





## From the President's Desk

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 Wagner '69, entrepreneur; Claire Tow '52, philanthropist; Keelie Sheridan '13 M.F.A., national Mitchell award winner; Professor Tania León, Grammy-nominated composer; Annie 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,



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### Madam President

Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould shares her professional journey as a leader in higher education and her vision for preparing the next generation of global citizens.

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Faculty scholarship highlights challenges to academic advancement that women and girls still face worldwide, and helps to create solutions.

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## The Right Medicine

*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.*

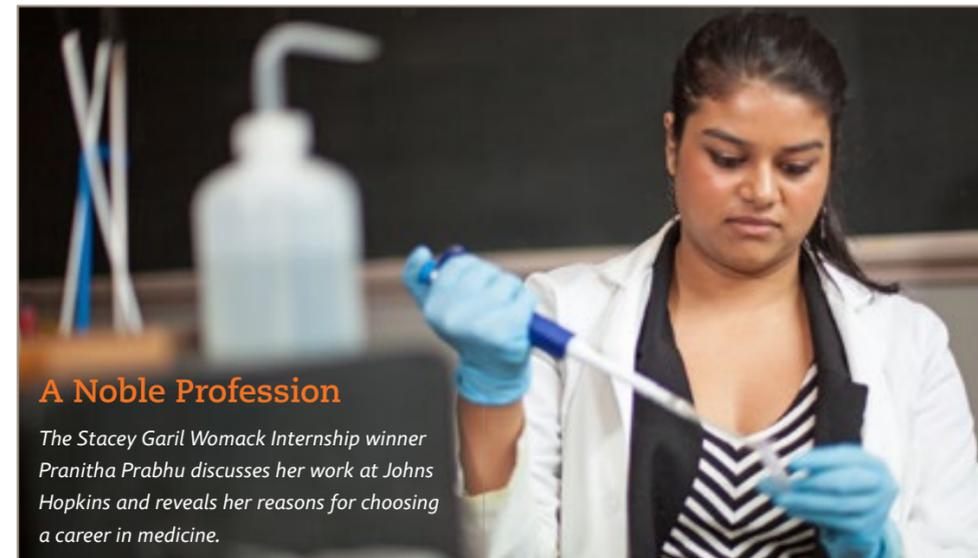
Salma Abdou '14 has received a Silverstein Scholarship, which provides her with full tuition, room, and board to attend the NYU School of Medicine, an award that is valued at more than \$300,000 over four years. The former Brooklyn College Scholars Program student was also accepted to the Columbia University 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 of reform movements in Turkey and Egypt, was accepted by the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, the most competitive undergraduate research conference in the country. "Her intelligence is matched only by her generosity of spirit," says Lisa Schwebel, director of the Scholars Program, which offers honors-level Core courses, interdisciplinary seminars, and guided research on senior theses.

Abdou also has a deep interest in health and human rights, and held an internship at Human Rights Watch during the summer before her junior year. This was after the Arab Spring, and Abdou was able to conduct interviews with activists and lawyers on the ground. "It was probably one of the best experiences of my life," says the Egyptian-born student, who grew up in a socially and politically conscious home and has had a lifelong desire to work in a field where she could be of help. She says her work with people at Human Rights Watch helped her solidify her decision to go into medicine. "Documenting their realities made me itchy to do something," she says. "I realized the knowledge I will get from a medical education will give me the tools to physically change something for someone. I want to use medicine to promote human rights."

—Jamilah Simmons



## A Noble Profession

*The Stacey Garil Womack Internship winner Pranitha Prabhu discusses her work at Johns Hopkins and reveals her reasons for choosing a career in medicine.*

"When I was a child and I was terrified, I went to my parents. When my parents were terrified, they went to the doctor," explains senior Pranitha Prabhu, a 2014 winner of the Stacey Garil Womack Memorial Fund Internship. The award provided her with access to a prestigious internship program at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in the summer of 2014. Prabhu learned about the scholarship—funded by the Brooklyn College Foundation through the generosity of Bernard '62 and Ethel Garil—through the Magner Career Center and the Pre-health Professions program.

Prabhu, a student in the William E. Macaulay Honors College double majoring in biology and Spanish, assisted Johns Hopkins scientists in their quest to create a vaccine to help 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.

Garil Memorial Internships provide invaluable experience for talented students at the nation's leading medical institutions.

## Healing the Whole Person

From the moment she saw her pediatrician mother in a white uniform with a stethoscope hanging from her neck, William E. Macaulay Honors College senior Natasha Masub knew that she would work in the field of medicine. A Michael Garil Memorial Summer Internship would lead to a prestigious internship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. There, she worked with medical professionals on examining the biology of tumor cells from esophageal and gastric cancers in the hope of finding treatments, and eventually vaccines and cures.

A sociology major, Masub believes that approaching the sciences from a liberal arts background gives her a distinct advantage while conducting research.



"Brooklyn College helped me to understand all aspects of a person's health—not just the biological functions but also the emotional and psychological well-being, all of which can be linked to things like socioeconomic status, race, and gender," says Masub. "I believe this holistic approach allows for a more complete evaluation and more beneficial outcomes for patients."

Masub plans to attend Downstate College of Medicine of the State University of New York, following in her mother's footsteps to become the second doctor in the family.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



*The Garil family's story was featured in the Fall/Winter 2013 issue of B Magazine. Read it at [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php).*

Elissa Matsueda's M.F.A. led to her writing the screenplay for the film *Spare Parts*. Students accepted to the college's M.F.A. in Screenwriting program at the new **Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios** will complete feature-length screenplays as part of their master's degree.



## Talent to Spare

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 as 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, arrived in theaters on January 16.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



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 Rio, George Lopez, and Carlos PenaVega.

## 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.



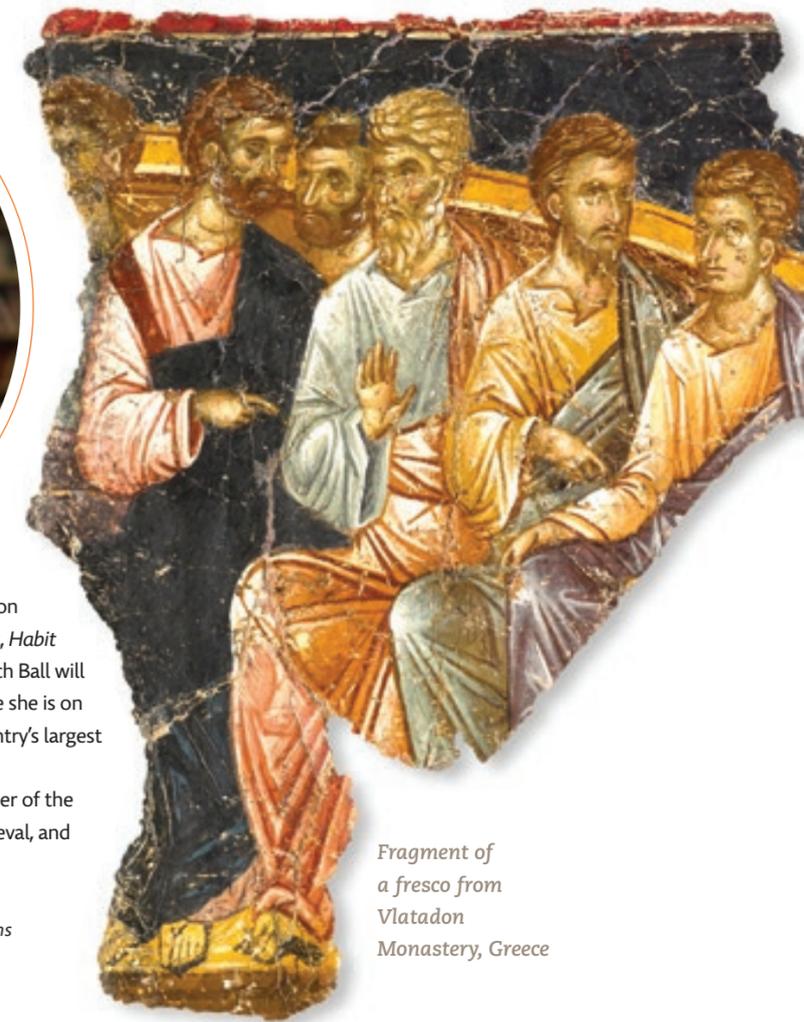
It is estimated that during the ninth century, some 10 percent of the population of the Byzantine Empire, which comprised much of Eastern Europe and the Middle East, joined a monastery. There are several theories as to why, but few academics have delved deeply into the reasons for the surge.

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–15th Centuries*, in which Ball will explore the phenomenon. The fellowship helps supplement her salary while she is on sabbatical, 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



Fragment of a fresco from Vlatadon Monastery, Greece

WORKS BY MANY ALUMNAE HAVE BEEN EXHIBITED IN PROMINENT MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES BOTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND INTERNATIONALLY. THEY INCLUDE **JANE FREILICHER '47**, REPRESENTATIONAL PAINTER AND MEMBER OF THE INFORMAL NEW YORK SCHOOL; **JOAN BERMAN ARBEITER '59**, PROMINENT FEMINIST ARTIST; **NATALIE EDGAR '53**, PAINTER AND ART NEWS WRITER; **SELINA TRIEFF HENRY '55**, PAINTER (AND WIFE OF ROBERT HENRY); **HELENE AYLON '60**, MULTIMEDIA ECOFEMINIST ARTIST; **ELAINE REICHEK '63**, FEMINIST FIBER ARTIST; **MARTHA R. ROSLER '65**, INSTALLATION AND PERFORMANCE ARTIST; **ALTOON SULTAN '69**, '71 M.F.A., PROMINENT TEXTILE ARTIST; **JANICE MEHLMAN '79**, '83 M.F.A., INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER; **DIANA HOROWITZ '86 M.F.A.**, OIL PAINTER AND MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN; AND **PATRICIA CRONIN '88**, PAINTER, SCULPTOR, AND INSTALLATION ARTIST.

## 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 '80, 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

# GAME CHANGERS: Brooklyn College Women at the Forefront



**1930**

Brooklyn College becomes one of the first public coed liberal arts colleges in New York



**1933**

**Sylvia Fine '33** writes the music for the school song. Fine, who graduated with a B.A. in music, goes on to marry a fellow Brooklynite, the comedian Danny Kaye, and have a successful career scoring and producing films. In 1988, at the suggestion of the college's then-president Robert L. Hess, Fine wrote another song for her alma mater (after confessing that the first one was the worst thing she had ever heard).

Professor **Belle Zeller**, a founding instructor at Brooklyn College and leader of the teacher unions representing the City University of New York, spearheads the creation of the Political Science Department.

**1938**



**1942**  
Brooklyn College students, the majority of whom are women, aid in the war effort by working on a farm in Morrisville, New York, in the U.S. government's **Farm Labor Project**.



**1959**

**Paule Marshall '53** publishes *Brown Girl, Brownstones*, about immigrants from Barbados living in Brooklyn. The book would gain widespread recognition when republished in 1981 by the Feminist Press.

**1961**  
**Madeline Amgott '42** is co-creator of *Calendar*, a weekday news and information daytime program aimed at women, which aired on CBS Television from 1961 to 1963. Amgott was one of the first women to produce news programs in the male-dominated field of television in the 1950s and 1960s.

**1963**

**Rachelle Horowitz '57** takes a break from her job at the Worker's Defense League when Bayard Rustin, the civil rights leader and organizer of the March on Washington, asks her to oversee transportation to the march. She charters buses, trains, and planes and convinces officials of the New York City subway system to extend its rush-hour service to accommodate the crowds that will ride the subway to bus-pickup locations on their way to the capital. Horowitz later served as the political director for the American Federation of Teachers.



**1974**  
**Brooklyn College's Women's Studies Program** (now Women's and Gender Studies) is founded, becoming one of the first programs of its kind in the nation.

**1978**

**Shelly Strickler '62** debuts as a newscaster on WOR (710 AM) in New York City on July 31. At the time, Strickler was one of just a handful of women in a major radio news position.



**1983**

**Barbara (Levy) Boxer '62** (D-CA) is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She will serve five terms in the House and go on to be elected senator in 1992.

**1987**

DC Comics editor **Karen Berger '79** helps spearhead the modernization of Wonder Woman, the title character artist/writer George Perez's wildly popular comic book. In 1993, Berger will become the executive editor of Vertigo Comics, an imprint of DC Comics that publishes offbeat stories featuring characters like Sandman, Constantine, and Y.

**1989**

The Brooklyn College Humanities Institute is renamed in honor of its founder, **Ethyle R. Wolfe**, upon her retirement. In the course of her distinguished career, Wolfe served as chair of the Department of Classics, dean of the School of Humanities, and provost and vice president for academic affairs. Wolfe was also one of the original faculty architects of the renowned Brooklyn College Core Curriculum.



**1995**

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

After serving as the first female attorney general of New Jersey, **Deborah Poritz '58** is sworn in as the first female chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

**1996**



**1997**  
**Sandra Feldman '60**, 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.

**1999**

Following her groundbreaking legal victory in *Matter of Kasinga*, **Karen Musalo '73** founds the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies to meet the needs of asylum seekers fleeing gender-based violence.

**2009**

**Karen L. Gould** becomes the first woman president of Brooklyn College. Almost 60% of the college's students are women.

**2009**

The 1996 novel *Push* by author and performance poet **Sapphire '95 M.F.A.** is brought to the screen as the motion picture *Precious*.



**2007**

**Sara Quiles-Contreras '82, '86 M.S.**, a stand-up comic, co-stars in *The Latin Divas of Comedy*.

**2006**

Professor of Secondary Education **Barbara Winslow** founds the Shirley Chisholm Center for the Research on Women at Brooklyn College.



**2006**

Professor emerita **Virginia Sánchez Korrol**, chair of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies from 1989 to 2004, co-edits with Vicki L. Ruiz the three-volume *Latinas in the United States: A Historical Encyclopedia*, the first comprehensive gathering of scholarship on Latinas.

**2003**

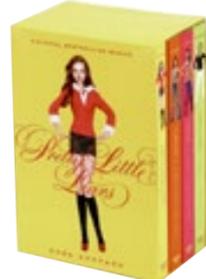
Playwright and director **Young Jean Lee '05 M.F.A.** founds the Young Jean Lee Theater Company. She will win an Emerging Playwright Obie Award in 2007 and an Obie Award Special Citation for *We're Gonna Die* (2011).

**2001**

**Pamela Talkin '68, '71 M.A.** becomes the 10th marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and the first woman to hold this position.

**2010**

*Pretty Little Liars*, an American teen drama mystery-thriller television series loosely based on the popular series of novels written by **Sara Shepard '05 M.F.A.**, premieres on ABC Family. Shepard's *Pretty Little Liars* and *The Lying Game* become bestsellers.



**2012**

**Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly '70** is one of the first women of color to establish a Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter, in Queens,

**2013**

Professor **Jeanne Theoharis** in the Department of Political Science is named a CUNY Distinguished Professor. A leading scholar of African-American freedom movements and the contemporary politics of race, Theoharis is noted for her internationally acclaimed book *The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks*, also released that year.

**2014**

**Annie Baker '09 M.F.A.** is awarded a Pulitzer Prize for her play *The Flick*.



**2014**

**Rhoda Jacobs '62**, who represents District 42 in Brooklyn in the New York State Assembly, where she serves as assistant speaker, announces her retirement. She has been a state assemblywoman since she was first elected in 1978.

**2014**

**Jennifer Mikhli '16** is elected CLAS student government president.



**2015**

At age 85, **Lorraine S. Gerson '50** is the oldest federal prosecutor in the United States. She studied political science and English literature at Brooklyn College, graduated, married, raised three children, then enrolled at Seton Hall Law School in 1971. In 1979, she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in Newark, New Jersey.

# 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 17,000 students in five distinct schools, welcoming a growing population of engaged learners who seek a well-rounded, high-quality academic experience.

We recently sat down with President Gould to discuss her views on women in higher education and explore her perspective on leadership.

## HOW HAS YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE SHAPED YOUR OUTLOOK ON HIGHER EDUCATION?

Currently in the United States, students, parents, alumni, and elected officials are eager to understand the return on investment that higher education delivers. Students are challenging their institutions to provide rigorous academic preparation, as well as extracurricular experiences that will prepare them for a highly competitive workplace and for the competitive graduate programs and professional schools that will advance their career opportunities.

Negotiating the rapidly changing economic landscape, understanding the implications of rising student debt nationwide, and responding to the complex socioeconomic realities in which institutions of higher learning operate are unavoidable responsibilities for college and university presidents today. At the same time, we must continue to ensure that our students learn with great breadth and depth across many fields of inquiry and that they acquire the capacity to think critically and engage respectfully with others who have a range of diverse views and experiences. We must also ensure that students develop the skills and knowledge to contribute responsibly and effectively to their professional fields of endeavor, their communities, and the broader society.

## 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.

Studying 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 the first woman, but it matters more that the woman who leads seeks to provide effective and forward-looking leadership.

I was always encouraged by my parents to have high goals and work hard to accomplish them. Having grown up in the Depression, with many of the economic challenges of that era, my parents emphasized education as the key to opportunity. They gave me confidence at an early age, and for that, I will always be grateful.

## 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 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 coast experiences in my life.



Why We  
**CAN'T**  
 Wait

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.

**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

**FACT**

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

SOURCE: THE ANNENBERG 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

Literacy rates for women and men are improving, but achieving universal literacy remains a significant challenge, particularly in Africa and South-Central and Western Asia.

**BANGLADESH:** Enrollment of girls in secondary schools has risen to over 6 million from 1.1 million in 1991.

**BURKINA FASO:** In the 20 most underprivileged provinces, female enrollment reached 55% in 2006, compared with 36% in 2000.

**CAMBODIA:** A scholarship for girls enrolling in secondary school raised transition rates from primary to secondary school by 30 percentage points.

**PAKISTAN:** More than 400,000 girls received stipends to go to school in Punjab, Pakistan's largest province.

**YEMEN:** Approximately 34,000 girls from the most underprivileged rural households have benefited from conditional cash transfers tied to school attendance.

SOURCE: ALL, THE WORLD BANK

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 Charisa 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 the importance of their political voices. On the Brooklyn College campus, Smith has played a valuable role in mentoring and supporting women students at the college,

including those who have come from other countries and cultures to escape acute gender oppression.

"There are many young women at Brooklyn College for whom early marriages or arranged marriages were a requirement, and a lot of them have broken away from that to get an education and have some self-determination. Even in the United States, there can still be a penalty for this breaking away. It can still be very damaging," 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 available 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

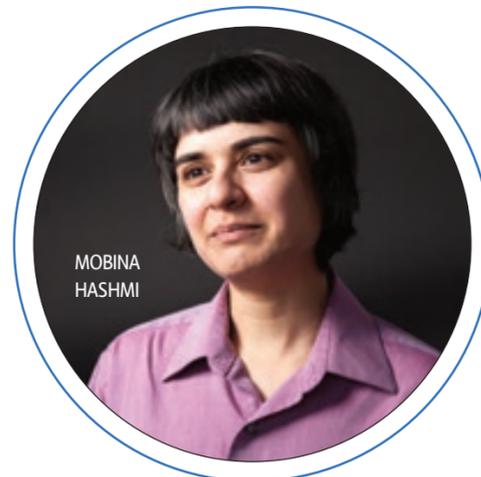
the groundwork for providing women and girls with access to the scholastic opportunities that had previously been limited or denied to them. In the years that followed, women's educational attainment has outpaced men's by significant margins. More women than men now enroll in colleges at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Women also have higher

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

SOURCE: THE NATIONAL INTIMATE PARTNER AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY/ NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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.



**FACT** *45% of full-time Brooklyn College faculty is female.*

**FACT**

Nearly 60%  
of Brooklyn College  
students are  
female.

“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 blatantly, 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



“The emotional, sexual, and psychological stereotyping of females begins when the doctor says: ‘It’s a girl.’”

Shirley Chisholm ’46

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 Project 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 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

**FACT** 76% of women online use social media.

SOURCE: PEW INTERNET PROJECT/PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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: INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (DEC. 2014)

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: PEW RESEARCH CENTER

IN OUR BACKYARD



representations that can now be between audience members, which can serve as a kind of intervention against negative images. We can now take our understandings of what it means to be a woman or a girl and complicate them. We can take that sense of community and identity that we find in these online spaces and talk back to the mainstream images.

“For example, #WhyWeCantWait is a Twitter campaign that has led to town hall meetings and articles interrogating why President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper initiative is problematic because, in the necessary focus on black men and boys, it assumes that black women and girls are okay. But if you look at any statistics, you see that young women and girls are massively at risk.”

Queneau adds, “The effect of media in perpetuating limiting notions of gender roles is profound, down to what colors or toys or professions are considered manly or womanly. Some may argue for biological factors, but I don’t believe that. I think the factors are cultural—which doesn’t make them any less difficult to resist.” Queneau agrees with Hashmi that images matter. “The symbolic aspect is extraordinarily important. When you have leaders and role models who are women and/or minorities, it helps.”

Adams believes that it is everyone’s duty to create opportunities for women and girls to succeed. “It’s extremely helpful to these young women to have mentors who look like them. But even if these mentors don’t necessarily look like them, they have to be aware of the issues faced by young women so they’re able to mentor them in a way that prepares them to deal with the obstacles they’ll face when they are no longer in a nurturing environment. We’ve encountered young women who have actually come upon these obstacles but have been able to succeed because they’ve had a network of support to help them navigate those waters.”

Smith agrees and says, moreover, that the answer lies in putting pressure on politicians and lawmakers, and mobilizing the next generation of influencers.

“If we say we believe women and girls are equal, we have to vote our conscience. We have to give a special push to young women and girls, especially in the STEM fields, but also in public affairs,” she insists. “If you’re a religious organization, what are you doing to support causes that help women achieve equity? If we say that we think it’s damaging for young girls to be stereotyped or objectified, then we can’t turn on the TV or radio and watch certain shows or dance to certain songs. I think young people, in particular, need to speak out. They’re afraid. Dating violence is on the rise; there’s peer pressure. But they must be courageous. They’re our only hope.”



Photos: Except where noted, LOOK Magazine Photograph Collection, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

a Sociologist with a CAMERA  
BY JAMILAH SIMMONS

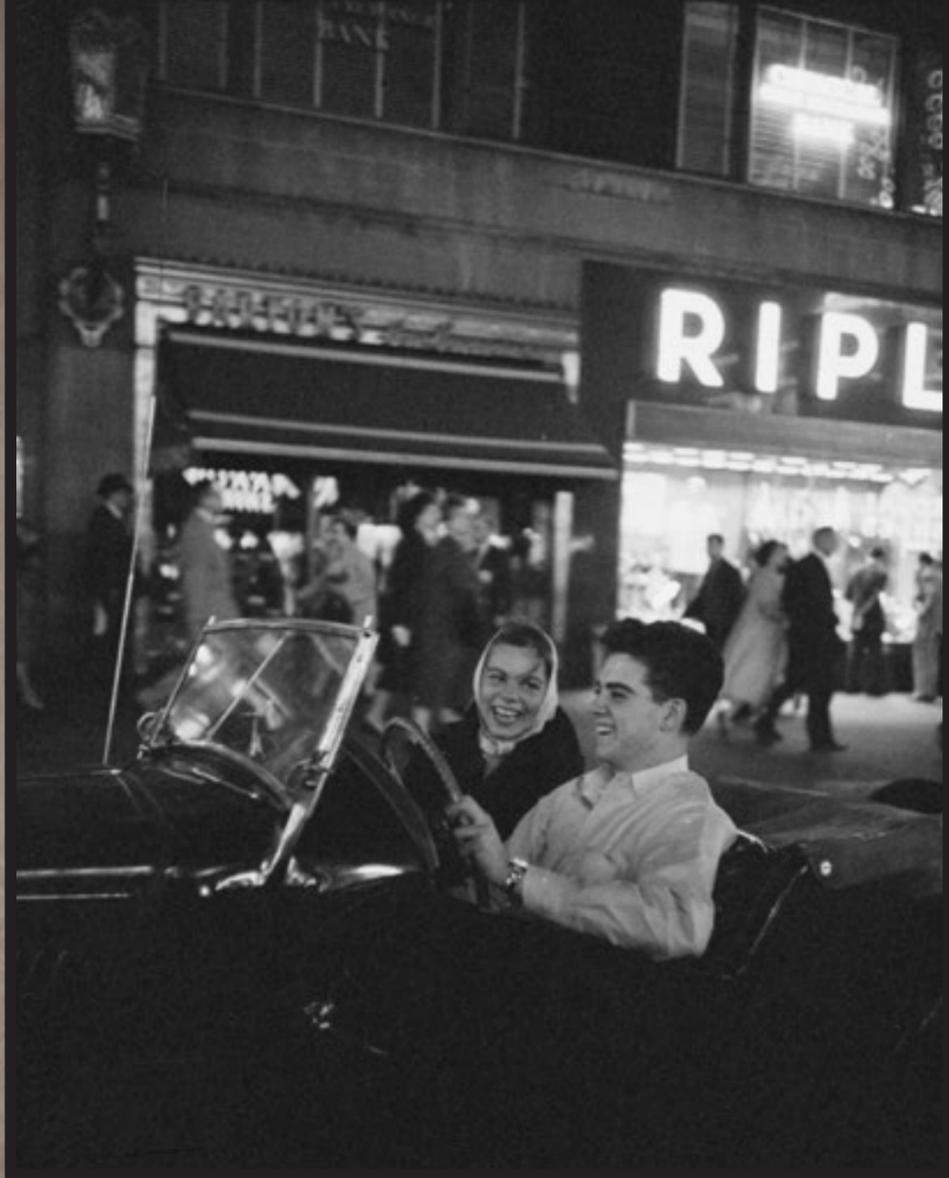
AS THE FIRST WOMAN STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER AT LOOK MAGAZINE, CHARLOTTE BROOKS USED HER LENS TO TURN “WOMEN’S FEATURES” ON END, CREATING PHOTO ESSAYS THAT RESOUNDED WITH SOCIAL COMMENTARY.

WHEN CHARLOTTE BROOKS ’40 CAME TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE 1930S, SHE JOINED THE AMERICAN STUDENTS UNION—A LEFT-WING ORGANIZATION THAT WAS VERY 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 ON AN INFORMAL APPRENTICESHIP, BROOKS ENDED UP BECOMING, AS SHE LATER DESCRIBED IT, A SOCIOLOGIST WITH A CAMERA.

BROOKS WENT TO WORK FOR LOOK MAGAZINE (A FORMER RIVAL TO LIFE) AS A 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” SHE WAS ASSIGNED INTO PHOTO ESSAYS WITH DEPTH, NUANCE, AND ICONIC RESONANCE. SHE COVERED A VARIETY OF STORIES, FROM WOMEN AT WORK TO CELEBRITIES AT PLAY, NATIONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, AND THE FALLOUT OF MINNIEJAN BROWN’S INTEGRATION OF A LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, HIGH SCHOOL.

BROOKS DIED IN MARCH 2014 AT HER HOME IN HOLMES, NEW YORK, LEAVING BEHIND A BODY OF WORK THAT DOCUMENTS THE CHANGING FABRIC OF AMERICAN LIFE AND THE LEGACY OF A PIONEERING SPIRIT.



*Left: 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.



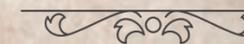
*Below: I LOVE MOMMY, 1952*  
 Brooks captured Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz playing at home with their daughter, Lucie Arnaz. The article was titled "The Real Lucy."



*Previous page: 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.

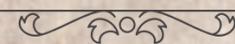


*Left: DUKE ELLINGTON, 1955*  
 Here, the jazz musician and his band play baseball in front of a segregated motel. *Look* frequently published stories that examined divisive issues critically, and Brooks was assigned many stories about race. Her 1955 coverage of Ellington on the road included images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



*Right: MINNIJEAN 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.

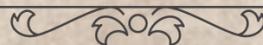




Right:

### CHRISTMAS TOYS, 1953

Starting off in the promotions unit of the advertising department at *Look*, Brooks made pictures when regular staff photographers balked at certain assignments. She quickly proved her talent when filling in for absent photographers on the editorial side of the house. Gradually given tougher assignments, she worked her way up the ranks until, as she put it, she was accepted as one of the guys.



Above: The photographer on location. Courtesy of Anne Page

To see more of Charlotte Brooks's work, go to

[LOC.GOV/RR/PRINT/COLL/WOMPHOTO/BROOKSESSAY.HTML](http://LOC.GOV/RR/PRINT/COLL/WOMPHOTO/BROOKSESSAY.HTML)

# News-makers



## Aspiring Media Makers Get a Leg Up from the British Film Academy

BAFTA partners with BBC America, DreamWorks Animation, and others to pair

Television and Radio students with media mentors.

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 Student Emmys 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



Television and Radio's winning team: (from left) Stephen Lorusso, Camille Brown, department chair Stuart MacLelland, Melissa Rodríguez, 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. Xiao Xia Liu (center) holds a boom; Dominique Jack (far left) oversees a Korean student.



## Their Lives Matter

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

**N**icole 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.

"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 inducted 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 \$99,000 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.

## 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 Mitchell 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.

With this scholarship, Sheridan joins Ryan Merola '07, a Brooklyn College alumnus who won the Mitchell award in 2011.

—Jamilah Simmons



## Where Business Meets Art

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

**I**n 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, Tainan 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



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.



## 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 summers.

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



## Beyond the Green Belt Movement

Professor Namulundah Florence's new biography of environmentalist Wangari Maathai focuses on the Nobel Prize winner's work as a champion of education reform.

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 connection to the late founder of the Green Belt Movement, a grassroots advocacy organization that empowers communities, particularly women, to conserve the environment and improve livelihoods. She and Maathai were both Kenyan village girls who pursued formal schooling at a time when such a thing was not common. Both their lives were transformed by education. Both went on to become college professors.

"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), was released 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 College of Nairobi. She fought for equal benefits for female staff members and even rallied to unionize the faculty. "There were very few science educators who were female, and this is a woman teaching science at the university level," 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

"She made the unthinkable thinkable."

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

**+32 FULL-TIME FACULTY**

## 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 Hyacinths* 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's College of Fine

Arts and Communication to support the commission and development of *Little Rock Nine*, due to premiere in 2017.

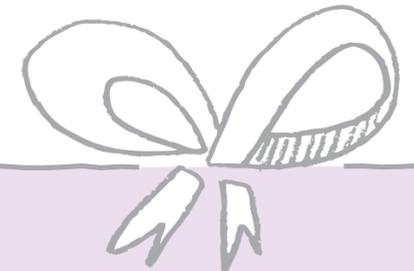
León says she'd called Gates to discuss candidates who could write the libretto. "Suddenly a light went off and I asked Skip point-blank if he wanted to become my librettist. He said he was honored but was hesitant because he's never written a libretto." Still, Gates took up the challenge.

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.

"I've 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 Mora



With enrollment at a record high, Brooklyn College has secured a number of major gifts this academic year that are helping the institution meet the growing needs of its student body and academic departments, via academic support and extracurricular enrichment.

## FALL 2015

launch of the **M.D. Sass Investment Academy** for the Brooklyn College School of Business, endowed by Martin D. Sass '63, founder, chairman, and CEO of M.D. Sass, a leading name in investment management for 42 years

The academy will include an undergraduate, student-run hedge fund where participants will be mentored by expert investment managers and security analysts, and will help manage and invest actual securities under the supervision of seasoned successful investors.



## \$1.5 million

gift from Marshall G. Kaplan '49 to establish the **Marshall G. Kaplan Chair in Municipal Government** in the Department of Accounting in the School of Business

The chair is charged with attracting and retaining scholars and professionals of distinction in the field.

## \$2.5 m

gift from the Kurz Family Foundation to establish the **Herbert Kurz Chair of Finance and Risk Management** in the School of Business's newly formed Department of Finance



The gift will also support the Herbert Kurz Leadership Academy, which aims to increase the number of African-Americans, Latinos, and members of other historically underrepresented groups who enroll in and graduate from college.

## TRAVEL for athletes



supported by the **Slusher Family Athletic Travel Fund Program**, made possible by a \$1 million gift from Howard Slusher '59 and his wife, Rebecca

The fund will support annual travel for women's and men's athletic teams at Brooklyn College, exposing them to athletic and educational experiences outside the New York City area.

## 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 Biais**, assistant professor of biology, received \$157,000 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 Bonaffini** of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has won the Raiziss/de Palchi Translation Award for *The Bedroom* (Chelsea Editions, 2013), a translation of Attilio Bertolucci's narrative poem *La Camera Da Letto*.

**Brett Branco**, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, received \$148,757 from the U.S. Department of the Interior for the project "Detecting Water Quality Regime Shifts in Jamaica Bay."

**Elizabeth Chua**, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, was awarded \$157,000 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 **Maria Contel** received \$342,653 from the National Institutes of Health to continue toward the long-term goal of developing heterometallic 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 Environmental Sciences published the Romanian edition of *Shale Gas and Hydraulic Fracturing—Between Myth and Reality* with Integral Publishing House.

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

Professor of Psychology **Andrew Delamater** received \$392,500 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 Gerona-Navarro**, assistant professor of chemistry, was given \$157,000 by the National Institutes of Health to study the particular role of polycomb group proteins (PcG) in different cellular processes, but also to decipher the role of PRC2, one of the general types formed by PcG target genes in cancer biology.

Professor **Ben Lerner** of the Department of English published the novel *10:04* with Faber & Faber.

Professor **Sharona Levy** of the SEEK Department was given \$334,150 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 \$504,535 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. Perez** of the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies published *Becoming Julia de Burgos: The Making of a Puerto Rican Icon* with the University of Illinois Press.

Professor **Nancy Romer** of the Department of Psychology received a total of \$420,824 from the New York City Department of Youth and Community for NDA (National Defense Authorization) Project Peace.

Distinguished Professor **Anthony Sclafani** of the Department of Psychology received \$341,472 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; and evaluate the role of fat taste and post-oral feedback on fat appetite and individual differences in nutrient preferences.

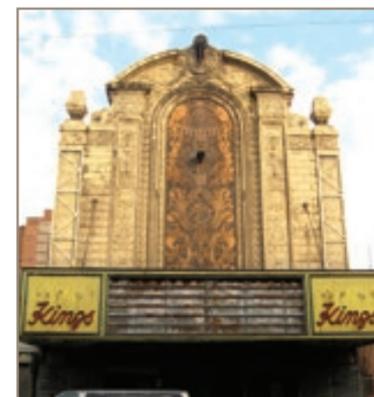
Professor of Political Science **Mark Ungar** received \$712,361 from the U.S. Department of State for his research titled "Human Rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran."



Assistant Professor **Emilio Gallicchio** in the Department of Chemistry was awarded \$141,135 by the National Science Foundation to optimize and parallelize the software implementation of the Binding Energy Distribution Analysis Method (BEDAM), an established methodology for the study of molecular recognition and association equilibria, to deploy it for the first time on modern General-Purpose Graphical Processing Units (GPGPU) and Many Integrated Core (MIC) architectures.

Professor of Psychology **Louise Hainline** received \$414,873 from the National Institutes of Health for the Brooklyn College RISE Option 2: Increasing URM 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. Hainline also received \$287,012 for "MARC: Biometrical Research Training for Minority Honor Students at Brooklyn College."

# Our Neighborhood



A snapshot of our diverse borough and city. Send us your Brooklyn story; we'd love to hear from you.

It's baack! The Loew's Kings Theatre on Flatbush Avenue, once a palatial movie house, has been restored to its original splendor. Built in 1929 by Rapp and Rapp architects, the 3,676-seat French Baroque-style theater's early repertory included vaudeville acts as well as films. Competition with multiplexes and high maintenance costs later made it impossible to keep the theater open, and it closed its doors in 1977. As borough president, Marty Markowitz '70 helped broker the deal to get the restoration off the ground. The project expanded the theater—which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012—to more than 90,000 square feet, modernizing stage facilities so that it can be used once more as a live-performance venue. The largest indoor theater space in the borough, the Kings Theatre is expected to jump-start a broader revitalization of Flatbush Avenue and the surrounding community.

—Jamilah Simmons

## Back to Back: Another CUNYAC Championship Win for Women's Soccer

The #1 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/Brine Women's Soccer Final, 1-0. The Bulldogs and Championships MVP Bergelie Louis (below, right), who scored the contest's only goal, will advance to the NCAA Division III 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 appeared briefly to be stopped before shooting the ball into the far side of the net past Victoria Donegan, giving the Bulldogs a 1-0 lead.

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 it with a soccer program that has only been in existence 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



Coach Patrick Horne (back row, far left) and Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould with the CUNYAC Champion women's soccer team. Athletics Director Bruce Filosa is at far right.

# Nicole Francomano

## SCHOLAR/ATHLETE

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.

### MOST INTERESTING COURSE

Nature of Speech-Language Disorders. 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.

### PROUDEST 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.

### 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 STUDY YOUR PLAYBOOK

The locker room. But I study the scouting reports more than the playbook.

### MOST CHALLENGING WORKOUT

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

### PROUDEST 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.

### HARDEST TEAM IN THE CUNYAC TO PLAY AGAINST

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

## CUNYAC All-Stars

### Men's Volleyball

Rookie of the Year: **Mihail Osipov** (270 kills, 197 digs, 32 aces, 24 blocks)

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

Second Team All-Star: **Antony Koymfan** (266 kills, 90 blocks, 28 aces)

Sportsmanship: **Ricky Myint** (227 digs)

### Men's Tennis

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

Coach of the Year: **Ahmad Odettala** (Led team to #3 seed in CUNYAC Championships and semifinals appearance)

### Women's Softball

First Team All-Star: **Amanda Bisz** (.361 batting average, 31 RBI, 23 runs; 5-1 record, 2.55 ERA, 52 strikeouts)

First Team All-Star: **Stephanie Caravello** (.417 batting average, 31 RBI, 33 runs)

First Team All-Star: **Kayla Hill** (.356 batting average, 30 RBI, 37 runs; 11-5 record, 3.57 ERA, 51 strikeouts)

First Team All-Star: **Marie Oneto** (8-7 record, 3.01 ERA, 44 strikeouts)

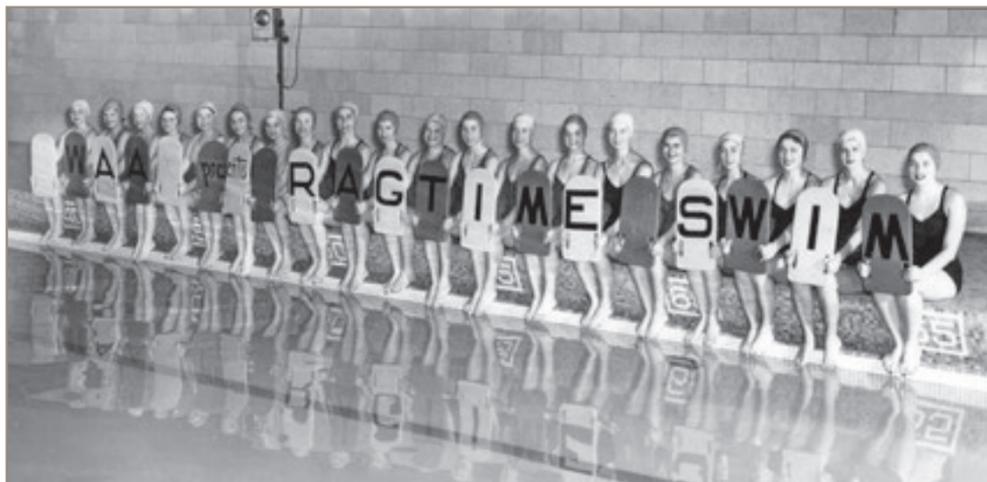
First Team All-Star: **Samantha Rodriguez** (.378 batting average, 29 RBI, 23 runs)

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

Coach of the Year: **Michael Ponsiglione** (Led team to a #2 seed in the CUNYAC Championships and appearance in the ECAC Metro Championships)

Yuliya Orkis was named the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) Women's Tennis Player of the Year for the fourth time last fall. During her impressive four-year collegiate career, Orkis owns a 43-1 overall record in singles play and a 34-3 overall record in doubles play. Her lone loss in singles play came at the 2013 USTA/ITA Northeast Regional Championships, where she eventually lost in the semifinals round. Orkis has also shined off the court and in the classroom, as she boasts an impressive 3.92 GPA as a Theater/Acting major.

Members of the Brooklyn College Women's Recreational Swim Group introduce the theme of their annual water ballet, "Ragtime Swim," performed at the college pool in November 1948.



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 Dooshks."

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 Swim 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 declared. "What other team in their [sic] right mind would hand out mimeographed copies of Sam Cynamon's BC victory Dooshk to everyone in the stands including the opposing team's coaches?"

Before 1968, Brooklyn College had not won a swim meet for some 20 years. The new coach, Joe Margolis, developed a culture of practice and training, and finished the 1968-69 season with a record of 3-5. But according to Dubrow, it was during the 1970-71 season that the Dooshk made its debut.



The 1972-73 Brooklyn College men's swim team poses before its fictional mascot.

"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 "Ol Coach" Joe Margolis the title Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year.

# Alumni Profile

## Just Rewards



When Judith Sheindlin, known as the irrepressible television personality Judge Judy, 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 she wanted someone who was essentially a younger version of herself.

The name of Patricia Mafalda DiMango '73, a former New York State Supreme Court justice with a no-nonsense reputation, came up.

"That was the ultimate compliment and a really hard thing to live up to," says DiMango, who had made a name for herself by handling some high-profile cases involving hate crimes and the murder of young children, and most recently for clearing a backlog of felony cases that had been clogging Bronx courtrooms.

Long before the bright lights of Hollywood were even a thought, DiMango banged her gavel with a certain swagger and homeyness, prone to asking criminal defendants questions like, "Were you brought up that way?"

Yet when Judge Judy's people called to ask DiMango to try out for the show *Hot Bench*, which features a three-judge panel that considers typical small claims court cases, the 2012 Alumna of the Year at first thought it was a joke.

When she heard the unmistakable raspy-voiced fellow Brooklynite on her phone asking her to audition, the woman who would talk to New York City's hard-core criminals in tones their own mothers didn't use was actually nervous. "This is the queen of TV and she was on my phone," says DiMango, a Dyker Heights native who majored in psychology and education and graduated cum laude.

Sheindlin asked if she could come out to Los Angeles on Thursday of that week. "I said no, I have cases," DiMango recalls. "So she says, 'Okay, then Friday it is.'"

DiMango couldn't say no. "It was such a rare opportunity to have a woman of that stature as a mentor," she says.

So she benched what was a rather illustrious and well-decorated career that had taken her from a turn as an assistant district attorney in Kings County to an appointment by former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani as a criminal court judge.

It was a career, she says, that she would not have left for anyone but Sheindlin, who was offering her the opportunity to sit on a bench with two other judges on a syndicated reality show. *Hot Bench* premiered last September and features cases as entertaining as those of the dog owner who asked her roommate to cover vet bills after her pooch got into the medical marijuana, and the claimants who felt duped over a rap video shoot.

"They paid \$1,500 and expected Jay-Z and Flo Rider to show up," says DiMango, who got her law degree from St. John's University. "Really?"

DiMango now deliberates 10 cases a day when the show is filming every other week, a schedule that has her living bicoastally in an effort to maintain ties with family, friends, and other business in New York. "I do miss my criminal cases like you would miss anything else," she says. "But this is a new chapter for me, one that's very exciting."

—Jamilah Simmons

# Out and About



**Brooklyn College Women's and Gender Studies Program Luncheon**

1. President Karen L. Gould speaks to students gathered for the luncheon.

**conTEMPO I**

2. Conservatory of Music musicians perform contemporary works by upcoming 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 Leston '17, percussion.

**Second Women's Mentor Luncheon**

3. Hope Goldstein '87 (back row, third from left), CPA and partner in the nonprofit and government services group at Marks Paneth LLP, participated in the Second Women's Mentor Luncheon co-hosted by the Women's Center, the Magnier Career Center, and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

**Dr. Stephen Vasciannie Visits Campus**

4. Dr. Stephen Vasciannie, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Jamaica to the United States, visited the campus on October 16 to deliver the 2014 Martin and Syma Mendelsohn Lectureship in International Relations.

**"Big Love" by Charles Mee, directed by Mary Beth Easley and presented by the Department of Theater**

5. From left: Carolyn Coppedge '15 M.F.A. and Joseph Masi '16 M.F.A.

**Dr. Ellen J. Berkowitz '80 Speaks to Brooklyn College AMSA**

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

**Magner Career Center 10th Anniversary**

7. Left to right: Dominique Carson '12, '14 M.S., Kolsumara Begum '12, Suzanne Grossman, Miriam Loyd, Fred Balsam, Jelani Thomas '13, Michael Sarrao '02.

8. Left to right: Qiwei Chen '14, Khaled Ahmed '17, Joseph Pallero '15, Eliza Galazka '16, Gladstone Edwards, Jr. '15, and Elliot Tannenbaum '73.

**Shirley Chisholm Day 2014**

9. Professor Barbara Winslow, director of the Shirley Chisholm Project of Brooklyn, receives an award from the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

**Unity Retreat Workshop**

10. The first of Brooklyn College's three Rhodes scholars, Lisette Nieves '92, addresses students.

**Gary Shteyngart Speaks to Students**

11. The author discusses his memoir *Little Failure* at a First College Year Common Reading event in the Whitman Hall Auditorium.

**Aaron Copland's *The Tender Land***

12. Nikoleta Rallis '16 M.F.A. in the lead role of Laurie in a recent production of Copland's opera by the Conservatory of Music.

**Recent recipients of the Tow Professorship and the Claire Tow '52 Distinguished Teaching Award**

13. Dr. Leonard Tow '50 joins recent awardees. Back row, from left: Professor Andrew Delamater, Professor Aaron Kozbelt, Dr. Leonard Tow '50, Professor Kenneth Gould, Professor Luigi Bonaffini, Provost William Tramontano. Front row, from left: Professor Laura Rabin, Professor Patricia Cronin '88, Professor Carol Connell, President Karen L. Gould.

**Business Matters! 2014**

14. 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 24th 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 '59, 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 Alumni of 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 Staiano Coico '76, president of City College of New York, Alumna of the Year; Vinnie Favale '82, vice president of Late Night Entertainment at CBS, Alumnus of the Year; and 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. Milgram Award for Service. Distinguished Achievement Awards were given posthumously to Judith Salwen Greene '53, award-winning educator and school principal, and Alexander Tanger '01, radio broadcast executive and philanthropist.

Finally, in the spirit of this issue's theme, I would like to pay tribute to two women, Sr. Camille D'Arienzo 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'Arienzo (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*, about people whose experiences have caused them to consider the possibility of extending or accepting forgiveness.

I'd never thought much about earning an academic minor until I was encouraged to do so by my speech instructor, Margaret M. Flynn. In the end, it was one of the better decisions I've made. The experience helped me appreciate the discipline of speech communications and gave me a lifelong skill. Margaret Flynn taught part-time in the evening session in the college's Department of Speech from 1961 to 1969 and full-time from 1970 to 1995. During her tenure at the college she served as the department's counselor for 18 years and assisted the dean of humanities on a variety of projects.

I would like to say thank you, Sr. Camille D'Arienzo and Margaret Flynn, for your guidance, inspiration, and contributions to the Brooklyn College community.

In service,



Jeffrey Sigler '92, '95 M.S.



## 1934

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

## 1939

**Elmer Eisner** 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

Brain & Behavior Research Foundation President Emerita **Constance Lieber** was honored with a special Presidential Commendation by the American Psychiatric Association at its 167th annual meeting.

## 1948

**Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy** *Class Correspondent* 271-10 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G Floral Park, NY 11005-1209

**Herbert Levy** recently published an article in *History Magazine* entitled "Franklin Roosevelt's Path to Greatness."

## 1949

**William D. Isaacson** *Class Correspondent* 269-10 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 18Y Floral Park, NY 11005-1018 vevvyd@yahoo.com

**Gabriel 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 Smuckler 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 Masque of the Red Death*, based on the story by Edgar Allan Poe.

## 1951

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

The fifth Sydel Rosenberg-Arts for All haiku/art workshop series has been successfully completed at P.S. 163 in the Bronx, with two more planned for this year. The series honors the late **Sydel Gasnick Rosenberg**.

## 1952

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

**Lucian Krukowski**, 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 10025-6986

**Sandra Levy Ceren, Stan Fischler, 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 Welsman.

## 1956

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

**William Paul** received the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award for Scientific Contributions from the Institute for Human Virology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

**Martin P. Schreiberman** was a guest speaker at the recent Brooklyn College Science Retreat.

## 1957

**Micki Goldberg Ginsberg** *Class Correspondent* 217 E. Maple Avenue Moorestown, NJ 08057-2011 mginsberg10@gmail.com

**Howard A. Palley** and Marian L. Palley co-authored *The Politics of Women's Health Care in the United States*, published by Palgrave Macmillan.

## 1959

**Sam Beller, Harriet L. Brathwaite, Edward I. Geffner, Stanley Goldstein, Fred Kaplan, Rosemary Shankman Pooler, Robert N. Sarnoff, Joy Steinberg Schwartz, and Angelo Volpe** 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. 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.



From left to right: Andrew Sillen, vice president of institutional advancement; BCAA President Jeffrey Sigler; and President Karen L. Gould with recipients of the BCAA's 5th Annual Alumni Honors.

"Piano Music Inspired by Art," an article by **Ellen Goldstein Schorsch**, appeared in the January/February 2014 issue of the magazine *Clavier Companion*.

## 1960

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

**Sheila and Letty Sustrin** published *The Teacher Who Would Not Retire Loses Her Ballet Slippers* with Blue Marlin Publications.

## 1961

**David S. Herskowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
1175 Kildeer Court  
Encinitas, CA 92024-1278  
davidsh@sbcbglobal.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 Troy Hills Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981-1315

**Braná "Bonnie" Haber Gurewitsch '62, '77 M.A.** curated an exhibit titled "Beyond Swastika and Jim Crow: Jewish Refugee Scholars at Black Colleges" at the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Dr. Richard Sandor** was honored by the China Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International with the Chicago-China Award of Excellence for his work as a world leader in market-based solutions to climate change and for helping to create China's first emissions exchange, the Tianjin Climate Exchange.

## 1966

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

**Hal Alpert** has been reappointed as chairman of the Professional Standards Committee for the Northern Solano County Association of Realtors.

**David Levinson** was reelected for his ninth four-year term as town justice in Woodbury, Orange County, New York.

**Martin Needelman** was recently awarded a Silver Shingle Alumni Award by Boston University Law School, bestowed in recognition of outstanding contributions to the legal profession, the school, and society at large.

## 1968

**Eileen McGinn**  
Class Correspondent  
210 East 15th Street, Apt. 10N  
New York, NY 10003-3927

The City Council of New Albany, Ohio, has voted to name a new wellness center for **Philip Heit '68, '70 M.S.**, founder of the New Albany Walking Classic and Healthy New Albany initiative. The center will open later this year.

## 1970

**Barry Silverman**  
Class Correspondent  
176 Stults Lane  
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5815  
writeone@comcast.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 in the U.S. Black Belt Martial Arts Hall of Fame for the third time.

## 1971

A new addition of private rooms at the Chambersburg Hospital in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, was dedicated to **Norman B. Epstein** in recognition of his 25 years of leadership, dedication, and vision.

**Judy Mostowitz** is retiring from the State Insurance Fund as a Claims Service Rep 3, after 38 years in the Claims and IT departments.

## 1972

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

The Brooklyn-based Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) honored **Angel Deliz** at a gala celebration marking the organization's 29th anniversary.

## 1973

**Linda E. Gross Carroll**  
Class Correspondent  
1732 Mistletoe Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958-6646  
lcarroll32@comcast.net

Director **Henry F. Chan M.S.** screened his first Chinese-language feature film, *100 Days*, at the 37th annual Asian American International Film Festival.

*Novelli: A Forgotten Sculptor*, a book by **Josephine Murphy '73, '99 M.A.**, was published by Branden Books.

## 1974

**Diane Oeters Vaughn**  
Class Correspondent  
42 Briarwood Drive  
Old Saybrook, CT 06475  
dianeleslie29@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

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

**Jules S. Reich** has joined WeiserMazars LLP as a partner within the Transaction Advisory Services Group, which assists companies and private-equity firms as they purchase or divest themselves of businesses both domestically and globally.

The New York Public Library has named **Iris Weinshall** its chief operating officer.

**MARGE MAGNER '69** was deeply moved when told that her creation, the *Magner Career Center*, is directly responsible for transforming the lives of thousands of Brooklyn College students and alumni. They often ask her how they might return her



generosity and repay the center for everything its staff has done to help them. She makes only one request.

"When you have the opportunity to give to others, to spend time with others, to help others, please do it," says Magner, a native of Crown Heights who graduated from the college with a bachelor of science in psychology. She is a founding member and general partner of Brysam Global Partners, a private-equity firm that invests in consumer financial services in emerging markets, and has served two terms as chair for the Brooklyn College Foundation.

For the 10 years it has been in existence, the *Magner Career Center* has had an unparalleled record of success with students by providing expert academic, career, and internship counseling services. It also has relationships with over 2,500 employers, who actively recruit at the campus, offering employment and internship opportunities. Crucial to the success of the center is alumni engagement. Currently, more than 900 alumni coach and mentor students, and nurture corporate relationships with the college.

"Giving financially is important," says Magner, who personally donates generously to the college. "There are fundamental financial needs to be met, and alumni can be a tremendous help in preventing current and future Brooklyn College students from being saddled with debt. But perhaps the more important issue is to care enough about our students to spend time with them, to give them the benefit of our own experience and wisdom so that they are better prepared for what they will have to face out there."

—Robert Jones, Jr.

## 1976

**Henry P. Feintuch**  
Class Correspondent  
50 Barnes Lane  
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425  
henry@feintuchpr.com

**Stephen F. Kaufman** has been awarded a doctor of divinity degree by the Universal Life Church Monastery and is an ordained minister with all attendant rights and privileges. He recently published *Homage for Musashi*, *Napoleon Means Business*, *Sword in the Boardroom*, and *Intro to Self-Revelation* with Hanshi Warrior Press.

## 1977

**Jacob Harman** has been appointed vice president of business affairs and chief financial officer of Yeshiva University.

**Edward I. Kaplan** has been appointed county attorney of Greene County, New York.

## 1978

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

*Baymo*, a children's book by **Dr. Seth C. Kadish**, has been published by LadyBee Publishing.

## 1980

**Nelson Braff** has been elected president of the board of directors at Tanger Hillel of Brooklyn College.

**Dr. Joseph Sciorra** co-edited with Edvige Giunta *Embroidered Stories: Interpreting Women's Domestic Needlework from the Italian Diaspora*, recently published by the University Press of Mississippi. This interdisciplinary, multigenre, and transnational anthology presents academic essays and creative works, including memoir, poetry, and visual arts, from Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the United States.

**Karen Weinstein Tenenbaum** was recently selected for inclusion in the 2014 edition of *New York 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 *Long Island Business News*.

## 1982

**Eileen Sherman Gruber**  
Class Correspondent  
69 Derby Avenue  
Greenlawn, NY 11740-2130

The Baldwin, New York, Board of Education named **Dr. Shari Camhi** as superintendent of schools of the Baldwin School District, effective last September.

**Dan J. Martin M.F.A.** was recognized as a distinguished alumnus by Western Michigan University.

## 1983

**Michael Kosik**  
Class Correspondent  
866-327-5162  
michael.kosik@morganstanley.com

**Edward S. Cohen** has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania.

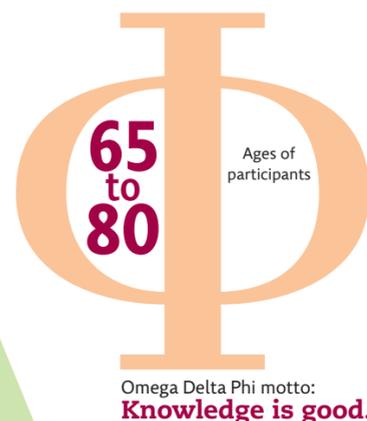
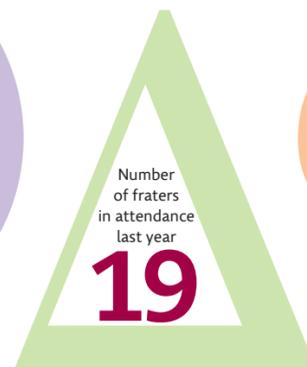
The photography section of *Slate* is running a story about photographs shot by **Robert D. "Bud" Glick** in the early 1980s as part of the New York Chinatown History Project (now the Museum of Chinese in America).

## 1991

**Tami Sheheri**  
Class Correspondent  
140 Cadman Plaza West, #14E  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
tami.sheheri@gmail.com

## OMEGA DELTA PHI BY THE NUMBERS

The fraternity became defunct at Brooklyn College in the 1970s, but its alumni members have been meeting annually since 1990. According to frater John Banaghan '57, the meetings have made it possible for members to "be with old friends, partake of some good food and drink, tell stories (some of which are true), and let our hair down and act our age: 17."



**Stephen C. Burrows** has been named chair of the Health Science and Leadership Department in the College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He has been program director for the Healthcare Informatics graduate program since 2012 and now assumes leadership for the bachelor of science in health science program.

**Matt Kaslow** is currently a professional guitarist and private music instructor. He was guitarist and music director for the late Laura Branigan and recently performed several shows with Taylor Dayne.

## 1992

**Craig Follins** has been named president of Northeast Lakeview College, one of the Alamo Colleges in San Antonio. Prior to this appointment Follins was president of Olive-Harvey College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago.

San Francisco State University has appointed **Karina Nielsen** as the new director of its Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies.

## 1998

**Glenn P. Nocera**

*Class Correspondent*  
616 East 4th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11218-4922  
buttonboy@aol.com

**Thomas Devaney M.F.A.** was awarded the Pew Fellowship for Poetry by the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, dedicated to stimulating a vibrant cultural community in the greater Philadelphia region.

## 2000

**Sebastiano Banchitta**, CPA, has been promoted by the Mironov Group, LLC, Certified Public Accountants & Consultants, from senior accountant to manager in the Edison, New Jersey, office.

## 2001

**Tatesha Bennett Clark**

*Class Correspondent*  
540 East 82nd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11236-3119

**Eleanor Stacey M.F.A.** has been appointed as the new executive director of the Nelson Civic Theatre Society of Vancouver, British Columbia.

## 2003

The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island welcomed three new deacons, among them **Jennifer E. Van Cooten-Webster**.

## 2004

**Yael Abraham Fogel**

*Class Correspondent*  
431 Broadway  
Lawrence, NY 11559  
yct.fogel@gmail.com

**Ian Derrer M.Mus.** has been named the new artistic administrator at the Dallas Opera. He will be responsible for supporting the planning and implementation of the opera company's programming for future seasons.

## 2008

**Stefanie Low**

*Class Correspondent*  
3A Putnam Avenue  
Glen Cove, NY 11542  
stefanielow@yahoo.com

*Spare Parts*, a feature film starring Marisa Tomei, Jamie Lee Curtis, and George Lopez, is based on a screenplay penned by **Elissa Matsueda M.F.A.**

SITI Company's board of directors, along with co-artistic directors Anne Bogart, Ellen Lauren, and Leon Ingulsrud, have named **Michelle Preston M.F.A.** as the ensemble theater company's new executive director.

## 2011

**Vadim Shteyler** continues his research as a Petrie-Flom Student Fellow at Harvard Medical School.

## 2012

**Ocean Vuong** was awarded the 2014 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation.

**Don't see your class correspondent? Please contact Eileen Howlin at ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu.**



*The world-renowned, Grammy Award-winning pianist, composer, and bandleader* **ARTURO O'FARRILL '96** has joined the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College as a full-time faculty member and the director of its jazz ensembles, a position he has held on an interim basis for the past two years.

A founder of the nonprofit Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, O'Farrill was educated at the Manhattan School of Music, the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College, and the Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College. He was named the Brooklyn College Distinguished Alumnus in 2006.

"I had already traveled the world as a bandleader when I came to Brooklyn College. I came because of the school's reputation and also to improve my piano-playing techniques," says O'Farrill, who was born in Mexico and raised in New York City.

In 2002, O'Farrill created the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra at Lincoln Center to bring the vital musical traditions of Afro-Latin jazz to a wider general audience, and to expand the contemporary Latin jazz big-band repertoire by commissioning jazz and Latin jazz artists across a broad stylistic and geographical range. In 2008, O'Farrill received a Latin Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album for Song for Chico, released by Zoho music. The title track, written by the Cuban drummer Dafnis Prieto, is a tribute to O'Farrill's father. This past February, O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra won a third Grammy Award for Best Latin Jazz Album for The Offense of the Drum.

A Steinway Artist, O'Farrill has taught at several institutions of higher education, including the Juilliard School, Queensborough Community College, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the New School, SUNY-Purchase, and the Manhattan School of Music.

"Teaching here gives me the chance to have an impact in educating new generations of musicians," says O'Farrill. "That is worth more than all the touring in the world."

—Ernesto Mora

# Remembrance

In Memoriam as of January 7, 2015

## Faculty

Anne Arnold,  
*Department of Art*

Maxine Greene  
*Department of Education (now School of Education)*

Cynthia Krueger  
*Department of Sociology*

Ernest Glenn McClain  
*Conservatory of Music*

E. Jennifer Monaghan  
*Department of English*

Ursula Springer  
*School of Education (1961-1970)*

## Alumni

Mildred Bloom Newman  
Epstein '33

Miriam Anshine Erdos '33

Anna Warsaw London '33

Dora Shapiro Spivey '33

Emily Gordon Hammer '34

Lillian Jorgensen Secundy Lynch '34

Vivian Kagan Myerson '34

Arthur Lerner '35

Florence Weissman Levin '35

Julius Novick '35

Ada Mae Cahn Stein '35

Mervyn K. Kaufman '36

Hyman Kleinman '36

Henry Tronick '36

Harold Wool '36

Harry W. Anisgard '37

Jennie Fogel Goldman '37

Charlotte Kroeger Isenberg '37

Larry Kaplan '37

Bernard Katz '37

Gertrude Jonap Kurshan '37

Karl L. Margolis '37

Rose Winick Pedowitz '37

Yetta Goldowitz Fink '38

Ruth Ellerstein Kramer '38

Simon Lopata '38

Adele Rosen Saltzman '38

Dora Silverstein Stern '39

Helen Dunsay Fine '39

William German '39

Zoia Polisar Horn '39

Ruth Wolen Lapon '39

Jacob C. Lish '39

Irene Perlman Metrick '39

Millicent Lewis Rose '39

Janet Silverstein Stern '39

S. (Sadie) Claire D'Amico Weldon '39

Marion Siegal Boroff '40

Frances Schachter Kornbluth '40

Paula Plessner Lazarus '40

Julia Turetzky Merrill '40

Ethel Nechamkin Purnell '40

Sister Winifred Danwitz '41

Rita Goldring Frey '41

Anna Merer Goidell '41

Robert I. Goldberg '41

Kalma Hillman Greenman '41

Herbert Kurz '41

Frank M. Lassman '41

Lillian Simon Levinson '41

Eugene H. Lieber '41

Elizabeth Farrell Passman '41

Elaine Gozan Pincus '41

William Pincus '41

Lucille Krauss Reifman '41

Betty Rose Rowan '41

Anita Mendelsohn Schwartz '41

Marcella Kaufman Weinberg '41

Madeline Barotz Amgott '42

Sylvia Wolf Blackman '42

Robert M. Eisenberg '42

Dorothy Shapiro Indenbaum '42

Lillie Schmetzler Elgart Koeppel '42

Audrey Yerman Pyenson '42

Charlotte Spector Kelem Roth '42

Miriam Sidran '42

Doris Reger Vogel '42

Joseph J. Asta '43

J. Herman Beckelman '43

Jerome Chalef '43

Ida Meyerson Colon '43

Myron J. Coplan '43

Mitzi (Mathilda) Weinstein Ettinger '43

Lillian Kasser Greenwald '43

Sylvia Teich Horowitz '43

S. David Kaplan '43

Leon Lack '43

Sylvia Greenwald Leibowitz '43

Helen Miller Lewis '43

Robert L. Lipton '43

Rose Giuffre Paino '43

Nathaniel Schwartz '43

Shirley Rappaport Sherman '43

Elaine Goldberg Ruck Weissman '43

Joan Hunt Courtney '44

Al (Albert) Feldstein '44

Blanche Rivan Goldberg '44

Celia Reiter Matlin '44

Aurora Messina Natt '44

Esther Klein Saltzman '44

Marcia Zagon Abramson '45

Norman Beier '45

Margaret King Fitzgerald '45

Lester I. Goodman '45

Evelyn Cohn Honig '45

Shirley E. McLean '45

Israel Scheffler '45

Lottie Lautman Solomon '45

Lillian Breines Goldenberg '46

Andrew Hughes '46

Elaine Levy Immerman '46

Stanley Lamberg '46

Shirley Margoshes Pollack '46

Abraham Tannenbaum '46

Shirley Kaminetsky Barlaz '47

Leon B. Cohen '47

Ralph A. Cornell '47

Hyman Farber '47

Louis Fier '47

Marion Bikoff Powell Freeman '47

Stanley H. Friedelbaum '47

Frank P. Grad '47

David S. Greer '47

Shirley Adler Smith '47

Philip Stopol '47

Howard G. Streim '47

Melvin S. Wortman '47

Leon Fishbein '48

Robert M. Glassman '48

Ernest Gottheim '48

Shirley Pinsker Shapiro Hoffman '48

Ira L. Joachim '48

Beatrice Levy Kachuck '48

Bernice Parke Klein '48

Clayton F. Lawrence '48

Herbert Lazarus '48

Joseph A. Mazur '48

George Newman '48

Bernice Levine Pappas '48

Marcia Cohen Mizel Peterson '48

Richard L. Poses '48

Shirley Kopp Sommer '48

Robert H. Arnesen '49

Melvin M. Belsky '49

Natalie Spector Brown '49

Maurice Chayt '49

Ralph DeMaio '49

Walter J. Flexo '49

Natalie Shapiro Greenberg '49

Marion Clarich Greer '49

Sheila Solomon Klass '49

Eugene P. Koplik '49

Francine Meisels Lerner '49

Stanley Lesnick '49

Mordecai Marcus '49

Diane Dantzig Paley '49

Naomi Raben Patis '49

Irwin Pierce '49

Samuel Rabinoff '49

Jack Rubak '49

Emil Schafer '49

Vivian B. Sheehan '49

Alice Blair Mills Stewart '49

Blair I. Zimmet '49

Jack B. Friedman '50

Melvin J. Geffner '50

Miriam Piaker Glickstein '50

Daniel Keyes '50

Dominick A. Vigilante '50

Emanuel Zimmer '50

Dolores Fihrer Greene Binder '51

Albert Blum '51

Florence Goldfarb Morrison Clark '51

Hensley B. Jemmoth '51

Joseph Lipsig '51

Paul (Irwin) Mazursky '51

Bernard Rosen '51

Jay Segal '51

Norma Hofacker Wolf '51

Sylvia Thaler Meisenberg Zeizel '51

June Lazare Goldenberg '52

Melvin Lerner '52

Renee Shai Levine '52

Robert H. Morse '52

Bernard Ostrov '52

Miriam (Geri) Rosen '52

David Schaenman '52

Eleanor Jensen Scott '52

Mae Salesky Shapiro '52

Claire Schneider Tow '52

Elaine Ochs Zuckerman '52

Gerald Cohen '53

Judith Salwen Greene '53

Sylvia Aronsky Lewis '53

Richard L. Liboff '53

Lucy Molnar Mitchell '53

Lewis D. Morse (Moskowitz) '53

Benzion J. Rapoport '53

Virginia Bird Stearn '53

Joseph Zimmerman '53

Angelo E. Amato '54

Louise Kimmel Arnold '54

Arthur Fischer '54

Rita Pruzan Kantrowitz '54

Marilyn Stein Koplik '54

Marilyn Denmark Krukowski '54

Barbara Sklar Maslekoff '54

Martin J. Rudman '54

David J. Winokur '54

Karl E. Bernstein '55

Gertrude Keiles Fischer '55

Anne Wacholder Jacobs '55

Sydell Zahler Jacobs '55

Sonia Sherman Lerner '55

John T. Shanahan '60  
Linda Lerner Simon '60  
Nina Epstein Unger '60  
Arthur Zaks '60  
Gary W. Alexander '61  
Emanuel Ball '61  
Rochelle Sosne Glaser '61  
John A. LaMena '61  
Lila Coopersmith Lustig '61  
Valerie E. MacDonald '61  
Frank F. Ambrosio '62  
Mae Kagan Benson '62  
Theodore (Ted) Berson '62  
Morton Bobowick '62  
Susan Deutsch Kover '62  
Joan P. McCabe '62  
Abraham Portal '62  
Leslie M. Salkin '62  
Irene Gross Seifer '62  
Sandra Klayman Steinlauf '62  
Tadeo (Ted) Kasprzak '63  
George D. Schare '63  
Maris Polash Steinberg '63  
Jack R. Agueros '64  
John W. Cavallaro '64  
Florence Dinerstein '64  
Hazel Schanke Erikson '64  
Erica Wilhelm Fried '64  
Renee Makowsky Haut '64  
Thomas J. Marron '64  
Paul S. Mirman '64  
Helen Zipper Wade '64  
Howard Abrams '65  
Alan R. Altura '65  
Stevan R. Clemens '65  
John R. Flandrau '65  
Aileen Schneider Grubin '65  
David Jaffe '65  
Roni Peskin Mentzer '65  
Rhoda Ray Star '65  
Marion Goldstein West '65  
J. Richard Alter '66  
Helaine Wellner Cooperman '66  
Jane Davis Ewing '66  
Marilyn Zolotor Gleser '66  
Meyer Kantor '66  
Jodi (Josephine) Pellegrino  
La Natra '66  
Richard H. Calica '67  
Ira S. Moscovitz '67  
Richard D. Piccini '67  
Marguerite Y. Biundo '68  
Robert Finkelstein '68  
Barbara Galanter '68  
Moses M. Bendel '69  
Ira Brustein '69  
Ruth B. Greenfeder '69  
Linda Horowitz Minsky '69  
Jack Shatzkammer '69  
Joyce A. Skata '69  
Gilbert Thurm '69  
Dorothy Logan Caspar '70  
Murray Kellman '70  
Martin S. Lax '70

Howard A. Offenbach '70  
Aaron Braunstein '71  
Dorothy Brown Bristol '71  
Michael E. Duehring '71  
Suzanne N. Haviv '71  
Richard A. Hofflich '71  
Esther B. Robinson '71  
Ilze Landanskis Rozenbergs '71  
Francine Strick Segall '71  
Joseph J. Shattan '71  
Stanley R. Chase '72  
Eileen Gildea '72  
Marcia McCarthy '72  
Edith Silberman '72  
Maurice J. Trebach '72  
Susan Goldfarb Di Casoli Buetti '73  
Breene Wright '73  
John (Jack) T. Ahern '74  
Joan Longabach Dorsey '74  
Frances L. Martin '74  
Ester Rosenstark '74  
Sol Adler '75  
Alan L. Kanofsky '75  
Ely A. Nuytkens '75  
Gabriel J. Rodriguez '75  
Mary B. Sternhell '75  
Ruth R. Zittell '75  
Tina Bernstein Boardman '76  
Linda Mason Hood '76  
Mathew K. Rothbaum '76  
Joseph K. Tyroler '76  
Jeffrey D. Verteramo '76  
Allison D. Haug '77  
Theresa Rood Hayes '77  
Gladys A. Lewis '77  
Anne Robbins '77  
Alan Blum '78  
Rhona Koser Leong '78  
Frieda Ginsberg Oliner '78  
Adele Venable '78  
Hazel V. Edwards '79  
Joseph C. Shalhoub '79  
William H. Thomas '79  
Robert A. Gardner '80  
Jack Rodney '80  
Stuart J. Wachnin '81  
Steven W. Farber '82  
Jesus Ramos '83  
Rima Sokoloff Turkel '83  
Michael A. DeMott '84  
Patricia A. Young '84  
John A. Malazzo '86  
Beverly Anthony Hamilton  
Nencetti '90  
Ralph G. Guida '91  
Hilda Winn Hamlett '92  
Roderick A. Baird '93  
Winnie Dimanche '99  
Cyril Young '00  
Dominic G. Paul '01  
Alexander M. Tanger '01  
Beverly Hubbard '03  
Bryan M. Loughran '04  
Lawrence F. Hopper '07



**Alexander M. Tanger '01**, known as Al to those close to him, passed away peacefully at his home in Newton, Massachusetts, on June 21. He was 94.

Tanger first enrolled at Brooklyn College in the spring of 1939, but took a leave of absence after the spring 1940 semester to work his very first full-time job, at WNCW radio, where he met his future wife, Brenda.

After serving as an officer in the U.S. Army, and as a manager of WHDH-TV in Massachusetts, he bought WLKW 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 valedictory address.

A dedicated and longtime donor to the college, Tanger made major contributions to the Department of Television and Radio, the Brooklyn College Library, and Tanger Hillel at Brooklyn College, which is named in his honor. Tanger, who served on the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, made the college's mission of providing access to an affordable, rigorous education his own.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



**Alan 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 56 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 J.D. 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 joined White & Case; in 2006, he joined Quinn Emanuel as a partner. He became a partner at Moses & Singer in 2011.

While practicing law for over 30 years, he dedicated his time and talents to Brooklyn College by mentoring many students in the Pre-law Professions program and serving on the college's Pre-law Advisory Council.

—Robert Jones, Jr.



Philanthropist **Claire Tow '52** passed away peacefully on July 7 after a 14-year struggle with Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). She was 83.

Born on August 29, 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.

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 endowments 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 artistic center in the borough, providing world-class programming and cultural enrichment for the surrounding community, and continuing the Tows' longstanding dedication to Brooklyn College.

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

—Keisha-Gaye Anderson



**Herbert Kurz '41**, a longtime philanthropist and supporter of civil liberties and progressive social change, passed away on November 24 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, New York. He was 94.

An economics major at Brooklyn College, Kurz joined the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and became a decorated navigator, flying over northern Europe and Greenland. After the war,

he founded Veterans Against Discrimination, formed in 1946 to call attention to racial injustice in the United States. In 1965, Kurz founded Presidential Life, a successful insurance and annuity business based in Nyack, New York, now part of the Athene Annuity & Life Assurance Company of New York.

In 1990, in honor of his uncle Frederic Ewen, a former Brooklyn College English professor, Kurz endowed the Frederic Ewen Lecture in Civil Liberties and Academic Freedom, which annually attracts important scholars from around the world who bring sharp focus to some of the most contentious issues facing society.

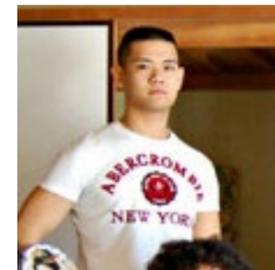
Kurz joined the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees in 1999. The Kurz Family Foundation, established by Kurz and his wife, Edythe, became a significant funder of the Black and Latino Male Initiative (BLMI), a CUNY-wide effort designed to increase the enrollment and retention of students from underrepresented groups in all five boroughs of New York City. Last year, Kurz established the Herb Kurz Leadership Academy Fund at Brooklyn College to continue this important work.

In 2011, Kurz endowed the Herbert Kurz Chair in Constitutional Rights and Civil Liberties at Brooklyn College, currently held by the constitutional scholar Anna Law. Last summer, he again honored his alma mater by endowing the Herb Kurz '41 Chair of Finance and Risk Management in the Brooklyn College School of Business.

—Joe Fodor

#### Errata

The Spring/Summer 2014 issue (Vol. 3, No. 2) erroneously omitted these photographs of John Tan (near right), featured on page 19 of the article "Our Global Campus," and Ryo Murakami '04 (far right), whose obituary appeared on page 43. We apologize for the errors. Corrected versions of both the article and the obituary are available at [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/communications/magazine.php).





**Rockin' the Seventies at Brooklyn College**

"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](mailto:magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu).*



"YES, I WAS THERE THAT NIGHT," WRITES LORETTA STELMOKAS '81 ABOUT THE KINKS CONCERT, PUT ON THE DAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING IN 1977. "I HAVE ATTACHED MY TICKET STUB AND BUTTON TO PROVE IT!" A GRADUATE OF BISHOP KEARNEY HIGH SCHOOL, STELMOKAS HAD JUST ARRIVED AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE THAT SEPTEMBER. "I DIDN'T KNOW ANYONE," SHE RECOUNTS, "BUT SOON A FELLOW STUDENT WHO WAS A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN I WAS ASKED ME OUT TO THAT CONCERT. . . . IT WAS A GREAT FIRST DATE, A GREAT CONCERT, AND A WONDERFUL MEMORY."



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