INSIDE

SHIFTING FOCUS
An Alumna Reframes America with Her Camera

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE
Scholars Tackle Barriers to Success of Women Worldwide

Brooklyn College President KAREN L. GOULD on Leadership
Dear Alumni and Friends of Brooklyn College,

Brooklyn College has a rich history of providing an outstanding education since opening in 1930. Over the past 85 years, the college has graduated thousands of students who have achieved success in nearly every professional and personal endeavor.

As one of the first coed public liberal arts colleges in New York City, Brooklyn College emerged as a pioneer in providing the same academic rigor and first-rate educational opportunities for all of its students. We remain faithful to this enduring legacy.

In this issue of B Magazine, we focus on the many women who have shaped our academic tradition and made major contributions to their professions and communities: Marge Magner ‘69, entrepreneur; Claire Tow ‘52, philanthropist; Keelie Sheridan ‘13 M.F.A., national Mitchell award winner; Professor Tania León, Grammy-nominated composer; Annia Baker ’09 M.F.A., Pulitzer Prize-winning author; and Shirley Chisholm ’46, congresswoman and pioneer in the rights of African Americans and women.

Like Brooklyn itself, the college continues to expand and welcome students from increasingly diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. Our noted women faculty are dedicated scholars, artists, and researchers who share a commitment to excellence and student success. Their achievements and leadership make a significant impact on all our students.

Brooklyn College continues to foster opportunities and recognition for our women students. I am proud of our tradition of educating and empowering women to lead.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

From the President’s Desk
Silverstein Scholarship winner Salma Abdou hopes to combine her medical education with her on-the-ground experience with Human Rights Watch to make a difference.

Salma Abdou ’14 has received a Silverstein Scholarship, which provides her with full tuition, room, and board to attend the NYU School of Medicine, an award that is valued at more than $300,000 over four years. The former Brooklyn College Scholars Program student was also accepted to the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons with ample funding, but had to turn down that offer just days before the academic year got under way when she learned she was a recipient of the Silverstein award.

“I remember just being so incredibly shocked,” Abdou recalls of the moment when she got the call notifying her that she was among the five students selected for the prestigious scholarship. “I didn’t think I would get into any medical school, so I felt incredibly lucky.”

Abdou’s humility is remarkable. She graduated from Brooklyn College with a 3.90 GPA and scored in the 98th percentile on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). A political science and chemistry double major, she won several college awards. Her senior thesis, a comparison sample for the research.

Prabhu interned at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, where her clinical research involved helping the human immune system recognize and eliminate the cells that cause pancreatic cancer. Prior to her internship at Hopkins, Prabhu interned at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, where her clinical research involved identifying patients for studies based on their medical conditions. She says that the diversity of New York City, where she interacted with people of different races, gender identities, and socioeconomic backgrounds, made for an ideal sample for the research.

“Practicing medicine is one of the noblest professions,” says Prabhu. “You dedicate yourself to providing the best quality of life to people who have often come to you while at their worst.” It seems Prabhu’s parents will no longer have anything to fear with a doctor, their daughter, so close at hand. —Robert Jones, Jr.
Spare Parts

Screenwriter Elissa Matsueda talks about how she helped bring the film Spare Parts from script to screen and divulges just what it takes to succeed in the film industry.

"One of my producers told me I was the first writer he’d worked with who didn’t have an actual meltdown on set," says Elissa Matsueda ’08 M.F.A., screenwriter for the Lionsgate film Spare Parts. Succumbing to the enormous pressures and obstacles faced by writers in Hollywood was not an option for her. "You keep going because there’s no other choice. The cameras are in place, the actors need their lines."

That work ethic is something Matsueda attributes to her time in the Brooklyn College M.F.A. Fiction program, where she says she learned to push herself beyond her limits and develop "a pretty thick skin."

Spare Parts is the true story of four undocumented teenage boys in Phoenix who in 2005 started a robotics team and, with little money or resources, built a robot and entered a prestigious competition against students from MIT. Matsueda, who had previously worked at a Web editor, wrote the screenplay based on an in-depth article on the young men in Wired magazine that had been forwarded to her by her manager.

The screenplay went quickly from draft to finished film. "For my project, producers were already attached when I got the story, which gave it a certain legitimacy from the start," says Matsueda. "And with their input and notes, I was able to develop the script into something that would attract a studio and talent."

The first step, however, was for Matsueda to convince herself that her work was "good enough" and that her talent was undeniable. "I think every writer has those moments of fear and panic, when you think you’re a terrible fraud. So now I try to just accept those days as part of the operation and normalize them," she says. "I learned to put my butt in the chair, put in the time, and trust the process."

Spare Parts, starring George Lopez, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Marisa Tomei, is on theaters in January 16.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

Museum Quality

Through a Mellon Foundation fellowship, Associate Professor Jennifer Ball is taking her research of medieval monasticism in the Byzantine Empire to one of America’s premier art museums. It is estimated that during the ninth century, some 10 percent of the population of the Byzantine Empire, which comprised much of Eastern Europe and the Middle East, joined a monastery. There are several theories as to why, but few academics have delved deeply into the reasons for the surge.

Associate Professor of Art Jennifer L. Ball received the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship from the Metropolitan Museum of Art for her forthcoming book, Habit Forming: Representations of Byzantine Monastics, 9th–10th Centuries, in which Ball will explore the phenomenon. The fellowship helps supplement her salary while she is on sabatical, and allows her to work every day with other scholars at the country’s largest and most prestigious art museum.

"It’s super-exciting to be there every day," says Ball, who is also a member of the doctoral faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center and teaches Byzantine, medieval, and Islamic art history.

She hopes to have the framework of her book in place by the time she completes the fellowship in August.

—Jamilah Simmons

Curating Excellence

A new program is the first at Brooklyn College to combine art history with museum education.

The Art Department is launching a certificate program in museum education as a supplement to the art history master’s degree. According to research compiled by the Art Department while preparing the program, there are currently only six other institutions worldwide that offer programs in museum education, and none of them combine it with art history.

"We were talking about areas where our students could get jobs," says Maria Ann Conelli ’90, dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts. "Having hired many people as curators, I knew that it would be great to provide students with a master’s in art history with this additional certification."

The 12-credit program began during winter intersession 2015, with Conelli teaching the first seminar course. Conelli, previously the executive director of the American Folk Art Museum, says that conversations about the program were inspired by meetings with art historians at museums.

Participating students must already have or be working toward a master’s in art history. The program includes two seminar courses and two museum internships.

—Jamilah Simmons

Works by many alumni have been exhibited in prominent museums and galleries both in the United States and internationally. They include Jane Freilicher '47, representational painter and award of the informal New York School; Joan Didion Arbeeter '50, prominent feminist artist; Natalie Edgar '63, painter and artNodes writer; Selma Treat Henry '51, painter (and wife of Robert Henry); Helene Aylon '76, multimedia sculptor/artist; Elaine Reichek '63, feminist fiber artist; Martha R. Rosler '65, installation and performance artist; Altson Sultan '60, '79 M.F.A., prominent textile artist; Janice Niedermann '79, '83 M.F.A., international photographer; Diana Horowitz ’66 M.F.A., '55 painter and member of the National Academy of Design; and Patrick Crown '80, painter, sculptor, and installation artist.

Talent to Spare

Elissa Matsueda ’08 M.F.A., on location on a beach in Santa Barbara, California, during the filming of Spare Parts, is flanked by some of the cast: (left to right) Oscar Gutierrez, Jose Julian, David Del Río, George Lopez, and Carlos PenaVega.
GAME CHANGERS:
Brooklyn College Women at the Forefront

**1930**
Brooklyn College becomes the first public coed liberal arts college in New York.

**1938**
Brooklyn College alumnus Danny Kaye and his wife, actress Sylvia Fine, write and record the music for the school song, *Fine, Who Graduated*.

**1953**
Sara Quidley Contreras ‘82, M.S., a stand-up comedian, co-stars in *The Latin Dinner*, a comedic television series.

**1959**

**1961**
Madeline Angpert ‘42 is co-editor of *CBS News Sunday Morning*, and information director program aimed at women, which aired on CBS Television from 1961 to 1963. Angpert was one of the first women to produce news programs in the male-dominated field of television in the 1950s and 1960s.

**1962**
Shirley Strickler ‘62 debuts as a newscaster on WOR (710 AM) in New York City. At the time, Strickler was one of just 10 women in a major radio news position.

**1983**
Brooklyn College becomes the first institution in New York to establish a Women’s Studies Program.

**1984**
Sandra Feldman ‘60, M.A., a passionate advocate for public schools and schoolteachers, takes the helm as president of the American Federation of Teachers, with 1.3 million members at that time. She will remain its leader until 2004.

**1985**
Barbara Winslow ‘56, a farm in Morrisville, New York, when republished in 1981, the book would gain international acclaim.

**1990**
Shirley Chisholm ‘46, the first black woman elected to Congress, becomes the first major-party black candidate for President of the United States and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**1995**
Hillary Rodham Clinton delivers the commencement address at Brooklyn College’s 75th Commencement Exercises.

**1998**
The Brooklyn College Humanities Institute is renamed in honor of its first president, Sylvia Fine ‘33, who was the worst thing she had ever heard.

**2001**
Pamela Talkin ’68, M.A., becomes the 50th marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and the first woman to hold this position.

**2002**
Framed, a memoir of race, Theoharis is noted for her groundbreaking legal victory in *Matter of Kasinga*, an historic case that established a right to representation for mentally handicapped people in the criminal justice system.

**2003**
Annie Baker ‘09 M.F.A., wins the American Theatre Wing’s Steinberg Playwright Award in 2003 and on the Obie Award for the performance of *The Young Jean Lee*.

**2006**
Joe Tippett wins the first *New York Times* prize for a woman in film.

**2008**
Rhoda Jacob ‘82, who represents District 42 in Brooklyn in the New York State Assembly, when she serves as assistant speaker announces her retirement. She has been a state assemblywoman since she was first elected in 1976.

**2010**
Pretty Little Liars, an American teen drama mystery-thriller television series based on the popular series of novels written by Sara Shepard, is produced by ABC Family. Shailene Woodley stars as and The Long Game becomes a bestseller.

**2011**
Sean Strawbridge is co-creator, writer and producer of *Pretty Little Liars*, the hit ABC Family series loosely based on the popular *Degrassi* mystery–thriller television drama. In 2003, Strawbridge was elected to Congress, becoming one of the first major-party black candidates for President of the United States and the first woman to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**2012**
*Whitehaven Blues*, a novel by author Shemekia Copeland, is published.

**2013**
Professor Joanne Theobald’s book, *In the Department of Political Science: A Memoir of African-American Freedom Movements and the Contemporary Politics of Race*, is released.

**2014**
Jennifer Miikhael ‘16 is elected CLAS student government president.

**2015**
At age 85, Gwendolyn Brooks ‘50 is named the oldest federal prosecutor in the nation, heading the criminal division and English literature at Brooklyn College, graduated, married, raised three children, then enrolled at Long Island University in 1970. She joined the American Federation of Teachers, New York City and was elected to Congress, becoming one of the first women to run for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**2016**
Sandra Feldman, M.D., as president of the American Federation of Teachers, with 1.3 million members at that time. She will remain its leader until 2004.

**2017**
The Brooklyn College Humanities Institute is renamed in honor of its first president, Sylvia Fine ‘33, who was the worst thing she had ever heard.
MADAM PRESIDENT

Brooklyn College’s first woman president shares the lessons she has learned about leadership and her vision for cultivating the next generation of global citizens.

WHEN KAREN L. GOULD BECAME THE NINTH PRESIDENT OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE, IN 2009, SHE WAS THE FIRST WOMAN IN THE SCHOOL’S 85-YEAR HISTORY TO HOLD THE POST. IN THE MORE THAN FIVE YEARS President Gould has been at the helm of the college, she has built on its rich academic legacy and focused on critical issues, such as student retention, graduation success, and the lowering of student debt, global engagement, and new capital projects such as the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, and the planned Roosevelt Science Teaching Commons.

An internationally known scholar in French Canadian literature, author, and lifelong educator, President Gould taught at three different universities before she began her administrative career as dean of arts and letters at Old Dominion University in Norfolk Virginia. She also served as dean of arts and sciences at the University of Cincinnati, and as provost at California State University, Long Beach, before coming to Brooklyn College.

Today, Brooklyn College has grown to serve more than 30,000 students in five distinct schools, welcoming a growing population of engaged learners who seek a well-rounded, high-quality academic experience.

Recently, I sat down with President Gould to discuss her views on women in higher education and her outlook on leadership.

WHAT SPARKED YOUR PASSION FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE?

One of my earliest experiences as a “foreign” student was as a high school exchange student from Palo Alto, California, where I grew up. I was selected to be an exchange student to France for my junior year. To my amazement, my parents agreed to allow me to spend a year at a public lycée de jeunes filles (all-girls school) in southern France. They had no idea what it would mean to let me go.

Living abroad at the age of 16 with a French family I had never met was an event that changed my life. I became fluent in French, and my passion for French history, literature, and culture grew. I studied again at La Sorbonne in 1969 as an undergraduate, and then pursued a Ph.D. in Romance Languages at the University of Oregon and researched my dissertation in Paris.

That experience abroad was a transformative experience. Immersed in an entirely different culture, I had to adjust quickly to my new surroundings and began to understand how being “far away” was broadening my perspectives and challenging prior assumptions. I try to encourage Brooklyn College students to consider studying abroad in order to take advantage of the expansive learning and self-discovery that occur when we see the world through the eyes and experiences of people from other cultures and nations.

WHAT CAN YOU SHARE WITH US ABOUT BEING THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE?

Much has been written about what it means to be the first woman leader, president, or CEO in the political arena, higher education, the private sector, and even in professional sports. Recently, The New York Times ran a feature story on Michele Roberts, a successful African-American lawyer and public defender who is now the first woman to lead the National Basketball Association players union. Her advice about what it means to be the first woman leader was simple, and it spoke to me: “What I have done … is not to worry about whether you’re the only one, but worry about whether you’re the best one.”

Of course, it matters that someone is only one, but worry about whether you’re the best one.”

WHAT LESSONS HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT LEADERSHIP?

One of the most important lessons of leadership is that gaining the self-confidence to lead does not happen overnight. It requires time, exposure to a variety of experiences, and patience with one’s self. Another important ingredient is creating a strong leadership team—academic leaders are only as effective as their teams, and the decisions made when building those teams can impact an institution for many years. At the same time, recognizing challenges and changing course when needed are important leadership traits.

Those of us who are deans, vice presidents, and presidents have an essential role to play in mentoring and supporting the next generation of women leaders and those from underrepresented groups. We can do this by promoting opportunities for professional development, creating new assignments that will test and advance leadership skills, sharing our own excitement and challenges as leaders; and encouraging people to take professional risks and work outside their “comfort zones.”

YOU ARE ORIGINALLY FROM CALIFORNIA AND NOW LIVE IN BROOKLYN. HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

Brooklyn is such an exciting borough and I am thrilled to be here. I love the diversity, the creativity, and the dynamism of our borough, which is reflected so well in our students, staff, and faculty. There is a heightened sense of pride in Brooklyn—which is now recognized as the creative capital of New York City, a hub for tech industries and an international destination. The college plays a key role in fostering this proud tradition of Brooklyn pride by preparing our students to succeed and also give back to their community.

Northern California will always be my first home, but in many ways that same independent, creative spirit resides right here in Brooklyn. I am fortunate to have had both east and west coasts experiences in my life.
Despite progress at home and abroad, women and girls still face social and institutional challenges to their academic advancement and autonomy. Brooklyn College faculty members explain why this must change and how their scholarship is helping to make that happen.

By Robert Jones, Jr.

Despite progress at home and abroad, women and girls still face social and institutional challenges to their academic advancement and autonomy. Brooklyn College faculty members explain why this must change and how their scholarship is helping to make that happen.

By Robert Jones, Jr.

Why We CAN’T Wait

IT IS MORNING. A young woman goes through her school bag one last time to make sure she has all of the proper textbooks and has completed all of the day’s assignments. She kisses her parents good-bye and is off to school. She has traveled this path numerous times. Other than playful high jinks from classmates she encounters along the way, the trip has always been relatively uneventful.

Today, that will change.

In the afternoon, as she rides a bus home with other girls, a masked man boards the bus. He is armed. He threatens to shoot everyone unless one of the passengers—the one who is so outspoken about her academic goals—is identified. She is singled out. She doesn’t even have the chance to scream before she is shot in the face.

This is what happened to then-15-year-old Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani education activist and recent recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, when a member of the Taliban attempted to assassinate her in the hope of frightening women everywhere into abandoning their efforts at self-determination through education.

While the manifestations of the violence and discrimination women and girls contend with when attempting to pursue education vary based on culture and geography, the violence and discrimination themselves remain existential facts around the globe, even in some of the countries considered the world’s leaders in championing women’s rights.

Mobina Hashmi, an assistant professor in the Brooklyn College Department of Television and Radio who is also affiliated with the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, believes that Yousafzai’s triumph serves as an important inspiration for women and girls around the globe. But she also feels uneasy about how the achievement can be co-opted to advance agendas that are more harmful than helpful.

“We have to question mass-media presentations and ask ourselves why they’re being presented the way that they are.” She adds that many girls just like Yousafzai are caught in regions plagued by warfare, not all of it coming from internal sources, and may never realize their full potential. “What about the education they’ve been denied?”

Hashmi encourages students to take a more critical, incisive look at media narratives. Specifically, she challenges her students to analyze the ways in which images of women and girls are constructed and used in mass media to support certain imperialistic

Women make up only 13% of the top executives of media, telecom and e-companies in the United States.

SOURCE: THE ANNEBERG PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

FACT

Women make up only 13% of the top executives of media, telecom and e-companies in the United States.

SOURCE: THE ANNEBERG PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

Way that they are.” She adds that many girls just like Yousafzai are caught in regions plagued by warfare, not all of it coming from internal sources, and may never realize their full potential. “What about the education they’ve been denied?”

Hashmi encourages students to take a more critical, incisive look at media narratives. Specifically, she challenges her students to analyze the ways in which images of women and girls are constructed and used in mass media to support certain imperialistic
or militaristic strategies; perpetuate particular commercial desires; and uphold hegemonic structures designed to both weaken individuals’ self-confidence and limit their potential.

“Media representations of women and girls are produced and circulated to serve the needs of patriarchal institutions and capitalist institutions, but not those of women and girls themselves,” says Hashmi. “So the challenge is not only to have images and narratives that are outside these normative limits, but also to be able to have ways of interpreting them so they become mainstream.”

Adjunct Assistant Professor Charissa Kiyô Smith, Esq., of the Department of Sociology and the Children and Youth Studies Program—and the recipient of a Michael Rockefeller Fellowship, the Harvard Foundation Award for Outstanding Contributions to Race Relations, the Harvard History Essay Prize, and the Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Fellowship, as well as a former intern of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy—believes that the key to ending gender oppression lies in both promoting awareness of the problem and having the courage to interrupt the disparities through direct educational interventions.

Astonished to learn that women in rural Panama did not know they had the right to own land, Smith worked with the Panamanian Center for Social Action and Social Study to create workshops that educated women in the rural part of the country about their civic rights. When she discovered in the Dominican Republic that women in rural areas outside Santiago did not have regular access to health care or information about their reproductive health, and did not know they had the right to vote, she worked with the Woman-Church Foundation to bring a mobile clinic to those areas and educated women and girls about their reproductive health, and did not know they had the right to be educated. But legislation doesn’t tell the whole story.

“In the United States, girls and women are definitely entitled to receive the same educational opportunities as boys and men. So on the books, it looks like equal treatment,” Smith says. “But when you take a closer look at the way the public school system works, girls and women don’t get equal access to resources, or to artistic and cultural opportunities.”

In 1972, the Title IX federal statute (also known as the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act) was enacted, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational institutions that receive federal assistance, and helping to lay the groundwork for providing women and girls with access to the scholastic opportunities that had previously been limited or denied to them. In the years that followed, women’s educational attainment has outpaced men’s by significant margins. More women than men now enroll in colleges at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Women also have higher rates of graduation at every academic level. This is significant because education has been proven to ensure better wages, fewer instances of poverty, lower unemployment, and greater health—not just for women, but for the entire society.

Further, the Clery Act, implemented in 1990, requires schools to report on-campus crime statistics to federal agencies in response to a horrific rape-murder that occurred on the campus of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. However, in 2005, a survey of 2,500 colleges conducted by the National Institute of Justice found that only 40 percent of colleges offered training to identify and prevent sexual assault and only about one-third of the schools were compliant with the Clery Act. Brooklyn College has a very stringent, zero-tolerance sexual misconduct policy. In 2013, there was not a single sexual or attempted rape.

FACT

One in five American women is a survivor of rape or attempted rape.


“We need to be able to have ways of interpreting them so they can break away from that to get an education,” says Smith, which is why she feels it is important to mentor these women and help them find the resources and support they need to achieve their goals in spite of the dangerous and alienating obstacles. Students she has helped have gone on to help other women. “Many of them chose career paths in social work, education, political science, and psychology as a way to challenge the oppressive structures.”

Some 72 million children in the world have no elementary education, 54 percent of whom are girls. And women make up more than two-thirds of the world’s 774 million illiterate adults. Those statistics stand in stark contrast to the opportunities in the United States, where no law deprives women or girls of their right to be educated. But legislation doesn’t tell the whole story.

“In the United States, girls and women are definitely entitled to receive the same educational opportunities as boys and men. So on the books, it looks like equal treatment,” Smith says. “But when you take a closer look at the way the public school system works, girls and women don’t get equal access to resources, or to artistic and cultural opportunities.”

In 1972, the Title IX federal statute (also known as the Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act) was enacted, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational institutions that receive federal assistance, and helping to lay the groundwork for providing women and girls with access to the scholastic opportunities that had previously been limited or denied to them. In the years that followed, women’s educational attainment has outpaced men’s by significant margins. More women than men now enroll in colleges at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Women also have higher rates of graduation at every academic level. This is significant because education has been proven to ensure better wages, fewer instances of poverty, lower unemployment, and greater health—not just for women, but for the entire society.

Further, the Clery Act, implemented in 1990, requires schools to report on-campus crime statistics to federal agencies in response to a horrific rape-murder that occurred on the campus of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. However, in 2005, a survey of 2,500 colleges conducted by the National Institute of Justice found that only 40 percent of colleges offered training to identify and prevent sexual assault and only about one-third of the schools were compliant with the Clery Act. Brooklyn College has a very stringent, zero-tolerance sexual misconduct policy. In 2013, there was not a single sexual assault case reported at the college, and it ranks in the top 15 on niche’s “Safest Campus in the New York City Metro Area” list.
“The key to success in regard to the application of and adherence to Title IX and Clery Act directives is communication. And not just when there’s an emergency,” says Natalie Mason-Kinsey, Esq., chief diversity officer and executive director of diversity and equity programs at Brooklyn College. She was appointed by President Karen L. Gould to head the Presidential Committee on Campus Safety. Gould utilizes this consortium of staff, faculty, and students as a way to ensure a safe, nondiscriminatory campus experience for all, but particularly for women and girls. “It needs to be ongoing,” says Mason-Kinsey. “This is sometimes a challenge for other colleges, but I think it is one of the things that we do well. The constant checking-in fosters a level of trust among us and strengthens our commitment to the safety of everyone on campus.”

While women and girls have made important inroads into academia, curricula and teaching materials continue to reflect a gender bias in favor of men and boys. These explicit and implicit biases are seen most readily in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. Nationally, women earn fewer than half of the undergraduate degrees awarded in math and the physical sciences. In engineering and computer sciences, they receive less than 20 percent of the degrees earned. And the numbers continue to decline.

“These barriers exist because of false perceptions about who can and cannot ‘do science,’ or more bluntly, that women and girls can’t do science and can’t do a particular kind of science, like physics, chemistry, and astrophysics,” says Associate Professor of Science Education Jennifer D. Adams ’96 M.S., the recipient of a National Science Foundation Early CAREER Award. “Young women, especially young women of color, face all sorts of microaggressions when attempting to participate in the sciences. For example, some face being excluded from informal study groups, which are important for collegial support and success, especially in the so-called weeding-out courses,” says Adams, whose work with the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and New York Hall of Science (NYSCI) aims to eliminate both the overt and covert impediments to young women’s access to STEM fields.

Adams, along with her colleague Preeti Gupta, director of youth learning and research at AMNH, helped initiate the Lang Program. A seven-year, extracurricular program, Lang recruits fifth-graders into a unique academic relationship with the museum that lasts until the students graduate from high school. In the midst of world-famous exhibits of dinosaur fossils, a butterfly conservatory, and IMAX 3-D presentations about the far reaches of the known universe, students gain hands-on experience in the study of anthropology, astronomy, biology, and more. They utilize the museum itself for field exploration and have direct access to scientists who are both educators and mentors, and who help the students develop their own research projects. The program also provides academic counseling, preparing students for college-level study and careers in the sciences.

Adams continues to work with AMNH and NYSCI to analyze how students who completed Lang fare in the field of science. Her AMNH findings revealed that underrepresented student...
groups, especially young women of color, still face institutional challenges, but participation in a program like Lang provided them with the networks, resources, and tools to overcome those challenges. The findings were published in Afterschool Matters.

“In general, out-of-school experiences tend to yield better results in terms of inclusivity of young women and girls because they tend to be more collaborative and emphasize more of a cohort model, where students are working together,” says Adams.

“Students in informal science programs have opportunities to develop positive relationships with STEM professionals and they are able to spend extended amounts of time doing hands-on scientific activities in many different contexts. The emphasis isn’t solely on becoming a ‘bench scientist,’ where you’re working in a lab, but also on looking at the various places and spaces where science is practiced. Young women learn how to develop science into a career they may not have imagined, like science journalism or scientific illustration. I think the spaces where a lot of young women are finding their scientific voices are these out-of-school learning activities.”

Even among those women who have managed to overcome the obstacles in the STEM fields and beyond, who feel relatively safe in their campus environments, and who achieve their academic goals, many face yet another barrier: economic inequity.

In 2013, for every dollar earned by white men, Asian-American women earned 90 cents, white women earned 78 cents, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander women earned 65 cents, black women earned 64 cents, American Indian/Native American women earned 59 cents, and Latinas earned 54 cents. What accounts for this?

“The studies that look at these residual differences reveal cultural and institutionalized sexism and racism,” says Professor Hervé Queneau, deputy chair of the Department of Finance and Business Management at Brooklyn College. Queneau is the 2011 Claire Tow Distinguished Teacher for his exemplary work as an educator and role model for faculty and students, and the recipient of the Amanda Dooley Research Award for his work on the economic lives of women and sexual prejudice. His research on gender discrimination, often cited by other academics, and utilized in both the public and private sectors of industry, has appeared in Economics Letters, Applied Economics, and the Labor Studies Journal.

“Usually, there are two factors that explain this discrimination. First, you have the demand side, which deals with questions like, ‘What are the industry practices that may have an adverse impact on the hiring of women?’ Here you may find that companies prefer to hire men because they are concerned that a woman might become pregnant and require leave and might, therefore, not be as ‘productive’ as a man,” Queneau explains. “Second, you have the supply side, looking at what economists call human capital—the knowledge, the experience, the qualifications of the individual. Sometimes, women have small gaps in their work experience due to the fact that they took leave in order to raise children. Some employers look negatively upon this. Even when both parents in a two-gender household are working, women are responsible for the lion’s share of the housework, child care, and family management and are thus more likely to have these negatively viewed gaps.”

Professor Carol Korn-Bursztyn ’73, of the Department of School Psychology, Counseling, and Leadership, founded and heads the new Brooklyn College Play Therapy Program and Advanced Certificate in Play Therapy Program. In 1991, she developed the Early Childhood Center Programs and the lab school of the School of Education, which she led until 2007. She developed the Early Childhood Center Programs and the lab school of the School of Education, which she led until 2007. She says that one of the most overlooked human rights issues is the right to high-quality early education and care. “At Brooklyn College we add a unique emphasis on the cultural contexts of treating children and families, and emphasize therapeutic and educational approaches to the needs of diverse cultural communities.” She says she has encountered many parents, especially mothers, who seek higher education to improve the quality of life for their families, but who run into obstacles when it comes to child care, which becomes a source of tremendous anxiety for them. “Women are the turn-key people in any society. When women can improve their own conditions, the entire society is lifted. When you limit women, you literally limit the potential and the progress of all. This is why I believe that it’s terribly important to help them reach their goals, and to ease their anxieties around their performance as mothers. In this regard, access to high-quality child care—that is, child care that nurtures children holistically and ensures their academic and emotional well-being—is absolutely necessary.”

The challenges may seem insurmountable, but there is reason to be optimistic. Hashmi notes the increased voice women and girls have as social media and other outlets allow them to dictate, more than ever before, cultural perceptions of themselves, which can influence the sociopolitical landscape at home and abroad.

“The images are changing, and that brings the possibility of hope. One of the changes is the fragmentation of the audience, the fact that it isn’t just limited to the four major networks anymore. You have the cable channels and premium cable channels, but more importantly, you have sites like YouTube and Twitter. You have so many different avenues for circulation of representations of women and girls and for dialogue about those
The United States ranks 75th in the world for percentage of women in national government.

SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH CENTER

 Seventy-one countries around the globe have had female presidents or prime ministers; the United States is not one of those countries.

SOURCE: THE WHITE HOUSE PROJECT REPORT

The United States is the only major industrialized nation without paid family leave.

SOURCE: INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (DEC. 2014)

IN OUR BACKYARD

A PIONEERING SPIRIT.

THE CHANGING FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIFE AND THE LEGACY OF MINNIJEAN BROWN’S INTEGRATION OF A LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, HIGH SCHOOL.

OF STORIES, FROM WOMEN AT WORK TO CELEBRITIES AT PLAY, NATIONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, AND THE FALLOUT OF WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” INTO AN INDISPENSABLE PORTION OF THE PUBLICATION. CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

WHEN CHARLOTTE BROOKS CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE 1930s, SHE JOINED THE AMERICAN STUDENTS UNION—A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION THAT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR ON CAMPUS—AND EARNED A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT. SHE INITIALLY PURSUED A GRADUATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, INTENDING TO BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER.

INSTEAD, AFTER CASUALLY FIDDLING AROUND WITH A CAMERA AND THEN TAKING AN INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP, BROOKS ENDED UP BECOMING AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, A JOB SHE JOINED THE MAGAZINE IN 1951 AS THE ONLY FEMALE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, A JOB SHE PARLAYED INTO A GROUNDBREAKING CAREER. HER TOUR AT THE PUBLICATION COINCIDED WITH THE HEYDAY OF AMERICAN PHOTOJOURNALISM, AND BROOKS, WHO JOINED THE MAGAZINE IN 1951 AS THE ONLY FEMALE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, FLIPPED THE CLASSIC “WOMEN’S FEATURES” INTO AN INDISPENSABLE PORTION OF THE PUBLICATION. CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

WHEN CHARLOTTE BROOKS CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE 1930s, SHE JOINED THE AMERICAN STUDENTS UNION—A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION THAT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR ON CAMPUS— AND EARNED A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT. SHE INITIALLY PURSUED A GRADUATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, INTENDING TO BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER.

INSTEAD, AFTER CASUALLY FIDDLING AROUND WITH A CAMERA AND THEN TAKING AN INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP, BROOKS ENDED UP BECOMING AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, A JOB SHE JOINED THE MAGAZINE IN 1951 AS THE ONLY FEMALE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, FLIPPED THE CLASSIC “WOMEN’S FEATURES” INTO AN INDISPENSABLE PORTION OF THE PUBLICATION. CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

WHEN CHARLOTTE BROOKS CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE 1930s, SHE JOINED THE AMERICAN STUDENTS UNION—A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION THAT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR ON CAMPUS— AND EARNED A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT. SHE INITIALLY PURSUED A GRADUATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, INTENDING TO BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER.

INSTEAD, AFTER CASUALLY FIDDLING AROUND WITH A CAMERA AND THEN TAKING AN INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP, BROOKS ENDED UP BECOMING AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, A JOB SHE JOINED THE MAGAZINE IN 1951 AS THE ONLY FEMALE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, FLIPPED THE CLASSIC “WOMEN’S FEATURES” INTO AN INDISPENSABLE PORTION OF THE PUBLICATION. CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

WHEN CHARLOTTE BROOKS CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE 1930s, SHE JOINED THE AMERICAN STUDENTS UNION—A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION THAT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR ON CAMPUS— AND EARNED A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT. SHE INITIALLY PURSUED A GRADUATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, INTENDING TO BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER.

INSTEAD, AFTER CASUALLY FIDDLING AROUND WITH A CAMERA AND THEN TAKING AN INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP, BROOKS ENDED UP BECOMING AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, A JOB SHE JOINED THE MAGAZINE IN 1951 AS THE ONLY FEMALE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, FLIPPED THE CLASSIC “WOMEN’S FEATURES” INTO AN INDISPENSABLE PORTION OF THE PUBLICATION. CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

WHEN CHARLOTTE BROOKS CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE 1930s, SHE JOINED THE AMERICAN STUDENTS UNION—A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION THAT WAS HIGHLY POPULAR ON CAMPUS— AND EARNED A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT. SHE INITIALLY PURSUED A GRADUATE DEGREE IN PSYCHOLOGY, INTENDING TO BECOME A SOCIAL WORKER.

INSTEAD, AFTER CASUALLY FIDDLING AROUND WITH A CAMERA AND THEN TAKING AN INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP, BROOKS ENDED UP BECOMING AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, A JOB SHE JOINED THE MAGAZINE IN 1951 AS THE ONLY FEMALE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER, FLIPPED THE CLASSIC “WOMEN’S FEATURES” INTO AN INDISPENSABLE PORTION OF THE PUBLICATION. CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN "WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESONATED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.
SINGLE MOTHER, 1965

Vi Erker, of St. Louis, picks up her son, Gary, from the babysitter’s house. Brooks documented “career girl” stories throughout the 1950s and 1960s, when women in the workplace defied social mores.

TEENAGE DRIVER, 1958

The photographer once told an interviewer that Look’s focus on middle-class life suited her well. She enjoyed showing how people lived, she said, because that was exactly the kind of topic that had motivated her to originally pursue social work.

I LOVE MOMMY, 1952

Brooks captured Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz playing at home with their daughter, Lucie Arnaz. The article was titled “The Real Lucy.”

DUKE ELLINGTON, 1955

Here, the jazz musician and his band play baseball in front of a segregated motel. Look frequently published stories that examined divisive issues critically, and Brooks was assigned many stories about race. Her 1955 coverage of Ellington on the road included images of discriminatory signage, and her field notes refer to difficulties he and his band faced in obtaining food and lodging.

MINNIJEA BROWN, 1958

Brooks did a photo essay about Minnijean Brown, one of the nine black teenagers who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. Brooks visited with Brown after she had been expelled for fighting with white students who had taunted her. At the time the photographs were taken, Brown (in front) had transferred to a private integrated high school in New York City and was living with the family of the sociologist who penned the brief on which the Supreme Court argument for Brown v. Board of Education integration was based.
Aspiring Media Makers
Get a Leg Up from the British Film Academy

Television and Radio is on a tear. Not only does it continue to graduate extraordinary media professionals, but four of the department’s graduate students also received Emmy awards for videos produced as part of a 2013 Summer Broadcast News Institute capstone class.

Most recently, four Television and Radio graduate students have received $15,000 in scholarships from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). The awards are part of BAFTA’s New York Media Studies Scholarship Program, which supports undergraduate and graduate students pursuing media at New York’s higher education institutions.

The students were presented with their awards at a BAFTA ceremony last fall. “This is indicative of the quality of graduate students we’re attracting,” says TV and Radio Chair Stuart MacLelland. “Each scholarship winner will be assigned a BAFTA member who is an industry professional and will work as a mentor whom the winner can talk to and consult with.”

Camille Brown, Stephen Lorusso, Melissa Rodríguez, and John Sowulski were the recipients of scholarships from BBC America, DreamWorks Animation, Walkers Shortbread, and DLT Entertainment. The four corporate underwriters have committed to offer these awards for three years.

The students “will also get the opportunity to network and attend industry events,” says Maria Ann Conelli ’80, dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts. “And after the most recent upgrade to the college’s high-definition TV studio, students are now using state-of-the-art technology no different from what professional studios use.”

—Ernesto Mora

Newsmakers

Television and Radio’s winning team: (from left) Stephen Lorusso, Camille Brown, department chair Stuart MacLelland, Melissa Rodriguez, and John Sowulski.

Seoul Summer

This past July, Professor Young Cheong ’00 M.F.A., education coordinator for new media and digital technology in the Department of Television and Radio, brought 14 students from Brooklyn College and other CUNY schools to the first-ever Summer Abroad in Seoul, South Korea (SASK). Before heading there, students attended four weeks of class to learn the basics of video production. Once in Seoul, the students visited the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, one of the four major television networks in South Korea, and other historic sites in the capital city as well as throughout the country. “It was a learning experience for me, too,” says Cheong, a South Korean native and former field producer for the station. “There has to be a balance between academic instruction and experiencing culture, not to mention having fun.”

—Ernesto Mora

Students prepare the lighting and test the sound for an interview in a studio at the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation. Xiaoxia Liu (center) holds a boom; Dominique Jack (far left) oversates a Korean student.
Ireland-Bound: Keelie Sheridan Scores Highly Selective National Scholarship to Study Theater

Keelie Sheridan ’13 M.F.A. has been named a George J. Mitchell Scholar, making her the second CUNY student ever to win the award. The Mitchell award is regarded, alongside the Marshall scholarship, as among the most prestigious given to American college students. The yearlong program will enable Sheridan to study directing next September at Trinity College in Dublin, where she will earn another master’s degree. “I’m so thrilled and honored to have been selected,” she says.

The scholarship, named for the former U.S. senator who played a pivotal role in the Northern Ireland peace process, includes tuition, housing, and a stipend for travel and living expenses. While there, Sheridan will work on a project exploring Aeschylus’ classic Greek tragedies, the Oresteia trilogy, through the lens of Irish history.

The scholarship program annually chooses up to 12 scholars between the ages of 18 and 30, based on their scholarship, leadership, and sustained commitment to community and public service. The scholars complete a year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by a postsecondary institution in Ireland and Northern Ireland. These dangers are what changed St. Clair’s role as director of Brooklyn College’s Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI), from a job to a mission.

“When you read the research and best practices for ensuring the success of black and Latino males in college, you’ll see that we’re doing all of it and more,” says St. Clair. “We’ve created a space where they can acquire the tools to meet and exceed their professional and personal goals.”

BLMI, a CUNY initiative, began at Brooklyn College a decade ago with the objective of increasing the number of men of African and Latino descent who enroll in and graduate from college. It provides support in academics and career readiness, as well as mentorship and opportunities to study abroad.

From 2013 to 2014, the initiative, which recently induced its first female student, grew from seven to 70 students. The late Herbert Kurz ’41 and the Kurz Family Foundation initially provided the program with a $199,000 gift, which is funding its new Herbert Kurz Leadership Academy, where students learn the tenets of social change and how to become mentors in their communities. The Kurz Family Foundation has also provided BLMI with a $1 million endowment, which will help fund the initiative in perpetuity.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

Their Lives Matter

The director of the Brooklyn College Black and Latino Male initiative brings her own fresh perspective and solutions to renewing the obstacles faced by young men of color and ensuring they succeed in higher education.

November St. Clair ’04, ’08 M.A. understands that there is a crisis confronting black and Latino men both inside and outside of academia. The statistics are alarming—whether in regard to their academic performance in underfunded schools, disproportionate policing in their communities, or their overrepresentation in the prison-industrial complex. These dangers are what changed St. Clair’s role as director of Brooklyn College’s Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI) from a job to a mission.

“In October 2014, Professor Tobie Stein, director of the graduate program in performing arts management in the Brooklyn College Department of Theater, traveled to Taiwan on a Fulbright award to spend the month giving seven lectures at National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan National University of the Arts, and Aletheia University. The lectures, delivered in English, were based on her forthcoming book, Leadership in the Performing Arts. And the classes were attended by anywhere from 30 to 60 undergraduate and graduate students, from different educational backgrounds but all interested in arts management and marketing. The Fulbright was supported by Professor Kang Kuo Ho ’92 M.Mus., who invited Stein to lecture in Taiwan. Today, Ho runs the graduate institute for the arts at the National Taiwan Normal University.

“Because performing arts are central to the Taiwanese culture, the students were very eager to learn, participate, and interact with me,” says Stein, who co-taught with a Taiwanese professor who helped give cultural context to her remarks.

While in Taiwan, Stein was invited to speak at the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan by its executive director, Wenwen Yeh ’89 M.F.A., and there she also met with another alumna, Yuling Chang ’01 M.F.A., the theater’s public relations and development coordinator. Cloud Gate Dance Theatre is scheduled to open the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in the fall.

—Ernesto Mora

Where Business Meets Art

Fulbright award takes Tobie Stein to Taiwan to share her expertise on performance arts management.

—Ernesto Mora

Martha Nadell Teaches Post-9/11 Fiction in Venice

Martha Nadell’s recent Fulbright teaching and research fellowship has taken her to Venice, where she is teaching graduate students at Ca’Foscari University and conducting research about post-9/11 literature.

“I like to teach my projects before I write about them because it helps me sort out my ideas and get new perspectives,” says Nadell, who has taught a course titled Post-9/11 Literature during the past three years.

An associate professor in the Department of English who specializes in African-American literature and investigates the role of her native Brooklyn in the American imagination, Nadell sought to more fully look into questions at the forefront of her research interests.

“How does American literature engage with events such as 9/11, Katrina, and the events in Ferguson after the shooting of Michael Brown?” she asks. In Nadell’s view, those happenings are connected and raise issues regarding race and ethnicity as well as the role of the United States in the world.

Her students at Ca’Foscari are reading American novels from this period, including works by Jonathan Lethem and Michael Cunningham, both of whom have written fiction related to 9/11. “Like other Americans, authors must wrestle with understanding and interpreting catastrophic events of that magnitude,” Nadell says. “And Venice, like New York, is a city rich in art and literary history.”

For Nadell, teaching post-9/11 American literature to a foreign audience is a beneficial exercise because the students react to it differently than American readers, challenging her perceptions and offering fresh viewpoints on her research.

—Ernesto Mora

Brooklyn College is once again among the top producers of Fulbright winners, allowing our students to study abroad. The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international education exchange program.
Tania León Partners with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., to Create an Opera About the Little Rock Nine

Composer Tania León and Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., first met as artist-residents at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Center in Italy in 1992. “I was trying to write my first opera,” recalls León, a distinguished professor in the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music. “And I needed a librettist but I was out of sorts, so Skip”—as Gates’s friends call him—“asked me if I had an extra CD with my music.”

He then introduced León to the Nigerian poet and playwright Wole Soyinka, whose radio play Scourge of Hycanthus inspired León’s opera of the same name. This summer, León teamed up with Gates to work on a new opera about the Little Rock Nine. The National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, and the Fred Darragh Foundation awarded grants to the University of Central Arkansas’ College of Fine Arts and Communication to support the commission and development of Little Rock Nine due to premiere in 2017.

León says she’ll call Gates to discuss candidates who could write the libretto. “Suddenly a light went off and I asked Skip point-blank if he wanted to become my librettist. He said he was honored but was hesitant because he’s never written a libretto.” Still, Gates took up the challenge.

The work’s subject harkens back to an integration crisis in 1957, when nine black students arrived at all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, to desegregate it.

“T’ved met three of the eight Little Rock students who are still alive,” León says. “But I expect to meet the others, and, if possible, some of the white students,” who appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show for the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Central High.

“This will be an opportunity for Skip and me to explore the souls and the feelings of these young students, who were under a lot of pressure to play out the drama of segregated 1950s America,” says León. “It will be another chapter in our wonderful journey as friends.”

—Ernesto Alonso

Beyond the Green Belt Movement

Professor Namulundah Florence’s new biography of environmentalist Wangari Maathai focuses on the Nobel Peace Prize winner’s work as a champion of environmental activism.

It’s a central part of Wangari Maathai’s legacy that she was the first African woman to earn the Nobel Peace Prize for the global impact of her environmental activism. What’s less well-known is that she was the first woman in Eastern and Central Africa to earn a Ph.D. and the first Kenyan woman to earn a master of science degree.

Namulundah Florence, professor of secondary education, feels something of a kindred spirit with her subject. “I wanted the world to know her place as an intellectual woman,” says Florence, whose book, Wangari Maathai: Visionary, Environmental Leader, Political Activist (Lantern Books), released that last fall. “We’ve focused on her activism but not her intellectual life.”

“Maathai (1940–2011) was an active academic. She was the first female associate professor, senior lecturer, and chair of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Nairobi,” notes Florence, who returned to Kenya to conduct some of her research for the book, interviewing two of Maathai’s former students as well as the head of the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies.

Today, Florence points out, “there are more women administrators and vice-chancellors, more girls in school and for longer periods, and women’s issues are discussed in national forums.”

In her book, Florence takes pains to lay out some of the sociopolitical context that existed in Kenya throughout Maathai’s life in order to help readers understand the uniqueness of Maathai’s experiences.

“For us, she embodies possibilities,” says Florence. “She made the unthinkable thinkable.” —Jamilah Simmons

“During the fall 2014 semester, Brooklyn College welcomed new senior administrators.”

APRIL WHATLEY BEDFORD
Dean of the School of Education

RICHARD GREENWALD
Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences

LUCAS RUBIN
Assistant Dean at the Graduate Center for Worker Education

SARA CROSBY
Director of First College Year

RONALD JACKSON
Dean of Students

46 FULL-TIME FACULTY

$32 FACULTY
Research & Discovery

From March to November 2014, Brooklyn College faculty garnered more than $7 million in grants and awards for new and ongoing research. Here is a selection of those funded projects and recent faculty publications.

Nicholas Bias, assistant professor of biology, received $55,000 from the National Institutes of Health to dissect the process by which biofilms develop. The project proposes that an understanding of the early stages of biofilm development may lead to new therapies and treatments of important human diseases.

Professor Luigi Bonafini of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has won the Razors de Pacifico Translation Award from The Bedroom (Shibole Editions, 2015), a translation of Attilio Bertolucci’s narrative poem La Camera De Letto.

Brett Bancroft, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, received $184,707 from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the project “Detecting Water Quality Regime Shifts in Jamaica Bay.”

Elisabeth Chua, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, was awarded $97,000 by the National Institutes of Health for studies that will use eye tracking methods that measure memory without requiring overt responses, which could be valuable in measuring residual memory function, and its neural basis, in many patient populations.

Associate Professor of Chemistry Mara Contel received $184,003 from the National Institutes of Health to continue toward the long-term goal of developing hetero-nuclear titanium-gold anticancer chemotherapeutics for the treatment of renal and prostate cancers. Her work also seeks to improve the activity of two different metals with anti-tumor properties in the same molecule.

Professor Constantin Cranganu of the Department of Chemistry published the Romanian translation of Stil Gas and Hydrolics by Paul F. Freilich with Integral Publishing House.

Associate Professor James Davis of the Department of English published Eric Abloyd—a Life in the Harlem Renaissance and the Transatlantic Caribbean with Columbia University Press.

Professor of Psychology Andrew Delamater received $382,500 from the National Institutes of Health for his study “A Multi-Component Approach to Extinction in Pavlovian Learning.” His research will examine the psychological mechanisms involved in the elimination of unwanted learned behaviors.

Guillermo Gerna-Navauro, assistant professor of chemistry, was given $110,000 by the National Institutes of Health to study the particular role of pentose group proteins (PNG) in different cellular processes, but also to decipher the role of PNG, one of the general types formed by PNG target genes in cancer biology.

Professor Ban Lerner of the Department of English published the novel 30IM withFather & Faber.

Professor Sharona Levy of the SDR Department was given $334,100 by the U.S. Department of Education for the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search Program.

Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor John Marra is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to use $104,535 to elucidate the processes that control the transport of sediment and water quality in Jamaica Bay. The project will make predictions as to how these important processes may be altered by various climate-change scenarios and/or future basin engineering projects.

Associate Professor Vanessa Y. Pena of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies published Becoming Julio de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon with the University of Illinois Press.

Professor Nancy Bomer of the Department of Psychology received a total of $40,024 from the New York City Department of Youth and Community for NDA (National Defense Authorization) Project Peace.

Distinguished Professor Anthony Scalfani of the Department of Psychology received $414,742 from the National Institutes of Health for his research titled “Carbohydrate Appetite, Fat Appetite, and Obesity.” The aim of the research is to investigate carbohydrate stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning.

Professor of Psychology Louise Matline received $40,000 from the National Institutes of Health for the Brooklyn College ROI Option 2: Increasing URMC Student Success in Science and Science Careers. The program is designed to broaden developmental and research opportunities for students from underrepresented groups as they progress from undergraduate status to graduate programs in biomedical and behavioral research fields. Matline also received $268,972 for “MIND: Biometrical Research Training for Minority Honor Students at Brooklyn College.”

Professor of Psychology Andrew Delamater received $382,500 from the National Institutes of Health for his study “A Multi-Component Approach to Extinction in Pavlovian Learning.” His research will examine the psychological mechanisms involved in the elimination of unwanted learned behaviors.

Guillermo Gerna-Navauro, assistant professor of chemistry, was given $110,000 by the National Institutes of Health to study the particular role of pentose group proteins (PNG) in different cellular processes, but also to decipher the role of PNG, one of the general types formed by PNG target genes in cancer biology.

Professor Lerner of the Department of English published the novel 30IM withFather & Faber.

Professor Sharona Levy of the SDR Department was given $334,100 by the U.S. Department of Education for the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search Program.

Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor John Marra is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to use $104,535 to elucidate the processes that control the transport of sediment and water quality in Jamaica Bay. The project will make predictions as to how these important processes may be altered by various climate-change scenarios and/or future basin engineering projects.

Associate Professor Vanessa Y. Pena of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies published Becoming Julio de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon with the University of Illinois Press.

Professor Nancy Bomer of the Department of Psychology received a total of $40,024 from the New York City Department of Youth and Community for NDA (National Defense Authorization) Project Peace.

Distinguished Professor Anthony Scalfani of the Department of Psychology received $414,742 from the National Institutes of Health for his research titled “Carbohydrate Appetite, Fat Appetite, and Obesity.” The aim of the research is to investigate carbohydrate stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning.

Professor of Psychology Louise Matline received $40,000 from the National Institutes of Health for the Brooklyn College ROI Option 2: Increasing URMC Student Success in Science and Science Careers. The program is designed to broaden developmental and research opportunities for students from underrepresented groups as they progress from undergraduate status to graduate programs in biomedical and behavioral research fields. Matline also received $268,972 for “MIND: Biometrical Research Training for Minority Honor Students at Brooklyn College.”

Professor of Psychology Andrew Delamater received $382,500 from the National Institutes of Health for his study “A Multi-Component Approach to Extinction in Pavlovian Learning.” His research will examine the psychological mechanisms involved in the elimination of unwanted learned behaviors.

Guillermo Gerna-Navauro, assistant professor of chemistry, was given $110,000 by the National Institutes of Health to study the particular role of pentose group proteins (PNG) in different cellular processes, but also to decipher the role of PNG, one of the general types formed by PNG target genes in cancer biology.

Professor Lerner of the Department of English published the novel 30IM withFather & Faber.

Professor Sharona Levy of the SDR Department was given $334,100 by the U.S. Department of Education for the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search Program.

Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor John Marra is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to use $104,535 to elucidate the processes that control the transport of sediment and water quality in Jamaica Bay. The project will make predictions as to how these important processes may be altered by various climate-change scenarios and/or future basin engineering projects.

Associate Professor Vanessa Y. Pena of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies published Becoming Julio de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon with the University of Illinois Press.

Professor Nancy Bomer of the Department of Psychology received a total of $40,024 from the New York City Department of Youth and Community for NDA (National Defense Authorization) Project Peace.

Distinguished Professor Anthony Scalfani of the Department of Psychology received $414,742 from the National Institutes of Health for his research titled “Carbohydrate Appetite, Fat Appetite, and Obesity.” The aim of the research is to investigate carbohydrate stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning.

Professor of Psychology Louise Matline received $40,000 from the National Institutes of Health for the Brooklyn College ROI Option 2: Increasing URMC Student Success in Science and Science Careers. The program is designed to broaden developmental and research opportunities for students from underrepresented groups as they progress from undergraduate status to graduate programs in biomedical and behavioral research fields. Matline also received $268,972 for “MIND: Biometrical Research Training for Minority Honor Students at Brooklyn College.”

Professor of Psychology Andrew Delamater received $382,500 from the National Institutes of Health for his study “A Multi-Component Approach to Extinction in Pavlovian Learning.” His research will examine the psychological mechanisms involved in the elimination of unwanted learned behaviors.

Guillermo Gerna-Navauro, assistant professor of chemistry, was given $110,000 by the National Institutes of Health to study the particular role of pentose group proteins (PNG) in different cellular processes, but also to decipher the role of PNG, one of the general types formed by PNG target genes in cancer biology.

Professor Lerner of the Department of English published the novel 30IM withFather & Faber.

Professor Sharona Levy of the SDR Department was given $334,100 by the U.S. Department of Education for the Brooklyn College Educational Talent Search Program.

Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor John Marra is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, to use $104,535 to elucidate the processes that control the transport of sediment and water quality in Jamaica Bay. The project will make predictions as to how these important processes may be altered by various climate-change scenarios and/or future basin engineering projects.

Associate Professor Vanessa Y. Pena of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies published Becoming Julio de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon with the University of Illinois Press.

Professor Nancy Bomer of the Department of Psychology received a total of $40,024 from the New York City Department of Youth and Community for NDA (National Defense Authorization) Project Peace.

Distinguished Professor Anthony Scalfani of the Department of Psychology received $414,742 from the National Institutes of Health for his research titled “Carbohydrate Appetite, Fat Appetite, and Obesity.” The aim of the research is to investigate carbohydrate stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning; investigate fat stimulation of intake and flavor preference learning.

Professor of Psychology Louise Matline received $40,000 from the National Institutes of Health for the Brooklyn College ROI Option 2: Increasing URMC Student Success in Science and Science Careers. The program is designed to broaden developmental and research opportunities for students from underrepresented groups as they progress from undergraduate status to graduate programs in biomedical and behavioral research fields. Matline also received $268,972 for “MIND: Biometrical Research Training for Minority Honor Students at Brooklyn College.”
Back to Back: Another CUNYAC Championship Win for Women's Soccer

The 11 seeded Brooklyn College women’s soccer team repeated as the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Champs in November, knocking off #2 Staten Island in the 2014 CUNYAC/Bruce Women’s Soccer Final, 1-0. The Bulldogs and Champions MVP Bernie Louis (below, right), who scored the contest’s only goal, will advance to the NCAA Division II Championships for the second consecutive season.

Louis, the team’s only senior, was named Most Valuable Player after converting the game-winner. In her two years with the team after transferring to Brooklyn College, she is a perfect 2–0, as is the team, in the CUNYAC Finals.

“These games are never easy,” says Brooklyn Head Coach Patrick Horne. “Credit to Staten Island. In the first half, they really had us going, but we told the team that they’d worked hard all season and not to let it go to waste.”

The teams played mostly back and forth for the first half. Brooklyn’s Louis had a few opportunities with space to break away and make a play but was stopped before actually taking a shot. College of Staten Island’s Kristy Colangelo took a shot in the 36th minute that was just narrowly saved by Rebecca Harmata to keep the game scoreless.

Just 1:30 into the second half, the scoreless streak ended. Isabelle Lalami created some space down the sideline and crossed the ball to Louis, who streak ended. Isabelle Lalami created some space to break away and make a play but was taken for my career. I want to be a speech pathologist.

“I’ve met while hanging out between classes. The West End Building. It’s close to the classes. The West End Building. It’s close to the Nature of Speech-Language Disorders.

Nicole Francomano is a graduating senior from Staten Island and member of the women’s basketball team. Her best thing about being a Brooklyn College student is the locker room. But I study the playbook. The West Quad Center. Most of the athletes hang out there. The locker room. But I study the playbook.

Nicole Francomano

SCHOLAR/ATHLETE

Nicole Francomano is a graduating senior from Staten Island and member of the women’s basketball team.

Position, Number, Eligibility

Point guard, No. 23, fourth year.

Jordan fan? I’ve always been No. 23 but for no specific reason.

BEST PLACE TO PLAY YOUR PLAYBOOK

The locker room. But I study the playbook.

MOST CHALLENGING WORKOUT

The preseason time in general, because we do a lot of running.

PROUDDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ATHLETE

Having three 20-win seasons, one of which was the best in this team’s history.

BEST PART OF BEING A BULLDOG

My teammates. They’ve won the championship the last seven years, but we have beaten them twice since I’ve been here.

PROUDDEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The West End Building. It’s close to the classes. The West End Building. It’s close to the Nature of Speech-Language Disorders.

Nicole Francomano is a graduating senior from Staten Island and member of the women’s basketball team.

MAJOR, YEAR

Speech pathology, senior.

MOST CHALLENGING COURSE

Audiology. It’s about diagnosing disorders and it is so far the most relevant class I have taken for my career. I want to be a speech pathologist.

PROUDDEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

I’ve been on the dean’s list every semester since my freshman year.

BEST PLACE TO STUDY

The West End Building. It’s close to the gym, so it’s convenient for me.

BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT ON CAMPUS

The West Quad Center. Most of the athletes hang out there.

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A BROOKLYN COLLEGE STUDENT

The other Brooklyn College students I’ve met while hanging out between classes.

The team went on to take home its second title in just its third year as a program. Throughout the entire season, with a defense led by standout Jasmine Fermin, Brooklyn did not give up a goal to a CUNYAC opponent.

“It’s been a crazy year,” says Louis. “As the only senior, it was kind of like a step up in my last year to lead these ladies to another championship.”

“To repeat as CUNYAC Champions is difficult enough to do with a soccer program that has only existed in for three years is extraordinary,” says Bruce Filosa, director of athletics. “It took a lot of hard work and commitment. I am extremely proud of our players and coaches. To celebrate on our home field for two consecutive seasons is something we will never forget and has been wonderful for our entire campus.”

—Alex Lang

CUNYAC All-Stars

Men’s Volleyball

Rookie of the Year: Mihaila Djepehar
(270 kills, 177 digs, 32 aces, 24 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: David Omintuk
(230 kills, 184 digs, 45 aces, 34 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: Antone Kofman
(266 kills, 90 blocks, 28 aces)

Second Team All-Star: Ricky Myint
(227 digs)

Men’s Tennis

Second Team All-Star: Threougah Daley
(6-4 singles record, 5-6 doubles record)

Second Team All-Star: Brandon Green
(6-5 singles record, 4-5 doubles record)

Second Team All-Star: Robin Vengheese
(5-4 singles record, 5-6 doubles record)

Coach of the Year: Ahmad Osintila
(Led team to #1 seed in CUNYAC Championships and semifinals appearance)

Women’s Softball

First Team All-Star: Amanda Bisek
(961 batting average, 31 RBI, 23 runs, 5-1 record, 2.55 ERA, 52 strikeouts)

First Team All-Star: Stephanie Curvello
(417 batting average, 31 RBI, 31 runs)

First Team All-Star: Jasmine Fermin
(270 kills, 197 digs, 32 aces, 24 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: Samantha Rodriguez
(.347 batting average, 29 RBI, 23 runs)

Second Team All-Star: Allison Donovan
(.378 batting average, 24 RBI, 23 runs)

First Team All-Star: Marissa Nist
(.561 batting average, 31 RBI, 23 runs)

CUNYAC All-Stars

Women’s Softball

First Team All-Star: Amanda Bisek
(961 batting average, 31 RBI, 23 runs, 5-1 record, 2.55 ERA, 52 strikeouts)

First Team All-Star: Stephanie Curvello
(417 batting average, 31 RBI, 31 runs)

First Team All-Star: Jasmine Fermin
(270 kills, 197 digs, 32 aces, 24 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: Samantha Rodriguez
(.378 batting average, 29 RBI, 23 runs)

Second Team All-Star: Allison Donovan
(.347 batting average, 24 RBI, 23 runs)

Coach of the Year: Michael Ponsiglione
(Led team to #1 seed in the CUNYAC Championships and appearance in the ECAC Metro Championships)

Nicole Francomano

SCHOLAR/ATHLETE

Nicole Francomano is a graduating senior from Staten Island and member of the women’s basketball team.

Position, Number, Eligibility

Point guard, No. 23, fourth year.

Jordan fan? I’ve always been No. 23 but for no specific reason.

BEST PLACE TO PLAY YOUR PLAYBOOK

The locker room. But I study the playbook.

MOST CHALLENGING WORKOUT

The preseason time in general, because we do a lot of running.

PROUDDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT AS AN ATHLETE

Having three 20-win seasons, one of which was the best in this team’s history.

BEST PART OF BEING A BULLDOG

My teammates. They’ve won the championship the last seven years, but we have beaten them twice since I’ve been here.

PROUDDEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The West End Building. It’s close to the classes. The West End Building. It’s close to the Nature of Speech-Language Disorders.

Nicole Francomano is a graduating senior from Staten Island and member of the women’s basketball team.

MAJOR, YEAR

Speech pathology, senior.

MOST CHALLENGING COURSE

Audiology. It’s about diagnosing disorders and it is so far the most relevant class I have taken for my career. I want to be a speech pathologist.

PROUDDEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

I’ve been on the dean’s list every semester since my freshman year.

BEST PLACE TO STUDY

The West End Building. It’s close to the gym, so it’s convenient for me.

BEST PLACE TO HANG OUT ON CAMPUS

The West Quad Center. Most of the athletes hang out there.

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A BROOKLYN COLLEGE STUDENT

The other Brooklyn College students I’ve met while hanging out between classes.

CUNYAC All-Stars

Men’s Volleyball

Rookie of the Year: Mihaila Djepehar
(270 kills, 177 digs, 32 aces, 24 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: David Omintuk
(230 kills, 184 digs, 45 aces, 34 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: Antone Kofman
(266 kills, 90 blocks, 28 aces)

Second Team All-Star: Ricky Myint
(227 digs)

Men’s Tennis

Second Team All-Star: Threougah Daley
(6-4 singles record, 5-6 doubles record)

Second Team All-Star: Brandon Green
(6-5 singles record, 4-5 doubles record)

Second Team All-Star: Robin Vengheese
(5-4 singles record, 5-6 doubles record)

Coach of the Year: Ahmad Osintila
(Led team to #1 seed in CUNYAC Championships and semifinals appearance)

Women’s Softball

First Team All-Star: Amanda Bisek
(961 batting average, 31 RBI, 23 runs, 5-1 record, 2.55 ERA, 52 strikeouts)

First Team All-Star: Stephanie Curvello
(417 batting average, 31 RBI, 31 runs)

First Team All-Star: Jasmine Fermin
(270 kills, 197 digs, 32 aces, 24 blocks)

Second Team All-Star: Samantha Rodriguez
(.378 batting average, 29 RBI, 23 runs)

Second Team All-Star: Allison Donovan
(.347 batting average, 24 RBI, 23 runs)

Coach of the Year: Michael Ponsiglione
(Led team to #1 seed in the CUNYAC Championships and appearance in the ECAC Metro Championships)
Our article about the Dooshk (Photo Album, Vol. 3, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2014), the unofficial mascot of the Brooklyn College men’s swim team, jogged the memory of more than one former member. Says Mark Keyes ’84, ’92 M.A., who swam for the college in the late ’70s and early ’80s, “We had it on our team shirts, and we even called ourselves the Brooklyn College Dooshk!”

Even though the Dooshk has always been represented by the Don Martin–like fish image by Sam Cynamon ’74, ’77 M.S., Keyes explains that the word dooshk is a bit of onomatopoeia that was intended to represent the sound that’s made when someone dives into a pool.

“The Dooshk received its first in-print mention in a column by Marie Cincotta ’73 in the sports pages of The Kingsman on March 10, 1972. Brooklyn College’s swim team had just completed an undefeated season and won the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference championships,” writes Dr. Eric N. Dubrow ’72, who was a co-captain of the swim team during the 1970–71 season and captain of the team in 1971–72.

“BC’s fans were beautiful. Yes, BC had the biggest, noisiest, and by far craziest cheering section in the place,” the column event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“#As I remember, although each of our memories of the same event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“We did not use was actually nervous. “This is the queen City’s hard-core criminals in tones their own mothers would have used. She was looking for a judge to fill a slot on a new show she was creating, she called some of her contacts in New York and told them that she wanted someone who was essentially a younger version of herself. The Dooshk was intended to represent the sound that’s made when someone dives into a pool.

“The Dooshk received its first in-print mention in a column by Marie Cincotta ’73 in the sports pages of The Kingsman on March 10, 1972. Brooklyn College’s swim team had just completed an undefeated season and won the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference championships,” writes Dr. Eric N. Dubrow ’72, who was a co-captain of the swim team during the 1970–71 season and captain of the team in 1971–72.

“BC’s fans were beautiful. Yes, BC had the biggest, noisiest, and by far craziest cheering section in the place,” the column event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“#As I remember, although each of our memories of the same event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“Our article about the Dooshk (Photo Album, Vol. 3, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2014), the unofficial mascot of the Brooklyn College men’s swim team, jogged the memory of more than one former member. Says Mark Keyes ’84, ’92 M.A., who swam for the college in the late ’70s and early ’80s, “We had it on our team shirts, and we even called ourselves the Brooklyn College Dooshk!” Even though the Dooshk has always been represented by the Don Martin–like fish image by Sam Cynamon ’74, ’77 M.S., Keyes explains that the word dooshk is a bit of onomatopoeia that was intended to represent the sound that’s made when someone dives into a pool.

“The Dooshk received its first in-print mention in a column by Marie Cincotta ’73 in the sports pages of The Kingsman on March 10, 1972. Brooklyn College’s swim team had just completed an undefeated season and won the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference championships,” writes Dr. Eric N. Dubrow ’72, who was a co-captain of the swim team during the 1970–71 season and captain of the team in 1971–72.

“BC’s fans were beautiful. Yes, BC had the biggest, noisiest, and by far craziest cheering section in the place,” the column event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“#As I remember, although each of our memories of the same event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“#As I remember, although each of our memories of the same event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

“Our article about the Dooshk (Photo Album, Vol. 3, No. 2, Spring/Summer 2014), the unofficial mascot of the Brooklyn College men’s swim team, jogged the memory of more than one former member. Says Mark Keyes ’84, ’92 M.A., who swam for the college in the late ’70s and early ’80s, “We had it on our team shirts, and we even called ourselves the Brooklyn College Dooshk!” Even though the Dooshk has always been represented by the Don Martin–like fish image by Sam Cynamon ’74, ’77 M.S., Keyes explains that the word dooshk is a bit of onomatopoeia that was intended to represent the sound that’s made when someone dives into a pool.

“The Dooshk received its first in-print mention in a column by Marie Cincotta ’73 in the sports pages of The Kingsman on March 10, 1972. Brooklyn College’s swim team had just completed an undefeated season and won the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference championships,” writes Dr. Eric N. Dubrow ’72, who was a co-captain of the swim team during the 1970–71 season and captain of the team in 1971–72.

“BC’s fans were beautiful. Yes, BC had the biggest, noisiest, and by far craziest cheering section in the place,” the column event may vary,” says Dubrow, “Sam Cynamon was doodling a figure that resembled the Dooshk. It just had a head—no body, scales, tail, or feet. He called it a Ba-Dooshk. Eventually, the remainder of the creature took shape. Sam originally described his creation as ‘a half-fish, half-dog, which roamed the streets of Borough Park.’ The team ordered T-shirts with the Dooshk printed on the back. That was the birth of the Dooshk.” The team went on to finish that season 9–3. And in 1971–72 it became the most successful swim team at Brooklyn College since 1939, finishing the season undefeated, at 14–0, placing first at the Metropolitan Collegiate Swimming Conference Championship, and winning “O1 Coach” Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.
1. President Karen L. Gould speaks to students gathered for the luncheon.

2. Conservatory of Music musicians perform contemporary works by up-and-coming modern music composers. Left to right: Hasan Ozcan ‘14, baritone; Justin Chow ‘18, violin; Adam von Housen ‘17, violin; Matt Siringo ‘16, bass clarinet; Alex Eisenhauer ‘17, clarinet; Konrad Chan ‘19, harmonica; Yuriy Lehki ‘17, percussion; Alejandro Lopez ‘17, percussion.

3. Hope Solomon ‘W’ (black row, third from left) and partners in the nonprofit and government services group of Mark Pennucci LLP, participate in the Ministry of Business and Law of Harlem and the Brooklyn College Magner Career Center’sUp and Coming Internship Program. From left: Hope Solomon ‘W’, Massimo Fuso, and Donna Dela Cruz ‘W’, harpist.


5. Magner Career Center 10th Anniversary.


7. Shirley Chisholm Day 2014.


10. Course photo of the first of Brooklyn College’s three Rhodes scholars, Lisette Nieves ‘92, addresses students.

11. Gary Shltengart Speaks to Students.

12. Dr. Ellen J. Berkowitz ‘80 (center), psychiatrist and associate chair of education at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, with her mentor, Dr. Martin P. Schreibman ‘56, and students of the Brooklyn College chapter of AMSA (American Medical Students Association).

13. Recent recipients of the Tow Professorship and the Claire Tow ‘52 Distinguished Teaching Award.


Out and About


School of Business Dean Willie Hopkins (fourth from left) with students and alumni at the third annual Business Matters event.
Dear Alumni,

I am pleased to report that the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) closed out 2014 with two wonderful campus events. The 26th Annual Post 50th Alumni Awards Ceremony and Luncheon took place on September 14 in the college’s Student Center. Twenty-one attendees, including BCAA directors, at large Harriet Brathwaite ’59 and Joy Steinberg Schwartz ’53, received Lifetime Achievement Awards. Brooklyn College Foundation trustee Don Buchwald ’59 was the recipient of the Milton Fisher ’38 Second Harvest Award, and special recognition was given to the Reunion Class of Alumni from 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, and 1959. Wow!

On October 23, the BCAA celebrated its stars during the Fifth Annual Alumni Honors. Honorees included Lisa Stanozzi-Coo ’76, president of City College of New York; Alumna of the Year, Utica College ’82, vice president of Late Night Entertainment at CBS; Alumnius of the Year, Debra Cumberbatch Howard ’73, human resources executive of Con Edison and BCAA board of directors treasurer from 2007 to 2013, who received the Jerome S. Milgrom Award for Service. Distinguished Achievement Awards were given posthumously to Judith Salwen Greene ’53, award-winning educator and school principal, and Alexander Tanger ’51, radio broadcast executive and philanthropist.

Finally, in the spirit of this issue’s theme, I would like to pay tribute to two women, St. Camille D’Anni and Margaret M. Flynn ’60, who had an impact on my undergraduate experience and life. As a Television and Radio major, I was fortunate to have Sister D’Anni (professor emerita) as an instructor. She always gave me thoughtful feedback and well-timed encouragement. In addition to her work at Brooklyn College, she has provided religious commentary for 1010 WINS radio for more than 40 years and is the author and narrator of the audiobook Forgiveness: Stories of Redemption, for more than 40 years and is the author and narrator of the audiobook Forgiveness: Stories of Redemption, which has an impact on my undergraduate experience and life.

In service,

Jeffrey Sigler ’92, ’95 M.S.

1934
Murray Swaman and Kate Mandel
Tuchock each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

1939
Elmer Eiser received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

1944
Rhoda Wasserman Baruch and Ruth Javer Mondschein each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

1945
Bran-Behar Research Foundation President Emerita Constance Lieber was honored with a special Presidential Commendation by the American Psychiatric Association at its 187th annual meeting.

1948
Ernie Newman Sloan Ackrawy Class Correspondent 279-10 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G Forest Hills, NY 11375-3029

Herbert Levy recently published an article in History Magazine entitled “Truckin’ Roosevelt’s Path to Greatness.”

1949
William D. Israov Class Correspondent 286-10 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. WY Floral Park, NY 11005-1218

Gabrielle Carbone, Lawrence Eisenberg, Milton Esterow, and William C. Thompson each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Gladys Smolniker Moskowitz composed two chamber operas and several art songs that have been performed throughout the United States and Europe. Her latest work is a music drama in two acts, The Masquer of the Red Onyx, based on the story by Edgar Allan Poe.

1945
Marion Unger Gordon Class Correspondent 70 East 10th Street, Apt. 9P New York, NY 10025-5152

TheHFSTwylylDonaldTrump’sArtsontheBrooklyniteseries was successfully completed at P.S. 163 in the Bronx, with two more planned for this year. The series honors the late Wylyl Donald Trump.

1953
Shelia Talmud Raymond Class Correspondent 255 West 94th Street, Apt. 6Q New York, NY 10025-6845

1954
Lucien Kruckowsk, professor emeritus of philosophy at Washington University in St. Louis, recently authored Before the Beginning, During the Middle, After the End, published by Pickwick Publications.

1954
Marlene (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman Class Correspondent 255 West 94th Street, Apt. 6Q New York, NY 10025-6845

Sandra Levy Cohen, Stan Fischel, and Doris Lipson Sassower each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Marcia Jacoby Hillman continues her jazz-journalist career writing reviews and feature articles for the New York City Jazz Record and online jazz magazines. Also, her song “The Blues Are Out of Town” was recently recorded by vocalist Carol Weinman.

1956
Mike Asakon Class Correspondent 1301 East Mountain Street Glendale, CA 91207-1837

musaluzzi@earthlink.net

Fred Kaplan, Rosemary Shankman Pooler, Robert M. Sarnoff, Joy Steinberg Schwartz, and Angela Velpe each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Don Buchwald received the Milton Fisher ’38 Second Harvest Award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association at its annual Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Don Buchwald received the Milton Fisher ’38 Second Harvest Award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association at its annual Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014. The award recognizes exceptional achievements in creative or professional endeavors or public service made by an alumnus or alumna after his or her 50th anniversary.

William K. Kopp retired as an attending oral and maxillofacial surgeon from the Mount Sinai Hospital in Manhattan after 50 years. His practice was based in Rego Park, New York.


Sam Beiler, Hartley L. Brathwaite, Edward L. Geffen; Stanley Goldstein, Fred Kaplan, Rosemary Shankman Pooler, Robert M. Sarnoff, Joy Steinberg Schwartz, and Angela Velpe each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Each received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the BCAA Post 50th Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on September 14, 2014.

Kate Mandel

37

Brooklyn College Alumni Association

BROOKLYN COLLEGE MAGAZINE | FALL/WINTER 2015

BROOKLYN COLLEGE MAGAZINE | FALL/WINTER 2015

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

Class Correspondent

1960
Saul Kraus
Class Correspondent
3382 Kenosha Court
Mountain View, CA 94040
branstonau@gmail.com

1961
David S. Herskowitz
Class Correspondent
4755 Kildew Court
Brooklyn, NY 11234-5738
dasha@bluebon.net
Isaac Blachor was recently honored by the Bar Association of Nassau County in commemoration of his 50 years of practice of the law with "great distinction."

1962
Steven J. Nappen
Class Correspondent
38 Tiny Hills Road
Whippany, NJ 07981-1195
Braun "Bonnie" Halter Georgeitch ‘62, ’79 M.A., is an editor-at-large "Beyond Sexuality and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Brandeis College" at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina.

1968
Eileen McGinn
Class Correspondent
210 East 15th Street, Apt. 10N
New York, NY 10003-3007
The City Council of New Albany, Ohio, has voted to name a new wellness center for Philip Heit ’68, ’70 M.A., founder of the New Albany Walking Classic and Healthy New Albany Initiatives. The center will open later this year.

1969
Norm B. Epstein
Class Correspondent
2250 Brainerd Drive
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
michael.kosik@morganstanley.com
Michael Kosik is a managing director in the Financial Institutions Group at Morgan Stanley and an alum of the college. The college is the only one in his career where he had the opportunity to work with women in senior roles.

1970
Barry Silverman
Class Correspondent
1364 Slates Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5816
writingscom.net
Dr. Harvey Levy recently became the first recipient of the Maryland Dental Association’s Humanitarian Award. He is the first dentist to receive a fourth Lifelong Learning and Service Recognition award from the Academy of General Dentistry and has been inducted into the U.S. Black Belt Martial Arts Hall of Fame for the third time.

1971
Letty Sustrin
Class Correspondent
9545 Seven Springs Road
Clarksburg, NJ 08510
A new addition of private rooms at the Chambersburg Hospital in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, was dedicated to Norman B. Epstein in recognition of his 20-year leadership, dedication, and vision.

1972
Stanley A. Alexander
Class Correspondent
918 Charles River Road
Walpack, NJ 07463
The Brooklyn-based Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) honored Angel Delia at a gala celebration marking the organization’s 25th anniversary.

1973
Linda G. Gross Carroll
Class Correspondent
1732 Meditator Street
Seabrook, FL 33456-6466
karr8352@comcast.net

1974
Diane Vosters Vaught
Class Correspondent
42 Brainard Drive
Old Saybrook, CT 04145
dianelw122@hotmail.com
Robert Krug was presented with the award for Outstanding Service by the Society for Business Ethics for his service as board member and treasurer.

1975
Robin Latner
Class Correspondent
188 East 96th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11228-5334
Julie S. Bear has joined WeinerMazur LLP as a partner within the Transaction Advisors Group, which advises companies and private-equity firms as they purchase or divest themselves of businesses both domestically and globally. The New York Public Library has named John Weinstahl its chief operating officer.

1976
Henry P. Fentoch
Class Correspondent
50 Barnes Lane
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425
henty@fentoch.com
Stephen F. Kaufman has been awarded a doctor of divinity degree by the Universal Church of Christ-Mother Church and is an ordained minister with all attendant rights and privileges. He recently published Homage to Musashi, Napoléon Meurs, Swain, in the Boardroom, and How I Selved My Revolution with Hanashi Warner Press.

1978
Susan A. Katz
Class Correspondent
20 Powdered Trail
Trumull, CT 06781-3333
Bennett’s children’s book by Dr. Seth C. Kahan, was published by LadyBee Publishing.

1980
Nelson Braff has been elected president of the board of directors at Tanger Mall of Brooklyn College. Dr. Joseph Scirea co-edited with Edita Guinina Enormous Stomach: Interpreting Women’s Domestic Needlework from the Italian Diaspora, recently published by the University of Mississippi. This interdisciplinary, multigenerational, and transnational anthology presents academic essays and creative works, including memoir, poetry, and visual arts, from Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the United States.

1981
Karen Weinstein Tennenbaum was recently selected for inclusion in the 2014 edition of Super Lawyers as a practitioner in tax law. She was also honored as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Women in Business in 2014 by Business News.

1982
Eileen Sherman Gruber
Class Correspondent
69 Derby Avenue
Greenlawn, NY 11740-2130
The Baldwin, New York, Board of Education named Dr. Sherri Cardo as superintendent of schools of the Baldwin School District, effective last September.

1983
Michael Koek
Class Correspondent
662-527-5616
michael.koek@merscantry.com
Edward S. Cohen has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. The photography section of Slate is running a story about photographs shot by Robert D. “Biff” Gilho in the early 1980s as part of his New York Education Project (which was published in the Museum of Chinese in America).
In Memoriam of January 2 2015

41
After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army, and as a manager of WHDH-TV in Massachusetts, he bought WLNK radio in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1966. It was the first of 20 radio, television, and Internet stations that Tanger would own during his career. In 1997, Tanger returned to Brooklyn College to earn the 40 credits he needed for a degree, receiving in 2001 a bachelor of arts in television and radio at a ceremony where he also gave the valentine address. A dedicated and lifelong donor to the college, Tanger made major contributions to the Department of Television and Radio, the Brooklyn College Library, and Tanger Hall at Brooklyn College, which is named in his honor. Tanger, who served on the Brooklyn College Board of Trustees, made the college’s mission of providing access to an affordable, rigorous education his own. —Robert Jones, Jr.

Alban Blum ’78, a successful attorney and longtime supporter of Brooklyn College, passed away on July 8 at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. He was 55 years old. As a student, Blum worked part-time in the Office of the Registrar. He also served as the very first chair of the Brooklyn College chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), where he met Alice Franco, whom he would marry in 1980.

Blum majored in political science, minored in psychology, and graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree. After receiving his JD from the Hofstra University School of Law, he became general counsel at United Merchants & Manufacturers, Inc. (a Fortune 500 corporation), then an attorney at Townley & Updike. In 1995, Blum received his J.D. from the Hofstra University School of Law, he became the general counsel at United Merchants & Manufacturers, Inc. (a Fortune 500 corporation), then an attorney at Townley & Updike.

The Tows also donated a $10 million challenge grant that increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. In 1997, Tanger returned to Brooklyn College to earn the 40 credits he needed for a degree, receiving in 2001 a bachelor of arts in television and radio at a ceremony where he also gave the valentine address. A dedicated and lifelong donor to the college, Tanger made major contributions to the Department of Television and Radio, the Brooklyn College Library, and Tanger Hall at Brooklyn College, which is named in his honor. Tanger, who served on the Brooklyn College Board of Trustees, made the college’s mission of providing access to an affordable, rigorous education his own. —Robert Jones, Jr.

Claire met Leonard Tow ’50 at Brooklyn College in 1949 and they were married three years later, a few weeks after Claire’s graduation. Leonard earned a doctorate in economics and found success in the nascent cable television industry. The Tows, both of whom had grown up poor, became early active supporters of the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

The Tows also donated a $10 million challenge grant that sparked the creation of the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, a rehearsal, production, and performance space now under construction. The new complex will serve as the premier arts center in the borough, providing world-class programming and cultural enrichment for the surrounding community, and continuing the Tow family’s lasting dedication to Brooklyn College.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard, her three children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. —Kendra Gay Anderson

Philanthropist Claire Tow ’52 passed away peacefully on July 7 after a 14-year struggle with Lou Gehrig’s Disease (ALS). She was born August 19, 1930, in Brighton Beach, Claire was the daughter of Sadie and Sigmund Schneider. She attended Abraham Lincoln High School before coming to Brooklyn College, where she majored in education.

Toward the end of his life, Tanger served on the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

In 1997, Tanger returned to Brooklyn College to earn the 40 credits he needed for a degree, receiving in 2001 a bachelor of arts in television and radio at a ceremony where he also gave the valentine address. A dedicated and lifelong donor to the college, Tanger made major contributions to the Department of Television and Radio, the Brooklyn College Library, and Tanger Hall at Brooklyn College, which is named in his honor. Tanger, who served on the Brooklyn College Board of Trustees, made the college’s mission of providing access to an affordable, rigorous education his own. —Robert Jones, Jr.

Claire met Leonard Tow ’50 at Brooklyn College in 1949 and they were married three years later, a few weeks after Claire’s graduation. Leonard earned a doctorate in economics and found success in the nascent cable television industry. The Tows, both of whom had grown up poor, became early active supporters of the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

The Tows also donated a $10 million challenge grant that sparked the creation of the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, a rehearsal, production, and performance space now under construction. The new complex will serve as the premier arts center in the borough, providing world-class programming and cultural enrichment for the surrounding community, and continuing the Tow family’s lasting dedication to Brooklyn College.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard, her three children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. —Kendra Gay Anderson

Philanthropist Claire Tow ’52 passed away peacefully on July 7 after a 14-year struggle with Lou Gehrig’s Disease (ALS). She was born August 19, 1930, in Brighton Beach, Claire was the daughter of Sadie and Sigmund Schneider. She attended Abraham Lincoln High School before coming to Brooklyn College, where she majored in education.

Toward the end of his life, Tanger served on the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

In 1997, Tanger returned to Brooklyn College to earn the 40 credits he needed for a degree, receiving in 2001 a bachelor of arts in television and radio at a ceremony where he also gave the valentine address. A dedicated and lifelong donor to the college, Tanger made major contributions to the Department of Television and Radio, the Brooklyn College Library, and Tanger Hall at Brooklyn College, which is named in his honor. Tanger, who served on the Brooklyn College Board of Trustees, made the college’s mission of providing access to an affordable, rigorous education his own. —Robert Jones, Jr.

Claire met Leonard Tow ’50 at Brooklyn College in 1949 and they were married three years later, a few weeks after Claire’s graduation. Leonard earned a doctorate in economics and found success in the nascent cable television industry. The Tows, both of whom had grown up poor, became early active supporters of the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

The Tows also donated a $10 million challenge grant that sparked the creation of the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, a rehearsal, production, and performance space now under construction. The new complex will serve as the premier arts center in the borough, providing world-class programming and cultural enrichment for the surrounding community, and continuing the Tow family’s lasting dedication to Brooklyn College.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard, her three children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. —Kendra Gay Anderson

Philanthropist Claire Tow ’52 passed away peacefully on July 7 after a 14-year struggle with Lou Gehrig’s Disease (ALS). She was born August 19, 1930, in Brighton Beach, Claire was the daughter of Sadie and Sigmund Schneider. She attended Abraham Lincoln High School before coming to Brooklyn College, where she majored in education.

Toward the end of his life, Tanger served on the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

In 1997, Tanger returned to Brooklyn College to earn the 40 credits he needed for a degree, receiving in 2001 a bachelor of arts in television and radio at a ceremony where he also gave the valentine address. A dedicated and lifelong donor to the college, Tanger made major contributions to the Department of Television and Radio, the Brooklyn College Library, and Tanger Hall at Brooklyn College, which is named in his honor. Tanger, who served on the Brooklyn College Board of Trustees, made the college’s mission of providing access to an affordable, rigorous education his own. —Robert Jones, Jr.

Claire met Leonard Tow ’50 at Brooklyn College in 1949 and they were married three years later, a few weeks after Claire’s graduation. Leonard earned a doctorate in economics and found success in the nascent cable television industry. The Tows, both of whom had grown up poor, became early active supporters of the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment to their alma mater that only increased after the couple created the Tow Foundation in 1988. The Tow Foundation focuses on vulnerable families, juvenile justice, medical research, cultural institutions, and higher education. At Brooklyn College, the Tow Foundation has provided endorsements for internship programs, scholarships, and faculty travel fellowships, as well as undergraduate travel stipends for students conducting research outside the United States.

The Tows also donated a $10 million challenge grant that sparked the creation of the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, a rehearsal, production, and performance space now under construction. The new complex will serve as the premier arts center in the borough, providing world-class programming and cultural enrichment for the surrounding community, and continuing the Tow family’s lasting dedication to Brooklyn College.

She is survived by her husband, Leonard, her three children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. —Kendra Gay Anderson
“I was very surprised to open the Spring/Summer 2014 issue of the alumni magazine and find a blurb on page 44 about the Frank Zappa concert back in 1973,” writes Louis Lewow ’75. “Not only was I there, but as the director of Student Government Productions (SGP), I booked the show.”

Lewow booked all the other SGP concerts during the 1973–74 academic year, too, one of which featured the Beach Boys, with Brooklyn native son Henry Gross, who played two performances to sell-out crowds in December 1973. “For the second show, the group, led by Mike Love, who was barefoot and wearing a pink velvet outfit resembling a pair of pajamas, offered to sing ‘Surfer Girl’ on their knees—a self-proclaimed first,” stated The Kingsman in a review. “Then they invited two women from the audience to come up on stage and dance.”

Lewow also brought to Whitman Hall’s stage Leon Russell, the bands Poco and Mountain, and the touring company of National Lampoon’s Lemmings, which included Saturday Night Live originals John Belushi, Chevy Chase, and Gilda Radner and the British-American screenwriter, director, actor, and comedian Christopher Guest, later known for “mockumentaries” such as This Is Spinal Tap (1984).

But for Lewow, the Zappa concert was especially memorable. “I had the opportunity to spend some time with Mr. Zappa before his performance,” says Lewow. “What a truly genuine and appreciative person. It was an amazing year for me and the entire staff of the Student Government. Thanks for bringing back great memories.”

Did you attend any performances held at Brooklyn College during the 1970s? Do you have any special memories? Please send them to magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu.
Together we are a recipe for success!

Alumni generosity changes lives!

Your contribution to the annual fund helps us to provide scholarships to our most deserving and in-need students.

With 50% of our students working to pay their own tuition, your help eases our students’ financial burden, while affording them the opportunity to focus on their coursework, fully participate in the college experience, and graduate on time.

See enclosed reply envelope, make your gift online or call us at 718.951.5074.

No matter what size, each gift to the annual fund directly impacts our students.

www.brooklyncollegefoundation.org