

Future Power

Business, government and civic leaders; trustees, college presidents and faculty; prominent donors and alumni gathered for the chancellor's recent update on University fundraising and new goals.



WITH ENROLLMENT SOARING and philanthropic support at unprecedented levels, The City University of New York has announced the next phase of its successful campaign, Invest in CUNY, Invest in New York: Expanding the Vision, with the goal of raising a total of \$3 billion by 2015.

A \$25 million gift from philanthropist, developer and commercial property owner Bernard Spitzer for the School of Architecture at City College was also announced by Board Chairperson Benno Schmidt and Chancellor Matthew Goldstein at the news conference and reception at the CUNY Graduate School and University Center, where the new phase of the fund-raising campaign was marked.

The architecture school will be named The Anne and Bernard Spitzer School of

Architecture, Chancellor Goldstein said at the news conference, which was attended by CUNY trustees, presidents of CUNY colleges, faculty, administrators, individual students, and prominent donors — many of whose gifts to the University have exceeded \$1 million.

“The theme of this day is making investments to ensure, to the degree that we can, that the greatness of this University will continue its momentum in giving opportunities to young people, to really change their lives,” Chancellor Goldstein told the news conference. Noting that the Spitzers, both CUNY graduates, were example of the University’s contributions to success, the chancellor added, “What the City University does is give options to the children of our graduates that our graduates did not have — and that continues to be a theme that will propel us into our future. We have an obligation

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“Open the doors to all—let the children of the rich and the poor take their seats together and know of no distinction save that of industry, good conduct, and intellect.”

Townsend Harris, *founder*

SPRING 2009

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Campuses Grow Greener

The largest forestation project in University history will add about 5,400 trees to various campuses by the end of spring.



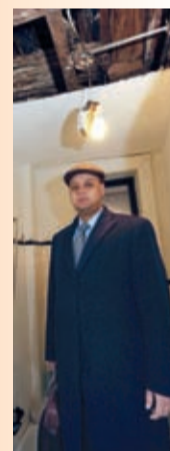
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The University’s website, www.cuny.edu, and its cable channel, CUNY-TV, garner Emmys for excellence in programming.



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Online lectures and class discussions from remote locations are now possible in real time.



Gifts That Keep Giving

IN 2004, The City University of New York launched the first CUNY-wide fund-raising campaign with a goal of raising \$1.2 billion by 2012.

When Chairman Benno Schmidt and I announced the “Invest in CUNY” plan, we were met with some skepticism. A billion-dollar campaign at a university not well known for its strong tradition of giving was considered audacious at best.

Now, of course, it is well known that we did reach our goal — four years earlier than expected. What we have found is that there is a hunger among our alumni and friends to contribute to the institution that has made such a difference in their lives.

For example, in the 1950s Andrew Grove fled Hungary in such a hurry that he didn't have school transcripts or any proof of his education when he came to the United States. Yet someone in the admissions office at City College saw his talent. He was admitted and ended up graduating first in his class. Later, he helped found Intel Corporation. And in 2005, he gave the City College School of Engineering a \$26 million gift, saying, “This institution is a veritable American-dream machine. I hope to keep it that way.”

Bernard and Anne Spitzer recently gave City College an extraordinary gift of \$25 million for the School of Architecture. Anne went to Brooklyn College and Bernard attended City College — and they attribute much of their success to their CUNY education. Transformative gifts such as Bill and Linda Macaulay's \$30 million donation to the Honors College and Larry and Carol Zicklin's numerous contributions to Baruch College are indicative of the generosity of our alumni and their strong ties to the University where they got their start.

These and many other gifts are enabling CUNY to ensure that faculty are positioned to do their best work and that students have the tools they need to compete in an economy that demands a high level of skill, creativity and talent. The support of our alumni and friends allows the

University to leverage state support and invest in scholarships, academic programs and facilities. We are tremendously grateful for every contribution.

Today we are expanding the Invest in CUNY campaign, with a goal of raising \$3 billion by 2015. We are emboldened by the great strides that have been made at the University over the last decade.

In the last few years, we have established the Macaulay Honors College, the School of Professional Studies, and a new Graduate School of Journalism. You will read in these pages about the development



of a new School of Public Health and a new community college. We are also planning a school of pharmacy.

Our enrollment is expected to reach record levels this fall, with more than 250,000 degree-seeking students. CUNY faculty and students continue to be nationally recognized for their outstanding work. Most recently, six CUNY faculty members were selected as 2009 Guggenheim Fellows. This spring, another CUNY student won a Truman Scholarship — the fifth CUNY Truman winner in five consecutive years —

and three students won Goldwater Scholarships.

We must maintain this momentum. We have an obligation to make sure that future generations of students who come to CUNY with the will and tenacity to learn will find every opportunity to succeed in their academic goals.

I deeply appreciate your partnership in building a University of great academic distinction, accessible to every deserving student. I look forward to continuing to work with you to help our students achieve their own version of the American dream.

Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor

\$10 million Financial Aid Initiative

Chancellor Goldstein has announced a \$10 million financial aid initiative for needy students in addition to existing and expanded Tuition Assistance Program awards and Pell grants. Features include: partial tuition waivers, tuition payment plans, support for textbooks, a student employment program and a food stamps initiative. For a podcast and more details: “Chancellor Reports” at www.cuny.edu.

Campuses Get

FOR MONTHS, York College has worked to make its Jamaica, Queens, campus a more aesthetically welcoming place. Flower-filled planters have appeared. Benches have been installed on the formerly empty plaza that sweeps to the college's imposing main building. This spring, York's campus will be transformed even further, into a softer, shadier oasis, with the planting of 185 new trees.

The plantings at York are part of the largest forestation project in University history.

Partnering with the city's Parks Department and funded with \$10 million in private donations from Mayor Michael Bloomberg and David Rockefeller to the private-public MillionTreesNYC initiative, 337 trees were planted on campuses last fall, and digging is underway this spring for about 1,100 more at York, Queens College, Queensborough and Kingsborough Community Colleges and the College of Staten Island. Students, faculty and others plan to pick up shovels to take part in the greening on May 1, called CUNY Volunteer Planting Day. They will join Parks Department workers to plant close to 4,200 trees at York, Queensborough and College of Staten Island, and at seven city parks. The plantings will continue throughout the spring, and the CUNY community is expected to plant approximately 5,400 trees by the end of the season.

The greening of the campuses with some 2,500 trees by spring's end furthers the University's mission to create more sustainable campuses and facilities. “It will reduce our carbon footprint overall and make a significant difference in the way some of our campuses look and feel,” said Iris Weinshall, vice chancellor for facilities planning, construction and management.

In 2007, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein established the CUNY Sustainability Project in response to Mayor Bloomberg's

PlaNYC “Universities Challenge” to reduce its carbon footprint 30 percent by 2017. MillionTreesNYC, a PlaNYC initiative, was launched by the Parks Department and New York Restoration Project in fall 2007 with the goal of planting and caring for 1 million new trees across the city over the next decade, increasing the city's urban forest — its most valuable environmental asset — by 20 percent.

The project is giving some colleges a rare chance to re-design and re-landscape their campuses, often with the help of professional landscape architects. It is an opportunity, too, to replace older, even historic trees that may have been planted with ceremonial fanfare years ago but were lost to age and disease, or to campus expansion and building projects.

At York, the re-landscaping includes the creation of an arboretum at the campus' corner at Liberty Avenue and 160th Street. The arboretum will not only provide additional aesthetic value and health benefits, but an educational tool. Some of the species included in the arboretum are American

beeches, tulip trees and white pines.

The campus, laid out in six “super blocks” of mostly low-rise brick buildings, will be significantly changed by the introduction of 185 new trees of more than 50 species.

It will transform the way people look at the campus. Instead of seeing a large metal gate, they will see trees,” said Jerry Posman, York's chief operating officer and vice president for administration. The trees, he added, can be seen as “a metaphor” for the many other changes that are taking place at York under the leadership of President Marcia Keizs, including the strengthening of academic standards, creation of new programs, addition of new faculty, creation of more welcoming public spaces inside the main building and the proposed expansion of a classroom building to include a

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Looking Ahead to

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to make sure that the future generations of young people who come here hungry, satisfied that they have the will and the tenacity and the intellect to really move forward — that we give them the very best opportunity that we can.”

Donors attending the news conference included the Spitzers and Lois Silberman, who with her husband, Samuel J. Silberman, recently gave \$40 million to Hunter College — the largest CUNY gift ever — to construct the \$135-million Harlem building for the new Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. Also attending was Linda Macaulay, whose husband, philanthropist and investment manager William E. Macaulay, gave \$30 million to purchase the Upper West Side building that is now home to the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY.

Invest in CUNY, Invest in New York — the campaign that established philanthropy as

a priority for the nation's largest public urban university — was launched Nov. 9, 2004. Its original goal, announced by Schmidt, a former president of Yale University, and Goldstein, was for the CUNY colleges to raise \$1.2 billion cumulatively by 2012. That goal was surpassed four years early with the raising of \$1.436 billion: 76 percent of it from individuals; 17 percent from foundations; 6 percent from corporations; and 1 percent from other friends of CUNY.

It was CUNY's first organized fund-raising campaign, and the day he and Schmidt announced it, the chancellor recalled, “People looked at the two of us and said, ‘You're out of your mind. There's no tradition of giving, how can you have the audacity to say that this is real and this could actually happen?’”

“I'm pleased to tell you that we not only raised \$1.2 billion, but we raised it four years earlier than our target,” Chancellor Goldstein continued.

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Greener — Literally

student center and other facilities.

The new landscaping will include a dense planting of trees in the heart of the Jamaica campus as a “mini-park... something green in the center,” said Noel Gamboa, York’s director of campus facilities. And when students and faculty emerge from the Long Island Rail Road track underpass on York’s northern border to enter the campus, they will be greeted by trees: “It sets the tone that you’re entering a vibrant and lively space.”

In addition to new trees at York, the College of Staten Island, the University’s largest campus, will receive 1,600 trees by the end of spring, including 159 already planted, 750 to be planted on May 1 and an additional 691. Queensborough planted 90 last fall and will receive 27 more; Kingsborough will add 129 trees to

the 75 already received, and Queens College will get 63 new trees. Thirteen were planted at Lehman College in the fall.

Bronx Community College in early spring began planting 94 trees on its 43-acre campus as part of Greening the Bronx, a long-term \$10 million program administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. The new trees — 10 durable species including London plane, little leaf linden, hawthorn and sweet gum — join the flowering pear, red cherry and pink magnolias, towering 75-year-old Norway maples and sycamores as well as the pines, oaks and elms that shade the classically designed campus.

“While the new trees will help to beautify the campus and perimeter streetscapes, they will also provide shade

to the pavements, parking lots and sidewalks to reduce the heat absorption of hardscapes such as asphalt and concrete during the summer months,” noted Andre Hurni, BCC’s architect and director of campus planning. “It is hoped that over time as the trees mature, the micro-climate in the borough of the Bronx will be improved by increasing the number of shaded areas and lowering neighborhood air temperature.”

Trees figure prominently in the histories, commemorations, and sensitivities of many CUNY colleges.

They have been beloved symbols, such as the copper beech that for years shaded the 1827 Van Nuys-Ditmas House that stood on the northeastern corner of the Brooklyn College campus. When the student center was being planned in the late 1950s, students successfully campaigned to save the tree. The

house was knocked down, but the copper beech lived for decades after the center was built. Still, it died — a natural death — and the college held a funeral to celebrate its life and times as a silent witness to Brooklyn’s development. A chunk of the tree was saved in the college archives and a new copper beech was planted in the same spot. A replica of the original is featured on the seal of the Brooklyn College Student Center.

Two of the most famous figures of the 20th

century — Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt — planted trees on what are today CUNY campuses.

For years, the tree planted by Einstein at NYU’s uptown campus, now Bronx Community College, bore a metal plaque that read: “Planted by Professor Albert Einstein of Zurich University May 23, 1921 and rededicated in 1979 on the centenary of his birth by students, faculty and staff of Bronx Community College.” The plaque survives; the tree died approximately 17 years ago.

In 1960, Mrs. Roosevelt planted a row of Japanese cherry trees at City College, symbolizing the strengthening of relations between CCNY and Japan that had dated to the naming of City College founder Townsend Harris as America’s first Consul General to Japan in 1855. The cherry-tree gift led to other plantings of cherry trees at CCNY and recent ceremonies commemorating the Japan-CCNY connection. The original Roosevelt trees, however, were uprooted during construction on campus.

At Lehman College, where a century-old elm provides a magnificent canopy over College Walk in front of the administration building, there is also a grove of dogwoods that were planted on the United Nations’ 50th anniversary in 1995, to commemorate Lehman’s historic role in the founding of the UN and to honor Secretariat staff who worked on the campus during the UN meetings there in 1946. Last year, the grove was rededicated and additional dogwoods planted as part of a “homecoming” for those Secretariat staff members.

A katsura tree sapling was planted on Sept. 11, 2003, by the Queens College community to mark the 2001 attacks and serve as a “symbol of life,” President James L. Muyskens said at the ceremony. The college also planted trees to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the publication of Walt Whitman’s epic poem “Leaves of Grass.” The Walt Whitman Memorial Garden, featuring fragrant lilacs, was installed in July 2005.

At Queensborough Community College, several mighty oaks still stand as reminders of the Oakland Golf and Country Club, which once occupied the campus site, and a memorial garden filled with 18 commemorative trees to symbolize “chai,” the Hebrew word for “life,” will adorn the new Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center slated to open this fall.



York College students (from left) Tiffany Gregory, Arif Nishga and Roby Raju help beautify their campus.

New Achievements and Challenges

Chairperson Schmidt called that “a remarkable testament” to the University’s efforts. “CUNY will raise this year about six times as much as it raised in the year 2000,” he said. “Fact: There’s not a university or university system in the country that can come anywhere close to that rate of increase.”

Continued giving is critical to the future of CUNY and of New York, in the face of shrinking state and local government support for public higher education, Goldstein and Schmidt said.

The more than \$1.4 billion already given to the University as of the end of March represents an unprecedented level of philanthropic investment in a public urban university. More than 70 percent of the gifts, including donations to each of CUNY’s 23 colleges and professional schools, support student scholarships, investments in full-time faculty, groundbreaking research and modern facilities.

The University projects that Phase II of

the campaign will increase Phase I amounts raised for every campus and CUNY-wide, in some cases doubling them.

In response to the extraordinary generosity of CUNY’s donors, The Chancellor’s Society was created to recognize the more than 200 corporate, foundation and individual donors that have contributed \$1 million or more in cumulative gifts and pledges to CUNY colleges and foundations during the Invest in CUNY campaign. These donations, representing 70 percent of the total raised, have been among the most transformative in CUNY history, making possible new academic programs, funding of student scholarships and endowment of faculty chairs.

Gifts like the Silbermans’; Macaulay’s;

Intel Corp. co-founder Andrew Grove’s \$26 million for CCNY’s Grove School of Engineering; Lawrence and Carol Zicklin’s \$18 million to name and endow the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College; and William and Anita Newman’s gift of \$25

“ I’m pleased to tell you that we not only raised \$1.2 billion, but we raised it four years earlier than our target. ”

— Chancellor Matthew Goldstein

million to Baruch College, in support of its Vertical Campus facility, reflect CUNY’s “hard work” in building greater accountability and a reputation for academic excellence, Chancellor

Goldstein said.

The University’s notable achievements include an increase of about 90 points in incoming freshman SAT scores; a 98 percent pass rate for students in CUNY’s teacher education programs; a turnaround in the bar exam pass rate at CUNY Law School; the

success of CUNY’s Graduate School of Journalism; and schools that are in the works including the School of Public Health, a School of Pharmacy and a new community college. The chancellor pointed to prizewinning books written by faculty and CUNY’s many student award winners, including three Rhodes Scholars in five years.

He also touched on the challenges. CUNY expects its largest enrollment in history — a half-million students, including 250,000 seeking degrees, in fall 2009. But it has 6,800 fulltime faculty compared to the 11,500 who taught at CUNY in 1977. That gap, the chancellor said, “is one of the reasons that we need to develop more funds to make investments to hire faculty.”

“I’m not going to slide back, our board is not going to slide back and our presidents do not want to slide back,” he said. “We have to move forward and we have to compete ... to get the very best people in classrooms for our students. To do less would be an injustice.”

STUDENT HONORS

Truman and Goldwater Accolades Continue

FOR A FIFTH consecutive year, a CUNY student has been selected to receive the highly competitive Harry S. Truman Scholarship of up to \$30,000 toward graduate study.

City College junior **Don Gomez** was one of 60 Truman scholars chosen out of 601 candidates nationwide. An international studies major with a concentration in Middle Eastern studies, Gomez is a former U.S. Army paratrooper and a veteran of two tours in Iraq. Gomez started his CUNY education at a community college, Queensborough, before enlisting in the Army in 2001. His interest in international affairs deepened while he was in Iraq, and he reached out to a City College professor of international studies who began mentoring him long before his acceptance to CCNY in 2007.

CUNY students have also won three prestigious Rhodes Scholarships as well as Marshall, Fulbright, and Javits scholarships during the past five years; and three Goldwater Scholarships this year, bringing the total to 10 Goldwaters over the past six years. Additionally, eight CUNY students are finalists for the highly regarded New York Urban Fellows program.

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said, "Don's achievements illustrate the high academic quality of CUNY's students and the importance of the faculty support to their educational success. The likelihood of his 'making a difference' — a decisive factor in the Truman awards — is indeed high."



Don Gomez

After his second tour of duty in Iraq, Don founded the City College Veterans' Association and was instrumental in establishing an Office of Veterans' Affairs at CCNY. He is a Colin Powell Leadership Fellow, a recipient of the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Military Scholarship, and has interned with the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding. He hopes to work for the U.S. State Department after graduate school.

Five CUNY students, including Gomez, have received Truman awards in the past five years. Others are: 2008, **David Bauer**, Macaulay Honors College at The City College; 2007, **Christine Curella**, Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College; 2006, **Ryan Merola**, Macaulay Honors College at Brooklyn College; and 2005, **Claudio Simpkins**, Macaulay Honors College at The City College.

Separately, three 2009 Goldwater scholarships, awarded by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program established by Congress and named for the late Arizona senator, were won by **Alena Leitman** of Hunter College, and **Yitzhak Lockerman** and **Jamar Whaley**, both of Queens College. The awards of \$7,500 per year for one or two years go to students pursuing math, science or engineering to cover various college costs.

Leitman intends to conduct biomedical research in her own lab at a hospital or university. Lockerman, a computer science major, plans to conduct research in algorithm design. Whaley, a neuroscience/psychology major, will apply his research to a clinical setting.

"CUNY students are winning the most competitive national awards, very much in the tradition of our brilliant alumni who have helped shape America. The extraordinary talents of today's high academic achievers should come as no surprise. We are very proud of all they have accomplished so far and know they will continue to contribute mightily to our City and State," said Chancellor Goldstein.

Eight Professors Win Prestigious Honors

EIGHT UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS are among the handful of outstanding educators who recently received honors from two prestigious organizations. Six won Guggenheim Fellowships, giving CUNY a three-way tie with Princeton and Johns Hopkins Universities for the most 2009 winners of this major award, which went to 180 "advanced professionals" from the U.S. and Canada. Two other University professors were among 210 newly elected Fellows of the esteemed 229-year-old American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

The University's six Guggenheim winners, who represent five CUNY colleges and the Graduate Center, are playwright Thomas Bradshaw, assistant professor of English at Medgar Evers College; Benjamin Carter Hett, associate professor of history at Hunter College and the Graduate Center; Jonathan H. Shannon, associate professor of anthropology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center; Victoria Sanford, associate professor of anthropology at Lehman College and the Graduate Center; Heather Hendershot, associate professor of media studies at Queens College and the Graduate Center; and Robert Courtney Smith, associate professor in immigration studies, sociology and public affairs at Baruch College and the Graduate Center.

Newest American Academy of Arts & Sciences Fellows are Mary Ann Caws, Distinguished Professor of French, English and Comparative Literature at the Graduate Center, and Michael Sorkin, Distinguished Professor of Architecture and director of the graduate urban design program at City College. They join Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and the University's 11 other previous Academy electees: Andreas Acrivos, City College, Albert Einstein Professor of Science and Engineering Emeritus; Herman Z. Cummins, City College, Distinguished Professor of Physics; Morton M. Denn, City College, Albert Einstein Professor of Science and Engineering, director of the Levich Institute; David Harvey, Graduate Center, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology; Frances Degen Horowitz, Graduate Center, President Emerita; Richard Kramer, Graduate Center, Distinguished Professor of Music; Saul Aaron Kripke, Graduate Center, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy; Myriam Sarachik, City College, Distinguished Professor of Physics; Dennis Parnell Sullivan, Graduate Center, Einstein Chair in Mathematics; Leo Treitler, Graduate Center, Distinguished Professor of Music Emeritus; and the late Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Graduate Center, Distinguished Professor of English.

"All of us at CUNY take enormous pride in the outstanding work of these faculty members," said Chancellor Goldstein. "Their scholarly and creative contributions advance understanding and stimulate thought across disciplines and across society, and foster

lively centers of learning within CUNY's classrooms. I offer my warmest congratulations to each of them."

Guggenheim Fellowships have been awarded annually since 1925 by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to those "who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts." Fellowship grants are made for a minimum of six months and a maximum of 12 months. The average grant in the 2008 United States and Canada competition was approximately \$43,200. Since the purpose of the program is to help provide Fellows with blocks of time in which they can work with as much creative freedom as possible, grants have no special conditions attached to them. Among the first winners was composer Aaron Copland.

The University's 2009 Guggenheim winners have widely varied resumes.

Bradshaw, who has been featured as one of *Time Out New York's* 10 playwrights to watch, explores racial identification in America. His latest play is an adaptation of *The Book of Job*, commissioned by Soho Rep, where he is the 2008-2009 Streslin Fellow.

Hett, a former trial lawyer, is author of the prize-winning book *Crossing Hitler: The Man Who Put the Nazis on the Witness Stand*.

Shannon is an ethnographer who has been working in Syria to examine how Syrian musicians and other artists "draw on their heritage to assert their modernity."

Sanford — a human rights activist, scholar and author — has worked with Central American refugees since 1986, when she founded a refugee legal services project.

Hendershot, who is also coordinator of the Film Studies Certificate program at the Graduate Center and editor of *Cinema Journal*, is working on her newest book, about right-wing broadcasting of the 1950s and 1960s.

Smith is author of the award-winning book *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants*, based on 15 years of research in New York City and Puebla, Mexico.

This year's 210 new Academy Fellows and 19 Foreign Honorary Members join what is one of the nation's oldest, most prestigious honorary societies and a

center for independent policy research. The 2009 scholars, scientists, jurists, writers, artists, civic, corporate and philanthropic leaders come from 28 states and 11 countries and range from age 33 to 83. They include Nobel laureates and recipients of the Pulitzer and Pritzker Prizes; MacArthur Fellowships; Academy, Grammy, and Tony awards; and the National Medal of Arts. New Fellows include Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and actors Dustin Hoffman and James Earl Jones. Newest Foreign Honorary Members include 1993 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela, who guided the reconciliation of South Africa in the post-Apartheid era; U2 lead singer and advocate for humanitarian causes, Bono; and British actress Judith Dench. Earlier inductees into the academy — founded in 1780 by John Adams, John Hancock and other scholar-patriots — include George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill.



Thomas Bradshaw



Robert Courtney Smith



Heather Hendershot



Benjamin Carter Hett



Victoria Sanford



Jonathan H. Shannon

Students Help Tally Harbor Seals

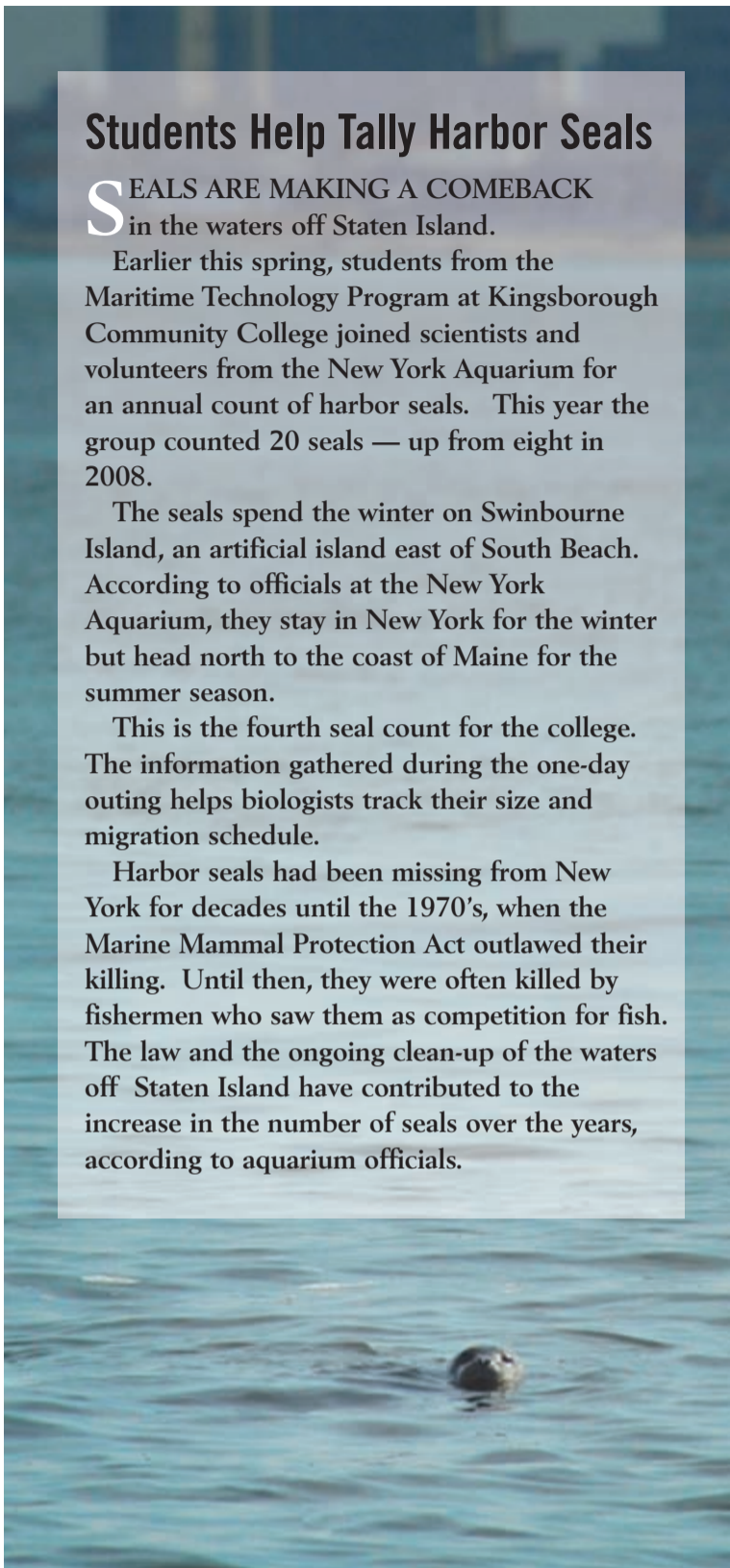
SEALS ARE MAKING A COMEBACK in the waters off Staten Island.

Earlier this spring, students from the Maritime Technology Program at Kingsborough Community College joined scientists and volunteers from the New York Aquarium for an annual count of harbor seals. This year the group counted 20 seals — up from eight in 2008.

The seals spend the winter on Swinbourne Island, an artificial island east of South Beach. According to officials at the New York Aquarium, they stay in New York for the winter but head north to the coast of Maine for the summer season.

This is the fourth seal count for the college. The information gathered during the one-day outing helps biologists track their size and migration schedule.

Harbor seals had been missing from New York for decades until the 1970's, when the Marine Mammal Protection Act outlawed their killing. Until then, they were often killed by fishermen who saw them as competition for fish. The law and the ongoing clean-up of the waters off Staten Island have contributed to the increase in the number of seals over the years, according to aquarium officials.



Law Clinic Wins Tenants' Case

RESIDENTS of a Washington Heights building where the landlord has had numerous city violations filed against him have won a year's free rent thanks to an agreement brokered by a member of the Community Legal Resource Network (CLRN) at CUNY School of Law. At the time of the settlement on Feb. 26, landlord Carmine Alessandro had more than 300 violations, according to attorney Pedro Rivera of the CLRN, a free legal clinic staffed by alums of CUNY Law. Rivera says violations included rats and roaches, holes in a ceiling and walls, no heat or hot water and no garbage pick-up for 60 days.

According to the Daily News, the building at 4441 Broadway has made the city's list as one of the worst elevator buildings in the five boroughs and has also been cited for loss of hot water and heat. "With \$100,000 in fines levied against the landlord by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, we pushed for two years of free rent for the building's tenants," Rivera says, "but got it down to one year and the promise that the landlord would compensate the tenants who made repairs on their own." But so far, Rivera says that Alessandro hasn't paid up. As part of the settlement, Alessandro is also supposed to complete all repairs within 45 days, but Rivera says that, as of late April, tenants have seen no signs of any repairs. Efforts to reach the landlord for comment were unsuccessful. "We've been in court over 12 times already and we'll continue to seek civil penalties and perhaps try and take the building away from him," Rivera says. "If we get enough examples from tenants



Attorney Pedro Rivera helped win compensation for tenants of unrepaired apartments including this one with a collapsed ceiling.

that show he cannot manage the building and show that he isn't complying with court orders, the building will be taken away from him." CLRN, which was established in 1998 and is funded by CUNY Law, private foundations, and both the City and State of New York, assists CUNY Law graduates as they work to establish their own small practices. The project, designed to further the Law School's mission of promoting "Law in the Service of Human Needs," focuses on increasing access to justice in legally-underserved communities throughout New York City. Assemblymember Adriano Espaillat was instrumental in helping to secure CLRN's presence in the Washington Heights and Inwood sections of northern Manhattan.

THE PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Six College Leaders Awarded Honors

PRESIDENT EDUARDO J. MARTI of Queensborough Community College was elected in March to serve for a second time on the Board of the American Association of Community Colleges. The New York Post honored President Marti as a champion of human rights with its Liberty Medal Award last October. Baruch College President **Kathleen Waldron** is a winner of the 2009 Ellis Island Medal of Honor awarded by the National Ethnic Coalition. Hunter College President **Jennifer J. Raab** was named one of New York City's 100 Most Influential Women in Business by Crain's New York Business Magazine. She was also honored in March by the United Way as a "Woman of Excellence and Achievement." In December she received both the Carter Burden Humanitarian Award, presented by the Carter Burden Center for the Aging, and the Excellence in Education Award, given by the 1199 SEIU Child Care Corporation. Borough of Manhattan Community College President **Antonio Perez** was one of five recipients of the annual Latino Heritage and Culture Award presented by New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson last fall. The event, held at SEIU Local 32BJ, was cosponsored by ASPIRA of New York, Hispanic Federation, and Latino Justice PRLDEF. Queens College President **James Muyskens** now serves as chair of the Distinguished Alumnus Search and Selection Committee and chair of the Policies and Purposes Committee for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Bronx Community College President **Carolyn G. Williams** was awarded the President's Round Table Foundation Members Award of the National Council on Black American Affairs, an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges, at the AACC Annual Convention. She also received the Hispanic Educational Technology Services Membership Leaders Award.

Two CUNY Productions Get Emmys

THE NEW YORK Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has awarded the University its first "Emmys," including an Emmy in "Advanced Media" to

Episodes of "Nueva York" are available at www.cuny.tv.

www.cuny.edu, the growing web-based information source with more than 750,000 unique visitors each month.

The Academy recognized the editing work of videographer Annette Calderon in "Preserving the Past, Building for the Future," an advanced media series that explores the University's rich architectural heritage and nationally recognized innovations in architectural design to enhance the higher educational learning experience.

CUNY TV also scored for its insightful half-hour Spanish-language magazine show, "Nueva York."

Jay Hershenson, senior vice chancellor for university relations and secretary to the Board of Trustees, who

served as executive producer for both productions, accepted the statuettes before a crowd of media and technology industry dignitaries at the Marriott Marquis Hotel on March 29.

"Two Emmys in one night is an extraordinary CUNY success," Hershenson said after the event. Calderon's video explored the designers and educators who collaborated to create a traditional campus environment within a compact and congested city block. The result is known today as Newman Vertical Campus at Baruch College.

Watch on-demand "Preserving the Past, Building for the Future" on the CUNY Channel at www.youtube.com/cuny. Episodes of "Nueva York" are available at www.cuny.tv.



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Stepping Up the Fight Ag

The CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes is helping New York control its biggest health

HIGH-SPIRITED East Harlem is the neighborhood most devastated by New York City's deadliest epidemic: diabetes. Angelica Santana, who lives there among numerous relatives with the disease, aims to change that grim statistic — starting at home. For a recent gathering of family members, including many who speak only Spanish, the 23-year-old bilingual student in Hunter College's public health nutrition master's program baked a veggie version of Puerto Rico's traditional fried empanadas. "I really wanted to show them how easy it is to make small steps toward a healthier lifestyle," she said.

Across the Harlem River in the South Bronx, where the city's highest rate of obesity also triggers diabetes in many residents, Hostos Community College students, faculty and staff are taking steps toward better health, as well. They're joining brisk 30-minute walks scheduled four times a week to reduce the high odds they, too, might get this potentially fatal disease. In bad weather, they walk inside a building with a long, open flight of lobby stairs — which dynamic group leader/assistant health professor Iris Mercado scales two at a time.

These are just two examples of how the year-old CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes is mobilizing campuses to help the city and the state control this major health crisis, which disproportionately afflicts Hispanics, blacks, Asians and residents of low-income areas.

If diabetes hasn't yet touched your life, chances are it will soon. One in every four New Yorkers has the disease or is at high risk of developing it. In the last eight years, the numbers surged 250 percent and the death rate nearly doubled. One of every five health care dollars citywide is spent on people who have diabetes. Most of them have uncontrolled high blood pressure, cholesterol or blood sugar — which puts them at increased risk of complications including vision problems, kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes, amputations. Such medical emergencies often are the first clue people get that they even have diabetes — which can kill slowly, silently, without a wake-up call. Vague symptoms such as increased fatigue, hunger, thirst and irritability can signal diabetes but are frequently ignored. In hectic New York, who doesn't feel that way?

What brought us to this alarming point is that the city, like the nation, is simply getting too fat. Nearly 60 percent of New York City adults and more than 40 percent of its elementary school children are overweight or obese. So are more than 80 percent of diabetics. Stop the surge in obesity and we can stop the most common type of diabetes, experts say. But if these two intertwined epidemics continue, researchers predict that the life spans of our children and grandchildren will be shorter than ours.

There is no cure for diabetes but it can be controlled and even prevented, often just by eating more healthy and less



Assistant professor Iris Mercado, left, and professor America Trinidad set the pace for Hostos walkers near Yankee Stadium.

unhealthy food and exercising more. Spreading that positive message is the mission of the CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes, developed by the University's Urban Health Collaborative. The five-year plan of research, education and action eventually will reach throughout the CUNY community of 500,000 students plus 37,000 faculty and staff — as many as a third of whom could be diabetic or pre-diabetic based on citywide numbers.

Working in conjunction with similar city, state and even international initiatives, the University's campaign is underway at three pilot schools — Hunter, Hostos and Medgar Evers Colleges. Long-term goals are to reduce the number of students, faculty and staff on all 23 campuses, as well as their

family members, who have uncontrolled diabetes; prevent others from getting the disease; and leave city institutions better equipped to control and prevent it.

"The Campaign Against Diabetes demonstrates CUNY's potential to become a national model for public universities to contribute to solving our nation's most intractable health and social problems," said campaign co-founder Nicholas Freudenberg, distinguished professor of public health at Hunter. Freudenberg also leads the Diabetes Action Team that will prepare hundreds of students to carry the message about changing attitudes and the local environ-

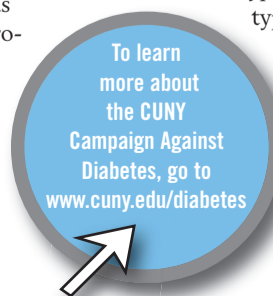
ment to bring about healthier lifestyles and better health care. The campaign has also reached abroad, via collaboration with London Metropolitan University, England's CUNY equivalent; a recent joint forum at CUNY was titled "A Tale of Two Obese Cities."

"CUNY leadership in diabetes education will continue to grow as we further develop the University's new School of Public Health, which will be located at Hunter College," said Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, who established a task force on diabetes awareness and prevention and designated coordinators on all CUNY campuses. "There will be new opportunities for research, drawing upon the expertise of our distinguished faculty and talented students."

What exactly is diabetes, and why is it so dangerous? It's actually not a single disease but a group of chronic conditions marked by too much sugar in the blood. Normally the food we eat gets broken down into glucose. Insulin, a hormone produced in the pancreas, helps get this form

of sugar into your cells to be used for energy. If your body doesn't produce enough insulin, or can't use what's made, sugar from your food stays in the blood, damaging cells. There can be a genetic component to diabetes, but "environmental factors" such as the foods you eat and your physical condition, usually are the triggers.

Type 2 diabetes, the most common type, accounts for up to 95 percent of cases and is increasing at a staggering rate. It was once called adult-onset diabetes because people didn't develop it until later in life. But as more children are getting super-sized, they are also developing this type of



Gainst a Deadly Epidemic

with crisis — via education and action within the University community and beyond.

diabetes; thus the name was changed. People with Type 2 diabetes develop insulin resistance due to overweight and can no longer use the insulin they produce. This condition usually is controlled by diet, exercise and oral medications.

Type 1 diabetes was previously called juvenile-onset diabetes because people generally have it for life. Their body doesn't make insulin at all, or not enough of it.

There has been no recent increase in this type, which requires a daily protocol of insulin injections or infusions to control it.

A third variety, gestational diabetes, develops in a small percentage of women whose blood sugar rises during pregnancy. Although the blood sugar levels usually resolve after the birth, these mothers — and their children — have a greater risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, often not discovered for many years.

That was the case with CUNY administrative assistant Robin Taylor, whose Type 2 diabetes was diagnosed in 2008, almost 14 years after her son was born. The 52-year-old Taylor, who recently attended self-management classes at Hunter, is still learning how to read food labels and gauge how certain foods affect her blood sugar. But she's happy that in less than four months she lost nine pounds.

As well as watching what and how much she eats, she takes long walks with a group twice a week and with a friend most other days, and gets off the train two stops early. She's also learned ways to "de-stress" during hectic times that cause blood sugar to spike ("do breathing exercises, close the door, listen to soothing music..."). She is taking insulin in addition to oral medication now but hopes it will be only until her condition is under control. She also shares health tips with her husky 14-year-old son, Lloyd, an avid swimmer. "His sugar is fine," she said.

Guided by the campaign's catchy slogan — "Move more and eat less" — students, faculty and staff on the pioneering campuses have started nutrition clubs, support groups and health fairs in addition to walk-

ing programs like the one at Hostos.

Participants in leadership workshops also are evaluating their own and family members' risk factors for diabetes, assessing University-wide healthy food and exercise options, learning the latest self-management techniques and sharing their knowledge with family members, students, friends, co-workers and their community to begin changing attitudes and environments. East Harlem native Angelica Santana not only gives diet tips to her family, but has approached a local community center about providing healthier snacks for its senior bingo patrons.

Training sessions are led by CUNY Diabetes Action Team members Hollie Jones, a health psychologist at Medgar Evers, and campaign coordinator Lorraine Mongiello, a certified diabetes educator and a student in the University's doctor of public health program. Each student in the leadership program receives a \$300 stipend and many have received additional funding for individual projects such as designing posters, preparing a cookbook and initiating an elementary school obesity program.

Making diet and lifestyle changes takes time, but you don't have to do it alone. Many free local programs will help you stop smoking, which raises the level of artery-clogging fats and cholesterol and thus ups the risk of heart disease and diabetes. CUNY's Diabetes Action Team can provide advice on losing weight, crucial because excess body fat means more fat in your blood. It also causes your body to retain sodium, which makes blood pressure rise and your heart work harder.

What to eat? You need to know the wrong stuff (fats, salt, refined grains, sugary foods) and the right

stuff (whole grains, vegetables and fresh fruits that provide the most nutrition per calorie; carbs that have been minimally processed or that contain fiber). If you can't resist fast food, avoid meals labeled "giant" and "jumbo"; instead choose "child portion." To add flavor, learn which sauces and condiments are less fattening, e.g., mustard vs. mayonnaise. And remember, the calories you sip add more weight than the calories you eat. Soft drinks are Americans' single biggest source of calories, "empty calories" without any nutritional value.

Changing bad eating habits can be hard at first — especially when what's bad for you is usually cheap, convenient and tasty. Calorie for calorie, unhealthy foods cost less than healthier ones — whether a fast food chain's burgers or prepackaged supermarket fare you heat up at home. The Big Apple, despite the nickname, isn't a hub of affordable fresh produce, especially in some poorer neighborhoods where diabetes takes its highest toll.

But efforts by the city, state and community groups are introducing farmers' markets and food co-ops to supplement meager, wilted selections at some small groceries. Many takeout shops that quickly deliver to your door also have been pressured to start introducing healthier choices like salads, grilled chicken or pizza with various vegetable toppings. New York was the first city in the nation to ban artery-clogging trans fats at most restaurants and now has issued guidelines for posting calorie content on menus of fast-food eateries and major restaurant chains. It was among the first cities to ban smoking. New York also battles diabetes via free screenings, increased attention to early diabetes detection in clinical visits, and monitoring ongoing patient care. Mayor Bloomberg, along with Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R.

Frieden, recently announced that the city has 300,000 fewer smokers than in 2002 (when the ban on smoking in all workplaces was proposed) and that 364,000 more New Yorkers now have a regular doctor.

Gov. David Paterson, in his 2009 State of the State address, announced a five-point plan including the Healthy Food/Healthy Communities Initiative, which offers a new revolving loan fund to increase the number of healthy food markets in under-served neighborhoods. "We must also ban trans fats in restaurants, require calorie posting in chain restaurants, ban junk food sales in schools and place a surcharge on sugared beverages like soda," he said. In March, he agreed to scrap the so-called "fat tax" on nondiet soda, thanks to the state's infusion of stimulus money. But two major drink brands, Snapple and Pepsi, reportedly are about to start offering beverages with sugar instead of controversial high-fructose corn syrup, a synthetic sugar that some scientists say the body can't convert into a real sugar.

Mongiello says the two sweeteners have the same amount of calories but the high-fructose variety, a cheaper ingredient, is in so many foods and drinks that people unknowingly consume a lot of it.

Assessing the CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes so far, co-founder Freudenberg said there's been so much interest on campuses that the University will experiment with best times of day to offer the courses and maybe put some online. He also said he was "pleasantly surprised at how much student support there is for changing foods in the cafeterias," and that he would like to see students put pressure on the various food vendors to serve healthy foods they request. He would like to see University cafeterias post calorie counts at least for some foods, as well.

Overall, Freudenberg is looking at the bigger picture. "What we learn in this attack on diabetes, we hope will also help with the next big health concern that comes along," he said.

“ Making diet and lifestyle changes takes time, but you don't have to do it alone. ”

4 EASY WAYS TO HEAD OFF DIABETES

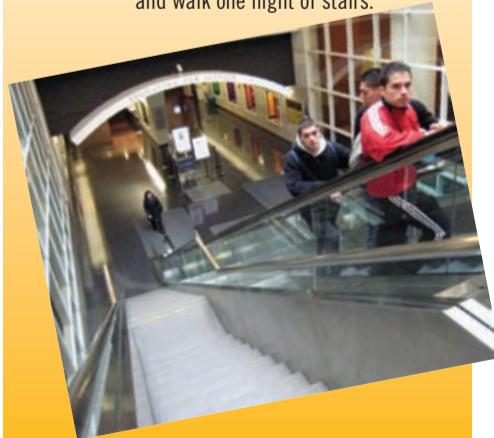
1

Whole fruit beats juice. Why? A fibrous orange, for example, takes longer to eat and longer for the stomach to digest — which modulates the absorption of sugar, and leaves you feeling full longer. Whole fruits and vegetables generally have fewer calories than juice.



2

Get daily exercise. No need to join a gym — there are countless free ways to keep fit. Here's one: Get off escalators/elevators before your floor and walk one flight of stairs.



3

Stop smoking. For a list of programs — most of them free — in New York City's five boroughs that can help you, go to www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/smoke/quit.shtml



4

Join the CUNY Campaign Against Diabetes.

Get informed. Get involved. Join student-leadership workshops; walking, support and self-management groups that are available for students, faculty and other employees; and more. Go to www.cuny.edu/diabetes



GRANTS&FUNDING

THE CITY UNIVERSITY has received a host of important grants and gifts recently, including more than \$4 million to encourage Hispanic and low-income students to enter the science-related fields. Among other awards are grants for research on breast cancer and safeguarding the economy from financial fraud. Grants totaling nearly \$21 million were reported recently to the CUNY Board of Trustees.

Encouraging Hispanics in the Science-Related Fields

LaGuardia Community College received two U. S. Department of Education grants totaling about \$4 million for programs to encourage Hispanic and low-income students to pursue degrees in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. The grants were secured with the help of Sen. Charles Schumer, former Sen. (now Secretary of State) Hillary Rodham Clinton and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-Queens, Manhattan). Under a \$2.25 million Department of Education grant, LaGuardia will partner with Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology on a program that encourages high school students to pursue an associate degree in engineering at LaGuardia and a bachelor's degree in mechatronics from Vaughn. Mechatronics is an emerging field that combines mechanical engineering, electronic engineering and computer engineering. The program will recruit high school students for the LaGuardia Youth Center for Engineering Excellence (LYCEE), which will offer summer and after-school programs in robotics. The grant will also support construction of two state-of-the-art engineering labs at LaGuardia. The second Department of Education grant provides \$1.8 million for Project "Promesa" (Promoting Math Excellence and Science Access) to expand LaGuardia's math and science programs and prepare students for careers in biology and environmental science.

Safeguarding the Economy From Fraud

At a time when the financial world is being rocked by news of Ponzi schemes and fraud, York College has received \$500,000 from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) to provide an endowment for anti-fraud education. The gift establishes the ACFE Endowed Professor of Fraud Examination, the college's first endowed faculty position. It is the first such gift by the ACFE to any college or university and reflects the association's commitment to encourage anti-fraud education and research at leading higher education institutions around the world. ACFE Founder and Chairman Joseph T. Wells (CFE, CPA) said the endowment will lay the foundation for generations of students to learn the skills needed to fight fraud effectively and "help safeguard the economy from the ever-present threat of fraud."

Fighting Breast Cancer on Staten Island

Researchers at the College of Staten Island's Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI) are working to discover why Staten Island has one of the highest breast cancer death rates in the state and the highest in New York City. The SIBCRI recently received \$80,000 in funding for the project, which is attacking breast cancer on three fronts, according to Donna Gerstle, professor of environmental science and a co-principal CSI researcher in the SIBCRI. "The first is an epidemiological study that looks at individuals on Staten Island from 1980 to 2006 and compares their lifestyles and risk factors to a control set of individuals. The second is to evaluate how environmental factors actually influence breast tissue development; and the third is a breast cancer-prevention educational program in cooperation with health care providers, community-based organizations, elected officials, and schools." CSI students will join some 20 scientists, attorneys, sociologists, health department representatives, and three physicians who are taking part in the project.

Following are some other recent noteworthy grants to CUNY:

John Jay College of Criminal Justice \$830,066 from the National Institutes of Health for a study on the intergenerational transmission of neglect and abuse.

Queens College \$442,071 from the U.S. Department of Education for the Upward Bound Program, which offers support for high school students from low-income families in preparation for college entrance.

Brooklyn College \$375,106 from the New York State Department of Education for a 21st Century community learning program at I.S. 291.

The Graduate School and University Center \$328,970 from the National Institutes of Health/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for research on image processing in biological 3-D electron microscopy.

New York City College of Technology \$311,055 from the New York State Department of Education for a project concerning career and academic readiness pathways for economic development and increased educational mobility.

Kingsborough Community College \$219,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for petrologic-geochemical studies of reduced mineral assemblages in primitive meteorites.

Hunter College \$186,279 from the University of California-Berkeley for research on longevity and mortality in industrialized societies.



This Sports Doctor Is On Call for Students

THEIR VICTORY came by one point in the final seconds of a grueling championship game. But for Baruch College's women's basketball team, the real contact sport was the euphoric victory scum that erupted at midcourt the moment the final buzzer sounded.

From the stands at City College, Dr. Osric King looked on with amusement, if a dash of vigilance — just in case the delirium left any of the players, or perhaps one of their coaches, in need of some medical attention. But the celebration ended safely, as did the men's championship final that followed — though there was a moment's pause in that game when a Baruch player fell to the floor and stayed on his hands and knees, peering down. "He's all right," Dr. King observed from across the court. "I think he lost a contact lens." Moments later, the doctor's diagnosis proved correct.

Dr. King, an orthopedist and sports medicine specialist with the Hospital for Special Surgery, has been a familiar face around University athletics for the past decade. He's a kind of unofficial doctor on call.

The work is virtually pro bono. It just turned out that way. Dr. King was serving his residency in 2000 when the Hospital for Special Surgery became a sponsor of the CUNY Athletic Conference. CUNYAC officials took the opportunity to ask the hospital for some help in looking after the health and safety of its student athletes. "Dr. King was the first to volunteer," said Zak Ivkovic, the conference's executive director.

The young orthopedist, a Brooklyn native, started with York College, performing pre-season physicals and encouraging coaches and players to call on him whenever they needed an assessment or second opinion of an injury. "I'd tell the kids, 'All right, I'm going to take care of this,'" Dr. King recalls. "We'll see what's going on and in two weeks I'll be back and see how you're doing." For most of the kids this was a foreign experience. They were so happy to have somebody come through; it was kind of inspiring.

So inspiring, in fact, that Dr. King began making a habit of providing free medical care to athletic

departments at colleges whose student athletes tended to have little or no medical insurance. In addition to York, his roster has since come to include four community colleges — Kingsborough, Queensborough, Borough of Manhattan and Hostos.

"[At] most of the schools, I'm betting nobody wanted to take care of the kids," Dr. King said between games of the recent CUNYAC basketball championships. "I would get a call from the athletic director asking if I could come and do physicals. So I would go down there and I would charge ten dollars. And I would tell them, 'If you have a question about a diagnosis, send them over. You'll never get a bill from me.'"

Dr. King said his motivation comes from what he's observed as an orthopedist who is not a surgeon: "I've seen a lot of kids getting surgery they really didn't need. There's nothing worse than someone being injured and ending up in a particular doctor's office where [the doctor] is mainly concerned with 'Can I get a surgical fee out of it?'" On the other hand: "I've

had more than my share of kids with an ACL ligament that's completely severed and they have no clue about it. Kids have no concept of what care is about. So what really motivates me is making sure the right thing is done. I play almost a gatekeeper role for some of these schools."

Why at no charge? "Because it has to be done. I think I can make a buck in this world and do the right thing at the same time."

Needless to say, the schools are grateful. "He goes beyond the call of duty," said Ronald St. John, York College's athletic director and men's basketball coach. "For us, to have a team doctor would be a luxury, but we feel we have that with Dr. King. When we've made the conference finals, he's on the bench with us. It's like he's *our* doctor."



Dr. Osric King looks after team members' health on and off the court.

A Biography of Abe, Honest Writer

By Gary Schmidgall

WHEN IT COMES to punch lines and presidential politics, we live in a brazenly unoriginal age. We know that shoals of joke-smiths back up our late-night TV hosts, just as we are perfectly aware that the formal speeches by our presidents or candidates for the office have been word-processed by a coven of speech-writers.

Barack Obama's arrival in the Oval Office, however, may signify a change very pleasant to those, like me, who believe that the ability to write for oneself is an excellent hint that one might be able to think for oneself. You don't become the first black president of the Harvard Law Review without a firm hand on the pen (or PC keyboard), and it appears that Obama had full command of his two most important speeches thus far, the Philadelphia one on race and the inaugural address. The audacity of self-expression!

This might explain why Obama was photographed a few weeks after the election carrying a copy of Fred Kaplan's new *Lincoln: The Biography of a Writer* (Harper) as he left a Chicago dinner party. This was not only great free publicity but also a tantalizing suggestion that the "text" of Obama's presidency we will be reading and listening to may be more authentically self-authored than that of his predecessors. This is because Kaplan, distinguished professor emeritus of English at Queens College and the Graduate Center, notes in his preface that of all our presidents only Lincoln (along with Jefferson) "wrote every word to which his name is attached."

Kaplan grants that many have come before him to focus on Lincoln the writer. The first of several books on the subject appeared in 1900 (Kaplan also praises a short 1959 essay by Jacques Barzun, "Lincoln the Literary Artist"), and whole books have been devoted to each of his four indelible utterances: the Cooper Union speech, the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Second Inaugural Address.

Kaplan's innovation is to present a narrative "of the origin and development of Lincoln's literary sensibility and genius" that "starts from the beginning."

Well-practiced in the art of the full-dress biography (Carlyle, Dickens, Twain, and Gore Vidal), Kaplan's tight focus here frees him to keep the presence of Mrs. Lincoln to a minimum, ignore the intricacies of Civil War military strategy, and give the tedious, repetitious Lincoln-Douglas debates short shrift.

Attention is lavished on Lincoln's beginning as a reader during his log-cabin childhood in primitive Pigeon Creek, Ind. It blossomed beyond the *Bible* and *Dilworth's Speller* when his stepmother Sarah arrived with her three children and a suitcase of books like *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Later some standard anthologies filled

out the very modest library. Still, young Lincoln became a fierce reader. He also was an ardent

memorizer, a skill that served Lincoln well later, given his "lifelong preference for not speaking extemporaneously." Lincoln was an autodidact, perhaps fueling the intense ambition to which Kaplan often refers.

Lincoln's favorite authors make a rather odd trio: Shakespeare, Byron and Burns. The Bard's choice set-pieces he knew by heart, and Kaplan follows the allusions, quotations and misquotations of him throughout Lincoln's career, even suggesting that some of his speeches were "Shakespearean soliloquies of a sort." Kaplan often refers to Lincoln's gift for satiric barbs (also off-color humor) — the influence of Byron? Burns' emphasis on the common man and rustic dialect made him Lincoln's favorite poet. Kaplan often alludes to Lincoln's gloomy personality, so it is no wonder he carried a Poe volume when riding a court circuit.

Oddly, Walt Whitman, the poet now chiefly associated with Lincoln, doesn't appear at all, though there is a charming memoir by Henry Rankin describing what happened when *Leaves of Grass* landed in Lincoln's Springfield law office: Lincoln "commended the new poet's verses for their virility, freshness, unconventional sentiments and unique forms of expression."

Lincoln's favorite authors make a rather odd trio: Shakespeare, Byron and Burns.

Emerson, Kaplan shows, was a resonant presence for Lincoln, who heard him lecture in Springfield on "Power" in 1853, just as Lincoln's climb to power was beginning. Lincoln heard these portent-fraught words: "There are men, who, by their sympathetic attractions, carry nations with them . . . men whose magnetisms are of that force to draw material and elemental powers . . . no honest seeking goes unrewarded." We know Lincoln later checked Emerson's *Representative Men* out of the Library of Congress, and Kaplan quotes these words from its first essay, "Uses of Great Men," again emphasizing honesty: "The world is upheld by the veracity of good men: they make the earth wholesome."

Though Lincoln delighted to recite Shakespeare's bejeweled blank verse, his own style, Kaplan makes clear, tends toward the Hemingway-esque. "Precision, brevity, and plain speech became his characteristic style." Though golden-tongued Henry Clay was his idol, Lincoln's forte was forthright language. By 1848, during his one brief term in Congress, Kaplan says, Lincoln had become "that rarest of public figures, one for whom language mattered so much that he felt compelled to use it honestly even when linguistic deceit was the order of the day." That bit of 1850s campaign spin about "Honest Abe," Kaplan argues, is the essence of his nature as a writer.

Skirting the well-raked-over Big Four speeches, he pays illuminating attention to more unfamiliar fare — for example, an 1842 speech to the Springfield Temperance Society ("Lincoln's least-appreciated composition"), the one Supreme Court case Lincoln argued before the infamous Chief Justice Roger Taney (an 1849 property rights case, the transcript only recently emerging from obscurity), a revealing eulogy of Henry Clay, and a speech at a Wisconsin state fair.

Having laid out the trenchancies, techniques, and tics of Lincoln's way with words, Kaplan ventures in his final pages this bold assertion: "Despite the press of duties, he found time to read, especially the *Bible* and Shakespeare, the only president, other than John Quincy Adams, for whom literature and life were inseparable."

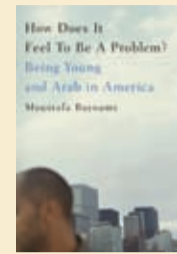
Along the way, of course, there are several Obama moments in the narrative. For example, the 1858 Lincoln speech in Springfield — where Obama announced his candidacy — setting off an also-Obama-like two-year-long run for the presidency. Mixed blood figured as a campaign issue then as in 2008:

Lincoln's dark complexion led to charges that he carried black blood. And Obama's inaugural address — short on flamboyance or what Lincoln called "fine specimens" — was decidedly in the literary style of the 16th president.

One thing about presidential campaigns has changed hugely. Back then, Kaplan points out, the etiquette was for party nominees to "make no public statements between the nomination and the election." Back in late October, that concept would have sounded pretty good to me.

Reality Check

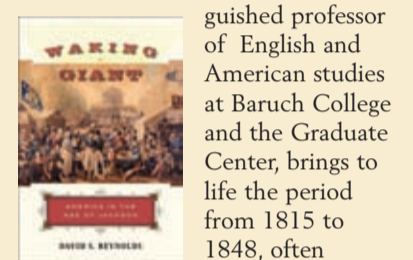
In *How Does It Feel To Be A Problem? Being Young and Arab in America*, Moustafa Bayoumi asks young Arab and Muslim Americans what it's



like to be perceived as a "problem" in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Their conversations touch on dealing with government surveillance and detentions, workplace discrimination, and threats of vigilante violence. Bayoumi, associate professor of English at Brooklyn College, received an American Book Award for this work. (The Penguin Press, fall 2008)

New Look at Old Hickory

Waking Giant: America in the Age of Jackson has won praise as a brilliant chronicle of the unprecedented turbulence of a young democracy in the years before the Civil War. Author David S. Reynolds, distin-



guished professor of English and American studies at Baruch College and the Graduate Center, brings to life the period from 1815 to 1848, often ignored by historians, but a time of rapid expansion and controversy over slavery, capitalism and urbanization. (HarperCollins, fall 2008)

Criminal Minds

True Crime — An American Anthology, by Queens College English professor Harold Schecter, looks at ways in which American writers have explored crime in a multitude of aspects — the dark motives that spur it,

the shock of its impact on society, the effort to make sense of the violent extremes of human behavior. As such, one reviewer said, it also outlines the social history of the United States. (Library of America, fall 2008)

Tales From the Couch

Half of all Americans will undergo some form of psychotherapy in their lifetime. Will it solve all their problems? Will it help? In *American Therapy: The Rise of Psychotherapy in the United States*, Baruch College professor and

associate dean Jonathan Engel provides a fascinating evolutionary history of the field, with its colorful characters and numerous experimental treatments through the years. (Gotham Books, fall 2008)



Bust of the 16th president in City College's Lincoln Corridor is one of a limited series that also distinguish the White House and Lincoln's grave. It was personally presented to CCNY in 1908 by sculptor Gutzon Borglum.

Teaching Online In

ON A RECENT Thursday morning, Daniel Akins, distinguished professor of chemistry at City College and the Graduate Center, is in front of his home computer — teaching a graduate school course to a dozen students scattered across the metropolitan area. After a few minutes of “housekeeping” announcements, Akins launches into an hour-and-20-minute class, going through his lecture notes displayed on the computer screen. While participants don’t see each other they talk freely, using the Web site features of www.gotomeeting.com. Students break in with questions and chat via text messages; they can interact collectively or privately with the instructor.

Akins, using a digital pointer, explains the “central force problem” of molecular particles. (He sometimes uses yellow highlighters, writes directly on the desktop or uses graphic features like Doodle.) Akins also records the class, including “all the give and take involved,” so students can listen to the lectures more than once.

“Quantum chemistry is not easy to teach this way,” admits Akins, an internationally recognized expert whose course is supported by a \$5 million National Science Foundation grant. “My motivation is the realization that the future [of higher education] is online. I could see the tide of technology and I wanted to be early in the process.”

Welcome to online education — The Next Generation.

Akins’ class is but one example of many innovative initiatives that are taking online instruction at CUNY beyond the now well-established “asynchronous” courses, which are conducted almost entirely online, but not in “real time.”

Some instructors like Matthew Gold, assistant professor of English at City Tech, are creating “digital humanities” courses that focus on a new kind of interactive learning. Gold’s class, which will debut in the fall, will connect students at CUNY and four other universities who will share their observations regarding the work of iconic American poet Walt Whitman during different periods of his life.

Others, such as William Bauer, assistant professor of performing arts at the College of Staten Island, are promoting ways for faculty and students to integrate new media into traditional academic research. Bauer’s local music project, for example, will use student fieldwork to document the distinctive traditions of Staten Island’s music culture and distribute it through a public Web site.

Still others, such as David Harvey of the Graduate Center, have begun putting their classes up on the Internet as “open courses” that can be accessed — free — by the pub-

lic at large. Harvey’s Web site offers a series of video lectures on Karl Marx’s *Capital*, along with a range of blogs and commentaries on current economic events.

In particular, the field of digital humanities has experienced dynamic growth in recent years, says George Otte, associate dean for academic affairs at the School of Professional Studies. “Faculty are creating Web-based environments that serve as a model of something we haven’t done before,” Otte says. “The fans have really taken over the game.”

Initially, Akins intended to mix his virtual classroom with more face-to-face sessions — as he had been doing at CUNY since 1981. As the director of the center for analysis of structures and interfaces at City College, he began using Web platforms to meet with other researchers — after they had met in person. “We got to know each other face-to-face [at the center] and got comfortable. So when we met online, it was as if in my mind’s eye, the people were really there,” Akins says. He expected the same pattern in his classroom. “But once the students got involved,” he found, “they wanted to take it all one way — online — like entropy. Everyone is everywhere they want to be.”

In coming months, more initiatives are likely to emerge through a multi-institutional effort known as Project Bamboo.

Launched a year ago through a \$1.4 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to UC Berkeley and the University of Chicago, Project Bamboo involves more than 90 institutions that are working in an 18-month process to map out ways of sharing technology services to advance research in the arts and humanities. “The idea is, ‘What can digital technologies do to rethink scholarship in the humanities?’” says Stephen Brier, senior academic technology officer at CUNY’s Graduate Center, who is heading the Bamboo working group at CUNY.

At the center of Gold’s project is an open-source website that will connect classes from four colleges — City Tech, New York University, University of Mary Washington, and Rutgers University, Camden — each of which is located in an area central to Whitman’s life and work.

City Tech students, for example, will investigate the Fulton Ferry Landing, which Whitman described in his famous poem, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry.” They will share the photos and videos they create there with students from other classes, who will similarly share work from their own locations. “Why do we have to be limited by institutional boundaries?” says Gold, whose project is funded by a \$25,000 National Endowment for the Humanities start-up grant. “We’re going beyond the interdisci-

plinary to the inter-institutional. Students are learning from the world. And we need to enable the world to come back to us. It’s very much in keeping with Whitman’s own democratic spirit.”

At the CSI, performing arts professor



Distinguished professor Daniel Akins gives a chemistry lecture and leads the class discussion from home.

What’s Ahead

CUNYfirst — the University-wide effort designed to remake CUNY’s aging finance, human resources and student systems and transform how they perform most common tasks — is marching into spring with the project’s new HR module. This phase of CUNYfirst (“first” stands for Fully Integrated Resources and Services Tool) is focusing on “Train the Trainer” sessions, where University personnel will train their colleagues. Here’s what to look for in coming weeks:

- The University’s HR professionals, managers and supervisors will receive training in new recruitment, hiring and appointment processes, known as Human Capital Management (HCM) and Talent Acquisition Management (TAM).
- Every person learning new tools for their everyday jobs will be enrolled in classroom and/or online training. Classes will be taught in the Borough Training

'Real Time'

Bauer has launched research projects with a similar "democratic spirit"—linking students to the various music cultures of Staten Island. Bauer began last year with a seminar, "Music in American Life," in which students did oral history fieldwork that was stored within CUNY's private academic iTunes U website.

This year, a much larger group of students is documenting the contemporary music culture of Staten Island through a project called Music SILOH (Staten Island's Local Oral History). Students are interviewing local figures, both professional and non-professional, who are influencing and contributing to specific music scenes, such as clubs, concert halls and parks. The goal is not only to assemble field research as a collective academic reservoir, but offer it on a website available to the public.

"This music is terra incognita to many people, even on Staten Island," Bauer says. "The website will give visitors a sense of the music, but it also provides a service-learning component. It gives back to the community."

Bauer acknowledges that projects like Music SILOH are not just about pedagogical innovation. "There is an urgency to what we are doing," he says. "For me to lecture to students, I've got to compete with the media production values in the outside world that are very high... We in academia need to sustain the public perception that what happens in school is relevant to how people are engaging in the world right now."

Few faculty members are engaging the world as directly as David Harvey, a distinguished professor at the Graduate Center. Harvey, who has been teaching Karl Marx's *Capital* for more than 40 years, now offers an open course at his website (<http://davidharvey.org>) which consists of 13 video lectures, also available as audio or video podcasts through iTunes. The site also includes commentaries by Harvey on issues such as the current financial crisis ("The Crisis and Consolidation of Class Power"),

posts from readers and blogs.

Faculty websites like Harvey's may still be rare at CUNY, but such publicly accessible courses have been springing up at more and more universities nationwide, following the example of MIT's groundbreaking OpenCourseWare. Launched in 2002, OpenCourseWare is a free Web-based publication of virtually all MIT course content, available to the public worldwide. Faculty voluntarily provide core course materials under an open license that allows Web site users to download and modify the materials for noncommercial use. (No credit is offered.) Through a consortium of 250 universities worldwide, there are now more than 8,000 courses, including about 1,900 MIT courses, available to the public. "It's provided significant benefits in ways we never could have imagined," says Steve Carson, the MIT program's external relations director. Not only has OpenCourseWare increased the visibility of faculty worldwide, Carson says, but it is used by half of MIT's alumni and has proved a valuable resource for students and faculty around the university.

For his part, Akins, the City College chemistry professor, foresees a day when more "open courses" can be taught for credit by CUNY in conjunction with other institutions. For example, he says, "I have a colleague in China. Why couldn't we teach a course together and offer credit at both ends?"

That kind of collaboration — when actual teaching is done collaboratively over the Web — exemplifies the power and potential of online learning, says Paul Russo, director of online programs at the School of Professional Studies, who has worked with Akins in developing his course. "We're looking for the world's experts to be involved online, to hear their voices at the same time, breaking into the lectures, contributing comments," Russo says. "When you put it up there like that, it's jazz."

To learn more about CUNYfirst, go to <http://first.cuny.edu>

for CUNYfirst

Centers at Hostos Community College, City College, Queens College and the College of Staten Island.

- This start-up period will include rigorous testing of applications to assure that problems are resolved before the University-wide launch of HCM, scheduled for May. Such testing, known as User

financials. These processes will be rolled out in coming months, first through the two "Wave 1" colleges, Queens and Queensborough. Later this year, new CUNYfirst systems for student registration and tuition will be introduced, then launched at these two campuses — with the help of marketing students from several colleges who participated in a recent one-day competition. The teams (York College was the eventual winner) suggested a multi-

faceted approach that will include social networking and on-campus events. "We just felt that who knows better how to talk to students than other students?" said John Ray, communications manager for CUNYfirst.



Acceptance Training, or UAT, will review issues ranging from security to faculty workload. Meanwhile, CUNYfirst teams focusing on new Student Administration processes (Campus Solutions) are building new processes in registration, student records and

Q&A: IRISWEINSHALL

The Biggest Challenge Will be the Economy

IRIS WEINSHALL joined CUNY as Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction, and Management in 2007 after six years as New York City's Transportation Commissioner. She oversees a \$3 billion capital construction budget and sat down with CUNY Matters to discuss her priorities for maintaining, renovating and constructing buildings at the University's 23 colleges and professional schools.

Q: One of the first things you did was to order an analysis of every one of the University's 296 buildings. What did it show?

Vice Chancellor Weinshall: That there had been neglect in critical maintenance for all of our campuses. In many cases these were smaller projects: fixing a boiler, a lighting system or elevators. We did a report that showed CUNY had a critical maintenance backlog of about \$1.4 billion. Last year, we got \$284 million for critical maintenance projects, and have something like 147 in the pipeline.

Q: Could you expand upon your priorities?

A: Critical maintenance, the Decade of Science that Chancellor Goldstein has declared for CUNY, ongoing and new buildings that are desperately needed. Regarding the Decade of Science, at City College we're working on the Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), the 400,000-square foot University research facility, as well as a new CCNY science building. We are building a new science facility at Queens College, new academic and science buildings at CityTech, and a performing arts building and a new science building at Brooklyn College.

Q: How does the state's difficult financial situation figure into this?

A: Last year we got \$1.6 billion from the State for our capital budget. We have a new five-year capital plan, and the governor has awarded more money for the ASRC, for the new Hunter School of Social Work, and the CUNYfirst project, CUNY's new computerized system. We're lobbying for a new student services building at York and a new CUNY Law School building.

Q: Mayor Bloomberg has asked city agencies to delay 20 percent of their capital programs into the future. How does that affect CUNY, since the city pays the cost of community colleges and Medgar Evers?

A: About \$74 million had to be pushed out to a fifth year, and the greatest impact will be on the community colleges. But the borough presidents and City Council have been very helpful, and we're trying to substitute funds from them for this other money. Our biggest concern was to make sure that the demolition of Fiterman Hall, the BMCC building severely damaged on 9/11, was fully funded. We worked very closely with Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Mayor Bloomberg to make sure that money was in place because we want to start construction on a new building. BMCC is the fastest-growing of our community colleges. The new 330,000-square-foot building will be a tremendous asset, and a spectacular addition to Lower Manhattan when it opens, hopefully in fall of 2012.

Q: Tell us a little about the renovation of Baruch College's Field Building at 17 Lexington Ave.

A: This is one of the more interesting, older CUNY buildings. We asked for \$100 million and the Legislature gave us \$40 million. So we divided the project into three phases, and we're going to start phase one immediately.

Q: What is the role of public/private partnerships?

A: The Hunter School of Social Work was in a building that was owned by the New York City Community Trust. They sold the building and shared the profits with us, and CUNY will receive \$30 million that we were able to put into a new facility in East Harlem. We're looking for opportunities to be able to partner with private developers and to create academic space as well as private use.

Q: What other big challenges are on the horizon?

A: The biggest will be the economy and how we are able to fare with the projects in our pipeline. Another will be creating buildings that are architecturally distinguished, that capture the feeling of CUNY, and that future generations will enjoy seeing and using.








Q: What are your greatest satisfactions so far?

A: Getting the state to recognize the importance of adding a record amount to CUNY's capital budget last year, and giving us the go-ahead for many important projects. I'm also very proud of the work that we're doing in East Harlem regarding the new Hunter School of Social Work and the School of Public Health because it's a statement by CUNY that we want to be part of the community, and contribute to East Harlem's rebirth. I'm very proud of the work of my staff. They are very dedicated, and really care about CUNY and its future.



Iris Weinshall

MAY

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
 Science & the Arts — Between the Folds: The Art and Science of Origami May 11	 Ray Drummond May 8	 Walter Mosley May 6			1 Borough of Manhattan Community College Tribeca Cabaret Series — Tsidii Le Loka 8 p.m. Free	2 Queens College Opera Performance: Monteverdi's Orfeo (May 1-May 2) 7:30 p.m. \$15
3 Queens College Jewish Studies Cinema on Sundays 2 p.m. \$5 The University CUNYAC Men's Tennis Championship 12-4 p.m. Free	4 The University Serving Science — CUNY Science Café: Jeff Halperin 6-7 p.m. \$10 (includes one beverage)	5 Graduate Center Gotham Center History Forum — The Sun and the Moon 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free	6 Kingsborough Community College Free Best-Selling Author Series: Walter Mosley 7:30-9 p.m. Free	7 Baruch College 31st Annual Spring Fling Street Fair 12-3 p.m. Free Brooklyn College CUNY Wellness Festival 12-3:30 p.m. Free	8 The University CUNYAC Baseball Championship (May 7-May 9) 4-6 p.m. Free BMCC Lost Jazz Shrines: Ray Drummond 8:30 p.m. Free	9 Lehman College Rossini's "La Cenerentola" (Cinderella) 12:30 p.m. Free
10 The University CUNYAC Men's & Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Free	11 Graduate Center Science & the Arts — Between the Folds: The Art and Science of Origami 6:30-8 p.m. Free	12 Graduate Center Turnstyle Reading Series: poetry, fiction, and nonfiction 6:30 p.m. Free	13 Kingsborough Community College You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown 8 p.m. Students \$5 with ID, general admission \$10	14 Graduate Center Music In Midtown — Manhattan String Quartet 1-2 p.m. Free	15 Hostos Community College Career Services Workshops: Majors & Careers 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free	16 Lehman College "Ain't Misbehavin'" 8 p.m. \$20-\$45 
17 Kingsborough Community College Free Sundays at Kingsborough: Soh Daiko 3-4:30 p.m. Free Brooklyn College "Annie" 3-5 p.m. \$30, \$40	18 Baruch College Director's Briefing — Zicklin School of Business Graduate Programs 6-7:45 p.m. Free	19 Hostos Community College Career Services Workshops: Resumes 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free	20 Hostos Community College Hip-Hop Dance 360 — Full Circle 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$7 	21 Mammoth Follies May 28		
		27 Hunter College Know Your Rights Training 1-3 p.m. Free	28 Hostos Community College Mammoth Follies with Hudson Vagabond Puppets 10:15 a.m. \$7			

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- What do DNA samples, blood tests and brain scans really tell us about our bodies? NPR contributor and author of *The Experimental Man*, **David Ewing Duncan**, finds out by becoming a human lab rat.
- Learn what went terribly wrong in Iraq from the former senior Pentagon correspondent for the Washington Post, **Thomas Ricks**, who turned his findings into the best-selling book, *Fiasco: The American Military Adventures in Iraq*.

JUNE

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 New York City Col. of Technology 69th Commencement Exercises 10 a.m. Free Macaulay Honors College Class of 2009 Convocation 10 a.m. Free	2  Graduate Center Pistoletto Tues-Fri 12-8 p.m. Sat-Sun 12-6 p.m. Free	3 (Through July 12) Graduate Center Two Shows: Peeps/Pistoletto Tues-Fri 12-8 p.m. Sat-Sun 12-6 p.m. Free	4  Graduate Center Pistoletto	5 City University School of Law Workshop for Prospective Law Faculty of Color 9 a.m.-5:15 p.m. \$25	6 (Through Sept. 1) Queensborough Community College American Cartoonists, Nazi Germany and the Holocaust 7-5 p.m. Free
	9 Hostos Community College A Chinese Festival: Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$7 (Grades 4-8)	10 Baruch College Professional Networking Workshop 6:15-7:45 p.m. Free - registered CAPS students; \$25 nonstudent	11 (June 10-June 11) Graduate Center Igniting Change: Activating Alliances for Social Justice 4-8 p.m. Free	12 Kingsborough Community College Kingsborough Commencement Ceremony 11 a.m. Tickets required	13 LaGuardia Community College Admissions Information Session & Campus Tour 10-11 a.m. Free	
	16 Hostos Community College Diabetes Awareness Workshop Noon-1:30 p.m. Free	17 Hostos Community College Tea & Talk Series 3:30-5 p.m. Free	18 Hostos Community College Career Services Workshops: Spring 2009: Majors & Careers 3:30-4:30 p.m. Free	19 	20 College of Staten Island CSI Alumni Night with the Staten Island Yankees 7-10 p.m. \$25 Picnic Deck; \$5 General Admission	
22  (June 22-Aug. 5) LaGuardia Community College LPN to RN Transition Course 5:45-9:15 p.m. \$575 (including book, registration fee)	23 Hostos Community College 4th Annual Scholarship Fund Golf Outing (More Information to Follow)	24 Hunter College Know Your Rights Training 1-3 p.m. Free	25 Hostos Community College Smoking Cessation Presentation and Workshop Noon-1:30 p.m. Free	26 	27 LaGuardia Community College Admissions Information Session & Campus Tour 10-11 a.m. Free	

For more events, visit www.cuny.edu and click 'events'

Details of calendar events can change without notice, so always call in advance.