Brooklyn College is at the forefront of cultivating creative talent and helping to shape the economic development of our borough.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

For the past seven years I have had the great pleasure of serving Brooklyn College and working with faculty and staff to ensure that we are providing the highest caliber education for our students who will be part of the next generation of doctors, teachers, researchers, business managers, entrepreneurs, and artists in our city, state, and nation.

By all accounts, Brooklyn is one of the most dynamic and diverse places in the country. Economic, cultural, and creative ventures and activities are flourishing, and the borough has indeed become a destination hub. At the same time, our faculty, students, and staff are increasingly engaged in learning, research, and creative work that are enriched by the exchange of cultures, languages, traditions, and new ideas that make our borough so unique.

In many ways, the transformations taking place across Brooklyn—the revitalization of neighborhoods, along with concerns over rising housing costs, the rethinking of public space and how best to use it in sustainable ways, the explosive growth of new economic sectors including tech, culinary arts, and media entertainment, and a marked expansion of small businesses—are all helping to forge a new sense of community pride and responsibility for our collective future.

Preparing our students for success in their chosen fields is an evolving academic project, and faculty members continue to develop new directions in their courses and the curriculum. In this issue, we highlight the naming of the Murray Koppelman School of Business, which represents a serious investment in our business school that will provide students with new opportunities in diverse business fields and also expand research support for the faculty. Thanks to the excellent work of the Magner Career Center, our alumni are assisting with a growing number of student internship opportunities and broadening access to major financial institutions, accounting firms, and local businesses. On another academic front, our recent launch of the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard will ensure a strong pipeline of diverse talent and creative expertise for the booming film and media industries in New York City.

We are proud that Brooklyn College embodies the “can do” spirit of our borough. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Karen L. Gould
President

From the President’s Desk
Bright Lights

Leadership Through Service

Senior scores prestigious Harry S. Truman Scholarship

JAKE LEVIN ’16, a political science and philosophy major and Macaulay Honors College student, joins a short list of students nationwide who have been recognized for their public service leadership potential. The 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholarship will grant him $30,000 toward tuition for his graduate studies. Levin, a senior, is the third Brooklyn College student, and the ninth from the City University of New York (CUNY), to win the award, one of the most prestigious national scholarships in the United States.

“Jake has demonstrated the type of leadership and civic engagement that have distinguished so many Brooklyn College alumni who are at the top of their fields,” says Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould.

“It’s great to be recognized for an interest in public service, and this will be a very valuable credential,” says Levin, who plans to pursue a juris doctorate. He is one of 58 Truman Scholars selected in 2015. His extensive résumé includes founding and organizing CUNY’s first TEDx conference, interning with Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and the New York City Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs, and maintaining an active role within the Brooklyn College undergraduate student government.

This past summer, Levin traveled to Missouri to attend the Truman Scholars Leadership Week, where he met the other scholars and attended seminars and a policy boot camp.

"Hanging out and talking with 57 of the most engaged, socially conscious, and public-service-minded students I’ve ever met was refreshing,” he says of his fellow Truman Scholars. “It’s really cool to be a part of that community.”

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, created by Congress in 1975 as a living memorial to President Harry S. Truman, supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership. In addition to the tuition funding, after receiving their undergraduate degree the scholars will head to memorial to President Harry S. Truman, supports the graduate education and professional development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership. In addition to the tuition funding, after receiving their undergraduate degree the scholars will head to development of outstanding young people committed to public service leadership. In addition to the tuition funding, after receiving their undergraduate degree the scholars will head to

Entertaining Success

Chantelle Teekasingh displays the entrepreneurial spirit of Brooklyn in her management venture.

When Chantelle Teekasingh ’15 attended the baccalaureate commencement ceremony in May, her career direction was already established. Inspired by her mother, Teekasingh created her own business, Rhythm Nation Entertainment (RNE).

RNE is a production company that manages entertainers—musicians, models, deejays, and other stage performers. Teekasingh and her team help their clients obtain bookings for shows, arrange their photo shoots, provide portfolio consulting, help to broaden their followings on social media and at public events, and create press kits. RNE also has an in-house team of engineers who assist with music and video production.

RNE evolved from Teekasingh’s mother’s variety show, Rhythm Nation (a nod to the Janet Jackson album of the same name), which first aired on television back in their native Guyana. When her family moved to Brooklyn, Teekasingh spearheaded its transformation into a full-fledged entertainment company—all while studying full time at Brooklyn College.

“"The first step was registering for a license from the State of New York,” Teekasingh says. “Next was building a team of experts and updating our website and social media networks. Aside from that, we made sure all of our original content is copyrighted, from our artists’ music to our models’ photos.”

Teekasingh has had the opportunity to work with artists such as the legendary rap group EPMD and the YouTube comedic sensation Majah Hype. She says that the skills she obtained while at Brooklyn College, including producing shows for the college’s radio station, WBCR, proved invaluable in building and managing RNE. “I learned during my time in the Department of Television and Radio I’ve been able to put to use in the most productive ways possible.”

Since graduating from Brooklyn College, Teekasingh has been hard at work shooting music videos and producing a talent showcase for the artists she represents. She has also been managing the promotion and public relations for her eight-year-old sister Anaya, whose first book, The Day Mohan Found His Confidence, was published by Rhythm Nation Entertainment.
When Martin D. Sass ‘63 attended Brooklyn College, he lived in a basement apartment that had no real shower, just a showerhead next to the boiler, he told a group of Brooklyn College business students earlier this year. To cover his education, the Crown Heights native paid $25 per semester plus the cost of books. Used books.

When he began to eye a career in finance, he wasn’t certain exactly what he wanted to do and he didn’t know anyone on Wall Street. “I just needed someone to take me on,” he told the students. “I knew if I got the chance, I would work harder than the students.” “I knew if I got the chance, I would work harder than the students.” “I knew if I got the chance, I would work harder than the students.”

That’s all he asks of the participants in the M.D. Sass Investment Academy, a student-run hedge fund for which Sass, now the CEO of his own investment management firm, donated $1 million.

SUMMER IN THE CITY

WHEN WENDY LI WU, A JUNIOR MAJORING IN ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE, HEARD ABOUT THE SUMMER FINANCIAL CAREERS ACADEMY, SHE KNEW SHE HAD TO APPLY. “I SAW THIS AS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN SOME VALUABLE EXPERIENCE THAT EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR IN POTENTIAL CANDIDATES,” SHE SAYS. THE ACADEMY IS A TWO-YEAR PROGRAM FOR MURRAY KOPPELMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS STUDENTS WHO TAKE A THREE-CREDIT CLASS, ATTEND WORKSHOPS ARRANGED BY THE MAGNER CAREER CENTER, AND THEN INTERNS. BEGUN LAST SUMMER, IT SPANG FROM THE EFFORTS OF FORMER BCF TRUSTEE MARSE MAGERN ’69 TO OPEN MORE DOORS IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR TO BROOKLYN COLLEGE GRADUATES.

THE STUDENTS TAKE THEIR CLASSES AT THE COLLEGE’S GRADUATE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION, WHICH IS LOCATED IN LOWER MANHATTAN. THE COURSE IS PACKED WITH GUEST LECTURES BY INDUSTRY HEAVYWEIGHTS—MANY OF THEM ALUMNI—BROUGHT IN TO GIVE STUDENTS CANDID ADVICE ON SUCCEEDING IN THEIR FIELDS. “THE FEEDBACK HAS BEEN SO POSITIVE FROM THE SPEAKERS AND THE EMPLOYERS WHERE THESE STUDENTS ARE INTERNSHIPING,” SAYS SUSANNE SCOTT, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS.

continued on page 38
Brooklyn is experiencing a renaissance. From the influx of artisans and entrepreneurs to the revitalization of neighborhoods like Downtown Brooklyn and Coney Island, the borough is transforming in ways that make it an attractive location for businesses, residents, and tourists. Carlo Scissura, the president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, believes that it is not enough to marvel at this renewed interest. He thinks there is a need for strategies that take the utmost advantage of the opportunities presented to ensure the upswing is sustained. Where do those strategies begin?

"[With] the people of Brooklyn," Scissura says. "We are from everywhere in the world. We speak every language of the world. We look like the world. And we’re pretty sure of ourselves. We know what we want and we know that if there’s anything in the world to be done, Brooklyn is the place to do it."

Born to Italian immigrants, Scissura grew up in the Bensonhurst section. He became head of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce in 2012. The chamber, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2018, is a premier agency promoting the economic health of Brooklyn. Scissura says is crucial to its vibrancy.

"Just what makes Brooklyn so special? Scissura says that it’s not a city of only big corporations. It doesn’t work. We need the mom-and-pops. We need the small entrepreneur who we hope is a premier agency promoting the economic health of Brooklyn."

A prime example of those ideas is the investment in Brooklyn’s “innovation economy” with the development of the building complex known as Industry City. Located along the borough’s western waterfront, the hub is slated to become one of the largest stimulators

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When recruiters from the Manhattan arm of the giant accounting firm KPMG came to Brooklyn College last fall looking for interns, junior Alex Samsonov says he was a bit intimidated. The accounting, finance, and business management major had never held an internship in his field and here he was, hoping to work for one of the largest tax, auditing, and advisory firms in the world. “I felt like a little fish in a big pond,” he recalls.

What he didn’t know when he sat down for his interview was that he was being screened by someone who once walked in his shoes. Anthony Castellanos ’85, global accounts lead partner and industry leader at KPMG, had recently gotten back in touch with his alma mater after the Brooklyn College Foundation reached out to him. The senior partner was so impressed by some of the business students that he was single-handedly making a point of trying to recruit more of them for his firm, one of the “Big Four” in the accounting field, which had not been the case for years. Castellanos, now an informal mentor, in helping to recruit more Brooklyn College students at campus events.

“This is about passing on the torch and creating a large enough contingent of Brooklyn College graduates at KPMG so that this effort lives on,” says Castellanos.

The effort has already paid dividends. Last year, some 40 Brooklyn College students and recent graduates were hired for internships or full-time positions at KPMG and Ernst & Young (known as EY), another of the Big Four, which also includes PricewaterhouseCoopers and Deloitte. For years, that number had been only one or two students.

The reason for the huge uptick—though multifactored—is due mostly to the dedication of two key alumni. Castellanos, and retired EY partner Elliot Tannenbaum ’73 have taken the initiative to mentor students, giving them advice on everything, including what to wear and how to present themselves, and vouched for them with recruiters.

“I don’t think I’ve ever said no to a student who wanted to meet me,” says Tannenbaum. “I’m not looking for you to make a promise to hire anyone; I’m just asking you to give them a chance.” This past summer, he helped arrange a luncheon at EY between recent hires from Brooklyn College and a key EY recruiter.

“I stressed to the new hires that they really have to be the go-betweens for the college and the firm in order to get things going,” he says.

Tannenbaum already comes to campus often to mentor students, and has conducted countless question-and-answer sessions and roundtable discussions, along with getting résumés into the right hands.

“One of the challenges with these firms is that they don’t want to get 200 résumés, but as a career center, we are really not supposed to filter,” Guarin-Klein says. Tannenbaum will often meet with scores of students to go through their résumés. “He won’t let Ernst & Young forget about recruiting at Brooklyn College. He constantly keeps us in the loop with them,” she adds.

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When Mr. Castellanos introduced himself to me and told me his story, I immediately felt more relaxed,” says Samsonov, who finishes up his studies this academic year. "Knowing he was an alumnus made him easier to speak to."

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Gladstone Edwards, ’15 can’t remember when he first met Tannenbaum but says it was probably at one of the many forums the Magner Career Center has held. Edwards was an accounting, business, management, and finance major who found in the older alumnus a mentor with whom he could talk about anything from his personal life to a realistic path for success in the accounting field. One key piece of advice. “He told me to just be myself,” says Edwards. “He saw something in me that I probably didn’t see in myself. It helped me relax.” Edwards not only secured a summer internship at Ernst & Young but will also start a full-time position there this fall.

“Those kids have so much to offer,” says retired EY partner Elliot Tannenbaum ’73. “Their diversity, their backgrounds, and their life stories are one thing. But when you add in the kind of enthusiasm and work effort they bring, we’ve really got something here.”

Once their foot is in the door, the students and recent graduates help form an impression of Brooklyn College that, along with the hard work of Castellanos and Tannenbaum, becomes a gift that keeps on giving. “Each student who gets hired makes a path for the one who comes next,” says Guarin-Klein.

The Magner Center has a network of more than 900 alumni who mentor students and help nurture corporate relationships with the college. Not only do the successful students keep Brooklyn College on recruiters’ minds but they are also starting to create a cohort within the firms to continue to reach out to their alma mater for interns.

At KPMG, Castellanos has pulled together recent interns who will help him bring in the next group. Samsonov, along with senior Sabah Waheed—who also interned at the firm during the previous academic year—helped Castellanos answer questions last spring from students who were interested in applying for internships. “The other students were very curious about how the firm works, why we were selected, and how much our classes really helped prepare us,” says Waheed, who also secured a full-time position at the firm starting in January. “It felt good to be able to answer their questions and to assure them that they could do it, too.”

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The philosophy of banking executive, philanthropist, and Brooklyn College alumnus Murray Koppelman ’57 is simple: He believes in giving back to the community that helped to shape him. His most recent gift of $8.5 million—one of the largest in Brooklyn College history—will help to advance the college’s Murray Koppelman School of Business, giving today’s students the same chance at a great education that he received as a young man.
Prominent banker and philanthropist Murray Koppelman ’57 is adamant when describing himself. “I’m a proletarian,” he says with no hint of irony, and after spending any amount of time with him, one comes away understanding that this man counts himself, at least in spirit, among the everyday folk.

It is this spirit, and a deep conviction that students should continue to receive the same quality education that he did, that underpins his unflagging support of his alma mater, most recently in the form of an $8.5 million gift to the new School of Business. This follows his earlier gifts to the college for a total of $12.5 million. Koppelman’s generosity spurred an additional $2.5 million in gifts, made in his honor, from members of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, for a total of $15 million in new support for the new school of business.

“I gave this a lot of thought,” the 84-year-old says when asked about his hopes for the school that will bear his name. “I really care about all of the students who want to get a degree in business and are struggling financially in life like I did,” he says.

He knows something about struggle because he was a child of the Depression. Koppelman was the middle child of three born to Polish immigrants Isidore and Ruth (née Pissetzky) Koppelman. His father was from outside Warsaw, his mother from a thriving village called Motele, which she had left to join her sisters in America.

Raised in Brooklyn’s Borough Park, a teenage Koppelman sold ice cream and frozen candy bars at Brighton Beach to help support his family. “The police came and carted me away in their van and took me down to the station and fined me two dollars for selling without a license,” he recalls.

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The young entrepreneur and budding philanthropist made no complaint when he found out the ice cream and candy had been given to children in a local orphanage. And his business had been successful until it was shut down. He would come away from the venture with his mother’s advice—“As long as you are working, everything will be okay”—and real-life business experience that, coupled with a solid work ethic, would be the foundation for his future success.

After graduating from high school, Koppelman volunteered at a kibbutz in the Negev Desert in Israel, then entered Brooklyn College—the first in his family to attend college—following two years of service in the Army during the Korean War. Koppelman credits his success at college to his early experiences.

“In the kibbutz, I was with concentration camp survivors. I said to one, ‘I’m hungry, I’m hungry all the time here. I weighed something like 120 pounds then; I’m 190 now,’” he says with a smile. “The survivor looked at me and said, ‘What are you hungry about, there’s always bread and chicory in the kitchen!’ The bread was stale and there was chicory instead of coffee, but this gave me an insight—this guy lived in a concentration camp and I’m going to tell him I’m hungry when there is all the bread I want? He was a survivor. He was tough.

“The kibbutz and the military matured me. If I could have gone to college after I graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School, I might have failed, would have very likely done very poorly,” he says. Instead, Koppelman excelled, graduating cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in accounting in 1957. That same year, he married his first wife, Sarah, a nurse and fellow Brooklyn College student, with whom he had three daughters: Janet, Suzanne, and Lisa.

Koppelman cannot help but return to talking about the college when you mention his success. “I had a great professor who people know very well, Nathan Schmukler. He is in his 90s now. He was instrumental in helping me. He hired me as an accounting assistant when I was attending Brooklyn College.” And it was a fellow student who brought him into investment banking.

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“‘This brilliant guy [J. Morton Davis ’57] graduated magna cum laude, was top 2 percent at Harvard,’ recalls Koppelman of Davis. He needed help with his tax return, remembered me, and called me. That started my professional relationship with him. He educated me in investment banking. He was a very tough guy. I worked 80 hours a week.’”

Koppelman rose quickly in the fields of finance and banking, serving as managing partner of the accounting firm Anchin, Block & Anchin, from 1961 to 1968, and then as an executive vice president and chief operating officer of D.H. Blair and Co., Inc., for some 20 years. In 1984, he became president and CEO of Eastlake Securities, Inc., a Manhattan-based banking firm, and in 2005 became vice president for private client services at J.P. Morgan.

Even with access to a great education, mentors, and connections, Koppelman says that success boils down to hard work. “I would give today’s student the same advice that I gave the interns and graduates when I was running companies: Wherever you are working, be prepared to do any job, even if you think it’s beneath you, and put a lot of hours in, because you never know who is watching you.”

When the Murray Koppelman School of Business has completed the accreditation process, it will be the only accredited school of business in the borough, a boon to coming generations of business students at Brooklyn College. Affordable degree programs that prepare students for success in the global economy are key, says Koppelman, “since you never know what you’re coming up against in today’s diverse environment.”

Koppelman’s all-encompassing generosity is borne out by the number of causes he supports, including holding seats on several boards and earning distinctions for his commitment to the community and to academia. He is involved with such organizations as the American Organization for Rehabilitation Union, the American Jewish Congress, Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Inc., and the Anti-Defamation League. And he wants to make it clear that diversity is at the root of his philanthropy. “I believe very strongly in the rights of all groups—everyone should benefit.”
WHEN THE BROOKLYN COLLEGE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS WAS FOUNDED IN 2011, the borough was in the early stages of becoming what is now a hub of entrepreneurship and technology. So when the college’s newly built Murray Koppelman School of Business opens its doors, it will be well positioned to participate in Brooklyn’s quickly burgeoning business economy.

Named for banking executive and philanthropist Murray Koppelman ’57, whose ongoing generosity, along with that of other alumni and Brooklyn College Foundation board members, has helped to put in place programs and faculty that will underpin the college’s bid for accreditation, the Murray Koppelman School of Business will be a key resource for the borough.

“We have a very active alumni base who have been generous, not only with financial support, but with advice and strategies needed to gain accreditation,” says Willie Hopkins, dean of the Murray Koppelman School of Business. “Along with engaging the campus as well as the Brooklyn community, we are asking our alumni how we should enrich the curricula to reflect what’s happening in Brooklyn commerce today. We want to make sure that our graduates can hit the ground running as they seek jobs and build careers, in the borough, the city, and the wider world.”

Gaining accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) is key to ensuring top-tier status for the new School of Business. Accreditation by AACSB includes a rigorous review of faculty qualifications, curricula, the school’s mission, self-evaluations, peer reviews, committee reviews, and the development of in-depth strategic plans. The Koppelman School of Business will be the only accredited business school in the borough.

To give an idea of how selective the process is, fewer than 5 percent of the world’s 13,000 business programs have AACSB accreditation. The advantages are many: AACSB-accredited schools have better programs, better faculty, and better students with higher overall GPAs. International students are recruited by more employers, and graduates earn higher salaries.

Brooklyn College has been assigned a mentor, California State University, whose committee was on campus this past May to help develop an initial Self-Evaluation Report (SER), which is a necessary first step.

“Our plan is to submit the report to the Initial Accreditation Committee (IAC) for its meeting in December,” says Dean Hopkins, who served on the accreditation team at California State University, whose committee was on campus this past May to help develop an initial Self-Evaluation Report (SER) which is a necessary first step.

“Our plan is to submit the report to the Initial Accreditation Committee (IAC) for its meeting in December,” says Dean Hopkins, who served on the accreditation team at California State University, in Chico. “If the IAC is accepted, we then fill in any gaps the IAC identifies in the report. We are working toward a completion date of spring 2017 and requesting a site visit that fall,” he adds.

Hopkins is quick to stress that accreditation is a widely collaborative process.

“When the IAC comes to assess the school they talk to all the constituents of the School of Business,” he says. “You need a strong plan and must let everybody know where you are in the process, how accreditation works, and how it’s going to benefit students, faculty, the school, and in our case, the entire City University system.”

—Audrey Peterson

In 1993, he helped found the Accountants and Bankers chapter of ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training) America, a Jewish nonprofit “committed to strengthening communities throughout the world by educating people against all odds and obstacles,” according to its website. In January 2014, Koppelman and his wife, Ellen, visited a World ORT India headquarters in Mumbai—this was one of more than 50 countries around the world that the avid traveler has visited, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, and Iran. The ORT India national director, Benjamin Isaac, was surprised when Koppelman pulled out a check after touring the complex and seeing the Early Childhood Care and Education program, the Jewish Education Resource Center, and a computer center.

Koppelman received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 1996 and was honored by the Brooklyn Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy in 1999. As stated in his biography, Against All Odds by Joshua M. Sklare (Montefiore Press, 2013), Koppelman believes deeply in Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana’s saying that “those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” In 2013, Murray and Ellen Koppelman, together with his sister, Sandra Glicksman, became members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Founders Society with a gift of $1 million that helps fund the museum’s permanent endowment. Among those who perished in the Holocaust and those who survived were the residents of his mother’s hometown of Motel, whose stories he relates in his biography. In 1942, German soldiers killed all of the Jews in that village, some 800 people, including his maternal grandmother.

Koppelman sits on the board of governors of Hillel International and has served as president of Brooklyn College Hillel. The Koppelmans have invited students from Hillel to their home in Manhattan for Friday night dinner and are known for generously hosting many of the organizations in which they are involved.

In 1994, Murray Koppelman was named Brooklyn College Alumnus of the Year. He was awarded the college’s Presidential Medal in 1995 and honored at the annual Best of Brooklyn gala in 2004.

And he can add the latest gesture of his steadfast support of the college to a list of generous acts. Calling the School of Business an “anchor” that will secure Brooklyn College as an enduring destination for an excellent, affordable education, Koppelman says, “I’ve stayed connected because of what it did for me: I give all the credit to Brooklyn College—no ifs, ands, or buts.” Of the citizens of his hometown he adds, “Brooklyn people are some of the most successful people in the world, and I’m proud to be from Brooklyn.”
Carlo Scissura, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, believes that the success of Brooklyn College is crucial to the success of Brooklyn itself. He notes that academic institutions are critical players in the development of the city, and if Brooklyn College, with its Murray Koppelman School of Business, plays a role in attracting businesses from a variety of areas, including art, e-commerce, fashion, food, and media, then the whole of Brooklyn would benefit.

Brooklyn and the companies that produce them, as well as tourism, are so deeply invested in what it means to have gone to Brooklyn College. That inspires me.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce will be focusing on some specific areas to develop, including support for products made in Brooklyn and the companies that produce them, as well as tourism and hospitality. But again, Scissura stresses, it is the human resources that will continue to make Brooklyn shine brightest for business, and Brooklyn College, with its Murray Koppelman School of Business, plays a vital role in the development of those resources.

“Brooklyn is a college town,” says Scissura. “Many people don’t know that. The academic institutions are critical players here. If Brooklyn College doesn’t succeed, Brooklyn doesn’t succeed. Because you’re the ones educating the future leaders.”

—Robert Jones, Jr.

JOSHUA V. KURIAN ’15 holds the distinction of being the valedictorian at the 2015 baccalaureate commencement at Brooklyn College.

Kurian, who received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology, was a student in the Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program, held a cumulative 4.00 GPA, and made the Dean’s List every semester of his attendance. He was the recipient of the Christoph M. Kimmich Award for Academic Excellence. In addition to his scholarly achievements, he gained a great deal of work experience as a tutor at the SEEK Learning and Study Center as well as tutoring students privately in the sciences.

Kurian, treasurer of the Study Abroad Scholarship Association, participated in several civic activities, including serving as president of the Brooklyn College chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Under his leadership, the fraternity organized several community service projects that included helping to build a playground in Breezy Point, N.Y., and raising funds for the Military Heroes Campaign and the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. Kurian volunteered with Global Medical Brigades in Esteli, Nicaragua, where he spent time helping to build latrines for homes and set up a medical center, which treated more than 900 patients.

Kurian’s dream to become a physician will be realized once he completes his studies at the SUNY Downstate College of Medicine, which he began attending this fall.

GISELY COLÓN-LÓPEZ ’15 has the honor of being our 2015 salutatorian.

Colón-López, who held a cumulative 4.00 GPA and made the Dean’s List every semester of her attendance, received her bachelor of arts in Puerto Rican and Latino studies, with a minor in cultural anthropology. She was the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship for students who show academic promise and the New York League of Puerto Rican Women’s College Award for academic excellence and service to the community, which she received in an on-field ceremony at Yankee Stadium before a home game. In addition to her academic accomplishments, she also worked as a campus college assistant during her tenure as a student at Brooklyn College.

A civic-minded student, Colón-López interned with SOMOS el Futuro and served as the lead intern for the chief of staff of Assemblyman Robert J. Rodriguez of the 68th district in East Harlem/Brownsville, N.Y. She also represented Brooklyn College and CUNY’s Ernesto Malave Leadership Academy in Albany during two major caucuses. She serves as a member of the Alliance for Puerto Rican Education and Empowerment.

Colón-López’s aspirations are to pursue her Ph.D. and become an activist, leader, philanthropist, and teacher.

—Robert Jones, Jr.
Buried Treasure

Through their latest research, Brooklyn College professors shed new light on early primates and historic climate change.

Thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation and support from the National Geographic Society, a team that included Professor Alfred Rosenberger, together with University of Massachusetts Professor Laurie Godfrey and several professional freshwater divers, recently discovered three underwater caves in the Tsingyamponotso National Park in southwestern Madagascar holding the remains of now-extinct giant lemurs and other megafauna never seen before. Lemurs share a common ancestor with other primates and have been known to inhabit Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean that is more than 600 miles from the African continent, for the last 10,000 years. While the fossil record shows that relatives of lemurs were once in Europe, Africa, and Asia, today they are solely found on Madagascar. “Extinction in this case is driven by humans and is severe and sometimes irreversible because most ecological niches that were inhabited by several species endemic to the island are being destroyed,” says Rosenberger. “Like other islands around the world, Madagascar is at risk, and the gradual loss of flora and fauna, similar to the contraction of rain forests elsewhere, generally becomes irreversible,” Rosenberger says. That’s why it’s important to study the megaflora we found in those caves. It can help us understand the consequences of extinctions, past and present.”

Rosenberger, a member of the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, who was recently granted a Toy Professorship at Brooklyn College in recognition of his contributions to the field, hopes this will become a multyear project to further investigate the caves and evaluate the findings.

—Ernesto Mora

Cultivating Doctoral Success

Rosamond S. King, the new director of the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, is glad to be in a position to provide promising Ph.D. candidates the same kind of mentorship that she received as a Brooklyn College student.

Associate Professor of English Rosamond S. King has hit her stride. Last spring, she received one of the prestigious Tow Faculty Research Travel Fellowships to help fund her trip to Trinidad. There, she dug into the archives about a group of revolutionary emancipated slaves. In June, her book, Island Bodies: Transgressive Sexualities in the Caribbean Imagination (University Press of Florida, 2014), won the Gordon K. and Sybil Lewis Prize, given out by the Caribbean Studies Association for best book about the Caribbean. Later in the summer, she found out she had received tenure. Yet, of the many things she can be proud of, her role as the new director of the college’s Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships program (MMUF) is one very close to her heart. The MMUF supports undergraduate students of color who want to pursue Ph.D.s and become professors by offering them faculty mentoring, research stipends, and help paying undergraduate student loans. King is an alumna of the program, having joined when she was an undergraduate at Cornell University.

“It was instrumental in my earning a Ph.D.,” she says. “I am excited to become the director so that I can give the kind of mentoring that was given to me.”

The program is funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which supports it on more than 33 campuses nationwide. The Brooklyn College program, one of the oldest and most successful, is now celebrating its 25th anniversary. This past year, all four Brooklyn College MMUF students had papers accepted to the prestigious National Council for Undergraduate Research (NCUR) Conference. Two other students had their research published in the MMUF journal—no other CUNY school had more than one entry. And two fellows who applied to doctoral programs this year were accepted as fully funded students.

King meets with each student once a month and with the group three times a month to counsel the fellows on everything from their curricula vitae to how they should dress for academic events to how to juggle family and academic life. “I get a lot of satisfaction from sharing the kind of insider knowledge that students don’t often have access to,” says King.

The fellows say they receive much from the program, too. Dominique Young ’15, one of the students whose research paper on black women’s fiction, particularly that of author Terry McMillan, was accepted at the NCUR conference, says she didn’t know the first thing about applying to graduate school or the process of becoming a professor until she became a Mellon fellow. She cried when she found out she had been chosen to present her research. “Learning that my abstract had been selected confirmed that my research was important,” she says. King is taking a sabbatical this year to pursue a number of scholarly pursuits, including lecturing at the University College of London and at a conference in Dublin. She will also be trying to secure more grant funding for the MMUF program. Liv Yarrow, an associate professor in the Classics Department, will be heading MMUF in King’s absence.

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—Jenn Shume

The Art of Listening

Beginning in spring 2015, Brooklyn College students have been interviewing and recording coworkers, friends, neighbors, relatives, and even strangers living in the borough. The result is compelling anecdotes from the life experiences of Brooklynites called The Brooklyn College Listening Project. An ongoing oral history initiative launched by faculty members from the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and spearheaded by Associate Professor of English and American Studies Program Director Joseph Enlin, the project is seeking to make available the rich and often extraordinary histories of the people and their borough.

This semester we will be following a select group of participating students and will share their discoveries on Facebook and Twitter, so stay tuned.

—Joseph Enlin
English Professor Ben Lerner Named 2015 MacArthur ‘Genius’ Fellow

Brooklyn College English Professor Ben Lerner has received the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. The fellowship celebrates the creative potential of individuals by providing unrestricted funds to those “who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction.” Lerner, a novelist, poet and critic, is one of 24 MacArthur Fellows and is the only awardee from the City University of New York (CUNY).

The MacArthur Foundation describes Lerner as “transcending conventional distinctions of genre and style in a body of work that constitutes an extended meditation on how to capture our contemporary moment.”

“This honor is a fitting recognition of the high level of scholarship and dedication to craft that Ben has continually demonstrated,” says Brooklyn College President Karen L. Gould. “The example that he has set will also positively impact Brooklyn College students.”

Lerner is the author of three books of poetry: The Lichtenberg Figures (2004), Angle of Yaw (2006), and Mean Free Path (2010), all published by Copper Canyon Press. His poetry has been translated into German, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese and his collected poems to date will be issued in a single volume by Granta Publications.

Among Lerner’s many honors and awards, he is a Fulbright Scholar in Spain, a Howard Foundation Fellow, and a recipient of the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship. The fellowship acknowledges the “extraordinary creative capacity in the arts, sciences, public affairs, or other fields” of individuals who “have the potential for exceptional contributions.”

The fellowship is a “no strings attached” award of $625,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.

“I’m humbled and more than a little surprised,” says the Topeka, Kansas native. “I think of the Fellowship as a challenge—in the most generous form imaginable—to do more and more adventurous work.”

Lerner has been a finalist for the National Book Award in poetry, a Fulbright Scholar in Spain, a Howard Foundation Fellow, and a Sigggenheim Fellow. In 2011 he became the first American to win the Preis der Stadt Münster für Internationale Poesie for the German translation of his poetry.

“A cornerstone of Brooklyn College’s commitment to work towards fulfilling its mission. Among them is the establishment of a new school, the Feirstein School of Cinema on Oct. 6. More than 100 students, film industry professionals and esteemed guests were in attendance. The Feirstein School, located at Steiner Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, is the only public graduate school in the nation housed on a working film lot and the first public graduate school of cinema in New York City.

“New York City has long been a global capital for film and television production, but today we are making an unprecedented commitment in the future of this industry and in New York City’s finest young filmmakers,” said Mayor de Blasio.

“By opening the Feirstein School, we are unlocking the door of opportunity for a talented and diverse group of students who want to get the best, most cutting-edge education in cinema, and then put those skills to use right here in New York City.”

The Feirstein School, which welcomed an inaugural class of 69 this fall, provides students with access to state-of-the-art production and post-production facilities in one of the largest sound stages in the country, as well as a full complement of lighting, grip and electrical equipment. Degree programs include M.A. in Cinema Studies and M.F.A. in Cinema Arts, which is composed of six tracks—cinematography, directing, post-production, producing, digital arts, and screenwriting.

Another hallmark of the school is the involvement of seasoned directors, producers and actors, who contribute to Feirstein’s advisory board and help to guide the school toward fulfilling its mission. Among them are author, actor, and director Ethan Hawke; director Steven Soderbergh; and Emmy Award-winning producer Celia Costas.

“The visionary philanthropy of Barry R. Feirstein, CUNY, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, and the New York City and State Council, among others, has enabled us to develop an extraordinary education for our students,” said President Karen L. Gould.

“Brooklyn College provided an excellent academic foundation for me and I’m extremely pleased to return the favor by helping to build the 21st century cinema school that will both strengthen the college and provide access to exciting careers for today’s students,” said Feirstein.

Encompassing the event as actor Fisher Stevens. Other speakers included screenwriter and director Darren Aronofsky, David Ehrenberg, president and chief executive officer of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp., New York City Film Commissioner Cynthia Lopez; Maria Conelli ’80, dean of the Brooklyn College School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts, Feirstein School Founding Director Jonathan Wacks; and New York City and State officials.

“Knowledge is the result of an extensive public-private partnership among notable Brooklyn College alumni, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, Steiner Studios, the New York City Council, the Brooklyn Borough President, and the City University of New York. Founding donors include alumni Don Buchwald ’59, Roy Furman ’60, Jules Haamovitz ’71, and Michael Lynne ’81,” said Feirstein.


“My family and friends have been incredibly supportive,” says Lerner, who is married to the novelist Amalie Clark. “I feel as though I am just beginning to scratch the surface of my potential as a writer.”

The MacArthur Fellows Program is intended to encourage people of outstanding talent to pursue their own creative, intellectual, and professional inclinations. The fellowship is a “no strings attached” award in support of people, not projects. Each fellowship comes with a stipend of $625,000 to the recipient, paid out in equal quarterly installments over five years.

International Immersion

A Brooklyn College student and alumna gained experience in their fields with studies and internships overseas.

Tamar Shaikhselaidi, a senior, went to Rome to study the representation of women in Renaissance paintings, while Alex Brandt ‘15 M.A. went to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for an internship with international children’s rights group Save the Children.

Shaikhselaidi, originally from Tbilisi, Georgia, thought she already knew what it was like to be an international student, but she says nothing prepared her for Italy, where she traveled with the help of a Magner Career Center travel stipend. “Living for four months on my own in Europe taught me that I can achieve anything,” she says.

The double major in Italian and multimedia computing is eager to develop her computer science skills further and become a freelance 3-D animator, doing her time between New York and Rome. While she was studying Italian literature and film at John Cabot University in Rome, she worked on her research project, “Female Representation in Renaissance Period Paintings and Its Connection to Modern-Day Feminism in Italy.” She alsoavored the opportunity to socialize with locals on the piazzas in the evenings and cook fresh food for an international group of friends she made.

When one walks into Italian shops, “people behind the counter ask how’s your life, and stay there and listen to your problems for hours if you need them to,” she says. “Overall, people seem to dedicate a reasonable amount of time to relationships.

“My experiences in Italy gave me confidence,” she says. Brandt, who earned a master’s degree in international affairs, says he chose Save the Children because of its long history of serving children in hardship areas overseas.

“It’s a well-respected organization and I wanted to work with it to learn more about how international development is handled,” he says. While in Ethiopia, he assisted with multimillion-dollar proposals, worked with international donors and members, and helped write grants. He says he learned a lot about humanitarian assistance procedures and became knowledgeable in areas like child protection, education development, and emergency response.

“I have been able to put into practice what I learned from my graduate studies,” he says, adding that he would like to pursue a career in international development, providing support for disaster and emergency relief efforts.

“The best part of my experience has been working with a variety of different departments [at Save the Children] to see how such a huge organization implements projects,” he says. —Jamelah Simmons

Top left, senior Tamar Shaikhselaidi in Venice, one stop on her research tour of Italy, supported by a Magner Career Center International Study Stipend. inset, Alex Brandt ’15, at left, interrupted at Save the Children last summer.

## International Engagement 2015–16

MORE THAN 300 BROOKLYN COLLEGE STUDENTS STUDIED ABROAD

TOP FIVE DESTINATIONS FOR BROOKLYN COLLEGE STUDENTS WERE CHINA, ITALY, INDIA, AUSTRALIA, AND SOUTH KOREA

NEWEST PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNIVERSITIES IN HEILBRONN, GERMANY; PUEBLA, MEXICO; BARCELONA, SPAIN; AND BEIJING, CHINA.

NEARLY 500 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS FROM (IN DESCENDING ORDER) CHINA, TURKEY, SAUDI ARABIA, SOUTH KOREA, INDIA, GERMANY, NIGERIA, FRANCE, JAPAN, AND ISRAEL.

## Student Awards

Many of our students continue to have outstanding achievements in the forms of awards and fellowships. Here are some highlights.

### THE AWARD

**THE FULLBRIGHT PROGRAM** provides a network of highly qualified, merit-based grants for international educational exchange for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, scientists, and artists to study, conduct research, or exercise their talents abroad.

**THE HELLER HAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** aims to address the underrepresentation of people of color in academia by encouraging high-achieving students of color and others of diverse background to pursue doctoral degrees.

**THE MELLON-MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM** provides mentoring and its connection to modern-day feminism in Italy.

**THE ROSEN FELLOWSHIP** offers a range of opportunities and pays for summer internships at socially oriented organizations.

**THE THE RECIPIENT**

**THE WORK**

Hojat Ayoubi, ‘19 CUNY BA, anthropology of international security

William Cheng, CUNY BA, philosophy

John Horgan, MA, film

Natasha Mospoon, sociology major in Macaulay Honors College

Nathaniel Shingara, graduate student in biology

Maryam Sasanvazirian-Rasaei, English and chemistry

Jaguarin Retali, history major, Caribbean studies/English double major

Josue Solerz, CUNY BA, (two gender/class)

Dominique Young, English

Sofia Aslan and political science

Brielle Gardell, psychology

Harvey Zall, sociology

Margaret Douglass, English

Jessica Keaveny, CUNY BA, Scholars, atmospheric and environmental science/Biology writing

Yvonne Lewis, health and nutrition

Peter Lee, BA–MEO, anthropology

Dominic Rice, finance

Rubin Shilkin, history

Elena Valencia, communications

John Lewis, Macaulay Honors College student majoring in political science and philosophy

Jessica Khaimova, creative writing (poetry)

Sean DelGizzo, creative writing (poetry)

Veronica Choi, psychology

Linda Huang, film production

Edin Su, business

Arianna Roes, political science and Puerto Rico and Latin studies

## Awards

- **Renn Fellowship.** According to the support of Brooklyn College Foundation trustee Florence Roso and the 1959 class year, Brooklyn College students have been selected the Fibonacci Roso fellowship.

- **Bassen Fellowship.** Thanks to the support of Brooklyn College Foundation trustee Florence Roso, the 1959 class year, Brooklyn College students have been selected the Fibonacci Roso scholarship.

- **Rosen Fellowship.** Teaching in Ireland working with a nonprofit organization in3D animation.

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The Theology Professor recognizes distinguished contributions in teaching, scholarship, and the advancement of the college's mission. Recipients receive $25,000 each through a renewed five-year grant of $1 million from Leonard Tow and the Tow Family Foundation to the college. The following are the 2002-2006 Tow Professors:

Maria Cotol, professor of chemistry
Douglas Geers, associate professor and acting department chair of the Conservatory of Music
Alfred Rosenberger, professor of anthropology and archaeology
Robert Shapiro, professor of Judaic Studies

The following faculty members have received important research travel support from the Tow Foundation:

Jennifer Adams, associate professor of secondary education
Beth Ferholt, assistant professor of early childhood & art education
Christian Grew, associate professor of health & nutrition sciences
Rosamond S. King, assistant professor of English
Robert Lurz, professor of philosophy
Robert Shapiro, professor of Judaic Studies
Juddelee Vivier, professor of theater

We received more recollections of concerts that took place on campus in the 1960s and 1970s.

Susan Amatuzio ’72 writes: “My sister [Anna Amatuzio ’75] and I have fond memories of concerts at Brooklyn College. We saw one of Barry Manilow’s earliest concerts there, and I remember that Barry was wearing a Brooklyn College sweatshirt. I also remember a program featuring the legendary New York City Ballet stars Suzanne Farrell and Peter Martins. It was an especially beautiful duet in one of their famous Balanchine-choreographed dances called Chaconne. I remember a beautiful blue light onstage as part of the deus ex machina.”

“The Brooklyn College concert I recall to this day took place on Saturday, May 11, 1968. The Vagrants opened for Richie Havens,” writes Mark Rosenblatt ’73, who was a 17-year-old freshman at the time. “In 1968, rock concerts at larger venues in New York City were limited. I remember going to the former Fillmore East [in Manhattan] to see Richie Havens headlining over the Troggs and one of my all-time favorite bands, the United States of America (to this day they remain the loudest band I ever saw). So when an opportunity came to see Richie Havens again at Brooklyn College, I rounded up a pair of friends and bought three tickets weeks in advance of the show.

‘What made this particular show interesting was the opening act, the Vagrants, a band whose members were from Queens and Nassau County, and who had a regional hit with the song ‘Roger,’ the same Otis Redding song that is associated with Aretha Franklin. At the time, the Vagrants played predominantly in clubs that were either too rough for me or required ID that my friends and I lacked. So to see a real way-out-there rock band at a safe place like Whitman Auditorium was a no-brainer. Richie Havens was the cherry on top. I would see Havens a number of times in the immediate future, including at Woodstock in 1969, and at a live-to-television performance at the Brooklyn College TV Center in 1975 for the broadcast series Brooklyn College Presents: Living Screen, which ran on the old WNYC-TV Channel 31, and on Nassau County’s WLMTV, Channel 21.

‘That Havens show took place in the basement of Whitman Hall, where the TV Center still stands, and was directed by my grad school friend, and later co-worker at the ABC Radio Network, Barbara Siller ’72, who, like me, got her BA and M.S. at Brooklyn. The show was produced by Ned Heller ’73, ’75 M.A., another BCTV M.S. grad, and worked the show as technical director. All three of us were under the guidance of longtime and now long-retired Department of TV and Radio chair, Robert C. Williams Ph.D. So for me, one Havens performance blended into another in the long run.

‘Block at Whitman Auditorium, the Vagrants rocked loud and hard and soulful and put on quite a show. During their final song, which may have been a cover of a Who song, the band members began playing more and more discordant riffs, and then began trashing their instruments on stage, something that in 1968 the Who guitarist Pete Townsend was already known to do. Moreover, anachronistic instrument destruction had been committed to film in Michelangelo Antonioni’s 1966 movie Blow-Up, in which a very young Jeff Beck, guitarist for the Yardbirds, destroys his guitar and throws pieces into a club crowd. So when the Vagrants started to trounce their instruments, I turned to my friends and we all thought, as one, “ Didn’t anyone tell them that this has been done before?” We then started joking that one of us should go up on stage to tell the Vagrants to stop, or better yet, do something original. Had the Vagrants not attempted to shock their Brooklyn College Whitman Hall crowd out of its complacency, I would not remember the incident as vividly as I do.”

Our Photo Album feature on the Doobies continues to respond from former Brooklyn College swim team members. Michael Cohen ’60 writes of our follow-up article (Vol. 4, No. 1 Fall/Winter 2015, page 32), “When stated that before 1968, the swim team had not won a swim meet for 20 years. I was on the team from 1956 to 1960 and am still in touch when we won several meets.

That is not to say we ever had a winning season—but we had our share of wins.

‘The swim team was a positive experience,” he adds. “We swam against Morgan State and other traditionally black colleges, and that was a bright spot in my swimming career. I know they came to Brooklyn a few times and that we went to Baltimore, a very segregated city in 1959.”

And finally, a correction in the same article. The recollections misattributed to Mark Keyes were actually those of swim team member Mark Schwartzberg, ’84, ’91 MA. Thank you, Mr. Schwartzberg, for sharing with us your memories of the Doobies and your time on the team.
Our Neighborhood

A snapshot of our diverse borough and city. Send your Brooklyn story to communications@brooklyn.cuny.edu; we’d love to hear from you.

B
eides being an astute business person and entrepreneur, Doug Steiner is a visionary. At a time when few people recognized the potential for business and commerce in the borough of Brooklyn, Steiner invested in it. In 2004, he opened Steiner Studios on a 15-acre lot at the Brooklyn Navy Yard—a venture that has helped revitalize the surrounding area, open channels for new industries, and usher in a renaissance for Brooklyn.

Steiner Studios is the largest and most sophisticated studio complex outside of Hollywood and has made Brooklyn one of the most sought-after destinations for the creation of content. Now, Steiner has extended his vision by supporting the Brooklyn College Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. Housed on location at Steiner Studios, Feirstein is the first and only graduate film school in America to be built on a working film lot. It is also the first public film school in New York. And building on the rich culture of the borough, the school is dedicated to diversity, inclusion, and the cultivation of new and emerging voices in cinema. Together, Steiner and Brooklyn College have forged a relationship that ensures Brooklyn will be not only a chief contributor of creative product, but also the place where the best creative talent is developed.

IN WHAT WAY HAS STEINER STUDIOS GROWN OVER THE PAST DECADE TO KEEP PACE WITH A FAST-CHANGING INDUSTRY?
The business has changed in that it’s always figured the multitude of channels would continue and there’ll just be a demand for content. I had no idea there would be a new golden age for television. Originally we had mostly feature films and now mostly television, and most of what’s shooting in New York now is television. Content continues to be a great business for New York and media. Old media has always been here, and now with tech and media converging, New York really has a greater opportunity to have a new economic future that’s not solely dependent on finance, insurance, and real estate. What’s unique about this business is, it can’t be done offshore, it’s not going to be done in China or India anytime soon, and to do it people have to be physically present and collaborative. They can’t be working from home, other than the post-production phase. We call it manufacturing for the 21st century.

TALK ABOUT YOUR LOCATION AT THE NAVY YARD.
WHY IS IT SO IDEAL?
We started in 1999, and people thought we were crazy to go into Brooklyn. “Nobody would ever go to Brooklyn,” was the refrain. And we lucked out. We chose the Navy Yard because it was big. I liked the industrial aesthetic. When you are here, you see in the foreground a shipyard with cranes and all kinds of crazy businesses, and in the background you see the financial capital of the world and the beautiful sunset. And being right by the water is really nice. Then the transportation nexus of the three bridges, Williamsburg, Manhattan and Brooklyn, all come very close to the Navy Yard. The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway is one block away, so that’s also part of the attraction. And then the funky old building stock was cool.

WHAT’S SPECIAL ABOUT BROOKLYN, AND HOW DO YOU SEE THE BOROUGH POSITIONING ITSELF IN THE FUTURE AS A HUB FOR FILM AND TECH?
I think Brooklyn still has a long way to go in terms of its transformation. It’s home to the creative class in New York and, really, of the world. It used to be a second choice for a lot of people moving to New York, choosing to live in Brooklyn for economic necessity. Now, it’s not a discount to Manhattan—oftentimes, it’s a premium. And I think it reflects a very different vibe and attitude of people who want a different urban model. More diverse, more quirky—all the things that attract people to New York in the first place. Manhattan is getting more homogeneous; it’s bankers and lawyers, and a lot more elites. And I think Brooklyn is much more artsy, creative, and interesting.

HOW DO YOU SEE FEIRSTEIN GRADUATES CONTRIBUTING TO THIS INDUSTRY IN THE FUTURE?
I think what the city recognizes is that the educational system has to train people for the jobs that are going to exist. And by merging academia and industry, it’s really ideal for making sure there are jobs for people when they get out of school. At Feirstein we say it’s the opposite of an ivory tower education. You’ll be set amid the industry you’re being trained for. You’ll see what it’s really like, as you’re learning what you’re going to be doing in that industry and deciding what you might want to be doing. The city’s been very supportive in merging academia and industry. This makes way for the building of a content-creation district where everything from the development of media technology to the distribution of media to the marketing and selling of the end product can be accomplished. That the Feirstein School is in had been vacant for about 40 years. Spectacularly beautiful building. The architects who did it are the same architects who had designed the Starrett-Lehigh Building in Manhattan, on the far West Side. We spent a lot of money to make a historical renovation. We had glass specially cast to preserve the round corners. The floor heights are great; the number of windows is great; the views are great. But overall, nothing could have prepared me for how beautiful it looks and how cool it is. And as a setting and a physical place to work and study and learn and to teach at, it has hugely exceeded my expectations and everybody else’s. I think to be in the first class here is really something special. If Google was going to have a film school, this is what it would look like. This is a business that’s good for New York. It wants to be in New York. There aren’t many places that can really support this kind of industry. And you don’t have to move to L.A. to be in the business. In fact, over time, we’ll be equal to L.A. Maybe even bigger.

FAST FACTS ABOUT STEINER STUDIOS

580,000 square feet
26 acres
Home to the largest stage (27,000 square feet) on the East Coast
Ten soundstages, totaling 131,000 square feet
5.6 acres of backlot space
100-seat Screening Room
Located within the historical Brooklyn Navy Yard in the heart of Brooklyn
10 minutes from TriBeCa, 20 minutes from Midtown

The Producers: The Movie Musical, The Tourist, The Nanny Diaries, Spider-Man 3, Men in Black 3, The Adjustment Bureau, Sex and the City 2, Revolutionary Road, Inside Man, Enchanted, Baby Mama, The Sorcerer’s Apprentice, and Burn After Reading are some of the major motion pictures that have filmed at Steiner.

Steiner Studios also has hosted many television series, including Damages, The Unusuals, Pan Am, Bored to Death, Boardwalk Empire, Girls, Gotham, and Hip Hop Squares.
Global Goal

Student-Athlete Marco Thimm-Kaiser is clear that his global education will not stop at graduation. Brooklyn College men’s soccer forward Marco Thimm-Kaiser has made a tremendous impact at the college and a home for himself in Brooklyn. The German native decided to study in New York City after his dad brought him here on a vacation for his 16th birthday. “After two years I can say that I would make the same decision to come here again, without a doubt,” says Thimm-Kaiser.

The junior has made the most of his time here; he has been a key player and starter on a very successful men’s soccer squad, while double majoring in economics and international business. Thimm-Kaiser has produced great results in both endeavors, scoring six goals over two seasons, and compiling a 3.95 grade point average, which was a 4.00 until an A- this past spring gave him his first blemish.

Along with his impressive marks in the classroom, the junior speaks three languages, German, Spanish, and English. Still, he admits his English was not great when he arrived at Brooklyn College. “I found it hard to express myself. Sometimes I couldn’t understand everything and my writing was not the best. The ESL classes helped me a lot with my grammar.”

“I often wondered why Marco left his native country to come this far to pursue his studies,” says Brooklyn College Head Men’s Soccer Coach Rawle Hensford. “But after his first semester and season I see that he is driven and has a clear sense of direction. I see a direct correlation between his performance as a member of the team and his academic success.”

Before Thimm-Kaiser’s journey here from his hometown in the rural outskirts of Hamburg, he spent a year doing charitable work in Marso City. He explains that military or social service is mandatory in Germany for young adults. And while the law was changed before he left so that he didn’t have to do the service, he went anyway. He says he cherished the opportunity to learn about a different culture while sharing an apartment with volunteers from around the world. Today he lives a few blocks from campus with four other Brooklyn College athletes: women’s soccer players Shani Nakhid-Schuster and Jordan Kerwin, teammate Kevin Bresnan, and men’s basketball player Andrew Portuz. “Words can’t describe how it feels to win this championship and make Brooklyn College history,” says D’Ambrosi. “I am honored. We have so many great players on this team and any could have been named MVP. But after his first semester and season I see that he is driven and has a clear sense of direction. I see a direct correlation between his performance as a member of the team and his academic success.”

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And the men’s soccer team is also diverse, with different nationalities and languages represented. “Since we have a lot of Spanish-speaking guys on the team, we often speak it in practice,” he says. The highly motivated student-athlete plans to add a minor in political science, and would like to enter a master’s program in international relations or economics after graduation. “My dream job would be in an important, global-operating organization like the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, or the International Monetary Fund.”

—Alex Lang

Vanessa D’Ambrosi Named Tournament MVP

Senior guard/forward Vanessa D’Ambrosi scored nine of Brooklyn College’s 13 points in overtime to help lead the #1 seeded Bulldogs to a 63-58 victory over #2 seed Rutgers-Newark, their first-ever Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Metro Women’s Basketball Championship in program history. D’Ambrosi finished the game with a game-high 20 points, to go with 12 rebounds to record a double-double. For her efforts, the fifth-year senior was named tournament MVP.

“The ESL classes helped me a lot with my grammar.”

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—Alex Lang
Paying It Forward

“I had multiple mentors along the way,” he says, “each of whom cared deeply about me and my career success.”

What was it like to be the CEO of one of the largest accounting firms in the world? “If I had to describe the role, I would say that above all, it was a privilege,” says Salzberg. “I had to learn to think ‘firm first,’ to look beyond making a profit, and to prioritize between often conflicting needs.”

One of those conflicts, says the husband and father of two, was the balance of work and life. “There’s no question I had to sacrifice, but to be able to contribute at the level I did work and with the people I worked with was incredibly gratifying, and I’m grateful to have had the opportunity.”

And it is those kinds of opportunities that Salzberg wanted to ensure would be available to everyone. “The world is changing and companies need to have an internal demographic that reflects those changes,” he says. “Employees demand it; clients expect it. Diversity is a business imperative. The more unique points of view a company can bring to the table, the more innovative and well-rounded solutions it will have to offer.”

Salzberg has a grand, transformative vision for the role of business in the global exchange and the part captains of industry play in the social sphere. He makes little distinction between economics and ethics. “I believe in purpose beyond profit. I believe business has a far greater role in society than just making money, or delivering value for shareholders.” He is adamant that “Business can and should be a force for good, and not just through its corporate social responsibility programs. I’m talking about the core activities of a business—the goods it produces or the services it delivers. Business should make people’s lives better. It should innovate and drive societal progress. It should use its resources to help address the big issues facing the environment and societal progress. It should use its resources to help address the big issues facing the environment and our communities.”

This is the only sustainable model of business, Salzberg says, and energy must be committed to preserving these principles for current and future generations of leaders. “As business leaders, we need to pay forward the experience we’ve gained throughout our careers. We didn’t get where we are on our own, and we weren’t dealing with half the challenges or complexities businesses face today. Just imagine what tomorrow’s leaders will face! We need to do our part to give them a leg up.”

—Robert Jones, Jr.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BULLDOGS?

Brooklyn College is not the only school with a bulldog as a mascot. Can you match the schools to their dog?

1. Mississippi State University
   a. Handsome Dan

2. University of Minnesota, Duluth
   b. Colonel Rock

3. Yale
   c. Bully

4. Georgetown
   d. Jack

5. Brooklyn College
   e. Uga

6. Western Illinois University
   f. Champ

7. University of Georgia
   g. Buster

Answers: 1–c; 2–f; 3–a; 7. University of Georgia
6. Western Illinois University
5. Brooklyn College
4. Georgetown
3. University of Minnesota, Duluth
1. Mississippi State University

KNOW YOUR BULLDOGS?

7. University of Georgia
6. Western Illinois University
5. Brooklyn College
4. Georgetown
3. University of Minnesota, Duluth
1. Mississippi State University

Brooklyn College is the place that gave him his foundation and nurtured his career aspirations. As the keynote speaker, he shared the secrets of the success that had brought him so far with more than 4,000 graduating seniors and their guests.

“If you had told me when I was younger that I’d end up global CEO of a company like Deloitte, I probably would’ve laughed,” says Salzberg. “And I wouldn’t have been the only one laughing! Part of his success is attributable simply to his own tenacity, he says, and the faith he had in his abilities even when others did not. “My high school guidance counselor actually told me not to bother applying to college because she didn’t think I had what it takes to make it,” he says. “Even after law school, when I started my career at Deloitte, I certainly wasn’t what anyone would call CEO material. But I managed to beat the odds.”

There are three practical factors Salzberg believes enabled him to accomplish his goals. First, he remained with Deloitte from the start of his career and studied at the feet of the talented people he encountered there. Second, he was always willing to perform duties outside his comfort zone, gaining valuable experience and skill as he went. The third, and most important, he says, was mentorship—the kind that the Brooklyn College Magnes Career Center creates between the college’s alumni and students.

“I had multiple mentors along the way,” he says, “each of whom cared deeply about me and my career success.”

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—Robert Jones, Jr.
Out and About

2015 Athletic Hall of Fame Plaque Dedication
1. Letterman of the track and cross-country teams, Stu Kessler ’50, beams as his plaque is unveiled on the donor wall of the Brooklyn College Athletics Hall of Fame.
2. Rita Lubin Edwards, widow of Hall of Famer Dr. Joe Edwards ’50, poses by her husband’s plaque.

2015 Tow Luncheon
3. Leonard Tow ’50 and Emily Tow Jackson of the Tow Foundation (left) are joined by President Karen L. Gould and recipients of the 2015 Tow Research Travel Fellowships (from left) Professor Laura Tesman, Elisa Libraty ’16, and Tracy Pierre ’17.

Global Perspectives on Jazz featuring Rudresh Mahanthappa
4. Jazz alto saxophonist and composer Rudresh Mahanthappa performs.

Gi60 One-Minute Play Festival 2015 USA
5. Students performed 50 new 60-second plays by 50 different authors at Brooklyn College as part of the three-country Gi60 festival.

Class of 1965 50th Anniversary Reunion

Jacqueline Woodson Reading
7. National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson read selections from her book Brown Girl Dreaming on a visit to campus sponsored by the Black and Latino Male Inititative.

2015 BCAA Student Awards

2015 Best of Brooklyn Gala
9. Best of Brooklyn attendees Marshall Kaplan ’49, who endowed the Marshall & Kaplan Chair in Municipal Government at the Brooklyn College School of Business this year, and Lorraine Laighold ’64.

2015 Best of Brooklyn Gala
10. Edwin Cohen ’62, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation, accepts the 2015 Best of Brooklyn Award from President Karen L. Gould.

Zicklin Summer Fellows Awards
11. Recipients of the 2014/15 Zicklin Summer Fellows award join (front row, from right) President Karen L. Gould, Brooklyn College Foundation trustee and program sponsor Carol Zicklin ’61, and program coordinators Evelyn Gunther and Stephen Gracia.

Brooklyn College Baccalaureate Commencement 2015
12. Guests celebrate their graduation.

2015 Best of Brooklyn Gala
13. Nobel-prize winning columnist Paul Krugman discusses the Obama legacy with American political analyst, historian, and journalist Thomas Frank.

2015 Best of Brooklyn Gala
14. Students celebrate their graduation.

The Robert L. Hess Lecture
15. Nobel-prize winning columnist Paul Krugman discusses the Obama legacy with American political analyst, historian, and journalist Thomas Frank.
Dear Alumni,

Brooklyn, the most populous of New York City’s five boroughs (2.6 million), and the second most densely populated county in the nation, means business. Since 2003, the number of businesses in Brooklyn has grown by 21 percent and jobs have grown nearly twice as fast as in the rest of New York City, according to a 2014 New York State Comptroller’s economic snapshot of the borough.

Brooklyn College, with its 120 undergraduate/graduate degree programs and world-class faculty is positioned to add to the growth and success of the borough. Today, more than 17,000 students, both undergraduate and graduate, hail from 150 nations and speaking 105 languages, call Brooklyn College home. They deserve the opportunity to flourish in and beyond the classroom, and will do so with our support.

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) remains committed to fulfilling its mission to provide a lifelong association between Brooklyn College and its graduates, offering exceptional opportunities to current/prospective students, or support scholarships. They can—provide an internship, become a mentor, speak to become involved with their alma mater whatever way college, thank you and please continue. I invite all alumni to join me in returning to the main campus in Galloway.

Sara and Sam Schoffer Holocaust Resource Center, on the university’s main campus in Galloway.

Don’t see your class correspondent? Please contact Eileen Houelin at ehouelin@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Class Notes

Jeffrey S. Sigler ’92, ’95 M.S.

1947

Reva Frankin Biers
Class Correspondent
4831 Ellits Avenue
Torrance, CA 90505-4919
revabiers@sbcglobal.net

George Fisher was named the South Florida Veteran of the Year. He served in the Battle of the Bulge and Belgium and was a recipient of the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and French Legion of Honor.

1948

Dena Newman Sloan Arckawy
Class Correspondent
275-0 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G
New York, NY 10025-0209

Walter Lipiner, along with 13 other World War II veterans, received the French Legion of Honor from Philippe Hurlebert, consul general of France, who addressed the awardees with admiration and gratitude.

1954

Marlone (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman
Class Correspondent
255 West 46th Street, Apt. 6Q
New York, NY 10036-6986


1955

Mike Szulc
Class Correspondent
1551 East Mountain Street
Glando, CA 92527-1282
maluza@earthlink.net

A reception honoring retiring Stony Brook University professor Dr. Murray Kahn, rabbi emeritus of Beth Israel Congregation of Valley Stream, New Jersey, was held on May 4 at the Sara and Sam Schotten Holocaust Resource Center, on the university’s main campus in Galloway.

1961

Leon Glass ’63, one of the world’s leading theoretical biologists with the distinction of having made several scientific discoveries in his honor, received an Alumni Award at the 2015 Master’s Commencement Ceremony. St. Glass was also a keynote speaker.

Along with theoretical biology, Glass is also a trained chemist and a trailblazer in applying physics and mathematics to understand the complex physiological phenomena that occur with certain human ailments. He is currently a professor of physiology at McGill University in Montreal, holding the Isaac Rosenfeld Chair in Cardiology.

Glass was born and raised in Brooklyn. His mother was an elementary school teacher and his father a mathematics teacher at Samuel J. Tilden High School. After graduating from Erasmus Hall High School, Glass came to Brooklyn College in 1959 as a New York State Regents College Fellow. He graduated cum laude in 1963 with a bachelor of science in chemistry and won the American Institute of Chemists Award for Undergraduate Studies. He then studied at the University of Chicago, where he earned a Ph.D. in chemistry. He also met his wife there. They raised two children and remained married for 45 years, until Mrs. Glass’ death in 2014.

Glass’ work involves the use of mathematical and physical approaches to study human cardiovascular, genetic, neural, and visual systems, with possible practical applications in the treatment of atrial fibrillation, cardiac arrest, Parkinson’s disease, epilepsy, and neuroinflammation.

In 1969, Dr. Glass made a major discovery, known now as “Glass patterns,” that drastically improved understanding of how the human brain processes visual stimuli. In 1977 Glass and his colleague Michael Mackey introduced the journal Science, an equation, now called the “Mackey-Glass equation,” that illuminates how simple control mechanisms can lead to complex bodily rhythms such as the fluctuations in the number of circulating blood cells.

Dr. Glass’ numerous accomplishments have earned him, among other distinctions, the Society for Mathematical Biology’s 2013 Arthur T. Winfrey Prize and a 2015 Lady Davis Fellowship at Jerusalem University. Additionally, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the American Physical Society, the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Glass is the coauthor of two books, one of which, From Clocks to Chaos: The Rhythms of Life (Princeton, 1988), has been translated into several languages. He holds several patents, including an algorithm to detect cardiac arrhythmias that is now used in medical devices. —Robert Jones, Jr.

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37
A play by Art Schulman, titled Doubting Thomas, was performed at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood, California. The play ran from May 5 to June 21.

Barbara Serman Lavenec
Class Correspondent
24 Juliae Circ.
Albemarle, NC 27001-1807

Jonathan Chaves received the Lucien Stirk Prize, an annual award recognizing the best translation into English of book-length texts of Asian poetry or Zen Buddhism, for his work in the field of speech pathology, and a philanthropist after whom the Brooklyn College Speech Language Hearing Center is named.

Frank Romano
History of the Linotype Company,
1740 Kimball Street
Washington, DC 20009

Sara Goodman was appointed the financial secretary for the Society of the Highland Park Conservative Temple in New Jersey.

Paul Jay Edelman was elected Justice, Incorporated Village of Poquoson, Long Island, for a four-year term. He was also designated Empire State Council of the New York State Bar Association for his commitment to pro bono service.

Dr. Rebecca Fildes’ 67 was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2015 Baccalaureate Commencement Exercises for her vast achievements in the STEM fields and her lifelong commitment to population and public health.

In 1978, Davidou moved to Los Angeles, where she developed a successful private speech therapy practice and later launched a new career as a counselor. She founded the Davidou Counseling Center at A Place Called Home, a nonprofit youth program for at-risk children in the South Central section of the city. She is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of nine.

In 2007, Davidou donated $1 million to Brooklyn College’s Speech Language Hearing Center. This donation allowed the center, already regarded as one of the best in the nation, to modernize with state-of-the-art digital classrooms and upgraded facility research laboratories. The donation also established a scholarship fund for graduate students and expanded the department’s clinical programming. In her honor, the college renamed the center the Diana Rogovin Davidou Speech Language Hearing Center.

Diana Rogovin Davidou ‘66, ’73 M.S. received the Presidential Medal at the 2015 Baccalaureate Commencement Exercises. She is a counselor, a leader, in the field of speech pathology, and a philanthropist after whom the Brooklyn College Speech Language Hearing Center is named.

Born in the Manhattan Beach section of Brooklyn, Davidou’s mother was an American and her father a Russian immigrant, who, at age 15, escaped his home country with his mother. After attending Abraham Lincoln High School, Davidou enrolled in Brooklyn College. She graduated in 1966 with a bachelor of arts in speech, remaining at the college to continue her education, receiving a master of science in speech and hearing in 1973.

Diana Rogovin Davidou went on to teach speech communications in the New York City public high school system. Afterwards, she returned to Brooklyn College as an adjunct lecturer. In 1978, she moved to Los Angeles, where she developed a successful private speech therapy practice and later launched a new career as a counselor. She founded the Davidou Counseling Center at A Place Called Home, a nonprofit youth program for at-risk children in the South Central section of the city. She is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of nine.

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Davidou continues to use her vast skills and resources as a counselor, working pro bono to help those who are in need of her assistance. She is an avid painter and has been practicing her art for more than 20 years. She believes the key to success is to not fear obstacles, but find the courage to confront them, learn the lessons they provide, and use them as the fuel for forward action. The foundation for her understanding of these principles, she says, was laid at alma mater.

—Robert Jones, Jr.

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—Robert Jones, Jr.

Edward M. Greenpan
Class Correspondent
engr84@pctnet.ie

Dr. Stephen Jacobsen, distinguished professor of educational administration at the University of South Carolina, spent the 2015 spring semester as a visiting scholar at the College of Education at the University of Chang in Chong-Nan.

Diana Rogovin Davidou ‘66, ’73 M.S. received the Presidential Medal at the 2015 Baccalaureate Commencement Exercises. She is a counselor, a leader, in the field of speech pathology, and a philanthropist after whom the Brooklyn College Speech Language Hearing Center is named.

Born in the Manhattan Beach section of Brooklyn, Davidou’s mother was an American and her father a Russian immigrant, who, at age 15, escaped his home country with his mother. After attending Abraham Lincoln High School, Davidou enrolled in Brooklyn College. She graduated in 1966 with a bachelor of arts in speech, remaining at the college to continue her education, receiving a master of science in speech and hearing in 1973.

Diana Rogovin Davidou went on to teach speech communications in the New York City public high school system. Afterwards, she returned to Brooklyn College as an adjunct lecturer. In 1978, she moved to Los Angeles, where she developed a successful private speech therapy practice and later launched a new career as a counselor. She founded the Davidou Counseling Center at A Place Called Home, a nonprofit youth program for at-risk children in the South Central section of the city. She is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of nine.

In 2007, Davidou donated $1 million to Brooklyn College’s Speech Language Hearing Center. This donation allowed the center, already regarded as one of the best in the nation, to modernize with state-of-the-art digital classrooms and upgraded facility research laboratories. The donation also established a scholarship fund for graduate students and expanded the department’s clinical programming. In her honor, the college renamed the center the Diana Rogovin Davidou Speech Language Hearing Center.

Diana Rogovin Davidou continues to use her vast skills and resources as a counselor, working pro bono to help those who are in need of her assistance. She is an avid painter and has been practicing her art for more than 20 years. She believes the key to success is to not fear obstacles, but find the courage to confront them, learn the lessons they provide, and use them as the fuel for forward action. The foundation for her understanding of these principles, she says, was laid at alma mater.

—Robert Jones, Jr.
In 1992, Harkavy was elected to the state Supreme Court and served until 1994, when she retired. Following the sentencing, the majority of the violations in the six-story building he owned in the Prospect-Lefferts Gardens neighborhood of Brooklyn. Following the sentencing, the majority of the building’s problems were resolved within a month of his release.

Famously known for a unique 1987 sentencing of an unscrupulous landlord to 15 days of house arrest in one of his own ramshackle buildings, Harkavy earned a reputation as a common-sense public official. The landlord in question, Morris Gross, had failed to address more than 400 housing code violations in the six-story building he owned in the Prospect-Lefferts Gardens neighborhood of Brooklyn. Following the sentencing, the majority of the building’s problems were resolved within a month of his release.

After World War II, it returned to Brooklyn College to lecture in the Department of Anthropology, where she taught returning war veterans and developed numerous courses focusing on Africa and race. In 1960, she resumed her studies at Columbia, working under noted anthropologists Conrad Annerstrom and Paul S. Breaker, who would engineer and execute an immersive therapy program for 11 children at a remote island in the Adriatic. The experience would narrow her focus and lead her to found, along with her then-husband, Tev Goldenberg, the Blueberry Treatment Centers for emotionally disturbed children.

Rothenberg wrote several books relating the stories of her young patients and her experiences working with them. Most prominent among her works was Children with Mental Illness: A Procedure for Care (Fulton Books, 2015), Fuchs closely analyzed events leading up to the creation of the Blueberry Treatment Centers for emotionally disturbed children.

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Two children, two grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

—Mark Zhuravsky

The Challenge of Civil Rights in Urban Schools (Free Press, 1966) and Extraordinary Boys and Girls (Dial Press, 1977), which is cited as having helped alter the public perception of mental illness. Rothenberg continued to publish and be recognized as a pioneer in the field of the anthropology of education, Fuchs applied anthropological insight to the problems of inner-city schools in a number of articles and two volumes. Piksters at the Gates: The Challenge of Civil Rights in Urban Schools (Free Press, 1966) and Teachers Talk: Views from Inside City Schools (Doubleday Anchor, 1969). In her final book, Troubleshooting the School System: The Road ahead for the Public Schools (Corners, Fulton Books, 2015), Fuchs closely analyzed events leading up to the creation of the Blueberry Treatment Centers for emotionally disturbed children.

In 2013, the Sive family contributed $100,000 to found the David Sive Award, supporting tuition and other education expenses for select students who meet the established criteria.

——David Sive '43, an attorney and professor recognized as a pioneer in the field of United States environmental law, passed away on March 12 in West Orange, New Jersey. He was 91 years old.

Born in Brooklyn on September 22, 1922, Sive obtained a bachelor’s degree in political science from Brooklyn College in 1943, prior to serving in the Army. Wounded twice in the Battle of the Bulge, he received the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. In 1948, Sive earned a law degree from Columbia University, marking the beginning of a legal career that also involved a run for Congress.

One of the founding partners of Sive, Paget & Reisel, a leading environmental law firm, he launched multiple environmental advocacy groups before the issue took center stage in American politics and the public consciousness. The Storm King Mountain case, which Sive joined as a litigator in the mid-1960s, brought on the basis of potential environmental and aesthetic harm.

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He is survived by his wife, three sons, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

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In 1992, Harkavy was elected to the state Supreme Court and served until his retirement in 2004. He was elected as the MCA Board of Directors. He is survived by his wife, three sons, and six grandchildren.

—Mark Zhuravsky
Bringing in the Harvest, Helping to Win the War

“I am glad you asked about memories of bean-picking days in Morrisville, N.Y.,” Doris Wallach Guttentag ’46 says of her time participating in the Brooklyn College Farm Labor Project, an initiative sponsored by both state and federal agencies that sent some 200 students to farms in New York and New Jersey, giving them summer employment in “essential war work” during World War II.

“I was there the summers of 1942 and 1943,” Guttentag says. “Fortunately my sister Phyllis saw the squib and the picture in your magazine and alerted me. It was the highlight of my young life. I was a city girl in a commuter college and know little more than the community I was born into.”

“We were housed in an old house. The girls were all from Brooklyn College and were in one house, and the boys were in another house, a mix of students from Brooklyn and City Colleges,” writes Miriam “Mickey” Berkowitz Levine, who volunteered to work on a Dutchess County farm in Red Hook, New York. In a 1942 article in the New York World-Telegram, Barbara K. O’Neil, placement associate in the Brooklyn College personnel department, gave details of the project: “I tell them that it means hard work, long hours and small pay”—the student workers’ pay ranged from $50 to $75 for the summer. According to O’Neil, the low pay left no doubt that the students were serious about helping out with the war effort.

“We were all willing workers, getting up early each day,” says Levine. “We all had a good time, aware that our effort was our way to contribute to the war.”

“The women students were assigned to lighter farmwork, such as berry picking, tending vegetable gardens, and helping in the milk rooms. But the work was not all farm labor. In the evening students studied farm biology, geology, rural sociology, and war service courses in military topography and navigation.

“In Morrisville I learned about country life and living with other girls like me. Some of my lifelong friends I made there,” says Guttentag.

And although O’Neil insisted that socializing would be minimal because the tire and gas situation—rubber being scarce and gas being rationed due to the war—would cut down on any visits to villages for dances or movies, the students still managed to have a good time.

“ASTP (Army Specialized Training Program) men from Colgate University and Hamilton College came to see us on weekends,” says Guttentag.

“Songs were made up about the work we were doing,” recalls Levine. “Several students and I hitched a ride to Tanglewood on a four-day time off. It was wonderful and we were young and very enthusiastic about what we were doing.”

In the early 1970s, alumnus Howard Haykin ’73 was a member of the Dwight White House Plan, which was not an actual house, but “a social hub for students at Brooklyn College” as Haykin describes it. The D.W.H.P was a social hub for students at Brooklyn College, which Haykin describes as its “social hub for students at Brooklyn College” as Haykin describes it. The D.W.H.P was a social hub for students at Brooklyn College, which Haykin describes as its “social hub for students at Brooklyn College” as Haykin describes it. The D.W.H.P was a social hub for students at Brooklyn College, which Haykin describes as its “social hub for students at Brooklyn College.”

As an alum, your support of the Brooklyn College Foundation’s Annual Fund makes a world of difference – together we will continue our legacy of success. Make your gift today and know you make the difference.

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