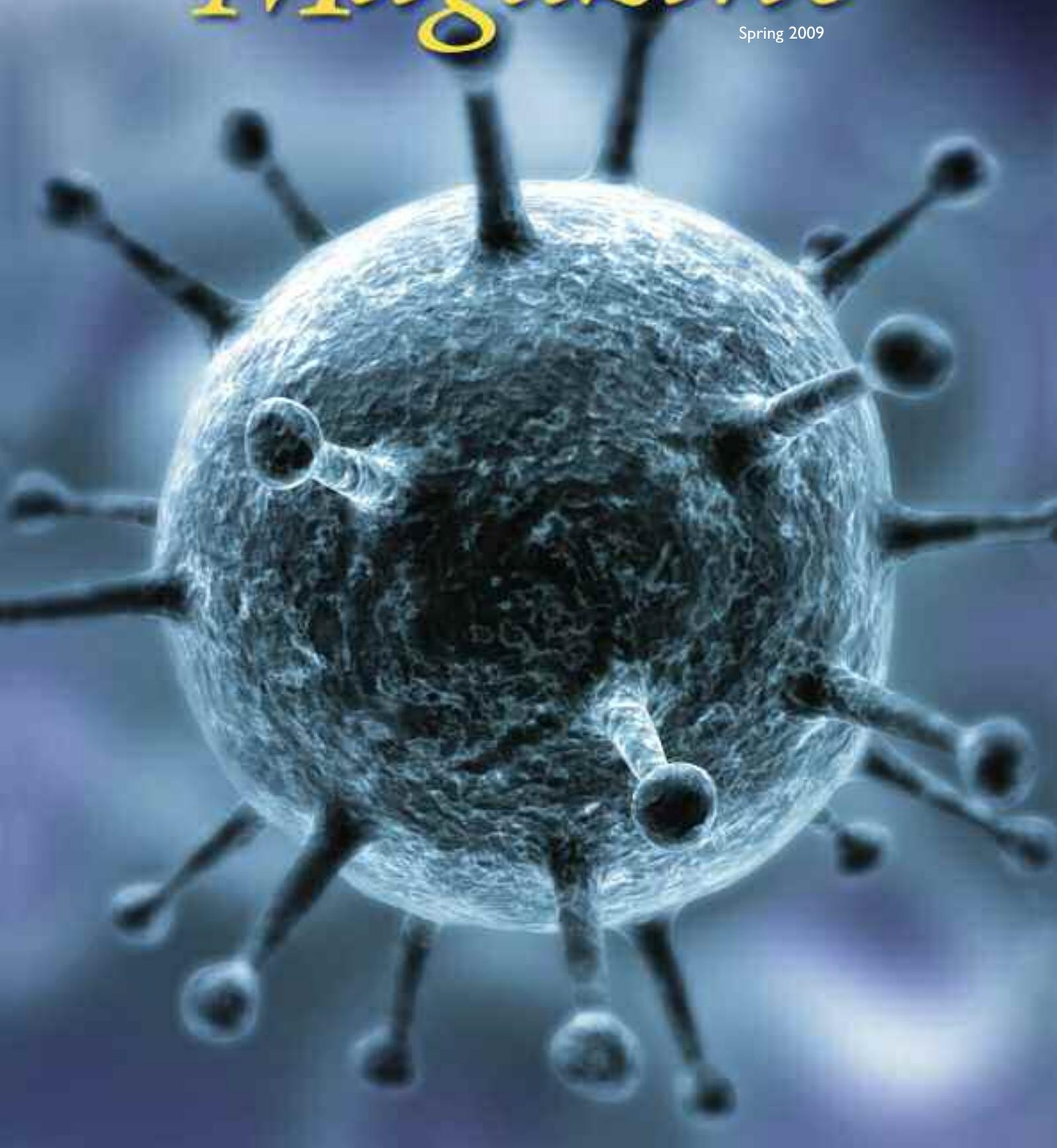


Brooklyn College *Magazine*

Spring 2009



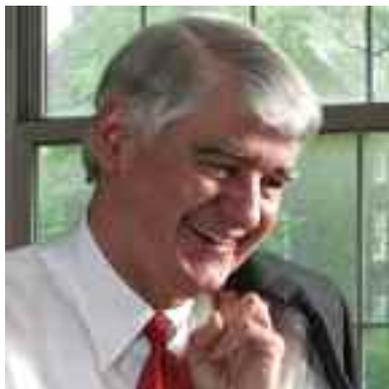
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—Brooklyn College
Alumni Association



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Front cover: Molecule of life-threatening virus
Back cover: Free Speech on the Quad, April 2009

From the Editor:

Scientific literacy is becoming a necessity in these complicated days. For this reason, CUNY has proclaimed 2005 to 2015 to be the decade of science—a period in which the University is renewing its commitment to its science facilities and training students for a future in which scientific understanding and knowledge will be of the utmost importance.

With that in mind, this issue examines the work our teaching scientists are conducting on campus. Brooklyn College has been the home of some illustrious scientists, among them the microbiologist Albert Schatz, the co-discoverer of streptomycin, and the psychologist Abraham Maslow, considered the leader of the humanistic school of psychology, to name but two.

You will read about some of our best current faculty researchers, including Richard Magliozzo, who is studying drug-resistant tuberculosis; Roberto Sanchez-Delgado, who is researching malaria; and Joshua Cheng, who is developing new ways to clean up the environment, among a host of others. A superb new science complex is on the drawing board for the campus but, for now, the magazine takes a look at the Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC), which has a new director and is reaching out to help save city waterways, including Jamaica Bay.

On another note, we hope you enjoy the interview President Christoph M. Kimmich gave to the magazine as he was leaving office after serving almost ten years. His thoughts on the role of public education and on his more than thirty-six-year tenure at the College reveal much about the man. It's been our pleasure to write about him, and we'll miss the kind support—he and his wife, Dr. Flora Graham Kimmich, have given to us over the years.

Pat Willard
Editor

To the Editor:

I do very much enjoy the magazine; it helps to stir fond memories of younger and free-spirited days.

The unusual part of my work life has been devoted to thirty years of working with Native American tribal organizations throughout the country, consulting and advising these entities on management strategies and legal issues. The advent of Indian gaming has dramatically changed the life of most tribal members; some ways for the better and, of course, some for the worse[e].

I've traveled to virtually all states of our country (and Canada) and seen some awe-inspiring sites; yet, every time I've had occasion to visit Brooklyn, I drive by the campus...and simply reminisce. Keep up the excellent work.

Dr. Joseph Pluchinota, '71

Alumni Newsmakers

To the Editor:

I was the conductor of the Brooklyn College Chorus from 1972 to 1988 and have just read your article about Fred Lonberg-Holm, Class of 1988. I wanted to tell you how happy I am that Mr. Lonberg-Holm chose to "pick up his cello again," thus sparing the dedicated members of the Brooklyn College Chorus from having to experience his "rock and roll attitude." I trust that, after he "picked up the cello again," he didn't play in the Conservatory Orchestra, for I doubt that the cello section would have been happy playing with someone who wished to "redefine the instrument—essentially crafting a new identity as an 'anti-cellist.'"

Please do not equate the minimal musical skills which allow one to be a success in popular music with the



incredibly high level of skill required just to attempt a career in what is commonly called classical music. Your article is full of what you must think are clever-sounding phrases. But they are an insult to those of us who have dedicated our lives to training tomorrow's classical musicians.

Professor Emeritus Harry Saltzman

Dante Negro

To the Editor:

The *Brooklyn College Magazine* serves as an important communications medium for our entire BC community. By reading the fall 2008 issue I learned of the passing of Dante Negro of which I was unaware even though I was an adjunct lecturer at the College for over twenty-five years, 1949 to 1974, in the Romance Language Department and previous to that a BC student from 1940 to 1946. I knew Dante as a colleague. So thanks to the magazine, we are all appraised of the good happenings as well as the sad.

Paul Ash

Performing Arts

To the Editor:

After reading of the new performing arts center to be built at dear old BC, I couldn't help but think back to my days putting on shows in 4200 Boylan Hall.

I was part of the Class of '47, along with Fred Hellerman of the Weavers, Marvin Kaplan of TV sitcoms, and Ben Hammer of the New York stage. There were some 20 of us who lived for Masquers and the Varsity Players; amazingly, 17 or 18 of that group made our livings—and sometimes still do—in theatre and television. Many of us still get together about once a year in Manhattan.

My association with BC continued for quite a while: My husband, Frank, then one of NBC's first TV directors, worked

with Professor Paul Williams to design and build BC's first television space in the mid-fifties.

Our wonderful mentors, "Skip" Davidson (whose son, Gordon, was a very well-known stage director for years) and "Doc" Foster, did some extraordinary productions in that cramped space. I can only imagine what they might do in the proposed performing arts center!

Doris Jacoby

*(née Doris Faith Rosenzweig,
professionally Doris Storm)*

Paul Newman

To the Editor:

Liked your fall 2008 issue. The "Paul Newman and the Brooklyn Kid" back cover really caught my attention, because I was a student at the time and remember his visit. I was also a film student with Larry Gold and knew him well. But in looking at the photo, the tall fellow standing to Newman's right does not look like Larry Gold, as you've designated. Forgive me if I'm mistaken about this, but that fellow looks like Glen (don't recall his last name), who was another film student at the time. I'm almost sure it's not Larry. Glen, Larry, and I took many film classes together.

If I'm wrong, my apologies. But another film student at the time, who I'm presently in touch with, made the same observation about the photo. No big deal. Just thought I'd mention it, though you're probably already aware of it.

Steve Feinberg

A Correction

In putting together a magazine, we do our best to be accurate. In the fall 2008 issue we made the kind of mistake that kept us up for many nights. As Mr. Feinberg rightfully points out, the picture we used on the back cover does not show Larry Gold with Paul Newman. Larry did, indeed, accompany and drive Newman around, but somehow Glen Frontera got into the picture. Despite identification from three separate sources on the archival photograph, we got it wrong. When we called his parents, Hilary and Arlene Gold, to make our apologies, they quickly forgave us and lent us this terrific photo to show the real Larry.



Sex, Drugs, and **the Internet**



The World Wide Web has transformed many aspects of our lives, including the way people find sex partners and establish long-term relationships, according to an article published in the *International Journal of Sexual Health*, November 2008. Christian Grov, Brooklyn College assistant

professor of health and nutrition sciences, helped analyze a 2004 MSNBC survey for the journal article.

"The Internet has revolutionized how people talk about sex," says Grov, a team member of the Center for HIV Education Studies and Training (CHEST), directed by

Hunter College Professor Jeffrey T. Parsons, chairperson of the Psychology Department.

"It is more difficult to approach someone in a bar, and say, 'I want to do this with you,' than to post it in your profile," says Grov. "So if you had to do it the old way, maybe you wouldn't have sex as often."

Grov, a sex researcher who specializes in hidden and hard-to-reach populations, including club (multiple) drug users and gay and bisexual men, likes the large data pool afforded by Internet-based research, but notes, "there is a debate about whether the Internet facilitates and increases risk-taking."

Some websites are more controversial than others, but Grov does not advocate that they be shut down. "All you are doing is closing your access to that population," he says, thereby sabotaging effective educational outreach and intervention. Do some sites pose a real public health threat? "A lot of fantasy happens online," says Grov, and while multiple partners can increase the risk of sexually transmitted disease and infection, "some argue that now that you can screen your partners online, it's actually safer." —L.L.

Making a Home Depot for **Mixed Realities**

Software designers of the future will need greater sophistication and a wider variety of interface devices to pursue their goals. At least that's what a team of Brooklyn College researchers thinks. This past September they launched a two-year effort aimed at developing a toolkit of "plug-and-play" components that will let applications designers focus on creativity, rather than on a tangle of interface hardware.

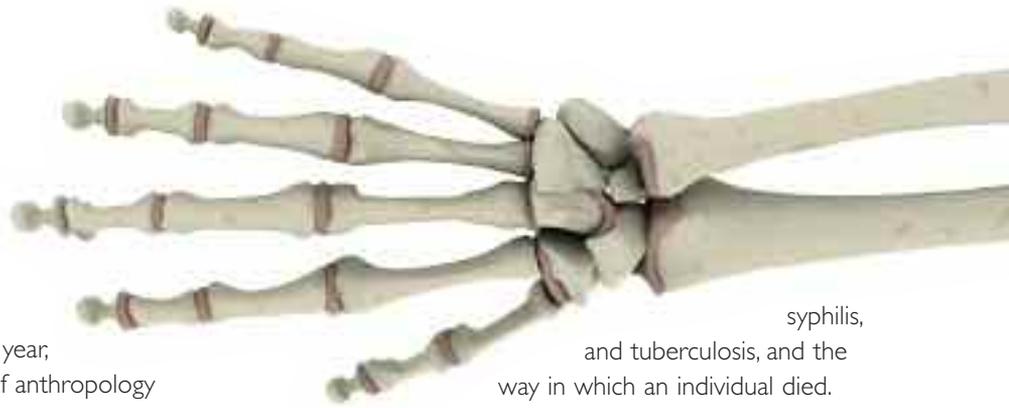
The team consists of Professor Simon Parsons and Visiting Associate Professor Sheila A. Tejada, both of the Computer and Information Science Department, and Associate Professor John J. A. Jannone, of the Television and Radio Department and the Center for Computer Music. Their work is being funded by an National Science Foundation grant of nearly \$200,000. Tejada is serving as principle investigator.

Parsons, whose area of research includes communication among autonomous computer components, likes to use a plumbing analogy to explain the team's objective. He says designers have to encode application software components from scratch in much the same way that plumbers



Left to right: Simon Parsons, Sheila Tejada,

Boning Up with Bonnie



First the good news: for the eleventh year, Bonnie Gustav, associate professor of anthropology and archaeology, has been voted favorite teacher. The sad news, at least for her students and colleagues: after thirty-seven years in the classroom teaching the undergraduate courses Human Osteology and Anthropological Perspectives on Sexual Behavior, Gustav is retiring. A physical anthropologist, Gustav participated in the excavation and analysis of skeletal remains at such major sites as the Dickson Mounds (Illinois), Sirmium (Serbia), and Mendes (Egypt), where, among the local crew, as the lead identifier and excavator of human remains, she was known as “mother of the bones.”

We just had to ask her some questions.

What is it about bones?

“Without a burial context or lab, you can’t tell a skeleton from the reign of Ramses II from that of a modern murder victim, but you can tell the deceased person’s age, sex, or population affinity, inferred from genetically based characteristics, such as ‘Inca bones,’ an island-like configuration of skull sutures.”

What else can a skeleton tell you?

“Bones can give evidence of diseases, such as rickets,

syphilis, and tuberculosis, and the way in which an individual died.

But they can also tell you about how strong a person was from their muscle markings and about the person’s diet from their size.

“The physical stressors of daily life leave their marks. In cultures without chairs, a lifetime of squatting creates flat spots on the back of both sides of each knee, for instance. Modern guitar players, knitters, and crocheters look like ancient basket weavers in one way—they have extra sesamoid bones in their fingers.”

What were some of your favorite teaching moments?

“In Osteology, it was watching students progress from an initial response of ‘Oh, that’s disgusting’ to a fascination with the human skeleton.

“In Sexual Behavior there were a lot of dropped jaws from day one, because there was nothing I wouldn’t talk about, such as the practice of piercing women’s nipples in Victorian England to improve the ability to nurse infants, for instance, or incising the base of the penis of every male, except first-born sons, in northern Uganda among the Caramoja, producing ‘whistling cocks,’ so that only the first-born son could procreate. But what consistently amazed the students was how much similarity there was



and John Jannone

once had to cut and shape their own pipes. “We want to become their hardware store—their Home Depot or Lowe’s. We want to supply them with precut and preshaped components that they can easily plunk together,” he says.

Tejada, who came to Brooklyn College last year from Tulane University in Louisiana, adds that the team also wants “to offer these components to designers on an open-source basis.”

Much of the work in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics that Tejada previously carried out in New Orleans forms the basis of the team’s current research. She and Parsons are focusing on mixed reality—in which elements from the real world outside the computer interact with others from the virtual world inside.

The team’s goal is to create components out of which designers can construct a range of mixed-reality applications. The researchers will use these components to develop sample creative applications and evaluate the components to assess if they actually increase creativity. “That’s Professor Jannone’s expertise,” says Tejada.

Jannone focuses on video design for live performance, multimedia programming and interactive design, sound design, computer music, and artistic collaboration. He will use the team’s components to develop a mixed-reality game and an art exhibit for evaluation of the team’s toolkit.

“We want to see if the tools we’ve created not only work, but also if the programs are creative—even more

Brooklyn Harmonies

It's just all so much for these second- and third-graders at Brooklyn's P.S. 152. Learning to read and play instrumental music is daunting enough, but now all these reporters from NBC and BBC want to interview them. There are release forms their parents have to sign and upcoming concerts in which they will showcase what they've been learning to the rest of the school, not to mention the important guests from places like the Brooklyn Philharmonic.

Many of these kids arrive at school at 7:30 a.m. so they can receive a free breakfast. It's past 4 p.m. now, and they're still being asked to sit still—and to focus. The Brooklyn College students who are here training the kids after school five days a week on the violin, cello, flute, trumpet, trombone, and percussion like that word “focus.” Katherin Xiang, seven, so tiny in her bright pink sweatshirt and fuzzy ponytail, hardly looks capable of carrying her cello, let alone playing it. And when Xiang's instructor, Hyejin Cho, who will graduate from the Conservatory of Music of Brooklyn College this spring with a B.A. in cello performance, calls on her for a practice solo, Kawan Joseph, also seven, can't handle it. He was expecting to be called on as well, because everyone else so far has practiced in a duet.

“Only her?” complains Joseph, who's been fiddling with his music book for several minutes.

These seven- and eight-year-olds are eager to show off their skills and to play in harmony, which just happens to be the name of the organization responsible for their training—the Harmony Program. Housed within CUNY's Office of Academic Affairs, the Harmony Program recently recruited Brooklyn College students for a pilot program to provide musical instruction to elementary school students. Modeling its approach on the world-famous El Sistema in Venezuela, the Harmony Program trained a group of about a half dozen Conservatory of Music undergraduates, graduate students, and recent alumni. This year, those musicians in turn trained forty-three students from P.S. 152, located just a few blocks from the College. Like El Sistema—Venezuela's National System of Youth and Children's Orchestras—the program has a social mission: to transform the lives of low-income, at-risk, and special-needs youth. It is one of only a handful of similar programs around the country.



“We simultaneously want to train a new generation of music teachers and introduce music to a new generation of students who probably would never have been exposed to music in this way,” says Anne Fitzgibbon, the executive director of the program. “Music is so much more than just learning to play an instrument. It can change a child's life. It teaches children to communicate with each other, to cooperate, and to express their individual creative voices.”

Fitzgibbon, who also holds the title of director of operations and is the deputy to the senior university dean for academic affairs and dean of the School of Professional Studies at CUNY, originally began the program in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. It has received funding from the Independence Community Foundation, the Morris and Alma Shapiro Fund, the Bernstein Family Foundation, City Councilman Kendall Stewart, and CUNY. The children are provided with musical instruments, books, and other supplies. They also have the opportunity to attend concerts, lectures, and other events at famous venues around the city, such as Carnegie Hall.

“The Harmony students think they are the hot stars, and they really are,” says Rhonda Farkas, principal of P.S. 152, where enough students live at or below the poverty level that the school has universal free lunch and is eligible for additional federal funding. “They're the ‘in’ crowd. They've earned the admiration and respect of their schoolmates. Everyone is very excited about it.” —J.E.

Back from **Abroad**



Traveling to lands far from one's familiar surroundings can be a most rewarding path to knowledge.

Since the inception of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship program in 2000, four Brooklyn College students have nabbed the prestigious study-abroad award. They've traveled to China, Italy, Switzerland, and Egypt. *Brooklyn College Magazine* recently checked in with the latest two to return from their journeys.

Junior Jamar Browne, who majors in business, management, and finance, went to Schiller International University (also known as the American College of Switzerland) in Leysin, near Geneva.

Witnessing from abroad the financial crisis at home and the election of the first black president was a unique experience for him.

"Switzerland is the hub of social justice," says Browne, who grew up making frequent visits back and forth between the Caribbean island nation of Grenada and the United States. "Everyone was rooting for Barack Obama, so there was a lot of excitement when he won."

At the same time, the reaction to the financial crisis was widespread disappointment. "So much of the world looks to America for direction," he says. "Policies are formed around forecasts of what the Americans will do. Most people thought we had finally outdone ourselves."

Browne took four courses and also scored an internship with the university's marketing department. His experience was enhanced by the opportunity to travel around Europe, visiting Paris, Rome, and Zurich.

"They are some of the most beautiful places in the world," says Browne. He notes with appreciation that "pizza was cheaper than water in Rome," and he marvels over their art and architecture. "You just can't lose," he says.

In fact, the travel bug bit him so hard that he came back intent on encouraging others to learn through travel. During the spring semester he kept busy lobbying the various factions of the Brooklyn College student

government to earmark some of their funds as a pool that students can tap for their own travel.

"Going somewhere that's completely foreign, immersing yourself in a culture that is so unlike anything you've ever known..." muses Browne before he goes speechless. "I can't even put it into words. I just think everyone should go."

Senior Jillian Justh, a linguistics major, actually ended up returning her scholarship after she got to Egypt and revised her goals. "Of course I wanted to do everything the hard way," she says, explaining that her scholarship money would still have left her about \$1,000 short of her tuition and fees at the American University in Cairo, not to mention the cost of accommodations and food. "My main goal was to learn Arabic, and I thought I could do that if I lived in Cairo on my own."

So she contacted some friends of friends and ended up moving around Cairo for some two months. "I had taken Spanish for a year at Brooklyn College and got an A, but I couldn't speak it well until I went to South America for two months and immersed myself in it. I decided that would be the best way to go about learning Arabic, too. I would hang out with a big group of Egyptians and just write words down and ask a lot of questions," says Justh, who knew four Arabic words before the trip. "I won't say I'm completely fluent now, but I can definitely hold a conversation in Arabic."

Justh, who had previously traveled to Ecuador through a CUNY program and to Poland and Colombia independently, took the spring semester off to travel to Colombia again, to practice her Spanish. She is also conducting research there for her senior thesis, in which she plans to compare the displacement of Palestinians and Colombians.

An Honors Academy student, Justh is not sure what she will do when she graduates, but she's hoping it involves travel. "I know I'm getting a good education, so I will have options," she says. —J.E.

History Man

A Legendary Teacher's Second Act

Hans Trefousse, distinguished professor emeritus of history, stands before a class of students and makes American history come alive, just as he has done every semester since joining the Brooklyn College faculty in 1946. The eighty-seven-year-old, who retired in 1998, now teaches adult learners in the Institute for Retirees in Pursuit of Education (IRPE), an organization of older Brooklynites who attend informal classes at Brooklyn College—many led by retired academics or other IRPE members.

But Trefousse is special. Maybe it's because he's one of the most prolific living historians of the Civil War, with ten books to his credit (seventeen counting the volumes he's edited). Maybe it's because of his waggish charm, as when he interrupts his lecture to peer at his class from beneath shaggy eyebrows and points out that Teddy Roosevelt, who "may have coined the phrase 'speak softly and carry a big stick,' certainly never spoke softly himself." Or maybe it's because he's clearly in love with American history—a passion that dates to his boyhood in Frankfurt, Germany.

"When I was a kid I would watch American movies—Westerns and the like—dubbed into German," he recalls. "When Hitler came to power, we realized that as Jews we had to leave. Fortunately we had relatives in the United States, so we could emigrate. From the time I got here I wanted to be all-American, and studying history was just part of that."

His classes, among the most popular offered by IRPE, contain a fair share of his former Brooklyn College students, like Esther Holler, who first took a course with Professor Trefousse as a Brooklyn College freshman in 1954. "He's the reason I majored in history," Holler says enthusiastically. "It was the most exciting class I had. He has the most wonderful sense of humor."

At the Brooklyn College IRPE, Trefousse teaches a course on modern American diplomatic history and another on the Civil War and Reconstruction. He drives to campus from his home in Staten Island, but he's slowed down in recent years. While some memories are fading, others remain particularly sharp, especially those of his wife, the former Rashelle Friedlander, who died in 1999: "I was married for fifty-three years, and I can't think of another woman. She was the love of my life."

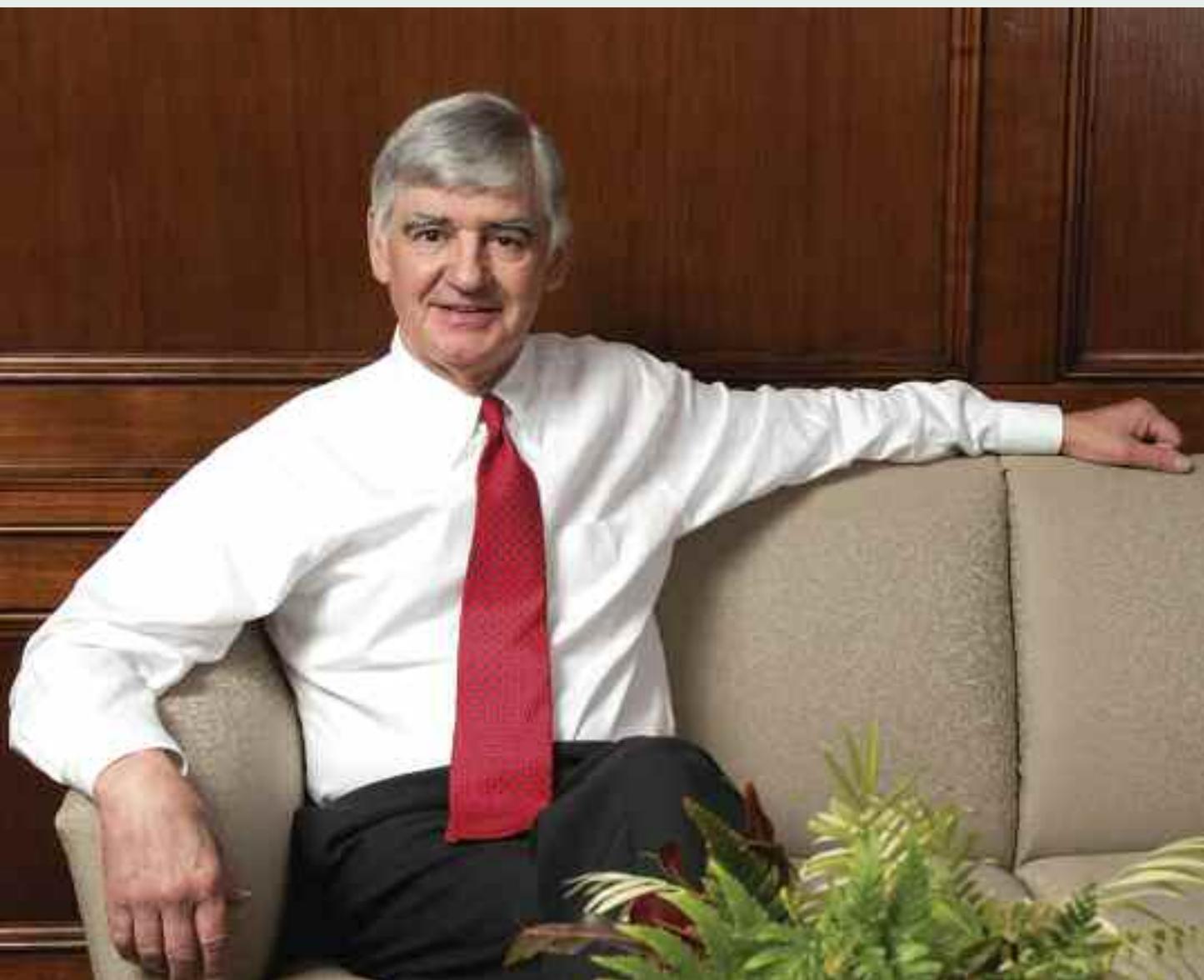
His own story, especially his tenure as a prison interrogator during the Second World War, is of interest to younger historians, like Brooklyn College's Steven Remy, who is writing a book on German Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany who served in the U.S. Army. "We never tortured anybody," Trefousse recalls. "The way you get information is to trick them. We used to tell the prisoners that we had two internment camps, one in Florida and the other in Siberia. I would hang a sign around the neck of a prisoner that said 'Russia' and send him out into the yard. He would ask



a guard what the sign meant. Nine times out of ten the prisoner came right back in and told us everything we wanted to know."

Trefousse's interest as a historian lies with the Civil War, and no one researching the era's more colorful characters, including Thaddeus Stevens, Andrew Johnson, Benjamin Butler, Benjamin Wade, or the Radical Republicans, can go very far without encountering his scholarship. His most recent book, published in 2005, is *First Among Equals: Abraham Lincoln's Reputation during His Administration* (Fordham University Press), and he is currently writing an article on Lincoln's immediate predecessors in the White House, the desultory trio of Fillmore, Pierce, and Buchanan.

At the end of his last lecture of the spring semester, he accepted the applause of his class and a few congratulatory handshakes and was immediately out the door and on to the sunny Brooklyn College Quadrangle, heading toward his next appointment. For Hans Trefousse, there is always more history to be made. —J.F.



Reflections

*An Exemplary President Looks Back
at His Extraordinary Times.*

by Pat Willard

In January, President Christoph M. Kimmich announced his plans to retire from Brooklyn College at the end of this academic year. Since then, much of the community has attempted to imagine what the College he has called his professional home for thirty-six years will be like without him.

In the midst of a busy spring schedule—and giving no indication of slowing down from his duties—the President graciously sat down with us to reflect upon his time at Brooklyn College and his hopes for its future.

On your career at the College

BCM: You came to the College in 1973 as a young member of the History Department. You have degrees from Haverford College and Oxford University and a few prestigious grants under your belt. What attracted you to Brooklyn College and the City University?

CMK: When I came for an interview at the College, it was the first time I had set foot in a public institution of higher learning—or in Brooklyn for that matter. I had taught at private institutions, most recently at Columbia University, and in fact my entire education, from kindergarten through graduate school, had been private. It didn't take me long to see that Brooklyn College offered an opportunity ... an opportunity to be part of, to be involved in, something that appealed to me enormously—the commitment, so quintessentially American, to provide students with an affordable education of high quality. I was captivated by the notion, and I never looked back.

BCM: In your time here, you've seen a lot of changes on campus and in the University (from open enrollment to fiscal instability, the creation of the core curriculum, and a rebirth, of sorts, in the University and certainly the College). As a historian—as well as a participant—can you share your thoughts about your overall experience?

CMK: Brooklyn College has always been sensitive to the themes of the larger national conversation, whether open admissions, general education,



Teaching in the History Department

or the return to standards and accountability. But it responded very much on its own terms. When we introduced the core curriculum, for example, we made national news. One of the glories of being a public institution is that it has the freedom to experiment, to test on the ground, as it were, promising changes in higher education. And we took full advantage of that.

BCM: Speaking of the core, you helped to develop its curriculum, specifically the history component. What ideals governed you in its development?

CMK: We wanted our students to have a solid foundation for advanced study; to expose them to different ways of looking at the world, whether it was through the eyes of a scientist, a musician, or a historian; to educate and equip them for the world beyond college. That's what the core is meant to do. In the Department of History, the question we tried to answer was how, without overwhelming them, we could give students an understanding of the

development of the Western world, an understanding not just of Europe or of the United States but of the idea of the West, which has shaped so much of our world today.

BCM: When you joined the administrative side of the house, you didn't teach. Did you miss being in the classroom?

CMK: Teaching is enormously rewarding. I taught until I took office as President, when I found I could no longer give teaching the time it deserved. It was important to me, even as an administrator; that I not lose touch with students, that I remain abreast of their interests and concerns, that I be in a position to talk about them from first-hand knowledge. I've tried to make up for the loss of classroom contact by meeting with students in various settings, formal and informal, but it's never quite the same.

BCM: You have said that serving as Interim Chancellor of CUNY was an enormous learning experience for you. Your skin toughened. You



Meeting with students on September 11, 2001

learned a lot about yourself. Can you elaborate a little on what that transition and experience were like?

CMK: The City University is a formidable institution, and as Chancellor, even Interim Chancellor, you're always in the limelight. I held that position at a time when the University was under siege, as someone said, subjected to harsh criticism by politicians and in the press—and even by its own faculty when controversial decisions had to be made, as for example, abolishing remediation at the senior colleges. In speaking for the University, I could count on the support of colleagues at the Central Office, of members of the Board of Trustees, and of the various colleges. In fact, I made a point of visiting all the colleges, getting to know what they were like, how they were led and administered, and what distinguished one from the others. It was a crash course that stood me in good stead when I came back to Brooklyn College.

On your presidency

BCM: You started your presidency with an ambitious agenda that would make Brooklyn College a model of public higher education. Chief among the goals you set out were to make the campus more student-centered, more technologically advanced, and financially strong. Having achieved these goals, of which among them are you most proud?

CMK: To be student-centered trumps everything. Technological advances and financial strength are necessary because they make a student-centered campus possible. Student-centered means that everything we do—how we shape our programs, how we teach, how we mentor and counsel, how we stimulate an interest in cocurricular activities—gives students the kind of preparation they need for productive careers and satisfying lives. Our alumni, as good as any by all measures, are a model for me.

BCM: Is that why, before your first day at work as President, you called

students—out of the blue—and asked them about their experience at Brooklyn College? What were you seeking to discover?

CMK: I called some sixty-odd students, to introduce myself, hear about their experience at the College, ask them what they would like to see done. It was an enlightening exercise. I heard what the College meant to them, what they thought of the faculty, what they thought of their fellow students. It was marvelous. But I also got an earful I would rather not have had—complaints about the state of the campus, about how students were treated. All that helped me conceptualize the student-centered campus.

BCM: It has to be said that one of the clear improvements in the last ten years is faculty recruitment. What has that meant to the College?

CMK: After little hiring for more than two decades, the College was fortunate in being able to bring in significant numbers of new faculty. More than half of the teaching faculty has come here in the last ten years. And you can tell the difference: they bring new talents and new energies, fresh ideas, a commitment to students, a strong interest in the College. That changes the campus culture, changes what we do and how we do it. It is the new faculty that will shape the College's future, and we can move toward that future with confidence.

BCM: One of your most far-reaching goals was for the College to become more of a resource for Brooklyn. Do you feel that you succeeded in this?

CMK: Brooklyn College is Brooklyn's college. We participate in community building, assist with neighborhood revitalization, play a prominent role in the public schools, use the borough as a laboratory or source of research. We benefit and thrive if we are part of the borough, which looks to us to educate its sons and daughters. And, of course, it is great fun to be part of Brooklyn's renaissance.

BCM: When you came into the office, the country was on the crest of a boom (just before—or at—the bursting of the dot-com bubble). Now you are governing a public institution that is at an even more critical juncture, economically speaking. What challenges do you foresee in maintaining an economic lifeline for the College and its students? What lies ahead?

CMK: There are always pressures from the outside. We're being asked to be more efficient and to be accountable. We're going to have to compete for resources without sacrificing quality. But we have seen hard times before, and we have managed to survive, even prosper. These last ten years were very productive. We built, hired, expanded, became more diverse. We could strike off in new directions, we could experiment. We now live in tighter times, and that limits our options. But that doesn't mean that we lose momentum. My successor will inherit a place that is lively, stable, thriving. It is academically superior, financially sound (not least through the cushion our alumni have given us with their gifts), and has modern facilities and an enviable reputation.

On your personal experience and the future

BCM: Looking back, what do you see as the major change in the time of your presidency?

CMK: There are new faces, new programs, new buildings. We pride ourselves on what we do in the classroom and laboratory, challenging students and helping them succeed; we pride ourselves on creating and disseminating knowledge; we pride ourselves on a beautiful and well-functioning campus. The enemy, it would seem to me, is complacency. We must always be ready to adjust and adapt, be alive to changes in the disciplines, able to find ways that allow us to be more effective—though never at the expense of our basic values.

BCM: Are we where we want to be? Is there unfinished business?

CMK: The College never stops being a work in progress. Looking back, and looking ahead, we are concerned about maintaining enrollment and attracting top-achieving students, about supporting the faculty even more in their research and day-to-day activities, about modernizing programs and how to best organize ourselves for that.

BCM: What is your assessment of the College today compared with when you became President in spring 2000?

CMK: Wherever you look—quality of students, faculty, and staff; innovativeness and depth of our programs; expansion of our campus facilities; growth of endowment and accomplishments in fundraising; strength of faculty leadership and of the senior administration; supportive and loyal alumni—we have done exceedingly well. That's a tribute to all who have devoted thought and hard work to the College, and it has given me enormous pleasure to have had the opportunity to lead the College during this period.

Presidential Highlights at a Glance 2000–2009

Academic Quality Enhanced:

- 273 new faculty members—more than half of the full-time teaching faculty—have joined the College since 2001;
- First Honors College class admitted, 2001;
- Core curriculum revised, 2005–2006.

Student Success:

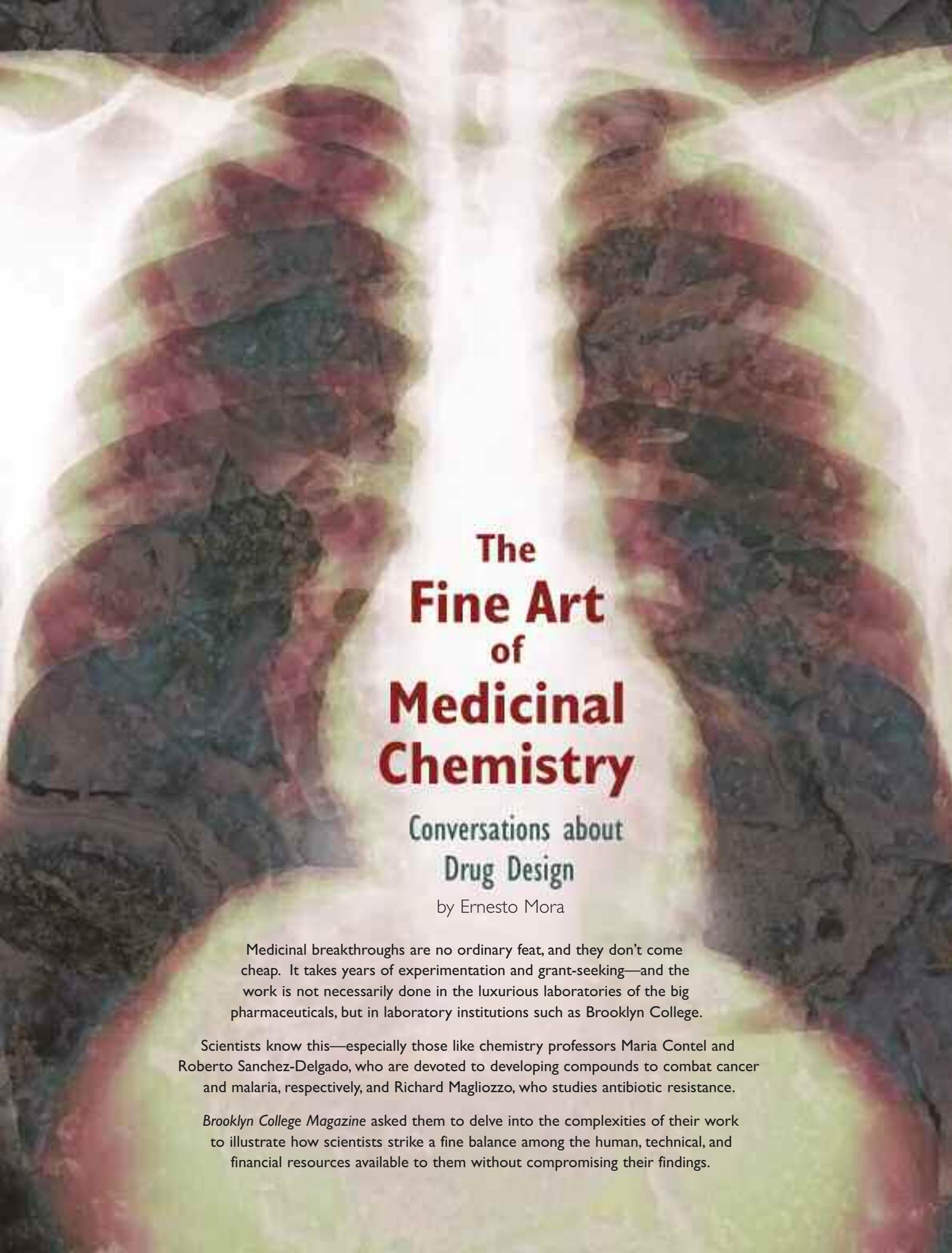
- Enrollment increased 11 percent since 2000;
- Mean high school averages have increased from 80.6 in 1999 to 86.3 in 2008;
- Retention and graduation rates increased through the establishment of the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships, The On-Course Advantage (TOCA), the freshman-year program, and improvement in student support services, academic advisement, and a revamped scholarship office;
- Technology enhanced across campus with more computers, labs, and innovative portal applications.

Physical Campus Transformed:

- Morton and Angel Topfer Library Café opened 1999; expanded in 2006;
- Brooklyn College Library, renovated and expanded, 2002;
- West Quad building construction began in spring 2003; due to open in fall 2009;
- New performing arts center, construction to begin summer 2009;
- Roosevelt science building, in the design phase.

Fundraising:

- Since 2000, capital campaign raised \$85 million. Five endowed chairs have been established since 2005.



The Fine Art of Medicinal Chemistry

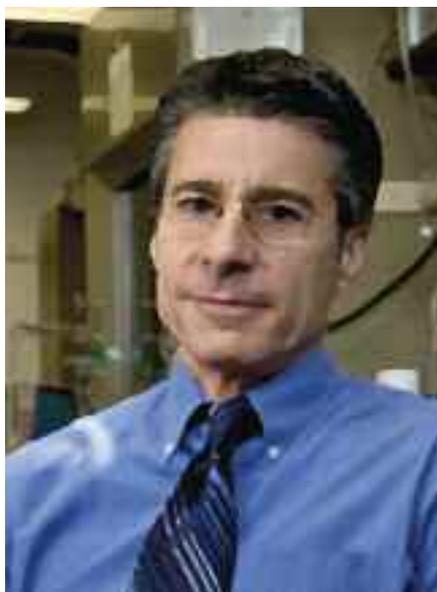
Conversations about
Drug Design

by Ernesto Mora

Medicinal breakthroughs are no ordinary feat, and they don't come cheap. It takes years of experimentation and grant-seeking—and the work is not necessarily done in the luxurious laboratories of the big pharmaceuticals, but in laboratory institutions such as Brooklyn College.

Scientists know this—especially those like chemistry professors Maria Contel and Roberto Sanchez-Delgado, who are devoted to developing compounds to combat cancer and malaria, respectively, and Richard Magliozzo, who studies antibiotic resistance.

Brooklyn College Magazine asked them to delve into the complexities of their work to illustrate how scientists strike a fine balance among the human, technical, and financial resources available to them without compromising their findings.



TB OR NOT TB

A common misconception about drug design is that scientists need to fully understand a pathogenic agent before

finding a way to inhibit it from thriving. Take the case of tuberculosis, a scourge erroneously believed to have been eradicated during the last century.

"It was never eradicated," Magliozzo says, noting that Isoniazid (INH), the most potent antibiotic against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the organism that causes the disease, did not become the drug of choice until 1952—only fifty-seven years ago.

In fact, Magliozzo says, the oral antibiotic was discovered while scientists were studying nicotinamide, or B3, a naturally occurring vitamin that had shown promise in combating the disease. The Levy-Kosminsky Professor in Physical Chemistry, Magliozzo explains that even after the drug was tested and approved for industrial marketing and the treatment of patients, nobody could explain the mechanism behind its efficacy.

It took science nearly fifty years to determine what allowed INH to cure TB in a patient.

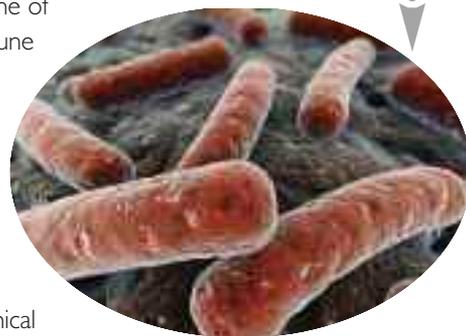
The Paradox of Scientific Discovery

A Hunter College graduate who obtained his Ph.D. at the CUNY Graduate Center in 1981, Magliozzo has spent the better part of the past decade studying both common TB and some of the strains resistant to INH. Before coming to Brooklyn College in January 2000, he worked at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he began his research on antibiotic resistance.

Currently, his research laboratory is in the last year of a five-year project to study drug-resistant strains of TB, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health and worth \$1.7 million. That is in addition to a nearly \$1 million award he received before joining the College.

"I have also received support from the National Science Foundation for an instrument we needed, and several CUNY awards over the years," he notes.

Magliozzo explains that the enzyme in the TB bacterium that is programmed to defuse the toxic molecules used by white blood cells against invading microorganisms (the first line of defense of the body's immune system) also helps activate the drug that will kill it. As the enzyme—known as catalase-peroxidase, or KatG—encounters the INH molecule in a patient treated with the antibiotic, it triggers a chemical reaction that produces a new molecule that inhibits the bacteria from building the cell wall that protects them from outside attacks.



"So the actual bactericidal event is made possible thanks to the bacteria's own enzyme," he says.

Normally, that would have sufficed to save the day and eradicate TB. Sadly for humankind, the first strain of INH-resistant TB debuted the same year the drug hit the market. And while it is true that TB grows very slowly, one cell alone is enough to grow into a colony—and therein lies the rub.

For scientists like Magliozzo, this means they must try to understand what they call "the loss of function of INH" in the less common drug-resistant strains of the disease.

"Ours is a very tiny corner of the universe of research," Magliozzo explains, "because our goal is not to design a new drug but to try to understand why, in the majority of cases resistant to INH, KatG is no longer activating that drug."

Magliozzo and his team have discovered, for example, that some of the mutations of the enzyme block the drug from reaching the bacterium's catalytic center, an iron atom (heme group) where the reaction to activate INH normally takes place. In the case of another mutation on which he and his team recently completed a study, INH can still bind normally, but the necessary reaction to activate the drug is faulty.

"There are patients all over the world who have taken INH but are not cured because the enzyme mutants

cannot trigger the needed reaction for activation of the drug," he says. "Or the deadly molecule is made in such low numbers that it doesn't have the expected toxic effect on the bacteria. This is the population that can spread the drug-resistant disease," Magliozzo warns.

One-third of the population of the planet is infected with TB bacteria. So, although only one in ten will develop the active disease, it is clear that the threat it poses is great.

THE AGE OF METALS

It is generally assumed that metals are bad for humans. In fact, some of those that are moderately toxic have beneficial effects. For example, metallic-based compounds that are used to combat certain types of cancer, like cisplatin, have the ability to kill both sick and healthy cells. Then there are those, such as lead and mercury, that can have severe neurological consequences on children.

"But there are others that our body needs," says Professor Sanchez-Delgado. "Iron, for example, is found in human red cells" as part of hemoglobin, while others, such as nickel, molybdenum, zinc, and magnesium, "occur naturally and are essential for the human immune system."

Then there are those in between—not naturally present in the human body but that are not harmful and, in fact, may be helpful, according to Sanchez-Delgado.

A Venezuelan native who has been at Brooklyn College since 2004, Sanchez-Delgado has a research program that aims at using metal-based compounds as potential agents to fight malaria and other tropical diseases. They may even help to fight cancer.

"While organic-based compounds are difficult to manipulate, adding a metal molecule as part of a medication gives you the kind of scaffold you need to build upon," he says.

Attaching a metal to the organic compound,



moreover, will help the drug become more stable and longer lasting and will facilitate its arrival at its target. By the same token, because the metal alone could react to different things along the way and have toxic results, attaching it to an organic compound helps to delay a reaction until the drug reaches the target.

In Sanchez-Delgado's quest to improve existing drugs to combat malaria, he has resorted to ruthenium, a metal he first experimented with over a decade ago, when he and a Venezuelan physician were seeking a cure for Chagas, an illness that affects about twenty million people across the Americas. Because ruthenium shares some properties with iron, it is equally nontoxic for the body.

Stealth Attacks

Malaria was ineffectively treated until the advent of quinine, a natural extract of the cinchona tree, in the 1700s. Its synthetic version, chloroquine, developed in the 1940s, helped combat malaria for decades until the discovery of *Plasmodium falciparum*, a parasite of the same genus as the original disease but resistant to the drug. Like most drugs, chloroquine has nitrogen atoms that are part of its active functions, while ruthenium has a metallic ion that can bond to those nitrogen atoms.

"We take advantage of the affinity between the organic compound (chloroquine) and the metal to create a new molecule," Sanchez-Delgado explains. "The metal thus cloaks the drug and doesn't allow the parasite to recognize it."

The metal helps the drug reach its destination, and the parasite has no time to react or to bind to the drug in order to stop it from becoming active.

Sanchez-Delgado, who recently submitted a new NIH grant proposal to continue his experiments, has thus far tested six different ruthenium-laced compounds with different degrees of success. And though they have shown a good deal of promise, he still needs to address such issues as the new compound's solubility.

A Claire and Leonard Tow Professor of Chemistry, Sanchez-Delgado has thus far received an NIH-SCORE four-year grant for \$680,000, and a PRF-ACS two-year grant worth \$100,000. In addition, he received two Professional Staff Congress-CUNY grants for 2005 and 2006 for a total of \$8,000.

Sounding a note of caution, he makes a necessary clarification: "We are technically not making drugs but what, in pharmaceutical terms, are called lead compounds that may eventually become a new drug. Many other studies are needed before that point is reached. Toxicity studies need to be made, for example. This is a long process, and if you manage to design one drug in your lifetime, you should be glad."

A GOLDEN ERA



For Maria Contel, a Ph.D. from the University of Navarra who has concentrated most of her work in organometallic chemistry research, medicinal chemistry is a recent endeavor.

Contel's change of focus is related to a personal experience. Her grandmother, the woman who raised her, died of

brain cancer shortly after Contel took up her post at Brooklyn College in 2006.

"She wanted me to become a physician," Contel recalls with fondness. "When are you going to do research on cancer?" she used to hound me all the time. Later I understood that, as a chemist, it's important to participate in medicine."

Because her doctoral studies concentrated on the preparation of gold compounds, the research experience

Contel has accumulated during her postdoctoral years and as a guest scientist in universities across Europe and Australia is serving her well.

Gold has been considered a metal with curative properties from very ancient times, she points out, and today it is being used to treat arthritis, among other ills.

"Our goal is to prepare gold compounds that efficiently treat cancers, we hope with fewer side effects than the standard treatments that use cisplatin and related compounds," the platinum-based compounds used in chemotherapy.

Apoptosis and Necrosis

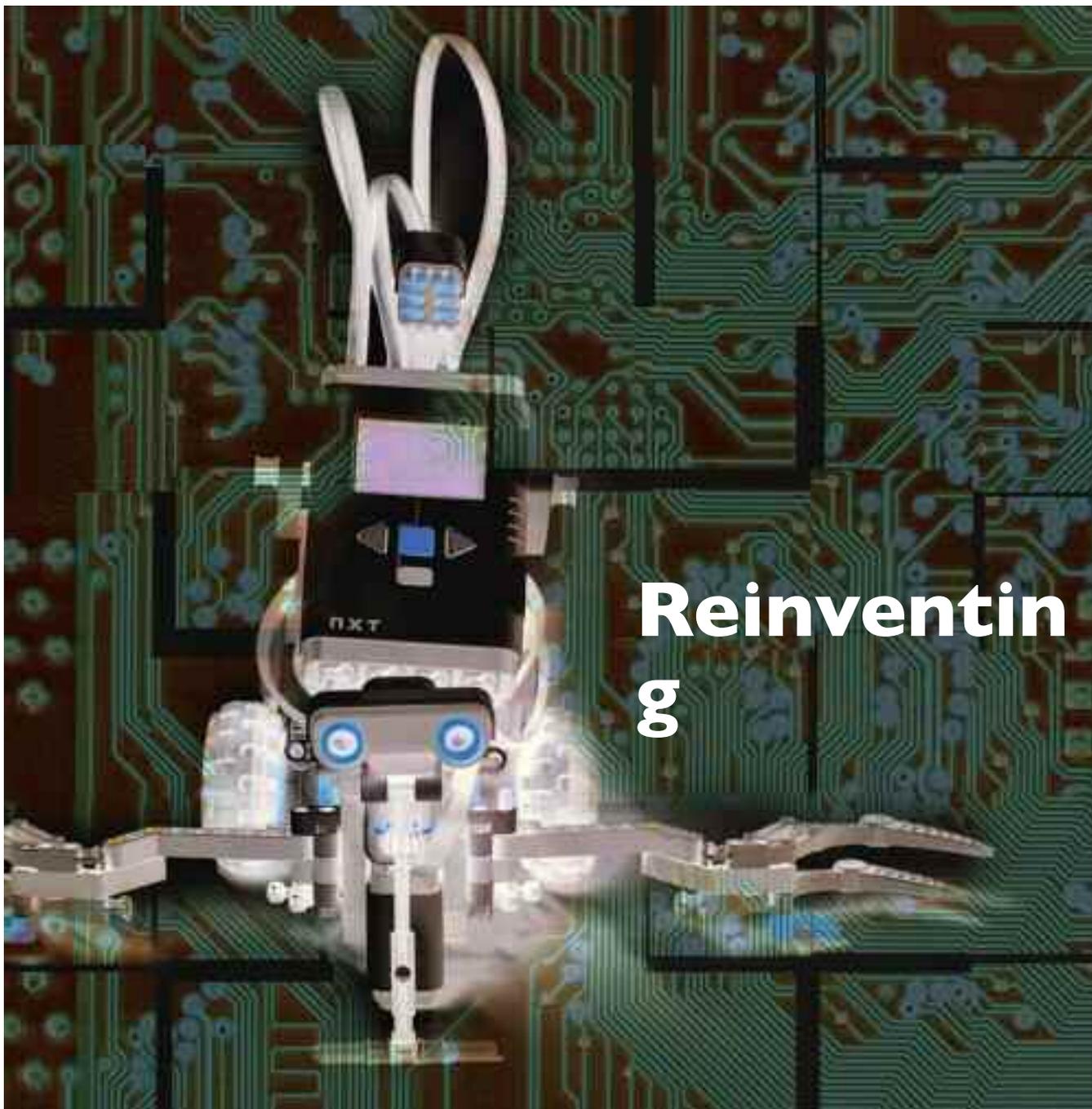
A prolific author who has also been working on green chemistry (the design of products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous substances), Contel recently published a paper in the journal *Inorganic Chemistry* that she hopes will help her to obtain an NIH grant to continue her research.

"The paper about our preliminary results specifies that our compounds turned out highly cytotoxic with leukemia," she reports with pride. "More so than the standard compounds," meaning cisplatin, carboplatin, and similarly related compounds.

In fact, one of the five compounds she and her team developed rated successfully in eliminating cancer cells without the toxicity of other metals used for standard chemotherapy. Even more interesting, these compounds do not kill cancerous cells directly (a process known as necrosis) but instruct the sick cells to commit suicide (or undergo apoptosis).

And unlike platinum-based compounds, Contel's compounds have little interaction with human DNA, which means that a mechanism alternative to the one for platinum and ruthenium compounds may be, in fact, operative. This is important because it can explain the higher cytotoxicity of gold compounds to tumor cell lines that are resistant to platinum-based drugs. It may also be helpful in developing drugs with fewer side effects than platinum-based drugs.





Reinventin g

Room 525 Ingersoll Hall Extension is round with a domed ceiling, a dim interior, and fluorescent tube lighting on its perimeter. It has a bit of a beam-me-up feel to it, and Professor Yedidiah Langsam adds to the futuristic metaphor when he pulls out the robot.

His voice booming from the center aisle of the classroom, Langsam, a thirty-year veteran of the Department of Computer and Information Science, explains that in this section of CIS 1.5, the students will use the programming skills they have been learning to manipulate a high-tech LEGO RCX robot. He holds up a yellow rectangular “brick” outfitted with an LCD and several buttons and

sensors. This object is the brains of the robot—the piece that will interpret instructions downloaded to it from a computer. He then shows how the wheels and motors attach to the ports on the brick. There’s even a sensor for the robot to know when it has been touched, and it can promptly display the word “ouch” on the LCD screen if so desired, a feature which Langsam demonstrates with a high-pitched squeal, to a chorus of laughs from the students.

“It can go forward, backward, spin in this direction, then that, and then do a little dance,” he explains. “People have built LEGO robots to water their gardens and solve a

Rubik's Cube. It all depends on how clever you are in writing the program.”

In this introductory computer programming class, designed by Langsam and his colleague Distinguished Professor Theodore Raphan, students majoring in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—collectively known as the STEM fields—learn the basics of programming first and foremost. But they will also be testing their programming prowess on these robots and acquiring a foundation in interfacing with machinery.

Raphan and Langsam, trained as an electrical engineer and a chemist, respectively, found a home in the CIS Department because they had already intersected with computers so much in their fields. They understand that their students will need the same kind of CIS foundation.

While not quite the world that Brooklynite Isaac Asimov envisioned, industries that are being transformed by creating robots programmed by computers are the environment in which STEM students will work. Surgeons will use robots for greater precision, employing methods that lead to quicker healing times for patients. In engineering, a robotics revolution is, perhaps predictably, already under way. Stem cell researchers are among the scientists who hope to use robots to automate their experiments, multiplying the speed at which data can be collected and analyzed to facilitate the creation of drugs to treat such diseases as cancer.

Many of the engineering students will frequently be called on to do programming in their jobs, which is the reason that the Coordinated Engineering Program advises its students to take this section of CIS 1.5, an introductory course in C++, the computer programming language that is widely used in the software industry. But even the STEM students who are not likely to be writing code, such as the future surgeons in the room, are still greatly enriched by gaining a sense of how the machinery they will surely be using one day is put together and what its potential uses are. About half of the twenty-two students in the course are nonengineering science majors, a group Raphan and Langsam would like to see grow.

“All of the examples I use in class are examples of what these students will be doing,” says Langsam, the department’s earliest expert on personal computing.



“We find that by creating a course that’s specifically tailored for students in the sciences, we can give them a real sense of the pulse of their fields.”

Pumping Up CIS

What’s more, while enrollment in computer and information science as a whole is down substantially across the country, the need for programmers—and the prevalence of their contributions to science-related fields—is only increasing. “Programming is as fundamental as algebra now,” says Raphan, who has also been at the College for thirty years. By designing a course that latches on to the sexy STEM fields, Raphan and Langsam are helping to keep CIS relevant, says Professor Aaron Tenenbaum, the outgoing chairperson of the department. “In the profession as a whole, we’ve had a problem with glazed eyes in classrooms for some time now, partly because a lot of professors became complacent,” he says. “One solution was to get the students to be more involved in activities in the class rather than just being lectured to. Robots help the students to learn by doing. Raphan and Langsam understand that.”

Raphan and Langsam have been engaged in developing the science-based programming course for the past three years. It started with eight students in the Coordinated Engineering Program.

Over the years, a large percentage of the students who have enrolled in the science-based CIS 1.5 have done well; grade distribution and retention have been way above the norm. Nationally, there is roughly a 50 percent failure rate for students taking their first CIS course because there is a substantial amount of math involved in programming, and high school graduates are notoriously underprepared in mathematics and critical thinking. But of the twenty students who took the course last semester, thirteen earned A’s.



Left to Right: Professor Yediyah Langsam, Albert Munez, Professor Theodore Raphan, and Yon Luo

"I'm finding that the students are very motivated and engaged, much more so than the general population," says Langsam, an alumnus who received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Brooklyn College in 1973. "They've thought about their careers, and they know where they are going."

Indeed, Christo Abraham, a sophomore with a double major in physics and anthropology who is heading for a career as a neurologist, has already worked in hospitals, so he's seen for himself the prevalence of machinery in the healthcare field. But the appeal of this course for him is broader:

"I'm very interested in cars, and I've seen how robots have been used to test the impact of accidents on humans," he says. "It just seems that there are so many uses for robotics, and I'm sure that will only increase as time goes on."

The fascination with robotics is helped by their growing presence in mainstream society as well. Student Michael Lenneville says his curiosity about robots was piqued by a friend's Roomba, a commercially available robot that vacuums, washes floors, and cleans gutters. But as a chemistry major who wants to become either a university professor or a biomedical or nuclear chemistry researcher, Lenneville says the CIS class's usefulness to his field is also obvious. "I won't be writing code, but I do know that most of the experiments that are being done in the field right now are too complex for people to do by themselves." He offers that he's terrified of computers but has found the course extremely engaging. "The sheer amount of data that is being sifted through is crazy. I know that robots are helping to speed up things that for humans would be overwhelming. So I see this class as ridiculously applicable."

Open Source Support

The class at Brooklyn College is made possible thanks to the open-source community, the share-and-share-alike programming movement that has made available worldwide access to software that might otherwise be too costly.

"When people first started teaching robotics, it wasn't clear how to incorporate it into a C++ class,"

explains Raphan. "The robotics programs were primarily written in a specialized language."

Yet C++ has become the language of the job market, and introductory courses in it are the bread and butter of many CIS departments, including the one at Brooklyn College. The utilization of Code::Blocks gives students a fundamental tool that they can use to build their projects and debug them within an easy-to-use environment.

"You can use the system on Macs and PCs and across a wide range of host operating systems, including Mac OS, Windows Vista and XP, and Linux and Unix systems," says Raphan. "That was essential for us because we are not a rich school, and we can't just tell our students to buy new machines or new software."

At \$200 each, a robot is also an item the department couldn't ask students to buy. Instead, they adapted an open-source robot emulator that can be run within the Code::Blocks environment, replicating how the LEGO robot will respond to the students' programs. Each student is given a disk along with an eighty-six-page manual created by Langsam, Raphan, Lawrence Goetz, the department's network administrator, and Amy Delman, an undergraduate student. The manual shows students how to set up their computer at home and provides detailed instructions on utilizing tools to help them debug the code they create. They are able to test their programs on their own computers at home, then come to class and run them on the robot.

In the classroom, Langsam jokes with the students that "in my generation, reality was blurred with drugs, but today, computers have become powerful enough that they can simulate other computers."

"This won't be quite as much fun at home because you won't have a robot running around your room," he adds. "But I guarantee that what you are learning will give you a

Saving the Planet— One Scientist at a Time

By Lisa Lincoln

Across the disciplines, Brooklyn College scientists are at work to help protect us and our environment. We searched out a few of them to get a glimpse of their efforts.



WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE

"Often it's not what smells bad that's toxic," says environmental geochemist **Zhongqi (Joshua) Cheng**, assistant professor of geology. Arsenic, for instance, is odorless, tasteless, colorless, and, at low doses, slow acting. "In the old days, arsenic was the way wives killed their husbands," notes Cheng.

Cheng began to investigate the problem of arsenic in drinking water in 2001 by focusing on Bangladesh, where arsenic leaches into groundwater from natural sources. Now he works on a federal Superfund site in Vineland, New Jersey, that, from the 1950s to

the 1970s, was a chemical plant with a deficient containment protocol.

"Arsenic in drinking water does not kill you right away," says Cheng, "but it greatly increases your chance of getting liver, stomach, or skin cancer." The Vineland Superfund project is searching for the most expedient and safest way for the EPA to remove arsenic from the groundwater and the sediment beneath it. "Normally they pump the water out, treat it, and pump it back," says Cheng. For Vineland, he adds, "they say it will take thirty years, but that may be too optimistic."

Are there better solutions? "One of the ways to get the arsenic out faster is to inject additives," Cheng reports. Preliminary findings show that scrap iron corroding in water could potentially absorb the arsenic. "Or maybe," says Cheng, "there is a way to make arsenic stay in the sediment. If it's not in the water, it won't hurt you." Which strategy will be used has yet to be determined.

IT'S IN YOUR BONES

When your bones feel like they are made of lead, sometimes they are.

"Despite government regulations, lead toxicity is still a major problem in the United States," says Associate Professor **Terry Dowd**, an analytic biochemist, "and bone is a major storage site for lead in the body."

"This can be detrimental because bone is remodeled throughout your life," she explains. During this process, resorption cells dissolve the bone, releasing calcium into the blood. "If lead is in the bone, it can be released as well," notes Dowd.

Numerous studies have established the relationship between blood lead levels of ten micrograms per deciliter and above with brain and

kidney damage. In children, it is also associated with reduced stature and chest circumference—evidence, says Dowd, of its effect on long bone growth. While most data on elevated levels concerns young children, other populations are now being studied.

When a recent report in the *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research* showed an association between elevated blood lead levels and increased bone fractures in older women, Dowd and her research group decided to treat female mice with lead-laced drinking water for four months. "We looked at their femur bones," reports Dowd, "and saw a significant difference between the control group and the lead-treated group, which had lower bone density and a larger marrow cavity."



Dowd then called on a biomechanical engineer at Cornell University to perform a three-point bending technique to see how much weight the bones could bear. The results demonstrated that lead decreased bone strength. Additional data showed that lead produced immature collagen (bone's substrate) and smaller bone crystals. "Our results help explain why lead could contribute to bone fractures in the elderly," Dowd notes. "Age-related bone loss occurs naturally, but lead may exacerbate osteoporosis."

WHEN ODD IS EVEN BETTER

Whether a process clears our water of arsenic or creates the SPF 30 moisturizer in our medicine cabinet, like all chemical reactions, it is facilitated by a catalyst.

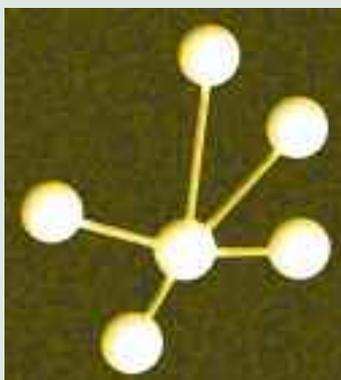
But the traditional metal-based catalysts employed by the pharmaceutical industry are ones that you don't want to ingest or apply to your skin. The time-consuming process of extracting them from medications is part of what makes drugs so expensive. Now some scientists, including organic chemist **Stacey Brenner**, assistant professor, are looking for friendlier ways to start a reaction.

"Organic chemistry is concerned with forming and breaking the bonds of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen that are present in everything in nature," notes Brenner.

Pharmaceutical companies often

want to synthesize a compound in greater volume and potency than can be harvested from nature. To produce an analog, the industry regularly uses metal-based catalysts, which are effective—they go through a reaction unchanged and produce high volumes of the desired compound. "But they can be air or water sensitive," says Brenner. "If you expose them, it makes them inactive."

Then there are the problems of removing every bit of trace metal from the product and disposing of it in an environmentally responsible way.



Looking for a less toxic, easy-to-use alternative, Brenner's research group has struck upon a novel formulation of a sulfonamide, one of a group of compounds containing sulphur, oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen. The raw components are naturally occurring, abundant in supply, relatively cheap, and unfazed by water.

And odd. Whether a chemist is fusing carbon or hydrogen atoms, the catalyst used to facilitate the reaction must create asymmetrical bonds in three dimensions. "Nature's the best at doing this," says Brenner in regard to producing chirality—copies of things that are not entirely the same. "Your two hands aren't exactly alike. Neither are the enzyme- and protein-binding pockets that drug molecules must fit to be effective." Happily, organic catalysts offer a world of asymmetrical possibilities waiting to be fine tuned, and that is why, in green organic chemistry,

SOLVING THE SOLVENTS

In the early 1990s, the Air Force Academy synthesized a novel class of salts unlike any of their culinary cousins.

"If you put table salt by itself in an aluminum pan and turn up the heat, the pan will melt before the salt does," says Associate Professor of Chemistry **Mark Kobrak**. "These new salts, molten at room temperature, were exciting and confusing."

Their potentials were, too. For one, the room-temperature ionic liquids (RTILs) act as moderately polar (meaning unevenly electrically charged), organic solvents, suitable for such industrial applications as stripping machine parts of oil and grease.

"At least 95 percent of chemical reactions require a solvent," says Kobrak, a theoretical physical chemist. "A solvent is a tool, and you need one with the right polarity to get the job done. One of the challenges in

green chemistry is to get rid of the large volume of potentially hazardous solvents in use."

While a handful of low-melting salts were known earlier, they were difficult to work with. The current generation of RTILs are easy to handle and can be produced relatively cheaply. Even better, they are nonflammable and don't evaporate.

"My research group has identified the properties responsible for RTILs being fundamentally different from conventional molecular solvents," says Kobrak. "It's not the distribution of charge but the size of the ion. The smaller the ion, the more charge packed in, the more polar the liquid. If the ions get too small or too large, they will not melt at room temperature." Kobrak acknowledges that, at the moment, RTILs have a limited polarity range, but he believes that his research group and others will improve that.



It is no wonder that Kobrak is interested in RTILs. "It's an odd thing when something exotic behaves so conventionally," he says of the molten salts that mimic molecular solutions. "We have a chance to reexamine some of the fundamental ways liquids work and the way chemistry is done."

Will RTILs answer one of the riddles of creating a sustainable planet? "In broad strokes," says Kobrak, "you can reproduce a lot of chemistry in this unconventional environment, with fewer hazards." ■



By Richard Sheridan

Fish and Other Aquatic Life Forms in Our Future

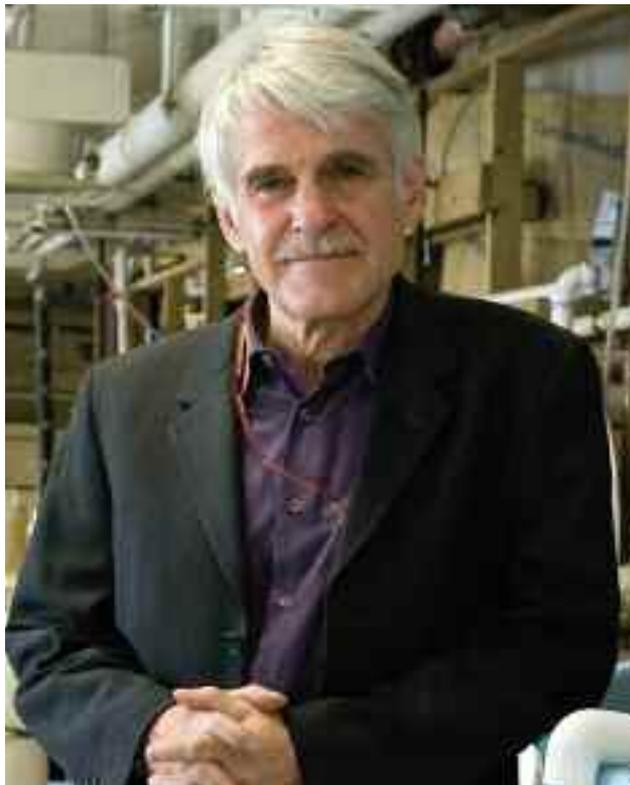
You won't see a large banner proclaiming "Under New Management" over the double doors that guard the entrance to the Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center (AREAC) at the far eastern end of the first-floor corridor of Ingersoll Hall Extension. Nevertheless, there have been big changes inside, and there are more to come.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology Martin P. Schreibman, the founder and longtime director of AREAC, has stepped down from involvement with the center's day-to-day operations. At the helm of AREAC these days is John Marra. Brett F. Branco is associate director.

AREAC is a fifteen-thousand-square-foot facility containing both laboratory and workshop space. Equipped to carry out various aspects of biological and medical research, it is home to some two thousand fish and invertebrates representing ten to fifteen species, including horseshoe crabs, clownfish, and octopus. AREAC's projects over the years have centered on the environmental ills of nearby waterways—including Jamaica Bay, the Gowanus Canal, Prospect Park Lake, and even the Hudson River and New York Harbor—as well as urban aquaculture, or fish farming.

Over the course of its ten-year history a number of talented researchers have been drawn to AREAC's resources. Among the scientists who currently base their projects in the complex is Associate Professor of Biology Jürgen Polle, who has been concentrating on isolating new microalgae strains for use as biofuel—research that has enormous potential for the future of energy. Another is Associate Professor Jennifer Basil, also of the Biology Department, who has been studying learning and memory in the chambered nautilus, Pavlovian conditioning in invertebrates, and spatial learning in crustaceans.

"With its recirculating water system resembling flowing sea water, AREAC is a unique facility on the East Coast," Basil says. "It's why I came to Brooklyn College. Studying the chambered nautilus has become my life's work, and I couldn't go on without AREAC."



John Marra, director

John Marra served as a naval officer aboard U.S. destroyers before pursuing postgraduate studies at Canada's Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he earned his doctorate in biological oceanography in 1977. He joined the Brooklyn College Geology Department faculty as a professor in September 2007 after three decades as a marine researcher with the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia University.

Brett Branco earned his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 2007 and served as a National Science Foundation Fellow at the University of Western Australia until joining the Brooklyn College Geology Department as an assistant professor in January.

Last June, Marra, still new to his role, spoke with a reporter for the *New York Post* about his fear that Jamaica Bay's saltwater marshes could completely disappear. "Jamaica Bay is a big nursery for all sorts of fish and marine life, and these marshes are a way station for sea and shore birds," he said. In his view, saving the salt marshes was vital.

Now Marra seems more cautious. He and Branco have been reviewing ways to change AREAC's focus and its operations, but they are reluctant to discuss many details until their plans are more settled.

"What I'm interested in is developing more of an environmental focus for our research, bringing along more projects that are concerned with environmental problems and also with ecosystem and organism response to global warming," says Marra.

"My role as associate director has not been put into writing as yet," adds Branco, a Navy submariner who grew up in a nautical family. "But based on my experience, I will build on AREAC's successes and enhance our interdisciplinary research. I'm very much a field researcher. I sample chemical, biological, and physical components of aquatic systems. This interdisciplinary approach is the only way we can find out how these complex systems work and how they respond to outside stressors in the urban environment."

If Marra and Branco do decide to bring material back to AREAC from places such as Jamaica Bay for students to work on, they will likely have a giant cleaning job to do. The largest room in the complex still has a clean but tangy aroma of sea and shoreline. It is filled with three-hundred-gallon tanks, seven of which hold about a total of one thousand tilapia, tasty fresh-water fish of the species *Oreochromis niloticus*.

The tilapia are part of Schreibman's aquaculture research. According to lab manager Rob Dickie, AREAC acquires its stock of tilapia as ten- to twelve-gram fingerlings from an upstate fishery and then grows them to maturity. "Over a period of eight or nine months we grow them to market size—roughly two pounds," Dickie says. "But these fish are not sold at market. They are donated to homeless shelters and outreach centers. No one at AREAC makes a profit."

Whatever changes are made in AREAC, there will still be room for aquaculture, notes Marra, "though we will likely look for other kinds of fish and even invertebrates instead of tilapia.

"Tilapia is pretty much a known entity now," he explains. "We might seek to domesticate new species."

In addition to such fish species as salmon and carp, Marra says, "fish-farming work is being done with striped bass, tuna, sturgeon, and even sea urchin, which has become a high-priced seafood because it's a popular sushi dish."

Grant proposals to investigate the less-studied species may have a greater likelihood of winning funding. ■

Middle States Raves

Brooklyn College's once-a-decade Middle States Commission on Higher Education reaccreditation process reached a milestone in April with the completion of a four-day campus visit. In her exit report to the College community, R. Barbara Gitenstein, the Middle States's team leader and College of New Jersey president, cited measurable and significant progress in no fewer than two dozen areas, and cited the College's commitment to be guided by its revised, student-centered mission statement "to provide a superior education in the arts and sciences" as

the central academic architecture for both recent and continued success.

"There was a refreshing candor and genuine self-reflectiveness throughout the Middle States process," Gitenstein said, adding that the College's two-year period of self-evaluation had clearly addressed suggestions from the last reaccreditation in the areas of technology, campus diversity, and a more refined overall planning process. She also commented favorably on the significant and visible progress in other areas, including infrastructure investments; the library and Library Café; changes in the tenure and promotion process; improvements in academic advisement; the work of

the Magner Center for Career Development and Internships; and the dramatic success in increasing the Brooklyn College Foundation's endowment.

The team had three suggestions for improving the College's performance: engaging in a broadly consultative process for the revision of academic structure; accepting our history of success without being bound by it; and deepening the support for a new generation of faculty leaders. The committee also recommended that the College revise and assess its graduate programs in regards to the mission, relevance, and outcomes of offerings while also improving the services provided to graduate students.

A final report from the Middle States Commission will be issued to

Fulbright Winning Professor to Study in Korea



Brooklyn College Professor of Sociology Alex Vitale won a Fulbright Scholarship to study policing in South Korea. He will spend about five months there next spring conducting his research and lecturing at a university that is still to be determined.

Vitale has studied policing for some two decades, first at the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, where he worked on litigation, monitored police practices, and assisted police with training protocols for dealing with the homeless. He then came to New York to complete a Ph.D. in sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center. He has taught at the College since 1999.

The author of several books that examine New York City's policing practices, including *City of Disorder: How the Quality of Life Campaign Transformed New York Politics* (2008), Vitale says he has long been interested in introducing some international comparisons to his scholarship. His research is largely concerned with how economic, political, and social changes can impact policing.

"In many ways the themes are the same here and abroad," he says, noting that he would also like to study how global climate change and emerging diseases have impacted policing in Africa. "Globalization and de-industrialization with the manufacturing industry created a whole new set of policing problems in New York City. Up until about twenty-five years ago, South Korea had a closed political system and a closed economy. But as both have opened up recently in the form of free trade and elections, there are some new problems for the police like an increase in street crimes."

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar program—part of the flagship international exchange program sponsored by the State Department and created to foster international understanding—annually sends 1,100 faculty members to nearly 125 countries to teach and conduct research.

Bayoumi Gets Award, Tips Hat to Brave Muslim American Youth

Moustafa Bayoumi, associate professor of English, was more than delighted to hear that his book *How Does It Feel to Be a Problem? Being Young and Arab in America* (Penguin Press, 2008), received the 2009 American Book Award, because the people whose story the book tells “get the recognition they deserve.”

Established in 1978 by the Before Columbus Foundation, the award is bestowed—by other writers who recognize a book’s literary excellence—without limitations or restrictions.

Trying to respond to the question originally posed in 1902 by W.E.B. Du Bois, Bayoumi interviews second-generation Arab Americans from Brooklyn—four men and three women—who talk about their day-to-day struggles in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

“The book occurred to me in large part out of exhaustion from having to write op-ed pieces and answer to the specific politics of the day,” Bayoumi says. “I felt that maybe the real story about what the whole process meant for Arab Americans and the nation as a whole was not being told.”

Born in Zurich to Egyptian scholars, Bayoumi lived in Canada until he moved to New York to complete his Ph.D.

at Columbia University, where he studied under the late Edward Said, a founding figure of postcolonial theory.

An author of several essays and coeditor of *The Edward Said Reader* (Vintage Books, 2000), Bayoumi admits that it was hard to imagine that any particular group of Americans could be singled out and discriminated against, especially after the hard-won gains of the 1960s civil rights movement and the traumatic experience of Japanese Americans, who were confined in prison camps during World War II by the liberal Franklin Delano Roosevelt administration.

“You would have thought this would never happen again,” he points out. “What surprised me is that these kids were able to tackle the challenges the nation placed upon them.”

To explain why he focused on Brooklyn’s youth, Bayoumi notes that of 120,000 Arab Americans living in the New York area—one of the largest concentrations outside Dearborn, Michigan—nearly 40,000 live in Brooklyn.

“This borough represents America’s future,” he says. “A city within a city, Brooklyn has this literary aura, and it mirrors the future of the United States because there’s no single, dominant ethnic group,” he says.

More Than **One Ton of Food** from BC to Local Food Pantries

New York State Assemblywoman Rhoda S. Jacobs and Brooklyn College President Christoph M. Kimmich wrapped up a weeklong, campus-wide food drive to help restock local area food pantries with critically needed canned goods, baby food, and other nonperishable items. Brooklyn College students, departments, and offices contributed more than one ton of food that was distributed to a dozen local nonprofit groups.

Joining President Kimmich and Assemblywoman Jacobs were representatives of some of the recipient organizations as well as

Brooklyn College students whose efforts made the drive a success.

“We pride ourselves on being a good neighbor,” President Kimmich said, “from working in schools to participating in the renewal of the Junction to putting a fresh coat of paint on a graffiti-spattered wall. The food drive gives us an opportunity to address the tremendous need of our local food pantries.”

With the economic crisis, food pantries across the borough have been hit hard by a recent decrease in donations, skyrocketing food prices, and as much as a 500-percent increase in the number of individuals

and families in need. Some local pantries report they are on the verge of closing.

“We provide food for nearly 350 people every Wednesday morning at our church,” said Father Michael Perry, pastor of Our Lady of Refuge, who was at the event to pick up his church’s share of the food drive. “Thanks to Brooklyn College for being aware that there are people facing hunger in our district and for bringing relief to them.”



Gloria Steinem Pays Tribute to Alumna Shirley Chisholm, Celebrates New Exhibit

In the wake of Barack Obama's election, Brooklyn College honored its own political trailblazer. In 1968 she became the first black woman elected to Congress. In 1972 she sought the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, becoming the first black candidate to run for a major party's nomination for the nation's highest elective office. Last fall, just a few days before she would have turned eighty-four, Brooklyn College paid tribute to one of its most prominent alumni, Shirley Chisholm.

Feminist icon Gloria Steinem shared her memories of Chisholm at an exhibit cosponsored by the Brooklyn College Women's Studies Program and the Shirley Chisholm Center for Research on Women. The exhibit, *A Catalyst for Change*, celebrated Chisholm's pioneering political career with original documents, including campaign videos, buttons, and position papers.

"To think we had to wait almost four decades for some of what she was talking about to even begin to be true," Steinem, who campaigned for Chisholm, remarked to a standing-room-only crowd in the Woody Tanger Auditorium.

Brooklyn College President Christoph M. Kimmich said that the College was "proud to call Ms. Chisholm one of our own" and thanked Steinem for helping remember her legacy.

"Use well the voting power for which she fought," urged Steinem, who donated her delegate pass from the 1972 Democratic National Convention to the Chisholm Center's collection of memorabilia. The event, followed by a reception in the library's Special Collections Division, was attended by many local politicians and others who have worked to keep Chisholm's legacy alive. Often noting that they owed some portion of their political ambition to Chisholm, U.S. Representative Yvette D. Clarke and New York State Assembly members Nick Perry and Helene Weinstein all gave remarks and read proclamations honoring Chisholm. Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz's office declared November 25 Shirley Chisholm Day in Brooklyn. Shola Lynch, who produced a



Peabody Award-winning documentary on Chisholm, also attended the event, as did two members of the latest generation of women to carry the Chisholm torch: Brooklyn College Shirley Chisholm scholars Daphne Brunet and Soribel Feliz. As part of the award, the students will go to Albany to observe the legislative process.

Describing Chisholm as "smiling and self-willed," Steinem shared many intimate recollections of the woman she often credits with being the first person to take the "white male only" sign off the White House door. Steinem said one of her greatest honors was when Chisholm asked her to write a speech the candidate would read on television.

Steinem told the crowd. "I feel grateful to have known this great woman. She not only didn't pull the ladder up behind her," Steinem added. "She extended it."

Diversity in College Programs and Faculty Projects Honored

For the second year in a row, Brooklyn College has received more diversity grants than any other institution in CUNY's nineteen-college system. With ten awardees securing grants from CUNY's Diversity Projects and Faculty Development Fund, the College topped last year's total of nine awards. A total of twenty-one grants were funded for the 2008–09 academic year.

The awards for grants of up to \$5,000 are administered by the University's Affirmative Action Committee, and were created to help faculty and staff members develop educational projects, research, and other professional activities that promote diversity and multiculturalism. The awardees and their projects are:

Professor **Gertrud Lenzer**, director of the Children's Studies Center, for the Child Policy Forum of New York series, a project that analyzes state policies aimed at protecting children from abuse and sexual exploitation.

Maderie Miller, Center for Worker Education at the Graduate Center, to host a national conference to discuss the current and historical accomplishments of black women.

Associate Professors **Paul McCabe** and **Florence Rubinson**, and Assistant Professors **Eliza Dragowski** and **Graciela Elizalde-Utnick**, Education, to conduct a national survey of educators, school psychologists, and counselors on barriers to advocacy for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered students.

Assistant Professors **María Scharrón-del Río**, **Graciela Elizalde-Utnick**, and **Delida Sanchez**, and Instructor **Lynda Sarnoff**, Education, to assemble projects that will facilitate a dialogue on diversity within the greater Brooklyn community.

Professor **Shuming Lu**, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences, to develop the College's Asian/Asian American Studies program.

Assistant Professor **Wayne Reed**, Education, for "East New York Teen Summit," an event that brings some two hundred students from East Brooklyn high schools to the College for a daylong discussion of issues facing urban youth.

Professor **Jeffrey Taylor**, Music, to support a jazz symposium in Brooklyn and a performance by pianist Randy West.

Assistant Professor **Renee Fabus**, Speech Communication Arts and Sciences, to develop a mentoring program to increase recruitment of underrepresented graduate students in communication sciences and disorders.

Professor **Juana Valdes**, Art, to support an exhibition at the Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning.

Assistant Professor **Laura Tesman**, Theater, to support a multiethnic ensemble of Brooklyn College students and professional artists and performers to create and perform an original intercultural, interdisciplinary work that revolves around questions of diversity.

Brooklyn Basketball Teams Have Successful Seasons

Steve Podias, the head coach of the Brooklyn College men's basketball team for the last seventeen years, concedes that with his star players all coming back next year, there was a chance his team might get complacent. So he walked into the locker room after his team lost to Baruch by one point and told them to remember this moment. "We're meeting them again and revenge is sweet," he said.

And sweet it was. A few weeks later the team delivered a twenty-point drubbing to Baruch and won the CUNYAC championship for the first time in more than thirty-five years.

They went on to play in their first NCAA tournament in nearly thirty years, where they played hard but came up short against St. Lawrence University, ending their season at 23-6.

Meanwhile, the women's basketball team was getting pummeled in the first half of their Eastern College Athletic Conference game, 40 to 27, but they showed true heart by coming back in the second to lead the game 66 to 61 with less than five minutes left on the clock. They were taking on State University of New York at Farmingdale, the number-three seed and the team with the nation's leading scorer.



"We had a good chance to win that game, and that's what I'm most proud of," says Alex Lang, head coach of the team and the CUNYAC Coach of the Year. They went on to lose, 74-70. But that takes nothing away from a team that matched their best record ever at 19-6 and won more games against teams in the CUNY conference—nine—than ever before.

Library Announces **Student Art Contest Winners**



Last year, the Brooklyn College Library launched an annual art competition in which students are invited to interpret, in any medium, pieces from the library's fine art collection. This year, the students gave the judges a tough time with their deliberations.

For the undergraduate submissions there was a split decision, with the award going to Theresa Dietrich and Dan Asselin, both of whom wrote poems that interpreted paintings. Dietrich's *Expressions and Phrases* was written in response to Lennart Anderson's *President Vernon Lattin*, and Asselin's poem, *Two Windows*, was an interpretation of Harold Baumbach's painting *Aspen*. The graduate winner was Roderic Williams, who wrote a musical response to Shahzia Sikander's *Embark-Disembark I-VI*.

"I thought the idea for the contest was really cool," said Dietrich,

a freshman journalism major. "I've actually been inspired by a painting to write poetry before. I like the thought of art inspired by art."

Ninety-one students submitted works that included paintings, sculptures, music, photographs, films, and written pieces. The winners were announced at a dessert reception in the library. Each received a prize of \$500, with Dietrich and Asselin splitting their award. The prize money was provided by art aficionados Archie and Maria Rand, the husband-and-wife team who teach in the art program and curate the gallery respectively.

"This is the first time I've seen all of the submissions all collected, and I am knocked out," Presidential Professor of Art Archie Rand said at the reception. "I am very impressed by the creative energy and the intelligence of the Brooklyn College student body."

Miriam Deutch, a professor and art specialist in the library, came up with the idea for the contest after the library's art collection grew formidably just before the building's renovation was completed in 2002, thanks to a city law that mandates that a portion of construction budgets be used to purchase art for public spaces.

"The library started the award to encourage students to explore, discover, and find inspiration in our internationally recognized art collection and to showcase our new online art catalogue," Deutch said. "There were so many creative, inventive responses. The judges had a very difficult time deciding on a winner."

The honorable mentions included Keamisha Johnson, whose sculpture was in response to Chakaia Booker's *Echoing Factors*; Adele Lonas, who assembled a marionette in response to Marc Mellon's *Don Quixote*; Laurence Moulin, who did a painting in response to Doug Schwab's *Sarah*; Joseph Pacilio, who wrote a musical response to Jim Lee's *River's Edge*; Christina Squitieri, who wrote a poem in response to John Walker's *Clammer's Marks, North Branch*; Moira Tuohy, who did an ink drawing in response to William Kentridge's *Typewriter*; and Yun Wei, who wrote a poem in response to Sarah Sze's *Day*.

The judges included Deutch, Associate Professor of English Joseph Entin, Assistant Professor of Music David Grubbs, and Professor of Art Jennifer McCoy.

Brooklyn College Radio Station **WBCR Turns Forty**

Brooklyn College radio station WBCR recently marked its fortieth anniversary at a rockin' rock 'n' roll party in the Student Center, where faculty, staff, and students past and present gathered to celebrate.

Some of today's top names in local radio worked at the station during their days as Brooklyn College students. One of those is Scott A. Herman, '80, executive vice-president of operations at CBS Radio. In a written statement read at the party, Herman said he views WBCR as his "first job in radio."

Assistant Professor Mark Boutros, the station's faculty adviser, said another illustrious alumnus who remembers his days at WBCR fondly is Skeery Jones, currently executive producer at Z100 Radio (100.3 FM) and producer of the highly rated station's flagship program *Elvis Duran and The Z100 Morning Show*. Jones frequently supports his alma mater with campus visits and shout-outs on his blog and MySpace page.

WBCR, which can be heard campuswide, is student-operated and supervised by the Department of Television and Radio. The station's first home was in James Hall. It moved to its current location in Whitehead Hall during 2003–04, thanks to a generous gift from radio legend Himan Brown.

A 1934 graduate of Brooklyn College, Brown achieved fame during the glory days of radio, producing and directing thousands of hours of unforgettable programming, including *Dick Tracy*, *the Inner Sanctum Mysteries*, and *CBS Radio Mystery Theater*.



WBCR is located on the third floor of Whitehead Hall. It has a soundproof broadcast booth, two fully equipped control rooms, and a reception area. "The facilities offer all the professional equipment that students need to prepare for careers in radio," said Boutros.

"We used to be a *College Music Journal Top 100* format station," he said. "But right now we're free form, playing whatever the DJs want."

WBCR can be heard on campus by tuning to AM 1090 or online at www.brooklyncollegeradio.org.

"We're putting in a line through Verizon that will allow us to broadcast via Brooklyn Community Access Television,"

Boutros said. "It's designed to be a 24/7 operation. There are live DJ-hosted shows weekdays with automated programming between 11 p.m. and 8 a.m.

"We'd like to add educational programming from 8 to 11 a.m. weekday mornings," he added. "If anyone has an idea, we'll be glad to hear it."



State of the City Finds a Stage at Brooklyn



Brooklyn College was the appropriate setting for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's 2009 State of the City address. As the mayor noted, the campus was built by the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression, illustrating that great things may still be done even in the hardest times. Flanked by screens announcing "New York Together," the mayor admitted, "There is no question the temporary state of our city is shaken, but I'm here to tell you it's not broken."

The Brooklyn College Brass Ensemble, led by Professor of Music Douglas Hedwig and a children's choir from P.S. 206 in Gravesend, entertained the audience of City Council members, dignitaries, activists, and reporters that filled Whitman Hall before the speech. After thanking President Christoph M. Kimmich for hosting the event, the mayor went on to outline an ambitious package of programs and reforms that he hoped would lead to the city's strong recovery from its current economic troubles.

The hour-long speech ended with the mayor again harking back to the founding of Brooklyn College, and he introduced as symbols of New Yorkers' resilience two of the city's newest residents, Yan Fei and Chen Fei, who is an accounting student at the College.

"These New Yorkers—together—are why I am so confident about our future. They've come here—and despite all the obstacles, they simply refuse to give up on their dreams. That resilience, that perseverance, that stubborn optimism, is something everyone in this room recognizes!"

MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY

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Although she admits her work is still in its infancy, Contel is very hopeful.

"I know I'm looking at a three-year project, at least," she says. "We are currently working on the preparation of new gold compounds soluble enough but not so much that they will not go through the cell membranes to reach their target. Modifying the 'organic' part of these compounds can alter that balance and improve their 'in vitro' anticancer efficiency."

TEAMWORK REQUIRED

"I can't do all this by myself," says Magliozzo, who this year is on sabbatical while trying to advance his research.

In fact, no scientist can work alone. Teams and tools are necessary. All three chemists need not only the assistance of their teams—which include undergraduate students, graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, and postdoctoral students—they also need the help of outside laboratories and professors at other institutions to complete their work and test their results in different environments.

"That's why I need to get a grant," states Contel, who has been operating her lab strictly with College funds. "If I do, I'll be able to get a postdoctoral student who can work with the undergraduate students on the day-to-day and free me up to do more research."

As humankind has done for millennia, scientists must proceed by trial-and-error; so they are more than ready for disappointments and setbacks. Whether things go wrong or right, they cannot stop asking questions, for even a wrong turn can lead to a valuable discovery.

Art

Jack Flam presented "Pierre Bonnard: Possessive Space" at the New York Studio School in February; and "Rethinking Oceanic Art" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in February. He wrote "Bonnard in the History of Twentieth-Century Art," in *Pierre Bonnard: The Late Still Lifes and Interiors* (Metropolitan Museum of Art and Yale University Press, 2009).

Rachel Kousser presented "Memories of Greece, Souvenirs of Egypt: The Visual Culture of Expatriates in Hellenistic Alexandria" at the College Art Association, Los Angeles, in February. **Jennifer McCoy** co-presented her artwork at *I'll Replace You*, an exhibition of new works, at Postmasters Gallery, New York City and at Artists Choice Workshop, at the Whitney Museum of Art, New York City, last year. **Janna Schoenberger** presented "Almerisa the Milkmaid: Rineke Dijkstra's Photographic Series of a Bosnian Refugee" at California State University, Sacramento, in March.

Biology

Ronald Eckhardt accepted an award on behalf of Brooklyn College's New York State Department of Education-funded Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) from the Royal Society of Chemistry, USA Section, in recognition of the quality of the STEP academic program, at the Princeton Club in New York City in November.

Chemistry

Maria Contel wrote "Synthesis of Apoptosis-Inducing Iminophosphorane Organogold(III) Complexes and Study of Their Interactions with Biomolecular Targets," in *Inorganic*

Chemistry 48 (January 2009). She cowrote "Gold(III)-Iminophosphorane Complexes as Catalysts in C-C and C-O Bond Formations," in the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry* 694 (January 2009). **Brian R. Gibney** presented "Modern Methods of Analysis of Zn Proteins" at the Thirteenth International Meeting on Trace Elements in Man and Animals, in Pucón, Chile, in November. **Alexander Greer** wrote "Theoretical Studies of a Singlet Oxygen-Releasing Dioxapaddlane: 1,4-Diicoso Naphthalene-1,4-endoperoxide," in *Structural Chemistry* 20 (2009). Greer and Joel F. Liebman, '67, published "Paradigms and Paradoxes: Energetics of the Oxidative Cleavage of Azo Compounds," in *Structural Chemistry* 19 (2008). **Mark N. Kobra** wrote "Coupled Ion Complexation and Exchange between Aqueous and Ionic Liquid Phases: A Thermodynamic Interpretation," in *Solvent Extraction and Ion Exchange* 26 (2008). Kobra, together with graduate student Hualin Li and undergraduates Murvat Ibrahim and Ismail Agberemi, wrote "The Relationship between Ionic Structure and Viscosity in Room-Temperature Ionic Liquids," in the *Journal of Chemical Physics* 129 (2008).

Children's Studies

Margaret-Ellen (Mel) Pipe (Psychology) was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*. She cowrote two chapters in *Critical Issues in Child Sexual Abuse Assessment* (Wiley, 2009): "Dolls, Drawing, Body Diagrams and Other Props: A Role in Investigative Interviews?" and "Repeated Interviewing: A Critical

Evaluation of the Risks and Potential Benefits."

Computer and Information Science

Rohit Parikh presented "Knowledge, Games, and Tales from the East" at National Tsing-Hua University, in Hsinchu, Taiwan, in January; and at the Third Indian Conference on Logic and Its Applications, in Chennai in January.

Economics

Robert Cherry wrote "Using Child Care Tax Benefits in New York State," in the *CPA Journal* (2009). He presented "Rethinking Poles and Jews" at the Graduate Center in New York City in November. **Joshua Fogel**, '93, wrote "Physician Customer Satisfaction and Medication Assistance Programs from Pharmaceutical Companies," in *Southern Medical Journal* 102 (2009). He cowrote "Internet Social Network Communities: Risk Taking, Trust, and Privacy Concerns," in *Computers in Human Behavior* 25 (2009) with Elham Nehmad, '08. He presented the following at the Twentieth Greater New York Conference on Behavioral Research, in New York City in November: "Religious Affiliation and Workplace Behaviors," with Nadine McSween, '06, and Osman Dutt, '06; "Direct-to-Consumer Prescription Advertisements and Its Impact on College Student Consumers," with Daniel Novick, undergraduate student; and "Predicting the Purchase of Designer Clothing over the Internet," with undergraduate student Mayer Schneider. At the same conference, he won the Guzewicz Award for Outstanding Cross-Cultural Research for "The Internet as a Source of

Information for Helping Asian Americans Deal with Depression." **Hershey H. Friedman**, '68, cowrote "Can 'Homo Spiritualis' Replace 'Homo Economicus' in the Business Curriculum?" in the *e-Journal of Business Education & Scholarship of Teaching* 2, no. 2 (December 2008); and "Ethical Imperatives of CEOs: Creating the Virtuous Corporation," in the *Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics* 4, no. 3 (December 2008), with Frimette Kass-Shraibman.

Education

Namulundah Florence volunteered at the Sierra Flor School, in Lasso, Ecuador, in December and January, working both on a teachers' seminar that addressed the issues of teacher role, understanding students' needs, creating inclusive learning environments, and developing an enriching curriculum in the teaching/learning process, and as a substitute teacher at the K-8 school. **Paul McCabe** and **Florence Rubinson** presented "Braving the Barriers: Supporting Faculty Inclusion of GLBTQ Youth Issues in Courses and Research" at the National Association of School Psychologists convention, in Boston in February, with Eliza Dragowski and others. **María R. Scharrón-del Río**, **Delida Sanchez**, **Lynda Sarnoff**, **Haroon Kharem**, **Alma Rubal-Lopez**, and others presented "Transformational PATHS in East New York and Multicultural Education: Redefining the Professional Development School (PDS) Model" at the Twenty-sixth Annual Winter Roundtable on Cultural Psychology and Education, at Teachers College in New York City in February. "Speak Up/Speak Out," a grant

proposal by **Scharrón-del Río**, **Sanchez**, **Sarnoff**, and **Graciela Elizalde-Utnick** was funded for the second consecutive year by the Diversity Projects Development Fund. **Jacqueline Shannon** cowrote "Who Stays and Who Leaves? Father Accessibility Across Children's First Five Years," in *Parenting: Science and Practice* 9, no. 1 (January 2009); and "Low-Income Nonresident Father Involvement with Their Toddlers: Variation by Fathers' Ethnicity, Resources, and Mother-Father Relationship," in the *Journal of Family Psychology* 11 (December 2008).

English

Eric Alterman wrote "How Israel Failed Its Arab Minority," in *Moment*, November/December. **Karl Steel** presented "The Return of the Pig? Violence and Meat in Resurrection Doctrine," at St. Louis University in October. **Albena Vassileva** wrote "Spoken Revolutions: Discursive Resistance in Bulgarian Late Communist Culture," in *Poetics Today* 30, no. 1 (spring 2009). Poems by **Marjorie Welsh** were anthologized in *American Hybrid* (Norton, 2009). Welsh wrote "Spaced Intertext," at <http://jacketmagazine.com/136/guest-welish.shtml>. She also cowrote *Oaths? Questions?* (Granary Books, 2009.)

Geology

Constantin Crânganu presented "Application of GIS to Water Resources Management" during GIS Day 2008 at East Stroudsburg University in November. In January, he was nominated associate editor of the *Journal of Marine and Petroleum Geology*.

Health and Nutrition Sciences

Christian Grov was appointed to the New York City HIV Prevention Planning Group. He presented the following at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in November: "Sex on Club Drugs: Pleasure, Patterns, and Risk"; "Using Respondent Driven Sampling to Identify 'Invisible' Populations: Implementation and Ethics"; and "Emotional Labor and Men: How Male Sex Workers Break Cultural Stereotypes of Men's Work." **Annie Hauck-Lawson**, '78, appeared on *Gastropolis: Food and New York City* on WFUV-FM, the radio station of Fordham University, Bronx, in December. **Roseanne Schnoll** cowrote "Mercury from Chlor-Alkali Plants: Measured Concentrations in Food Product Sugar," in *Environmental Health* 8, no. 2 (January 2009).

History

Edwin G. Burrows joined the editorial board of the New York State Historical Association in January. **Margaret L. King** was appointed editor-in-chief of the *Renaissance and Reformation OBO* (Oxford Bibliographies Online), one of the first of a series of new electronic bibliographies to be launched in 2009-2010 by Oxford University Press. **Michael Rawson** wrote "On Common Ground: The Overlapping Fields of Environmental History and Planning History," in the *Journal of Planning History* 7, no. 4 (November 2008). Rawson received a Whiting Foundation Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching for the 2009-2010

academic year. **David G. Troyansky** cowrote *Transnational Spaces and Identities in the Francophone World* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009). As president of the Western Society for French History, he presided over the society's meeting in Quebec City, Canada, in November.

Judaic Studies

Robert Moses Shapiro made two presentations in November: "The Press during the Holocaust" at the Rabbi Herbert Tarr Institute at Temple Sinai, in Roslyn Heights, New York; and "Kristallnacht: Why Didn't the Press Shout?" at Mt. Sinai Jewish Center, in New York City. In December he chaired the session "Children, Gender, and Family and the Holocaust" at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, in Washington, D.C.

Library

Jill Cirasella contributed two appendices, "Historical Bibliography of Quantum Computing" and "Keeping Abreast of Quantum News: Quantum Computing on the Web and in the Literature," in *Quantum Computing for Computer Scientists*, cowritten by **Noson S. Yanofsky** (Computer and Information Science). She presented "Quirky, Not Quacky: Quantum Computing for Librarians" at the Science, Technology, and Medical Librarians Special Interest Group, Metropolitan New York Library Council, in New York City in March.

Mathematics

Anthony E. Clement wrote "The Baumslag-Solitar Groups: A Solution for the Isomorphism Problem," in *Aspects of Infinite Groups, Algebra, and Discrete Mathematics, Volume 1* (World Scientific Publishing, 2008).

Olympia Hadjiliadis cowrote *Quickest Detection* (Cambridge University Press, 2008) and "A Comparison of 2-CUSUM Stopping Rules for Quickest Detection of Two-sided

Alternatives," in *Sequential Analysis 1*, vol. 28. **Sandra Kingan** presented "A Computational Approach to Inequivalence and Isomorphism in Matroids" at the Fortieth Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing, in Boca Raton, Florida, in March.

Modern Languages and Literatures

Luigi Bonaffini translated two books of poetry: *Calchi di luna (Moon Castings)*, by Vincenzo Di Oronzo (Gradiva Publications, 2009) (Italian into English); and *What She Says about Love (Quello che lei dice dell'amore)*, by Tony Magistrale (Bordighera Press, 2008) (English into Italian).

Music

Jason Eckardt was awarded a \$10,000 commission for a new chamber music composition from the Fromm Foundation at Harvard University. His work was performed at portrait concerts in Paris and Helsinki. **David Grubbs** completed a tour of nine solo performances in Berlin and Dublin in January. Grubbs delivered an artist's talk at the University of Sussex in January. He collaborated on "Hybrid Song Box.4," which was included in the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum's exhibition *theanyspacewhatever*, and performed the work in the Guggenheim's Peter B. Lewis Theater.

Philosophy

Daniel Campos won the 2008 Peirce Essay Contest in philosophy for his essay "Imagination, Concentration, and Generalization: Peirce on the Reasoning Abilities of the Mathematician."

Physical Education and Exercise Science

Howard Z. Zeng presented "Attitude toward Physical Education of Urban High School Students" and "Urban

School Physical Education Directors Perceptions of Physical Education," at the national convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance, in Tampa, Florida, in April.

Physics

Viraht Sahni wrote "New Perspectives on the Fundamental Theorem of Density Functional Theory," in the *International Journal of Quantum Chemistry* 108, no. 2756 (2008).

Political Science

Janet Elise Johnson (and Women's Studies) gave a keynote lecture, "Women's Crisis Centers in Russia: How Transnational Collaborations Can Work," at the Aleksanteri Institute Conference on Welfare, Gender, and Agency in Russia and Eastern Europe, at Helsinki University, Finland, in December.

Psychology

Laura A. Rabin cowrote "Cholinergic Components of Frontal Lobe Function and Dysfunction," in *Handbook of Clinical Neurology* 88, 3rd Series (Elsevier, 2008); "Implicit and Explicit Memory for Affective Passages in Temporal Lobectomy Patients," in *Brain and Cognition* 68 (2008); and "A Survey of Neuropsychologists' Practices and Perspectives Regarding the Assessment of Judgment Ability," in *Applied Neuropsychology* 15 (2008).

Anthony Sclafani, '66, coauthored the following posters presented at the November meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Washington, D.C.: "Rapid Acquisition of Conditioned Flavor Preferences in Rats," and "Opioid Mediation of Sugar and Starch Preference in the Rat." He cowrote "Activation of Dopamine D1-like Receptors in the Nucleus Accumbens Is Critical for the Acquisition, but Not the Expression, of Nutrient-Conditioned Flavor

Preferences in Rats," in the *European Journal of Neuroscience* 27 (2008).

Puerto Rican and Latino Studies

Alan A. Aja cowrote "The Influence of Latin@ Religion on American Politics," in *Encyclopedia on Hispanic American Religious Cultures* (ABC-CLIO, 2009).

SEEK

Sharona A. Levy wrote "Reading the Reader," in *Academic Commons* (January 2009). Levy and **Robert J. Kelly** (emeritus) presented "Critical Inquiry: A Comprehensive Strategy for Student Success" at the Faculty Resource Network 2008 National Symposium, at the University of San Francisco in November.

Sociology

Gertrud Lenzer (and Children's Studies) convened and moderated the Third Child Policy Forum of New York: Implementation and Monitoring of the Optional Protocol to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, at the United Nations in February. She established a ChildRights Working Group that will prepare a New York State Party Report to review the degree to which statutes, regulations, and programs of New York State serve to protect children and adolescents from sexual exploitation. Lenzer was invited to join the steering committee of the Million Father Club (MFC), a fathering initiative from the office of Assembly Member William A. Scarborough.

Speech Communication Arts and Sciences

Isabelle Barrière wrote "The Vitality of Yiddish among Hasidic Infants and Toddlers in a Low SES Preschool in Brooklyn" in *Proceedings of the 2008 Czernowicz Yiddish Language International Centenary Conference* (Sovetskii Pisatel, 2009). She cowrote "The Onset and Mastery of Spatial Language in Children Acquiring British Sign Language," in *Cognitive Development* 23 (2008). She presented "Quantitative Effects on Yiddish/English Bilingual Development," with Shoshy Frenkel, M.S., '99, and others at Boston University in November. **Renee Fabus** and Aimee Sidavi, '08, wrote "A Review of Stuttering Intervention Approaches for Preschool and Elementary School-Age Children," in *Contemporary Issues of Communication Sciences and Disorders* (Spring 2009). **Gail Gurland**; Beryl Adler, '67; and Leda Molly, '79, wrote *Vocabulary Power: Sound-a-Likes* (Play Bac Publishers, 2008), which won the 2008 Parents Choice Award, and *Vocabulary Power: Raining Cats and Dogs* (Play Bac Publishers, 2008). **Susan Longtin** presented a short course, "A Parent Education Program for Preschool Children with Autism," at the annual convention of the American Speech, Language, and Hearing Association, in Chicago in November. **Cyndi Stein** presented at St. John's Hospital for the department of psychiatry grand rounds on incorporating the coaching model in medical practice.

Television and Radio

Armed Defense, a short film by **Irina Patkanian**, has been selected to play at the Big Muddy Film Festival in Carbondale, Illinois; the Connecticut Film Festival in Danbury; and the Athens Film Festival in Athens, Ohio.

Theater

Rose Burnett Bonczek taught a series of workshops on ensemble and improvisation at Leeds Metropolitan University and at Harrogate College, both in the United Kingdom, in February. **Helen E. Richardson** participated in a panel discussion, "Eliminate Violence against Women through the Arts and the Media," at the United Nations in March. She was dramaturg and co-curator of the play *MIKA*, commissioned by the United Nations for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Day, performed at the United Nations in November and again in March for International Women's Day. Since December, she has been working with the United Nations to seek funding to develop a project using theater as a framework for supporting the empowerment of women.

Alumni Spring Homecoming

The Brooklyn College Alumni Association's 2009 Spring Homecoming ALUMNI DAZE took place on Sunday, April 26, and Monday, April 27. The Sunday event on campus began with a presentation by Pulitzer Prize-winning and Distinguished Professor of History Edwin G. Burrows on his latest book, *Forgotten Patriots: The Untold Story of American Prisoners During the Revolutionary War*.

At the President's Champagne Brunch, Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to **Agnes Ford, '69** and **Don Lemon, '96**. Ford is assistant vice-president, Contract Department, Guy Carpenter & Company; and former president of the BCAA. Lemon is the anchor of CNN's primetime weekend newscasts and *CNN Newsroom with Don Lemon*. **Arlene Lichterman, '53** was presented with the Jerome S. Milgram Award for service. Lichterman is the former treasurer and current corresponding secretary of the BCAA Board of Directors and

co-president of the Manhattan Chapter.

Later, at the Annual Meeting of the BCAA, Student Awards were presented to **Cassana Fisher-Ramos, '09**, who will pursue an M.D./Ph.D. in cancer research; **Jiaxin Huang, '11**, who hopes one day to become an international doctor; and **Jennifer Sarhis, '09**, who will pursue a medical career specializing in endocrinology.

The following evening, Stage 6 at Steiner Studios, located in the Brooklyn landmarked neighborhood of Clinton Hill, was the venue of the BCAA Alumni Gala. Under the glittering skyline of the Manhattan and Williamsburgh bridges, the 2008 Alumna and Alumnus of the Year Awards were presented to **Judith Lockley Johnson, '61**, superintendent of Peekskill City School District and former deputy assistant secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education (see full profile, page 47); and **Irwin Schneiderman, '43**, senior



counsel, Cahill Gordon and Reindel, and former president, Brooklyn College Foundation. The 2009 honors were bestowed upon **Hannah Sara Matuson Rigler, '78**, member of the Board of Overseers of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, and former member of the New York State Democratic Committee, and **Fred M. Gerson, '71**, executive vice-president and CFO, San Diego Padres. The Young Alumna Award went to **Young Jean Lee, M.F.A., '05**, Obie Award winner in the emerging playwright category. The Young Alumnus Award went to **Jerry Goldstein, '93**, space physics researcher and leading authority on the structure and dynamics of the Earth's plasmasphere. The reunion dinner also saluted the Classes of 1968 and 1969 and the Alumni of the School of Education.

Save the Date

Sunday, October 18, 2009

The Post 50th Alumni Reunion and Awards Brunch

Celebrating

Class of 1954 55th Reunion

Class of 1949 60th Reunion

Class of 1944 65th Reunion

Class of 1939 70th reunion

Class of 1934 75th Reunion

also

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards

Mardi Gras—2009

The Manhattan and Southwest Brooklyn chapters and the Millennium Affiliate of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association hosted an authentic New Orleans-style Mardi Gras at the Student Center on Fat Tuesday.

More than one hundred students, alumni, and their guests attended the event. The evening featured live music provided by the New Orleans Rhythm Kings and Li'Nard's Many Moods. The celebration also included Southern cuisine, a costume contest with prizes and, of course, lots of beads.

Plans are already under way for the second annual Mardi Gras on Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

Chancellor's Circle Society Launched

In 2004, CUNY inaugurated a \$1.2 billion campaign entitled "Invest in New York, Invest in CUNY." At a ceremony this May, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein launched a second phase of the campaign with a new target of \$3 billion in investments from private sources by 2012. The campaign is the most ambitious fundraising initiative ever taken by a public, urban university. Brooklyn College's contribution to the campaign will be \$200 million.

CUNY also announced the formation of the Chancellor's Society, which recognizes those alumni, friends, business leaders, foundations, and corporations that have contributed at least \$1 million in gifts and pledges to the colleges and foundations of the City University of New York since 2001.

The generosity of the donors listed below has been of critical importance to the future success of Brooklyn College. By funding student scholarships and services, and academic programs and enhancements; endowing faculty chairs; and making possible new programs and initiatives, members of the Chancellor's Society have earned the grateful thanks of current and future generations of Brooklyn College students.

Sam Beller, '59
Himan Brown, '34
Don Buchwald, '59
Professor Walter Cerf
Edith Everett, '49
James Fantaci, '68
Barry Feirstein, '74
Roy Furman, '60
Hank Kaplan
Murray Koppelman, '57
Don Kramer, '58

Carole, '53, and Irwin, '53,
Lainoff
Marjorie Magner, '69
Jay Newman, '68
Alexander Tanger, '01
Woody Tanger
Morton Topfer, '59
Claire, '52, and Leonard, '50,
Tow
Howard Wohl, '64
Carol L. Zicklin, '61
Anonymous (1)

Silver Linings

In the midst of the market downturn, the Brooklyn College Foundation has had to employ a number of creative strategies to ensure it can continue to support scholarships and prizes without interruption. Like most nonprofits, the Foundation's endowment declined to almost 30 percent, so many restricted funds set up by BC alumni have fallen below their original gifted value. New York State law places restrictions on distributions from such "underwater" accounts—which translates to approximately three hundred scholarships that could not be offered in the coming year without alterations to the agreements that created them.

To address the shortfall, the Foundation sent letters to more than three hundred endowment donors, providing them with a variety of options: they could freeze their endowments until the market improves; they could authorize one-time allocations of funds for an immediate payout; or they could convert their endowments into "sinking funds," which would pay out a prescribed amount each year, regardless of how well the market was doing. They could also convert their endowments into unrestricted funds. Finally, they could simply "top off" their endowments, by making an additional cash gift equal to 4 percent of their original gift.

"Most donors decided to top off their accounts," reports Beth Farryn Levine, director of development of the Brooklyn College Foundation. "They understood the economics of the situation and added to their endowed funds so our students can continue to receive their scholarships." In fact, some \$130,000 in spendable scholarship funds was raised with this project, amounting to the immediate impact of over \$3 million in the endowment. "Our alumni know how important that money can be for our students," says Levine. "They were students here themselves!"

For more information on starting an endowed fund at Brooklyn College, call the Foundation office at 718.951.5074 and ask to speak with Stephanie Ehrlich, associate director; stewardship, or visit the Foundation's webpage at www.brooklyncollegefoundation.org and click on "Contact Us."

West Side Soiree



Left to right: Clara Lipson, '71, Ellen and Murray, '57, Koppelman, Roy Furman, '60, and Howard Wohl, '64, enjoy the preshow soiree in the lobby of the Palace Theater.

This past April, more than one hundred Brooklyn College alumni enjoyed Broadway's hot ticket this year—the new revival of *West Side Story* at the Palace Theater. The show has been drawing raves—not only for the performances, but for

the way the show's original writer, Arthur Laurents, deftly wove the Spanish language into his original concept, returning a contemporary feel to the show that electrified its original audiences more than fifty years ago.

The gala entertainment and fundraiser was facilitated by Brooklyn College Foundation board member Roy Furman, '60, who is coproducing the play. Apart from the updated dialogue, the revival was true to the original production—including the vivid Jerome Robbins choreography and the soaring Leonard Bernstein score. After the show, members of the cast returned to the stage for an informal Q&A with Brooklyn College alumni and friends.

You can help transform lives....

Gifts to the Annual Fund finance vital academic scholarships, internships, travel abroad programs for students and faculty, and new technologies and research in our classrooms.

There are many ways to contribute to the Annual Fund:

- Leave your mark on Brooklyn College by purchasing a commemorative brick.
- Provide enduring, dependable support to your alma mater by joining the Boylan Society, our monthly giving program.
- Honor or remember a loved one with a special gift in his or her name.
- Make a convenient one-time gift online, by mail, or over the phone.

For more information about any of these options or about the Annual Fund, please contact Shara Richter, associate director, Annual Fund at 718.951.5074 or sharag@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

Honor the President, Help Our Students

To honor President Christoph M. Kimmich as he retires from the College, the Brooklyn College Foundation has created a new fund dedicated to helping ambitious students graduate from Brooklyn College in four years.

The Christoph M. Kimmich Fund for Student Success will support TOCA (The On-Course Advantage). TOCA is one of the College's signature programs, the first of its kind among the CUNY colleges, widely imitated, and nationally recognized. In the eight years since President Kimmich established TOCA, it has helped more than 1,700 students to graduate without delay. TOCA students promise to study full-time and without interruption. In return, the TOCA program offers them priority registration, guidance by professional counselors, and mentoring by an attentive faculty.

The proceeds of the Kimmich Fund will enrich the TOCA offering by paying summer and intersession tuition fees, stipends for internships and study programs, travel costs for interviews, and for other advantages.

Donations to the Christoph M. Kimmich Fund for Student Success may be made through the Brooklyn College Foundation. For further information, call 718.951.5074 or visit the Foundation website at www.brooklyncollegefoundation.org.

GOT CLIPS?

If you've been in the news

lately, let us know. Items

for Alumni Newsmakers

may be e-mailed to

JFodor@brooklyn.cuny.edu

or mailed to Brooklyn

College Magazine.

Sonseed has gone viral nearly thirty years after they recorded their signature song, "Jesus Is a Friend of Mine." The born-again rock band included bassist **Sal Polichetti, '80**, keyboardist **Patricia Costa Kim, M.A., '83**, and guitarist **Frank Franco, '75**. The popular Brooklyn group released one album, *First Fruit*, in 1981 and disbanded in 1983. This past September a video of Sonseed lip-syncing "Jesus Is a Friend of Mine" for the NBC show *The First Estate* was posted on YouTube, and the song's catchy ska beat, sincere and somewhat daffy lyrics, and Polichetti's cheery vocals were viewed by nearly 2.5 million people, and dozens of parody versions (including one by Marilyn Manson) have been posted, too.

Novelist **Paule Marshall, '52**, traces her Brooklyn/Bajan roots in her latest work, a memoir entitled *Triangular Roads*. The daughter of immigrants from Barbados, Marshall grew up in a vibrant Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood—one she memorably portrayed in her first novel, *Brown Girl, Brownstones* (1959)—but she considers herself a "tri-part person," as she told the *New York Times*: "Africa, Barbados, Brooklyn—that's the triangle that defines me and my work."

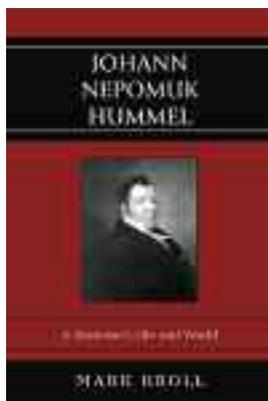
Pianist and harpsichordist **Mark Kroll, '68**, wrote the book on one of Beethoven's most illustrious contemporaries—*Johann Nepomuk Hummel: A Musician's Life and World* (2007). Hummel was one of the greatest pianists of his day, but after his death in 1837 the flashier music of the Romantic composers pushed his works out of fashion. Now, Hummel is poised for a comeback. In May, Kroll was featured as both a

performer and lecturer in a weeklong celebration of Hummel's music in Bordeaux, France, under the auspices of the Orpheus & Bacchus Festival.

President Obama may want to pick up a copy of *The East African*, which ran a long profile of **Gloria Hagberg, '34**. Hagberg and her husband moved to Kenya in 1956 and, with brief interruptions, she has lived there ever since, helping to set up schools and promoting racial equality. During the early period of their life there, the couple lived in a home owned and staffed by the United States Information Agency in Nairobi, and their cook was a "tall, dignified, and stern-faced, yet kind" Muslim named Hussein Onyango Obama—the president's grandfather. Barack Obama Sr., who was then a student, was a frequent visitor to the house who would announce his arrival by joking, "I've come to see the old man!"

Philanthropist and filmmaker **Richard Stadin, '55**, has given the city of New York eight butterfly gardens in the past eight years, including one in Brooklyn's Marine Park and four in Manhattan's Central Park. He estimates that the gardens, furnished with the types of plants that attract butterflies, have cost him \$10,000 to create. "This recession will not affect what I am doing," he told a blogger for the magazine *Contribute*—*The People and Ideas of Giving*. "I spend money each year replacing some plants, but they are perennials."

Obie Award-winning playwright and director **Young Jean Lee, M.F.A., '05**, continues to astound audiences. Her latest play, *The Shipment*, drew raves for its complex portrait of African American life and identity, an



achievement that made her audience “walk a knife’s edge of race and meaning,” according to *The New Yorker*.

Joel Isaacson, ’52, studied at Brooklyn College with abstract painters Burgoyne Diller, Mark Rothko, and Max Ernst. After serving in the U.S. Army he turned to art history and obtained his doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley. For more than thirty years he taught art history at the University of Michigan. After retiring in 1995, he returned to painting full time and now lives in Berkeley. An exhibition of his recent work was held in the University of California Graduate Theological Library. Entitled *Walls*, the work was inspired by the security fences in Israel and along the U.S.-Mexico border. To view the artist’s work, visit www.isaacsonpaintings.com.

Linda Zuckerman, ’63, has been editing children’s books for forty years, including three Caldecott Medal winners and two that received Newbery Honor citations. By now the lady knows what she likes and doesn’t like. Her first novel for young adults, *A Taste for Rabbit* (Arthur A. Levine, 2007), imagines a dystopia run by talking foxes and rabbits—a sour fantasy world full of violence, oppression, and desperation. Last fall it won the 2008 Oregon Book Award for Young Adult Literature. *Horn Book*, a magazine that reviews children’s literature, dubbed it “bunny noir.”

In November, Chicago radio host and University of Chicago professor emeritus **Milt Rosenberg, ’46**, was awarded the National Humanities Medal by former President George W. Bush. The medal recognizes Rosenberg’s thirty-six years as the host of the “elevated conversation and profound thought” on WGN Radio’s Extension 720 program.

Veronique LeMelle, M.F.A., ’84, has been tapped to lead the Boston Center for the Arts; she was most

recently the executive director of the Louisiana Division of the Arts. She has begun the job of assuring the rabid Red Sox fans in her new hometown that she harbors no traitorous allegiances: “I keep telling people I’m a Mets fan,” she explained to the *Boston Globe*. “I’m not a Yankees fan.”

Bernard Vogel was one of 228 Brooklyn College students, alumni, and staff who died during the Second World War, but it wasn’t until last November that his family learned how. Vogel was captured by the Germans in December 1944 and was sent off with 350 other Jewish or “Jewish looking” POWs to the Nazi slave labor camp Berga an der Elster. Along with another prisoner, Vogel attempted to escape in February 1945 but was caught. As punishment, the starving men were forced to stand in front of the barracks with no food or water until they could stand no more. After two or three days, both men collapsed, near death. Army medic Anthony Acevedo cared for Vogel during his final moments, and last fall a CNN.com article about Acevedo’s wartime experiences included the description of Vogel’s death—solving a sixty-four-year-old mystery for his younger brother Martin Vogel. “All of a sudden a whole past has come up in the present, and it’s a very emotional situation right now,” he told CNN.

Rabbi Jerome Gurland, ’52, helped organize a fundraiser for the Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Springfield, Massachusetts, after it was set aflame by an arsonist in the early morning hours following Barack Obama’s election. Because the congregation is primarily African American, indications are that this was a hate crime, an act Rabbi Gurland found “scandalous.” Gurland, a cultural liaison coordinator for Western New England College, told the local CBS affiliate: “We can’t permit this destruction to prevail in

the community; we don’t want Springfield to be like this.”

“After about fourteen years I have finally found time to direct a play,” went the e-mail from **Eugene Williams, M.F.A., ’90**. The note was surprising, as Williams is one of the most respected theater directors in the Caribbean, but his position as director of the School of Drama at Edna Manley College of the Arts in Jamaica has curtailed his stage directing. The *Jamaica Gleaner* reports that Williams directed a production of Amba Chevannes’ *Dinner with Eleanor* at the University of the West Indies.



It’s a big year for **Alan Vega, ’60**, cofounder of the influential 1970s punk-rock group Suicide. Vega (who studied art and physics at Brooklyn College when he went by the name Alan Bermowitz) celebrated his seventieth birthday with the help of his longtime fan Bruce Springsteen, who covered Vega’s tune “Dream, Baby, Dream”—the first of a series of limited-edition CD tributes by fellow rockers. This summer the Museum of Contemporary Art in Lyon, France, presents a major retrospective of Vega’s light sculptures in an exhibit that runs through August 2. And on the weekend of September 11, Vega reteams with Suicide keyboardist Marty Rev to recreate the band’s eponymous 1977 album at Kutcher’s Country Club in Monticello, New York.

Dan DiDio, '83

Dan DiDio, a native of Flatlands, a Samuel J. Tilden High School graduate, and a member of the Brooklyn College Class of 1983, credits his deep Brooklyn roots with paving the way for his unusual, and unusually successful, business career.

For more than twenty years, DiDio has steadily climbed the executive ladder in the hurly-burly of children's television and comic-book publishing. "There is a sense of hipness, of coolness" that is associated with coming from Brooklyn, he says. "You walk into a situation, like a new job, with a sense of street smarts that people from other parts of the city, and even elsewhere, pick up on. It definitely helps."

He adds, "It also helps that I've read a lot of comics."

He still does. For the past seven years DiDio has not only read them, he also has edited them—first as DC Universe vice-president, editorial, and since October 2004 as senior executive editor, DC Universe for DC Comics, a subsidiary of Warner Bros. In that position he presides over the published adventures and misadventures of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and all the other DC Comics heroes and superheroes. In addition, since 2006 he has written a weekly column, "DC Nation," which appears on the end page of almost every issue of DC Comics. "We publish between fifty-five and sixty-five issues monthly," DiDio notes.

He entered Brooklyn College as an accounting major in fall 1977. One day during his sophomore year, he was seated in an accounting class when he suddenly realized that he had no interest in what the professor was talking about. DiDio walked out, turning his back on accounting. That summer he enrolled in a Brooklyn College Broadcast News Institute course, worth eight credits, that allowed him to make up the accounting courses he had dropped. He never looked back.

While still attending Brooklyn College, DiDio landed a job as a page at CBS, Inc. He continued his education, taking classes at night, and in January 1983 he graduated with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting. "I gained a great understanding of the process by which television shows are made during my time at Brooklyn College," he says. "My professors were very helpful, providing me with a lot of insights and a sense of family. They also gave me a lot of contacts. You can't get anywhere without contacts."



In 1985, after four years at CBS, he moved to Capital Cities/ABC, where he worked for the next eleven years in a variety of positions—as an affiliates' rep, a public relations manager for the network's New York-based daytime soap operas, and later as executive director of children's programming in the network's Los Angeles offices. In 1996, DiDio departed ABC.

For a time he freelanced in Los Angeles for the Vancouver-based computer animation pioneer Mainframe Entertainment, working as a writer and story editor for TV's first full-length, completely computer-animated series, *ReBoot*, as well as on the cartoon television program *War Planets*. When he joined the company full time, it was to take the position of senior vice-president, creative affairs, heading up the firm's New York City headquarters.

In 2001 DiDio entered negotiations with DC Comics and returned to live in New York in January 2002. Though he thoroughly enjoys his job, he says, "There's a lot of travel involved. We're on the go constantly to conventions and meetings around the country."

But, he adds with a smile, he still returns to Brooklyn on a regular basis. "My mother now lives in Gerritsen Beach. Whenever I can I try to visit her once a week. Like a good Italian son."

1933

Herbert Nestler

Class Correspondent
8440 South Military Trail, Apt. 216
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

1935

Irwin Glick

Class Correspondent
5071C Nesting Way
Delray Beach, FL 33484-2762

1937

Harry W. Anisgard

Class Correspondent
2563 Greer Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

1939

Leo Aschenbrenner

Class Correspondent
52 Mackey Avenue
Port Washington, NY 11050-3932

1941

Shirley Edelman Greenwald

Class Correspondent
1 Washington Square Village, Apt. 16B
New York, NY 10012-1632

1942

The second edition of **Chester Burger's** sixth book, *Unexpected New York: 87 Discoveries in Familiar Places*, was published (Goodwin LLC).

1943

Romola Ettinger Kaplan

Class Correspondent
P.O. Box 648
East Quogue, NY 11942-0648

1944

Renee B. Landau Eidlin

Class Correspondent
30 Oak Street Ext., Apt. 507
Brockton, MA 02301-1169

1945

Arthur Mashberg is included in the sixth edition of *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*. His achievements include patents in the field of cancer detection.

1946

Bernard R. Schwartz

Class Correspondent
404 Beach 143 Street
Neponsit, NY 11694-1111

Rhoda Nathan is professor emerita of American literature and English at Hofstra University. She is also president of the Bernard Shaw Society. During her career she wrote or cowrote many books, as well as more than forty articles on Shaw in professional journals. She was the recipient of the Alumni Achievement Award of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Rhoda Samuels Nichter is a certified smoking cessation specialist at St. Francis Hospital, in Long Island, at the DeMatteis Center for Cardiac Research & Education. She founded GASP of NY and the Greater New York Council Against Public Smoking. She recently retired as host of "Smoking and Your Health," which was broadcast from Nassau Community College.

To all alumni:

Many class years include the name and address of a class correspondent, who is the link between your class and Brooklyn College Magazine. When you have news about your accomplishments that you would like published in the magazine, please write to your correspondent. If your class has no correspondent, please send items directly to Brooklyn College Magazine, Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210-2889.

You may also reach us by fax, 718.951.5962, or e-mail, alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

If you wish to volunteer to serve as a class correspondent, please write to Eileen Howlin at ehowlin@brooklyn.cuny.edu.

—Class Notes Editor

Elliot Levine, '46, appeared in a one-man show, modeled after Charles Laughton's *Story Teller* appearances. The show was performed at the Mid-Manhattan Library to a sold-out house.

1947

Reva Frumkin Biers

Class Correspondent
4631 Ellenita Avenue
Tarzana, CA 91356-4931

1948

Eneas Newman Sloman Arkawy

Class Correspondent
27110 Grand Central Parkway, Apt. 8G
Floral Park, NY 11005-1209

Bernice Resnick Sandler, '49, recently won the Guiding Women in Sport Award from the National Association for Girls and Women in Sport, for her work on Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. She received an honorary degree this spring from Case Western Reserve University not only for Title IX but also for her work on the "chilly climate," which identifies many of the ways in which women are often subtly treated differently from men.

Robert Sarnoff, '59, was celebrated when the Queens International Film Festival cast its "Filmmaker Spotlight" on him, featuring three of his films. The featured films were *No Rooms Lobby*, *The Irish Ropes*, and *Dispatch*. Also shown was a short trailer of his latest work, *The Romeows*.

1949

William D. Isaacson, former lecturer in the Department of Romance Languages at Brooklyn College, is now the dean of instruction at Five Towns College on Long Island.

Ann Amari Harson, '57, attended the premiere of her play *Miles to Babylon* in London in September 2008. She is awaiting the publication of her first novel, *Bunion Babes*.

1956

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

1950

Louise J. Kaplan
Class Correspondent
175 West 12 Street
New York, NY 10011-8275

pathologist and psychologist to have been both president of this college and a Gold Medal recipient. He is currently associate professor of clinical radiology in the Department of Radiology and the Columbia Kreitchman PET Center of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

1957

Micki Goldberg Ginsberg
Class Correspondent
217 E. Maple Avenue
Moorestown, NJ 08057-2011
ginsberg10@gmail.com

1951

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

1953

Ben Suntag
Class Correspondent
1311 Franklin Lane
Rockaway, NJ 07866-5814
gatnus@gmail.com

1958

Sandra Seigel Pikoff
Class Correspondent
4500 Williams Drive
Georgetown, TX 78633
sspikoff@aol.com

1952

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

Rabbi Meyer Lubin recently wrote a book, *Thrilling Torah Discoveries*.

Irene Danzker Deitch is a member of the Professional Education Committee of the Staten Island Cancer Society. She produced and hosted "Tobacco & Cancer: Impact & Challenge to the Community." Her one-hour program *Making Connections* is broadcast on Staten Island Cable TV.

1954

Marlene (Marcia) Jacoby Hillman
Class Correspondent
255 West 94 Street, Apt. 6Q
New York, NY 10025-6986

1959

Rosalie Fuchs Berle
Class Correspondent
260 Garth Road, Apt. 3J5
Scarsdale, NY 10583-4057

Ronald S. Tikofsky was awarded the Gold Medal of the American College of Nuclear Medicine at its Annual Meeting Awards Banquet. This medal is the highest honor bestowed by the college and was given "in recognition of his unsurpassed achievements in and dedication to the field of nuclear medicine." He is only the second Ph.D. and the first speech

1955

Geraldine Miller Markowitz
Class Correspondent
geraldine@njrr.com

Vera Pistrak Katz, the former mayor of Portland, Oregon, was recently honored by NEW Leadership Oregon, a program that mentors young women wanting a career in public service.

Allen Gelb is an immunohematologist; his most important blood group antigen discovery is XgA, the sex-linked blood group. He has appeared frequently on national television in connection with his work on DNA paternity testing and has often testified in court as an expert witness.

Marilyn P. Safir was appointed a Distinguished Citizen of the City of Haifa in June 2008.

1960

Saul Kravitz

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

1961

David S. Herskowitz

Class Correspondent
1175 Kildeer Court
Encinitas, CA 92024-1278
technologicalforecasting@yahoo.com

Janice Pearlstein Alper recently returned to the United States after spending three years in Melbourne, Australia, where she served as the executive director of the Union for Progressive Judaism. She continues to work as a Jewish professional, consulting with the Agency for Jewish Education in San Diego and teaching in the Florence Melton Adult Mini School.

Harvey Jay Cohen is chairman of the Department of Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine and director of the Duke Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development.

John Kabat recently had his book *Teach This!* published by Lulu.com. After retiring as an administrator with the New York City schools, he moved to California where he has been an adjunct faculty member at California State University, East Bay, for the past five years.

Interviews with **Marilyn Siegel** about the value of aerobics that were aired along with close-ups of her actively participating in Retro Aerobics classes at the New York Health and Racquet Club, led to appearances on segments of both *Today* and *The Early Show*.

1962

Steven J. Nappen

Class Correspondent
38 Troy Hills Road
Whippany, NJ 07981-1315

Harriet Gellin Selverstone, a school media specialist for twenty-nine years, had a textbook published entitled *Encouraging and Supporting Student Inquiry: Researching Controversial Issues*. The book is a resource for school media specialists in their work with classroom teachers. Pratt Institute recently awarded her the honorary degree of doctor of humane letters.

1963

Cliff Rosner

Class Correspondent
111 Blue Willow Drive
Houston, TX 77042-1105

Roberta (Bobbi) Johnson is professor emerita at the University of San Francisco. After retiring she went to Brazil as a Fulbright Senior Specialist to lecture and teach about U.S. politics and the presidential election.

Shayna Caul (formerly Janet Sonnenstein) was selected to be in the book *Holy Headshot!* Only 104 performers were chosen from 50,000 headshots submitted from all over the country.

Lee Glickstein, who lives in the San Francisco Bay area, founded Speaking Circles International. He is currently working on a new book, *Healing into Boldness: Dissolve Self-Consciousness and Answer Your Call to Greatness*.

A charge of “naked short selling” that caused the stock value of the Montgomery, Alabama, Colonial BancGroup to plummet had the local authorities looking for the right prosecutor to bring the villains to justice. In August, **Harvey Pitt, '65**, former chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, was appointed as a deputy attorney general for the state of Alabama. Naked short selling occurs when someone “shorts” a stock without first borrowing the shares to sell to a buyer. In the Colonial BancGroup case, Alabama officials are trying to prove that these naked short sellers also waged a campaign of rumor and innuendo to drive down the price of the stock. Pitt continues to serve as chief executive of Kalorama Partners, a consultancy based in Washington, D.C.

1964

Jay Orlikoff

Class Correspondent
20 Beaverdale Lane
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2507
drjay@drjay.com

Alan S. Goldberg has been appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia to the Commonwealth of Virginia Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board for a three-year term. The board is responsible for administering and supervising the mandatory continuing legal education program for the Virginia State Bar.

1965

Barbara Berman Leveene

Class Correspondent
24 Jubilee Circle
Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

Dominick Finello is teaching in the Brooklyn College Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. His new book is *The Evolution of the Pastoral Novel in Early Modern Spain*.

1966

Felicia Friedland Weinberg

Class Correspondent
P.O. Box 449
Clarksburg, NJ 08510

Lawrence Z. Lorber, '67,

a labor lawyer and partner at Proskauer Rose LLP, testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in September against the Paycheck Fairness Act that would amend the Equal Pay Act of 1963 to make it easier for employees to sue for punitive and compensatory damages for wage discrimination that occurred in the past. Lorber argued that the new law did not improve the cause of “equal pay for equal work” but rather created a more effective moneymaking tool for plaintiffs’ attorneys. Despite his testimony, a week after his inauguration President Obama signed the bill into law.

1967

Sharon Weinschel Resen

Class Correspondent
1740 Kimball Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304

Eleanor Finegold Sobel was elected last November to the Florida State Senate, representing cities in Broward County.

It has been announced that **Donald Zingale** will be appointed as the president at SUNY Cobleskill.

1968

Eileen McGinn

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

Steven Zaidman, former vice-president of technical operations at the Federal Aviation Administration, joined Noblis, Inc., a nonprofit science, technology, and strategy organization. He will serve as director of transportation systems concepts and planning and will be responsible for helping Noblis develop innovative solutions to meet the increasingly complex needs of the world's transportation systems.

1969

Edward M. Greenspan

Class Correspondent
1237 Avenue Z, Apt. 6G
Brooklyn, NY 11235-4360
emgreenspan@optonline.net

Since retiring from the New York State Office of Mental Health, where he worked as a clinical administrator in a psychiatric facility, **Jan Adler** has joined the Institute for Retired Professionals, a peer learning community, at the New School in Greenwich Village. He is coordinating study groups there and is chairperson of the Advisory Board.

Perry Glasser is a professor of English at Salem State College in Massachusetts, where he coordinates the Professional Writing Program. His third collection of short fiction, *Dangerous Places*, was named winner of the 2008 GS Sharat Chandra Prize offered by BkMk Press at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, which will publish the book. He is a three-time winner of the PEN Syndicated Fiction Prize, has won the Boston Fiction Festival Competition twice, and has had his work recorded by the Library of Congress and included in a number of anthologies.

Doris Green, the first person to teach African dance/music at Brooklyn College, is the creator of Greenotation, a system designed to notate music of the percussion instruments of Africa. She is a contributor to the book *Go Tell Michelle*, in which one hundred black women wrote to Michelle Obama.

1970

Barry Silverman

Class Correspondent
176 Stults Lane
East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5815
writeone@comcast.net

Helen Zaharakos Antholis is director of Brookdale Community College's Branch Campus in Freehold, New Jersey. She recently received her master's degree in administrative science from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Leonard Banco has been appointed senior vice-president, chief medical officer, for Bristol Hospital in Bristol, Connecticut.

Beverly Hall, superintendent of schools in Atlanta, was named 2009 National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators at its national conference in February.

The National Academy of Sciences has awarded **Arthur Grossman, '73**, the Gilbert Morgan Smith Medal, which recognizes excellence in published research on marine or freshwater algae. The Carnegie Institute scientist's medal (engraved with algae and sporting the legend "For Excellence in Phycology") is not his first laurel for achievement in algal areas: In 2002 he took home the Darbaker Prize from the Botanical Society of America for his meritorious study of microscopical algae.

1971

Constance Forte Pigozzi

Class Correspondent
7802 16 Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11214-1004

1972

Stanley A. Alexander

Class Correspondent
4 Indian Valley Road
East Setauket, NY 11790

Peg Kershenbaum was ordained a rabbi in May 2008 by the Academy for Jewish Religion. She serves Congregation B'nai Harim in Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania.

1973

Linda E. Gross Carroll

Class Correspondent
212 Stony Point Drive
Sebastian, FL 32958
lcarroll32@comcast.net

Stephanie Calmenson recently authored two children's books, *May I Pet Your Dog?* and *Late for School!*

Nelson Levine de Luca & Horst announced that **Francine Levitt Semaya** has joined their firm as a lateral partner in the New York office. She will focus on insurance regulatory, reinsurance, and insolvency law in the areas of property, casualty, life, annuity, surety, and financial guaranty.

1974

Diane Oeters Vaughn

Class Correspondent
42 Briarwood Drive
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
dianeleslie29@hotmail.com

Gail Maxine Wheeler Bailey wrote *Children's Stories for Little Folks*. This book includes two stories based on childhood experiences of the author.

Emily Hager Lembeck became the first female superintendent of the Marietta City Schools (Georgia) in the system's 113-year history.

Michael S. Lewis has been named a director with Cowan, Guntjeski & Co., P.A. Lewis is a recognized expert in practice management, practice acquisition, health care information systems, physician

Valerie Hodgson, '77,

was recently promoted to director of photographic services with the New York City Police Department.

She began her career at the NYPD's Photo Unit twenty-five years ago as a photographer.

Some of her photographs appear in the book *Above Hallowed Ground—A photographic record of September 11, 2001*.

relations, reimbursement and billing, and management consulting. He is listed in both *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*.

1975

Rubin Leitner

Class Correspondent
138 East 96 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11212-3534

Howard Kellman was inducted into the Indiana Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame.

1976

Henry P. Feintuch

Class Correspondent
50 Barnes Lane
Chappaqua, NY 10514-2425

Alan Lieber is a partner with Barnett, Edelstein, Gross, Kass & Lieber, a health care law and medical malpractice defense firm in New York City.

The Board of Certification, Inc. (BOC) formally announced Frank E. Walters as athletic trainer director-elect. His term will begin in July. The BOC, a national credentialing agency, has been certifying athletic trainers and identifying, for the public, quality health care professionals since 1969.

1978

Susan A. Katz

Class Correspondent
120 Pinewood Trail
Trumbull, CT 06611-3313

1979

Anthony Esposito

Class Correspondent
211 Highway 35 N
Mantoloking, NJ 08738-1420

Allison Reiss, head of the inflammation section of the Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology at Winthrop-University Hospital; her colleague Steven E. Carsons, chief of the hospital's Division of Rheumatology, Allergy and Immunology; and their collaborators recently wrote a paper in *Arthritis & Rheumatism*, an official monthly journal of the prestigious American College of Rheumatology. The title of the article is "Atheroprotective Effects of Methotrexate on Reverse Cholesterol Transport of Proteins and Foam Cell Transformation in Human THP-1 Monocyte/Macrophages."

Patricia Cronin, '88, associate professor of art at Brooklyn College, has a solo exhibition, *Harriet Hosmer, Lost and Found*, at the Brooklyn Museum. She joins only a handful of Art Department professors (most of them distinguished professors) to have solo shows at New York City museums.

1980

Christopher A. Puello has written a new book, *Scholarly Papers from a Brooklyn College Columbia MBA Analyzing Selected Political and Business Issues*.

Drew Swiss, the vice-president of finance for Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx, is the top fundraiser in New York State for Team for Kids, a program designed to motivate children to exercise more often.

1981

Debbie Schiffer Burke

Class Correspondent
debcolumn@aol.com

1982

Eileen Sherman Gruber

Class Correspondent
69 Derby Avenue
Greenlawn, NY 11740

1983

Michael Kosik

Class Correspondent
331 Newman Springs Road, Building 1
Red Bank, NJ 07701
michael.kosik@ubs.com

1985

Peter Huertas

Class Correspondent
5135 Fedora Drive
San Antonio, TX 78242
alamodude2001@yahoo.com

Jolie DeFeis is the founder of Energy Garden Inc., a communications and innovation agency.

1986

Ian Lee Brown

Class Correspondent
4631 Twin Lakes Lane
Long Grove, IL 60047
ian.brown@erickson.com

Vincent C. Alfonso was elected president of the Community Free Democrats for 2009. He is a professor and associate dean for academic affairs at the Graduate School of Education, Fordham University.

1987

Eric Steinhart

Class Correspondent
915 East 7 Street, Apt. 1H
Brooklyn, NY 11230-2733

1988

Lauren Korn Popkoff

Class Correspondent
951 Woodoak Drive
Baldwin Harbor, NY 11510

1990

Beth Debra Kallman Werner

Class Correspondent
105 Husson Road
Milford, PA 18337

Malanna Carey, '94, recently won first place in the Second Annual One-Act Play Festival, sponsored by Stage Door Productions, a local community theater. Entries came from across the United States and foreign countries. The winning play, *The Eclipse*, was written while Carey was a student at Brooklyn College.

1992

Olga Fyne recently authored three books—*Squirrel Race*, *Jerry and Sherry*, and *My Shadow Is a Copycat*.

Assistant Principal **Alice Lee** of P.S. 105 was honored at a celebration of national Women's History Month by State Senator Marty Golden.

Lisette Nieves, who became the first Puerto Rican to win a Rhodes scholarship, is executive director for Year Up NYC and received the 2008 Heroes Award from the Robin Hood Foundation.

1993

Sister Joan Gallagher, CSJ, is the principal of St. Joseph High School in Brooklyn. The school is celebrating its 105th anniversary this year.

1994

Ilene Berkowitz
Class Correspondent
1575 46 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11219

1995

Nathan Solat
Class Correspondent
2793 Lee Place
Bellmore, NY 11710

1996

Anthony Vitale
Class Correspondent
1742 Gildersleeve Street
Merrick, NY 11566

1997

Tara M. Dowd
Class Correspondent
40 West 72 Street
Apt. 23A
New York, NY 10023

Tisha Y. Lewis, '95, recently received the J. Michael Parker Award, at the 58th annual National Reading Conference, for significant contributions to adult literacy research. She was also awarded the Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Scholarship in recognition of her area of literacy research and her commitment to membership and involvement in the National Reading Conference. Lewis is a 2008–2010 recipient of the National Council of Teachers of English Research Foundation's Cultivating New Voices among Scholars of Color Fellowship, which provides support to doctoral students and junior scholars who are completing their dissertations.

Robert O'Neill has written the textbook *Digital Character Development: Theory and Practice*. Published by Morgan Kaufmann (Elsevier), the textbook is a theoretical overview of character technology for animation and video games.

1998

Tom Moran is a New York City public school teacher and has just finished his second music album, *Ain't Gonna Give Up*.

1999

David Moskowitz
Class Correspondent
2327 East 18 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11229-4416

2001

Tatesha Bennett Clark
Class Correspondent
540 East 82 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236-3119

2002

Igor Galanter
Class Correspondent
1342 East 18 Street, Apt. 6C
Brooklyn, NY 11230

Greg Ames recently had his first novel, *Buffalo Lockjaw*, published by Hyperion Books.

2004

Yael Abraham Fogel
Class Correspondent
570 Ocean Parkway, Apt. 5C
Brooklyn, NY 11218-5822
yct.fogel@gmail.com

2006

Carla Backmon has a new book, *SaVvmari Survival Guide: A Reference Manual for Surviving Hard Times (SaVvmari, LLC, 2009)*, focusing on resources that are needed by those hard-pressed by economic problems.

2007

Ezra N. Rich
Class Correspondent
588 West End Avenue, Apt. 1B
New York, NY 10024-1766
ezrarich@gmail.com

Irene Brodsky is teaching freestyle poetry in the IRPE program at Brooklyn College. Her recently published book, *Poetry Unplugged*, is a collection of fifty poems.

2008

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

Judith Lockley Johnson, '61

After a lifetime devoted to education, Peekskill School District Superintendent Judith Lockley Johnson, '61, was recently named the New York State School Superintendent of 2008. This is not the first—nor likely the last—accolade she has received since she started as a teacher and guidance counselor at one of the first alternative schools in New York City in 1963. In fact, she was recently named the 2008 BCAA Alumna of the Year.

"There were not that many career choices for African American women—and women in general—when I graduated," she notes, "other than becoming a nurse, a social worker, or a school teacher."

Choosing education seemed the right thing to do, however.

"I have never had a minute of regret," says Johnson, who majored in sociology as an undergraduate and hasn't stopped studying since.

She obtained her M.A. from New York University as well as a certificate of advanced studies from SUNY–New Paltz. She has completed additional course work toward a doctorate at Columbia University Teachers College.

"The more I got into it, the more I understood how difficult it is to raise kids in poverty and give them an education," adds the mother of two who has authored, among other publications, a paper on the subject of poverty and education for the *Stanford Law Journal*.

A deputy assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education under the Clinton administration, Johnson traveled extensively across the country and witnessed firsthand the needs of the country's fifty-one million students. After serving as Westchester County assistant superintendent for instruction and curriculum, Johnson accepted the challenge of becoming the Peekskill school superintendent, hoping to make a difference in the nearly five-thousand-student system that comprises three elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school.

Once a flourishing industrial center, Peekskill, located on the shores of the Hudson River, is a changing community that in recent decades has drawn New York City artists pushed out by increasingly higher real estate prices. With a population that is today over 50 percent white, with blacks and Latinos making up the remaining percentage, the town's school district, formerly riddled with low-scoring students and plagued with increasing violence, has been turning around, ever since Johnson's arrival.



"I invited the community to help and participate," she says. And though she had to fight tooth-and-nail to win their support, the community paid heed to Johnson's advice.

"I explained what our five goals should be: to raise the level of achievement and narrow the gap between rich and poor; to recruit, retrain, and retain a quality workforce that believes in the children's potential; to increase parental engagement in their children's education and in the system; to reduce bullying and disruptive behavior and provide a secure environment; and to modernize the schools—mostly in disrepair—in a fiscally prudent way."

Although Johnson was warned that, like many other New York towns, the Peekskill population was facing tax-paying fatigue, the community approved two bond initiatives to invest \$100 million in upgrading and modernizing the schools. In addition, Peekskill's new state-of-the-art middle school is near completion.

"Children need labs, art, and many other things that tests cannot quantify," she says, insisting, however, that improving scores in the Regents examinations is important. "We report to the community each year, review these goals, and set new ones," she says.

Over the past five years, Peekskill high school graduation rates have jumped from 55 to 76 percent, while student performance on state assessments has increasingly improved by an average of 13 to 20 percent across all grades. Meanwhile, with the assistance of parents and the police, violence has been reduced as well. More needs to be done, she argues.

"We need to uproot the sense of hopelessness so characteristic of high-poverty areas," Johnson says, emphasizing her own experience to make her point. "As a child who grew up in the projects, I know what education can do for you."

But education, in Johnson's view, is more than high test scores and good grades. And she is determined to give Peekskill kids—rich and poor; black, Latino, or white—a chance to beat the cycle of poverty and become middle class.

"We have to prepare all of our children to be learners for the rest of their lives."

Robert David Johnson, History, *All the Way with LBJ: The 1964 Presidential Election*, Cambridge University Press, 2009, \$80, hardcover.

All the Way with LBJ mines an extraordinarily rich but underutilized source—the full range of LBJ tapes—to analyze the 1964 presidential campaign and the political culture of the

Faculty

Jonathan E. Adler, Philosophy, and **Lance J. Rips**, eds., *Reasoning: Studies of Human Inference and Its Foundations*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, \$135, hardcover.

Noel S. Anderson, Political Science, with **Haroon Kharem**, Education, eds., *Education as Freedom: African American Educational Thought and Activism*, Lexington Books, 2008, \$70, hardcover.

David E. Balk, Health and Nutrition Sciences, and **Charles A. Corr**, eds., *Adolescent Encounters with Death, Bereavement, and Coping*, Springer Publishing, 2009, \$65, hardcover.

Jillian R. Cavanaugh, Anthropology and Archaeology, *Living Memory: The Social Aesthetics of Language in a Northern Italian Town*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009, \$89.95, hardcover.

Christopher Dunbar, Physical Education and Exercise Science, *ECG Interpretation for the Clinical Exercise Physiologist*, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2009, \$48.95, spiral-bound.

Roger Dunkle, Classics (emeritus), *Gladiators: Violence and Spectacle in Ancient Rome*, Longman, 2008, \$39.95, hardcover.

Joshua Fogel, Economics, *Consumers of Internet Health Information: Psychological Impact among Women*

Marie Rutkoski, English, *The Cabinet of Wonders: The Kronos Chronicles—Book 1*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008, \$16.95, hardcover.

Add this heady mix of history and enchantment to the season's list of astonishingly accomplished first novels: Rutkoski's fantasy features quirky characters, imaginative world building, and a hint of trouble to come that will create demand for the next book in the planned Kronos

with Breast Cancer, VDM, 2009, \$63, paperback.

Kenneth A. Gould and **Tammy L. Lewis**, Sociology, *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, Oxford University Press USA, 2008, \$42.95, paperback.

Olympia Hadjiliadis, Mathematics, and **H. Vincent Poor**, *Quickest Detection*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, \$90, hardcover.

Janet Elise Johnson, Political Science, *Gender Violence in Russia: The Politics of Feminist Intervention*, Indiana University Press, 2009, \$24.95, paperback.

Gunja SenGupta, History, *From Slavery to Poverty: The Racial Origins of Welfare in New York, 1840–1918*, New York University Press, 2009, \$48, hardcover.

SenGupta's work provides historical context for understanding why today the notion of "welfare"—with all its derogatory "un-American" connotations—is associated... with programs targeted at the poor, which are wrongly assumed to benefit primarily urban African

Daniel Kopec, Computer and Information Science, with **Lubomir Ftacnik** and **Walter Browne**, *Champions of the New Millennium*, Quality Chess Books, 2009, euro 24.99, hardcover.

Rachel Kousser, Art, *Hellenistic and Roman Ideal Sculpture: The Allure of the Classical*, Cambridge University Press, 2008, \$85, hardcover.

David K. Meagher, Health and Nutrition Sciences (emeritus), *Zach and His Dog: A Story of Bonding, Love, and Loss for Children and Adults to Share Together*, AuthorHouse, 2009, \$23.99, paperback.

Andrew Seth Meyer, History, and **John S. Major**, **Sarah A. Queen**, **Harold D. Roth**, eds., *The Huainanzi: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Government in Early Han China*, by **Liu An**, King of Huainan, Columbia University Press, 2009.

Florence Namulundah, Education, *Multiculturalism 101*, McGraw-Hill Humanities, 2009, \$30, paperback.

Russell Leigh Sharman, Anthropology and Archaeology, and **Cheryl Harris Sharman**, *Nightshift NYC*, University of California Press, 2008, \$24.95, hardcover.

Elmer Sprague, Philosophy (emeritus), *Brooklyn Public Monuments: Sculpture for Civic Memory and Urban Pride*, Dog Ear Publishing, 2008, \$12.95, paperback.

Paula A. Whitlock, Computer and Information Science, and Malvin H. Kalos, *Monte Carlo Methods*, Wiley-VCH, 2008, \$180, hardcover.

Robert Cooperman, '67, *The Words We Used*, Main Street Rag, \$14.95, 2009, paperback.

Harold Fromm, '54, *The Nature of Being Human: From Environmentalism to Consciousness*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009, \$35, hardcover.

Christopher A. Puello, '80, *Scholarly Papers from a Brooklyn College Columbia MBA Analyzing Selected Political & Business Issues*, iUniverse.com, 2008, \$25.95, hardcover.

Joseph V. Ricapito, '55, *Second Wave*, Bordighera Press, 2008, \$12, paperback.

Ron Ross, '54, *Nine Ten and Out! The Two Worlds of Emile Griffith*, DiBella Entertainment, 2008, \$16.95, paperback.

Sheldon Spear, '59, *Daniel J. Flood: A Biography, The Congressional Career of an Economic Savior and Cold War Nationalist*, Lehigh University Press, 2008, \$44.50, hardcover.

Harriet Brown, '92, *Feed Me! Writers Dish about Food, Eating, Weight, and Body Image*, Ballantine, 2009, \$15, paperback.

Exploring the bonds between appetite and remorse, hunger and longing, satisfaction and desire, this anthology is for every woman who's ever felt guilty about eating dessert, or gushed over a friend's weight loss, or wished she had a different body.

Staff

Lillian Hurd O'Reilly, Professional Advancement and Continuing Education, *After Eight*, Durban House, 2009, \$15.95, paperback.

Alumni

Greg Ames, '02, *Buffalo Lockjaw*, Hyperion, 2009, \$14.99, paperback.

Deena K. Bernstein, '63, and **Ellenmorris Tiegerman-Farber**, '71, *Language and Communication Disorders in Children*, 6th edition, Allyn & Bacon, 2008, \$109, paperback.

Pola Bradman, '74, *Retos y Reacciones: Diario Poetico*, Vox Pop, Inc. 2008, \$19.95, paperback.

Murray Bromberg, '48, *I Slept with Marlene Dietrich: A Tell-All Memoir*, AuthorHouse, 2008, \$15.99, paperback.

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in *Memoriam*

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School of Education

Fred Schuster
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SCHOLAR, TEACHER, AND ADVOCATE JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN DIES AT AGE NINETY-



Former Brooklyn College History Department Chairperson John Hope Franklin, a noted scholar, powerful author, cherished teacher, and respected advocate for civil rights, died in Durham, North Carolina, on March 25. He was ninety-four.

Franklin was born in 1915 in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, and grew up in Tulsa. There he met another distinguished future Brooklyn College faculty member, Hobart Jarrett, and they became close friends. Franklin went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Fisk University in 1935 and received an M.A. in 1936 and a Ph.D. in history in 1941 from Harvard University. In the course of his lifetime, he was the recipient of more than 130 honorary degrees.

Besides Brooklyn College, where he taught from 1956 to 1964, becoming the first African American to head a major history department, he also taught at such leading institutions as Howard University, Harvard, the University of Chicago, and Duke University. His teaching career spanned more than seventy years. When he died, he was the James B. Duke Professor of History Emeritus at Duke.

"John Hope Franklin was a historian of extraordinary acuity and depth," said Brooklyn College President Christoph M. Kimmich. "He was a cherished teacher and mentor, and both his former students and his colleagues remember him with affection and respect."

"He was an outstanding and dedicated scholar," said Professor George Cunningham, chairperson of the Africana Studies Department at Brooklyn College. "From his first book, *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790–1860*, to his study of runaway slaves, he was pioneering and enabled educators to truly teach the history of African Americans in the United States."

A score of highly acclaimed books either authored or edited by Franklin followed. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, which was first published in 1947, has sold more than three million copies and is

still considered one of the definitive historical surveys of America's black experience.

But Franklin did not confine himself to teaching and writing alone. Throughout the 1950s he was involved with the team of lawyers who worked on the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision that ended segregation in U.S. schools. In 1965, he marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton awarded Franklin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor that an American citizen can receive.

Professor David Troyansky, chairperson of the Brooklyn College History Department, said that he was "awestruck to meet him" several years ago while attending a conference where Franklin was a featured speaker. "He was a giant among historians in a heroic era of American and African American historiography."

At a celebration of Franklin's career held in May, Troyansky announced that an essay contest and a memorial conference in the fall will be dedicated to Franklin's achievements.

Defying the Odds...and the Nazis

There was a lot going on last winter at the Bielski home in Midwood, Brooklyn. Phone calls from as far away as Australia clogged the line; requests for interviews by news organizations all around the globe poured in.

"It was the movie," explained Zvi Bielski, '74. "There were people calling, saying they loved it and that they remember how my father and my uncles saved them or their relatives from the Nazis."

The movie was *Defiance*, costarring Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber. Craig, the latest star of James Bond movies, portrays Bielski's Uncle Tuvia, while Schreiber plays his father, Zus (pronounced "zoosh").

"Schreiber looks a lot like my father," recalled Bielski, who visited the film set in Belarus and met the cast and crew. "He was a big man, six-foot-two, 220 pounds, and had scars all over. When I was seven or eight, I stuck my finger in the holes made by bullets in my father's skin, and he told me, 'The Nazis did that.'"

The movie relates how Zus, Tuvia, and their brothers Asael and Aron survived the Nazi invasion of Belarus in 1941. Taking refuge in forests that covered much of the country, they eluded the Germans who were rounding up and killing thousands of Jews, including their parents and other relatives.

During their forest sojourn the brothers saved more than 1,250 other Jews, sheltering them and teaching them to fight. "That's how so many came out of the forest with them," said Bielski. "If you add in all the survivors' children and grandchildren, there are tens of thousands of people alive today because of what my father and his brothers did during the war. To me, my father was a giant. He's my hero."

At the war's end, Tuvia, Zus, and their wives, Lilka and Sonya, whom they met and married while in the forest, emigrated to Israel, where Zvi was born. When he was four, his family moved to New York City. They settled in Brooklyn to be close to older siblings who had arrived in America before the war.

In Belarus the Bielski brothers had been sons of a small-town mill owner. In Brooklyn they had to adapt to an urban lifestyle and much more. Zus went into the taxi



Zvi Bielski, second from left, on the set of Defiance with stars

Liev Schreiber and Daniel Craig to his left.

business and did well. He and Sonya had a home in Midwood, another in Florida, and a third in Israel. They wanted an ordinary life for their own children. Their oldest son, Jay, became a doctor.

Zvi and his brother David both graduated from Brooklyn College. David, '71, now lives in New Jersey.

"I attended Midwood High School," said Zvi Bielski. "I was quarterback on the varsity football team for three years and did pretty well on my SATs. At Brooklyn College, I studied sociology and political science."

Before following his father into the taxi business, Bielski went back to Israel, where he put in three years in the Israeli Defense Forces. "I was a volunteer in an antiterror unit," he said.

One time, returning from a weekend pass in civilian clothes, Bielski and members of his unit boarded a bus to their base. One of his mates called out his name. "A woman looked at me and grabbed my arm," he said. "'You're a Bielski?' she asked. I nodded. She started to cry. 'The Bielskis saved my parents,' she told me."

Shortly before Zus died in 1995, the old fighter told his son, "Don't let them forget what we did in the forest." "I promised him that I never would," Bielski said. "I'll tell anyone who'll listen what my father and his brothers did!"

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