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Brooklyn College Magazine

Up Close

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Leads New
Barry R. Feirstein
Graduate School
of Cinema



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Holding Destruction at Bay

Brooklyn College scientists lead a new institute dedicated to revitalizing Jamaica Bay—one of New York's greatest natural barriers against superstorms.



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Up Close

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The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment will provide a total of \$6.7 million to the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, \$4.7 million of which will support construction of school's Made in New York Center for Digital Arts.

Karen L. Gould, President



from
the

PRESIDENT'S DESK

Last May, we congratulated a record 4,500 students on their degree completion. This was one of the largest graduating classes in the college's history, and the largest graduating contingent among all colleges in Brooklyn.

The alumni honorees recognized at our commencement ceremonies exemplified the wide-ranging achievements and remarkable contributions of our alumni to their professions, their communities, and to the broader society.

We awarded an honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts to Kate Rothko Prizel, M.D. '73, an accomplished physician who also successfully won the return of more than 650 paintings of her father, Mark Rothko, from a private art dealer, which has allowed public access to some of the most important artwork of the 20th century; we recognized as a distinguished alumnus award-winning CBS producer and editor Warren Lustig '99, whose 30-year television career includes documenting such events as the discovery of the *Titanic* and the protests in Tiananmen Square; we applauded as a distinguished alumnus William B. Guggino, M.D. '69, for his outstanding teaching, mentoring acumen, and groundbreaking research on cystic fibrosis; and we bestowed the Presidential Medal to Howard Slusher '59, a Nike consultant and legendary sports attorney who has represented more than 200 high-profile athletes, and who has been a cheering sponsor of our Brooklyn College Bulldogs.

We have had a very productive and rewarding fall semester at Brooklyn College. Our enrollment is strong, with

a record number of entering freshmen and transfer students. We are enjoying one of the largest undergraduate classes in the past 20 years (13,700), with our total fall enrollment reaching over 17,000 students.

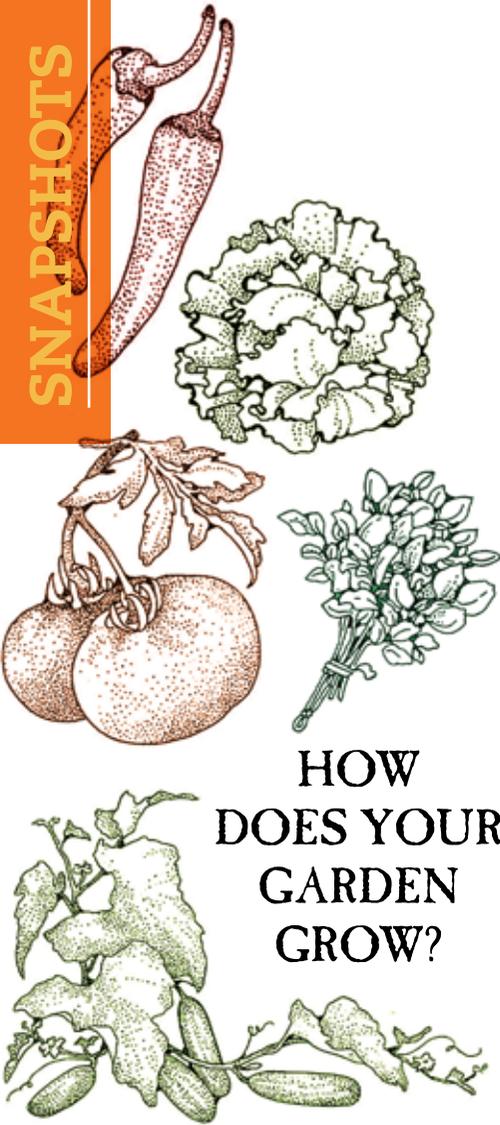
Retention rates continue to rise as well. Over the past two years, Brooklyn College has outpaced public and private institutions nationwide in first-time, full-time freshman retention due to our expanded first-year experience program and increased emphasis on student advising. We are also increasing attention on sophomore advising and creating curricular mapping to enhance student progress toward degree completion. An integral part of student success is faculty excellence. For decades, the faculty of Brooklyn College has provided an outstanding education in the classroom, in their research laboratories and projects, and in their mentoring activities. One of the important ways in which the scientific research of our faculty receives support at the college is through external funding. Recently, Professor Elizabeth Chua in the Department of Psychology received nearly half a million dollars in funding from the National Institutes of Health to further her research on the cognitive and neural bases of memory accuracy. The National Science Foundation awarded Professor Ted Muth in Biology over \$600,000 for research on Urban Microbial Community Dynamics. And Chemistry Professor Maria Contel has been awarded \$1.4 million from the National Institutes of Health for her research on gold-titanium complexes used to fight renal and prostate cancer.

Brooklyn College students have received an impressive number of prestigious external awards, many of which have helped them study all over the world. Last spring, three students received highly competitive Gilman awards, which enabled Saira Akhtar '15 to study in South Korea last summer and Don Guan '14 and Raymond Talovera '15 to pursue summer study in Japan. Brooklyn College graduates had the distinction of receiving the greatest number of Fulbright awards among all CUNY institutions. M.F.A. graduate Ellen Adams '13 is now studying political messaging in contemporary art in Thailand; Russell Barlow '13 is studying ancient Greek creation myths and their relationship to other Indo-European traditions in Münster, Germany; Joanne Delgadillo '13 is participating in an English Teaching Assistantship in Brazil; and Quanda Johnson '13 received a Fulbright award to pursue research in Nova Scotia, Canada on the population of former African-American slaves who migrated north on the Underground Railroad.

Our faculty and students continue to engage in research projects and activities that have an impact on our region, well beyond our Midwood campus. An exciting project involves faculty members who are helping to shepherd the new CUNY-led

Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay. The 18,000-acre bay is vital to our region as it supports diverse ecosystems and serves as a natural barrier against the wind and tide wrought by hurricanes like Sandy, which devastated the region last year. In collaboration with faculty from other CUNY colleges, Columbia, Rutgers, Stony Brook, and others, and with the support of the Mayor's office, the National Parks Service, and private foundations, this new institute will focus on the restoration of Jamaica Bay, with the ultimate goal of expanding outward to other regions.

Finally, in an era when so much media attention has been focused on the excesses of college sports, we are proud of all our student athletes and their commitment to excel in the classroom and on the athletic. This fall, we celebrate the recent success of our women's soccer team. In only its second year as a recognized sport at Brooklyn College, our team has enjoyed phenomenal success, winning its first City University of the New York Athletic Conference Championship and competing in the NCAA Division III tournament. We applaud this young team and their coach, Patrick Horne, for a remarkable second season and for inspiring us all to believe in our dreams.



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

A few plants found in the Brooklyn College Community Garden:

- Brussels sprouts •
- Tomatoes • Arugula • Peppers •
- Zucchini • Long beans • Cabbage •
- Dandelion greens • Mint •
- Yarrow • Sage • Rue • Oregano •
- Lavender • Basil • Thyme • Italian parsley •
- Lamb's ears • Butterfly bush • Daylilies



Gardener Murray Lantner, here with his one-year-old daughter, Meitar, finds the garden a valuable teaching tool.

CULTIVATING A COMMUNITY

The Brooklyn College Garden Unites Campus and Local Residents While Fostering Sustainability

Louise Hainline is not afraid to get her hands dirty.

A professor in the Brooklyn College Department of Psychology, as well as the director of the college's Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) and Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) programs, Hainline is also the director of the Brooklyn College Garden, a role that has kept her busy defining how the plot can best be used.

"We are committed to sustainability in all its aspects," she says. "I also believe that as an educational institution, we have an ethical obligation to teach best practices for healthy urban living through the creation of green spaces."

The Brooklyn College Garden—previously known as the Campus Road Garden—was founded in 1997 as a 1,700-square-foot parcel, a temporary space that the college offered to a group of neighborhood gardeners who had lost access to their previous site.

The garden has gone through several changes since then, including some that required the accommodation of the college's new athletic field. After negotiations between the college and the gardeners, the space was revitalized and renamed, and now occupies more than 4,000 square feet of land on the western edge of the campus, behind the West Quad Center and the athletic field.

For a \$30 annual fee, people can grow food and flowers in single or shared raised beds, some of which were designed to give access to gardeners who are disabled or have limited mobility. Under the guidance of college-sponsored, professional gardener Sigrun Wolff Saphire, volunteers help maintain the plot by collecting and distributing compost materials. All funds, including those provided by the college and those raised via crowdsourcing, are used for improvements, such as the purchase of materials to construct the new three-bin composting system built by Brooklyn College carpenters Tom Doherty and Tom Mollaghan.

Murray Lantner, one of the neighborhood gardeners, bikes over with his wife and young daughters to plant, as well as to learn and play. "The kids learn a lot about where food comes from, what the different flowers and plants look like, and the animal and insect life that makes up the garden's ecosystem," Lantner says.

The college also recognizes the myriad benefits the garden provides. "Some of our health and nutrition instructors use the garden for their classes, and students take advantage of composting throughout the year," Hainline says. "President Gould's hope for the garden is that it should serve the community as well as be integrated into our academically linked sustainability objectives."

Tafari Sherry, from the college's Office of Campus and Community Safety, thinks of himself as the unofficial watchman of the garden. He maintains a small plot where he has grown hot peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes every year since 2011. "It's convenient that my station is so close to it," he says, smiling.

One of the most important benefits of the Brooklyn College Garden, many believe, is its ability to build community within the college and with the surrounding neighborhood. "It is a space on campus," Hainline says, "where all gardeners from all groups are on equal footing."

Hainline and company have grand plans for the future. They will be forming a committee that includes members of both the campus and the neighboring communities. They plan to introduce more edible and medicinal herbs, as well as drought-tolerant and wildlife-friendly flowers, grasses, and shrubs. They will construct a rainwater collection system and install a solar panel to provide electricity to the garden's shed.

The garden is officially registered with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's GreenThumb program, which provides support to local community gardens.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

Notes on **HEALING**

Conservatory of Music Students Use Their Talents to Uplift



Students from the Conservatory of Music perform in a special concert for patients at Brooklyn's New York Methodist Hospital.

*“It was just an
EXPLOSION OF JOY.
Some of the patients we
had seen came alive for
the very first time in a
long time.”*

Last spring, Nia Austin '14 found herself entering a room at Brooklyn's New York Methodist Hospital even though the patient was somewhat hesitant to have her there. Austin, a bit nervous herself, simply did what she has been doing her whole life: She sang. The request was for “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” The patient, an older woman, wept.

“She told me that when she was a child, her uncle used to sing the song to her every morning to get her out of bed,” explains Austin, who is majoring in music education. “I felt honored to bring back memories from her childhood.”

Such moments are made possible by the hospital's Sparks of Life program, a partnership with the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College. Students enroll in a one-credit internship and keep a log and journal of their experiences, including a description of the patients' reactions to their performances, and their own reflections. The internship program began last spring with five students enrolled.

“We had already been talking about ways to project the program into the community, so when the hospital called we thought it was a perfect opportunity,” explains Bim Strasberg, the concert office coordinator at the conservatory.

Last December, before the internships began, a group of students and faculty members

visited the hospital, moving from ward to ward to sing Christmas carols.

“We ended at the nurses' station, and they all got up and sang and danced with us in an impromptu performance. It was just an explosion of joy. Some of the patients we had seen came alive for the very first time in a long time,” recalls Riki Braunstein '75, '78 M.A., a professor of music education at the conservatory and the department's Teaching Fellows consultant. “We knew we had to continue with this.”

Officials at the conservatory say the program has wide-ranging benefits.

“These experiences for our music students provide not only a wonderful opportunity for stimulating community service, they offer a meaningful learning experience as the performing students see firsthand the therapeutic effects of music on hospital patients,” says Bruce MacIntyre, director of the conservatory.

Marissa Pontecorvo, a graduate student working on an advanced certificate in music education, participated in the program last spring, but continues to volunteer at the hospital when she has time.

“You meet people from all walks of life,” she says. “Geriatrics was my favorite. There were patients who did not speak but would sing ‘My Country, 'Tis of Thee.’ It was just a cool experience.”

—Jamilah Simmons, with reporting by Dominique Carson

CBS RADIO INTERN

Rides the Waves to Success

When Plainview, Long Island, native Corey Davis '13 arrived at Brooklyn College, he was interested in the school as a culturally diverse space. He was excited to explore the college and the city, and anxious to realize his educational and career goals. He was not aware, however, of all the opportunities that would present themselves during his years as an undergraduate.

He did not, for example, expect to join the television and radio club, or to be elected as general manager of the student-run Brooklyn College Radio station, WBCR. Equally surprising and thrilling was the internship he snagged at WFAN Sports Radio. And when he won the International Radio and Television Society (IRTS) Foundation Fellowship, which provided him with an all-expenses-paid summer internship at CBS Radio's 1010 WINS, that was the most humbling experience of all.

"To be the recipient of something so competitive, rigorous, and prestigious, and to have gained so much from winning it—it seems surreal when I think about it," Davis reflects.

Davis—who graduated last May with a B.A. in communication (with a focus on interpersonal and intercultural communication)—had not even heard of the fellowship until Assistant Professor Miguel Macias M.F.A. '04 of the Department of Television and Radio suggested that he apply for it.

"Professor Macias is a wonderful man," Davis beams. "More than a professor, he was a mentor, someone truly interested in my success."

Macias returns the praise.

"Corey is very focused and driven," he says. "He started working on an established sports show as an intern, then on live basketball broadcasts, went on to host his own indie music show, *Indio Brooklyn*, and finally became the general manager of WBCR. An exemplary trajectory, I would say. If you take all of this into consideration, it certainly makes you want to give him an opportunity like the IRTS Fellowship."

Each year, the fellowship offers juniors, seniors, and graduate students interested in a career in communications a nine-week, expenses-covered opportunity to intern at a number of well-known corporations. The fellowship gives students the chance to gain the kind of hands-on experience that will help them become standout candidates in the marketplace.

The particular fellowship Davis received was sponsored by Brooklyn College alumnus Scott Herman '80, with whom he has much in common. Herman, currently the executive vice president of operations at CBS Radio, was also manager of WBCR when he was a student. He was mentored by Professor Emerita of Television and Radio Sister Camille D'Arienzo, a well-known Roman Catholic nun and religious-radio personality. D'Arienzo recommended him for an internship at 1010 WINS. But after reviewing his experience at WBCR, the folks at 1010 WINS offered him a job instead.

That experience started Herman on his path to success in the media industry, which he says would not have been possible without the opportunities he received at Brooklyn College. Paying tribute to that success and to all those who helped him achieve it, and wishing to help the next generation coming up behind him, he created

Scott Herman '80 and Corey Davis '13



the Scott Herman Scholarship in Television and Radio. He also purchased a fellowship from the IRTS that would, each year, provide financial assistance and internship opportunities to outstanding Brooklyn College students studying in the field of television and radio broadcasting.

"I was mentored by Sister Camille, and it's my obligation to pay it forward," Herman says. "IRTS teaches students about the realities of the broadcast business, and Corey's participation in the fellowship will serve him greatly throughout his career."

None of that is lost on Davis.

"I consider the fellowship a tremendous gift because it allowed me to network with captains of industry and other important figures in media from companies such as ABC, CBS, NBC, and MSNBC," Davis offers. "It also gave me the chance to learn the ins and outs of radio production, from broadcasting to sales. And most important, I was fortunate enough to work with other students who were so bright that my own intellect was elevated through our interactions. Their drive inspired me to work even harder."

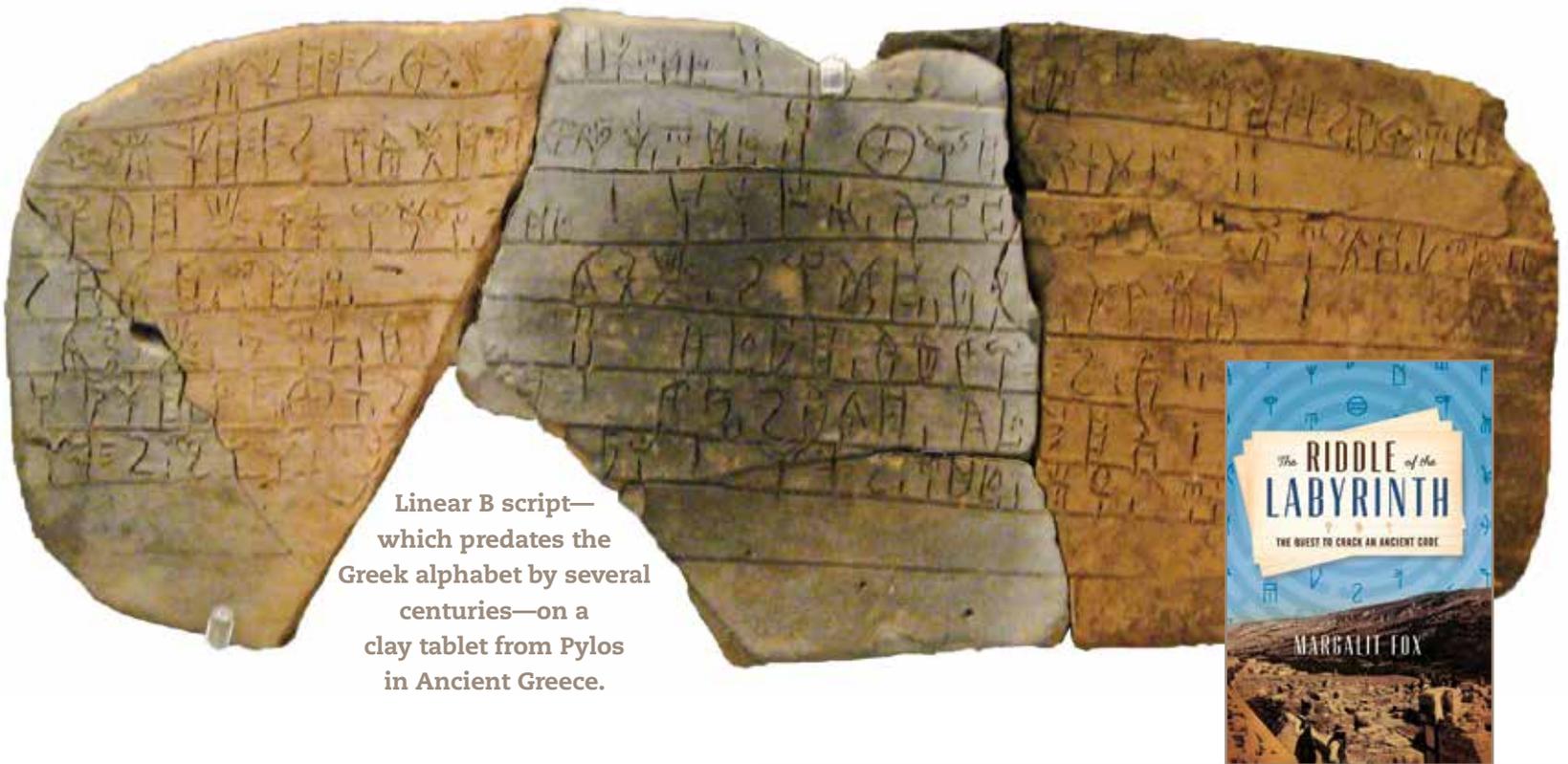
It all paid off. Shortly after the fellowship ended, Davis was hired by Cumulus Media, the second-largest operator of radio stations in the United States. It's a job he says might have passed him by if not for the experience he gained and the connections he made both at the college and through his IRTS fellowship.

"Eric Spitz, the director of programming for CBS Sports Radio, recommended me for my current position. Prior to his position at CBS, he was the program director at WFAN. He was aware that I was the winner of the IRTS fellowship and was interning at 1010 WINS in the sales department."

The work is not over for Davis, who says there is at least one more thing he must take care of.

"I told the committee at IRTS that I would one day like to sit on their board. Not for the prestige or anything like that, but because I want to be in the position to help Brooklyn College students in the same way that I was helped. Scott Herman was inspired to pass his blessings on to students like me. I feel it's my duty to continue that tradition."

—Robert Jones, Jr., with reporting by Dominique Carson



Linear B script—
which predates the
Greek alphabet by several
centuries—on a
clay tablet from Pylos
in Ancient Greece.

Code Breaker: Classics Professor Unlocks the Key to Ancient Script

In 1900, during a dig in Knossos on the Greek island of Crete, the British archaeologist Arthur Evans unearthed tablets containing the mysterious writing that would come to be known to scholars of ancient script as Minoan Linear B. Half a century later, in 1952, the British architect Michael Ventris, a prodigy who in his teens pursued the deciphering of ancient texts as a hobby, worked to unlock the text and discover its pronunciation and grammar, as well as help create a clearer picture of life in ancient Knossos.

Lost to the popular narrative until now was a third party, Alice Kober, the link between Evans and Ventris, without whom Linear B might have remained undeciphered. A Hunter College and Columbia University graduate and professor of classics at Brooklyn College from 1930 until her death in 1950, Kober devoted her life to breaking the Linear B code. *The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code* (HarperCollins, 2013), by the *New York Times* writer and linguist Margalit Fox, chronicles Kober's lifelong passion.

Kober, who taught a heavy load of classes at Brooklyn College by day and toiled away at Linear B at night, was able to determine several key factors that had escaped other scholars. By her death at age 44, she had accumulated 180,000 index cards full of her research, which now reside at the University of Texas. Kober's findings became the basis for later successful scholarship.

In her archaeological whodunit, Fox's own meticulous research reveals much about Kober's process, her isolation, and how the classics professor worked with meager financial support beyond the Guggenheim Fellowship she was awarded in 1947. Mostly overlooked for her accomplishments, Kober was recognized by at least one well-known person in the field of archaeology—Ventris himself gave her substantial credit for unlocking the code, but sadly for her, his praise would not be acknowledged for decades.

—Ernesto Mora

Chapter 4: American Champollion

New York, 1946

No one believed Alice Kober when she declared she would make the Minoan scripts her lifework. The year was 1928, and she announced her ambition upon her own graduation from Hunter College. At first glance, she seemed an unlikely candidate to solve a mystery that had already endured for almost three decades. She was young—barely 21—and though she had majored in classics, she had none of the specialized background in historical linguistics that might have put such a calling within reach. Nor was she trained in archaeology, statistics, or any other discipline essential to the decipherer's art.

Above all, she simply did not look the part: With its aura of bravura, derring-do, and more than a dash of imperialism, archaeological decipherment was the time-honored province of moneyed European men. That the upstart American daughter of working-class immigrants would even contemplate the field was dismissed as youthful fantasy.

But in the coming years, on her own time, Kober would systematically acquire every needed weapon in the decipherer's arsenal. She learned a spate of ancient languages and scripts with the methodical ardor of a Champollion [the 19th-century French decipherer of Egyptian hieroglyphs]. She studied archaeology, linguistics, statistics, and, for their methodology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, and mathematics. All this—more than a decade of concerted study—she did merely to lay the groundwork for her eventual assault on Linear B.

In 1942, Michael Ventris, then only 20 but already passionately interested in the Cretan scripts, wrote confidently from London, "One can remain sure that no Champollion is working quietly in a corner" on the riddle of Linear B. But in fact there was, directly across the Atlantic, sitting quietly at the dining room table of her modest Brooklyn house, ever-present cigarette at hand, and "working hundreds of hours with a slide-rule," as she later wrote. For it was Alice Kober, like Champollion in his day, who imposed

scientific precision on the romantic, undisciplined attempts that had gone before. To the riddle of Linear B she brought the skills of a crack forensic analyst in a detective story, who gleans vital information after lesser investigators have trampled through, an unflappable Holmes in a sea of Lestrades. It was only fitting that she, who savored detective stories in what small spare time she had, would give the decipherment the “method and order” she so esteemed. . . .

Her life was her work, and what a great deal of work there was. Kober never married, nor is there evidence she ever had a romantic partner. After her father’s death from stomach cancer in 1935, and with her brother grown and gone, she and her mother lived together in the house Alice owned in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn. It was there, night after night, after her classes were taught and her papers graded, that she turned to what she considered the true enterprise of her life: the deep, serious business of deciphering Linear B.

Kober did not write or lecture about the script publicly until the early 1940s, but her private papers make clear that she had begun tackling it long before. “I have been working on the problems presented by the Minoan scripts . . . for about 10 years now, and feeling rather lonely,” she wrote to Mary Swindler, the editor of the *American Journal of Archaeology*, in January 1941.

Where [Arthur] Evans’s approach to Linear B was scattershot, impressionistic, and anecdotal, from the start Kober imposed more rational methods. Her first order of business, starting in the 1930s, was frequency analysis: the creation of statistics “of the kind so successfully used in the deciphering and decoding of secret messages,” as she wrote, for every character of the script.

Anyone who has solved a Sunday newspaper cryptogram has met frequency analysis head-on. At its simplest, it entails pure counting, with the decipherer tabulating the number of times a particular character appears in a particular text. If the text is long enough, the frequency count for each letter should mirror its statistical frequency in the language as a whole. . . . For frequency analysis to work properly, the text of the cipher must be long enough to provide a statistically significant sample. And that, for Kober and other investigators of Linear B, was precisely the problem: Evans, resolute as ever in old age, had continued to sit on his data. In the early 1930s, when Kober first turned her attention to the Cretan scripts, the only inscriptions to which anyone had access were the tiny handful Evans had published in *Scripta Minoa* in 1909, plus the small set published covertly by the Finnish scholar Johannes Sundwall—the “thesaurus absconditus,” scholars called it. The two sets together totaled fewer than 100 inscriptions, less than one-twentieth of what Evans had unearthed at Knossos.

With so little text available, how can a decipherer even begin? Kober began by looking for ghosts.

Every language glimmers with sparks of earlier ones. These sparks—a word, a place-name—are the residual traces of languages spoken before, often long before, in the same part of the world. Though tiny, the sparks can illuminate a history of invasion, conquest, trade, and the wholesale movement of populations. In the West Germanic language known as English, we can discern Julius Caesar’s invasion of Britain in the first century B.C. from linguistic survivals like *wine* (from Latin *vinum*) and *anchor* (Latin *ancora*) that remain in use today. We see the enduring presence of the Celts, who inhabited Britain before the Romans and for some time afterward, in place-names like Cornwall, Devon, and London.

We also see the legacy of the Viking conquests of Britain toward the end of the first millennium: Many English words starting with *sk-*, like *skill*, *skin*, and *skirt*, are of Scandinavian origin. And so on.

On the same principle, as Kober knew, it should be possible to take a linguistic X-ray of a *later* Aegean language and discern traces of the lost language of the Minoans glinting beneath the surface. And so she began by scrutinizing a language she knew well, Classical Greek. Starting in the early 1930s, she spent several years combing Greek for survivals from a time before Greek speakers arrived in the region—words of pre-Hellenic origin.

Compiling an accurate list of these linguistic ghosts, Kober wrote in 1942, “would be of great importance to scholars who are trying to formulate the principles underlying the language or languages of pre-Hellenic Greece and of the Minoan scripts.” These survivals by themselves would not tell her what the language of the Minoans had been—she was far too sophisticated to think that. But they might begin to reveal the structure of the words of that language. In Homer alone, she wrote, the number of pre-Hellenic words ran “into the thousands.” . . .

Her prospects improved in 1935, when Evans published his last major work, volume 4 of *The Palace of Minos*. Part of the volume was about Linear B, and it included photos and drawings of previously unseen tablets. This brought the number of available inscriptions to about 200. To anyone who hoped to decipher the script, that was still far from ideal, but it was a start.

For Kober, the volume’s publication seemed to mark a point of no return. She had tried several times to tear herself away from Linear B, and each time found she could not. “I’ve resigned myself,” she wrote in 1942. “If I want peace, I must first finish the job, or work till someone else finishes it.” Now, at last, she could begin in earnest to compile the statistics so vital to any decipherment.

From the book *The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code*, by Margalit Fox. Copyright © 2013 by Margalit Fox and reprinted with permission of Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.



Alice Kober

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES

Tow Professors Break New Ground in Scholarship



Luigi Bonaffini

Four Brooklyn College faculty members have each been awarded a Tow Professorship, which provides \$25,000 to the awardee in support of exceptional new and ongoing projects.

"We are pleased to bestow this well-deserved honor on these talented individuals," says President Karen L. Gould. "These are just four more examples of the unique and outstanding work of our stellar faculty."

Professor Luigi Bonaffini, chair of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; Professor Patricia Cronin '88 M.F.A. of the Department of Art; Professor Aaron Kozbelt of the Department of Psychology; and Associate Professor Jason Eckardt of the Conservatory of Music are being acknowledged for extraordinary scholarship and creativity in their fields.

Bonaffini, an internationally recognized translator and scholar of dialect literature and literature of the Italian diaspora, recently published *Poets of the Italian Diaspora*, a 1,500-page volume that took seven years to complete.

"The work is part of a larger project that aims to expand the boundaries of the traditional Italian literary canon by adding dialect poetry, the literature of the diaspora, and the literature of migrant writers, which is a relatively new phenomenon," says Bonaffini, who has written and translated more than 40 books on or by Italian poets and is the editor of *Journal of Italian Translation*.

In the next two or three years, Bonaffini plans to organize an international symposium on the Italian diaspora, to take place in either the United States or Italy, and to publish a second volume of the diaspora anthology, focusing on prose writers.

Cronin gained notoriety in 1993 for "Girls" and "Boys," two mixed-media series of Polaroids and watercolors that showed sexual intimacy from the vantage point of the participants. Since then, she has continued to explore themes such as gay and lesbian representation, the recovery and writing of women's history, the relationships between feminism and contemporary art, and social justice and the human condition.

A recent Rome Prize winner at the American Academy in Rome, Cronin's solo exhibition titled *Machines, Gods and Ghosts* ran for six



Patricia Cronin

weeks last fall at the Centrale Montemartini Museum, a repurposed power plant from the early 1900s located in the capital city. Inspired by Cronin's rediscovery of the American neoclassical sculptor Harriet Hosmer, the installation—six giant silk panels painted with spectral figures, paired with classical Roman statues and placed among the machinery of the old electrical plant—created a dialogue between past and present, industry and archaeology, and contemporary versus antique art. "I am pleased and honored to have received the Tow Professorship at precisely the juncture that I did," says Cronin. "Through the Tow Professorship I was able to be more ambitious and make the exhibition larger and richer, something I could not have done without this resource."

Using rigorous empirical and quantitative methodologies, Kozbelt's groundbreaking work on creativity and cognition in the arts has challenged some well-established theories in his field. He is a co-recipient of a National Science Foundation grant of \$698,992 with Computer and Information Science Professor Scott Dexter. Kozbelt is also a co-organizer of the 2014 biannual meeting of the International Association of Empirical Aesthetics, to which he intends to devote a portion of the Tow Professorship funds.

"One of the 'big' questions I'm interested in tackling is understanding the structure of the creative process in visual art in a way that informs the nature of creativity and in a way that also gives insight into how any new things come into existence," says Kozbelt.

A recipient of both Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundation fellowships, Eckardt has distinguished himself nationally and internationally as a leading composer of the New Complexity style



Aaron Kozbelt



Jason Eckardt

of music, which has been described as atonal, dissonant, and highly abstract and which uses techniques requiring complex notation.

His many commissions—including those from Carnegie Hall and Tanglewood, some dozen commercially released recordings, and the publication of his scores by the renowned publishing house Carl Fischer Music—place Eckardt at the top of his genre and squarely in the annals of American music.

“I have completed a piece for piano quartet commissioned by the Koussevitzky Music Foundations that will premiere in Salt Lake City in February 2014,” says Eckardt. He will also be traveling to Europe, where he will be researching extended instrumental techniques in Paris and Strasbourg for a new concerto for flute and chamber ensemble and overseeing performances in Milan and Arezzo.

The Tow Professorships are made through the sustained generosity of alumni Leonard '50 and Claire '52 Tow. Over the years, the couple, through the Tow Foundation—overseen by Emily Tow Jackson, the executive director and the Tows' daughter—have demonstrated their deep commitment to their alma mater in the form of endowments for student internship programs, student scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students to conduct research outside the United States.

The Tows, who met as students at Brooklyn College, also donated \$10 million for the construction of the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, a rehearsal, production, and performance space projected to open on campus in 2014.

—Audrey M. Peterson

RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

In the first quarter of the new fiscal year, faculty members received nearly \$5 million in funding for research in such areas as personality disorders and therapies for malaria.

Elizabeth Chua, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, received \$157,000 from the National Institutes of Health, the first installment of a three-year grant totaling \$471,000. Chua's research aims to identify cognitive and neural factors that drive subjective confidence in memory, and determine which of these are more tightly related to memory accuracy.

Yu Gao, assistant professor of psychology, received \$148,993 from the National Institutes of Health, the second installment of a three-year grant totaling \$471,000. Gao seeks to identify early biomarkers for conduct disorder and the potential influence of psychosocial factors. Her research will expand general understanding of conduct disorder and antisocial personality disorder.

Professor of Psychology **Stefano Ghirlanda** received \$162,906 from the National Science Foundation, the second installment of a three-year grant totaling \$447,994. Ghirlanda has assembled a diverse team of evolutionary biologists, physicists, and experts in the mathematical theory of cultural change to deduce genetic history by means of cultural differences.

Olympia Hadjiliadis, an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, received \$61,718 from the National Science Foundation, the second installment of a three-year grant totaling \$278,154. Hadjiliadis's work is key to the development of the next generation of quantitative algorithms for the detection of epidemic outbreaks. Her research attempts to address common problems arising in epidemic surveillance, while improving accuracy and detection speed.

Assistant Professor of Biology **Amy Ikui** was awarded \$117,750 by the National Institutes of Health, the first installment of a four-year grant totaling \$471,000. Ikui's research seeks to understand the molecular mechanism of DNA, and to prevent potential chromosome instability leading to the formation of tumors.

Laura Juszczak, an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry, was awarded \$117,750 by the National Institutes of Health, the first installment of a four-year grant totaling \$471,000. The grant will fund efforts to better understand the structure and function of disease-related proteins and provide the molecular-level detail necessary for the design of drugs to improve human health.

Theodore Muth, associate professor of biology, received \$151,030 from the National Science Foundation, the first installment of a four-year grant totaling \$538,815. Muth's project centers on a microbiology laboratory course that engages undergraduates in studying the urban microbial community. The current phase of the course involves faculty from 10 four-year colleges and four two-year colleges who will introduce similar projects into their curricula.

Professor of Computer and Information Science **Simon Parsons** was awarded \$82,626 by the National Science Foundation, the second installment of a three-year grant totaling \$471,000. Parsons's research aims to create a prototype system that will facilitate computer security management.

Professor of Chemistry **Roberto Sanchez-Delgado** received \$299,980 from the National Institutes of Health, the final installment of a four-year grant totaling \$1,249,720. Sanchez-Delgado's research suggests a promising alternative for the development of nontoxic chemotherapeutic agents against drug-resistant malaria.

Elizabeth Sklar, professor of computer and information science, was awarded \$96,704 by the National Science Foundation, the third installment of a three-year grant totaling \$283,539. Sklar will continue her research into honing human/robot team interactions during practical deployment, such as first response to natural disasters.

NEW HOPE FOR CHILDREN AT RISK OF HEARING LOSS

It's like having a miracle worker in the palm of your hand—a device that can help prevent hearing loss related to middle-ear fluid, eliminate painful earaches, and end the cycle of surgeries for children plagued with middle-ear fluid.

Shlomo Silman, Presidential Professor of speech communication arts and sciences, along with Daniel Arick, M.D., invented the EarPopper, a handheld device about the size of a cell phone that can drain fluid from the middle ear.

Just about every parent knows the helplessness of watching his or her little one tug at an ear and cry in pain. For some moms and dads that's the beginning of numerous trips to the doctor for antibiotics, or even surgeries to insert tubes to drain the fluid that builds up in the middle ear.

Silman, who has always had an interest in children's health and welfare, knew he could do something to help. After years of National Institutes of Health-funded clinical trials and feasibility studies at Brooklyn College, the EarPopper is now helping children around the globe.

"A mother can use it at home morning and evening for about seven weeks and drain that fluid out," says Silman, who has been teaching at Brooklyn College for nearly 30 years and is the co-director of the college's Center for Auditory Research.

"You're not only draining the fluid out, but also strengthening the muscle that opens and closes the eustachian tube," he says. That's key to preventing future ear pressure problems, says Silman, because the eustachian tube is the only means by which the body can equalize pressure and ventilate the area behind the eardrum.

Fluid in the middle ear doesn't just cause pain; when severe, the condition can affect a child's hearing, says Silman. The fluid can create a kind of "cushion in the middle ear, and that is an issue that causes hearing loss in children," he says.

"When the tube is open, air is going into the middle ear to ventilate," he explains. "The ventilation of the middle ear keeps it very healthy. Sound goes in, and the child can hear very well."

More than 10 million prescriptions for antibiotics are written each year for ear problems, and roughly \$4 billion is spent annually on surgeries and other associated medical costs.

"We came to the conclusion that surgery does not always help," Silman says. "What it deals with are the symptoms and not the cause."

Draining the fluid with tubes can help, but once the tubes have been removed the fluid can build up again.

In contrast, the EarPopper was designed for easy use at home by a parent or guardian and is available at just about any pharmacy with a doctor's prescription. However, because the clinical trials were run on children ages four and up, the device is recommended only for kids in that age range. And the parent must be able to guide the child through the instructions—insert the device in one of the child's nostrils, close the other, turn the instrument on, and have the child take a sip of water, then swallow.

So Silman decided there's more to be done. "Now we're working on the baby one," he says excitedly.

This time, Silman's partner is Michele Emmer, professor of speech communication arts and sciences, the department's chair, and co-director of the Brooklyn College Center for Auditory Research.

"At present it's called Baby Healthy Ear. Instead of being battery operated, this one looks like and works like a pacifier," Emmer explains.

Professors Shlomo Silman and Michele Emmer developed the Baby Healthy Ear for infants. Inset: Silman's EarPopper.



"When the baby swallows, air is forced into the nostrils, and then air will be forced into the eustachian tube," she says.

"Fluid in the ear is nonbacterial, so it's not an infection, which would require an antibiotic," Emmer says. Therefore, antibiotics won't help and should not be used, despite the abundant prescriptions written every year. "They are overused in the United States. You end up with antibiotic-resistant bacteria."

The nonsurgical, easy-to-use option is catching on.

Last April, Silman and Emmer presented the EarPopper and Baby Healthy Ear at the Global Health & Innovation Conference at Yale University. In that presentation, they emphasized the prevalence of middle-ear fluid and associated hearing loss in developing countries. In some of those countries, middle-ear effusion reaches 40 out of 100 children, and difficulties associated with middle-ear effusion are a significant problem. During the conference, Silman and Emmer were approached by several medical students and others who wished to volunteer to bring the device to developing countries. The pair chose Nigeria because of its size—about 180 million people.

"We sent EarPoppers to the director of the Nigerian Medical Association, who organized a big committee with doctors and surgeons to try them out in a town where there is little medical care," Silman says. "The feasibility trial appears to have been very successful."

"From Nigeria we hope to go on to Cameroon, India, and Nepal; they asked for help, too," Silman says.

"Throughout the years, the Brooklyn College presidents have supported my work, and have supported our efforts to help people around the world," he adds.

Silman will bring his expertise to the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas as a visiting scholar during the spring 2014 semester. His mission for children's health continues. "We want to help people around the world, specifically in developing countries."

—Ikimulisa Livingston



HOLDING DESTRUCTION AT BAY

Brooklyn College scientists take the lead in the Science and Resilience Institute, aiming to fortify urban ecosystems.

By Robert Jones, Jr.

As New York City continues to recover from the effects of Hurricane Sandy, it has become critical to better prepare the city for extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. Scientists at Brooklyn College have been studying the weather's impact on local geographies and have determined that the restoration and fortification of one area in particular—Jamaica Bay—will prove crucial in the quest to ensure that the city, especially its coastlands, is protected against the ravages of powerful storms.

Jamaica Bay—an 18,000-acre area located at the city's southern edge, and bordered by Brooklyn, Queens, and Nassau County—is a collection of meadowlands and waterways whose soil erosion has in recent years caused the flooding of surrounding populated areas. The protection and revitalization of the bay is considered essential, not

An aerial view of Jamaica Bay highlights how surrounding neighborhoods are affected by the condition of the bay.

In 2004, AREAC receives the **Partnership Award from the Coastal America organization** for its work at Jamaica Bay.

In 2010, Assistant Professor Sarah J. Christman’s short documentary, **Broad Channel**, exploring the impact Jamaica Bay has on people living in and around the area, wins the Ann Arbor Film Festival Jury Prize.

In 2010, Brooklyn College professors John Marra and Rebecca Boger host a **BioBlitz**—an event that’s part contest, part educational and scientific species survey, combining fun with learning—at Jamaica Bay.

In 2012, Brooklyn College hosts **“State of the Bay: Past, Present and Future — Revisited,”** a symposium that brings together several faculty members from the college along with more than a dozen researchers from environmental agencies throughout the New York area to discuss how to restore and preserve Jamaica Bay.

In 2013, Assistant Professor Brett Branco publishes **“Analysis of Existing Water Quality Monitoring Programs in Jamaica Bay,”** submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection.

only because it is home to more than 325 species of birds, more than 300 species of fish, 50 species of butterflies, two freshwater ponds, and a wide variety of flora, but also because the entire ecosystem serves as a barrier against the forces of wind and tide, helping to minimize flooding and filter out pollutants.

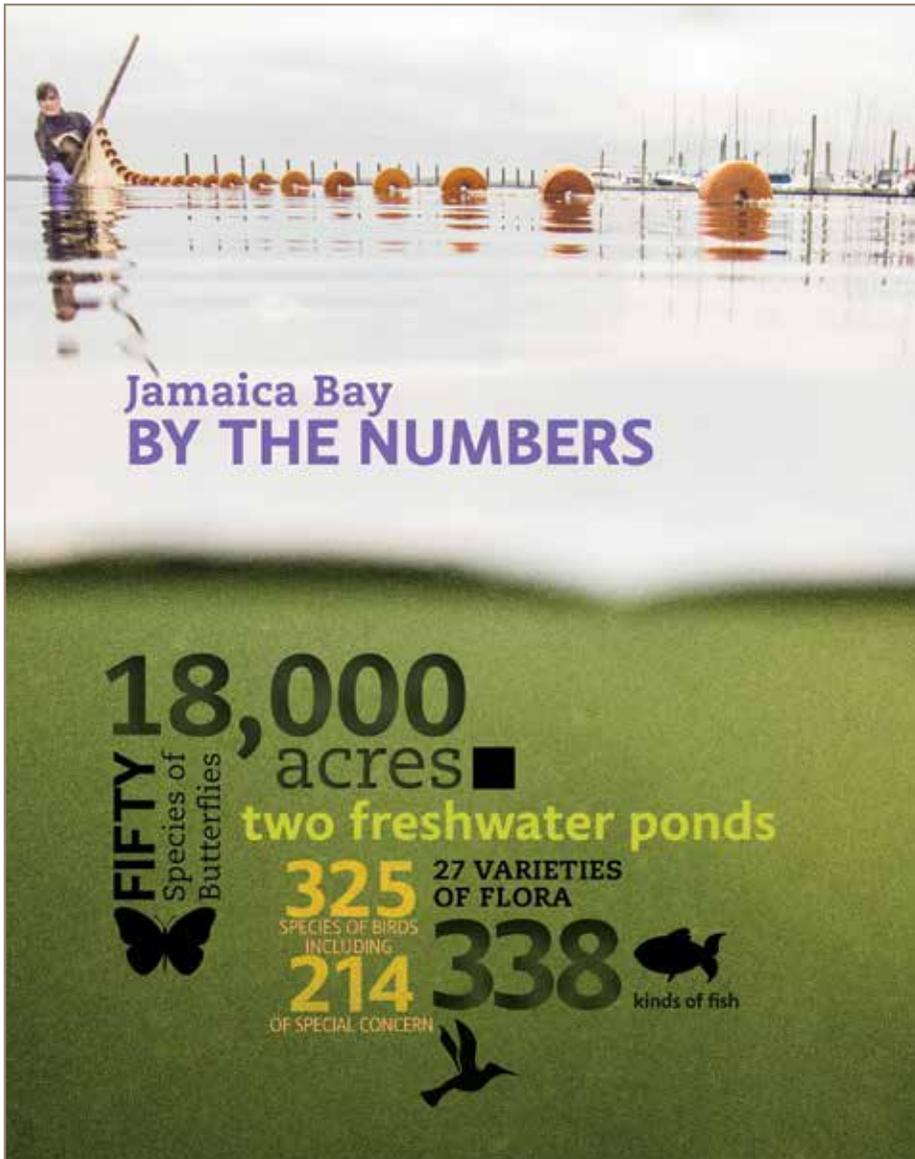
In 2004, Brooklyn College’s Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC) received the Coastal America Partnership Award for its role in developing and implementing a plan to halt the deterioration of the bay’s marshlands. Last year, faculty and students held symposia at the college to further discuss the various ways in which the bay could be conserved.

Most recently, when the City of New York sought to convene the best scientists and resources to find solutions to some of the city’s most pressing environmental issues, Brooklyn College science professors, along with other experts, answered the call with a plan that became the foundation for the Science & Resilience Institute @ Jamaica Bay (SRI@JB).

An innovative research center created to promote the importance of fortifying urban ecosystems and surrounding communities against natural forces, and an unprecedented collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS) and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, the CUNY-led SRI@JB will focus its efforts on the restoration of Jamaica Bay before turning to other regions within and outside of the city.

The creation of SRI@JB coincides with the city’s efforts to boost disaster preparedness, as outlined in Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg’s “A Stronger, More Resilient New York” plan, released on June 11, 2013. The plan evolved from the mayor’s personal commitment to sustainability as shown by his previous PlaNYC strategies. SRI@JB will continue in that tradition as an integral part of the city’s readiness initiatives.

Responding to the city’s request for proposals, Assistant Professor Brett F. Branco of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences worked together with John F. Marra, director of AREAC; William Solecki, director of CUNY’s Institute for Sustainable Cities; and John Waldman, a professor of biology at Queens College.



Jamaica Bay BY THE NUMBERS

18,000 acres ■
two freshwater ponds
FIFTY Species of Butterflies
325 SPECIES OF BIRDS INCLUDING **214** OF SPECIAL CONCERN
27 VARIETIES OF FLORA
338 kinds of fish

“The beauty of the institute is that it will take all of the stand-alone environmental projects scientists have been working on and ensure that one central entity is aware of all of the efforts,” says Branco. “The institute becomes a repository of all this knowledge and it all gets incorporated into a new model on how urban resilience works and how restoration should be done.”

Scheduled to open in the fall of 2013 in a temporary space on the Brooklyn College campus, where it will remain until a permanent site is provided by the NPS, SRI@JB will also host visiting scientists and provide facilities where faculty, students, and visitors can meet to share ideas. Brooklyn College Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs William A. Tramontano—who, with CUNY Vice Chancellor of Research Gillian Small, managed the presentation of the proposal to the city—has considered the long-term benefits and impact of the institute.

“This initiative is a rare and visionary opportunity for work that will not only transform the city and set the standard for environmental practices nationwide, but will also provide our students with the kind of 21st-century learning, and access to valuable resources and expertise, that will prepare them for leadership in the industry,” says Tramontano.

“Jamaica Bay is one of the greatest natural treasures any city has within its borders,” said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg during a press conference introducing the new initiative at Riis Landing in Rockaway, New York, in August. “The new consortium we’re announcing today is an all-star team of research institutions and nonprofits who will do important work to protect and preserve urban ecosystems from development and from the effects of climate change.”

The SRI@JB consortium—still under development—includes many of the tristate area’s key academic and nonprofit institutions: Columbia University’s Earth

Institute and Lamont-Doherty Observatory, Cornell University, the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York Sea Grant, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, Stevens Institute of Technology, Stony Brook University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

“CUNY is proud to lead a consortium of world-class institutions in the new Science and Resilience Institute,” CUNY Interim Chancellor William P. Kelly says. “Together with our distinguished partners, we will engage in a groundbreaking effort to revitalize the Jamaica Bay ecosystem.”

SRI@JB’s first symposium, “Urban Resilience in an Era of Climate Change: Global Input for Local Solutions,” was held on October 17 and 18 at Kingsborough Community College.



The Garil family: son Michael, Ethel, and Bernard with daughter Stacey at her wedding in 1995.

THE OTHER SIDE OF

LOSS



By Ikimulisa Livingston

A parent's worst nightmare became a painful reality for Bernard and Ethel Garil, not once but twice: Both of their children died of cancer or the long-term side effects of cancer treatment. But the couple found a way to lessen the hurt of the tragic losses through an inspired internship program they made available to Brooklyn College students.

"We decided that rather than sit and mourn, we were going to do something positive," says Bernard Garil '62. And there was no better place to do it than his alma mater.

Brooklyn College was the starting point for Garil's career in finance. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting, he paved a path of success, working as a broker-dealer and mutual fund executive, while Ethel took care of the family. A doctor's diagnosis of leukemia for their seven-year-old son, Michael, changed everything.

Michael went through seven long years of chemotherapy; after a third relapse, he had a bone marrow transplant. Finally, at 15, he was cured of leukemia. But the side effects from his treatment were devastating. What followed were numerous other ailments: skin, jaw, and kidney cancers, diabetes, renal failure, brain tumors and others.

Overcoming those challenges, Michael went on to lead a happy and productive life. In 1995, at his sister Stacey's wedding, he toasted the happy couple and elicited laughter when he joked about not just gaining a brother-in-law but also getting another loyal Dallas Cowboys fan in the family.

In a heartbreaking turn of events, just six months after that celebration, Stacey was diagnosed with breast cancer. She died four years later, in 1999, at 28, followed by Michael after another seven years, at 39.

The Garils could have been bitter and angry. But instead of focusing on the anguish of losing both their son and daughter, they dedicated their lives to helping others with cancer.

Five years ago, the couple partnered with Brooklyn College to offer the Stacey Garil Womack Memorial Fund at Johns Hopkins' Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center in Baltimore. This summer internship program awards two outstanding students the chance of a lifetime—to work with some of the best oncology doctors in the country.

"I always had an interest in oncology, but I'd never had the experience," says Joseph Gotesman '13, who majored in both chemistry and philosophy. "I'd never been in an environment where I could do cancer research and be involved in oncology and clinical studies."

When Ethel and Bernard Garil lost their children to cancer, they turned their grief into an opportunity for students aspiring to become scientists and physicians to gain invaluable experience at some of the nation's leading medical institutions.

Ethel and Bernard Garil at dinner in 2010 with Lashika Yogendran '12 and Sun Mei Liu '12, recipients of the Stacey Garil Womack Memorial Internship at Johns Hopkins University that year.



His summer at Johns Hopkins in 2012 was invaluable, says the 21-year-old future doctor, who began attending Albert Einstein College of Medicine this fall.

“The experience was amazing. . . . It was hard work. We were doing actual scientific experiments,” says Gotesman.

“The internship allowed me to experience firsthand bench research in pediatric oncology,” says Sun Mei Liu, '12, who is attending medical school at SUNY Downstate. “I learned a plethora of cutting-edge techniques in molecular biology that I would not have had the opportunity to learn elsewhere.”

The interns—majoring in biology or a similar field with an interest in cancer research—receive a \$5,000 stipend for the summer. They also receive up to \$2,500 from the fund to cover their food and housing costs while at Johns Hopkins.

Matthew Lee '13 says the program was extremely well organized and could not have gone more smoothly. “You just sign the papers and get on a bus. They set up everything,” says Lee, 22, who majored in both chemistry and biology. He is also attending SUNY Downstate medical school.

During his time at Johns Hopkins, Lee worked directly in the field that had affected the Garils' son, Michael.

“We were trying to pinpoint certain genes that were more vulnerable to chemotherapy and tailor a more personalized medicine,” Lee says.

Koby Herman '13 was at Johns Hopkins in 2011 and also conducted research specific to leukemia. “I had the privilege of working on an exciting project,” says the 21-year-old, “that aimed to create a system by which the role of a protein shown to be associated with leukemia could be studied.”

During the internship, he also shadowed Dr. Robert Arceci, a renowned pediatric oncologist, as well as other doctors. “I was inspired by our conversations with young patients and their families,” says Herman, who is interested in surgical oncology.

Speaking of the student internship program, “The experience is key,” says Arceci, formerly the chief professor of pediatric oncology at Johns Hopkins but now the division chief of hematology/oncology at the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders of Phoenix Children's Hospital. “Many people decide they want to go into medicine, but they've never seen a sick patient, never really seen what being a doctor is. It involves taking care of people who are really sick, especially in oncology. These students have seen consults with complicated patients,” he says of the interns. “They've

seen me talk, and other doctors talk, to parents when the patient is newly diagnosed.”

He adds that it is the same with being a scientist and doing research. “It's one thing to say you want to be a scientist, but it's another thing to experience what it takes to pipette the same amount of liquid into wells a thousand times in a row. That may be one of the reasons this program has been as successful as it has been: because it's real-life experience,” he says.

This past summer, the internship program expanded in Michael's name to include the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, where chemistry major Akreeti Maskey '14 delved into research she'd never imagined being able to do as a student. “Most of my time was spent in research labs,” says the 22-year-old New Jersey native. The doctors “set it up so that I was in three different labs. I learned to do tissue culture, tissue sectioning, and slide staining for frozen and paraffin sections.”

Mustafa Ghanem '12, whose major was biology, was amazed by the overall experience. “My job was to determine the effects a proposed chemotherapeutic regimen would have on the proliferation of tumor cells,” he says. “My experiments focused on a pancreatic cancer model, a particularly deadly form of cancer.”



Dr. Robert Arceci, former chief professor of pediatric oncology at Johns Hopkins, with Garil interns Joseph Gotesman '13 and Matthew Lee '13 in 2012.

He adds proudly, “My work at Hopkins is already being incorporated into an imminent clinical trial.”

All of the students are aware that this unique opportunity was available to them because as Brooklyn College students they were eligible recipients of the Garils’ generosity.

Before meeting the couple, Gotesman says, he figured they must be remarkable. But after an introduction and sharing a meal with them, he was even more impressed with their kindness. “They are amazing people,” he says. “They’re super nice and they have really good hearts. It’s clear they really care for others.”

Lee, who also has gotten to know the couple, says, “They’re truly inspiring. It’s enlightening to see that they have so much passion and drive.”

Herman adds, “The internship at Johns Hopkins is phenomenal—an experience that is so valuable and meaningful for pre-medical students and others who are interested in oncology research.”

“I don’t think any of this would have happened without the Garils,” says Dr. Arceci. “Bernie and Ethel have had their major traumas in life. They did something spectacular by launching this program.”

For Bernard Garil, it all comes back to Brooklyn College. He credits his great experience at the school with making him want to give back to the Brooklyn College community. He also hopes that his enthusiasm will spread to others. For instance, to Koby Herman. “I one day hope to be able to do just what he’s done,” says Herman.

Bernard Garil has been on the board of the Brooklyn College Foundation since 1997, and in 2011 President Karen L. Gould honored him with the college’s Presidential Medal for “his long record of charitable service.” He is extremely active because, he says, he believes in his alma mater. Referring to the recent land acquisition that will be used for expanding the School of Business and to other new buildings dedicated to math and science, as well as the college’s new graduate school of cinema, Garil says, “It makes me very proud of what’s going on there.”

Brooklyn College is as important today as it was for him coming out of high school, he emphasizes. “People are given the opportunity to go to college,” he says, referring to the college’s affordable tuition. “The only way I could do this was because of the free education I got from Brooklyn College,” Garil says of his charitable contributions to cancer research.

His wife, Ethel, is very proud of him. “Whether it’s through Brooklyn College or through leukemia research, he’s made a very big difference in the lives of lots of people,” she says.

The couple has donated millions of dollars to cancer research, but it is the internship program that moves them. For their funding of research, their name appears in footnotes and acknowledgements, but with this program, they can see exactly what their money is doing.

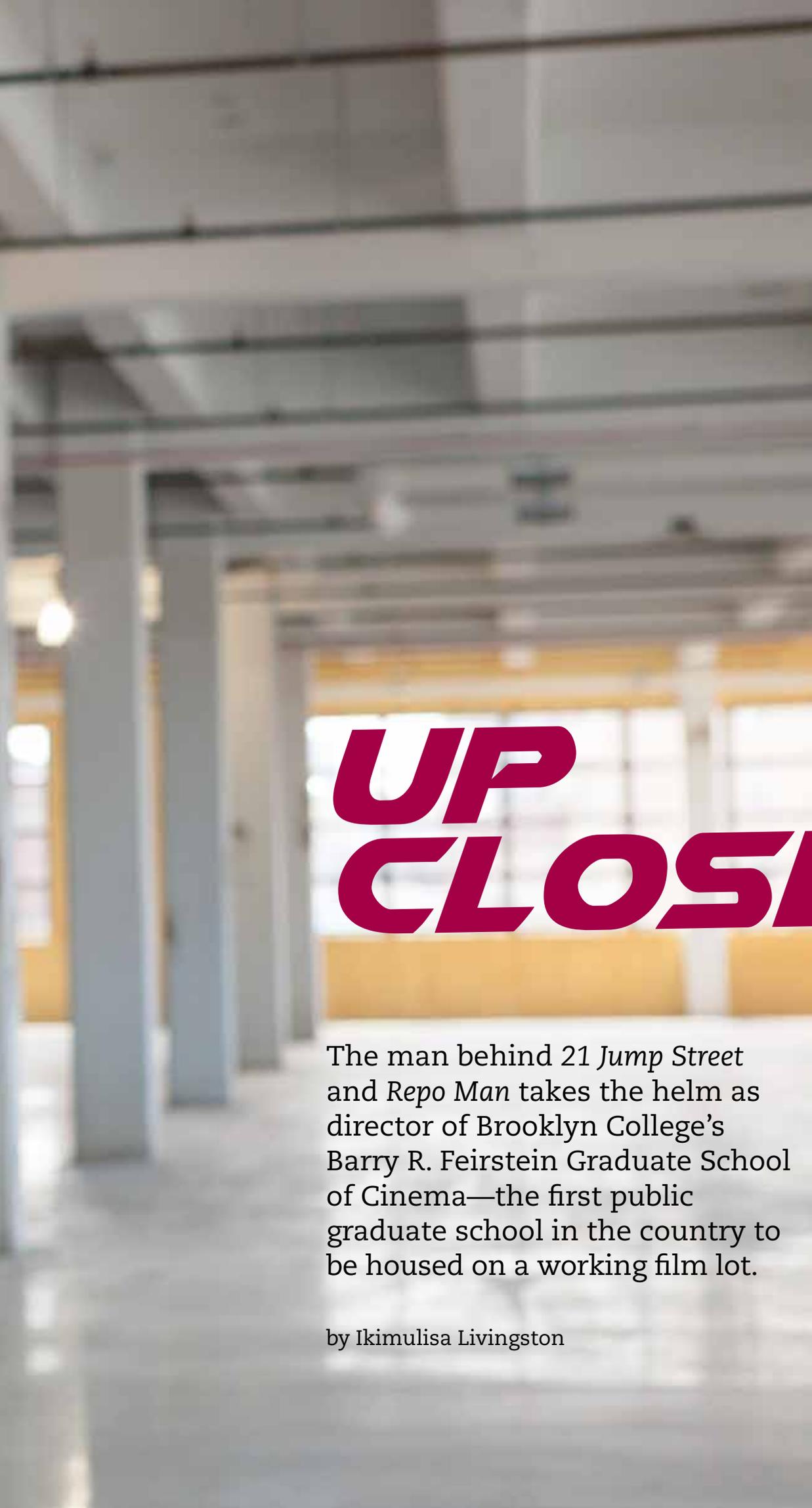
“There is a face behind every one of these checks,” Bernard Garil says. “They’ll be the researchers of tomorrow leading the fight against cancer.”

But there is another bonus to their philanthropy. The Garils are very proud of the young people they’re helping to become doctors. The two speak glowingly of the interns who’ve gone on to study medicine at Harvard, New York University, Mt. Sinai, SUNY Downstate, and other universities. “We keep up with them,” says Bernard Garil. “They email us about what they’re doing.”

For the couple who lost both their children to cancer, these future doctors are a meaningful part of their lives. They have, Garil says, “become an extended family.”

Founding director Jonathan Wacks stands in the raw space that will become the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios.





UP CLOSE

The man behind *21 Jump Street* and *Repo Man* takes the helm as director of Brooklyn College's Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema—the first public graduate school in the country to be housed on a working film lot.

by Ikimulisa Livingston

M

More than a century ago, Brooklyn was home to a nascent, but growing, film industry, just blocks from today's Brooklyn College campus. At its center, the American Vitagraph Company, the biggest studio in the country, was prolific in its output. Then moviemaking moved west to Hollywood, taking with it what would grow to be a multibillion-dollar industry.



The entrance to Steiner Studios, located at the Brooklyn Navy Yard

Today a new, groundbreaking project for Brooklyn College is set to play a significant role in furthering the revitalization of the borough's filmmaking industry: the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios. It will be the only school of cinema in the country operating on the grounds of a working movie lot; and not just any movie lot, but the largest film and television production complex outside of Hollywood.

Opening in the fall of 2015, the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema is becoming a reality thanks to the support of notable Brooklyn College alumni, the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment, the New York City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President, and the City University of New York. To date, the college has raised over \$21 million for the project, which includes a leadership gift of \$5.5 million from Barry R. Feirstein '74; significant contributions from alumni Don Buchwald '59, Roy Furman '60, Jules Haimovitz '71, and Michael Lynne '61; \$6.7 million from Commissioner Katherine Oliver of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment to develop a Made in New York Center for Digital Arts in the new school; and \$3 million from the City Council and the Office of the Borough President.

"This will be the first graduate school of cinema created specifically for 21st-century study," says Jonathan Wacks, the program's founding director.

Wacks's own background combines moviemaking with film education and includes directing, producing,



In this rendering of the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, a stairway leads to a student lounge that can be converted to an auditorium for film screenings.

and screenwriting. But he has also been instrumental in guiding future filmmakers, having previously led film departments at schools in Santa Fe, Vancouver, and Boston.

“Jonathan Wacks embodies two things: He brings the practical skills that we want, but he also brings the educational background,” says Maria Conelli ’80, the founding dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts at Brooklyn College. “Anytime you’re launching a graduate program, it’s truly critical that the person [heading it] has these two qualities.”

Wacks was the creative force behind the cult classics *Repo Man* and *Powwow Highway*. He directed Johnny Depp into the hearts of legions of teenage girls in *21 Jump Street* and has worked with some of the biggest names in the business: actors Jim Carrey, Ned Beatty, Ethan Hawke, and Steve Buscemi, among others. He also served as vice president of production at the Samuel Goldwyn Company.

Now the veteran movie-industry insider will lead a unique graduate school into the future on the lot where HBO’s *Boardwalk Empire* is shot. Steiner Studios is also home to *The Following* and *The Carrie Diaries*, and last year it added five new soundstages to its Brooklyn Navy Yard location, expanding to 355,000 square feet of creative space.

Created in 2004, Steiner Studios has been home to numerous big-screen productions, including *Inside*

Man, *Spider-Man 3*, *Enchanted*, *Sex and the City*, and *The Adjustment Bureau*, and various television shows, such as *Damages*, *In Treatment*, and *Bored to Death*. Supported by New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and by Commissioner Oliver of the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema will also include a Made in New York Center for Digital Arts.

“The fact that Brooklyn is serving as the location for this innovative graduate program is fitting, given the borough’s rich cinematic history, going back to the beginning of the 19th century, when the first film studio in the country was established here,” says Commissioner Oliver. “Today, the borough is more popular than ever, with numerous ‘Made in New York’ films and TV shows that call Brooklyn home.”

In 2011, there were 188 movies shot in New York City and 140 television shows. The next year the number of feature films jumped to 267—a 42 percent increase in a single year.

Dean Conelli says enrollment in the cinema school will top out at about 400 graduate students, who will have a number of curricular tracks to choose from, including animation, cinematography, digital media, directing, and screenwriting.

“The facilities at Steiner Studios will be state-of-the-art,” Conelli says, adding that there will be motion capture studios along with those geared to

postproduction, recording, digital labs, and sonic arts.

Another advantage of this film school over others will be the price tag. “This is going to be a high-quality but affordable program,” says Conelli. “Our goal from the beginning was to keep [tuition] at least 50 percent lower than at any other private school out there.”

Another perk: Students will have the opportunity to do an internship that involves working on an actual television show or film.

Wacks emphasizes that the school’s focus will also cover new media because movies aren’t just for movie theaters anymore.

“Movies today have converged with new media in a remarkable way that has given new meaning to distribution,” says Wacks. “Certainly when I got out of film school nobody was watching movies on television, let alone on cell phones.”

Now an entirely new realm of devices has emerged for movie watching, he says. “The burgeoning of YouTube and live streaming have fundamentally changed the way in which the industry works at the distribution level,” says Wacks. “And because that’s the case, the way in

which you think about film production and filmmaking has an impact as well.”

Wacks is excited about the challenge of addressing these changes. Had he been offered a position in an established film program, he says, he would have likely turned it down.

“Here, there’s an opportunity to rethink everything from the ground up—from the foundation to the rooftop,” says Wacks. “The fact that it is new creates an opportunity to really rethink the way in which film education is being undertaken at the moment.”

And the fact that it is offered by Brooklyn College suggests that its students will contribute a stimulating, wide-ranging profile.

“Given the school’s history and commitment to diversity, every effort will be made to have a diverse student body,” Wacks says. “The Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema creates an amazing opportunity for new and seldom-heard voices to be heard loud and clear. That is critically important in how we reflect ourselves as a rich and diverse culture to ourselves and to the world.”



The soundstage of the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema will be the largest at any film school in the United States and will provide a cutting-edge, professional production environment for students.

“Education offers us the opportunity to be transformed.”

“One of the things you get for free is a dream.”

“The Internet of your soul, young people, is writing.”

Pulitzer Prize Winner JUNOT DÍAZ Tells Students to Follow Their Dreams



“Our racism and our divides have nothing over our imagination.”

Renowned writer and Pulitzer Prize winner Junot Díaz visited Brooklyn College this fall to give a reading and participate in a Q&A session with Professor of English James C. Davis.

Díaz’s celebrated novel, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (Riverhead Books, 2007), was required reading for all entering first-year students at the college. It appeared, judging from the ardor of the crowd, that the book had been well received.

So too was the author.

“Some of y’all actually read that?” joked Díaz with the audience about his book after scanning the packed auditorium.

The sought-after speaker employed an approach that felt at times like a cozy conversation between a group of young people and their favorite uncle. He cursed, cracked jokes, and pointedly, though politely, answered questions from a long line of students. He read an excerpt of his short story “The Cheater’s Guide to Love” off of his iPhone, standing at the side of the lectern in his signature black-rimmed glasses, a fleece jacket, rumpled pants, and black sneakers.

He was at once accessible and a rock star. A sea of cell phones from the audience recorded his every gesticulation, and students yelled out to him from their seats. (“I just came up closer so I could see you,” said one. “Sorry, I’m not cute,” Díaz retorted.)

He offered profound one-liners—“The Internet of your soul, young people, is writing,”—and sage advice: “Education offers us the opportunity to be transformed.”

He spoke of his hardscrabble upbringing in New Jersey, the Dominican history and culture that shaped him, and honored the linguistic resources that Brooklyn College students bring to class.

When a student asked what had made him think a general audience would relate to a book like *Oscar Wao*, which is so coarse with Dominican idioms and immigrant barbarisms, Díaz quipped back: “How do we do it?” He pointed out that members of ethnic populations are constantly required to navigate and relate to the broader culture. “We’re so used to being alienated that when we see ourselves projected, we’re confused,” he said. “Our racism and our divides have nothing over our imagination.”

The book and Díaz’s appearance are part of the Freshman Common Reading experience, in which first-year students read the same book, write their own memoirs or other critical responses to the work, participate in a panel discussion by faculty members, and engage in other activities.

The excerpt that Díaz read is from his third book, *This Is How You Lose Her* (Riverhead Books, 2012), a collection of short stories. He had planned to read from *Oscar Wao*, he said, but he left his book in the taxi on the ride over. “I keep thinking the taxi driver will take the book and read it,” he demurred.

Oscar Wao won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Díaz, 45, is also the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship (the “genius grant”), among many other accolades. He has been a university professor for 17 years and currently teaches writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It’s a life, he said, that he was able to realize only after a lot of struggles that dawned in an awakening.

“One of the things you get for free is a dream,” he told the students.

—Jamilah Simmons



Sylvia Greenberg Schechter '54 points to her plaque in the Hall of Fame.

Athletic Hall of Fame Celebrates Scholar-Athletes

On June 21, 2013, President Karen L. Gould and Director of Athletics Bruce Filosa '94 M.S. Ed. cut the ribbon on a new Athletics Hall of Fame. Relocated to the second floor of the West Quad Center from its former home in Roosevelt Hall, the Hall of Fame was updated with new plaques honoring each of its 96 members, some of whom were in attendance for the ceremony.

Although a new class of athletes has not been inducted since 1991, there are plans to do so in the future. According to Filosa, a committee that includes college administrators, students, and former honorees will choose students based on academic and athletic performance.

Of the new installation the president said, "We are proud to continue the tradition of cultivating strong scholar-athletes and provide a new home for our past and future Hall of Famers."



Director of Athletics Bruce Filosa '94 M.S. Ed.

Bloomberg Terminals Come to Campus

Brooklyn College students, faculty, and staff now have access to Bloomberg Professional Terminals, a financial services system that provides users with up-to-the-minute global corporate and market analysis and news. The terminals have been made available through the generosity of an anonymous donor, the support of School of Business Dean Willie Hopkins, and the work of Academic Information Technologies and Information Technology Services.

"Our students now have access to information that will make them more competitive as they seek employment in a tight job market," says Hopkins. "By providing this resource to students and faculty seeking real-time financial data for research projects, the School of Business will join the ranks of top business schools around the country that have installed these terminals. I'm excited for our business students and for the reputation enhancement Brooklyn College will enjoy as a result."

Available on the lower level and first floor of the Brooklyn College Library, the service can also be used on laptops by faculty in the library's Faculty Training and Development Lab.



Frans Albarillo, librarian for business, economics, accounting, linguistics, and sociology at Brooklyn College, with new Bloomberg Terminals.

Correction: In the last edition of Brooklyn College Magazine, Herb Alpert was incorrectly identified in a caption as Jerry Moss's client. Alpert, the "A" of A&M Records, is Moss's business partner.

**BROOKLYN
COLLEGE
FOUNDATION
BOARD
WELCOMES
NEWEST
MEMBERS**

The Brooklyn College Foundation is delighted to welcome 10 new trustees who bring key expertise in fields including science and medicine, media and the arts, and business and finance. They will help the Foundation in its mission to support the college, its students, and the faculty. In 2012–2013, \$1.9 million from the Foundation provided an estimated 1,400 students with scholarships and stipends for internships and study abroad. It also raised funds to support faculty research and endowed professorships and major capital construction projects.



Charles C. Bales '10 is a theater critic, writer, editor, and dramaturge. He is the co-writer of *The David Project* with Foxy Films' Reid Farrington (*Gin & "It," The Passion Project*) and a member of the American Theatre Critics Association. He is also a co-founder and the executive director of Voyage Theater Company.



Sarah Benson '04 is the artistic director of New York City-based Soho Rep. Among her directing credits are new works by artists such as Sarah Kane, Lucas Hnath, Polly Stenham, and the Brooklyn-based indie-rock band the Lisps. She has received critical recognition including seven Obie Awards and five Drama Desk nominations.



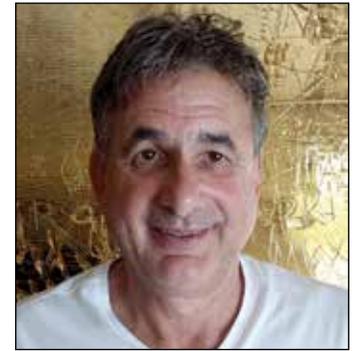
Scott Herman '80, is the executive vice president of operations for CBS Radio, where he is responsible for 74 stations in 18 markets throughout the country, including the seven stations in New York. He also oversees the CBS-owned all-news and news/talk stations throughout the United States. During his 35-year career Herman has held executive positions with CBS, Group W, and Infinity Radio.



Stella Lagudis '82 is the managing director and head of the Strategic Partners Group within the Global Client Management Division at BNY Mellon. Previously, she held leadership positions at Smith Barney Capital Management, ABN AMRO, and J.P. Morgan. Lagudis is a member of BNY Mellon's Corporate Operating Committee and a founding member of the BNY Mellon Women's Initiatives Network.



Don Lemon '96 anchors *CNN Newsroom* during weekend prime time and serves as a correspondent across the network's U.S. programming. Lemon has anchored and reported for CNN many breaking-news stories, including the inauguration of President Barack Obama and the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, among others. He has received an Edward R. Murrow Award and several Emmys for his reporting.



Alan Lipton '73 is an accountant and investor. From 1999 to 2006, he was CEO and president of Odimo Inc., a publicly traded Internet retailer of diamonds, jewelry, and luxury goods. From 1983 to 1994 he was CEO of Jan Bell Marketing, a publicly held jewelry and watch retailer and supplier to the wholesale club industry. Currently he is involved in commercial real estate and is the founder of the Lipton Foundation.



Harvey Pitt '65 is chief executive officer of Kalorama Partners, a global business consulting firm. From 2001 to 2003 he chaired the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, where he led the restoration of securities markets' trading after 9/11, created a "real-time enforcement" program, and led the adoption of dozens of rules in response to corporate and accounting crises arising from 1990s excesses.



Zev Rosenwaks '68 is the director and physician-in-chief of the Ronald O. Perleman and Claudia Cohen Center for Reproductive Medicine. Under his leadership the center has become one of the world's leading reproductive endocrinology and assisted reproduction programs. He is also a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and reproductive medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College and an attending obstetrician-gynecologist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.



Jeffrey Sigler '92, '95 M.S. is the director of the Freshman Year Program at Medgar Evers College. During his 19-year career there he has also served as director of student life and development and as an instructor and counselor in the Freshman Year Program. Sigler is the current president of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association.



Joanne Waldstreicher '81 is the chief medical officer at Johnson & Johnson. Previously she served in several leadership positions in global drug development and clinical research at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceuticals and Merck & Co. Inc. Her work combines broad experience in science and medicine with a passion for advancing medical science, collaboration, and transparency.

Included in the YWCA archives that are being preserved at Brooklyn College are this image of Paule Marshall '52 (second from left), author of newly published *Brown Girl, Brownstones*, with fans circa 1959, and an article announcing the opening of the Y building in 1927.



A CENTURY OF WOMEN'S HISTORY REVEALED

As part of the celebration of its 125th anniversary, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Brooklyn has donated its archives to the Brooklyn College Library.

To fund the conservation of the documents, photographs, and ephemera, which were in danger of deteriorating in the organization's basement, the YWCA and Brooklyn College Archives co-sponsored, in September, an exhibit and fundraiser at the YWCA building in the Boerum Hill neighborhood of Brooklyn.

"For 125 years, the YWCA of Brooklyn has been a pioneer and champion of women's rights, racial equality, and social justice movements," says Martha Kamber, director of the YWCA. "We are grateful that Brooklyn College has saved our archives and will catalog and preserve this priceless history." The archives, dating back to 1887, have been placed in a climate-controlled environment.

Showcased at the event were artifacts that are now part of the collection, including scrapbooks, newsletters, and a 1970s program announcing a membership meeting that featured Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm '46, the first African-American woman to serve in Congress



Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz '70 with Martha Kamber, director of the Brooklyn YWCA.

and the first, in 1973, to run for President of the United States. Photographs, many of them chronicling Brooklyn's history, were hung on the walls.

"This YWCA was founded when Brooklyn was a separate city and not one of the boroughs," says Borough President Marty Markowitz '70, underscoring the significance of the archives' earlier holdings.

Established in England in 1855 to provide support for women at the height of the industrial revolution, the YWCA—not affiliated with the YMCA—is the world's largest women's organization. Its ongoing mission has been to advocate for peace, justice, social change, and sustainable development.

In a move that was well ahead of the times, the Brooklyn branch—still a home and sometime refuge for women from all backgrounds—was desegregated in 1943, at least two decades before civil rights legislation made integration the law in the United States. And while it still honors its Christian roots, the Brooklyn YWCA has a history of welcoming people of all faiths, notes Cathleen Cogswell, the Y's director of development. It also offers safe and affordable housing for victims of domestic violence.

According to Acting College Archivist Marianne LaBatto '95, that fund-raiser was only the first: Her team estimates that at least \$50,000 is needed to cover the cost of conservation.

"Once these materials are made available to the public, the story of the women of the Brooklyn Y will not be lost, but will be remembered and celebrated," says LaBatto.

"The archival exhibit mounted by the Archives and Special Collections Department of the Brooklyn College Library has demonstrated the dedication and professionalism of the college's conservators and archivists," says Cogswell. "We salute their expertise, passion, and vision for the YWCA's archives and for Brooklyn's rich history."

—Ernesto Mora

Chasson Gracie '01, a graduate of Brooklyn College's Department of History, is known as the "moneyball" man in music industry circles. As the founder and CEO of Gracie Management, he helped record companies, artists, and artist managers interpret research data to create and develop better brand-marketing strategies. Currently, Gracie serves as the vice president and director of group planning at Dieste Inc., where he spearheads and oversees the creative and dynamic ways in which his clients—including Nissan, Infiniti, the New York Lottery, and Southwest Airlines—are marketed. His overall success has garnered him 10 prestigious industry awards, among them two gold Ogilvy Awards. Among his outstanding career achievements is his work on the U.S. Census, where, led by his strategic prowess, census participation exceeded expectations by 7 percent and saved taxpayers more than \$1.9 billion.



Why did you choose this career track? What do you find appealing about marketing and the music industry?

While I have an academic side and love to conduct research and get lost in it for days, I also have a deep love of the creative side of life, and how these things come together to create culture. Being the head of strategic planning at an ad agency was the perfect mix. To me, marketing is essentially about creating experiences for people around things that are important to them, and this output becomes part of culture. I started Gracie Management in order to help independent and independent-minded musicians have long-term careers by properly interpreting market data and finding the most creative and edgy ways to present their campaigns and programs around releases, concerts, etc. [These are individuals] who are generally overlooked or mismanaged by other firms, or who might believe that marketing strategies are reserved for mainstream musicians.

What aspects of your education best prepared you for success in your field?

I would say my math and statistics courses, along with my wide dive into the social sciences, such as philosophy, psychology, and sociology. I would recommend to anyone to make

sure to balance your education by participating in the various sciences while at university. A holistic view will help you immensely in your career, especially in the current economy, where there is an expectation of greater knowledge and not just the one-dimensionality that was commonplace for many in the past.

How did you make the connections that facilitated your success?

Very early on in my career, when I saw great work or great thinking from someone, whether it was on a website or in a magazine, I would reach out to the person to ask questions. That eventually led to my developing relationships with the people, which led to career opportunities that allowed me to shine, and eventually led to the positions I hold today.

Did you have to overcome any obstacles in the pursuit of your goals?

If you look at me, I perhaps do not look like the stereotypical image of a strategist/researcher. I once had a client whom I had not met in person during the first couple of months of my working for her. At our first meeting, she was shocked. She'd thought I would be some old professor type with a sweater and disheveled hair [laughs]. But in all seriousness, what is most important, especially for people who might not "fit the part,"

is to almost instantly own the room, own the conversation. What I mean is that you must make people realize that you know your stuff just as well if not better than the others in the room. Now I know this can be difficult for shy people, and I am a tad bit shy myself, but you must be open-minded and, sometimes, extroverted.

What do you think is your crowning achievement thus far, and why?

Three things come to mind. One was having the music consumption model that I created via Gracie Management labeled "The Moneyball of Music" by *The Examiner*. It was a great honor, especially since I have such great respect for [former MLB player and author of *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*] Billy Beane and what he did with data to help the Oakland A's become competitive in the early 2000s.

The second was working on the 2010 Census and helping it exceed its participation goal and save taxpayers money—which ultimately helped communities that were really in need, after the Great Recession, to get the funding they so deserved.

The third was the "Above the Influence" campaign to reduce drug use among teens, and having our work

validated by Michael Slater of Ohio State University. I know drug policy is controversial, but I think we can all agree that your high school years are very, very important and have a tremendous impact on your future. So staying as focused and clearheaded as possible is a good thing.

Would you say that your success is the result of your own diligence, vision, and luck, as well as assistance from mentors, teachers, family, friends, and other students?

It is definitely a mix. Part of it had to do with my own personal ambition and vision, but there is no doubt that a variety of people also played a role, especially my professors at both Brooklyn College and the New School, where I did my graduate work. Also, while it may sound trite, I know we have a hard time getting rid of people who are negative in our lives, but we must, because they can be the albatross that brings us down and interferes with our own success. The crucial thing is for people to make sure they surround themselves with those who are positive and supportive.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

To learn more about Chasson Gracie and his endeavors, please visit www.graciemgt.com.



Undefeated Yuliya Orkis '15 Shines on the Court and in the Classroom

Yuliya Orkis aspires to be the best at what she does, and that has been evident throughout the junior's time at Brooklyn College, where she is an A student and one of the top college tennis players in the Northeast.

Just this past September, Orkis had an opportunity to compete at the USTA/ITA Division III Women's Northeast Regional Championships for the first time in her career and performed marvelously. Playing in a field of 64, Orkis was able to win her first four matches, defeating opponents from Ramapo, Skidmore, New York University, and Geneseo, to reach the semifinal round.

It was there that she would fall to the top overall seed, Cristina Nunez of Ithaca, 6-3, 6-4, but Orkis would have no regrets, as she played excellently in her first trip to the prestigious tournament.

"I feel great about my performance," says Orkis. "Of course, it would have been even better to go to the finals and win the entire thing, but I am still proud of myself."

It was the first singles loss of her entire college career, bringing her overall record to 33-1. In fact, she remains undefeated in the City University of New York Athletic

Conference (CUNYAC) play for her career, with a 16-0 overall record.

She not only amassed a great record, but also has been dominant for two and a half years. Prior to her loss at the ITAs, she had not been defeated and had never lost a set in a college match. In her sophomore year, she remarkably lost a total of just three games in 12 singles matches on the season.

For her accomplishments she was named the CUNYAC Player of the Year as a freshman and a sophomore, and is the favorite for the award once again as a junior.

"Julie is one of the most outstanding tennis players to compete at Brooklyn College or in the CUNYAC," says Athletics Director Bruce Filosa. "She performs well in all facets of the game, which she displayed at the ITA Regionals."

Orkis appreciates the recognition, adding, "It's nice to know that I share this title with Brooklyn College as a whole, as I am representing my school."

She represents her school well on the court and also in her studies, having earned a grade point average just under 4.0. Orkis's other passion is theater. As part of the B.F.A. Acting program, she aspires to a career as a stage and,



eventually, film actress. It's not an easy career to succeed in, yet Orkis is confident that through hard work she will make it a reality. She says, "I know I can achieve this goal because of the education I am acquiring through the B.F.A. program and my hunger and desire for this to be my life and my career." In November she performed in *Becky Shaw*, a dark comedy by Gina Gionfriddo and directed by Eric Parness, at the New Workshop Theater at Brooklyn College.

Orkis's all-or-nothing attitude is evident in everything she does, and her sunny personality and disposition make her an exemplary teammate and captain, someone whom everyone on the team roots for.

"She is always the first person to greet a new player to the team. During games you can hear her encouraging her teammates whether she's playing or not," says senior Maria Sanz.

"Julie is a tremendous individual," adds Head Tennis Coach Ahmad Odetalla. "As great as she is on the court, she is also a great person and as hardworking a student-athlete as I've seen in my time at Brooklyn College."

On the court she continues to dominate opponents, and has led her team to an 8-1 record in the 2013 season as they prepare to make a run at the conference title. For the second time in her career, she was named September Scholar-Athlete of the Month by the CUNYAC, an award given to an athlete who has excelled both in the classroom and in his or her sport.

"I suppose both aspects of my life, tennis and acting, have interchangeable life lessons," says Orkis. "It's hard to pinpoint where I learn what, but I do know that both parts are very important to who I am."

—Alex Lang



Softball Team Sets New Record for Wins

The Brooklyn College softball team is coming off a banner campaign in 2013, as the Bulldogs set a new program record for wins in a single season with 23. Brooklyn College also earned a spot in the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Metro Championships for the second straight season and its fourth overall appearance since 2008.

A key figure in the Bulldogs' success last season was sophomore starting pitcher/designated player Kayla Hill, who was named the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Softball Player of the Year in 2013.

Hill transferred to Brooklyn from NCAA Division II Pace University in Pleasantville, New York, where the Brooklyn native played for the Setters as a freshman in 2012.

"When I came to Brooklyn College last fall, I was very excited to be able to continue playing the sport I love," says Hill. "I knew there was a great deal of talent on the team and felt completely at ease. We played some tough teams last year, which made the season very exciting."

Returning to her home borough, Hill, a graduate of James Madison High School, was the ace of the Bulldogs' staff, making 20 starts, to go along with 17 complete games, while posting an 11–8 record and a 3.01 ERA. She totaled 123.1 innings pitched and struck out 78 batters.

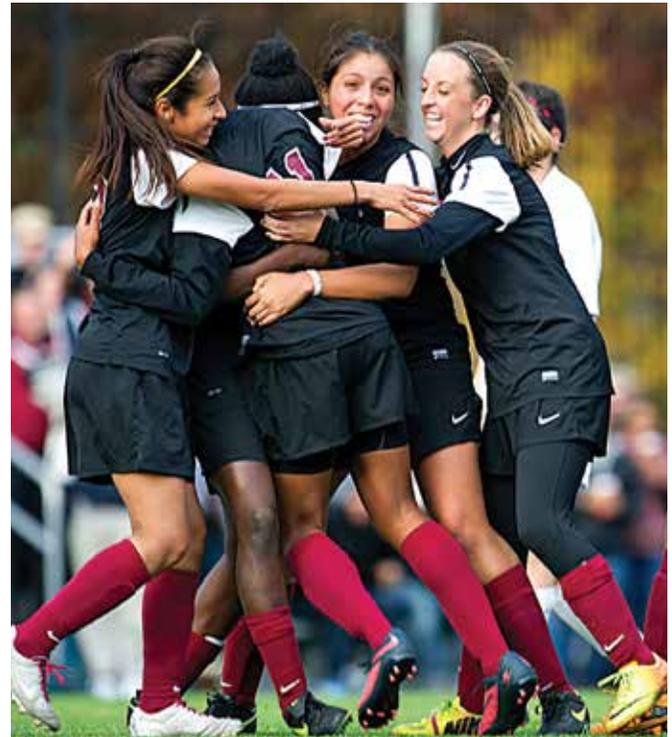
Hill also made her mark at the plate, posting a .333 (43-for-129) batting average, a .504 slugging percentage, and a .348 on-base percentage. She registered 20 RBI and 25 runs scored, while starting in all 38 games she appeared in. And she would go on to earn ECAC Division III Metro Softball All-Star First Team honors.

Along with Hill, freshman catcher Samantha Rodriguez, senior center fielder Kim Konklewski, and junior pitcher/third baseman Amanda Bisz all played vital roles in Brooklyn's success a season ago, and were all honored as well by being named CUNYAC All-Stars. Rodriguez and Konklewski were both named to the First Team, while Bisz was named to the Second Team.

With the expected return of 15 letter winners, as well as a new coaching staff, 2014 should be another banner year for the Brooklyn College softball team. "Our new coaching staff brings a wealth of softball knowledge and experience to the team," says Hill. "With all our hard work and dedication, I expect next season to be even better."

—Alex Lang

In only its second year as an athletic program, the Brooklyn College women's soccer team capped off a historic run, defeating the top-seeded College of Staten Island (CSI) by a score of 3–1 to capture its first City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Championship, earning a berth in the NCAA Division III tournament. While the team's first season saw some challenges, it managed a respectable record during 2012. In 2013, with the new recruits and a crop of returning players, the team finished second, heading into the CUNYAC Tournament and entering the CUNYAC Final with a 14–3 record.



Brooklyn College Bulldogs Spring 2013 CUNYAC All-Stars

Men's Volleyball

Second Team All-Star: David Dimitruk

Second Team All-Star: Mateusz Gotowicki

Second Team All-Star: Timothy Hui

Sportsmanship Award: Lucas Moline

Women's Softball

Player of the Year: Kayla Hill

First Team All-Star: Samantha Rodriguez

First Team All-Star: Kim Konklewski

Second Team All-Star: Amanda Bisz

A Luminary in His Field

Howard M. Brandston '58 has always pushed the limits. As a young theater major, he once ran cables from the theater on the fourth floor of Boylan Hall to the studio theater below in order to light a show.

"I had this really wild idea of what I wanted to do, but there wasn't enough power or dimmer control in the studio" to pull it off, he explains.

The then superintendent of buildings and grounds showed up at the performance. "He knew how much power was in that studio, and he went back and traced what I had done," says 78-year-old Brandston, chuckling at the memory. "He told me if I ever did it again, he would have me kicked out of school. I took him very seriously, and never did it again."

Despite the scolding, that wasn't the last time Brandston broke the rules, and the enduring habit actually helped him make his mark and eventually propelled him to an illustrious 50-year career as one of the world's foremost architectural lighting designers.

Brandston designed the lighting for nearly 3,000 diverse commercial, residential, and government projects, from a rehearsal studio for Marilyn Monroe to the Ring of Fire Aquarium in Osaka, Japan. For the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, whose silhouette has become an iconic marker of the city, he floodlit the exterior to emphasize the structure's clean vertical lines and its dramatic sky bridge.

When he worked on the restoration of a little old sculpture called the Statue of Liberty, he designed lighting that gradually increased as it proceeded up the shaft to accentuate her height, a nod to her towering role in American culture.

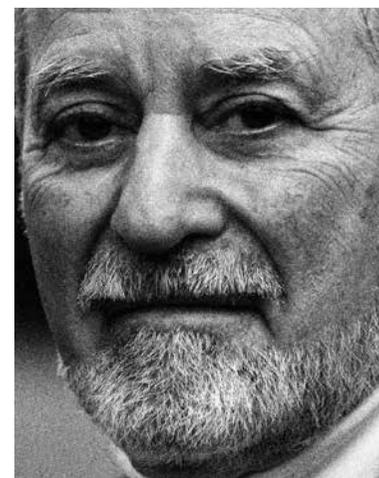
"I'm always looking for the key thing that will create the mood: the emotion, the joy, the sorrow, the fun, the laughter," he says, sitting in the minimalist conference room of the midtown firm he opened in 1966.

He has been recognized with numerous awards, including the International Association of Lighting Designers' Lifetime Achievement Award and the American Institute of Architects' Institute Honors award. He is the only lighting designer to be inducted into the Interior Design Hall of Fame.

"I have been in this profession since the birth of its growth," he says.

Brandston secured his first job out of school while he was working on a major production at the college during his senior year. He'd had another ingenious idea: to light a cyclorama (a large curtain or wall, usually concave, positioned at the back of a stage) to create the illusion of sky inside Gershwin Hall. He couldn't figure out how to make it happen, so he simply called Stanley McCandless, the man considered to be the true father of modern lighting design.

"He told me that what I needed didn't exist," says the soft-spoken Brandston. "So I ended up designing a projector myself."



© Lonny Kalfus

The move got the attention of McCandless. "He hired me. I knew I was working with the god of lighting," Brandston says. "Because I was associated with this courtly gentleman, I had credentials bestowed upon me that I didn't deserve."

Over the years, Brandston has been a relentless force pursuing the issues he believes in, writing op-ed pieces that wax poetic on the fundamental value of light, and arguing passionately before the U.S. Senate that restricting incandescent lamp usage would have a significant negative impact on almost every person in the country.

He is currently working with researchers from Harvard University and Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City on a special ultraviolet projector that would kill airborne germs. He hopes to distribute it widely in the developing world, especially in Africa, in order to stem the death rate among HIV-infected people who would die if infected by tuberculosis.

Brandston has taught during many points in his career at various schools, including CUNY's City College, Cooper Union, Hofstra University, Washington University, and others. Yet he says he will always have an affinity for his alma mater, which honored him with an Undergraduate Theater Department Alumni Award this year.

"Brooklyn College allowed me to experiment in all kinds of ways," he says. "It gave me my foundation."

—Jamilah Simmons



© Chris Weitzel



© Harajuku



© Lars0001

A sampling of masterworks by lighting designer Howard Brandston's: the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the Ring of Fire Aquarium in Osaka, Japan; the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

Irving Harper '37 published *Irving Harper: Works in Paper* with Skira Rizzoli Publishing.

Oscar Brand '42 continues to host the award-winning *Oscar Brand's Folksong Festival*, a show he began in 1945. Broadcast on WNYC-AM 820 every Saturday night at 10:00 p.m., it is the longest-running radio program with the same host.

Murray Bromberg '48 is the co-author, with Melvin Gordon, of *1100 Words You Need to Know* (sixth edition), published by Barron's Educational Series.

The name of **Stanley Millman '52** was engraved on the Veterans' Walls of Honor at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, New York, during a ceremony on June 22.

Claire Nachumson Millman '53 received a Lifetime Achievement Award for her leading role in promoting smoke-free air in public places at the Post 50th alumni reunion at Brooklyn College on September 22.

Eileen B Kowal '55 (a.k.a. e.b. kowal), published *Sara and A Stitch in Spacetime*, with Glass Key Press.

Joseph V. Ricapito '55 published *In Pursuit of Truth* with Guernica Editions.

Manuel Schonhorn '55 is a current member of Columbia University's University Seminar

on Eighteenth-Century European Culture, and Co-Editor of Stoke Newington Edition of The Works of Daniel DeFoe, AMS Press, volume 5, *The System of Magick*, now being edited for publication.

Linda Wolfe '55 published *My Daughter, Myself: An Unexpected Journey* with Greenpoint Press.

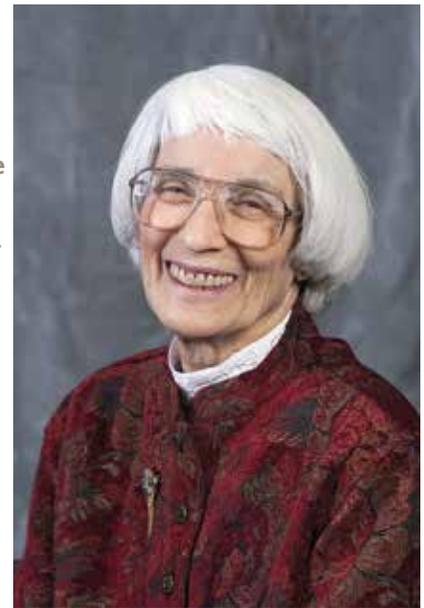
Sivia Karansky Kaye '56 retired as a Professor of English from Nassau Community College. She is regularly published in the NYS Retired Teachers newsletter and also in *MUSINGS*, a publication for the retirement community of Mirabella, Portland, Oregon. He would love to hear from some classmates SiviaKaye@mac.com.

Martin P. Schreiber '56 CUNY distinguished professor emeritus of biology at Brooklyn College, was invited to present a workshop on hydroponics and aquaponics (novel approaches to food production) at Hartford Community College's STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) Teaching Academy in Maryland in July.

The Military Writers Society of America awarded **Albert Ashforth '58** the bronze medal for his thriller *The Rendition* (Oceanview Publishing).

Alan Dershowitz '59 published *Taking the Stand: My Life in the Law* with Crown.

Nicknamed the Godmother of Title IX by *The New York Times*, **Dr. Bernice R. Sandler '48** played a major role in the development and passage of federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination in education.



Sandler received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Brooklyn College and her master's in the same field from the City College of New York.

After completing her doctorate in counseling at the University of Maryland in 1969, she went to work there as a part-time lecturer. Her hopes of becoming a tenure-track professor were dashed when a male colleague told her that she would never be hired because she was "too strong for a woman."

Working with the Committee for Federal Contract Compliance of the Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), Sandler filed complaints against 250 colleges and universities under the U.S. Department of Labor that received federal assistance. She had found an amendment to a federal law that specifically prohibits the discrimination against women by federal institutions, including those receiving federal aid.

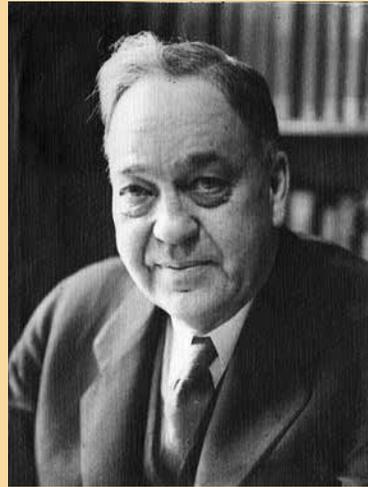
The complaints drew publicity, and Sandler, along with Rep. Edith Green (D-OR), helped organize congressional hearings on sex discrimination in education. As a result of the hearings, Title IX of the Education Amendments was passed in 1972.

Appointed by Presidents Ford and Carter, respectively, Sandler became the first chair of the now-defunct National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs. She has written several books and numerous articles on the topics of sex discrimination, harassment, and rape at educational institutions.

Today she is a senior scholar at the Women's Research and Education Institute in Washington, D.C., and an adjunct associate professor at Drexel University College of Medicine. In 2011, Sandler received an honorary degree from Brooklyn College. This October she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, and received a 2013 Post 50th Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association.

—Taneish Hamilton

1938: Seventy-five years ago, the late **Dr. Alderbert Grant Fradenburgh**, the first dean of Brooklyn College, was honored at a ceremony for the unveiling of a large bronze plaque. Fradenburgh, who was also the chairman of the Department of History, was described in the *Brooklyn Eagle* as a prominent educator, scholar, and administrator. On the importance of Fradenburgh's work as a history professor, Brooklyn Borough President Raymond Ingersoll said during the ceremony, "I think the cause of a great deal of trouble in the world has been, to a great extent, the fact that people don't know enough about history."



Arthur Scherr '71 published *Thomas Jefferson's Myths and Realities*, with Lexington Books.

Norman Epstein '71 is retiring as President & Chief Executive Officer of Summit Health, where he served for 24 years.

Davita Silfen Glasberg '73 is a Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of Social Sciences and Undergraduate Education at the University of Connecticut. The American Sociological Association's Human Rights Section has awarded its 2013 Hirabayashi Book Award for best book to *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard: Injustice and Resistance in the United States* (UPenn Press), coedited by William T. Armaline, Davita Silfen Glasberg, and Bandana Purkayastha.

Jeffrey Laitman '73, distinguished professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, delivered the commencement address at the Medical College of Wisconsin and was given an honorary doctor of medical science degree by the school.

Betty Rosenberg Perlov '73 published the children's book *Rifka Takes a Bow* with Kar-Ben Publishing.

Philip Schuh '73 was appointed interim executive vice president of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Theodore Federici '60, president of Federici Consulting, received the Breakthrough Award from Breakthrough New York at the nonprofit's annual gala.

Fran Orenstein '60 published *Murder in Duplicate* with World Castle Publishing.

Sheila and Letty Sustrin '60 published *The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Becomes a Movie Star* with Blue Marlin Publications. The book is the fourth in a series for children.

Elaine Bossik '61 published *The Last Victim*, with Portable Shopper, LLC.

Bill Derman '61 published *Worlds of Human Rights: The Ambiguities of Rights Claiming in Africa* with Brill Publishers.

Richard F. Dods '61 published *Understanding Diabetes: A Biochemical Perspective* with Wiley & Sons.

Howard Kaminsky '61 published the thriller *Angel Wings* with Thomas & Mercer.

Rabbi Edward Feld '64 published *Joy, Despair and Hope: Reading Psalms* with Wipf and Stock Publishers.

Builder Levy '64 published a book of photographs titled *Appalachia USA: Photographs, 1968–2009* with David R. Godine.

Donald D. Devine '65 M.S. published *America's Way Back: Reclaiming Freedom, Tradition, and Constitution* with the Intercollegiate Studies Institute.

Its newly appointed president, **Stuart J. Froum '66**, will lead the American Academy of Periodontology's board of trustees.

Charles Selengut '66 was appointed to the board of advisers of the Inter Religious Federation for World Peace.

Margaret Winters '66 was appointed provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Wayne State University.

Barbara Tessler Goldberg '69 is the co-author, with Debbie Isaac, of "Attracting the College-Age to Organized Jewish Life: A Case Study," published in the August 22, 2013, edition of eJewishPhilanthropy.com.

Rosemarie Pilkington '69 M.S. published volume 2 of *Esprit: Men and Women of Parapsychology, Personal Reflections* with Anomalist Books.

Jay Sokolovsky '69, professor of anthropology at the University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, received a national

award from the American Anthropological Association for his groundbreaking research and leadership over nearly four decades that led to the creation of a new area of study focused on aging.

Warren Rosenberg '70, professor of English at Wabash College, was named the John P. Collett Chair in Rhetoric.

Dr. Stephen Becker '71, President and CEO of HARC, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with intellectual disability and their families, recently retired.

Glenna Kubit '71 published *Art Is . . . : Elements and Principles of Design* with Crystal Productions.

1963:

Fifty years ago, the folk music quartet the **Weavers** performed in Gershwin Hall's auditorium as part of the festivities scheduled for the senior prom. The Grammy-winning group sang blues, gospel music, children's songs, labor songs, and American ballads for the prom-goers, who then moved to the student center for dinner and dancing.



David Shark '73 was appointed a deputy director-general of the World Trade Organization.

Sam L. Unterricht '73 was elected president of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

Brenda Mendelson Strassfeld '74, '76 M.S., chair of the mathematics education program at Touro College's Graduate School of Education, was selected as a Feinberg Foundation Visiting Faculty Program Fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel.

Yossi Klein Halevi '75 published *Like Dreamers: The Story of the Israeli Paratroopers Who Reunited Jerusalem and Divided a Nation* with Harper.

Neil Fogel '76 was appointed chief financial officer at VGTel, Inc.

Marjorie Hassen '77 was named director of the Bowdoin College Library. She succeeds **Sherrie Bergman '67**, who retired in 2012 after 20 years of service to the college.

Ron Kaplan '78, '80 M.S. published *501 Baseball Books Fans Must Read before They Die* with the University of Nebraska Press.

Denise B. Maybank '78 was appointed vice president for student affairs and services at Michigan State University.

Cyndi Stein-Rubin '78, '82 M.S. published *A Personal Development Handbook: The Healthcare Provider as Facilitator* with Cengage Learning.

Joel Cohen '83 will publish *BoomER: Emergency Room Survival Guide for Baby Boomers and Older Adults* with Endless Knot Press. The book is to be released in late winter 2014.

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, magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu, or Brooklyn College Magazine, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889.

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2009 Steven Juskowicz, 1485 East 32th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403, sjuskowicz@gmail.com
2013 Elizabeth Weiss, 2013elizabethweiss2013@gmail.com

Dear Alumni,
 It is my pleasure to write to you as I embark on my new role as president of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA). First, I want to extend my gratitude to the board of directors and my predecessor Ron Schweiger '70 for their leadership. It is an honor to take the helm of an organization that exists to provide a lifelong association between Brooklyn College and its alumni, supporting the mission, students, faculty, and programs of the college.



I bring 14 years of board experience with me to the BCAA presidency, having served on various committees, projects, and, most recently, four years as chair of the alumni awards committee and BCAA 1st vice president. Brooklyn born and bred, I attended Brooklyn Technical High School ('87), played NCAA Division I basketball for the college, and had the privilege of receiving both my undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brooklyn College, '92 and '95, respectively. My wife, two sons, and I reside in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

The 2013–14 BCAA campaign is off to a terrific yet bittersweet start. In August we learned of the passing of former BCAA president and longtime Palm Beach chapter president Hal Schaffer '56. Hal was a dedicated servant to the college, the board, and the chapter. He will be missed.

This September the BCAA hosted the Twenty-third Annual Post 50th Alumni Awards ceremony and luncheon at the Brooklyn College Student Center. The awards committee, chaired by Dorothy Salwen Rabinoff '51, bestowed lifetime achievement awards to members of the graduating classes of '43, '48, '53, and '58. The Milton Fisher '38 Second Harvest Award was presented to faculty member Karel Herman Rose '53 by the Honorable Jack Weinstein '43.

In October the BCAA held the Fourth Annual Alumni Honors at Stage 6 at Steiner Studios, Brooklyn Navy Yard. The following individuals were honored: Lisette Nieves '92 (Alumna of the Year); John Noel '81 (Alumnus of the Year, awarded posthumously); Henrietta Margolis Nunno '65 and Jorge Garces '93 (Distinguished Achievement Awards); Sarah Benson '04 M.F.A. (Young Alumna Award); Thomas Bradshaw '04 M.F.A. (Young Alumnus Award); and Marsha Zirn Elowsky '56 and Claire Garfinkel Kerman '56 (Jerome S. Milgram Distinguished Service Awards).

Congratulations to the members of the alumni awards committee on their selections, and to those of the activities committee, chaired by the board's corresponding secretary, Arlene Lichterman '53, on their coordination of the event.

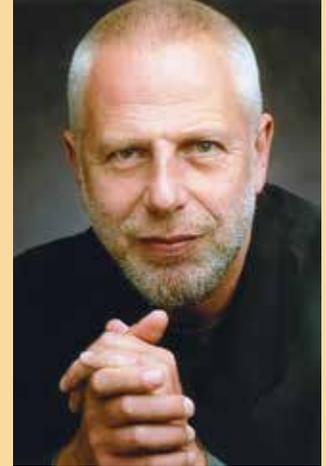
So much more lies ahead for the BCAA in 2014. I am looking forward to the journey. Join us!

In service,

Jeffrey Sigler, '92, '95 M.S.

1988:

On November 5, 1988, the Soviet pianist **Vladimir Feltsman** performed works by composers Mozart, Mussorgsky, and Schumann at Brooklyn College's Whitman Theater. Considered one of the finest pianists of his generation, Feltsman had been trained at the Central Moscow Music School and debuted with the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto no. 1 in C Major at age 11.



Reed Farrel Coleman '83 published *Onion Street* (a Moe Prager Mystery) with Tyrus Books.

Joyce Green '83 published *Grandma Speak*, with G Publishing.

Stephen Radice '85 was the recipient of the James Bryant Conant Award in High School Chemistry Teaching.

Barbara Schwartz-Bechet '86 was appointed chair of the Department of Special and Early Education at Northern Illinois University.

Andrew Kaufman '86 M.F.A. published *Both Sides of the Niger*, a book of poems, with Spuyten Duyvil Press.

David Salem '89 is the co-author, with Joy Tavano, of *Excel It!: Teen-Based Microsoft Excel Activities*, published by Business Education Publishing.

Four poems by **Sharon Mesmer '90 M.F.A.** were included in *Postmodern American Poetry: A Norton Anthology* (second edition), published by W. W. Norton & Company.

Adam Berlin '91 M.F.A. published a novel, *The Number of Missing*, with Spuyten Duyvil Press.

Patrice D. Rankine '92 published *Aristotle and Black Drama: A Theater of Civil Disobedience* with Baylor University Press.

Gina Falcone-Panza '93 M.S.E. was named head of school at St. Thomas's Day School in New Haven.

Neal Singh '94 is one of 50 teachers profiled in *American Teacher: Heroes in the Classroom* by Katrina Fried (Welcome books).

Ellen Levitt '95 published *The Lost Synagogues of Manhattan* with Avotaynu.

Ana Vasquez-Hernandez '01, who teaches Spanish at Rutland High School in Macon, Georgia, was selected to serve on State Superintendent Dr. John Barge's Teacher Advisory Council.

Cari Luna '05 M.F.A. published *The Revolution of Every Day*, a novel, with Tin House Books.

Bushra Rehman '09 M.F.A. published her debut novel, *Corona*, with Sibling Rivalry Press.

Tommy Guerin '10 was named the new head men's basketball coach after serving as an assistant coach for two years at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University

Marlene Lee '10 M.F.A. published her debut novel, *The Absent Woman*, with Holland House Books.

Steven Greenberger '11 has become a set technical director at Fox News and Fox Business, working primarily on *Imus in the Morning*.



2003:

The Brooklyn College cheerleading team is founded by Tonika Simmons '05 M.S. during the 2003–2004 season. A decade later, the team (seen here in 2013) defeated the defending champions, the Staten Island Dolphins, to win the 2013/CUNYAC/Con Edison Cheerleading Championship. It was the Bulldogs' seventh title, having captured seven out of eight championships.



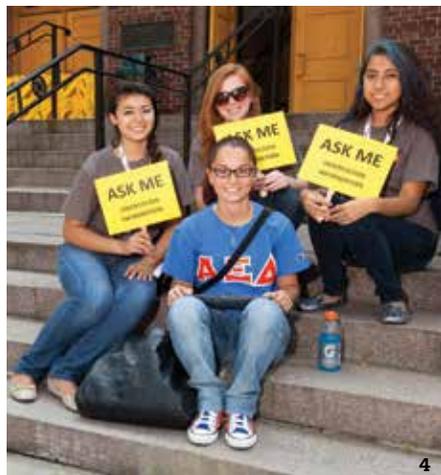
His Jell-O instant pudding made instant desserts a popular food item. And his ready-to-eat cereals in the shapes of honeycombs and the letters of the alphabet were among the first cereals in novelty shapes to fill supermarket shelves. Of those successes and others in the field of food technology, **Adolph S. Clausi '43** says that Brooklyn College was the starting point.

After earning his degree in chemistry, he attended Stevens Institute of Technology for his graduate work. In 1946, just out of the Navy, he joined General Foods Corporation as a junior chemist. By the time he retired 41 years later in July 1987, Clausi, along with his development teams, had created several popular food products that are still on the market, among them Tang instant beverage mix, Shake 'n Bake seasoning for meat, Stove Top stuffing mix, Country Time lemonade, and Cool Whip dessert topping. Today he holds 14 U.S. patents.

While at General Foods, Clausi served as senior vice president and chief research officer. He was also the first chairman of the council of advisers for the company's World Food Prize from 1986, when the award was founded, until 1991. The \$250,000 annual prize is bestowed on an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the quality, quantity, or availability of food anywhere in the world and has in the process "advanced human development." Appointed in 1997 by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Clausi was, for two years, part of a task force that reviewed and evaluated all USDA research facilities, making recommendations for the construction of future facilities. His inventions and those developed under his supervision have added billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

At 91, Clausi is still working as a food science consultant. Recently, he has reviewed and evaluated the research projects of the Midwest Advanced Food Manufacturing Alliance at the University of Nebraska and the Cooperative Research Center for Food Manufacturing and Packing in Australia.

—Taneish Hamilton



1. Liebowitz Entrepreneur Program Students purchase merchandise on campus for the Liebowitz Entrepreneur Program. **2. Ted Liebowitz '79** (center) with students in the spring 2013 Liebowitz Entrepreneur Program.

3. Freshmen Fall Orientation 2013 Incoming freshmen pose near Boylan Hall. **4. Orientation guides** huddle on the steps of Boylan Hall. **5. Concert at the Lily Pond** Graduate student Marissa Pontecorvo performs at the Lily Pond.

6. 2012-13 Magner Internship Recipients Brooklyn College Foundation trustee Marge Magner '69 (center) meets with the participants in her 2012-13 internship program at the Magner Career Center.

7. & 8. Commencement 2013 Students celebrate their graduation at the baccalaureate and master's ceremonies. **9. Preparatory Center for the Performing Arts** Dance Coordinator Megan Myers teaches ballet at the center.



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10. Faculty Orientation 2013 Incoming faculty gather in front of Boylan Hall as part of Faculty Orientation Day 2013.

11. Brooklyn College Night 2013 Best of Brooklyn honoree Stuart Kessler '50 with President Karen L. Gould.

12. Master of ceremonies Steven R. Schirripa '80.

13. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz '70 with students Michelle Wells and Erica Boucard.

14. Tow Luncheon Dr. Leonard Tow '50 (fourth from right) with recent awardees of the Leonard and Claire Tow Professorships and the Claire Tow Award for Excellence in Teaching: Professor Roberto Sanchez-Delgado, Department of Chemistry; Associate Professor Laura Rabin, Department of Psychology; Professor Aaron Kozbelt, Department of Psychology; Professor David Troyansky, Department of History;

Professor Arthur Bankoff, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, Professor Luigi Bonaffini, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; and Professor Patricia Cronin, Department of Art.

15. Estee Lauder Company Visit Irene Waxman '70 (center) and Suzanne Grossman (far right), career education and training coordinator at the Magnier Career Center, with Brooklyn College students at Estée Lauder Companies headquarters.

As of November 8, 2013

Faculty

Anindya Bhattacharya
*Department of Finance and
Business Management*

Edward Kent
Department of Philosophy

Alumni

Minerva Critchlow Bonds '33
Rose Schwartzberg Podell '33
Laura Levine Sims '33
Helen Rosenfeld Abrams '34
Ruth Kessler Kramer '34
Elaine Link Lee '34
Sam Eisenberg '35
Evelyn Rudomin Berry '36
Helen Robinson Bloom '36
Blanche Fishman Kramer '36
Minne Rosenbaum Motz '36
Aaron Scharf '36
Marcia Brener Sorkin '36
Charles A. Fries '37
Eugene Gayner '37
Alba Ghezzi Gennarelli '37
Ruth Blum Gottesman '37
Louis L. Kaplan '37
Claire Manulkin Schneider '37
Irving Birnbaum '38
James W. Osterburg '38
Hannah Weisberg Plisner '38
Molly Kuris Shuchat '38
Theodore Bleecker '39
James O. Boisi '39
Morris Broffman '39
Myron (Mike) Reissman '39
Albert M. Rubenstein '39
Jacqueline Stember Beaver '40
David Blum '40
Dorothy Leventhal Halpern '40
Abraham Nemeth '40
Frances Korenvaes Ames '41
Melvin Handler '41
Robert A. La Mantia '41
Sarah Einhorn Lewis '41
Arthur Oliner '41
Allen A. Sher '41
Shirley Miselson Spector '41
Daniel Turchin '41
Bernice Spector Wolman '41
Eugene N. Bilenker '42
Peter W. Fazzolare '42
Ruth Greenberg Grossman '42
Rhoda Buxbaum Howard '42
Emanuel Levy '42
Francis E. Martini '42
Jeannette Pequignot
Nussbaum '42
Carl Strauss '42
Virginia O'Neill Wrynn '42
Ralph Brande '43
Blanche Housman Gelfant '43
Allen A. Lincoln '43
Dorothy Canty Bass '44
Rita Kelsh Belateche '44
Sarah Kaufman Evan '44
Anita Waxman Krilov '44
Marilyn Kobrin Wallace '44
Rebecca Blumberg Carter '45
Anita (Nina) Gabowitz Gold '45
Norma Koidan Haber '45
Hazel DeClair Reinecke '45
Shirley Schiffman Sala '45

Stanley M. Sapon '45
Beatrice Greenapple Davis '46
Morris S. Davis '46
Vera O'Connell Dillon '46
Ellis Englesberg '46
Leonard Garment '46
Renee Bernstein Kopell '46
Yolanda Principe Townsend '46
Marilyn Apelson '47
Phoebe Friedman German '47
Estelle Hordes Green '47
Shirley Relson Karish '47
Myron M. Levine '47
James E. Lott '47
Hyman Parness '47
Florence Lipshitz Perlstein '47
Millicent Marcus Band '48
Estelle Fishman Cohen '48
Naomi Wolfe Fleischer '48
Stanley Horowitz '48
Abraham Katz '48
Seymour Lieberman '48
Ruth V. McCann '48
Helene Pascal Seifert '48
Herbert Skolnick '48
Morton Sloate '48
Milton Teitelbaum '48
Paul Treatman '48
Albert S. Dreyer '49
Dudley J. Gaffin '49
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Alice Golden Rubin '49
Norman R. Shapiro '49
Rudolph E. DiMuzio '50
Lawrence K. Feitell '50
Carl I. Fryburg '50
Stan Isaacs '50
Elliot Lesser '50
Charles J. DiPierro '51
Gerald Goldstein '51
Harriette (Terri) Wagner Linn '51
George Radin '51
Bernice Ramme Samuels '51
Jack Turkeltaub '51
Sidney Weinstein '51
Salvatore J. Catania '52
Sandra Saret Cortese '52
Stanley N. Etkin '52
Roslyn Thorne Fitzsimmons '52
Leonard Herzenberg '52
Ann J. Lane '52
Robert P. Levine '52
Jeremy A. Lifsey '52
Jack Marshall '52
Diane Wechsler Reich '52
Miriam Sushner Schonwald '52
Rita Gewant Barasch '53
Frederic P. Cande '53
Roslyn Smilowitz Dansky '53
Martha Smith Kamen '53
Carole Sackarowitz Kramer '53
Gerald W. Smith '53
Myra Phillips Stern '53
Mae Matler Balaban '54
Barbara Fink Bard '54

Vivian Daitz Fox '54
Carol Goldman Lifsey '54
Joseph Martino '54
Roselle Burstein Poisner '54
Norma Schneiderman Rees '54
Leonard H. Carter '55
Sidney Gendin '55
Mendel Gurfein '55
Howard E. Kaplan '55
Stanley Dribbon '56
Barbara Barish Lichtig '56
Irwin M. Marks '56
John C. Papalia '56
Harold (Hal) O. Schaffer '56
Marlene Boyd Vallin '56
Minnie Willing Blank '57
Sondra Simensky Frank '57
Daisy Streifler Goldstein Fried '57
Rita Saper Idelson '57
Jules H. Klar '57
Rhoda Polakoff Nagler '57
Peter Reni '57
Herman M. Robinson '57
John A. Graziani '58
Leon Miller '58
Ellen Nachinson Nathanson '58
Albert Rettig '58
Henry P. Sabatell '58
Richard J. Sawyer '58
Roslyn Schwartz Shulman '58
Jerald M. Tepper '58
Ruth Kessler Turim '58
John J. Bonner '59
Muriel T. Dorff '59
Grace Liekerman Fleischman '59
Frank Gutierrez '59
Rhoda Mostow Katz '59
Richard J. Katz '59
Ilene Mack Leiderman '59
Edward J. Marino '59
Roger B. Wilkenfeld '59
Martin N. Adler '60
Philip P. Bonanni '60
Frank A. Dellomo '60
Clara Johnson-White '60
Samuel B. Karchin '60
Robert L. Lasky '60
Martin S. Rosmarin '60
Marilyn Wortman Rabin
Devore '61
Michael E. London '61
Patrick R. Panzella '61
Joseph M. Rup, Jr. '61
Roberta Shor Steiger '61
Morris H. Gutterman '62
Lewis R. Solano '62
Rita Sellaro Brentlinger '63
Stephen A. Feinstein '63
Buenaventura Gibbs '63
Marcia Damsky Golden '63
Shep H. Greenberg '63
Amy Epstein Marin '63
Roger N. Moss '63
Charles Olstein '63
Beth Massey Rubens '63

Benson Sheinkin '63
Charlotte Albert Wiener '63
Bernard Winstanley '63
Howard S. Ziskind '63
Kenneth J. Flint '64
Susan M. Freidfer '64
Josephine Barbara Giordano '64
Conrad R. Johnson '64
Alma R. Schieren '64
Saul N. Schwartz '64
Louis W. Summers '64
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Jennifer Silverstein '13



Marcia Brener Sorkin '36, a mathematician who was the first female standards engineer in the United States, and later a professor of mathematics at the College of Staten Island, died peacefully on July 6 at her home in Brooklyn. She was 99.

During her undergraduate years at Brooklyn College, where she was nearly always the only woman in her mathematics and physics classes, she was often teased by male students. Nevertheless, she was elected the director of Pi Mu Epsilon, the mathematics honor society.

Sorkin graduated during the height of the Depression, when it was difficult for women to find jobs, especially in the fields of math and science. To support herself, Sorkin taught at Brooklyn College, Harlem Evening Night School, and other schools in New York City.

Passed over for a job as a meteorologist, despite her qualifications, Sorkin received a letter from the War Department after World War II had begun: The U.S. Army Signal Corps desperately needed mathematicians. She left her graduate studies in mathematics at Columbia University and was hired as a standards engineer working at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. There she wrote specifications for electrical components, some of which are still in use today.

After the war, she applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a job but was told that the Corps did not hire women. She later stated that her one regret was not fighting that policy. The mathematician returned to Brooklyn College in the 1960s to complete a master's degree, and was quickly hired by the College of Staten Island as a professor of mathematics with tenure. After retiring in the 1980s, Sorkin remained active by tutoring, always making an effort to inspire and teach children and adults how to use mathematical logic.



Abraham Nemeth '40, who formed a system of braille for mathematics, died of congestive heart failure on October 2, at his home in Southfield, Michigan. He was 94.

Nemeth was born in Manhattan on October 16, 1918, and was blind from birth. He earned a B.A. in psychology from Brooklyn College and a master's degree in psychology from Columbia University. But his true passion was mathematics. Encouraged by his wife, Florence, he studied mathematics at Brooklyn College at night. There he began helping out students who'd returned from serving in World War II.

"After that long interruption [in their education] they needed some extra help," said Nemeth in a 1991 interview for *The Raised Dot Computing Newsletter*. "I asked the student to read me the problem, and then I worked out the solution on the blackboard. I didn't find it difficult to write on the blackboard."

The chairman of the Department of Mathematics saw Nemeth at work and was impressed, so when a math professor became ill, the chairman asked Nemeth to substitute. By the late 1940s he had developed braille code for advanced math.

Nemeth passed his code on to a physicist friend at Columbia University who was a member of the Mathematics Subcommittee of the Joint (U.S. and Great Britain) Uniform Type Committee, responsible for establishing braille codes for use in both countries. Nemeth was asked to present his code to the subcommittee in 1950.

By the mid-1950s the Nemeth Braille Code for Mathematics and Science Notation was included in textbooks and had been adopted by national organizations.

Nemeth's code was revised a few times over the years. Asked during the 1991 interview when it would be finished, he replied, "When will mathematical notation be finished? The purpose of changes is improvement, not changes. Mathematicians are intrinsically lazy creatures. They spend years trying to find an easier way to do things."



Stan Isaacs '50, a former *Newsday* sports columnist who stole the Brooklyn Dodgers' 1955 World Championship pennant from a Los Angeles hotel and brought it back to Brooklyn, died in his sleep at home in Haverford, Pennsylvania, on April 2, 2013. He was 83.

Born in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Issacs was one of the young sports reporters known in the 1960s as Chipmunks, who brought a certain amount of cheek and gutsiness to their columns. He attended Eastern District High School, and then Brooklyn College. In 1949, while still in college, he began his career as a copy boy at the *New York Star*, then moved to *The Daily Compass*. He began working at *Newsday* in 1954. Isaacs's writing, including his column Out of Left Field, was known for its humor and quirkiness.

In 1959, cheered on by four other reporters who were also in town to cover the World Series game between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Chicago White Sox, Isaacs climbed onto a table in the Biltmore Hotel ballroom and snatched the 1955 World Series pennant, won by the former Brooklyn Dodgers, off the wall. He said he felt its rightful place was back in Brooklyn. He kept it in his Roslyn Heights home for a few years, trying to determine the best place for it to go, before donating it to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. It was later transferred to the Brooklyn Historical Society.

In his farewell column for *Newsday*, from 1992, Isaacs wrote that he agreed with Joseph Pulitzer's belief that newspapers should "inform and enlighten." His final column, written for TheColumnist.com and published the day before he died, was about the retirement of Larry Merchant, a fellow Chipmunk who became an HBO boxing commentator.

—Taneish Hamilton

Doctor of **Swing**

By the time jazz trumpeter Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong arrived at the Brooklyn College lecture hall in March of 1941 and played what was described by the student paper *The Brooklyn Vanguard* as a “lively rendition” of the popular song “Dinah,” he was a world-famous star. He had played with fellow greats Fats Waller, Earl Hines, and Lionel Hampton, among others; recorded groundbreaking, and now classic, versions of songs such as “Stardust” and “Lazy River”; starred in films with Hollywood legends Bing Crosby and Dick Powell; and filled in for the singer Rudy Vallee on the CBS radio network, becoming the first African-American host of a sponsored national broadcast.

The audience in the crowded-to-capacity hall broke into wild applause as Armstrong entered, mobbing the musician with requests for autographs.

Armstrong’s highly anticipated visit had been organized by the Tangs (Towards a New Goal Socially), a coed college club whose aim—outlined by the school’s president, Harry D. Gideonse—was to introduce students to campus life and give them a more traditional social experience. At the time, attending school in a big city created a social life that tended to emphasize the neighborhoods over the college.

The Tangs had arranged to confer a doctorate of swing on Armstrong, but not before he’d passed an exam. Pops, as the trumpeter was also known, played “Dinah” and the audience agreed—he was qualified.

The female members of the Tangs presented the “honorary” degree. “This knocks me out,” Armstrong said; then a photographer asked him to hop onto a desk for a picture. Wearing a college sweater borrowed from Gabriel Goold ’43—a member of the welcoming committee who said that “it was quite an event; the entire college was excited over the visit of such a talented musician”—Armstrong knelt, surrounded by coeds, and the picture was snapped.



AP Photo

Louis Armstrong entertains Brooklyn College students, March 1941.

Armstrong returned to Brooklyn College 18 years later to play at Whitman Hall. That audience loved him just as much as the earlier one had. Journalist, publicist, and jazz blogger Arnold Jay Smith ’60 booked the show by convincing Armstrong’s agent, Joe Glaser, to let the jazz star perform once again. “[They] ate him up,” Smith says. “Louis could play, he understood the importance of jazz music.” It is Smith’s belief that without Armstrong’s ability to bring the musical genre to a wide audience, it might not have flourished. “If it wasn’t for Louie, we wouldn’t have jazz.”

—Audrey Peterson, with reporting by Dominique Carson

Did you see Louis Armstrong perform at Brooklyn College? We’d love to hear from you if you were there for either his 1941 or 1959 appearances. Please contact us at magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu or write Brooklyn College Magazine, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210.



Do you recognize this creature? You may if you went to Brooklyn College in the 1970s and swam in the pool in the Plaza Building—particularly if you were a member of the swim team. The building was demolished in 2005 to make way for the West Quad Complex, and the three-legged “fish,” which once lived in the

Plaza pool, disappeared. Or did he? We know a bit about him but would love to hear more. Please send your memories to magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu.



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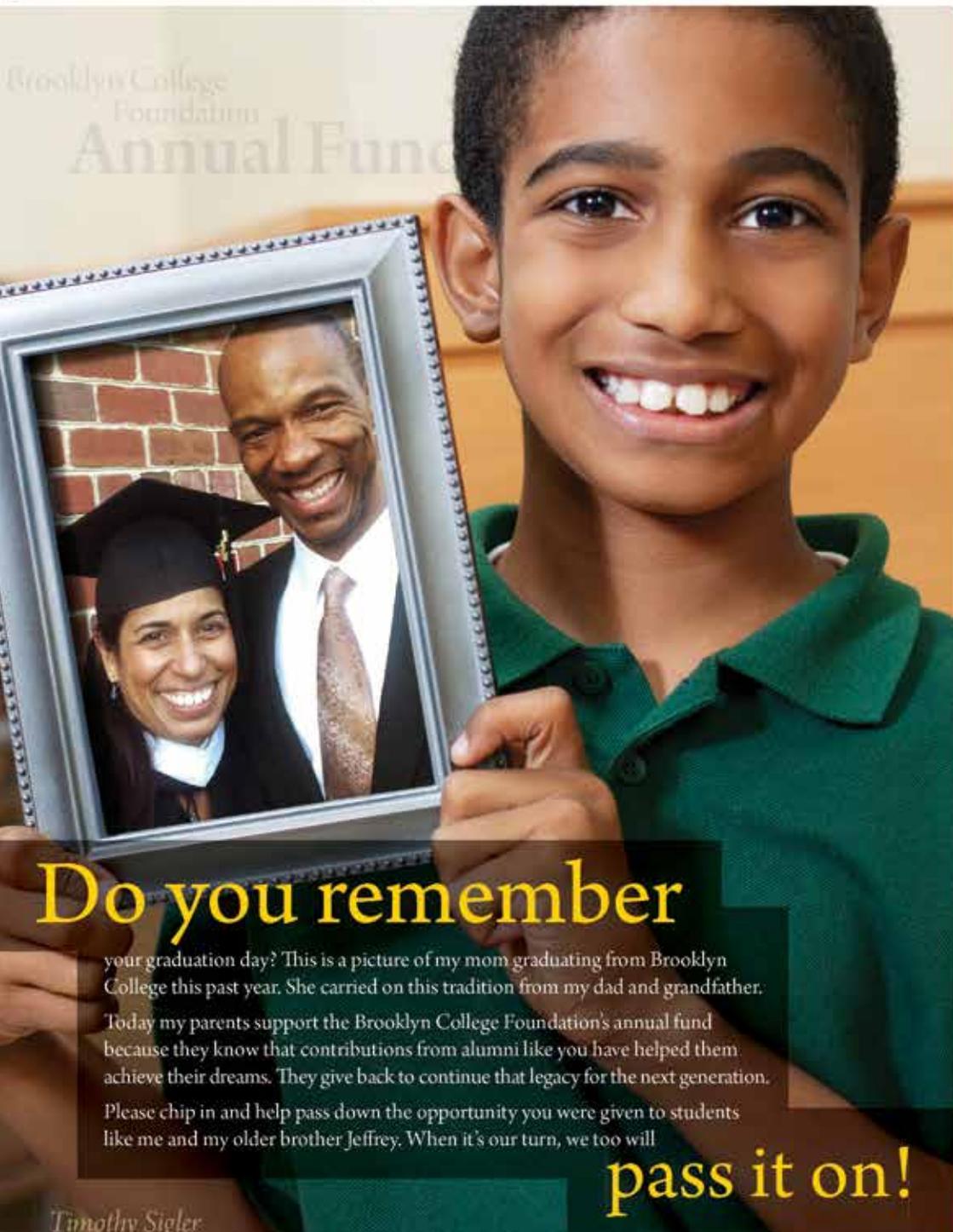


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Do you remember

your graduation day? This is a picture of my mom graduating from Brooklyn College this past year. She carried on this tradition from my dad and grandfather.

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Timothy Sigler

Son of Raquel Maysonet-Sigler '13 M.A. & Jeffrey Sigler '92, '95 M.S.