committee was impressed by the nine-minute artistic motion picture, which was screened three times during the festival.

"It is a testament of his talent," says Reilly, author of *The Big Picture: Filmmaking Lessons From a Life on the Set* (St. Martin's Press, 2009),

and Directors Guild Award-nominee for the films *Hannah and Her Sisters*, *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, and *The Prince of Tides*. He adds, "It's a well-made and unique film. The music is terrific. The concept is great. Filmmakers have to deal with controversial subjects. Many of the films fit into a standard format, but Avtandil's film is unique."

Avtandil admits that the selection to the festival was a great honor. "I felt super grateful for the experience," says Chachibaia, adding that he is also happy that his film made it as far as the semifinals for the Student Academy Awards. —I.R.

Student Club Brings Medical Help to Developing Nations



“What I learned in the classroom, I got to practice in the field, and I can’t think of a better preparation for being a doctor.”



Sabia Akbar’s hands trembled the first time she wrapped a blood pressure cuff around her patient’s arm. Serving in a rural clinic in Honduras as a member of Brooklyn College’s chapter of the Global Medical Brigades gave the 2012 graduate invaluable, hands-on experience working with patients in the field, as well as a deeper understanding of the impact she made.

“I had practiced on friends to prepare for the trip, but now I was doing the procedure for the first time on an actual patient,” says Akbar, who joined the club’s twenty-four other members in 2011 on a four-week mission to bring health care and medical supplies to a needy outpost in this developing country. “I was so scared because you want to get it right for them.”

Akbar, then a senior and vice president of the club, considers her Honduran experience last summer, the start of her medical training.

“People think I know more about medicine than I do,” says Akbar, who is currently studying for the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), “but it’s not until you’re actually in medical school that you learn how to care for someone. That day in the clinic was my first exposure to actually helping someone, and it was amazing.”

Global Medical Brigades is a nonprofit international organization that promotes student-led projects, such as medical care and affordable housing initiatives. In Honduras, the Brigades set up a

medical and dental clinic. For many in the village, it was the first time they had dental care or preventive care.

Brooklyn College launched its chapter in 2010 when Elizabeth Cusick, then a sophomore majoring in health and nutrition sciences, transferred to the college. Along with Jessica Huang ‘11, she submitted a club proposal to the college’s student activities office. Although it was accepted, the office expressed skepticism about students putting together an overseas trip to a developing nation, as well as raising the necessary funds.

However, the club attracted more than forty students in its first year. Its second year was even better. Students from a wide variety of majors—including anthropology, business, psychology, modern languages and music—expressed interest, attracted by the opportunity to travel, learn about another culture and offer help to those in need.

This past June, the club set out for Panama with twenty-seven students in tow. Akbar, who hopes to attend medical school next year, says of her experience in Honduras and Panama, “Being a member of the Brigades and being able to go on these two trips have really helped to shape the clinician I want to be. What I learned in the classroom, I got to practice in the field, and I can’t think of a better preparation for being a doctor.” —P.W.

PROFESSOR GERTRUD LENZER Testifies Before U.N. Committee

Based on decades of leadership and persistent advocacy for children's rights, Gertrud Lenzer, professor of sociology and founding director of the Children's Studies Center for Research, Policy, and Public Service, was invited by the United Nations in May to participate in a working group on children's rights in Geneva.

"It is certainly an honor for the Children's Studies Center," Lenzer says. "It is wonderful for Brooklyn College to be involved in these important treaty obligations."

Lenzer represented the Children's Studies Center, one of only three nongovernmental organizations to be invited to appear before the eighteen members of the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child. The committee will articulate a list of issues that will be forwarded to the United States government for consideration in advance of the committee's January 2013 meeting. At that time, the Periodic Report of the United States of America will be addressed in an official session in Geneva.

After receiving a \$50,000 grant from the Oak Foundation, the Children's Studies Center conducted research to determine whether New York State was in compliance with a treaty dealing with the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Their report does not offer recommendations but notes where there may be loopholes in state law.

Lenzer presented findings from the center's research to the U.N. committee in Geneva last month.

The complete report, *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, is available at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/optionalprotocol. —J.S.



FOREIGN EXCHANGE: Finnish and American Scholars Research the Keys to Academic Success

Finland's educational system has long been touted as a highly successful model.

Among fifty-seven countries evaluated in 2009 by the Programme for International Student Assessment, which measures student success around the world, Finland ranked second in science, third in reading, and sixth in math.

While Fulbright winner Sophie Knowles '09, M.A. '12, has

traveled to Finland to research its educational system, Finnish visiting professor Susanna Hannus has come to Brooklyn College to better understand the socioeconomic factors stressing the educational system in her native country.

A nation of six million people, Finland transformed its educational system in the early 1990s by decentralizing control from the National Board of Education to each

municipality. Hannus, who lectures on methodology in the early childhood education department, points out that each of the nation's 336 municipalities has a board of governance and is free to decide the curricula for their schools, including the textbooks they use and how they evaluate their students.

"There is not talk about grades until what we call upper secondary school, the

equivalent of your junior and senior years in high school, or the lyceum in other European societies," says Hannus, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Helsinki, whose dissertation focuses on political power and education in schools located in different socioeconomic areas. Instead, "there is a culture of trust that I'm sure is more difficult to achieve in larger societies."

Brooklyn College Professors Land National Science Foundation Grants



Brooklyn College professors Stacey Brenner-Moyer (right) of the Department of Chemistry and Laurie Rubel (left) of the Department of Secondary Education have both recently received National Science Foundation (NSF) grants. While Brenner-Moyer will use the money to continue developing environmentally friendly catalysts—chemical agents that help trigger specific reactions—Rubel will devote her funding to creating and testing educational modules for teaching math in Brooklyn’s underserved high schools.

Brenner-Moyer, assistant professor of chemistry, was awarded the NSF’s 2012 Faculty Early Career Development grant for junior faculty, which comes with a monetary incentive of \$450,000.

“It’s great that federal funding agencies like the National Science Foundation are acknowledging the significance and impact of the research being done at Brooklyn College.”

The development of nonmetal, environmentally friendly catalysts scarcely dates back to the turn of the twenty-first century. A catalyst works in much the same way that enzymes

accelerate the transformation of one substance into another, such as changing grape juice into wine. Unlike the more commonly used metallic catalysts, organic catalysts are considered safer for the environment.

“They are also safer to use in academic laboratories,” adds Brenner-Moyer, who joined the faculty in 2006. “It allows us to operate in greener laboratories, as it reduces both waste and the amount of energy needed to create a reaction.” Her research has broader implications for the development of medicinal compounds.

Associate Professor Laurie Rubel is also attempting to foster positive transformations, but her focus is on the teaching of mathematics.

“Research projects like the one I’m presently doing are usually developed and tested in better-served communities,” says Rubel, who has been training aspiring math teachers at Brooklyn College since 2003, shortly after obtaining her Ph.D. from Columbia University.

A serial recipient of grants and fellowships, she was awarded a \$449,800 grant from the NSF for a place-based research project she calls, “Learning Math in the City for the City.” The three-year project to develop learning materials, tools, and curriculum modules for innovative ways of teaching math—as well as pilot-testing results—is being done in collaboration with the Brooklyn nonprofit Center for Urban Pedagogy and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

One of the two learning modules Rubel and her partners will develop is about the New York Lottery. Over the course of three years, four groups of approximately sixty students will have to utilize geo-spatial mobile technology to investigate areas where tickets are bought, the type of people buying them, and the trail their money leaves, in order to track and determine whether or not the money returns to the neighborhood.

“By engaging students in a mathematical investigation about their communities, we want to change the way they view math and see themselves as math thinkers,” says Rubel, a 2006 recipient of the Young Scholar Award from the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation. Her hope is to have something new to learn and share with the rest of the country. —E.M.

Hannus was drawn to Brooklyn College because of the work of early childhood education professors Barbara O’Neill, Herman Jiesamfoek, and Linda Lois, who have researched ethnographic diversity and socioeconomic inequalities in New York schools, and Professor Beth Ferholt, who recently obtained an \$83,000, three-year grant from Jonkoping University in Sweden to research playworlds and exploratory learning in childhood education. According to Hannus, growing socioeconomic and ethnic differences may be negatively impacting the educational system in her native country.

Another key difference the American and Finnish systems, Hannus points out, is that all Finnish teachers must hold master’s degrees, which take six years to obtain, and are not evaluated according to the same guidelines they often are in the United States.

Knowles has made a similar observation. “Finland doesn’t train educators with gimmicks, buzzwords, or even a list of policies that will just magically work in any context,” she writes from the University of Oulu in Finland, where she is pursuing an international master’s in education and globalization.

Knowles, who earned a master’s degree in middle childhood mathematics education at Brooklyn College, is looking at successful educational policy in Finland. “I wanted to go learn in a completely different setting how students could become more confident and achieve more,” says the North Carolina native who came to New York in order to participate in the city’s Teaching Fellows Program. “When learning math, you have to have a certain amount of self-confidence to make mistakes. That kind of environment is missing here.”

Knowles says that she and her classmates at Oulu are not under the illusion that they may simply duplicate the Finnish education system in their own countries. “Understanding the everyday practices in schools, as well as seeing the differences and similarities between the Scandinavian and American education systems, are very valuable for my work,” she says. Knowles hopes to apply her findings in New York and, one day, open her own school. —E.M.

PROFESSOR TANIA LEÓN Nominated for Latin Grammy

Distinguished Professor Tania León, who teaches in the Conservatory of Music, was nominated for a Latin Grammy Award in the category of Best Classical Contemporary Composition for “Inura,” a track from her CD *In Motion* (Albany Records, 2011).

“I’m very honored,” said León, who has been nominated for a Latin Grammy once before. “These kinds of nominations are a recognition from your peers and colleagues, which is very important for an artist. In terms of education, it helps me to encourage my students and to serve as a vessel for them to aspire to moments like this.”

An internationally recognized composer, conductor, and music director, León joined the faculty in 1985. She is a recipient of the 2005 American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers Award, which is based on the unique value of each writer’s catalog of original compositions, as well as recent performances of those works.

Inura was conducted by León, performed by Son Sonora Voices, and directed by Judith Cluman, with Son Sonora Ensemble/DanceBrazil Percussion.

“We remain fortunate to have such a highly esteemed creative force like León amongst us,” says Bruce MacIntyre, chair of the Conservatory of Music. “Just as her music continues to attract performers and listeners across America and around the globe for its freshness and rhythmic vitality, Professor León

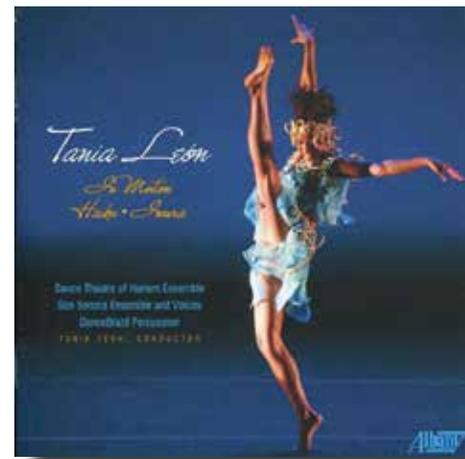
stimulates every composition student she has at Brooklyn College and at CUNY’s Graduate Center to explore creative ways of extending their techniques in new directions.”

León has also received awards for her compositions commissioned by organizations like Chamber Music America, Cintas,

Meet the Composer, and Women of Hope, and holds honorary doctorates from Purchase College, Colgate University, and Oberlin College. She has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Copland Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation, and Lila Wallace/Reader’s Digest Fund. In 2010 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

León is preparing to serve as the artistic director for a monthlong festival in February called *Composer’s Now*, which will feature concerts, lectures, and other activities that highlight composers’ contributions to the cultural fabric of New York.

—J.S.



In Motion, Albany Records, 2011

RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

Over the last six months, our faculty have received over \$5 million in funding for new and ongoing research in such areas as literacy, nutrition, and brain function.

Kathleen Axen, professor of health and nutrition sciences, received \$116,573 from the National Institutes of Health to study the cellular mechanisms underlying a popular low-carb diet, which may increase the risk of diabetes.

Jennifer Basil, associate professor of biology, and one of the 300 Best Professors in America, according to the *Princeton Review*, received \$30,466 from the U.S.-Israel Bionational Science Foundation to study the origin of learning and memory systems in cephalopod mollusks, which will expand knowledge of the role of the evolutionary processes in shaping brain function.

Paul Forlano, assistant professor of biology, received \$157,000 from the National Institutes of Health for his research on the neurochemicals responsible

for proper auditory-driven social functions. His work has implications for better understanding of syndromes like Asperger’s, a condition on the autism spectrum.

Laura Juszczak, assistant professor of chemistry, received \$155,430 from the National Institutes of Health toward her research on disease-related proteins, using a technique known as fluorescence emission spectroscopy.

Acting Associate Provost **Sharona Levy** received a \$334,150 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide campus-based services, including peer mentoring to at-risk students, to help incoming freshmen transition into a college environment.

Catherine McEntee, a lecturer in biology, received \$109,674 from the NYS Department of Education to aid the creation of a science and technology program aimed at helping underrepresented minority students master high school science and math and develop the skills necessary to engage in scientific research.

James Nishiura, associate professor of biology, received a \$116,573 grant from the National Institutes of Health to further study the molecular mechanisms responsible for mosquito growth, with larger implications for mosquito population control and the prevention of the spread of diseases.

Nancy Romer, professor of psychology, received grants totaling \$451,846 from the NYC Department of Youth and

Community Development to fund Networks to College, a student service aimed at improving literacy, communication, and conflict resolution skills. The service will be implemented at Brooklyn College and in high schools that include New Utrecht, Erasmus, Thomas Jefferson, and Paul Robenson.

Kai Shum, associate professor of physics, received \$48,881 from Sun Harmonics, Ltd. to investigate the manufacturing processes behind a specific type of solar cell, which would in turn reveal more effective energy alternatives.

David Troyansky, professor of history, received \$10,000 from the NYC Department of Education to provide schoolteachers with an intensive two-day event focusing on classroom instruction and resources for teaching history in New York City.

THE PAST MATERIALIZED

BY PAT WILLARD

I
N BROOKLYN,

THE PAST LIES JUST BENEATH OUR FEET.

It is seen in the mound of old battlement walls bordering Fort Greene, in the strange curve of Kings Highway. It is delineated in the map of our neighborhoods, in their borders that were once farmland and streams.

In the Lott House, H. Arthur Bankoff, chair of the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, has uncovered much of how Brooklyn grew. Among the last remaining Dutch colonial farmhouses in the borough, the house had been occupied by one family for three hundred years. But by the time Bankoff heard about it, it had stood vacant for almost a decade after the death of the last family member.

The property in the Marine Park neighborhood had dwindled from its original two hundred acres to three-quarters of an acre and was surrounded by small, aluminum-sided row homes. The lawn and backyard were overgrown with waist-high weeds. Both the exterior and interior were peeling away with neglect.



It is a small, yet nearly intact, piece of history that has been around longer than the United States.

To Bankoff, though, the house meant something beyond the story of one family. “Our histories tend to romanticize the lives of the original Dutch and English settlers and skip over the lives of the poorer people—the Africans who were brought here, the women, and the children. How did their lives change after the revolution? What were their connections with their relatives who stayed behind in Europe or those who moved to other parts of the New World? Investigating this little farmhouse might help answer these questions.”

The house quickly became a classroom, laboratory, and research facility for the college, its students, and community outreach programs, as well as for Bankoff’s own archaeological work for the Historic House Trust of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Graduate and undergraduate students investigated the house. Marcus Watson, a doctoral student working with Bankoff, is studying the house for his dissertation. “The Lott House is a great way to examine the changes to the entire region, from rural to suburban to urban. It is a small, yet nearly intact, piece of history that has been around longer than the United States.”

The first part of the house was constructed in 1719. It consisted of a room with a sleeping loft above that accommodated Lott, his wife, and their thirteen children, as well as a few enslaved Africans and indentured servants. The Lotts were truck farmers, growing what the markets in the burgeoning village of Flatlands needed in a time without refrigeration—cabbage, beets, potatoes, and wheat.

They also played important civic roles. Johannes was a member of the New York Colonial Assembly, and his grandson fought in the French and Indian War. Another helped to finance the American Revolution. They were also principled: Almost twenty years before the New York Assembly required them to, in 1805, the Lotts freed their slaves.

As the family’s wealth and social standing expanded, so did the house. The modest home Johannes built for his bride was enlarged in 1800 by his grandson Hendrick for *his* bride. A wing of the stately addition incorporated Johannes’ old Dutch-style house, joining it with a more fashionable Georgian wing. The house seemed to wind about itself with old rooms leading into new rooms, the eighteenth-century utilitarian features breaking against early nineteenth-century refinements.



Portion of a stoneware pipe



Much of the Lotts' daily life was uncovered through the work of the college's students and in the summer months, by high school students participating in a summer archaeological program through the college's Science, Technology, and Research (STAR) program. They unearthed everyday artifacts, such as china plates, cups, pipes, and doll faces. Farming implements in the cellar revealed different cultivation practices through the centuries. Through digging trenches at various sites around the property, students unveiled important finds including the summer kitchen—a separate building where the family cooked during the warm months to keep the main house cool—and the privy, or outhouse.

There were also unexpected finds. Bankoff and his students discovered upstairs an unpretentious bedroom closet that protected a secret chamber for hiding runaway slaves coming from the south on the Underground Railroad.

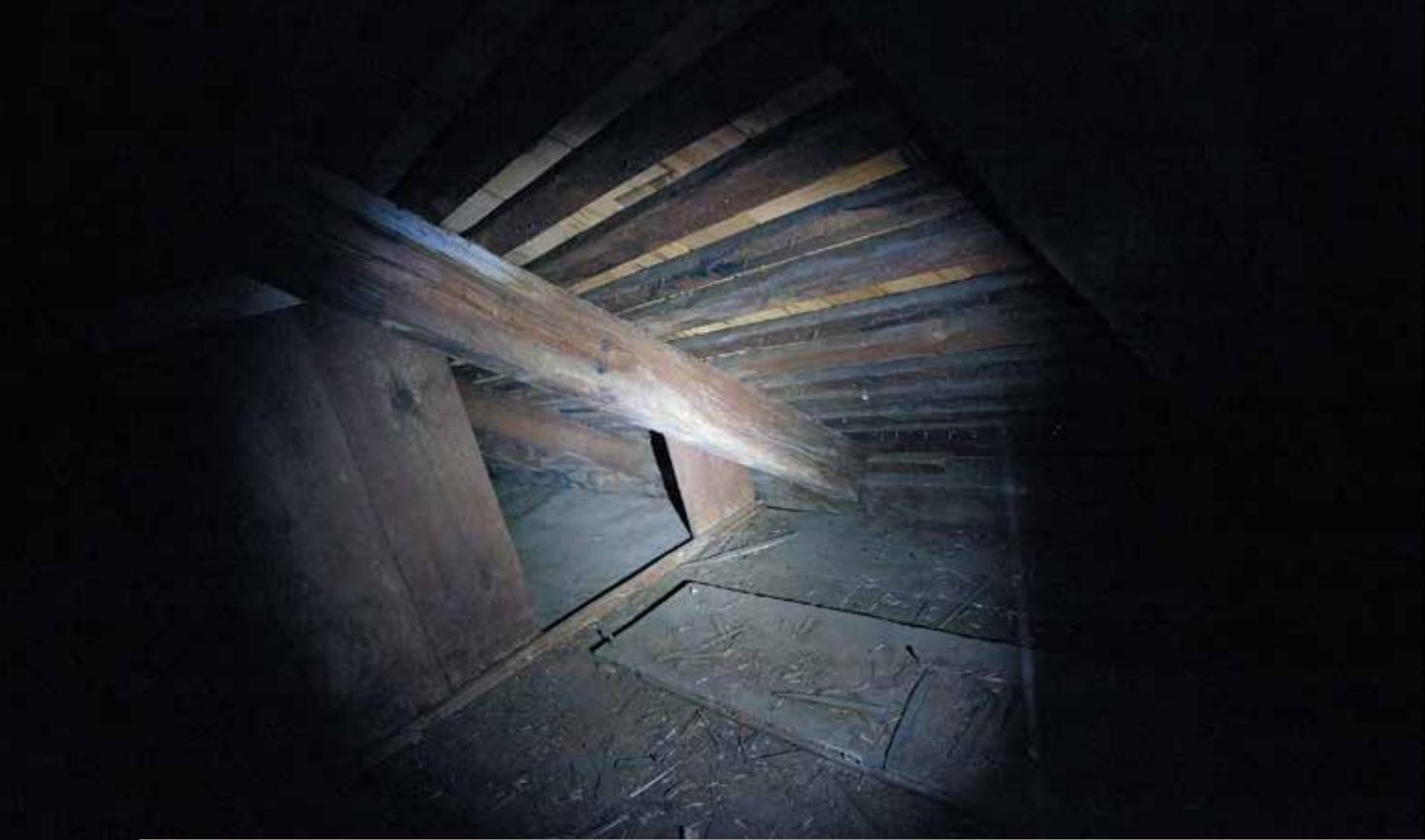
This past summer, Bankoff and Watson led a group of Erasmus Hall High School STAR students on one of the final digs on the property. They were looking for the family well but uncovered instead a cistern—still something to marvel at. For Maggie Hoffman, a Brooklyn College freshman on her first dig, the experience solidified her interest in majoring in archaeology.

"Being a part of the excavation team this summer was an unforgettable experience and an excellent start to my fieldwork. It was



(clockwise from top)
An upstairs bedroom;
excavated pieces of
the family's stoneware
bowls; high school
students, Professor
Bankoff, and doctoral
student Marcus
Watson examining
this summer's find;
early twentieth-
century light fixture.





The house revealed unexpected finds.



(from top)
Hidden chamber for hiding runaway slaves; the parlor; a reconstructed cup.

incredibly rewarding to uncover clues demonstrating how the Lotts' lives changed from one generation to the next. Digging day after day is certainly trying, but contributing to the unraveling of a fascinating mystery made it well worth the effort."

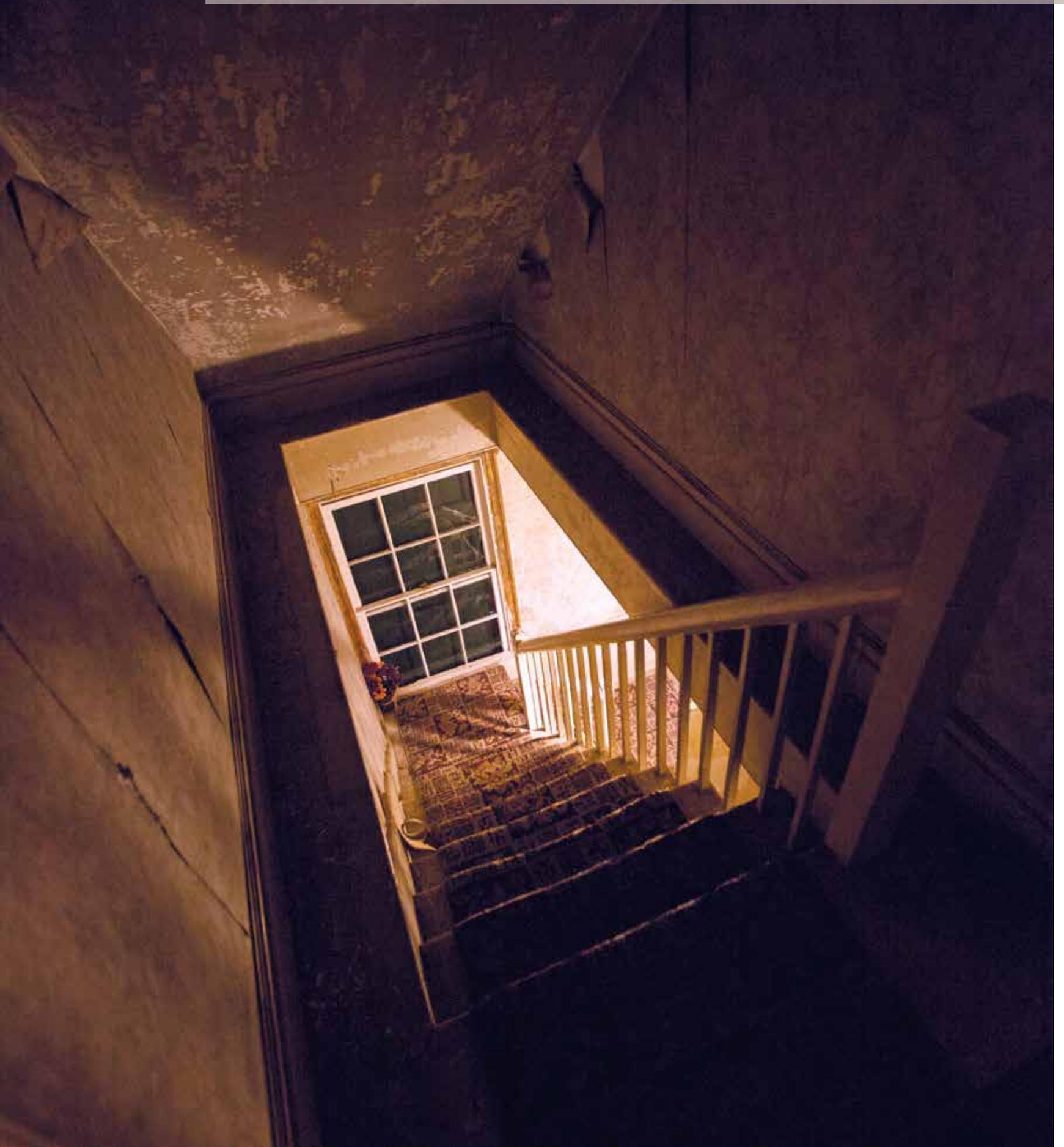
Through a public-private partnership between the Hendrick I. Lott House Preservation Association and the Historic House Trust of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, the exterior has been completely renovated and the windows replaced. The interior work awaits funding. There are plans now for clearing the yard to plant it with the kinds of vegetables that made up the Lotts' livelihood. There will even be a pleasing orchard and a re-creation of the family privy.

For the time being, hundreds of artifacts, pieces and shards of pottery once put to good use are being stored in the college's archaeological lab. Arthur Bankoff's students still have much to do as they sift through the finds and mend them back together. They will study the domain of each object, how it was made and how it was used, and they will take measurements to learn how each of the objects fit into the three hundred years of the Lott history. **B**

For an online tour of the house and to find out how you may help preserve the Lott house, visit www.lotthouse.org.

Learn more about the college's fieldwork and read notes about their discoveries at www.archaeology.org/online/features/lott.

Among the last remaining Dutch colonial farmhouses in the borough, the house had been occupied by one family for three hundred years.





thinking **OUTSIDE THE BOX**

by Jamilah Simmons

Alumni Business Owners Add to the Charm and Character of Brooklyn

In the last decade, Brooklyn has led all of the New York City boroughs in job growth—and more than ninety percent of these employers are small businesses. Brooklyn College graduates have contributed in large part to that growth, many of them fueled by passions they cultivated as students. While the college boasts high profile business people like management consultant Alan D. Siegel and Chipwich inventor Richard LaMotta, in this issue we take a look at alumni entrepreneurs whose off-the-beaten-path endeavors have made a big impact on Brooklyn's many diverse communities. From Dumbo's booming digerati to a boutique skate shop and haven for skateboarding enthusiasts, our graduates have not only turned their passion into successful businesses but have also added value to the quality of life in the borough.





M.F.A. Alumni Upgrade Storytelling

Five years ago, when it looked like the future of the book publishing industry was doomed—book sales were plummeting and many bookstores were folding—M.F.A. students Andy Hunter '08 and Scott Lindenbaum '08 decided that they also needed to be students of the industry.

"It dominated many of our conversations outside of class," says Hunter, who was raised just outside Boston. "We came to the program because we wanted to make a living as writers, but our ability to do that was very much in question."

About six months after they graduated, Hunter and Lindenbaum started fomenting an idea for a digital startup.

"You could see the market shifting to e-reading," says Lindenbaum, a Peekskill, N.Y., native. "We definitely saw it. But at the same time, [many] in the literary fiction world hated technology in general. Meanwhile, other genres like science fiction and romance were going gangbusters in electronic formats, so it just seemed like there was a real opportunity."

"The publishing world was essentially handing over the keys of an entire industry to major technology companies like Amazon," Hunter adds. "They were too invested in the status quo. That provided an opening for us."

Thus, *Electric Literature* was born. The digital fiction magazine—the first to be available on the iPhone and iPad—debuted in June 2009. The two decided to start a publication that would first and foremost deliver top-rate fiction—early issues featured original short stories by Michael Cunningham, Colson Whitehead, and Aimee Bender. They also wanted to test the capacity of new media to deliver their content and once tweeted an entire short story by Rick Moody. Most importantly, the two wanted to "ensure that literature remains a vibrant presence in popular culture," according to their mission statement, by delivering their content to readers wherever they are. *The New Yorker* called them "a model for the future."

"We decided early on that we might not make a lot of money, and we might not even be sustainable or perfect, but we were going to give it a go," Lindenbaum says.

Having gotten the magazine off to a good start, Hunter and Lindenbaum decided to foray into the mobile app business and launched **broadcastr** last year, a social media app that allows users to access and produce audio stories about specific locations.

"It's a platform that allows content producers to attach their content to a place," explains Lindenbaum. The application features more than fifteen thousand audio recordings that users can access. "It's everything from best beaches in New York City to the history of the Brooklyn Bridge. There are all these stories that have locations associated with them."

The app has done "well enough," the two say, to help establish a hardcore group of users and content partners like the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, and the History Channel, which have provided a lot of interesting content. The endeavor also helped to establish the pair in the app world, which they see as the best place to hedge their company's bets for the future.

"The way that people consume media is changing so rapidly," says Lindenbaum.

They are currently focusing on launching a new incarnation of the app, called SPUN, which will target users' interests more specifically and hopefully reach a broader audience by expanding on the type of content—video and all kinds of new and social media—that users can access. "Broadcastr appeals to the type of people who like NPR," says Lindenbaum. "We're hoping to reach a wider audience with SPUN."

"There's a passion for storytelling and narrative that runs through all the projects we're doing," adds Hunter. "We're not motivated by a desire to be the most lucrative company out there. We are interested in bringing the kind of storytelling we love to literary audiences and getting younger people engaged as well."



Skaters' Paradise Takes Root in Williamsburg

Amy Gunther knows her customers. On a sunny summer afternoon, the Brooklyn College senior and owner of KCDC Skateshop in Williamsburg takes a break from organizing merchandise to chop it up with two guys who come in to buy sneakers.

A familiar pair, she fills them in on an upcoming band performance and fundraiser, and also on some of the upheaval she's experienced since being forced to relocate the shop to a downsized space because of the neighborhood's soaring rents.

"It's been a minimum of twelve-hour days lately," says the finance and marketing major, without a hint of exhaustion in her voice.

And while the new spot has only been open a week—there still is no formal store sign outside—it's obvious from the low roar from two skaters out front, and the one inside parked on a wooden bench fixing his wheels, that this is some sort of skateboarders' sanctuary.

"KCDC doesn't exist to give off heavy vibes," Gunther, thirty-eight, states on the store's website. "We just want to keep skating positive and keep people skating."

Having opened the doors a dozen years ago, her shop was among a handful of businesses that helped to establish Williamsburg as a haven for the young, hip, creative class that has blossomed there over the last decade.

Dwelling amongst the hip set, the shop gets its fair share of press coverage and was even written up in the *New York Times*, which dubbed it "a nucleus of New York's skateboarding scene."

From the beginning, Gunther, a Long Island native, was simply trying to earn a living doing something she loves, while giving back to the skateboarding community that had always given her so much.

"Growing up, skateboarding was always a nice safe haven for me," she says. "It incorporates a lot of different things I was attracted to. It's a lifestyle that's very based on music and art, and it attracted a lot of kindred spirits."

Gunther began her career as a model during her freshman year in high school, which allowed her to travel the world and earn a nice income. Her editorial credits include numerous spots in *Nylon* magazine. She was also featured in a big campaign for the WESC, a Swedish clothing company influenced heavily by skater style.

"Wherever I'd go, I would look for the skaters because that's where I always felt at home," she says. "There was so much critique involved in modeling. The skateboarders were always so supportive."

When she grew tired of modeling, she ended up working with friends, one of whom already owned a Westchester, N.Y., skate shop. She used money earned from her modeling days to buy into the business.

In 2002, she got a tip that another friend was looking to open a skate shop in Brooklyn. They partnered up and ended up opening their doors in 2000, when Williamsburg was mostly comprised of artists and a large Hasidic community. The rents were a lot cheaper, and they ended up with a huge space where they were able to install an indoor skating ramp for customers.

"I structured it based on the little knowledge I had from the previous shop and just used my skating connections and to bring people together and create an environment," she says.

It worked. The shop has been the site of art shows and international skateboarding competitions, tapping into the skating lifestyle and becoming a destination in itself. Gunther eventually bought out her business partner and became the sole proprietor of the shop. And as the business grew, she realized, so should her knowledge base. So she enrolled in Brooklyn College.

"It's just become such a therapeutic journey for me to remove myself from being the boss and just being a student," says Gunther, who graduates this fall. "It just makes sense, and I feel more confident as a business owner as well."

Publisher Gives Local Community a Voice

Victoria Schneps-Yunis '71 remembers well the moment she realized the power of the press. Her developmentally disabled daughter had been living in a state institution in which staff was drastically reduced because of budget cuts. A cub reporter by the name of Geraldo Rivera interviewed her for a story about the situation and a host of reforms followed, including the Willowbrook Class Action Law Suit, which led to federal legislation that created funding and supervision for group homes and community services for the disabled.

"Geraldo really stayed with the story," says Schneps-Yunis, who earned a master's in education at Brooklyn College. "Because of that kind of pressure through the media, we were able to get public support behind us and to motivate the other parents to file the class-action law suit."

Several years later, the retired public elementary school teacher had the opportunity to meet a retired *New York Daily News* editor who was starting a local weekly paper in Queens.

"I looked around and saw how things were changing. All the buildings in my neighborhood were going co-op, and I knew that homeowners were people who cared about local news, and that meant they were potential readers," says Schneps-Yunis, "so I asked him if he wanted help starting the paper."

They each pitched in \$250 to get the paper off the ground, and Schneps-Yunis started working with him as a reporter and photographer, the two of them working from their living rooms. Eventually, she bought out her partner to become a co-owner of the paper.

After a few years, she became the sole owner and publisher of the *Queens Courier*, a local weekly with a circulation of about seventy-five thousand. Over the twenty-six years she has been in business, Schneps Communications' holdings have expanded, and now include seventeen newspapers in Brooklyn

and Queens, including the *Home Reporter* and *Brooklyn Spectator*, which had been around for seventy-five years; *El Correo*; and a string of other local publications. Collectively, these publications reach more than half a million readers.

"Because it's real grassroots, you deal with the people that have real life problems that nobody else, with all due respect, is covering," she says. "If you want to know what's happening with little league in Bayside or Bay Ridge, or if you want to know what's going on at cultural institutions that serve Brooklyn or Queens, you read our newspapers."

Schneps, who was raised near the college in Midwood, says she is especially proud to own the Brooklyn papers because "it was like coming home."

"Knowing the quality of the communities really made me feel this was going to be a bullseye success," she says, adding that the papers will be celebrating their seventy-fifth anniversary next year.

"The diversity of what we do and who we cover makes our job very interesting," Schneps-Yunis says. "Some people would say it's not very glamorous, but to me, glamour is being able to make a difference in my community, and we do that every day." **B**



Brooklyn's New



Creative Class

by Richard Sheridan

M.F.A. alumni hone their literary voices and find a launch pad for their work right here in the borough.

"It seems like everyone you meet in Brooklyn these days is a writer," says Joshua Henkin, a professor in the Brooklyn College English department and coordinator of the department's top-ranked Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) fiction writing program.

A noted author in his own right, with three widely acclaimed novels—*Swimming Across the Hudson* (Putnam, 1997), *Matrimony* (Pantheon, 2007), and his latest work, *The World Without You* (Pantheon, 2012)—as well as a number of short stories, Henkin knows a lot about writers and their habits.

"Writers come to Brooklyn because it's still cheaper to live here than it is in Manhattan," Henkin says. "They stay because they find a real community here."

The tradition of writers being drawn to Brooklyn has a long history. It stretches all the way back to the first half of the nineteenth century and Walt Whitman, one of America's best known and most-loved poets. A New Jersey native, Whitman settled in Brooklyn and devoted his time here to learning the printing business and to becoming a professional writer and editor for the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. According to some scholars, he also penned his most singular work of poetry, *Leaves of Grass*, here.

Among the list of other writers who dallied for even a brief while within the confines of Brooklyn are Henry Miller, Hart Crane, Thomas Wolfe, Bernard Malamud, Truman Capote, William Styron, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Pete Hamill, Jonathan Lethem, and Paul Auster. Some, like Hamill and Auster, were native-born. But the reasons for the majority of outsiders coming to Brooklyn were varied, frequently having something to do with Brooklyn's closeness to Manhattan, its relatively low rents compared to Manhattan, or the more sympathetic sense of community that the borough had to offer.

In his recent book, *Literary Brooklyn: The Writers of Brooklyn and the Story of American City Life* (Holt, 2011), author Evan Hughes writes: "A writer or editor looking to economize would do considerably better moving to Queens, the Bronx, or Staten Island. . . . [but] writers are readers first, and readers are interested in the story behind what they can see. In Brooklyn, the story of the place is legible and 'a feeling for tradition' persists, as it did when Carson McCullers described it in the forties. Its visual icons are

not skyscrapers but relics of the nineteenth century: the Brooklyn Bridge and the brownstone.”

According to Hughes, the borough’s literary history has advanced in successive waves like those that crash onto Coney Island’s shoreline, roiling the waters and redistributing the shape of the sands that make its beaches.

Over the decades, prominent writers and teachers have also found a home at Brooklyn College’s M.F.A. program, which began in 1974 and is currently ranked twenty-seventh in the nation by *Poets & Writers* magazine—topping Hunter College, the New School and Columbia University. From the legendary Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, who served as a Distinguished Professor of English and as a teacher in the program from 1986 until his death in 1997, to Sapphire, M.F.A. ’95, author of the novel *Push*, literary writers have set the bar high and attracted a growing artist community to Brooklyn College and to the borough in general.

“To attend Brooklyn College’s M.F.A. program is to be at the literary heart of the nation,” says Professor Ellen Tremper, English department chair. “Its three programs—in fiction, poetry, and playwriting—are known for their world-class faculty, who encourage and support the diversity of our students’ interests and talents. Our equally diverse and mutually supportive students are another key element in the program’s success. They go on to win prizes, and get their plays produced and their poetry and fiction published.”

Despite changing demographics that have seen Brooklyn prices soar to near-Manhattan heights, Brooklyn’s sense of community for writers has somehow endured. Like cops, firemen, advertising account executives, and members of other professions, writers tend to hang out together in familiar places. In bars, restaurants, and other public spaces, they exchange ideas, celebrate each other’s triumphs, and commiserate over their setbacks, while also participating in readings, lectures, and communal dinners. In Brooklyn, the neighborhoods where so many of these meeting places exist flow along the borough’s shoreline from the lower harbor northward to banks of the East River.

“There are several successful reading series that take place in Brooklyn,” says Helen Georgas, an assistant professor. “One of the bigger ones is in a bar called Franklin Park in Crown Heights. The reading series typically draws big-name authors and huge crowds. Other places that feature popular reading series include Pacific Standard in Gowanus and Pete’s Candy Store in Williamsburg. And also there’s Barbes in Park Slope where I’ve been to several readings.”



Georgas adds that several of Brooklyn’s remaining independent bookstores—sadly, a dying breed in many other locales because of today’s digital ascendancy—regularly schedule very successful literary events and readings, like Greenlight Bookstore in Fort Greene, Book Court in Carroll Gardens and Word in Greenpoint.

Brooklyn College M.F.A. students and graduates have been able to take advantage of—and add to—this rich literary culture. The two-year program is able to boast top-quality faculty, like Michael Cunningham, author of *The Hours* and former M.F.A. writing program director, and now Henkin. Each year fifteen students are admitted to the fiction program from about five hundred applicants, making for a very competitive mix and producing a steady procession of talented graduates each year. The success of these writers attracts more and more applicants. Applications to the poetry and playwriting programs also exceed the seats available. Like the fiction program, poetry and playwriting offer students the opportunity to work with notable professors like Mac Wellman, author of more than forty plays, and the award-winning poet Benjamin Lerner.

“I came to the Brooklyn College M.F.A. program from Austin, Texas, with the idea that I wanted to be a writer,” says Manhattan native Marion Winik. “I had studied Russian history at Brown and didn’t know what kind of writer I wanted to be.”

She started out in the poetry program under Pulitzer Prize-winning poet John Ashbery, then midway through the two-year curriculum switched to fiction writing under novelist Jonathan

M.F.A. '08 graduates Cristina Moracho and Marie-Helene Bertino, along with Amelia Kahaney '06, talk writing at Breukelen Coffee House in Crown Heights.

Baumbach. "They exposed me to a lot of different writers, taught me about the craft of writing and gave me a way of exploring literature that I didn't have before," she notes. "Without them, I don't think I could have done the writing that I have."

Paul Beatty, poet and author of *The White Boy Shuffle* (Picador, 2001), credits the National Book Award-winning poet Allen Ginsberg with helping him get his first reading opportunity during his time at Brooklyn College. "That was the start of something for me," says the L.A. native. "I learned to write by listening to people like Allen talking about writing. I was not the most forthcoming person."

Now a new cohort of young graduates is emerging and making themselves known within the writing community. Among them are Katie Bellas, a native New Yorker who attended Duke University. She graduated from the program last spring.

"Though I wasn't tied to the idea of staying in New York," she says, "I'm glad I did. Brooklyn College fosters an especially supportive community, which was something I was looking for in a program."

Bellas is presently a writing fellow at the prestigious Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center in Massachusetts. She is eligible to apply for a second fellowship once she has completed her current one.

Tanwi Nandini M.F.A. '09 expects to see her first book released by Viking in September 2013. "It's tentatively titled *Bright Lines*," she says. "At least, that's what I've called it for six years."

Nandini, who has lived in Brooklyn since 2004, went to Vassar College, where she earned a degree in women's studies, studying abroad for a semester at the School of International Training in Nairobi, Kenya. Talking about her decision to seek her M.F.A. at Brooklyn College, she says, "I was super impressed by the way Michael Cunningham led the program. We could have access to a talented crew of writers, renowned and beloved."

Marie-Helene Bertino M.F.A. '08 has put down roots here, having lived in New York City for nine and a half years and in Brooklyn for four of those years. She describes her hometown of Philadelphia as, "kind of like Brooklyn, with wider streets."

"The one thing they taught me at Brooklyn College was to find your voice," she says. "It really helped me. Whether you're writing short stories or long form, you have to find your voice."

The former Philadelphian has now assembled a collection of short works into a single volume titled *Safe as Houses*. "I'd say it's enhanced realism or magic realism," she says. Her book, which was granted the prestigious 2012 Iowa Short Fiction Award, was published in October by the University of Iowa Press.

M.F.A. alumni garner critical acclaim for their work

Paul Beatty, M.F.A. '89, poet, novelist, and critic

Anselm Berrigan, M.F.A. '98, poet, teacher, and artistic director of the St. Mark's Poetry Project from 2003–07

Elizabeth Gaffney, M.F.A. '97, novelist and staff editor of *The Paris Review*, 1989–2005

Binnie Kirshenbaum, M.F.A. '84, novelist, short story writer, and Columbia University creative writing professor

Young Jean Lee, M.F.A. '05, OBIE Award-winning playwright and director of experimental theater, artistic director of the critically acclaimed Young Jean Lee's Theater Company

Cris Mazza, M.F.A. '83, novelist, short story and nonfiction writer

Angelo Parra, M.F.A. '95, playwright

Sapphire, M.F.A. '95, author and performance poet, author of the novel *Push* (1996), later adapted into the award-winning film *Precious*.

David Trinidad, M.F.A. '80, poet

Marion Winik, M.F.A. '83, poet, author, and contributor to NPR's "All Things Considered"

John Yau, M.F.A. '78, critic, essayist, poet, and prose writer

Bertino has no plans to leave Brooklyn any time soon. "I can't think of anywhere else that offers the energy, diversity, artfulness, and community that Brooklyn does," she says. "The community of writers and artists here never fail to charm and amaze me."

Another writer who was drawn to Brooklyn by the program was Queens-born Cristina Moracho

M.F.A. '08. "I went to Wesleyan University as an undergrad," she says. "I had just moved back to New York City after a couple of years living on a dude ranch in Idaho, and I was falling in love with the borough of Brooklyn and didn't want to uproot myself again."

Moracho also says that Brooklyn College's M.F.A. program was both affordable and had an excellent reputation. "It was noted for offering both short fiction and longer form," she says. "A lot of other programs don't do that."

Moracho began her novel during her first semester. Viking Press picked it up earlier this year. "I didn't write it with any genre in mind besides literary fiction, but it's a book about teenagers, so in the end, it sold as young adult," she says. *Althea & Oliver*, its current title, is slotted to hit bookstore shelves sometime in 2014.

Elliott Holt, a native of Washington, D.C., and 2007 graduate of the Brooklyn M.F.A. program, has also found publishing success. Penguin Press will publish her first novel, *You Are One of Them*, in June.

"I was thirty when I decided I wanted to go to an M.F.A. program," Holt says. "I was already living in New York and working full-time as a copywriter at an ad agency in Manhattan. I wasn't willing to leave New York or quit my job, so I applied to Brooklyn because the classes were in the evening. Brooklyn College also appealed to me because it was so affordable for New York City residents."

She adds that she was big fan of author Michael Cunningham, the head of the program at the time, and wanted to work with him. "It's a good thing I was accepted because I didn't apply anywhere else," she notes.

Though she has now moved back to D.C., Holt says that she still visits the friends she made in Brooklyn. "It's a wonderful place to live and meet other literary types.

"I couldn't walk out my door in Park Slope without



Helen Phillips '07, whose work has been featured in *American Fiction: The Best Previously Unpublished Short Stories by Emerging Authors*, discusses her new novel *And Yet They Were Happy* at Brooklyn's BookCourt bookstore.

running into another writer, agent, or editor," says Holt. "Also, there are readings and literary events every night of the week. It's a real literary community."

This spring, Amelia Kahaney '06 received a two-book contract with HarperCollins Teen for a young adult series called *The Brokenhearted*. "It's kind of a superhero

romance with dystopian undertones," she says. Her first book is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2013.

And Kahaney, a San Diego native, who moved to New York City one month before 9/11 says, "Eleven years later, I'm still mostly thrilled to call Brooklyn home."

Like her fellow alumni, Kahaney was attracted by the M.F.A. faculty. "But I also loved the affordability of CUNY and the close proximity to my apartment in Park Slope."

Though she now feels disappointed that Brooklyn seems to be "becoming more Manhattan-ish," she has no plans to leave the borough. She says, "As hard as it is to get used to living in New York City, it's every bit as hard to think about leaving it. I have a four-year-old son and my husband to consider as well, so it's not like I can just pack up my laptop and wander."

Not all the program's graduates immediately become writers in the traditional sense, of course. Among this past spring's graduates, for instance, is *Recommended Reading* co-editor Benjamin Samuel. The online quarterly journal is published by Brooklyn-based *Electric Literature*, whose mission is "To guide writers and readers through a rapidly evolving publishing landscape."

"Most of us at *Electric Literature*, myself included, are Brooklyn College M.F.A.s," Samuel says proudly.

And in 2002, the husband-and-wife playwriting team of Scott Adkins, M.F.A. '06 and Erin Courtney, M.F.A. '03, tired of having to seek out places where they could write in peace. They founded Brooklyn Writers Space in Park Slope to provide a quiet place for hopeful writers to work. Their venture was a success and now the couple operates three locations in the borough where as many as seven hundred aspiring writers struggle to compose the next bestseller.

If a sign is needed that Brooklyn is a writer's home, the success of such a venture may well be it. **B**

Lisa Gutkin, vocalist for the Klezmatics, and Pete Seeger on stage at Brooklyn College



WOODY GUTHRIE MEMORIAL Draws Thousands to Campus

Thousands of people gathered at Brooklyn College on September 22 to participate in Welcome Back, Woody, a daylong conference to commemorate the life and legacy of Oklahoma-born troubadour Woodrow Wilson Guthrie, followed by a concert that included folk legend Pete Seeger.

Both the conference and the concert were part of “Woody at 100,” a traveling tribute organized by the Grammy Museum.

Sponsored by the H. Wiley Hitchcock Institute for Studies in American Music (HISAM) and organized with support of the New York Humanities Council, the conference got under way with greetings brought by President Karen L. Gould.

“It was a magnificent event that highlighted the magnitude of the Guthrie legacy and vision,” said HISAM director Ray Allen, who, together with Los Angeles-based Grammy Museum director Robert Santelli, was instrumental in organizing the event.

Nora Guthrie, the daughter of Woody Guthrie and Marjorie Greenblatt Mazia, talked about her father’s life in 1940s Brooklyn, considered by critics as the singer and songwriter’s most creative period. According to Nora, her father turned nearly everything he knew, read, and learned into a lyric, and his material legacy comprises nearly three thousand songs that are now part of the composer’s archive. As the head of the Woody Guthrie Foundation, she took on the task of organizing the Woody Guthrie Archives in the 1990s—a goal her mother set for herself two decades earlier but couldn’t conclude.

The morning panel, “Woody and the Culture Front: Cold War Politics of the 1940s and 1950s,” was moderated by Allen and included Yale professor Michael Denning; folk blues guitarist and author Elijah Wald; and music critic and radio talk show host Dave Marsh.

Keynote speaker Sean Wilentz, the George Henry Davis 1886 Professor of American History at Princeton University

and author of *Bob Dylan in America* (Doubleday, 2010), later spoke about the connection between America’s two most influential folk singers and the New York City folk scene in the second half of the twentieth century.

The afternoon panel, “Woody the Radical Songster,” featured Ronald Cohen, an emeritus professor at Indiana University Northwest; American literature professor Will Kauffman of England’s University of Central Lancashire and author of *Woody Guthrie: American Radical* (University of Illinois Press, 2011); Robbie Lieberman, a professor of history at the University of Illinois; and folk singer Ernie Lieberman, who in the 1950s was a member of the Gateway Singers. They were joined by head archivist and curator of the Woody Guthrie Archives, Jorge Arévalo Mateus, who discussed the significance of Guthrie’s legacy among Latinos. Arévalo, together with Nora Guthrie, earned a Grammy in 2008 for best historical

recording for *The Live Wire: Woody Guthrie in Performance 1949*.

Grammy Museum director Santelli later moderated an artist roundtable that included British folk singer Billy Bragg; singer, songwriter, and Grammy Award-winner Judy Collins; and lead singer and founding member of the Klezmatics, Lorin Sklamberg. The artists gave their testimonials about Guthrie and his music, and sang Guthrie songs to conclude the event.

The three artists later participated in the Grammy Museum-sponsored concert, “This Land is Your Land,” at the college’s Whitman Theater before a crowd of almost two thousand people. They were joined by folk singing legend Pete Seeger, who in 1941 founded the Almanac Singers with Woody Guthrie and others. In the end, the ninety-three-year-old Seeger and the rest of the musicians were joined by the crowd in a moving rendition of “This Land is Your Land.”

—E.M.



NEW SCIENCE BUILDING

Takes Shape at Brooklyn College

"You can't teach twenty-first-century science in a 1930s laboratory," says Provost William Tramontano, who is also a cellular molecular biologist. He has been instrumental in pushing forward plans for a new 200,000-square-foot science building on campus—the latest in a group of capital projects designed to provide state-of-the-art facilities for Brooklyn College students.

"The duty to provide the best education, not to mention cater to the demands of an ever-growing student population, makes Brooklyn College seek to constantly modernize its facilities," says Tramontano, former dean of natural and social sciences at Lehman College, where he helped to facilitate the development of that institution's green science facility completed this fall.

The great volume of graduates coming out of the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences underscores the need for Brooklyn College to modernize its teaching and research laboratories, which are currently housed in Ingersoll Hall and its extension. It is expected that the new research labs will allow the college to hire more faculty and attract more students.

The new four-story science and research facility will replace Roosevelt Hall and its more modern extension, which are currently housing music rooms and classrooms for the theater department and the Conservatory of Music.

According to Tramontano, the new building will hold eight computer classrooms of various sizes, twenty-six teaching labs measuring 1,200 square feet each, and twenty-one classrooms accommodating 24- to 150-seat spaces.

The teaching labs will be used by the biology, chemistry, physics, and earth and environmental sciences departments. There will also be a few psychology labs within the physical education department.

The building will also have support spaces, including a 4,000-square-foot learning center where students can receive tutoring, student lounges, and a café on the first floor.

"It takes time to go through all the necessary steps to develop such a project," adds Dr. Tramontano, noting that he worked closely with the science faculty, with the department chairs, and with Kleanthis Psarris, dean of natural and behavioral sciences, on the project.

While several capital projects on campus have concluded, others are still in the making, such as the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, for which construction is estimated to conclude during fall 2014.

"We can't do more until the performing arts center is up and running," Tramontano says, pointing out that the theater and music classes will move there.

As part of the Roosevelt Science Teaching Commons project, a landscape renovation of the West Quad has been designed by Mathews Nielsen Landscape Architects, who worked together with the project's lead architect, Mitchell Giurgola. The new quad will have two central parallel walkways divided by perennial plants and lined with benches from the Bedford Avenue gate to the entrance of the West Quad building. Rows of trees and ample lawn space will run adjacent to the walkways. There will also be new outdoor seating in front of the new building, in addition to shaded seating areas with café tables in front of James Hall. —E.M.

The great volume of graduates coming out of the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences underscores the need for Brooklyn College to modernize its teaching and research laboratories.



Renderings of the future Roosevelt Science Teaching Commons. Designed by Mitchell Giurgola Architects LLP, the building will have nearly 200,000 gross square feet. Clockwise from top: The building seen from the steps of Boylan Hall; one of the two walkways in the West Quad's new promenade, designed by Matthews Nielsen Architects; the impressive glass structure of the building's foyer, which includes a café, a student lounge, and classrooms; an interior view.



NEW NCAA-REGULATION ATHLETIC FIELD Opens on Campus



Senator Martin Goldman handed President Gould a congratulatory certificate from the New York State Senate.

Construction of the \$4.5 million, 105,500 square-foot athletic field began in August 2011. The new field, which meets NCAA regulations for soccer and softball, replaces the grass field originally built in 1937 and overhauled in 1975. In the overhaul, AstroTurf and a six-lane, quarter-mile track field replaced the grass, according to Athletics Director Bruce Filosa, who joined the athletics staff as a football and women's softball coach in 1981.

But by 1988, the AstroTurf had been so vastly damaged that

Marking another milestone in the recent transformation of Brooklyn College's thirty-five-acre campus, President Karen L. Gould officially opened the new athletic field on Wednesday, September 5. She was joined by local officials, including Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz '70, varsity athletes, and members of the athletics and physical education departments.

"This new field, built in record time, is a terrific addition to our campus," said President Gould. "It will be wonderful for our softball and soccer teams—including our brand new women's soccer team—to practice and compete on their home turf."

"As an alumna, I'm happy to be part of this event and glad that the state assembly was able to contribute significantly to this project," said Assemblywoman Rhoda Jacobs '62. Later, State

college teams had to go elsewhere in the borough for practice while the college requested funds to replace it. Brooklyn College athletics, which had seen its heyday in 1982, under President Robert Hess, suffered a major setback. The college wasn't able to participate in tournaments for several years.

The field also provides a home for the college's soccer and softball teams, which have been practicing and playing off-campus for several years. Adjacent to the West Quad Center, which opened in 2009, the field and surrounding three-lane track will be used for a variety of physical education courses as well as recreation. The men's and women's cross-country teams will also use the track for practice. —E.M.

College Community Comes Together After Hurricane Sandy

Hurricane Sandy battered the East Coast and caused unprecedented damage to New York City and much of the eastern seaboard. Sixteen Brooklyn College students lost their homes and four CUNY students lost their lives as a result of the storm, including M.F.A. Theater Design student Jacob Vogelman.

Members of the college community came together to offer support to those in need and help the campus to return to a sense of normalcy in the days following the hurricane.

Brian P. Sowers, a lecturer in the classics department, was so moved after hearing about the devastation that he organized a team of twenty-five faculty members, students, and community residents to help with clean-up efforts.

When Evangelos Bourlotos, a classics major pursuing his second bachelor's

degree, learned about these efforts, he opened up his Bay Ridge diner to provide hot meals for affected community residents and volunteers.

"We made three thousand meals a day for shelters and the different places on Long Island and near the Brooklyn shore that were hit by the hurricane," says Avigail Margolis '12, who volunteered at a Coney Island soup kitchen. Margolis is currently pursuing her doctorate at Long Island University.

Anna Groysman, a junior in the Coordinated B.A.–M.D. Program, and a Brighton Beach resident, was stuck with her family in their apartment building, which took in waist-high water in the lobby during the storm. She lost her car and, for a while, electricity and heat, but she gained an appreciation for pulling together to help others when she ended up volunteering

with Tanger Hillel at Brooklyn College. Groysman joined a team that went door to door to check on residents in apartment buildings with large numbers of older residents, reporting their needs to New York City officials. —K.A.



Brooklyn College alumna **Margo Berk-Levine '62** is an expert on reinvention. A wife, mother of two sons, and grandmother of five, she's met life's twists and turns with a spirit of adventure and entrepreneurial savvy. The actress and model, turned founder and CEO of a successful New York staffing company, Temporarily Yours, is spending her time these days as a writer. Her personal motto: Embrace change. In this Q&A, Berk-Levine talks about her unique professional journey and offers her take on the recipe for success.



Q: Tell us about your career as a model and actress.

A: I'd planned to pursue acting as a career. I double majored in television and theater, and minored in classics. Being onstage was infinitely more appealing to me than the professions that were open to women at that time—nurse, teacher, bookkeeper, librarian, or secretary. I worked part time at Stern's department store during my freshman year of college. After graduating, I was accepted at the Herbert Bergdoff acting studio, where I studied with Bill Hickey. I acted in commercials with companies like Esquire Shoe Polish and industrial shows and publicity promotions with Shell Oil, Ronson Lighters, Ford Motor Company, and Roman Food Products. Off-Broadway, I appeared in the first full-length production of *Pantagleize*, directed by alumnus Larry Loonin.

Q: How did you become an entrepreneur?

A: When I married, we moved to Miami, Fla., and then Washington, DC, and my acting career was sidetracked. I decided in the interim to work at an employment agency. Seven months later, my husband was promoted, and we moved back to New York City. I met with a woman who owned a

successful employment agency. When I realized this was a start-up, I boldly requested equal ownership. We set the new company up as a separate entity as equal partners. I took full ownership of the business when I was eight months pregnant. We then began looking for a location for Temporarily Yours. A pregnant woman looking to rent an office in 1968 wasn't an easy task—most landlords refused to rent to us. We moved into an office a day-and-a-half before I went into labor. I put a telephone and desk in a closet in our apartment and was in contact with my two employees while I was out on maternity leave. We went from there and built the business.

Q: Talk about your transition from acting to human resources.

A: My transition was fairly seamless. Many of the skills I utilized talking to casting directors, agents, and fellow actors, as well as acting, easily translated from one area to the other. A sense of humor, the gift of gab, an enthusiastic and positive personality, coupled with openness to learn were all part of building new skills, along with appearing confident even when I wasn't and assuming that I could and would quickly develop the knowledge and techniques required.

Q: What were the biggest adjustments you had to make to ensure your professional success?

A: Learning the business side of business: cash flow, invoicing, payroll requirements, governmental regulations, taxes, and working with banks and accountants and lawyers. That's as key to success in sales and marketing. A woman owner at the helm steering the growth of a company was rare and novel. It required a sense of humor, tenacity, persistence, and changing attitudes and myths regarding "women bosses." I knew I had to be ahead of the curve, innovative, and build a strong foundation of trust with both my clients and staff.

Q: Was writing always an interest of yours?

A: While I was developing the business, I wrote articles about the industry that appeared in magazines. I always enjoyed writing. Two years after selling the business in 2003, I was not ready to retire. I decided to take a writing class. Encouraged to send some of my stories out, I did, and one was accepted for publication in a book in the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series. I was accepted into Julie Gilbert's Writing Circle at the Kravis Center's Writing Academy. This past season the center showcased two of my stories

with actors performing them. It's quite thrilling hearing your words through another voice. Since then, a second story was published in a new collection of the *Chicken Soup* series of books. I'm enjoying the process and the validation as I go forward with this new chapter of my life.

Q: What's the key to a long-lasting career?

A: It's the same in any profession: Stay current. Life is about change, and you have to embrace it as opposed to fearing it. Find something you enjoy doing, that utilizes your personality and skill set, and figure out how you can earn a living doing it. Talk to people who are successful in that area and ask them for suggestions. Research, and you'll discover there are many different facets to each industry and several entry points that you may not be aware exist. Talk to people in professional organizations that are related to that industry. Never stop learning and stretching yourself. It's up to you to make it happen. I was blessed to have found something that I was excellent at and enjoyed doing for thirty-five years. —D.C.



Allison Donovan shines on the field and on the court.



ALLISON DONOVAN

All-Conference Athlete, All-Class Person

Allison Donovan is a little on the shy side, but you'd never know it. The junior has earned her classmates' respect as a key member of two of the more successful teams at Brooklyn College—women's basketball and softball—while also maintaining a high level of academic achievement.

"Being a part of two sports teams has definitely helped me meet people and make some really good friends," she says. "I don't talk to many people in my classes in general, but I feel that when I'm on the court or field with my teammates I am very comfortable and have been able to come out of my shell somewhat." She adds that her athletic involvement has also helped her form friendships with players on other teams and outside of athletics because so many different types of people come to the games.

Donovan also has a large pool of teammates that hold her in high regard for her athletic ability, commitment to scholarship, and easygoing, team-first personality. "Allison is the most driven, hard-working person I know," says her roommate and basketball teammate, Jamee Leichtle. "The fact she is able to juggle school, basketball, and softball is so admirable. She is that easygoing, silent leader that the team respects and looks up to."

Norah Marley, a senior captain of the softball team, concurs. "Allison brings her enthusiasm to the field every day," she says. "Not only have I been lucky enough to play with her for three years, but I have earned a friend for life."

The affection is not a one-way street, as Donovan calls her teammates the "best part of being a Brooklyn College athlete." She adds, "When you have practice everyday, and you are all working hard toward making each other better and have a common goal, you can't help but to become very close with that group of people.

And I'm lucky enough to have two groups of people that support me all year-round, and it's just a great feeling. I love all my teammates."

Aside from being a great teammate, Donovan is a fierce competitor and a standout. She was recruited to Brooklyn by both her current coaches, a rarity in college athletics, after being named Most Valuable Player at Townsend Harris High School for both the softball and basketball teams during her senior year.

She played basketball and softball throughout high school, in addition to being on the bowling team, and feels that she has benefited from this diversity. "I like to think that switching between sports gives me a good balance," she says. "There are also certain aspects in each sport that give me an advantage in the other. For instance, all the throwing I do in softball gives me arm strength to throw hard passes in basketball, while the agility work done in basketball gives me a quicker reaction time to fielding ground balls in softball."

That balance has produced results for Donovan and her Bulldogs. As a freshman, she played key minutes for the women's basketball team that went 11-2 in conference play. Starting at shortstop, she was one of the top players for the softball team. She won the conference's Rookie of the Year award and also completed her freshman year with a remarkable 4.0 grade point average.

Donovan continued to impress as a sophomore, as she was named a City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) All-Star, helping the softball team make it to Day 2 of the CUNYAC Championship round for the first time in history. Once again, she was a key contributor on the women's basketball team, which compiled a 22-8 record, the best in the program's history.

The health and nutrition major, who plans to become a veterinarian, also continued her academic success into her sophomore year, being named to the Dean's List.

Women's Soccer Becomes 13th Varsity Program at Brooklyn College

Excitement was high on the West Quad as the new Women's Soccer program, guided by first-year coach Patrick Horne, made its debut in September. This brings the total number of Bulldogs teams to fourteen—seven female and six male, along with the co-ed cheerleading team.

"Women's soccer is a growing sport and there is much enthusiasm for the game," says Horne. "With Brooklyn College being one of the top academic schools in CUNY, there is a bright future ahead for the women's soccer program."



A self-professed animal lover, Donovan began playing sports on her dead-end Queens block. With her brother and neighborhood boys, she played football, basketball, and wiffle ball. Her dad coached her travel softball team. "My mom and dad always supported me and come to every game they can," says Donovan. "They are really proud of me and my accomplishments and that's a great feeling."

Donovan recalls her top two moments at Brooklyn College—the basketball team going to the CUNYAC Championship game and the softball team upsetting the top seed to make it to Day 2 of the CUNYAC Championship. But she's not satisfied. "I'd love to win a championship with both teams before I graduate," she says. "We've come so close just in the last two years, and I know it would be such an amazing accomplishment for our school." —A.L.

The Bulldogs posted their first victory in program history on September 20 with a 2-0 triumph against conference rival York College. The win was made even sweeter, as the victory was accomplished in front of the home crowd on the newly constructed Brooklyn College athletic field.

Sophomore tricaptain Shani Abrahams has been a key fixture of the Bulldogs' offense, which has resulted in Abrahams earning a pair of CUNYAC Rookie of the Week selections in September.

"It feels really rewarding," says Abrahams of her accolades. "Soccer is a team effort and I couldn't have won these awards without the help of my teammates. I've always wanted to be a member of a college soccer team, and I'm so grateful to be in the right place at the right time. This entire experience has been a dream come true."

Freshman Shani Nakhid-Schuster, a native of Auckland, New Zealand, seconded Abrahams' sentiments. "It's a privilege to be a member of the first-ever Brooklyn College women's soccer team," she says. "It's great seeing the improvements by everyone and learning from each other."

Horne, an endless recruiter, looks forward to building on this inaugural season and strives to be one of the top teams in the conference when Abrahams, Nakhid-Schuster, and the Bulldogs take the field again next September. —A.R.

Women's Basketball Looks to Continue Success in 2012-13

The Brooklyn College women's basketball team has become one of the top programs within the Atlantic Region over the past four seasons.

Beginning with the 2008-09 season, the college has posted a 75-40 (.652) overall record, including a 40-10 (.800) mark in the CUNYAC. The Bulldogs' success has also resulted in four straight appearances in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III Metro Women's Basketball Tournament.

"We've rebuilt this program from the ground up," says Head Coach Alex Lang. "The key to our success has been the wonderful people who have dedicated themselves over the past ten years to improving every season, and now we are reaping the benefits."

The 2011-12 campaign marked arguably the greatest season in program history, as the Bulldogs posted their first ever 20-win season, going 22-8, and including the team's first undefeated record in the CUNYAC, going 11-0. The team would fall short of its ultimate goal, as the Bulldogs lost in the championship final of the conference championships, however, hopes are high that the team can bring home the title this year.

"This year's team may be our most talented yet," says Lang. "Once we come together as a team, we will have a chance to do some great things." Lang's enthusiasm has a lot to do with his returning CUNYAC All-Tournament Team guards, Charnelle Saint Laurent and Nicole Francomano, and dominant center, Tiffany Thompson, one of the top rebounders and shot blockers in the conference. These three starters will lead a group of ten returning players that will accompany a stellar class of recruits to bolster the squad.

The team will begin play at the Amherst Tip-Off Tournament on November 17 and 18, while they will host NYU-Poly on November 26 in their home opener. The Bulldogs' full schedule can be found on the Brooklyn College athletics website, www.BrooklynCollegeAthletics.com. —A.R.

BROOKLYN COLLEGE BULLDOGS SPRING 2012 CUNYAC ALL-STARS

Men's Volleyball

Second Team All-Star: Alexander Shlivko

Second Team All-Star: Timothy Hui (Libero)

Sportsmanship: Gene Tom

CUNYAC All-Tournament: Keiran Halton

Women's Softball

First Team All-Star: Kim Konklewski

Second Team All-Star: Allison Donovan



Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder REMEMBERS WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

“I owe my career and success in politics to Brooklyn College...”



Phillip Goldfeder '04 has never forgotten his Brooklyn roots. Elected to the 23rd Assembly District last September, he recalls fondly the experiences at Brooklyn College that sparked his passion for public service.

He first tried his hand at public office with a run for student government president during his senior year. “I lost that one, but I learned a lot from that loss,” he says. “You walk away from a win and say everything was right. When you have a loss, you ask, what could I have done differently?”

A lifelong Queens resident, Goldfeder felt that nearby Brooklyn College offered the perfect mix of rigorous academics and recreational life. “It was an eye-opening experience, full of culture, diversity, and learning. It was a sense of what’s out in the world, what’s there for me, and what opportunities were around,” says Goldfeder, whose districts include Ozone Park, Lindenwood, Howard Beach, Broad Channel, and the Rockaways.

He was drawn to political science and sociology because of his fascination with people and to marketing for its potential to widely promote politics. Goldfeder was also heavily involved in student clubs, serving as president of the Law Society and participating as a member in the political science club. The Presidential Award he received from the college is a particular point of pride for him and a constant reminder of what he gained as a student here.

“Brooklyn College has a world-class faculty that doesn’t get the credit it’s due,” says Goldfeder. “I owe my career and success in

politics to Brooklyn College because I was able to have a sense of how the government works and interact with diverse groups and people while here.”

Political science professor Laura Galante made a particularly strong impression on him. “She had a way of teaching that made it interesting, exciting, and engaging,” says Goldfeder. “It wasn’t about regurgitating information but about putting the information into use in her course. She used real world scenarios, which made it great.”

During the summer before his senior year, Goldfeder landed the CUNY Edward T. Rogowsky Internship in Government and Public Affairs. From there, he went on to serve as Senator Chuck Schumer’s intern before working as a liaison in the New York City Council and a mayor’s representative to the borough of Queens.

“Working for the New York City Council was a great part-time job,” he says. “I am proud to say that the councilmember that interviewed me was a graduate of Brooklyn College.” Goldfeder joins the ranks of a number of influential Brooklyn College alumni who have served in public office, including Shirley Chisholm '46, the first African-American U.S. congresswoman (1968-1982); Ivan Lafayette '51, deputy speaker of the New York State Assembly since 2006; **Barbara Boxer '62, U.S. representative and former California senator**; Harvey Pitt '65, Securities and Exchange Commission chair; Marty Markowitz '70, former New York State senator and Brooklyn borough president since 2001; and Jumaane Williams '01, M.A. '05, Democratic member of the New York City Council.

Goldfeder recalls one of the more memorable experiences of his early career in public office as his work with city agencies like the Department of Transportation regarding speed bumps and transportation safety in schools. “I conducted surveys, studied the streets, and met with community leaders. Almost ten years later, it stands out as the best thing I have ever done.”

This year, Goldfeder has worked to eliminate the Cross Bay Bridge toll for families in Broad Channel and Rockaway, restore sand to severely eroded beaches, and protect seniors from the rising cost of their medical prescription drugs.

During Hurricane Sandy in October, Goldfeder’s team was on the ground in the community, working hard to coordinate government services and contribute to recovery efforts. “The bridge took a beating,” he says, “but is still standing.”

His advice to students: “Love what you do. If you don’t love what you do, it’s not worth doing. I get to do something I love everyday. I love what I do, serving people and helping the city and state move forward. I maximized the experience I had at Brooklyn College.” —D.C.

A retrospective held at the Crocker Art Museum, featuring sixty-nine works from ceramic artist **Karen Karnes '46**, ran from June 23 through September 30.

Eneas Arkawy '48 has been named as the New York City recipient of the Kipness Award from the United Jewish Appeal for showing exceptional leadership, service, philanthropy, and commitment to charity-giving.

Jack Minker '49 published *Scientific Freedom & Human Rights: Scientists of Conscience During the Cold War* with IEEE Computer Society Press.

The Journal of Accountancy named **Stuart Kessler '50** as one of 125 people who have made a significant impact on the accounting profession since 1887. Kessler was lauded for his expertise in tax issues and personal financial planning.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Customer Service Action Council awarded **Jerry Tiegel '50** with the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Service Professional Award for his outstanding commitment to customer service.

Ida Cohen Selavan Schwarcz '51 has been awarded a Starkoff Fellowship by the Jacob Reider Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio. She presented the result of her research on early Zionism in western Pennsylvania last spring.

Irene Deitch '52 served as one of the speakers at the College of Staten Island psychology department's ceremony at commencement.

The art of **Irving Greenberg '53** has been presented as part of an exhibition by Jerusalem's Marrache Gallery.

Dear Alumni,

On Sunday, September 9, more than 160 honorees and their families, along with friends of college and other alumni, attended the Post-50th Celebration Luncheon and Awards. It was wonderful to see so many, who are still quite active in their professions, more than fifty years after graduating from Brooklyn College.

It was especially heartwarming to see two "young" ladies, Ethel Lagarrene Hagquist and Gandolfa Aiosa DeFronzo, both from the class of 1932, celebrating their 80th reunion. Ethel was 101 on May 1 and Gandolfa is "only" 99. They looked great.

And Brooklyn College alumni are everywhere. This past July, my wife and I went on a twelve-day cruise tour of Norway and Iceland. When boarding a tour bus in Norway, a gentleman sitting in the first row, who wore a Brooklyn College sweatshirt, stopped me after noticing the Brooklyn College jacket that I was wearing.

I urge you to get involved, attend one or more alumni events, and support your alma mater. The Brooklyn College Alumni Association has several working committees. Among them are the awards and activities committees. The awards committee selects alumni to be honored at special events, such as the Alumni Honors Gala or the Post-50th Luncheon. The activities committee plans and puts together these events.

Call the Office of Alumni Affairs at 718-951-5065 for more information.

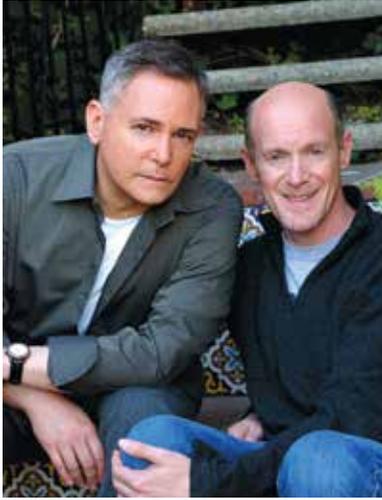


Ron Schweiger, President
Brooklyn College Alumni Association



This August marked a landmark moment in recent history when the Mars rover, Curiosity, touched down on the red planet—the thrilling climax of a project that **Joel Levine '64** played a vital role in seeing through. Professor Levine, who retired from NASA in July after forty-one years of service, was part of the committee that selected the equipment that Curiosity would transport to Mars. His contributions were the latest in a long relationship with NASA's Mars-bound projects that began with Levine assigned forty years earlier to the Viking Mars project, which succeeded in sending two space probes to the planet.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, it's particularly fitting that the first time Professor Levine witnessed Mars up close was in Brooklyn College's own observatory. Last year, he returned to the campus to deliver the commencement address and receive a Distinguished Alumnus Award. Levine continues to serve as a NASA consultant and currently works as a research professor at the College of William and Mary, where he heads a graduate-level program in atmospheric science with applied science. His next consulting project is also Mars related, a momentous collaboration between disciplinary specialists and cross-discipline pioneers to design a rocket-powered airplane that is able to travel at high speeds through the planet's atmosphere. The ability to take flight would allow NASA to explore previously unseen locales unreachable by the slower-moving rovers.



The eighty-fifth Academy Awards, set to air on February 24, 2013, will be produced by a team that includes Brooklyn College alumnus **Neil Meron '76**, pictured right. Along with producing partner

Craig Zadan, Meron produced the 2002 film adaptation of *Chicago*, a box office hit and winner of six Academy Awards. The duo would follow the success of *Chicago* with remakes of John

Waters' Hairspray in 2007 and *Footloose* in 2011, which collectively grossed \$264 million worldwide.

Partners in the California-based production company Storyline Entertainment, Meron and Zadan currently serve as the executive producers for NBC's popular musical drama *Smash*. The Oscars will be the team's second award show production after the sixteenth GLAAD Media Awards in 2005.

A graduate of Samuel J. Tilden High School, Meron majored in theater at Brooklyn College. In 2007, The Hollywood Film Festival named Meron and Zadan Producers of the Year, and in 2008, the Casting Society of America gave them the Career Achievement Award. Meron received the theater department Alumnus of the Year Award in May 2011.

Sandra Levy Ceren '54, published *Imposter for Hire: A Dr. Cory Cohen Mystery* with Loving Healing Press.

Eileen Kowal '55 received the 2011 Glyph Award from the Arizona Book Publishing Association for her fifth book, *Sara and the Puzzling Ancient Secret*, winning first place in her category.

Doris Pronin Fromberg '57 received the Champions for Children Early Childhood Leadership Award, given by the New York State Association for the Education of Young Children.

Howard A. Palley '57 published *The Political and Economic Sustainability of Health Care in Canada: Private-Sector Involvement in the Federal Provincial Health Care System* with Cambria Press.

Albert Ashforth '58 published *The Rendition* with Oceanview Publishing.

Helen Aylon '60 published *Whatever is Contained Must Be Released: My Jewish Orthodox Girlhood, My Life as a Feminist Artist* with The Feminist Press at CUNY.

Fran Orenstein '60 published *The Book of Mysteries* with World Castle Publishing.

Hillel Schenker '61 and Ziad Abuzayyad, co-editors of *Palestine-Israel Journal*, a Jerusalem-based quarterly, have been jointly honored

for their Outstanding Contribution to Peace by the eighth annual International Media Awards. The ceremony celebrates Middle Eastern journalists playing a vital role in furthering peace and understanding.

Annette Kolodny '62 published *In Search of First Contact: The Vikings of Vinland, the Peoples of the Dawnland, and the Anglo-American Anxiety of Discovery* with Duke University Press Books.

Melvyn L. Fein '63 published three books: *Human Hierarchies: A General Theory*; *On Loss and Losing: Beyond the Medical Model of Personal Distress*; and *Post-Liberalism: The Death of a Dream*, all with Transaction Publishers.

Arthur Friedlander '63 has been elected to the presidency of the Diagnostic Sciences Group of the International Association for Dental Research.

Roberta Richman '63 recently saw a thirty-three-year career as the assistant director for rehabilitative services at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections honored both with a tree planting outside the new Women's Bernadette Minimum Security Facility and with the official naming of the street in front of the two women's facilities as "Richman Way."

Blythe Hinitz '65 has been named a Hero on the Horizon of Early Childhood Education by the National

Association for the Education of Young Children and again named as a Distinguished Professor by the New Jersey Secretary of Higher Education.

Jean Lau Chin '66 completed a project on women and leadership for the Gender Studies Program at Chinese University of Hong Kong through the Fulbright Specialists Program. Chin serves as a professor at the Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies.

Felice Frankel '66, with Angela H. DePace, published *Visual Strategies: A Practical Guide to Graphics for Scientists and Engineers* with Yale University Press.

Carole Goldstein '68 saw a series of paintings presented as A Collaborative Art Exhibit at the West Side Presbyterian Gallery. Ms. Goldstein collaborated on the exhibit with Harriet Sobie Goldstein, no relation.

Jeff Bieder '71 is set to be inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame. Bieder has been recognized as one of the top scholastic coaches in the country and has won the NYC Coach of the Year award three times.

Joel Goldstein '71 published *No Stone Unturned: A Father's Memoir of His Son's Encounter with Traumatic Brain Injury* with Potomac Books.

Hawaiian governor Neil Abercrombie has appointed **Maria E. Zielinski '73**, as the new deputy director of the state's Department of Account and General Services.

Rabbi Ira Samuel Grussgott '74 has been welcomed as the new spiritual leader of Congregation Anshai Lebowitz, a traditional congregation based in Mequon, Wis. Rabbi Grussgott joins Anshai Lebowitz having served as rabbi at major congregations in Philadelphia, Montreal, and Chicago.

Barry Peek '74, a member of the law firm of Meyer, Suozzi, English, & Klein, P.C. of Garden City, N.Y., has been named to the New York Super Lawyers list as one of the top attorneys in New York for 2012. Peek practices in the areas of labor and employment law and represents major public and private sector unions and their individual members throughout New York and the metropolitan area.

Bill Perrone '74 has been appointed to the board of directors of the Connecticut Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth.

The New Yorker ran a feature on **Laurie Spiegel '75** to coincide with the compact disc reissue of her long out-of-print 1980 LP *The Expanding Universe*.

Michelle Herman '76 published *Stories We Tell Ourselves: "Dream Life and "Seeing Things"*, with the University of Iowa Press.

Seymour Kaplan '76 was recently honored at the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) annual awards celebration for his exceptional work as an advocate and teacher. He has volunteered with NAMI for more than a decade teaching their Family-to-Family course in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Staten Island. Seymour was also the recipient of an Outstanding Seniors in Service Award, awarded by the Department for the Aging along with citations from several elected officials.

Jeff Adler '77 released a new album of compositions titled *Between Worlds*, featuring a combination of classical, jazz, and world music elements performed by The Hevreh Ensemble.

Anthony J. Maltese '77 has been chosen to serve as vice president for The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. Maltese is the sole practitioner of a full-service Certified Public Accounting firm.

Richard Gutierrez '78 is one of six attorneys elected to the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association, a twenty-seven-member organization overseeing the management and administration of the state bar.

Sandra Thompson's '78 book *Close-Ups* received the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, awarded by the University of Georgia Press.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Ben-Zvi '79 was named a Fellow of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), for contributions to the field of endoscopy and the ASGE.

The University of Hartford's Joseloff Gallery at the Hartford Art School presented a retrospective of the works of the late **Stephen Brown '80**. The show included more than a hundred paintings and drawings from twenty-five public and private collections.

CLASS CORRESPONDENTS

Do you have news to share with the Brooklyn College community? Please send information to your class correspondent listed below. If your class has no correspondent, you may send items directly to alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu or *Brooklyn College Magazine*, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889.

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2008 Stefanie Low, 3-A Putnam Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542, stefanielow@yahoo.com
2009 Steven Juskowicz, 1485 East 32th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403, sjuskowicz@gmail.com

Remembering the Hi-Hites

In the last issue, we took a look back at Brooklyn College's Hi-Hites club, which began during the 1940s. Only tall women—over 5'7"—were admitted to the club. It was a way for the young ladies to socialize with one another and to take part in a number of fun activities, which also included meeting tall young men on campus. Two former Hi-Hites members wrote to us, eager to share their fond memories of the club.

"It was a very important social group for my personal development," wrote Ethel Lipschitz McClatchey '52. "What a joy to discover a bunch of women like me. We were measured to keep 'shorties' from attempting to join. I made it by an inch. And we even had a group of tall men to socialize with—the Longfellows.

"The Hi-Hites and Longfellows shared a lunch table in the cafeteria in Boylan Hall. Though we were not a sorority, we were required to pledge and wear a uniform.

"Being tall had some advantages and I learned to make use of them. I was awarded the Brooklyn College Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award last September, but I do not think my height had anything to do with that."

Anita Hirsch Bernard '48 wrote, "What a pleasant surprise to read the spring issue of the *Brooklyn College Magazine*. I was a Hi-Hite during my years at Brooklyn College. We had a good time and we were friendly with the men's organization—the Longfellows. My closest friends remain those I met in the Hi-Hites."

Bernard also shared a photo from her days as a Brooklyn College student and Hi-Hites member. "I have many fond memories of that day and other events, and still can identify the girls shown."



Nov. 1948, left to right: Gerry Wasserberg, Doris Singer, Ethel Lipschitz, Rhoda Sobel, Lee Slovin

Karen Weinstein Tenenbaum, Esq. '80 has been named as a Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women 2012 Achievers' Award honoree. She recently appeared on the cable television show *Something to Talk About*, where she discussed New York State tax audit pitfalls and financial literacy for children.

Roland V. Anglin '81 has been appointed director of the Joseph C. Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies at the School of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University in Newark, N.J.

Bay Ridge welcomed a new vocal studio as part of an effort spearheaded by **Mary Elizabeth MiCari '82**, a director, actor, singer, designer, stylist, teacher and cosmetologist.

Robert Phillips '82 has recently signed a recording contract with Centaur Records and will be recording the complete solo classical guitar works of Miguel Llobet. Phillips currently teaches classical guitar at Harrison School for the Arts and at Southeastern University.

Lance Olson '85 will serve as the new executive director of the Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center, a \$9 million, 420-seat theater, that opened in December 2010 at the Stowe Mountain Resort in northern Vermont.

Kevin James '89 received a positive review from *New York Times* music critic Allan Kozinn for his piece "100 Waltzes for John Cage" with the [kaj] Ensemble at the DiMenna Center in Manhattan.

Peter Money '90 co-translated and published *Nostalgia, My Enemy: Poems*, by Iraqi author Saadi Youssef, with Graywolf Press.

Nilgun Okay '90 was promoted to professor at Istanbul Technical University and appointed as the head of the Disaster and Emergency Management Division.

Stephen C. Burrows, DPM, M.B.A. '91 has been named the chair and program director of a new graduate program in healthcare information systems at the Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Conn.

GenMark Diagnostics, which specializes in testing systems that detect and measure DNA and RNA targets in order to diagnose and aid treatment, has appointed **Jorge Garces '93** as the senior vice president of research and development.

Marianne Monroy '94, a partner with Garfunkel Wild, P.C., has been named as one of Long Island Business News' '40 Under 40,' Class of 2012. The list celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to their community.

Sydney J. Steinhardt '95 has been appointed as the new public relations director at the New York University School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Steinhardt was formerly associate director of communications at Fordham University.

Frontiers magazine has named **Don Lemon '96** an icon for the 7th annual LGBT History Month.

Robert Mujica '99 has been highlighted in *City & State's* third annual Influentials list, celebrating "key players spanning the state from the worlds of business, journalism, organized labor, politics, and government." Mujica is a top adviser to Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos and secretary to the Senate finance committee.

Daniel Tauber '06 has announced his candidacy for a spot on the Israeli Likud Party's list of candidates for the 19th Knesset.

Boris Noble '07 a housing analyst and a representative of Borough President Marty Markowitz, has started in a new position as a Russian/Jewish liaison.

Stephen Motika '10 published *Western Practice* with Alice James Books.



The son of a champion weightlifter who emigrated from Guatemala when he was nine years old, **Fredy Peccerelli '96** saw his future firmly rooted in the United States. But shortly after graduating from Brooklyn College, he discovered a way to marry his love of archaeology with his passion for fighting human rights abuses in his native country.

Peccerelli, who received a B.A. in anthropology, founded the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation in 1997. The organization is responsible for almost 1,500 excavations that have turned up the remains of victims of human rights abuses and helped to shed light on the circumstances behind their deaths. One such excavation was crucial in providing DNA evidence used to convict officers responsible for the 1982 massacre of citizens in the town of Dos Erres. Peccerelli's efforts would mark the start of a life fraught with death threats as he remains committed to his work.

As a result of his efforts, dedication, and perseverance in the face of danger, Peccerelli and fellow activist Kate Doyle were jointly awarded a \$100,000 Human Rights Award from the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives and the Puffin Foundation. Peccerelli has expanded his efforts worldwide, spearheading the 2007 excavations performed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, consequences of the 1992-1995 Bosnian War.

2002: Ten years ago marked the first time that the *Princeton Review* ranked Brooklyn College among The Best 345 Colleges. Brooklyn College was ranked number one in the country for the beauty of its campus, surpassing schools like Vassar, Bryn Mawr, and Stanford. It also ranked in the top five colleges nationwide for academic value and diversity. Also that fall, three departments—art, theater, and the Conservatory of Music—received a \$6.5 million gift from former philosophy professor Walter Cerf.

1987: Twenty-five years ago, Brooklyn College ranked fourth on a list of the 124 most comprehensive colleges in the eastern United States, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* third biennial survey of American higher education. Brooklyn was the highest-ranked public institution and the only college in the New York metropolitan area ranked in the top five by the survey. Other area colleges in the top ten were Hunter, Fairfield University and Rutgers University's Camden campus. The top three institutions were Villanova University, Ithaca College, and the Rochester Institute of Technology.

1962: Fifty years ago, Brooklyn College's Midwood campus enrolled 27,000 of the 66,000 college students attending the eleven different college campuses serving the borough at that time. On Nov. 28 the new Brooklyn College Student Center, then referred to as SUBO, opened its doors with a lot of fanfare at Amersfort Place and Campus Road. The four-story red-brick structure featured a sun lounge, dining room, snack bar, reading room, five game rooms, five conference rooms, five music and television rooms, a ball room, and cloak rooms. The \$1.5 million building was paid for by the students themselves.

1937: Seventy-five years ago, after nearly a decade of planning and negotiations and two years of construction, Brooklyn College's first semester on the newly constructed campus in residential Flatbush began a month late. The college had moved from its original downtown home to a site that had previously been a golf course and before that, the occasional home of the Ringling Brothers Circus. Now, on Oct. 18, the new campus featured a five-story academic building, matching science building, library, gymnasium, heating plant, and maintenance building. Roughly 7,000 onlookers were on hand to hear greetings delivered by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, Borough President Raymond V. Ingersoll, and College President William A. Boylan. Architect Randolph Evans later described the event as "a good site, interested clients, fine landscaping, well-built buildings and the pride that comes to the creators from a job well done."



(left to right, unless indicated otherwise)
Rosen Fellowship Presentation Luncheon: 1. Brooklyn College Foundation Trustee Florence Cohen Rosen '59 (center) with the 2011-2012 recipients of the Rosen Fellowship, Joseph Wade, Patrick Kyle, Jasmine Varughese, Apollo Namalu, Arielle John, J.P. Villa, Sara Beth Curtis, Jenée Whitehead, and Ember Skye W. Kane-

Lee. **Presentation of Presidential Medal to retired Brooklyn College Professor Nathan Schmukler '42:** 2. Thomas J. Volpe '57 with retired Brooklyn College Accounting Professor Nathan Schmukler '42, 2013 Best of Brooklyn Honoree Stuart Kessler '50, President Karen L. Gould, and Murray Koppelman '57, trustee of the Brooklyn College Foundation. 3. Leslie Jacobson

'54, Ellen Koppelman, Anita Volpe '69, Isabel Kessler. 4. Thomas J. Volpe '57; Karen J. Tenenbaum '80; Stuart Kessler '50. **Brooklyn College Night 2012:** 5. Actor Jimmy Smits '80 with President Gould. **Alumni event hosted by Dr. Howard Knohl '60 at his estate in Anaheim, Calif.** 6. Dr. Howard Knohl '60 speaks to his guests. **Brooklyn College Night 2012:** 7. Brooklyn

College Foundation Trustee and Brooklyn College Night Co-Chair Donald Kramer '58. 8. Emcees Jeffrey Sigler '92 and Katy Schlesinger. 9. Bottom Row: Robin Green-Williams, Nadya Drukker, Marc Segelnick, Paula Roman, Katy Schlesinger, Julianna Forlano, Marla Schreiber. Top Row: Table Host Actor Steven Schirripa '80, Craig Beresin, Joe Scarpinito. 10. Back Row: Director



Joel Zwick '62, Actress Didi Conn '73, Brooklyn College Foundation Trustee Don Buchwald '59, Former Yankee pitcher Jim Bouton. Center Row (seen partially): Juliana Forlano , Brooklyn College Department of Television & Radio. Front Row: Tim Sabean, President Gould, Claudia Latorre, guest of Tim Sabean, Laura Buchwald. **Magner Center Event: 11.** Dr. Richard Sandor

'62, author of *Good Derivatives: A Story of Financial and Environmental Innovation*, speaks with students at the Brooklyn College Magnier Center for Career Development and Internships. **Class of 1962 50th Reunion: 12.** The class of 1962 celebrates their 50th anniversary. **Post-50th Reunion: 13.** Celebrating their 80th reunion are Ethel Lagarenne Hagquist '32 and Gandolfa

Aiosa DeFronzo '32 with BCAA 2nd Vice President Arlene Lichterman '53 and President Gould. **Athletic Field Dedication: 14.** (Left to right) Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Senator Martin Golden, President Gould, Borough President Marty Markowitz and Assembly Member Rhoda Jacobs. **15.** Marv Schrier '51 next to a Bulldogs banner. **President Gould Receives**

CUNYAC Award: 16. Sergeant First Class (SFC) Jaurigue, President Gould , Staff Sergeant (SSG) Grant and Zak Ivkovic, executive director of the CUNY Athletic Conference. **3rd Annual Alumni Honors: 17.** BCAA Board Member Brandon Bain '04 and Alumnus of the Year Michael Lomonaco '02. **18.** BCAA Board Member Michael Hipsher '65 and Frank Reggio '78. **19.** Distinguished

Achievement Award recipient Carol L. Zicklin '61, Young Alumna Award recipient Kira Manusis '97, Jerome Milgram Distinguished Service Award recipient Marilyn Levy Sarhis '53, Alumnus of the Year Michael Lomonaco '02, Alumna of the Year Patricia Mafalda Di Mango '73 and Distinguished Achievement Award recipient Barry "Butch" Brandes '79 M.S. '83.

Alumni

Barney Groten '33
 Lillian Wertheim Kross '33
 Frances Klier Shapiro '33
 Ruth Pritz Camins '34
 Paul M. Densen '34
 Gertrude Marshall
 Friedman '34
 Oscar Handlin '34
 Sylvia Guberman Younin
 Hoffman '34
 Evelyn Else Wilson '34
 Ethel G. Bender '35
 Tillie Fogelbaum Berlant '35
 Eleanor Mogul Morel '36
 Violeta Rodriguez
 Smadbeck '36
 Louise M. Diehl '37
 Eleanor Bernstein
 Kranther '37
 Arthur P. Martin '37
 Rita Relkin Rayman '37
 Morris Sklarsky '37
 Eleanor Churchill
 Stambaugh '37
 David Wasserman '37
 Nettie Robins Williams '37
 Lillian Kaplan Abramson '38
 Florence Waldman Cohen '38
 Bernice Sommer Crane '38
 Helen Masler Ferentz '38
 Herman Goldshein '38
 Rita Horowitz Hasten '38
 Stanley E. Jacob '38
 Henry Marcus '38
 Morris Ripps '38
 Sylvia Lazar Schaff '38
 Ruth Greenberg Schwartz '38
 Leo Botwinick '39
 Murray Frankel '39
 Esther Ifshin Levy '39
 Jeanette Weinstein
 Margulis '39
 Sylvia Schlossberg Simmons
 Neumann '39
 Ruth Kohn Schaul '39
 Blanche Kirsch Scheman '39
 Muriel Harris Schiffman '39
 Elaine Gold Adler '40
 William F. Connelly Jr. '40
 Chester Gerber '40
 Edward W. Haughney '40
 Irwin H. Herskowitz '40
 Virginia Vacirca Brown
 Musial '40
 Milton Ross '40
 Rose Klein Schaum '40
 Stanley R. Spiro '40
 Florence Rosenthal
 Weinbaum '40
 David Witenstein '40
 Frances Lipman Alenikoff '41
 Anne Samberg Cugliani '41
 Joseph Genna '41
 Ethel Finkelstein
 Goodman '41
 Shirley L. Green '41

Mildred Hoffman Isaacs '41
 Herman A. Lazaar '41
 Beatrice Brown
 Lieberman '41
 Elaine Greenberg Mishkin '41
 Louis Weinberg '41
 Paul N. Baer '42
 Annette Bender Cohen '42
 Beatrice Nashlowitz
 Emmer '42
 Evelyn (Lynn) Chase
 Landman '42
 Marcia Millstein Miller '42
 Shirley Golomb Neustadt '42
 Sylvia Rabinor Saper '42
 Florence Gerson Shay '42
 Martin H. Acker '43
 Melvin Allen '43
 Alvin Benjamin '43
 Salvatore Cannavo '43
 Claire Singer Meinwald '43
 Arlyne Mullins '43
 Stella Giordano Salerno '43
 Evelyn Horowitz
 Weinstein '43
 Rhoda Shapiro Weisel '43
 Bertha Kornberg Wember '43
 Seymour Albus '44
 Alfred Fox '44
 Joan Barnert Goldstein '44
 Florence Levine Newman '44
 Solomon Snyder '44
 Murray Tillman '44
 Catherine Maridakis
 Durakis '45
 Alta Selenger Eisenpress '45
 Nora Levitas Howell '45
 Rosalind Penner Neustein '45
 Marcia Schumsky
 Ackerman '46
 Murray Fisher '46
 Rita Casazza Lingquist '46
 Helen Breslau Myer '46
 Minna Schaffer Ogintz '46
 Jack Otis '46
 Muriel (Mury)
 Schoengold Rabin '46
 Lorna L. Beasley '47
 Bette Morro Chudd '47
 Lila Ginsberg Feinberg '47
 Murray Kleiman '47
 Benjamin Millman '47
 Berenice Propp Mills '47
 Sylvia Kaplan Oppenheim '47
 Jack M. Pollock '47
 Shirley Wolfe Rabinowitz '47
 Doris Freeman Romanoff '47
 Paula Shapiro '47
 Annette Rosenberg
 Shteir '47
 Bernard H. Spiro '47
 Benjamin (Beno)
 Wainfeld '47
 Thomas F. Ahrensfield '48
 Richard Alexander '48
 Louis H. Baldwin '48
 Franklin L. Bass '48

Anthony M. Corsello '48
 Ephraim Kovel '48
 Irving Lipskind '48
 Michael P. Petrizzo '48
 Betty Sokol Rifkin '48
 William Rigler '48
 George R. Ruditz '48
 Eugene J. Saletan '48
 Lenore Weiss Sindler '48
 Edith Gingold Sirvint '48
 Salvatore Ambrosino '49
 Gloria Shepheard
 Crowley '49
 Ruth Rosenberg
 Levenson '49
 Lionel E. McMurren '49
 Richard A. Rampell '49
 Arnold Schnoll '49
 Beatrice Miller Smith '49
 Paul D. Smith '49
 Edith Zenack Stern '49
 Israel J. Dorn '50
 Howard Ettinger '50
 Alvin Maxman '50
 Harry Okin '50
 Ruth Dreizin Fleishman '51
 William Kastan '51
 Alvin Krass '51
 Jay K. Lucker '51
 Carl L. Rosen '51
 Edward Weinberg '51
 Louis Weiss '51
 Myron Alberts '52
 Bernice Bauer Feinberg '52
 Gladys Heisler Kleiman '52
 Cynthia Abowitz
 Lowenheim '52
 Paul N. Prshivalko '52
 Frances C. Reville '52
 Melvin Rudoltz '52
 Fredrick Salador '52
 Eugene Genovese '53
 Seymour Glassner '53
 Nathan Gross '53
 Frank J. Kobb '53
 Arnold Pearl '53
 Sidney Rudnick '53
 Judith Barcon Silver '53
 Louis J. Ditrani '54
 Allan M. Edelman '54
 Bernard Gendelman '54
 Joan Rosen Glaser '54
 Lena Sangiovanni '54
 Harriet Ungar Shatz '54
 Robert M. Tublin '54
 Barbara Goldberg
 Furman '55
 Gloria Paret Lemme '55
 Nathan Neuer '55
 Richard H. Sand '55
 Shimon Wahrman '55
 Marcia Rosenfeld Arkin '56
 Ruth Aronson Berner '56
 Roger W. Corley '56
 George Friedman '56
 Fay Rosengart Hanf '56
 Bertha Horowitz Kressel '56

Stephen R. Lang '56
 Naomi S. Leiter '56
 Alfred Oppenheimer '56
 Martin R. Shaw '56
 Leonard Weinstock '56
 Doris Simenowitz Davis '57
 Adolph Fuerst '57
 Barbara Kydd Graves '57
 Arnold J. Helfeld '57
 Charles G. Isola '57
 Salvatore Ambrosino '57
 Leda Chase Milan '57
 Hazel Artus Smith '57
 Norman C. Weissberg '57
 Martin E. Farkash '58
 Norma Fire '58
 Nicholas L. Gaetani '58
 Norman Katz '58
 Warren S. Meister '58
 Edward G. Quinn '58
 Verners Louis Rencs '58
 Marilyn Seidman
 Williamson '58
 Alfred G. Brandstein '59
 Mary Piccolomini Diez '59
 Ada Weintraub Finifter '59
 Stanley T. Gackowski '59
 Arnold A. Lord '59
 Sylvia Bashoff Shooman '59
 William Bennett '60
 Judith Kessler Berger '60
 William M. Donohue '60
 Howard Heller '60
 Shirlee Kempner '60
 David Levinsky '60
 Elliott Rockoff '60
 Carl E. Shackman '60
 Mitchell I. Streger '60
 Allen T. Cohen '61
 Matilda Pressler Donow '61
 Emma Bosch Ihle '61
 Jordan Kupferberg '61
 Jacqueline Pearlman '61
 Edward E. Smith '61
 Lois Bluthal Turchin '61
 Cheryl Gutterman
 Berman '62
 Allyn Bregman '62
 Theresa Iannelli Bright '62
 Clara Pogarsky Frieder '62
 Gerard Robert Graney '62
 Brenda Schiffman Zanger
 Greene '62
 Jay E. Kantor '62
 Walter J. Kaufman '62
 Gerald Krieger '62
 Jules Levine '62
 Joyce LoBianco Savilla
 Randol '62
 Frances Harris Salen '62
 Marion Spector '62
 Joseph J. Spera '62
 Phyllis Schwartz Sussman '62
 Ermalinda Bruscinio
 Troise '62
 Carol Rubin Furgang '63
 Norma Rosner Gevirtz '63
 Robert A. Rose '63

As of November 7, 2012

Faculty

George Dessart
Department of Television and Radio

Henry E. Friedlander
Department of Judaic Studies

Norman Weissberg
Department of Psychology

Beatrice Hofstadter White
Department of History

Carl L. Withner
Department of Biology

Lenore Doniger Rosenthal '63	Fredric R. Goldstein '66	Susan Jaffe Cutler '72	Kenneth Rado '80
Florence F. Rosler '63	Donald I. Metcalf '66	Sidney Goldberg '72	Blanche Olaik Mednick '81
Isabel Schwartz Schmerler '63	Steven R. Belasco '67	Michael J. Bonavita '73	Mary A. Tracy '83
Steven Cohen '64	David A. Castronovo '67	Elaine D. Kahan '73	Sheila Goldblatt '85
Ellen Friedman Prince '64	Barry J. Eckstein '67	Penelope Mentonis '73	Judie M. Hill '85
Madelon Leventhal Rand '64	Anna Zybergleit Elman '67	Domenick Pallotta '73	Gloria Marsh '85
Lynn Goodstat Sheinkin '64	Charles G. Isola '67	Dora Prager Smilowitz '73	Ann M. Priola '85
Marcia S. Slutsky '64	Lloyd P. LaVaux '67	Elan Steinberg '73	Linda Silk '85
Kenneth M. Wortman '64	Richard F. Pavese '67	Martin Younger '73	Lillie V. Mason '86
Barbara Seidenberg Fields '65	Toby Turkel Tesser '67	Blanche Caroff '74	Bettie Faircloth Robinson '86
Gertrude Harber Husch Jacobson '65	Estelle Spivak Broderson Wild '67	Sadie Robinson Denson '74	Ellen Smalls '86
Judith Grossman Kaplowitz '65	Daniel A. Fischetti '68	Hubert G. Minott '75	Anna Campos '87
Sandra R. Leiblum '65	Charles Reich '68	Charles Rabin '75	Max Jagerman '88
Robert J. Lipkin '65	Stephen R. Gilbarg '69	Rita S. Silverman '75	Carl Worrell '89
David M. Polen '65	Joyce Singer Hochman '69	William Weiner '75	James T. Pryal '90
Robert Schrank '65	Jeffrey H. Pasternack '69	Karen Kayser Berger '76	Annette Simons '90
Franklin S. Beda '66	Anna R. Sullivan '69	Stephen D. Connors '76	Thomas C. Proehl '92
Rosalind Teller Eisnitz '66	Jonathan E. Adler '70	Yaacov L. Jacobson '76	Johnny V. Dodd Jr. '93
Marilyn Bonner Feingold '66	Susan Fong Ho '70	Eileen Haworth Weil '76	Yuk Lan Cheng '94
	Elizabeth Mniewski Pasternack '70	James L. Kane '77	Karen Shapiro Fletcher '97
	Joseph Fallacaro '71	Brian L. Bork '78	Sharon M. Ritter '06
	Paula Bartel '72	Jeanne Krakower Parker '78	Ronald Tillman '08
		Helen Harris '79	Titanya C. Charles '12
		Frank J Conforti '80	



Jacob Vogelman, a second year M.F.A. theater design student, died on Oct. 29 during the height of Hurricane Sandy. He and longtime friend, teacher and Hunter College student Jessie Streich-Kest, were crushed beneath a falling tree as they walked a dog in Ditmas Park.

Vogelman, a Brooklyn resident, received his bachelor's degree from SUNY Buffalo.

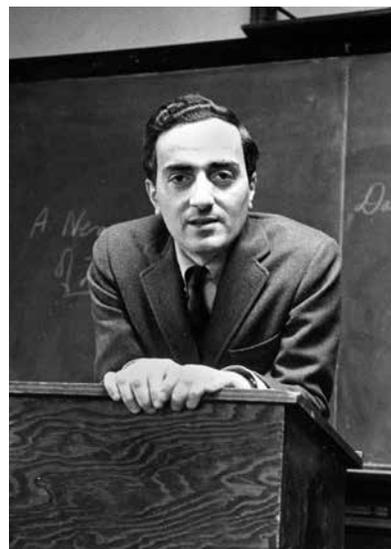
"Jake was a positive and upbeat student," says Kip Marsh, chair of the Department of Theater. "He always had a smile on his face and enjoyed his studies and Brooklyn College."

"He brought people together," says Mary Beth Easley, one of Vogelman's theater professors. "He was willing to show and teach others. Everybody knew him."

Easley also notes that Vogelman had served as lighting designer for the play, *The Altruists*, by Nicky Silver, and was scheduled to fill the same role for Rajiv Joseph's *Gruesome Playground Injuries*.

"We had only had a few rehearsals of *Gruesome Playground Injuries* before the storm, the first of which Jacob attended," says fellow graduate theater student Gretchen Van Lente. "He presented his ideas for the lighting concept for the show and was keen to answer questions from the other designers and actors. He spoke at the rehearsal about how he was very excited for the challenge. I will miss his smile. He was always smiling."

The production of *Gruesome Playground Injuries* will be dedicated to Vogelman's memory. The Graduate Theater Organization is also working on ways to memorialize Vogelman.



Eugene Genovese '53, a well-respected, prizewinning historian and one of the foremost experts on slavery and the master class in the American South, passed away on Sept. 26, at the age of eighty-two. Born in Brooklyn, Genovese earned his B.A. at Brooklyn College and headed to Columbia University for an M.A. in 1955 and a Ph.D. in history in 1959.

Throughout a varied and vast career, he would teach at many universities, including Rutgers, the University of Rochester, and Georgia Tech. A member of the Communist Party at fifteen, Genovese's

views would shift to the right by the 1980s, although he did not affiliate with a specific party. In his later years, he embraced Roman Catholicism, the religion of his Sicilian-American parents.

Genovese was best known for his 1975 book *Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made*, which challenged the conventional view of slave life in the pre-Civil War South. The book made a strong case for a system of "paternalism." Genovese's work met with acclaim, culminating with *Roll, Jordan, Roll* winning the 1975 Bancroft Prize for American history writing. The historian continued to put out work until his passing, collaborating on multiple volumes with wife, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese.

Brooklyn's Streaking Craze



Streaking was fad across many college campuses during the 1970s, and Brooklyn College was no exception. It was a way for students to display humor, engage in protest, and generally rebel against authority.

On the morning of March 11, 1974, the forty-degree weather didn't stop close to five thousand students from blocking traffic on Bedford Avenue to watch the spectacle of streaking that began with twenty students. The mostly male students who paraded across the campus in their birthday suits created pandemonium for campus security.

"I was a part of the huge crowd on the quad that day, observing the shenanigans," says Brooklyn College journalism professor Paul Moses '75. "Except for an event like graduation, I've never seen the quad so crowded. One guy ran through, clad only in sneakers. I heard someone remark that as long as the streakers kept moving, campus security wouldn't interfere."

Others like self-proclaimed "legendary streaker" Al Doyle went bare because it seemed like an adventurous and comical thing to do. "I was on the swimming team at the time, and my friend, Richard Ferrin, was talking at the end of practice about streaking across Bedford Avenue, across the quad to Ingersoll Hall, touching the door, and running back," he says. "Now, this was late March, a sunny day, but it was cold and there were a lot of people on the quad."

"And he said, I'll do it, if you do it. So we streaked, wearing our wool caps. We were fast. You were not going to catch us. But, back then people had a sense of humor. They laughed and that was it." Mitchell Litwak '72 also streaked on campus forty years ago, though his friend Syd Mandelbaum '72, MA '75 said he didn't join Litwak because it was too cold.

"The college held an event that day, and it was publicized," says Mandelbaum. "It was cool because streaking wasn't an uncomfortable phenomenon. But, Litwak is a funny and sensitive guy so this act fit his personality."

Surprisingly, students were not arrested on- or off- campus on March 11, but security and police were concerned about the safety of students. And police were trying to identify those involved in the streaking craze.

Hilary A. Gold, vice president of Student Affairs and Services at the time, was not amused by the streakers. In a March 13 letter to the campus, he wrote, "It is important for every member of



the college community to know that these acts are not condoned nor sanctioned by the college. Complaints have been received by the college and the police department from concerned parents and members of the community, condemning this behavior. Streaking not only involves danger to students from automobiles and crowd pressures, but can lead to arrest on criminal charges, both on and off campus, for the crime of indecent exposure."

By most accounts, streaking was fun while it lasted for students, but after the 1970s, the fad started to fade. These days, streaking isn't viewed as a recreational activity; it's considered indecent exposure, carrying hefty legal repercussions. —D.C.

Have you ever streaked? Are you or any of your former classmates pictured above? We'd love to hear your stories about the streaking craze that swept across campus. Please contact us at magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu or write Brooklyn College Magazine, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210.



In celebration of the founding of Brooklyn College, the campus held an annual, spring country fair. Pictured here are the 1963 king and queen of the fair—senior Steven Emmett and sophomore Sharon Morgenbesser—dressed as country bumpkins. What are your memories of the country fair? Send your story to magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

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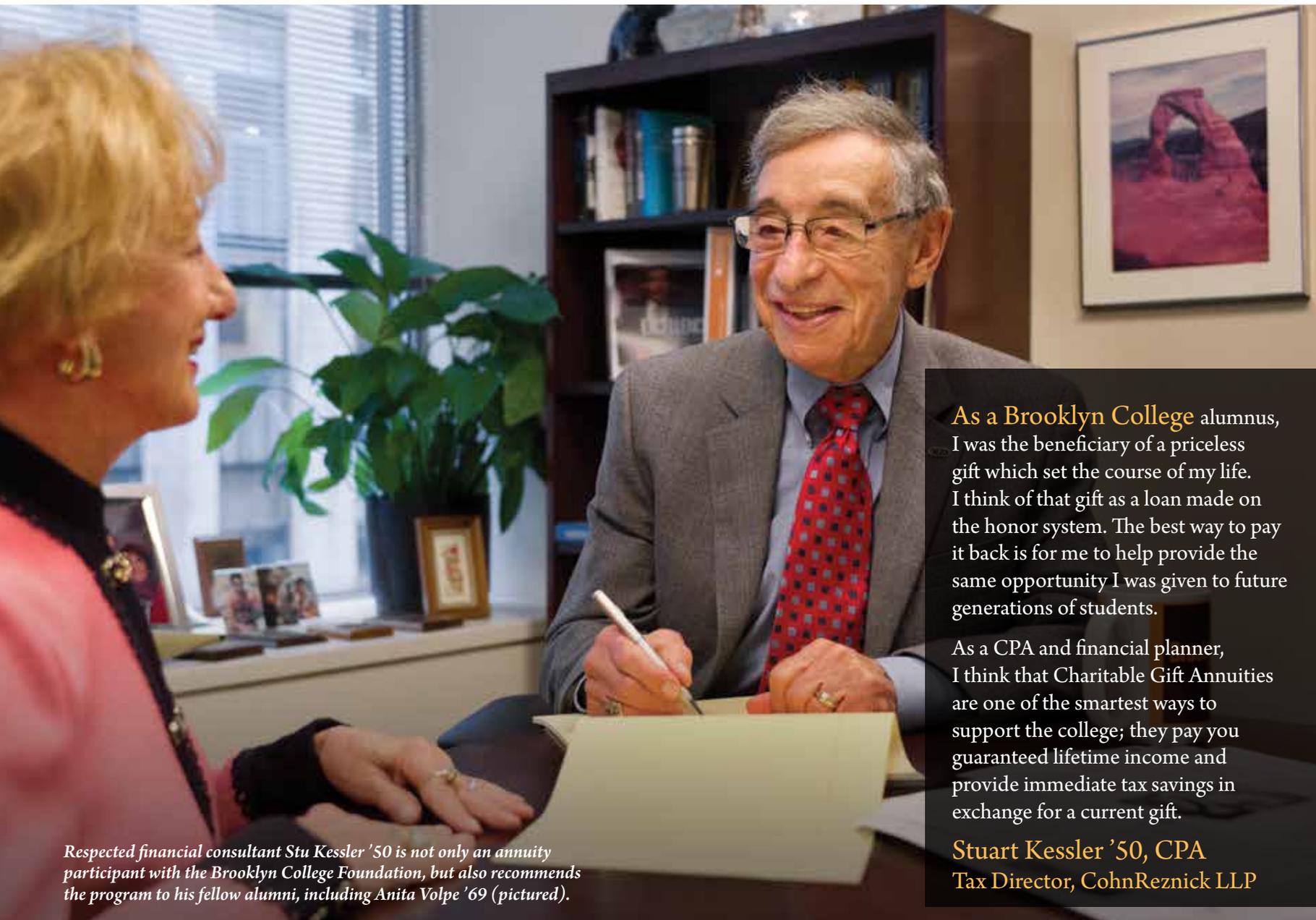
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As a Brooklyn College alumnus, I was the beneficiary of a priceless gift which set the course of my life. I think of that gift as a loan made on the honor system. The best way to pay it back is for me to help provide the same opportunity I was given to future generations of students.

As a CPA and financial planner, I think that Charitable Gift Annuities are one of the smartest ways to support the college; they pay you guaranteed lifetime income and provide immediate tax savings in exchange for a current gift.

Stuart Kessler '50, CPA
Tax Director, CohnReznick LLP

Respected financial consultant Stu Kessler '50 is not only an annuity participant with the Brooklyn College Foundation, but also recommends the program to his fellow alumni, including Anita Volpe '69 (pictured).

Gifts of all sizes are appreciated. Your participation is essential and the impact is immeasurable.

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