

Volume 5 | Number 2

# B

Brooklyn College Magazine

## Brooklyn's Bold Future

President Michelle J. Anderson's  
Vision for Brooklyn College

Also inside

A History of Activism on Campus

Shaping Stewards of Urban Sustainability





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Dear Alumni,  
I have greatly enjoyed my first year at Brooklyn College, and I am proud to serve this venerable institution as its 10th president.

When I arrived, I devoted my time to listening to the community and working to understand what makes Brooklyn College such a special place. I have heard the excitement and enthusiasm of our students to learn; our faculty's dedication to enriching our outstanding programs; our staff members' great pride in their work to support the mission of the College; and the continued generosity of our alumni who want to invest in our students' success. Everyone I spoke to was eager to share how deeply they cared for Brooklyn College.

The opportunity to attend a university is a magnificent gift, as those who graduated from Brooklyn College understand. Higher education provides students with a chance to test new ideas, grapple with divergent points of view, and learn to solve problems. It provides students with an opportunity to reflect, to be creative in new ways, and to evolve intellectually. Brooklyn College opens the doors to the broader world.

In this issue of *B Magazine*, we explore engagement with the wider world through the history of social activism on the Brooklyn College campus. Since the founding of the College in 1930, each generation of students, staff, and faculty has debated the challenging political issues of their day—demonstrating on the quad, making their views known, and exercising their democratic rights of free speech. Agree or disagree with campus rabble-rousers at any time, this kind of involvement always makes for a passionate community, unafraid to contend with complexity. As this issue of the magazine attests, Brooklyn College continues to build on its rich history to produce student award-winners, faculty research excellence, and the next generation of community leaders.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the magazine.

Warm regards,  
Michelle

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The daughter of alumni finds her mom's old Brooklyn College sweatshirt and uncovers her parents' hidden history of service and achievement. **Read about it on page 46.**





## BROOKLYN COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

Brooklyn College frequently finds itself in the news for the achievements, opinions, and expertise of its faculty and alumni. The following is a selection of noteworthy headlines. To read the full stories behind these and others highlighting the college, visit **BC in the Media** at [brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/bcmedia.php](http://brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/news/bcmedia.php).

**Brooklyn College's Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema Focuses on the Industry's Diversity**

—The New York Times

**BC's Chelsea Batista '16 Accepted to 11 Medical Schools**

—WPIX-TV

**Professor Stephen Chester Says 62-Million-Year-Old Skeleton Provides New Window into Primate Origins**

—Fox News

**Kate Ossana Simonian '14 M.F.A. Receives Writing Nelson Agren Literary Award for Short Story**

—Chicago Tribune

**Professor Anna Law, Herb Kurz Chair in Constitutional Rights, Explains the Constitutional Separation of Powers**

—PBS

**Professor Archie Rand's "Sixty Paintings from the Bible" Opens at Pittsburgh's American Jewish Museum**

—Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**Professor Tony Wilson Explains Pregnancy in Male Seahorses**

—PRI.org

**Professor Cherrier Leads State-funded Project to Stop Toxic Algae Bloom in Prospect Park Lake**

—WABC-TV

**Anthony Izaguirre '15 Joins the Associated Press' Philadelphia Bureau**

—U.S. News & World Report

**Pulitzer Prize-winner Annie Baker '09 M.F.A. Makes Case for Pervasiveness of Storytelling in "The Antipodes"**

—The New York Times

**Professor Ben Lerner Pens Encomium to Poet John Ashbery, Former Distinguished Professor at the M.F.A. Program.**

—The New Yorker

**Aphasia Support Group at Brooklyn College Gives Patients Their Voice Back**

—News 12

**WE'VE HAD A GREAT YEAR IN SOCIAL MEDIA**, taking full advantage of Facebook Live, Instagram Stories, and the Internet's endless supply of GIFs. While we're obviously thrilled whenever a post "goes viral," we're equally excited when a prospective student tweets about an inspiring BC Navigator on their campus tour, a faculty member announces a new book on Facebook, or a student captures the last light across the West Quad in a time-lapse over on Instagram.

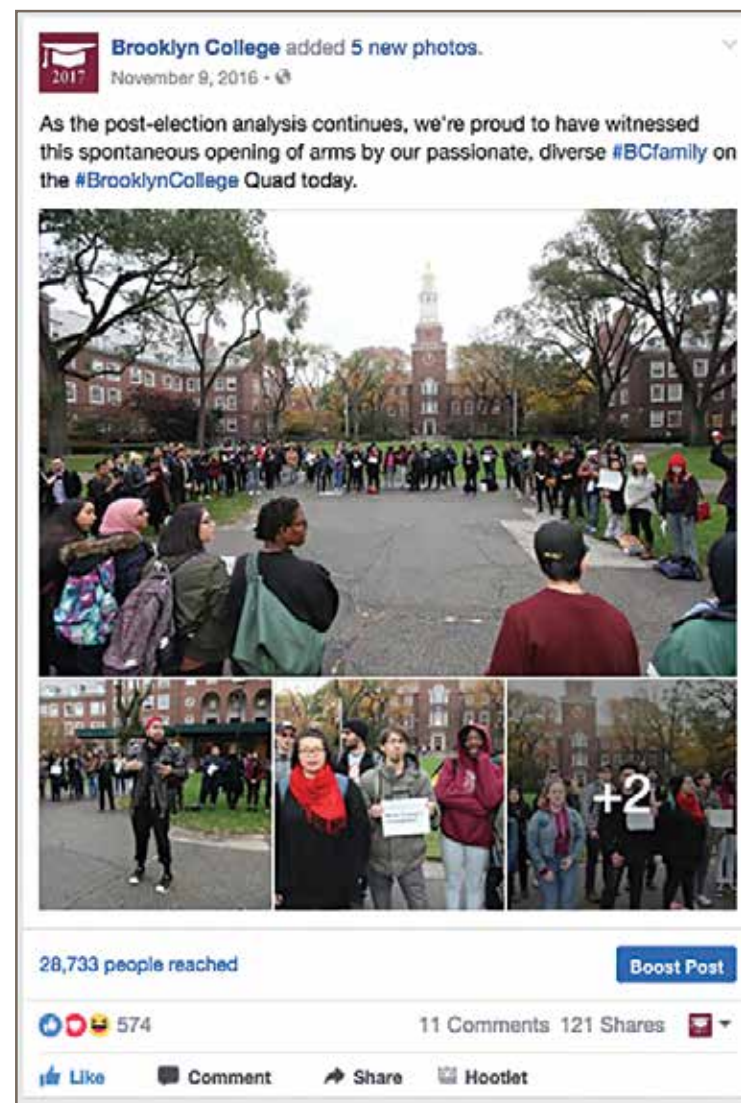


### JOIN US!

To see what **#BCFAMILY** are up to, explore **#HIDDENBC**, catch up on **#BCSUMMER**, or just keep up-to-date on all things **#BROOKLYNCOLLEGE**, follow us!



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## Change Agents

*Brooklyn College has a tradition of fostering transformative activism and an engaged citizenry. That tradition is evident in the work of some of the young alumni, many of whom were assisted along the way by the college's **MAGNER CAREER CENTER**. More than 90 percent of students who used the center report that its services helped prepare them for their job after graduation. By helping them to gain access to well-placed alumni, and sharpening their résumé and interview skills, among other support, the **Magner Career Center** assisted in enabling them to become important change agents improving the borough and well beyond.*

*Here are a few of the alumni who have directed their skills toward serving the wider world.*



**SHAHANA K. HANIF '15** is the co-director, community organizer, and liaison for Naree Shongothok: Bangladeshi Women Organizing for Social Change. She recently spent more than half a year in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the former women's and gender studies major sharpened her Bangla language fluency and worked with several women-centered organizations, writing grants, among other tasks, and trying to network with and learn from many women leaders there.

The former Scholars Program student received a Marge Magner Stipend Award during the summer of 2015. She says witnessing gender-based inequalities within Brooklyn's Bangladeshi Muslim community inspired her to become a community organizer.

"My work is my survival," says Hanif. "I am blessed to be able to connect with people, form deep relationships, and receive trust from strangers who share their stories with sincerity and openness, and welcome me into their lives. Everyone I've met has survived something, and this drives me and gives me hope."



**JESSICA JONES '12** is a registered dietician and certified diabetes educator at a primary care clinic in Oakland, California. She received résumé and career guidance from the Magner Career Center and went on to become the proud co-founder of Food Heaven Made Easy, a new social and new media brand based on healthy vegetarian living. Jones and her partner, Wendy Lopez, host a cooking show on YouTube; they feature nutritional tips and recipes on their website and social channels. In recent years, they have started hosting healthy eating retreats overseas and launched a Food Heaven Academy for people who want to take a weekly course. Their most recent venture is a cookbook, *28-Day Plant-Powered Health Reboot* (Page Street Publishing, 2017).

"To walk into Barnes & Noble and see your book advertised on the shelves is absolutely mind-blowing. We put our blood, sweat, and onion-induced tears into it," says Jones. "Our goal is to basically take over the world, one healthy meal at a time."



**JULIO PEÑA '07** sought help with his résumé from the Magner Career Center during his senior year, when he was applying for jobs. He now helps young adults find alternative means to gain their high school diploma in his position as a program director at the nonprofit Good Shepherd Services. "I feel like I have made the most impact helping students overcome their barriers to finish high school," he says. Through the Magner Career Center, Peña now also mentors two Brooklyn College students.

In addition, he volunteers as a chair on Brooklyn's Neighborhood Advisory Board No. 7 in Sunset Park, as well as serving on many other local community boards. "The greatest impact starts in our communities," he says. "I love being involved because it allows me to be part of really meaningful conversations about how I think my community can improve."

—Jamilah Simmons

## Alumni Mentor Students, Creating a Lasting Legacy

For over a decade, the Brooklyn College Magner Career Center—founded by Marge Magner '69—has played a pivotal role in forging relationships between successful alumni and high-achieving students, resulting in our students securing career opportunities at some of the most prestigious companies in the world. These experiences inspire the lifelong connections that uphold the college's traditions of engagement, generosity, and service. Here is a snapshot of some of the alumni whose dedication to their alma mater provided a path to success for the generations of students who have followed in their footsteps.

**ANTHONY CASTELLANOS '84**, partner and director of the board at KPMG LLP, and member of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, mentored **Craig Henry '11** (who is now employed full-time at KPMG), **Fanny Rodriguez '11** (an accountant at the New York State Insurance Fund), senior **Kelly Alvarez**, and junior **Victoria Hernandez** (who secured an internship at KPMG for winter 2018) in the past few years. Castellanos was responsible for increasing KPMG's recruiting efforts on campus. As a result, more than 20 students have landed internships and full-time positions at the firm. Castellanos also returns to campus periodically to meet with student groups selected by the Magner Career Center and the Student Leadership Council in the Murray Koppelman School of Business to discuss careers in finance and share the benefit of his experience. To read more about Castellanos's efforts, visit <http://bit.ly/2sx8ulr>.

**LORRAINE LAIGHOLD '64**, senior vice president at Lexington Group at Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS)—as well as a certified financial planner, member of the Brooklyn College Foundation Board of Trustees, and founder of the Brooklyn College Lorraine Laighold Summer Leadership Academy—established an internship pipeline between the college and UBS. Senior **Luiz Cazares** is the most recent student to secure an internship at UBS. To read more about Laighold's work, visit <http://bit.ly/2sUiuoc>.

**ELLIOT TANNENBAUM '73**, a retired partner at Ernst & Young LLP (EY) and retired managing director at Morgan Stanley, continues to serve as a mentor to many Brooklyn College students. He is responsible for introducing and increasing EY recruiting efforts on campus. As a result, more than 15 students have landed internships and full-time positions at EY.

**ADRIA ALPERT ROMM '77**, chief human resources and global diversity officer at Discovery Communications, mentors Brooklyn College students and has participated in numerous career panels to share her experience and offer career guidance. Romm helped arrange a visit to Discovery Communications and the participation of a recruiter on a panel. **Reanisha Bartholomew '17** secured an internship at Discovery. After graduation, Bartholomew was offered a full-time position at Discovery as the new commercial operations coordinator for the TLC Network.

**TERRANCE STROUD '98** serves on the board of directors for the Brooklyn College Alumni Association and is a director at New York City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Stroud worked diligently with the Magner Career Center's Pre-Law Career Program and collaborated on numerous events with the center to promote and support the partnership he created between the college and his alma mater, Indiana University Maurer School of Law. The partnership is an education pipeline for Brooklyn College students that provides them with guaranteed scholarship and mentoring opportunities. As a result of his efforts, two Brooklyn College students are studying at the Indiana School of Law, a top-10 public law school, in fall 2017 on scholarship: valedictorian **Kevin LaMonte Jones '17** and **Ben Adams '17**.

**DIONNE ANDINO '15**, former Magner Career Center stipend winner and corporate controller for the global hospitality company One Group, helped **Omar Ilyas '14** secure a full-time position, and **Danielle Burke '17** secure a paid internship, at her company this past year.

—Robert Jones Jr.





## Alumnus Spurs Creative Spark in Young Students Through Sonic Arts

**MAX ALPER '14** wants to make sure young students have access to educational opportunities that will help them stay creative and learn something that may not be available in their schools. So Alper, an M.F.A. student in the Brooklyn College Sonic Arts program, started Sonic Arts for All! (SAFA!), a nonprofit music organization in early 2016. A two-year beneficiary of funds from the Music of Foundation's Carnegie Hall Tribute Benefit Series, he used the seed money to buy the kind of electronic equipment the program needed. In a hands-on workshop, the students design a piece of music—whether it's a pop song or rap tune—with the instrument of their choice, while the instructors provide the technical know-how to make it possible. "Every class is recorded, so they can hear themselves and we can help them work on their pieces," says Alper.

—Ernesto Mora

## Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Professor Uncovers Links Between Mass Incarceration and Socioeconomic Injustice

**REYNALDO ORTIZ-MINAYA**, an assistant professor in the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, began his undergraduate studies with hopes of becoming a doctor—"the prescribed path to success and material worth," as he saw it. But when one of his professors introduced him to E. F. Shumacher's *Small Is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered* (Blond and Briggs, 1973), it sent him on a different course. "It made me shift toward sociology and economics, and look at developing countries in the Caribbean, and African diaspora," he says now of the collection of essays on economics and the environment that was a rallying cry against "bigger is better" industrialism. "It solidified my path."

The path would lead him eventually to scholarship on the increasing phenomenon of mass incarceration and the socioeconomic injustices that precede it. His research has led him to work with grassroots groups on increasing access to social justice. Ortiz-Minaya received a bachelor's degree in sociology and Latin American

studies at Drew University. He then attended SUNY Binghamton, where he earned a Ph.D. with highest distinction for a dissertation that examined the practice of conscripting enslaved Cubans as penal labor in Puerto Rico during the mid- to late 19th century.

Ortiz-Minaya's scholarship has also taken him to countries such as Cuba, Russia, France, Pakistan, and Hungary, where he has drawn parallels in the systematic ways in which social structures disadvantage people of color in the United States and in populations across the globe. "One of the most important aspects of my research, for me, is seeing the connections that exist among people facing similar struggles. My work forces me to think about the patterns and how to take solutions from one place and suggest them in other places where they can work."

In 2016, Ortiz-Minaya earned a fellowship from the Fulbright Commission Program as a specialist looking at rising levels of social inequality and its relationship to a spike in mass incarceration in the Middle East.



In the last year, he has taken three trips to Pakistan—where prisons are some 200 percent over capacity—to work with grassroots organizations.

"I was blown away by the particular challenges of their justice system and its infrastructure," says Ortiz-Minaya. "For example, in Pakistan, if a woman goes to jail, any children she has under five years old go with her. That's not only heartbreaking but also raises so many questions."

His numerous other works include research on the Roma people in the Balkans, and a digital project for which he is collaborating with the National

Endowment for the Humanities to virtually reconstruct slave barracks and prison cells found in the United States and the Caribbean. He has a forthcoming book from Brill Publishers, *From Plantation to Prison: Visual Economies of Slave Resistance, Criminal Justice, and Penal Exile in the Spanish Caribbean, 1820–1886*.

While his work constantly takes him across the globe, he says he is glad to have found a home at Brooklyn College. "The students are definitely, for me, the beauty of Brooklyn College," he says. "The realness they bring and their genuine thirst for knowledge totally stimulates me."

—Jamilah Simmons

## CUNY Haitian Studies Institute Founding Director Expands Research on Haiti and Its Diaspora

**JEAN EDDY SAINT PAUL, PH.D.** credits his parents first for a career that has brought him to serve Brooklyn's large Haitian community.

"I was in primary school when I experienced my first hurricane in my hometown of Torbeck in the south of Haiti," says Saint Paul, the founding director of the new CUNY Haitian Studies Institute (CUNY-HSI). "I was so afraid that I clutched my backpack full of books. When my father asked why I was carrying them around with me, I told him that if I will die I would like to die with all my books. This is the kind of relationship I had with books and scholarship, even then."

Saint Paul's family moved to the capital city of Port-au-Prince so that he could continue his education at one of the schools there. "Even though my parents were not literate, they really cared about the education of children," says Saint Paul.

An internationally noted scholar, Saint Paul believes that success comes through a long process of learning, and his own academic career bears this out. He earned a B.A. in social work from the State University of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, then served for 12 years as head of the library and as a member of the faculty of human sciences there. He went on to gain an M.A. in Latin American studies from Javeriana Pontificia University in Bogotá, Colombia. Saint Paul holds a Ph.D. in sociology from El Colegio de México, and was the first Haitian



to do so. He has been a visiting scholar at the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies, at the University of Virginia, and a visiting fellow at Sciences Po at the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales (CERI) in Paris. Most recently, he was a professor of sociology and politics at the University of Guanajuato, in Mexico.

"I am always looking for new challenges," says Saint Paul. "So I left my comfort zone in Mexico to learn more." This landed him at the institute, bringing with him a broad-ranging scholarship that encompasses such topics as state and social policies; democracy, civil society, the politics of memory, and citizenship in Haiti and the Caribbean; religious pluralism and democracy; and sociology of crime and violence in the Haitian State.

"My commitment is to work to establish a leading research center with national and international recognition," says Saint Paul. "We hope to create a

visiting professorship, a physical and digital library, and a first-class academic website as a resource for researchers."

These are but a few of Saint Paul's goals for CUNY-HSI. "We can produce research, including a census of how many people of Haitian descent live in the state of New York." The statistics, he says, can then be used for policy- and law-making, as well as bolstering commerce in the Haitian community.

Saint Paul's plans do not stop at the borders of New York State. He would like to create a summer study abroad program with the State University of Haiti in Port-au-Prince, in part to dispel the image of the country as a place of poverty and disasters. "People don't really know about the beautiful side—the cuisine, music, art, literature, people. Getting to know the real Haiti could even help to shape foreign policy in a new way."

—Audrey Peterson



Launched in summer 2016 and led by noted scholar and author Jean Eddy Saint Paul, Ph.D., the CUNY Haitian Studies Institute (CUNY-HSI) at Brooklyn College is looking toward establishing itself as a top international research center, supporting scholars, conducting policy analysis, fostering collaboration between CUNY and colleges and universities in Haiti, and conducting community outreach, among other goals. Brooklyn College is a natural home for the institute with a large Haitian-American community just outside its campus—more than 60,000 people of Haitian descent live in the borough.

Since the institute's debut, Saint Paul has organized several events through it, including "Voices from Haiti: Artists as Activists," a panel discussion created in collaboration with the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, and "A Retrospective of Recent U.S. Foreign Policy in Haiti," a panel discussion featuring Professor Claude Joseph, Fordham University; Vanessa Leon, CEO of urban planning firm Pinchina Consulting; and Ambassador Kenneth Merten, acting principal deputy assistant secretary of state and Haiti special coordinator. —A.P.



# Leading by Listening

*Michelle J. Anderson's vision for Brooklyn College has consensus building at its core.*

*by Keisha-Gaye Anderson*



've always been a teacher," Michelle J. Anderson says. As a child, she taught her two younger sisters whatever she learned. Later, neighbors hired her to tutor their children. She worked her way through college at the University of California, Santa Cruz, by teaching writing in an affirmative action program.

She is especially enthusiastic when she talks about teaching. "I love being in the classroom. It's a space of possibility and hope, ideas and hard work," she says. "There's magic there." Anderson's passion for education would eventually lead her into college administration. "I decided I could do more to help students and other teachers have great learning experiences by helping institutions of higher education be excellent. Plus, public education is in my bones."

The daughter of an Air Force pilot and an artist, Anderson was born in Valdosta, Georgia. Growing up, she attended public schools in North Dakota, Nebraska, Louisiana, Virginia, and California, where she says the institutions were "as good as or better" than the private school she also attended in Montgomery, Alabama. "When the time came, I could not afford to attend a private college, so I went to UC Santa Cruz. I got so much out of my education there," she says. "My heart is in public education. It's accessible to all; it's a great equalizer in a society rife with inequality and discrimination.

"A commitment to justice evolved early in my life," Anderson says. "My family moved a lot, and I remember my father talking about the racism that we would see, particularly when we returned to the Deep South. Both my mother and father were strongly antiracist and they took it seriously. So a formative





part of my identity was to know that it is my responsibility to speak out against injustice.”

There is a framed picture of Frederick Douglass in Anderson’s office. “Douglass means a lot to me,” she says. “He was an incredible orator, a passionate opponent of slavery, and an advocate for universal suffrage, including women’s suffrage. He worked for justice not just for himself, but also for others.”

Anderson’s drive to make positive change in the world sent her into the field of law. She attended Yale Law School, where she was a Notes Editor on the *Yale Law Journal*. She began her legal career as a clerk on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for Judge William Norris, a jurist known for some of the earliest opinions in favor of gay rights. After a stint practicing criminal defense and disability discrimination cases in the clinical program at Georgetown University Law Center, Anderson yearned to teach again and decided to become a law professor.

As a professor, she says she felt “energized and inspired by students.” For almost a decade at Villanova University School of Law, Anderson’s students rated her at the top of the faculty. She also taught law at the University of Pittsburgh Law School, Yale Law School, and the CUNY School of Law, where for the last decade she served as dean.

“Being the dean at CUNY Law taught me about the importance of faculty governance,” she says. “It helped me see that faculty, as well as staff, students, and many alums, want to understand the financial picture of the institution. They want to help make key strategic decisions for it. I think that higher education administrators have an obligation to engage meaningfully with other stakeholders, wherever they can.”

She continues: “In my experience, it’s better to be transparent about the difficulties the school faces. It’s better to share information rather than withhold it—rather than think, ‘I’m going to hold all the cards myself.’ And I’ve learned as a leader that populating your team with people who are different than you are is also important, even if at times painful. It gives you perspective that you cannot bring yourself. There aren’t just one or two perspectives you have to consider as a leader; there are multiple perspectives.”

Though it’s only been a year since Anderson stepped into the role of president at Brooklyn College—the second woman to hold that title in the institution’s almost 90-year history—students, faculty, and staff now regard her as a part of the fabric of the place. Whether she’s talking with students on the Quad, touting the college’s accolades on her Twitter feed (@BCPresAnderson), or inviting students, faculty, and staff to send her ideas for improving the college, Anderson’s leadership style has inclusion and consensus building at its core.

“I’m thrilled to be at a place where there is a tremendous commitment to intellectual excellence and student achievement,” Anderson says. Her philosophy in leading the college, which now serves more than 17,000 students in one of the fastest-growing cities in the country, is simple: “Leave something better than you found it. My father gave me that work ethic.” She laughs. “My daughter calls me a workaholic. Though that’s not technically accurate, I do think it speaks to taking pride in my work.”

While now in higher education administration, Anderson says, “a part of my heart will always be in teaching, as well as research and scholarship.” Anderson is a leading scholar in the law of rape and sexual assault. “It seemed a place that was ripe for consideration and revision. Once you start thinking about sexual abuse carefully, you realize how common it is, and how there is not a family untouched by it,” she says. She is an adviser to the American Law Institute’s project to reform the Model Penal Code on sexual offenses and is also a consultant to its campus sexual misconduct project.

In July, she penned an op-ed in *The Washington Post* stressing the importance of the federal civil rights law Title IX in addressing campus sexual assault. Title IX states, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Anderson argued that robust enforcement of Title IX in

response to campus sexual assault should remain a priority at the United States Department of Education. “We must strongly protect due process” for those accused of sexual assault, she wrote, but we must also continue to insist that colleges and universities respond to allegations of sexual assault “promptly and equitably.”

When reflecting on why she focuses on sexual abuse, Anderson says, “Sexuality is an area where there is tremendous silence, and the silence itself gives rise to false narratives about how sexuality is or should be, and those narratives tend to be dominant in our society.” She continues, “I also think that silence is something that we impose upon ourselves and one another; it’s both personal and political in how we manage and suppress dialogue. The things that are most important about sexuality are often not discussed at all, and the silence about them is itself an indication that something deserves attention.”

In her first year at Brooklyn College, Anderson has introduced a number of programs to encourage dialogue across the campus community about a range of topics. When she first arrived, she initiated a four-month Listening Tour, where various campus constituencies met directly with her individually, in small groups, or in town-hall-style settings to discuss the identity and culture of the campus, as well as challenges the institution faces. “As a leader, really listening and understanding the different



sides to an issue is crucial,” she says. She was heartened by how much everyone—from students to donors—expressed genuine love for the college, its physical beauty, its extraordinary diversity, and its status as a “bright light in the borough.”

Out of the Listening Tour dialogue around campus culture arose a series of events called We Stand Against Hate (see next page for description) with the goal of enhancing understanding and compassion at Brooklyn College. Students, faculty, staff, and alumni developed and hosted more than 35 events over the course of the year, featuring guest speakers, panel discussions, conferences, speak-outs, and other activities highlighting topics like civil rights, hate groups, surveillance and the First Amendment, immigration, and Zionism and Palestinian nationalism throughout history.

Anderson is invested in making Brooklyn College a place where the community comes together to assert its shared values, and a place where vigorous discourse and free speech are understood as key academic values.

“There is an accusation that students today cannot handle views they disagree with,” she says. “Both the left and right can bandy about the rhetoric of ‘safe spaces,’ ‘trigger warnings,’ and ‘snowflakes.’ It’s an exaggeration, but there is a nub of truth to the way that social media and our larger engagement with the Web today tends to confirm rather than challenge our worldviews, perhaps even pushing them to more extreme positions, which contributes to the polarization of political discourse.

“On the other hand,” continues Anderson, “students’ time in college has to challenge their worldviews. It has to be a place where democratic values of open dialogue are exercised and students engage with people who have new and different perspectives.”

Overall, Anderson believes, “This is an exciting time to be in higher education and to be thinking about the place of a public university in the larger political discourse, the First Amendment, and how colleges can facilitate the values of free speech, despite the fact that we deeply disagree about issues of tremendous political and social import. I think the We Stand Against Hate program is one response to the challenge of a world that would make complicated issues black and white. It is one way to think about trying to encourage more sophisticated and nuanced understanding of complexity.”

Looking ahead, Anderson is energized by the potential of Brooklyn College students and by the college’s expanding role as an economic engine of opportunity throughout the borough and in the wider world. She feels confident in the quality of the college’s academic programs and the expertise of its faculty and staff in preparing students to thrive professionally after they graduate.

This year, Anderson is leading the college in a strategic planning process, setting an ambitious course for its future. “We need to develop an agenda that will strengthen our academic programs, make the college more distinctive, better support our students’ success, and enhance the value of a degree from Brooklyn College.” Anderson’s commitment to evolving the college’s mission is palpable. “Brooklyn College has such an admirable history and such a bright future, if we work together for it. I am so honored to be in a position to serve the campus. There is so much good work to do to help make it everything it can be.”

# WE STAND AGAINST HATE

Enhancing Understanding and Compassion at Brooklyn College

“Academic freedom not only prevents the suppression of dissident views, it also forces us to confront those whose beliefs are antithetical to our own. The opportunity to have one’s beliefs challenged, to reflect, and to consider change is the very purpose of a university. Free speech, debate, and the open exchange of ideas are the oxygen of our existence on this campus. We must engage,” said President Anderson in a letter to the campus last November. She added, “I encourage every one of us to reach out beyond our comfort zone and encounter someone who is different in some way. Exchange greetings of peace and spend some time talking and trying to understand the world from their perspective. . . . Let us not just reject hate; let us approach one another with openness and compassion.” Below, a roundup of events.

Created by students, faculty, and staff, the **WE STAND AGAINST HATE: ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION** initiative at Brooklyn College was launched in spring 2017 with a series of lectures, panel discussions, workshops, concerts, art exhibitions, and other special events across campus. The initiative’s aim is to elevate the discourse around challenging political issues and foster inclusiveness on campus.



Sponsored by the Department of History, the Office of the President, the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for Humanities, the Department of Africana Studies, and the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, the all-day **John Hope Franklin** celebration on **February 28** commemorated the renowned historian, who in 1956, while on staff at Brooklyn College, became the first African American to chair a history department at a primarily white academic institution—a feat that earned him both a notice on the front page and a feature in *The New York Times*. “Franklin believed that you can use scholarship to make a better society,” said Professor and Department of History Chair Gunja SenGupta in the opening remarks. “When you understand that structures of oppression did not fall from the sky, but are man-made and developed historically, you can turn history into a strategy for change. . . .” The event was made possible through the generous support of Kimberley Phillips-Boehm—Brooklyn College Foundation trustee, author, and former dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.



On **March 28** “Shared Paths, Divergent Courses: A New Take on Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism” brought together **Hussein Ibish**, Senior Resident Scholar of the Arab States Institute, and **David N. Meyers**, Sady and Ludwig Kahn Chair in Jewish

History at UCLA, for a discussion, followed by a Q&A. Louis Fishman, assistant professor of history, moderated the event. Myers and Ibish frequently partner in conversation to provide historical knowledge, nuance, empathy, and the critical distance necessary to understand the history of Israel and Palestine.

“We really wanted to teach the history of Palestine and Zionism in a very different way than it’s normally taught,” said Myers, a professor of history at UCLA who has written extensively about modern Jewish intellectual and cultural history. “We thought it was both historically necessary, and really almost a moral act, to combine the history of Zionism and Palestinian nationalism, based on the premise that one can’t really understand the history of one without the other.”

Said Ibish, “There is a long history of Jewish–Arab dialogue. What we decided to do a few years ago when we started talking is something really very different, which is to look at the narratives and how they developed historically over time, with and against each other, and also pay a lot of attention to stepping outside of ourselves and critiquing our own narratives, the narratives that we grew up with and the narratives that we were most comfortable with. And using that kind of self-critique as a way of . . . looking again at what the other side has to say. From that, teasing out where the real differences, convergences, and divergences are.”



On **April 26** a group of alumni who went on to prominent legal careers returned to the campus for a panel discussion on how to participate in the pressing civil rights movement of today. The panel’s speakers included the **Honorable Sharon Bourne-Clarke ’89**, a Brooklyn civil court judge; **Daniel L. Greenberg ’66**, a former distinguished visitor at NYU School of Law who served for 10 years as the president and attorney-in-chief for the Legal Aid Society in New York City; **Norman H. Siegel ’65**, a leading civil rights attorney and civil liberties lawyer; and **Wendy Amengual Wark** (City College), the founder of Inclusion Strategy, a consultancy with clients including Fortune 500 companies, governmental agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations in the United States and abroad.

“I want to encourage you all that you have a role and that you have the opportunity and an obligation to make sure you do what’s within your power to do to address these issues,” said Bourne-Clarke. “Choose a courageous act.”



On **May 17**, Conservatory of Music Professor **Arturo O’Farrill ’96** staged his tribute to educator, philosopher, and social activist **Cornel West**, which was inspired by the current spirit of political unrest and resistance. The Cornel West Concerto draws from the rich trove of traditional African-American jazz, blues, and the chanted sermon. The concerto, which was held on campus in Whitman Theater, featured West as special guest orator, the Brooklyn College Big Band, and the Conservatory Singers. O’Farrill was musical director.

“You just can’t be angry at the world,” said West to the audience. “You have to take action . . . Go out there and start a movement . . . It’s smart to contribute to create a better world.”

—Audrey Peterson

For videos and articles of selected events, visit [www.brooklyn.cuny.edu](http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu) and type “We Stand Against Hate” in the search window.



FROM ITS START IN 1930, WHEN STUDENTS ENTERED BROOKLYN COLLEGE, MANY BECAME THE VANGUARD OF AN ACTIVISM THAT BATTLED FASCISM, SPOKE TRUTH TO POWER, AND BY THE 1960S, VOCIFEROUSLY DEMANDED CIVIL RIGHTS FOR THE MARGINALIZED AND DISENFRANCHISED.

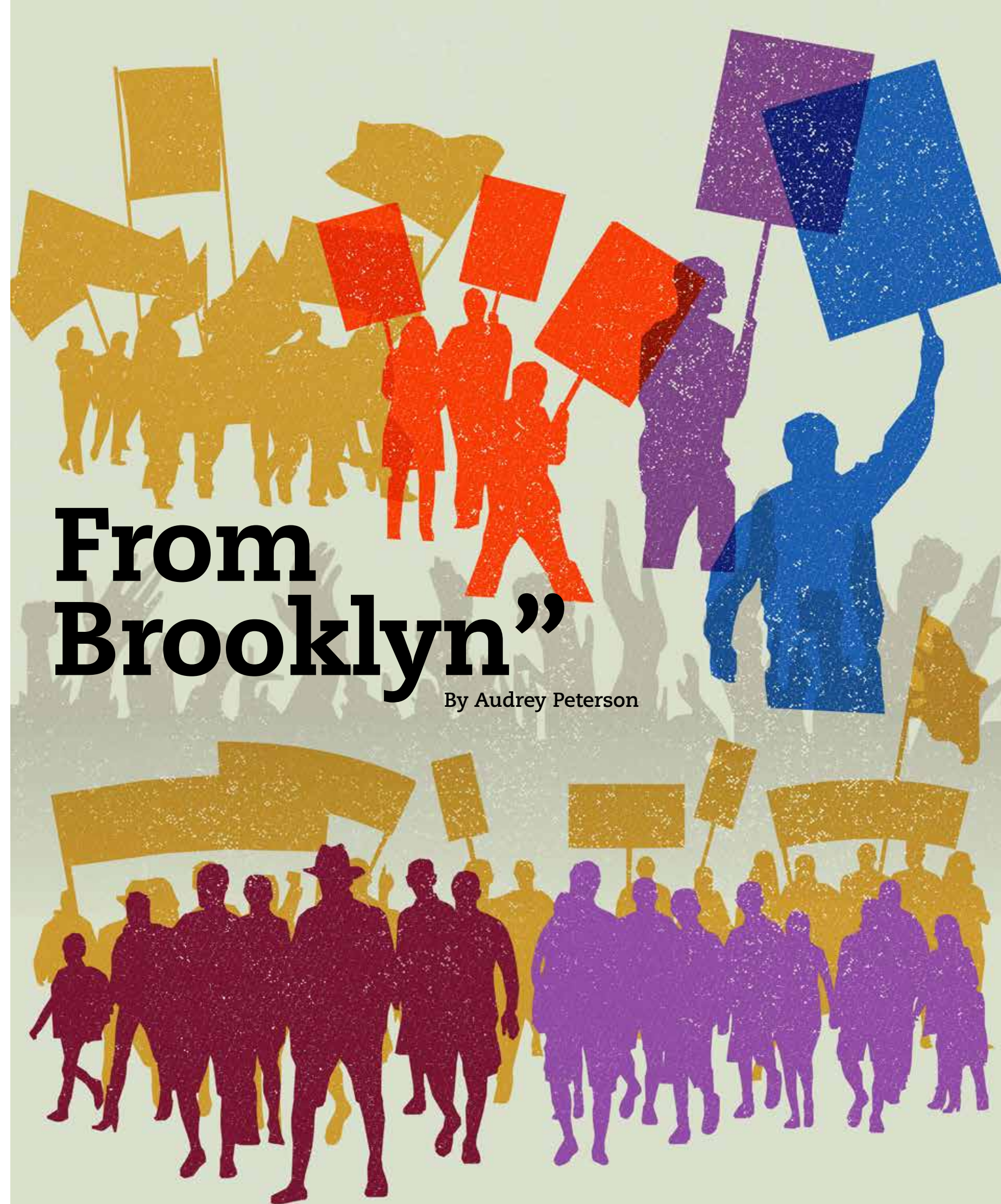
# “After All, We Were Radicals

**It was April 1936 and students from Brooklyn College, which had been founded just six years earlier,**



Students gather to protest Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany's growing aggression in the late 1930s.

gathered for an antiwar rally at Borough Hall in Brooklyn. The students, most of whom were born in the waning days of World War I, had spent their teen years watching the devastating effects of the Great Depression take root after the stock market crash of October 1929. The world was rife with rebellion, unrest, and takeovers. Peasant strikes in France; coups in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, and the Kingdom of Iraq; and the rise of Mao Zedong as leader of the Communist Party of China highlighted the worldwide struggle for power. In Spain, future dictator General Francisco Franco was just starting a war against the sitting government, and Adolf Hitler, chancellor of Germany, was busy persecuting Jewish people and other “non-Aryans” through hundreds of anti-Semitic laws, all of which was reported in the American press.



# From Brooklyn”

By Audrey Peterson



Still, news of the atrocities committed during the early years of the Third Reich had not yet reached most Americans. In the mid-1930s the United States was an isolationist country, disillusioned by its participation in World War I, its citizens not eager to involve themselves in another conflict.

Brooklyn College students were some of the most vocal opponents to hostilities, holding antiwar strikes and rallies beginning in 1934 and continuing until the outbreak of war in Europe and the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. By then it had become apparent that America's entry into the conflict was certain. The college's president, Harry D. Gideonse, spoke to the students: "Patriotism is not a matter of emotion, leaflets or mass meetings. Rather it is a living out of national ideals and values."

Throughout World War II, activism was focused on contributing to the war effort. Brooklyn College students registered for such newly added courses as chemistry of explosives, ballistics, cryptography, navigation, radio, and meteorology.

Some 200 students spent their summers at farms in New York and New Jersey through the Brooklyn College Farm Labor Project, an initiative sponsored by both state and federal agencies that sent the students to fill in for farm laborers who had gone to war.



Brooklyn College students harvest vegetables on one of the New York farms participating in the Brooklyn College Farm Labor Project, around 1942. Although some of the students felt that their "essential war work" was cheap labor for the "capitalist" farm owner, they understood that any real protest should be muted during the war.

Yet, the spirit of activism and protest from the antiwar campaigns in the 1930s had not completely disappeared. What one alumna who'd spent a summer picking beans later called "a little labor dispute" turned into a standoff when a group of students suspected that the farmer who employed them was cheating them. "We knew that he was a capitalist farmer," said Phyllis LeShaw '47 in an interview for Student Voices, a CUNY oral history project. "It wasn't for the war effort, let's face it. It was for his profit and we were savvy enough to know that." Some students walked off, while others derided the protesters as communist troublemakers. Said Frances Koral Date '46, "This was the war. . . . We all believed you struck, but not during the war."

"You can't be the No. 1 academic institution in America, notwithstanding how good your students are, if you're a Little Red Schoolhouse," said Rhoda Karpatkin '51. "But you need to probe that a little. The student body was about 95 percent

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The 1930s made a lot of people radicals.

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Bankers were not in favor. Unemployment was hanging over people's heads. My folks remembered the Hoovervilles in Central Park, and they imbued me—although I think it was more my friends later on. But that was a time that made radicals out of people who would otherwise be conservatives or, you know, not care about politics.

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—Mike Lutzker '53

Jewish, almost all of it the children of immigrants. You would find, as you might guess, that almost anyone there who thought about anything in the way of issues would be more liberal than not."

"Somebody did the math and figured out the number of bushels we picked, what he was paying us for them, what the market price of beans was," said Marjorie Brockman '46. "We were very economically oriented. I know the strike was successful. I think it lasted one day," with the students getting a slight increase in pay.

The end of World War II saw many returning veterans enroll in college with the help of the GI Bill, which offered educational assistance to service members. "Being on the Brooklyn campus in 1947 was extraordinary," said Mike Lutzker '53. "There were hundreds—more like thousands—of ex-GIs on campus, older than the rest of us, either married or planning to get married, some with pregnant wives. They were very serious students. They had been abroad in the Pacific or Europe and had a lot of experience. I think about the ones who liberated the concentration camps or the death camps and what an impression that must have made on them."

The end of the war did not mean the end of hostilities among nations. Relations cooled and then froze between the United States and its once-ally the Soviet Union as they clashed over territory in the occupation of Germany and other countries during the postwar restructuring and rebuilding of Europe. The Cold War that resulted drew a hard line separating the Communist Soviet Union from the United States and "free" Western nations. At home, sentiment grew and solidified a Red Scare that had its roots in the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 and American fears that radicals and socialists would attempt the same in the United States. Brooklyn College had been under scrutiny by the federal government's House Un-American

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In the dining room, there were tables—

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there was a Communist table, and there was

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a chess table, and there was a left-liberal table.

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There was probably a drama club bunch.

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There was a Zionist table. There was a very

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strong contingent of kids who were going to

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Israel, relocating. And there was no place for

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people who just wanted to have lunch.

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— Ann Lane '52

Activities Committee since the summer of 1938. The New York *Herald Tribune* reported that a member of the committee called Brooklyn College a "hotbed of Communism."

The reality was that although there were some students and faculty who were Communists and communist sympathizers, they were in the minority, and the campus community did not believe in censoring or punishing them for exercising their right to free speech. But in 1950 the Red Scare was reignited when Joseph McCarthy, a Republican senator from Wisconsin, claimed to have a list of more than 200 names of State Department employees who were alleged members of the Communist Party. McCarthy's campaign to extinguish communism from the United States moved quickly.

Brooklyn College did not escape the panic, as six members of its faculty were called to testify before a government subcommittee, notable among them an associate professor of German named Harry Slochower. A former communist, he refused to answer certain incriminating questions by invoking the Fifth Amendment. Slochower was dismissed from the college, but reinstated with back pay when his case made its way to the Supreme Court, which ruled that the City of New York had no right to fire someone for pleading the Fifth. Sixteen days after Slochower returned to Brooklyn College, President Gideonse suspended him for a second time with the charge that the professor had perjured himself while under oath when testifying about his communist activities and that this was



One of several peace rallies held on campus beginning in 1934. Classes were often suspended for the day during these protests.



One of the wonderful things about Brooklyn College was that I didn't feel that there were any serious issues about feminism, or to put it another way, one could be a very assertive woman and it was fine. There were plenty of women student leaders in all these organizations and on *Vanguard*, and none of them was a shrinking violet. I was also very impressed, moved, and happy because it was my first real experience with ethnic diversity, and to me that was like another world opening up—to meet African-American students, then known as Negro students. I didn't know any people who were Negro until I came to college, and that mattered a lot.

—Rhoda Karpatkin '51

Below: Students discuss strategy outside the offices of *The Vanguard*, the college's student newspaper, following President Harry Gideonse's suspension of the paper for publishing a story about the school's internal politics after he had warned it not to.



Bottom: A Brooklyn College student grapples with police at a demonstration against Navy recruiters on campus in October 1967.



conduct unbecoming a staff member. Slochower, reported *The New York Times*, said that he had "never made a false statement under oath." Slochower retired after the case, rather than face a committee appointed by the New York Board of Higher Education. Three decades later, in 1980, the CUNY Board of Trustees moved to recognize the "moral injustices" he and the other professors had suffered.

"A pushing, dragging, punching, club-swinging clash between students and the police erupted on the Brooklyn College campus yesterday during a demonstration to protest the appearance of two Navy recruiting officers," said an article in the October 19, 1967 issue of *The New York Times*. The civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements were in full effect, and it seemed that students were protesting everything in the late 1960s: Military recruitment on campus; the shortening of library hours; the denial of tenure for favorite faculty members; grading practices and curriculum; cafeteria regulations and food quality; the scarcity of on-campus parking for students; and the right to demonstrate and strike were just some of the grievances.

It was a volatile time. Americans had seen a mounting toll of assassinations, including those of civil rights activist Medgar Evers and President John F. Kennedy in 1963, and black Muslim leader Malcolm X in 1965. Just months after the campus



melee, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, who was campaigning to become the Democratic nominee for President, would also be murdered.

Colleges and universities nationwide were alive with student and faculty activism both on and off campus. Protests, debates, and rallies were nearly a daily occurrence, with Brooklyn College hosting the anarchist co-founder of the Youth International Party (Yippies) as well as singer-songwriter Phil Ochs, whose music became a part of the soundtrack of social revolution. Black and Puerto Rican students rode the wave of victory in Washington with the signing into law of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. With the rise of the Black Power movement, and of organizations led by Latinos and other minority groups, students of color at Brooklyn College agitated to include black and Latino studies in the college curriculum, and to increase the number of minority faculty and students. The student group Black League of Afro-American Collegians (BLAC) included those in a list of 18 demands that they created along with the Puerto Rican Alliance. Their efforts bore fruit: In 1967, the college established a department of Puerto Rican and Latino studies, and two years later founded the Afro-American Institute, which was renamed the Africana Studies Department in 1974.



Were we scared? Probably we thought it would be wonderful if they did something dramatic to us. By the '60s I knew going to jail was not a good thing to do, was not a happy experience, but at that point I was 19 years old... Communists were going to jail. Grown-ups were going to jail. People were getting fired. Our teachers were getting fired. They were getting fired at City College. We knew there was a real right-wing attack in the country.

—Ann Lane '52



Top: Brooklyn College students take part in a National Student Strike, one of many that occurred on campuses across the United States in April 1968.

Above: Brooklyn College student activists await their turn to speak at a campus meeting around 1970.

Left: The walls of an office on campus are plastered with signs of the time, including an anti-Vietnam War poster, a Black Power fist, a demand for freedom for counterculture activist Angela Davis, and a portrait of Mao Zedong.



## THE CONSCIOUSNESS RAISERS

In 1971, History Professor Renate Bridenthal (below) and Tucker Pamella Farley, (opposite) professor of women's studies and American literature, were two of the progressive faculty members at the vanguard of a vibrant movement that sought to establish a Women's Studies Program and a women's center at Brooklyn College. Since then both the center and the program have helped students, particularly young women, to successfully navigate the undergraduate and graduate experience, develop and celebrate their talents, and broaden their exposure to important issues impacting women worldwide. The following are excerpts from interviews with Bridenthal and Farley conducted for the CUNY Digital Archive by Andrea Ades Vásquez and Yana Calou on April 21 and May 15, 2016.

*Here Renate Bridenthal, who joined the Brooklyn College faculty as a lecturer in 1967, talks about the dawning of her own consciousness as a feminist and the genesis of the Women's Studies program.*

**BRIDENTHAL:** It was a time of movement. There was movement about everything. There was movement about civil rights. There was movement about the war, and there was a women's movement, and the history department in particular, I soon noticed, was very conservative . . . I got in trouble very quickly over the anti-war stuff, very quickly. . . .

**CALOU:** Can I just ask a quick follow up question around the ways in which you feel like you came to a feminist consciousness, so much so that you would be one of the founding members of the organization that then turns into the program in the center?

**BRIDENTHAL:** I joined up [with the New York Radical Feminists]. They were running consciousness-raising groups. . . . I was raised by [my] mother . . . in very, basically, feminist ways: Don't depend on a man to support you. Make something of yourself. . . . I just seemed to be succeeding at it and didn't worry about opposition. . . . Radical Feminists had a very good consciousness-raising group. I actually used some of that material later when I taught women's studies. They had an outline of what you should do at your meetings. . . .

So [the Radical Feminists] brought us together in the neighborhood. Nobody knew anybody else, which is a good thing because you talk more freely to strangers whom you will never see again, like on airplanes. There was a topic for every week, like childhood, adolescence, siblings, growing up, dating, jobs . . . chronologically through your life. You went around the room. Everybody told their story, and then the idea was you pull out of all these individual stories what is general, what is social. Then you see the social aspect of sexism. . . .

*Bridenthal created a flyer for anyone interested in getting together for a meeting at Brooklyn College, made copies on a mimeograph machine, and stuffed them into mailboxes. Some 100 people showed up to the first meeting.*



**VÁSQUEZ:** So were you surprised at the turnout . . . ?

**BRIDENTHAL:** [I was] thrilled! Thrilled that so many people were interested. . . . We called ourselves the Brooklyn College Women's Organization. That's all we had to start with. . . . Then the task forces emerged.

**VÁSQUEZ:** Do you want to talk a little bit about the program? . . . Who were the different people involved? . . . What were some of the interpersonal relationships in making this progress in the center, in building the center?

**BRIDENTHAL:** I would say that, in the first few years, we were pretty much on one page on most things. Tucker Farley was actually very important and helpful. We worked together a lot on the curriculum. Freddie Wachsberger was present. She was in the Art Department, Anthropology. She helped design the first brochure that we had, and it was beautiful. Pat Lander in Anthropology came in pretty early.

[The college] gave us a little space. . . . But for a while we had our own college assistant, and we had two small rooms and a small reception [area].

**CALOU:** Would you be able to talk a little bit about the student response and enrollment, and the ways—I saw a lot about the ways in which the course, the faculty, designing



the courses, were wanting input from students for things like reading lists and course materials and what they wanted, and how that affected, maybe, student enrollment and responses that you got from rewarding or otherwise from students who took some of the first Women's Studies courses in the program.

**BRIDENTHAL:** I do remember the classes being very lively. We really wanted to hear from [the students], hear from their experiences; in a sense to recreate. Oh, yes, we got in trouble for this, too. I told them about—in one of my classes I got hauled before this dean of students for even showing them how to make a consciousness-raising group because that was considered interfering with their psychological—somehow imposition, and told not to do it again. . . . But students were very lively and wanting to—they were very much themselves in this atmosphere of wanting to learn; and they told a lot of personal stories, and there were some very heartwarming results. . . .

**VÁSQUEZ:** And when were you teaching gender and sexuality or anything about reproductive rights in that period? . . . I guess I'm interested in what students and your colleagues were discussing, opening up, and discussing at that time when those were some of the big issues in the women's movement . . . about the role of lesbians in the women's



movement and... sexuality and health issues, women's health issues...

**BRIDENTHAL:** It seems to me that almost everything was open, all kinds of relationships: personal, work-related, student-related harassment, professor harassment, things like that . . . were discussed, and people were encouraged to relate their individual lives to the material so that there wasn't this top-down approach, here's what you have to know about this, and here's what you have to know about that. They were very interactive classes, more than most; because the kids who came—that was a self-selected group. They would pick [a class] because, for some reason, they wanted to be more involved or learn more. They were among the liveliest classes.

**CALOU:** I know that you spoke a little bit about men on the faculty, but also, any feminist identified male students that you remember; or just the experience of teaching some of the first 10 years of classes and male students' response to Women's Studies classes when they enrolled.

**BRIDENTHAL:** The few [men] who came were really genuinely trying to understand. They didn't talk a whole lot, because they felt like they shouldn't; but they did some. I remember—you remember some things very distinctly. There was a slightly older man, and I also taught evening sessions. I loved evening session, because they're already grownups, and really interested. There was a man there who was—I don't know, maybe in his forties or something. He was very into it because, he explained halfway through, he had a young daughter and he wanted to know how to do right by her. It was very moving. So that's one that sort of stands out in my mind. . . .

They were the best years of my life. I've never felt so energized and empowered as working with people . . . . Most of the friends I have today were veterans of that time in both these places. It was just great to feel so empowered. . . . How did we do that?... break up into taskforces, and write notes to each other and letters, and letters to the president which were so daring; shocking. So just, they were the best years of my life; among the best years of my life. It's been a great life, but—yes.





*Professor Tucker Farley speaks here about the atmosphere on campus when she first arrived and how she and fellow colleagues came to found the Women's Center.*

**FARLEY:** It was a time when you could really be buddies with the students. When I first started meetings for the Women's Studies Program we had students, faculty, and staff all together. No hierarchy. And it was very exciting, those early days.

Anybody who wanted to come could come. And once we first started teaching as a program . . . I'll tell you the story of how we got this, but we got an office and a staff person who was very active with us, and I included her on everything, Pat Quercia. She had worked on Wall Street as a secretary before she came to Brooklyn College, and she had had her heels rapped with a ruler for wearing slingback pumps. She was very happy to enroll in a more congenial atmosphere in the Women's Studies office. . . .

The first course that I offered in women's studies, they didn't bother to put limits on it or check the registration. And after the first hour, [enrollment] got to be over 100 people. So it was definitely wanted. And people in those early courses would bring their mothers, and their sisters. It was an amazing time because of course there were no materials and my experience in making it up as I went along was very useful in not having books and texts. . . .

Well people got so excited they brought their families to take the class, too. It was great. [laughter]

**VASQUEZ:** [laughter] That's great. They saw it was a real opportunity? That's interesting.

**FARLEY:** Yeah it was, it was wonderful.

**VASQUEZ:** And so you didn't feel a lot of resistance from the administration, you had this pretty diverse group of students attracted to the classes and obviously women's studies. Tell us about how the structure started forming, the first meetings about forming the women's organization I think came first and then?

**FARLEY:** I remember working with students as I developed curriculum that I thought would be appropriate to put before the faculty council and the curriculum planning committee. . . . When I started teaching in the English

Department at Brooklyn College there was one woman in the curriculum in American literature. . . . The one woman in British literature was Jane Austen, and the one in English was Emily Dickinson, so we had two women. My friend Paul Lauter in Modern Language Arts was working on developing [an anthology to be published by Heath], which would include a lot of women, a lot of people of color, and working-class writers. And so I would bring in a variety of writers who I thought should be included. . . .

And then the other task as I saw it, I remember working with the students to tell them how I was thinking, what did they think about that, they loved it. I thought that the way that the earlier textbooks had divided things into periods was problematic. For example in English they would have people like Dryser in American literature be the person who was writing the new naturalist kind of literature. But before that there were all these wonderful women writers who weren't even in the books. So I would bring my other books along and say, "Here, look see these other women . . . yes we should include, oh let me read that!"

So we had a kind of collaboration that I thought was wonderful because I felt they were interested in what I was doing, and I was interested in how they were feeling. To me we worked together and it was very important to include the students.

In one course for example very early on one of the women read a journal entry about how she had been beaten. How she was sorry she was to late to the class but she had been beaten but she had come anyway. And another woman said well that had happened to her. And pretty soon every woman in the class except one confessed that she had been beaten for going to this college class. And I used that to decide well we should have a hotline at the women's center when we get it.

. . . So part of the work of teaching the women in the classes in the community help me to see what might be useful to do in the women's center, in designing the women's center and helping to envision how it might function. It was the first women's center at a university, just as the women's studies program was the first program to give credit toward graduation in a co-major, or major in the world really. It was the first one.

*Farley relates how the Brooklyn College Women's Center Came Into Being.*

**FARLEY:** [The center] hadn't been founded yet but it was already reaching out. We were trying to get those women involved and they did become involved. They became very active even before the center happened. And there were students who helped interview the people when we finally did get permission to [have] the center. But before that we had to get that permission.

So we planned to go to the president, [John] Kneller, and say that we had done all this work and all this research and we had the program and we needed a women's center. So we made an appointment. And we had made sure that there was a huge crowd in the halls, huge crowd in the main building outside his office. And I went in and I said, "I'm here for the appointment," and the secretary said, "Well, you can't have the appointment." They [had] cancelled the appointment. And I said, "Well, you know, I don't think that will work . . . There are a number of us here and we are counting on this time and place for being able to talk with the administration about our plans. We've made it in advance, it was confirmed, and we're here."

**FARLEY:** And so [President Kneller] came out of his office and he said, "Well, I haven't read it." I said, "Oh good, I'll help you read it." And I walked in with him to his office. And we sat there together and I turned the page, page by page, by page, by page, and I explained what was on each page to him. It was a toned-down version, I have to say, but it was a good one. And he saw that it would be really good for the college to have something like this, especially because we had so many women returning to the school, and it would be a good way to serve it. But he said, "You have to pay for it." He said, "I'll give you a year, and if you can't come up with the funds to pay for the women's center then you don't get to have your women's center. You can have one year in which to do it." I said, "Okay."

**VASQUEZ:** But he didn't give you're the financial support?

**FARLEY:** He gave it to us for a year.

**VASQUEZ:** But you had to be self-sufficient after a year?

**FARLEY:** That's all I needed yeah. And I attribute that victory to the crowd of women who were out there. There were reporters from the local paper, and lots of different representatives of his constituency. . . . He wanted to point with pride to the women's studies program, and this would allow him to point with pride to serving this new population etc. So he was smart about that.

The women's center people sat down and wrote a proposal for a grant for FIPSY, Funds for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education. And we said we wanted to serve these returning women and here's how we wanted to do it. We wanted to have a hotline, we want to have counseling, and we want to have this and we want to have that. And we went to Washington and we got the grant. So we came back with a \$350,000 grant for three years. It was a very good grant.

**VASQUEZ:** Wow, big grant back then.

**FARLEY:** Well it was historic. Another first for Brooklyn College.

*After a 35-year career at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York, Tucker Pamela Farley was made professor emerita. She has remained an activist instrumental in creating women's studies in the university and promoting social justice causes.*

*For the full transcript of Farley's interview, visit <http://cdha.cuny.edu/items/show/4992>*

*Today Renate Bridenthal is professor of history, emeritus, at Brooklyn College. She has served as a national co-chair of the Coordinating Committee of Women in the Historical Profession and is co-author of Becoming Visible: Women in European History (Houghton Mifflin) and author of When Biology Became Destiny: Women in Weimar and Nazi Germany. (Monthly Review Press) She is on the board of Science and Society, a journal of Marxist thought and analysis.*

*For the full transcript of Bridenthal's interview, visit <http://cdha.cuny.edu/items/show/3112>.*



# A Fertile Training Ground



Rich in social and political history, waterfronts and green spaces, the borough of Brooklyn is the perfect setting for students in the Urban Sustainability Program, which brings a progressive outlook and a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to training the green movement's next global leaders.

By Jamilah Simmons

On a Friday night in late October 2012, Kenneth A. Gould, a sociology professor, was at the Gowanus Canal with a group of students from his Introduction to Urban Sustainability class. They were working on a pod walk, an initiative by faculty members from several of the college's departments that sent students out into local neighborhoods to create guided-tour podcasts.

One of the questions Gould's students pondered as they gazed up the area's sloping streets was what would happen to the rapidly gentrifying Gowanus neighborhood if a storm surge were to ravage the canal, which remained a toxic inlet despite recent efforts to clean it up. The following Monday, nature gave them their answer when Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern coast of the United States, sending the waterway's stew of sewage, industrial waste, and oil onto the local streets and into homes and businesses.

Despite the destruction caused by the storm, interest in development within the enclave remained strong,

housing and rental prices spiked, and the artists and professionals who had been riding the wave of a broader real estate renaissance in Brooklyn remained undeterred as they flocked to an area that was once literally an environmental dump.

"We wrote all of that up for the pod walk," recalls Gould. "Here they were, using the cleanup of the Gowanus to gentrify the neighborhood, and at the same time they were moving people into this really vulnerable place."

That type of real-time scenario—which tangles public policy and environmental concerns, economic development and social justice—provides pertinent preparation for

students in the college's five-year-old program in urban sustainability, an interdisciplinary mix of the Earth and Environmental Sciences, Economics, and Sociology departments.

The program aims to examine the dynamics between social and natural systems as well as the trade-offs among environmental, social, and economic sustainability, making Brooklyn—a borough rich in social and political history, economic and cultural diversity, and ripe with waterfronts and other would-be desirable green space—a very fertile training ground for its several dozen students.

"Our setting gives our students the opportunity to observe firsthand the issues affecting our cities and to devise creative and hands-on solutions that foster environmental protection, social equity, and economic vitality," says Brett Branco, a professor in the Earth and Environmental Sciences department who also serves as director of the Urban Sustainability Program.

A trendsetter, it was the second undergraduate program in urban sustainability to be launched in the country and remains one of the few that emphasizes a social justice pillar, a baked-into-the-curriculum premise that in order for green initiatives to be sustainable, they must take into account and blunt any adverse impact on economically and socially vulnerable populations. In addition, the initiative must include steps to assure more equal distribution of environmental amenities.

Faculty members—often with the help of student research assistants—explore topics ranging from how participatory democracy initiatives worldwide have contributed to greater community consensus on environmental issues, to citizen science programs and concerns that greening often leads to gentrification.

Branco says that the program has attracted a passionate group of students who have had a multitude of experiences, such as studying abroad in Barcelona, interning at a bee farm in Jamaica, working at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and helping build an urban farm in Bushwick.

The students, in turn, praise the program's pragmatism and progressiveness.

"I love this program because of its emphasis on understanding the interconnectedness of it all," says Barry Rothstein, an urban sustainability major with a concentration in earth and environmental sciences. "Environmental consequences also have social consequences. The program gives you the macro view."



*“Our setting gives students the chance to observe firsthand the issues affecting our cities.” —Brett Branco*

Each year, a spring capstone course brings in an external client with a real-world problem for students to work on. Previous clients have included the New Jersey Audubon Society, which asked the students to provide data collection and analysis as part of their process of prioritizing projects by environmental and social impact, and the college’s own Sustainability Council, which had the students come up with recommendations for improving recycling on campus.

The program has the added benefit of being offered at a college that works with two major regional environmental organizations, the NYC Urban Soils Institute and the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay.

The former, a hub for soil scientists from across the area, in partnership with major local and federal environmental agencies, performs soil testing and other technical services for city agencies. It also serves as a data depository, offers education and outreach to the community, and conducts research that puts it at the forefront of sustainable resource management and conservation in New York City. The first of its kind in the country, it’s a model that many soil scientists and environmentalists hope can be replicated in other cities. One student from the college’s sustainability program went on to work as a graduate assistant for the soils institute.

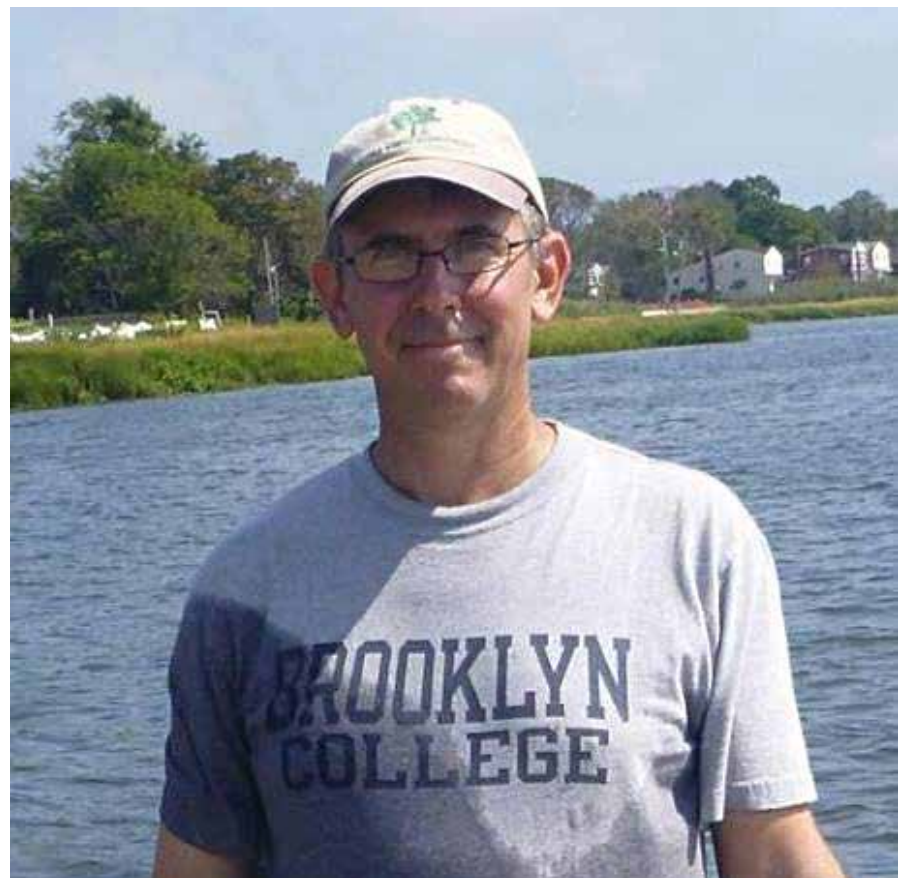
The Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay is a Brooklyn College–led joint initiative among the National Park Service, the City of New York, and a consortium of top-tier research institutions. An urban sustainability student

has interned at the institute, which hosts visiting scientists, provides lab facilities for students and researchers, organizes community outreach programs, and holds events to present research findings, including those related to the restoration of Jamaica Bay and the advancement of coastal resiliency in New York City and beyond.

In 2010, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projected 22 percent growth in environment-related jobs over the next decade. In 2011, the green job market grew four times faster than all other industries combined, and American investment in the clean energy industry increased by 42 percent over the previous year. This growth is only expected to escalate, with careers thriving in green business management, environmental public policy and advocacy, and city environmental coordination.

The program also plucks faculty from the biology and philosophy departments to teach ecology and environmental ethics. “We have faculty members in

our program and in related departments who are actively engaged in some of the great environmental conundrums of our time,” says Branco. “We have great partnerships with a lot of environmental and community organizations, a growing portfolio of courses and programming, and some really cool opportunities for our students.”



*Earth and Environmental Sciences Professor Brett Branco, director of the Urban Sustainability Program at Brooklyn College.*

## Professors Examine the Link Between Urban Green Movements and Shrinking Working-Class Communities in Brooklyn

**PROFESSORS KENNETH A. GOULD** and **TAMMY L. LEWIS** are Brooklyn residents. Gould was raised in the borough. They’re also both environmentalists and professors in the college’s Sociology Department and the Urban Sustainability Program. So, after first watching the restoration of Brooklyn’s long-storied Prospect Park, and then in recent years seeing the environmental cleanup of the Gowanus Canal and the spectacular transformation of abandoned docks in the Dumbo/Brooklyn Heights neighborhood into what is now Brooklyn Bridge Park, they have naturally looked on with great interest.

“I’m watching Brooklyn Bridge Park get built and I’m thinking: It’s the nicest I’ve ever seen,” says Gould. “It’s also in the richest neighborhood in Brooklyn. That’s not a coincidence.”

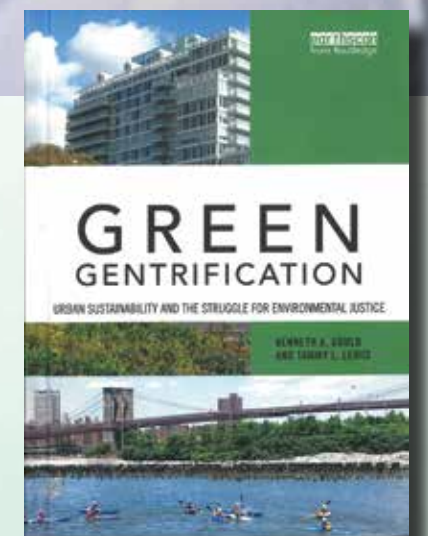
Their first thought was how each of those changes would impact the ethnic makeup of its neighborhood. “If you don’t have public policies in place to create affordable housing and communities that are organized to resist certain changes, greening tends to mean whitening,” says Lewis. That’s a case the professors lay out, offering Brooklyn as Exhibit A, in their latest book, *Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice* (Routledge, 2016).

Greening, according to Gould and Lewis, has laid the foundation for gentrification that threatens to displace the vulnerable low-income and long-term residents, many of whom are people of color. After giving some global context for the green movement and arguing that cities are leading the efforts—indeed, the current and previous New York

City mayoral administrations have made broad commitments to sustainability—the professors take a hard look at how the aforementioned Brooklyn initiatives upended demographic profiles in the neighborhoods around them.

First up is Prospect Park, a case of environmental remediation that began in the 1980s, before policy interventions that addressed social equity were commonplace. In the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the bucolic grounds—the professors look at Park Slope, Prospect Heights, and Lefferts Gardens—the black population declined (by nearly 30 percent in Prospect Heights alone), while median rents soared (as much as 51.7 percent in Park Slope) from 1990 to 2009.

In Gowanus, the federal government has declared the canal a “Superfund” site, a status that allows for federal funding and other resources to assist with the cleanup. The neighborhood has been populated by many black and Puerto Rican residents since its industrial decline began and the canal became an environmental hazard. But, the professors point out in their book, as interest in turning the canal into an environmental amenity has spiked, the percentage of people of color in the neighborhood has dipped. From 1990 to 2014, the black population in Gowanus tumbled 10 percent, while median rent and median household income have gone up 83 percent and 62 percent, respectively.



Despite these concerns, Gould and Lewis, who also are both on the faculty of the CUNY Graduate Center’s Sociology and Earth and Environmental Sciences departments, argue that all is not lost. They point to Sunset Park as an example of a neighborhood that has so far successfully resisted gentrification of its waterfront. The key there? Strong community organizations that have, as the professors recommend for other communities resisting green gentrification, built alliances, cultivated solidarity, focused on working-class jobs in the neighborhood, and forged important relationships with local elected officials.

“The actions of citizens can really make a difference in terms of policy,” says Lewis. “Changes can be made in ways that more evenly distribute environmental amenities and raise the quality of life for everyone.”

—J. S.



## Stewards of Sustainable Development

Brooklyn College Urban Sustainability Majors Contribute to the Evolution of the Green Movement at Home and Abroad

MAI GARTI-BAR



Garti-Bar, who will graduate in spring 2018, is majoring in urban sustainability with a concentration in sociology. She wants to ultimately work in food justice, perhaps creating an organization that builds on the model of City Harvest, the well-known food rescue and distribution nonprofit group. She completed an independent study project with Michael Menser, an assistant professor of philosophy, on participatory democracy, an idea whose backers have made friends in the environmental community because, as Garti-Bar explains, “sustainability will only grow out of community involvement.” She took part in another independent study in the spring of 2017 with professors Kenneth A. Gould and Tammy L. Lewis, helping them with research for a forthcoming book on alternative models to sustainable development. She says that for her, a big part of the appeal of the Urban Sustainability Program is the ability to be so hands-on with the scholarship. “It’s really cool to be a part of something that’s growing,” she says.

BARRY ROTHSTEIN



Rothstein is majoring in urban sustainability with a concentration in environmental science. He expects to graduate in spring 2018 and has long worked in urban agriculture, having obtained a certificate from Farm School NYC and built a farm and an eco-station at a farmers’ market in the working-class neighborhood of Bushwick. He went to Barbuda with Anthropology and Archaeology Professor Sophia Perdikaris and says it was life-altering to see the effects of climate change on the low-lying island nation. He is highly interested in aquaponics—a system where aquatic animals are raised with plants that are cultivated in the same water—having also worked on an aquaponics farm. “I want to be a farmer/activist/sociologist,” he says, adding that the college’s Urban Sustainability Program speaks to him because of its insistence on bringing everyone along in the sustainability movement. “That has to be the evolution of sustainable development,” he says. “We all have to move forward as a people to save the planet and save ourselves.”

ISABELLA CLARK '17



Clark '17, who majored in urban sustainability with a concentration in sociology, says she was hooked when she took a class on the environment and social justice with Sociology Professor Kenneth A. Gould. “We talked a lot about how environmental goods and hazards are distributed by race and class,” she says. “It was eye-opening.” Clark worked as a research assistant for Gould and fellow Sociology Professor Tammy L. Lewis on their book *Green Gentrification: Urban Sustainability and the Struggle for Environmental Justice*. She interned at Yerba Buena Farm in Strawberry Field, Jamaica, where she spent a summer ethically managing bees and making products like soaps and lotions from their beeswax. She also helped conduct community outreach to local children. Clark plans to maintain a strong connection to community organizing involving environmental issues. “I’ve always had a love of nature,” she says. “This program has shown me how I can turn that into a career that’s meaningful.” —J.S.

## A Greener Campus

In addition to educating students whose goal is to save the planet, Brooklyn College is committed to doing its part on its home ground. A few years ago, the college launched a sustainability initiative whose mission is “to create an overarching culture of sustainability throughout the entire campus community.”

The initiative is advanced by the Brooklyn College Sustainability Council, comprising administrators, staff, and faculty members who make sure the college is keeping in line with a 10-year Sustainability Plan that was drafted in 2010 to promote sustainability on campus. initiatives include:

- The college’s Center for Achievement in Science Education seeks to increase the number of traditionally underrepresented students who pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in science, scientific research, and technology.
- A new student sustainability competition held by the Center for Achievement in Science Education called for groups to submit a project idea that could be incubated and implemented on campus.
- The Sustainability Council recruited a student to collect green scraps a few times a week from the Metropolitan Cafeteria in Boylan Hall.
- A recent upgrade to LED lights in Whitehead Hall provided a 33 percent energy savings for the college. Through a variety of lighting and heating upgrades, the college is saving around \$1 million annually on energy charges—a savings that, because of state funding rules, comes back to the campus.
- An informal campaign was launched by the Sustainability Council to increase awareness of recycling initiatives, creating guidelines for college offices, and increasing signage around recycling posts. The council has also been meeting with campus stakeholders and asking them to take a pledge to recycle.
- “Hydration stations” across campus allow students to refill their water bottles, helping to reduce the amount of plastic waste.

## College Receives Federal Grant to Promote Environmental Literacy in Public

Last fall, Brooklyn College was one of five institutions selected to receive a \$500,000 grant over three years from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to promote coastal resilience through environmental literacy.

Urban Sustainability Program Director Brett Branco is heading the project, which takes him and a team into six New York City public

schools that were impacted by Hurricane Sandy. There they teach environmental literacy and help students and their teachers design plans to pitch in with local resilience efforts in the wake of a natural disaster.

“We have the students really look at how they can make their schools and their neighborhoods more resilient,” says Branco. “And we are developing teachers who know

how to teach environmental literacy.”

Branco says that the Brooklyn College–led Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay—a key player in the local resilience community, particularly in the Jamaica Bay watershed, which was hit hard by Sandy—is a crucial partner on the project, helping to coordinate activities and design curriculum.

Additionally, the college is partnering with a collaborative mix of schools, scientific organizations, and community groups, including the National Wildlife Federation’s NYC Eco-Schools, New York Sea Grant, and the Brooklyn Marine STEAM Education Alliance.

School groups develop ideas for resilience projects for their schools and neighborhoods, and present them to the New York City

## Schools Affected by Natural Disaster

Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency and city Department of Education officials.

“Another step in bringing STEM education to high school students in Brooklyn and Queens is providing these students with a platform to be involved in NYC schools’ response to climate change,” says Brooklyn College Provost William Tramontano.

Some Brooklyn College graduate education students

will have a role in the curriculum assessment, and Branco says he’d like to figure out a way to get some of his urban sustainability students involved as peer mentors for the middle and high school students.

“This is a project that will bring a lot of different groups together,” says Branco. “I think it will be a win-win for all of us.”

—J.S.





## Professor Maria Contel Scores Second Patent for Anti-Cancer Compound

*Contel's ruthenium-based derivative could help patients with triple negative breast cancer.*

**T**riple negative breast cancer (TNBC) is one of the most aggressive types of cancer—difficult to detect and combat. But Professor María Contel, an organometallic chemist at the School of Natural and Behavioral Sciences who has been testing metal compounds to combat cancer for the better part of the last decade, was recently granted a patent for a ruthenium-based compound that will help in the fight. This is the second patent for Contel, who is also a professor of the Ph.D. programs in chemistry and biology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Breast cancer affects 12.5 percent of women worldwide, according to a study done for the National Institutes of Health.

In 2012, the last year for which statistics are available, of the 1.68 million cases of breast cancer that were reported, more than half a million of those resulted in death. TNBC, which disproportionately affects younger women in the African-American and Latino communities, has one of the poorer prognoses and worse survival rates. About 12 to 20 percent of breast cancer cases are TNBC. Recurrence is also high.

Given TNBC'S morbidity, treatment may require what's known as neoadjuvant therapy, which consists of radiation and chemotherapy to reduce the tumor before it can be surgically removed.

"Because it is a subtype of cancer that does not express estrogen, progesterone or human epidermal growth factor 2 (HER2) receptors, it is difficult to treat via targeted therapies," says Contel. "My new compound is nearly 50 times more effective and less toxic to non-cancerous cells and human tissue than platinum-based derivatives."

At roughly \$170 per gram, Contel's compound is more inexpensive than cisplatin or carboplatin, two of the most common platinum-based derivatives used in chemotherapy. When the National Cancer Institute tested it on the standard 60-cell line panel of cancer cells, it was effective in 49 of the cases.

"We are very hopeful about applying other versions to other types of cancers," Contel says.

She has applied for grants from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Defense to do more advanced preclinical work in collaboration with Dr. Karen Hubbard, chair of the Biology Department at City College. Contel has also been working with Dr. Swayam Prabha, a pharmacologist at the University of Minnesota, to help determine dosages and study the pharmacokinetics and toxicology. If pre-clinical studies are successful, Dr. Aminah Jatoui, an oncologist and researcher at the Mayo Clinic, has expressed interest in conducting clinical tests in humans.

—Ernesto Mora



## Brooklyn Listening Project Highlights WWII Veteran Seymour Kaplan '76

*One of the last living witnesses to the crimes of Nazi Germany, Kaplan recounts his experiences at Dachau for the college-wide oral history project.*

**S**eymour Kaplan '76 used to get flashbacks: Glimpses of the camp, small explosions, little old ladies crying. He would start screaming Hebrew prayers.

"It's hard to explain to people," the 93-year-old World War II veteran says from the living room of the Sheephead Bay home he has lived in since 1958. "It makes me cry just talking about it."

The visions that haunted him where of Dachau, the first of the Nazi concentration camps in Germany and the one where Kaplan—then a 19-year-old machine gunner with the 692 Tank Destroyer Battalion attached to the 42nd Infantry Division in Europe—was sent as a Yiddish translator.

Discouraged by his family, he didn't talk about his experiences there for 50 years. But last

semester, he spoke with junior and Macaulay Honors student Elizabeth Jefimova for an assignment for her history class. Her work was part of the Brooklyn College Listening Project, a college-wide, interdisciplinary oral history project that aims to create publicly accessible audio archives of the every day lives of Brooklyn residents.

"The Listening Project takes it as our goal to hear the unheard, to share the unshared, and in so doing, preserve and respect the experiences and memories of our Brooklyn community," explains Philip Napoli, an associate professor in the Department of History and Jefimova's teacher for the course. "Elizabeth's work is an excellent example of how we do this as teachers, as students, and as citizens."

Jefimova wants to be a military doctor and says that the class and her experiences speaking with Kaplan helped solidify her career plans. "He was so easy to talk to," she says. "I felt like I got to know him. And I was inspired by his service."

She and Kaplan spoke for more than three hours. Jefimova brought the bagels and lox and Kaplan shared stories and memorabilia that blew her mind: A Nazi soldier's knife and the teacup that Kaplan took from Adolf Hitler's personal residence, among other things.

"Mr. Kaplan is among the last living witnesses to the crimes of the Nazi regime, and remains open to testifying about his experiences and acting as a teacher to our students in a way I find truly heroic," says Napoli.

—Jamilah Simmons



## To INFINITY and Beyond

Grad Student David Engel was over the moon about his internship at NASA this past summer, which he secured through his work with the Magnier Career Center.

NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center is located in Hancock County, Mississippi, on the banks of the Pearl River. It occupies nearly 14,000 acres and is surrounded by a 125,000-acre acoustical forested area called "the buffer zone," meant to provide a layer of protection between the general public and the rocket blasts that occur like clockwork, testing the engineering miracles that launch human beings into outer space.

Stennis's official visitor center, the INFINITY Science Center, is a state-of-the-art learning environment and museum that overlooks the calm waters of a pond, and where David Engel, a graduate student in Brooklyn College's Department of School Psychology, Counseling, and Leadership, spent 10 weeks this summer as an intern.

"I still have some trouble processing the fact that I really worked for NASA," says Engel. He was a counselor at NASA's Astro Camp, teaching second to 10th graders the fundamentals of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), in the hopes of cultivating the next generation of astronauts and engineers.

A Brooklyn native born to parents who are of Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jewish origin, Engel came to Brooklyn College after graduating from Baruch College in 2011 with

a degree in industrial organizational psychology. He believes he discovered his purpose here at the college, not only in the classroom, but also in his role as the career outreach liaison at the Magnier Career Center, where he first learned about internship opportunities at NASA.

Engel is not Brooklyn College's only NASA connection. At its 2011 Commencement Ceremony, the college presented Joel Levine '64 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Levine is the senior research scientist in NASA's Langley Research Center Science Directorate and serves as chief scientist and principal investigator for the proposed ARES (Aerial Regional-scale Environmental Surveyor) Mars Airplane—a robotic, rocket-propelled aerial vehicle that NASA plans to use in a search of life on Mars.

"I was influenced by this outstanding institution and its very dedicated and excellent faculty," Levine said at the ceremony. "I first saw the planet Mars from on top of Ingersoll Hall. Little did I know that I would spend the



Engel (right) had the honor of meeting legendary astronaut Fred Wallace Haise Jr., a pilot on the Apollo 13 mission.

next four decades involved in our nation's program to explore the red planet."

Like Levine, Engel wants to be the kind of change agent that inspires and opens doors to a myriad of possibilities, whether that is as a career counselor or as a recruiter for a company like Facebook or Google.

"I want to help other Brooklyn College students have the same experiences that I've had at NASA, which my employment with the Magnier Career Center helps make possible," says Engel. "I want to be a leader in whatever I do. Working at NASA has helped me improve on my strengths and realize my ability to make a positive impact on students' lives."

—Robert Jones Jr.



When asked why she is such a generous supporter of Brooklyn College, Lorraine Laighold '64, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn College Foundation, said it is wholly because of the students. "I recognize myself in them," said Laighold, senior vice president, certified financial planner and financial advisor in the Lexington Group at the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS). The first and only woman in her family to attend college, Laighold realized the privilege of being able to do so. "There's this notion that Jewish people are all rich," Laighold says. "My family was devastated by the Great Depression and they never really let go of the mentality that such devastation creates." Through her collaboration with the college's Magnier Career Center and Murray Koppelman School of Business, she created the Lorraine Laighold Summer Leadership Academy. John Morrison '17 learned of internship opportunities at UBS during his senior year at a Magnier Career

Center networking event. He jumped at the chance to apply, and interned in the wealth management division of the company, where Laighold's advisory group resides. Upon graduation, Morrison landed a position at Citigroup. "I think being able to put such a reputable company as UBS on my résumé was invaluable," Morrison said. —R.J.

## A Highly Decorated Bunch

Brooklyn College congratulates the scholars, fellows, and others with distinguished recognitions among its student body and recent graduates. Here is a look at some of this year's dynamos.

### SARAH DELAPPE,

a graduate student in the M.F.A. program in playwriting, was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her much buzzed-about play, *The Wolves*, about the complicated lives of a girls' high school soccer team. "It's overwhelming," she says of the honor. "I can't think about it too much, honestly; I get vertigo." It's a pretty big deal for the first play that DeLappe ever staged, to enjoy very successful off-Broadway runs, and to pick up nods from the Pulitzer committee as well as the American Playwriting Foundation, which gave her its inaugural Relentless Award. She was also a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the Yale Prize. DeLappe started writing the play while on the subway a few years ago. Despite the success, she says she still takes inspiration from the community of writers she meets in her courses. "I feel so lucky to be in the same room with all these other smart, brave, really curious and imaginative writers," she says.



**MAISHA KAMAL,** a sophomore and business economics and English major, won a Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship, a three-year program that provides funded summer internships—among other perks like networking seminars and mentee opportunities—to promising undergraduate students. "I'm excited about being able to push myself outside my comfort zone and explore a lot of the things New York City has to offer," she says. The scholarship will allow her to try out a different internship each summer—including the possibility of a summer abroad—at vastly different organizations in various fields. Kamal is a student in the William E. Macaulay Honors College, and also serves on its student government body. She'd like a career that combines her passion for human rights and her economics background.



### PETER LEE '17, in the

Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program, nearly became Brooklyn College's fourth Rhodes Scholar. He was on the tight and prestigious shortlist of college seniors who underwent the Rhodes selection committee's famously rigorous panel interview before being notified last fall that he was not selected. An anthropology major and a member of the Scholars Program, Lee was not, however, short on awards. He was a 2015 Rosen Fellow, received a research grant from the Golden Key International Honour Society in support of fieldwork he is conducting in Nicaragua, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and received its Propylaea Award, along with the Brooklyn College Alumni Association's Student Award. Lee is the son of immigrants and grew up in Queens, but says he has been impacted deeply by his travels, first on a trip to rural India as a Tow Fellow to conduct health-worker training and community development, then to Nicaragua with the Global Medical Brigades to help implement an anti-parasite medication campaign. "Medicine has become for me a way to aspire toward social justice," he says. After graduation, Lee conducted fieldwork in India over the summer before pursuing other scholarly opportunities, including graduate school.



### ANUMTA RAHEEL,

a sophomore and student in the Macaulay Honors College, was named a Fulbright Summer Institute Scholar and spent June at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom, where she studied the trans-Atlantic slave trade. "I learned about a really horrific time in history where, based on the color of your skin and where you came from, you were treated like goods," says Raheel. "It was a really monstrous time in our history and I think it's important we don't forget it." Raheel, an anthropology major, is in the B.A.-M.D. program. She plans to be a physician and would like to work on public policy in the health-care field.



**“[Brooklyn College] is one of the greatest institutions of higher learning in the country.”**

—Senator Charles Schumer



**U.S. SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS** (I-VT) helped Brooklyn College celebrate its 92nd Commencement Exercises on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, delivering a rousing keynote address and accepting an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his groundbreaking career in politics. For the first time in the college’s history, the ceremony was held at Barclays Center in Downtown Brooklyn.

Sanders is perhaps best known for his campaign for the Democratic Party’s 2016 U.S. presidential nomination. After graduating from high school in 1959, Sanders enrolled at Brooklyn College.

“What you might not know is that the senator’s grassroots activism began right here at Brooklyn College—literally activism about the grass roots,” said President Michelle J. Anderson while introducing Sanders. “In May of 1960, the young Bernie Sanders penned a letter to the student newspaper, *The Kingsman*, in which he declared, ‘My purpose in writing is to protest the action of a school guard in ordering students off the campus grass.’ He explained: ‘As a student at Brooklyn College, I appreciate the natural beauty of our campus in the midst of a large and crowded city. Therefore, I can well understand the administration’s feelings that the grass would be prettier if left untrampled. Although that reasoning is valid, I am not quite certain that the sight of students

stretched out and reading on the grass might not add a type of beauty to the school that is more important than pretty grass.’”

“My childhood in Brooklyn was shaped by two profound realities,” said Senator Sanders to the crowd of over 17,000 cheering students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the college. The first reality of his youth, he said, was growing up poor. “I have never forgotten that there are millions of people throughout this country who struggle to put food on the table, pay the electric bill, try to save for their kids’ education or for retirement—people who face painful and stress-filled decisions every single day.

“The second reality . . . was that my father left Poland at the age of 17 not only from a community which was very poor, but from a country where anti-Semitism, pogroms, and attacks on Jews were not uncommon. While my father immigrated to the United States, and escaped Hitler and the Holocaust, many in his family did not. From that experience, what was indelibly stamped on me was the understanding that we must never allow demagogues to divide us. . . . Black, white, Latino, Asian American, Native American, Christian, Jew, Muslim, and every religion, straight or gay, male or female, we must stand together. This country belongs to all of us.” —Robert Jones Jr.

CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz (left) installed Michelle J. Anderson as president of Brooklyn College.



Among the many uniquely decorated mortarboards was this one topped by a classic board game.



Confetti in Brooklyn College’s traditional colors of burgundy and gold showered the new graduates at the end of the ceremony.

**“Your education is a tool for empowerment, for love, and for justice.”**

—Letitia James, public advocate for the City of New York

Alumnus Richard F. Smith ’67 (center) celebrated the 50th anniversary of his graduation. He missed his own commencement ceremony because he was off campus protesting the Vietnam War.



The school mascot, Buster the Bulldog, was on hand to ensure everyone had a fantastic time at the commencement ceremony. Follow Buster on Instagram and Twitter @bcbusterbulldog.

**CLASS OF '17 STATS** Number of languages spoken: 61 • Countries of birth: 101 • Number of baccalaureate degrees: 2,957 •

Number of master’s degrees: 1,147 • Number of veterans: 38 • Number of students who identify as disabled: 43 • Total number of graduates: 4,104





Forensic anthropologist and Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient Fredy Peccerelli '96: "I appreciate this honor from Brooklyn College—especially since I missed my own commencement ceremony back in 1996."



José Garcia '17 M.S.: "The key for any veteran-student to achieve academic goals is to be supported the right way. Here at Brooklyn College, the Veteran Affairs and Counseling Office was the key to my success."



Valedictorian Kevin LaMonte Jones '17: "I realized that I am not confined to my history, and that my perceived limitations are actually my greatest strengths."

Salutatorian Michael A. Franco '17: "If there's one thing you gain out of this speech—one thing—let it be that your destiny is your choice."

**"You are called to be stewards of what you've been given. You are called upon to be active alumni."**

—Jeffrey S. Sigler '92, '95 M.S., Immediate Past President of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association



Brooklyn College Foundation trustees (left to right) Donald Kramer '58, Bernie Garil '62, and Don Buchwald '59 celebrate the new 2017 graduates.



Sister graduates Joyce (left) and Marie Borra share a carefree moment outside Barclays Center.

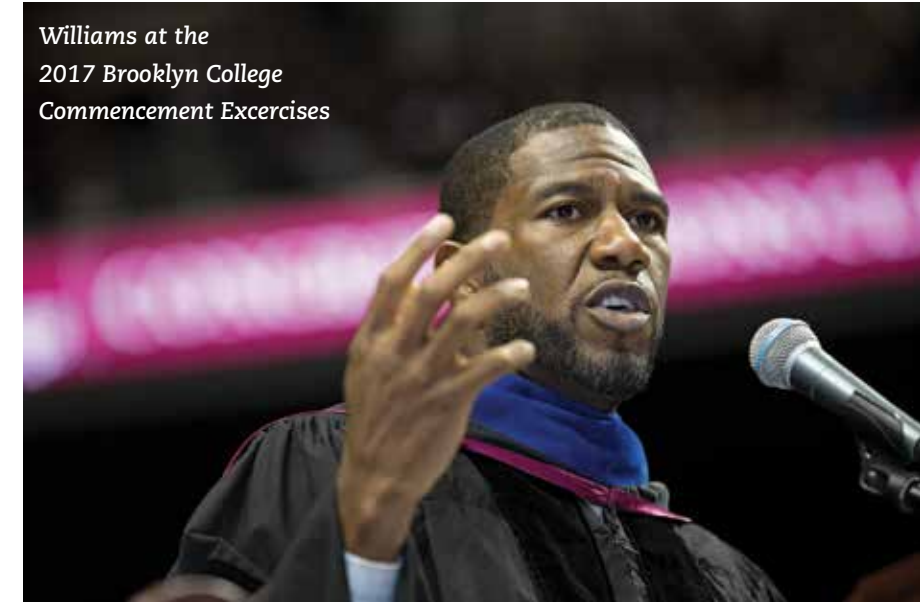


Senator Sanders posed for selfies with members of the Class of 2017 after the ceremony.

# Alumni Profile

**"Be who you say you are and stand up for what's right, even when it's hard."**

—New York City Council Member Jumaane Williams '01, '05 M.A. at the 2017 Brooklyn College Commencement Exercises



**City Council Member Jumaane Williams Remains at the Front Lines in the Battle for Human Rights**

Jumaane D. Williams '01, '05 M.A. has accomplished a great deal during the seven years he has served as city council member for Brooklyn's 45th District. "I've always been interested in social justice," says Williams, who enrolled at Brooklyn College as a theater major, then switched to film before finally choosing political science, minoring in film production. "Growing up, my superheroes were X-Men, Spider-Man, Martin Luther King Jr., and Malcolm X. Even if I had gone into the arts, I would have still found some way to pursue just causes."

He co-authored the Fair Chance Act, prohibiting public and private employers from asking applicants about their criminal histories until after an offer of employment is made. He is probably most closely associated with the Community Safety Act, a bill that implemented an inspector general to oversee the activities of the New York Police Department during its interactions with citizens and created an enforceable ban on bias-based policing. But what Williams is most proud of is his work directed at gun violence and the issues surrounding how this violence is addressed.

Williams honed his political consciousness on the Brooklyn College campus, becoming active in the student government and following in the college's long tradition of engagement.

"It was such fertile ground for my growth. I credit the faculty for creating an environment in which we had the space to explore. I got to participate in the political activity happening on campus and put what I was learning in class into practice. I don't think I could have received that kind of education anywhere else."

Brooklyn College is also where Williams developed the ethics that make him popular among voters in his district. In the last election, in 2013, Williams won 96 percent of the vote. He is honest, however, about the challenges one faces as a politician trying to do what is just for the largest number of people.

"The most difficult thing to accomplish is getting politicians to do the right thing because it's the right thing to do," Williams says. "It's hard to watch politicians use questionable justifications to ignore the greater good for small and self-serving reasons."

Williams often puts himself in harm's way for his values. He was among those arrested last January during a peaceful protest outside of Trump Tower in Manhattan.

"When you're up against people who have access to resources like money, and you might not have that access, you have to use yourself, your own body, as a resource. I really believe in the slogan 'The people united will never be defeated.' But I realize it's more difficult than people think to be united."

Still, Williams is undaunted by challenges that come his way. He recently announced his plans to run for Speaker of the New York City Council.

"When you get elected, the entire structure of the system and the position you occupy is designed to make you seem as though you're this extraordinarily important person," says Williams. "But I try my best to minimize personal benefit when I'm making political decisions. I'm a caretaker of this seat. My job is to empower the folks who I serve, to ensure that the nation lives up to its principles of justice and equity for all." —Robert Jones Jr.



From July 2016 to June 2017, Brooklyn College faculty garnered some \$8.5 million in grants and awards for new and ongoing research. Here is a selection of those funded projects and recent faculty publications and accomplishments.

Puerto Rican and Latino Studies Chair **ALAN A. AJA** published *Miami's Forgotten Cubans: Race, Racialization, and the Miami Afro-Cuban Experience* (Palgrave McMillan).

The United States Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health awarded \$353,250 to Professor **MARIA CONTEL** of the Department of Chemistry. Professor Contel will continue her groundbreaking research in metal-based chemotherapeutics, specifically targeting triple negative breast cancer with a new ruthenium-based compound that is less expensive than platinum-based compounds, and has the advantage of having a lower toxicity.

**XINYIN JIANG**, assistant professor in the Department of Health and Nutrition Sciences, was awarded \$157,000 for research on the effects of choline on fetal growth and lipid accretion in gestational diabetes.

Professor **LOUISE HAINLINE** of the Department of Psychology was awarded \$276,039 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Institutes of Health to provide biomedical research training for minority honor students. Hainline has also received \$304,500 from the New York State Department of Education for CSTEP: College Science and Technology Entry program.

**AMY IKUI**, associate professor in the Department of Biology was awarded \$366,850 by the National Science Foundation for her research in cell cycle regulation in response to plasma

membrane stress in the *S. cerevisiae* yeast cell. Iku's laboratory studies DNA replication and cell division using *S. cerevisiae* as a model system, with the goal of understanding the molecular mechanism of cell growth control and to understand how cell cycle misregulation is linked to genome instability, which is relevant to tumorigenesis and cancer in higher eukaryotes.

Professor **DANIELLE KELLOGG**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Classics, has been invited to Oxford University in spring 2018 to participate in a colloquium on epichoric history.

**ROSAMOND KING** associate professor of English, published a collection of poems, *Rock, Salt, Stone* (Nightboat Books).

Associate Professor **SUSAN LONGTIN** of the Department of Speech Communications Arts and Sciences co-authored *Yoga for Speech-Language Development* (Singing Dragon).

Associate Professor **MICHAEL MEAGHER** of the Department of Secondary Education received \$349,920 from the U.S. Department of Education for the TRIO Educational Talent Search at Brooklyn College. The program is designed to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

Associate Professor of Chemistry **RYAN MURELLI** was awarded \$392,500 by the National Institutes of Health for the biological study

of alpha-hydroxytropolones, organic compounds that have broad therapeutic potential for various diseases, including HIV, malaria, heart disease, bipolar disorder, and bacterial infections.

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development has awarded \$377,338 to **ERIKA NIWA**, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, for after-school COMPASS programs.

English Professor **HELEN PHILIPS** published *Some Possible Solutions: Stories* (Henry Holt).

Professor **SARA REGUER**, Chair of the Department of Judaic Studies published *Opinionated: The World View of a Jewish Woman* (Academic Studies Press).

Distinguished Lecturer of Film **THOMAS A. REILLY** published *The Hollywood MBA: A Crash Course in Management from a Life in the Film Business* (St. Martin's).

The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$284,301 to **JACQUELINE SHANNON**, associate professor and chair of the Department of Early Childhood Education/Art Education, to support the Childcare Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program at Brooklyn College.

Associate Professor of Physics **SOPHIA SUAREZ** is a visiting professor at the Helmholtz Institute's Batter Research Center at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Ulm, Germany. The research project focuses on characterizing fundamental ion transport in sodium electrolytes using thermal, electrochemical and spectroscopic techniques.

# Bulldogs News



## Pair of Brooklyn Soccer Stars Take Home Conference Player of the Year Awards

**VALENTYN KHARKO** and **JASMINE FERMIN**, top players on the Bulldogs' men's and women's soccer squads, were each named their sport's Player of the Year in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC).

The awards were the first for each, and were accomplished in different fashions. Kharko, a senior forward on the men's team, led the league with 11 goals. Fermin, a senior defender on the women's team, did not register a goal during the season, but she dominated play with her defensive prowess, helping the Bulldogs seize an undefeated conference season and a regular season title.

"Jasmine is a coach's dream," says her coach, Patrick Horne. "In addition to her technical and tactical skills, she has what you can't coach—speed and a lot of heart." The four-year senior ended her career as an all-conference performer in all four seasons, and a two-time CUNYAC Champion.

Kharko, who transferred from Kingsborough Community College, scored 21 goals in his two seasons.

"Val has extraordinary talent," head coach Joseph Andre says. "He is able to score even with every opponent recognizing he is our main offensive threat."

Fermin was the women's team's first-ever conference player of the year, while the last time the men won the award was in 2013, when Dmitry Prokofyev was given the honor.

—Alex Lang







The Brooklyn College Athletics Hall of Fame honored a new class of inductees on July 26, 2017. This group of alumni are, from left, Women's Basketball's Tiffany Ellzy '94, Men's Tennis's Pavan Khurana '02, and former Men's Volleyball player, assistant coach, and head coach Andrew Woolward '02.

"This is an exciting time for Brooklyn College Athletics, our alumni, and our student-athletes," said Director of Athletics Bruce Filosa. "When we think of halls of fame, we think of people who were the best at what they did. It's inspiring to hear . . . how [these athletes] transferred what they learned on the court to everyday life. This Hall of Fame class represents all of our previous inductees well."



Brooklyn College point guard **KAREN MAK** not only leads the Brooklyn College women's basketball team on the court, but as a kinesiology major, she also leads the team in grade point average, maintaining a 3.87 GPA. The third-year player has helped her team achieve three CUNYAC Championship Game appearances, two ECAC Metro/Upstate Championships, and a combined 65–22 record. In her sophomore year, Mak was named Most Valuable Player of the 2016 ECAC Metro/Upstate Championship after scoring 17 points, grabbing 10 boards, and dishing out four assists in the win.

"When I first started playing basketball I was told by many that if I didn't perform well in school and keep my grades up, there would be no basketball," says Mak. "Since then, I've made sure to stay on top of my work. I think basketball and studies go hand in hand—you're always learning something. An important thing I've learned both as a student and as an athlete is to pay attention. I focus the best that I can so that I don't miss any information being given to me in the classroom and on the court."

—Tim Slakas



The Brooklyn College Cheerleading Team competed in the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) National College Championships at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Disney World this past January.

## CUNYAC AWARDS

### Fall 2016

#### Women's Soccer

Player of the Year: **Jasmine Fermin** anchored a back line that kept nine of the Bulldogs' 19 opponents of the season scoreless, shutting out five of six CUNYAC schools.

First Team All-Star: **Ciara Flynn** was a defender who was part of a back line that helped the Bulldogs to seven shutout victories on the season, including five of six shutout wins in CUNYAC.

First Team All-Star: **Jordan Kerwin** (12 points, 5 goals, 2 game-winning goals, and two assists)

First Team All-Star: **Victoria Ramirez** (16 points, 8 goals, 4 game-winning goals)

#### Men's Soccer

Player of the Year: **Valentyn Kharko** (25 points, 11 goals, 2 game-winning goals, 3 assists, 2 hat tricks)

First Team All-Star: **Jean-Luc Saint-Fleur** (6 points, 2 goals, and 2 assists)

#### Women's Volleyball

Second Team All-Star: **Sarina Rozek** (185 kills, 65 service aces, and 323 digs)

Sportsmanship Award Winner: **Brianna Montana**

#### Women's Tennis

Sportsmanship Team: **Liza Meshkalova**

#### Men's Cross-Country

Rookie of the Year: **Muhamid Isa** (17/84 at CUNYAC Championships)

### Winter 2016–17

#### Women's Swimming and Diving

All-Star: **Valerie Vassilieva** (Two Silver Medals at 2017 CUNYAC Championships)

Sportsmanship Team: **Fabiola Elezi**

#### Men's Swimming and Diving

Rookie of the Year: **Vincent Xue**

All-Star: **Umut Tanritanir**

All-Star: **Brian Jensen**

#### Women's Basketball

First Team All-Star: **Olivia Colbert** (10.8 points per game, 8.7 rebounds per game, and 1.1 blocks per game)

Second Team All-Star: **Karen Mak** (9.1 points per game, 4.7 rebounds per game, 4.9 assists per game, and 2.8 steals per game)

Sportsmanship Award Winner: **Tiffany Ruiz**

#### Men's Basketball

Second Team All-Star: **Enees Nikovic** (15.3 points per game, 11.1 rebounds per game, 1.8 blocks per game)

### Spring 2017

#### Men's Volleyball

First Team: **Vaughn Titus**

#### Men's Tennis

Second Team: **Michael Dozortsev**

#### Scholar-Athlete of the Year Honorable Mention

**Jordan Kerwin:** Women's Soccer

**Sayla Flores:** Women's Soccer

**Chris McIlhatton:** Men's Basketball

**Marco Thimm-Kaiser:** Men's Soccer

## Women's Soccer Claims Regular Season CUNYAC Championship with Undefeated Conference Record

Continuing its winning tradition since the program's inception in 2012, the Brooklyn College Women's Soccer team captured the 2016 regular season CUNYAC title in the fall with an unblemished 6–0 record in conference play. The Bulldogs went on to advance to the CUNYAC Championship match for the third time in four seasons, but lost to the College of Staten Island, 2–0.





**1. Magnier Career Center Mentoring Luncheon** Connie Tang '91, CEO of Princess House, a multi-million dollar direct selling company, shares with students at the center's mentoring luncheon last spring.

**2. Campus Activism** Students create a graffiti-covered wall from cardboard boxes on campus as part of a "No Ban, No Wall" action in support of immigrant communities.

**3. Photojournalist Nina Berman** guest lectures to students in History Professor Philip Napoli's "United States at War in the 20th and 21st Centuries."

**4. A Reading and Conversation with Sandra Cisneros** The award-winning poet and author visits the campus as part of the Latina Life Stories series curated by Vanessa Perez-Rosario.

**5. Disability and Performance Symposium** *Glee* and *Glee Project* actor Ali Stroker performs at the Disability and Performance Symposium at Brooklyn College. The day-long symposium gathered artists, scholars, and activists to explore the inclusion of artists with disabilities in performance and disability studies.

**6. The Tow Foundation Awards Luncheon** Leonard Tow '50, center, and daughter Emily Tow Jackson, executive director and president of The Tow Foundation, with President Michelle J. Anderson and the 2016-2018 Tow Professors. The awardees were recognized at a luncheon held last April.

**7. The 25th Annual Book Party** Professors Gail Gurland, Susan Longtin, and Cyndi Stein-Rubin '78, '82 M.S. hold their recent publications. The three were among the Brooklyn College faculty and staff authors honored last May at the Brooklyn College Library's 25th annual book party.

**8. International Engagement** President Anderson and Vice Chancellor Tariq Mansoor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in India hold a Statement of Shared Interest for the establishment of an Early Childhood Intervention Education Training Program at AMU. The statement was signed on July 19.

**9. MD Sass Institute Awards** Junior Kelly Alvarez receives a certification of achievement from Professor Hyuna Park, Kurz Endowed Chair in Finance and Risk Management, and Martin Sass '63 founder and CEO of leading investment management firm M.D. Sass. Alvarez is first prize winner of the Brooklyn College MD Sass Investment Institute Security Analysis Award.

**10. Brooklyn College Implements Gender-Inclusive and Gender-Neutral Restrooms** Adjunct English Professor David P. McKay '93 watches as senior and LGBTQIA President Sami Binder installs the first gender-inclusive restroom sign at Brooklyn College.

**11. Fall 2017 Incoming Class Welcomed with Campus-wide Fair** Bulldogs for Israel is one of the dozens of clubs represented at the 2017 Involvement Fair (formerly the Brooklyn College Club Fair).

**12. International Engagement** President Michelle J. Anderson accepts a gift from Dongguk University President Tae Sik Han during a meeting this past summer to inaugurate a semester-long student exchange program between the two institutions.

**13. 2017 MFA Thesis Exhibition** Guests view works at the opening reception of "Commencement," a varied media thesis exhibition at Smack Mellon, a nonprofit artists space in Brooklyn.



Dear Alumni,

We have had the tremendous benefit of receiving our education at Brooklyn College, an institution with a long-standing tradition of fostering intellectual freedom, robust activism, civic engagement, and an equity that extends to every corner of the globe. It is from this foundation that many of the college's alumni were empowered to be a force for change in the world.

Nowhere is this more evident than in notable alumni like Shirley Chisholm '46, the first African-American woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination; Alan M. Dershowitz '59, renowned lawyer, prominent constitutional law scholar, and a leading defender of civil liberties; and Lisette Nieves '92, educator, social entrepreneur, public sector leader, and the college's very first Rhodes Scholar.

Thousands of Brooklyn College alumni have served as change agents worldwide, and continue to do so through politics, business, education, and the arts and sciences. What makes our alumni so great is our understanding of the college's role in our success and our commitment to paying that forward. The Brooklyn College Alumni Association's entire purpose is to strengthen the connection between alumni and our alma mater—and with students and faculty—to fulfill the promise of that commitment.

My tenure as president has come to an end and I'm pleased to announce fellow alumna Ella Friedman Weiss '62 as our new president. Ella has served here at Brooklyn College as assistant vice president for college relations, executive director of the Office of Alumni Affairs, and director of Community Relations and Audience Development for the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (BCBC). Most recently, she served 15 years as president of Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC). The Brooklyn College Alumni Association is in more than capable hands with Ella. She "had my back" for four years as first vice president and is a fierce supporter of the BCAA!

There has never been a better time to be alumni of the college. We are part of a vast family that is over 100,000 strong. Together, we can pool our resources, time, and skills and extend the benefits of our successes to current and future generations of students, ensuring their access to the same crucial opportunities we received. If not us, then who? If not now, then when? As the college's motto so aptly notes: Nil sine magno labore—nothing without great effort. So connect with us on social media and be part of the exciting developments happening at Brooklyn College.

All the best,



Jeffrey S. Sigler '92, '95 M.S.  
Immediate Past President, Brooklyn College Alumni Association



## 1940

**Eva Weiss Hubschman**  
Class Correspondent  
1650 West Glendale Avenue, Apt. 1101  
Phoenix, AZ 85021-5757

## 1941

**Cecile Yasker Kaufman**  
Class Correspondent  
3212 N. Miller Road, Apt. 320  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

## 1946

**Irene Hammer Goldstein**  
Class Correspondent  
igoldham10@gmail.com

## 1947

**Reva Frumkin Biers**  
Class Correspondent  
4631 Ellenita Avenue  
Tarzana, CA 91356-4931  
revabiers@sbcglobal.net

## 1948

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

**Sarah Gotbaum**, who has advocated for women's issues for over 60 years, was the recipient of the 2016 Neil Potter Path of Achievement Award in Montgomery County, Maryland. The award, named in memory of the county executive, was established in 1998 by fellow executive Douglas M. Duncan to honor county residents age 60 and older whose lifelong efforts through work and volunteerism have had a positive impact on the local community.

## 1949

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

Photographer **Marvin E. Newman** has had a monograph of his work published by Taschen Books. The limited-edition volume *City of Lights: The Undiscovered New York*, Photographer Marvin E. Newman (2017) includes photographs from five decades of Newman's work, beginning in the 1940s.

**George Pfaker** was presented with the 2017 Harry Fielding Reid Medal by the Seismological Society of America for his "transformative work on megathrust earthquakes in

subduction zones, places where two tectonic plates meet, with one riding over the top of the other." The medal is the highest honor that the society awards.

## 1951

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

**Audrey Michael Carlin**, the first female graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts—with a master of science degree in physics in 1957—was awarded an honorary doctorate from the institute at its 2017 commencement exercises in May.

## 1952

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

**Morton Bahr**, president emeritus of the Communications Workers of America union, along with his wife, Florence, had a senior residence named for them in Washington, D.C. The Morton and Florence Bahr Towers project was sponsored by the Elderly Housing Development and Operations Corporation, which develops and manages safe, secure, and affordable housing for senior citizens across the United States.

## 1953

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

## 1954

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

## 1955

**Geraldine Miller Markowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
1500 Palisade Avenue, #26C  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024  
geraldine@nj.rr.com

## 1956

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

## 1957

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

## 1958

**Sandra Seigel Pikoff**  
Class Correspondent  
4500 Williams Drive #212-320  
Georgetown, TX 78633  
sspikoff@aol.com

## 1960

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

## 1961

**David S. Herskowitz**  
Class Correspondent  
1175 Kildeer Court  
Encinitas, CA 92024-1278  
davidsh@sbcglobal.net

## 1962

**Steven J. Nappen**  
Class Correspondent  
38 Troy Hills Road  
Whippany, NJ 07981-1315

Film director **Joel Zwick** published *Directing the Sitcom: Joel Zwick's Steps for Success* (McFarland, 2016), with a foreword by Tom Hanks.

## 1963

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

**Robert A. Levine** is the recipient of a Distinguished Alumnus Award for 2016 from SUNY Upstate Medical University, in Syracuse, New York. Dr. Levine acknowledged Professors Herman Zieger and George Gibson, of the Brooklyn College Department of Chemistry, as being instrumental to his achievements.

## 1964

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

## 1965

**Barbara Berman Leveene**  
Class Correspondent  
24 Jubilee Circle  
Aberdeen, NJ 07747-1807

The Alumni Association of John Jay College honored Professor Emeritus **James Curran** with a Distinguished Faculty Award at the association's annual reunion.

**George Haber** recently published a book about a little-known World War II incident—the sinking of a U.S. merchant ship by a German U-boat six months before Pearl Harbor. The book, *Outrageous and Indefensible: The Sinking of the SS Robin Moor, May 1941*, was published by the American Merchant Marine Museum in Kings Point, New York, in connection with a yearlong exhibit about the incident.

**Isaac "Ike" Koziol, M.D.**, has retired from active urologic practice. He now volunteers at multiple clinics, works on a medical school admissions committee, and has been appointed to the Virginia State Board of Medicine.

## 1966

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

**Jack Schlein** is professor emeritus of biology at York College. The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York approved the naming of a professorship in the biology department at York College the Leslie Lewis/Jack Schlein Chair of Biology.

## 1967

**Sharon Weinschel Resen**  
Class Correspondent  
1740 Kimball Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-4304  
shabojo@aol.com

**Margaret Winters**, the former provost and senior vice president of academic affairs at Wayne State University in Detroit, received the Outstanding Achievement Award in recognition of her support of women in higher education as both a campus leader and a mentor during her 14-year career. It is the first-ever such award bestowed by the university.

If you have news you'd like to share with your fellow alumni but don't see your class correspondent, please contact us at [classnotes@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:classnotes@brooklyn.cuny.edu).



## An Untold History of Service and Achievement, Uncovered with a Sweatshirt

The daughter of alumni Audrey C. Johnson-Peck and Norman Peck discovers a powerful reminder of her parents' college life and her mother's civic service.

For more than 65 years, **AUDREY C. JOHNSON-PECK '48** held on to her Brooklyn College sweatshirt. After she passed away in 2014 at the age of 87, her daughter, Diane Dressler, found it neatly folded among her mother's belongings, along with some vintage photographs of her mother and her father, Norman Peck '47, during their time at the school. She sent these items to the college, believing they might have some archival value, and in the process she unlocked a history that may have otherwise been lost to time. What was revealed was a life of public service and scientific inquiry—including work with Holocaust survivors, and pioneering cancer research in a field overwhelmingly dominated by men.

Born to a Jewish family, raised in Brooklyn, and the grandchild of Austrian and Polish immigrants, Johnson-Peck was the youngest of four children and the first person in her family to attend college. She came to Brooklyn College because of its affordability and chose to double major in biology and chemistry. It was here that Audrey Johnson met her future husband, Norman Peck, a World War II U.S. Navy veteran who was the son of Yiddish-speaking Polish immigrants.

"They met on the steps outside Ingersoll Hall, and then they were in a biology class together," says Dressler. "My father used to say that my mother was very smart."

Peck received his bachelor's degree in general science from Brooklyn College in 1947 and went on to receive his master's in science education from New York University (NYU) in 1948. The Pecks were married in 1949 and remained so until Mr. Peck's death in 2012 at the age of 90.

In the summer of 1947, Johnson-Peck was employed at the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital as a lab technician. After graduating cum laude from Brooklyn College in 1948, she worked in the chemistry department of NYU College of Medicine. She, along with Guggenheim Fellow and Harvard University graduate

Alfred Mashak, published "Turnover of P<sup>32</sup> in Different Types of Nuclei in Rabbit Liver" in the medical journal *Cancer Research* in 1950. Their study highlighted ways to identify particular types of tumorous cells. In 1951, that research was utilized in a Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center paper titled "On the Role of Glycine and Adenine as Precursors of Nucleic Acid Purines." Johnson-Peck went on to work as a research biologist at the center and remained there for two years.

She applied to local medical schools, but despite an excellent academic record, she was not accepted to any. Instead of allowing this to defeat her, Johnson-Peck changed course and earned two master's degrees from NYU, one as an educator and another as a reading specialist. She also returned to Brooklyn College in 1967 to take additional science and education courses, ensuring that her knowledge in those fields remained current.

An active member of the human-rights organization B'nai B'rith International, Johnson-Peck made use of her skills to educate younger generations about the Holocaust. Some of Johnson-Peck's own close family members had narrowly escaped Europe just before the Third Reich's reign of terror reached them. She volunteered at the Holocaust Documentation & Education Center in Florida, where she interviewed Holocaust survivors, as well as World War II veterans, rescuers, and Allies, for the historical record. She and her husband also participated in the center's student awareness days, where she facilitated conversations between Holocaust survivors and young adults. Johnson-Peck's life was an exemplary reminder of one of Brooklyn College's oldest traditions: civic service.

"My mother was very proud of her Brooklyn College education," Dressler adds. "She felt genuinely connected to the college, and it was a place where she made lifelong friends."

—Robert Jones Jr.



1968

**Eileen McGinn**

*Class Correspondent*  
210 East 15th Street, Apt. 10N  
New York, NY 10003-3927  
qedeeileen@aol.com

**Roberta Michnick Golinkoff**

coauthored, with Kathy Hirsh-Pasek, *Becoming Brilliant: What Science Tells Us About Raising Successful Children* (APA Books, 2016).

1969

**Edward M. Greenspan**

*Class Correspondent*  
emgreenspan@optonline.net

**Keith Harrow** recently retired after

more than 40 years as a faculty member in the Computer and Information Science (CIS) Department at Brooklyn College. He served for over 25 years as the deputy chair in charge of the graduate program in CIS. He is the author or co-author of a number of computer science textbooks, and he received several grants from NASA and from the PSC-CUNY Research Award Program. He is now professor emeritus of computer and information science.

1970

**Barry Silverman**

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

Composer **Michael Isaacson**

received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City at the college's commencement exercises this past May. Isaacson was awarded the honor for his "extraordinary contributions to contemporary Jewish liturgical music."

1971

**Robert J. Miller**

*Class Correspondent*  
494 East 18th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11226  
rjmiller@courts.state.ny.us

1972

**Stanley A. Alexander**

*Class Correspondent*  
98 B Charles River Road  
Waltham, MA 02453

1973

**Linda E. Gross Carroll**

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

**Stephanie Calmenson's** new

nonfiction series for young children launched with *Look! Flowers!; Look! Birds!; Look! Fish!* (Little Bee Books, 2016). Calmenson's PBS Storytime Book *Dinner at the Panda Palace* marks its 25th anniversary.

1974

**Diane Oeters Vaughn**

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

1975

**Rubin Leitner**

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

**Linda Kessler** is a teaching artist whose exhibition of her work, "Subway Sleepers," was on view at La Mama The Downstairs Gallery in New York City. Kessler created the exhibition with participants in the New York State Brain Injury Association, New York City Chapter.

The Brooklyn Public Library announced that *An Unlikely Union: The Love-Hate Story of New York's Irish and Italians* by **Paul Moses** is being considered for the *Brooklyn Eagle's* Literary Prize.

Former St. Vincent and the Grenadines deputy New York consul general and calypsonian **Cyril "Scorcher" Thomas** received the Special Recognition Award from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Ex-Police Association, U.S.A., at a gala banquet in Brooklyn. The award is given to a nonmember who has in part "demonstrated a passion for community service and/or to the development of St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

1976

**Henry P. Feintuch**

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

**Mark Leeds**, co-founder and founding president of the Kurt Vonnegut Society and longtime friend of the author, published a new edition of

*The Vonnegut Encyclopedia* (Delacorte Press, 2016), expanded and updated to include the works of Kurt Vonnegut through his death in 2007.

**Richard G. Salzman** received the 2015 Client Distinction Award from the Martindale-Hubbell Company. He is celebrating his 30th anniversary of practicing law, having been admitted to the bar in New York and New Jersey in 1986 and the Florida bar in 1988.

1978

**Susan A. Katz**

*Class Correspondent*  
120 Pinewood Trail  
Trumbull, CT 06611-3313  
BCAalum@Katzing.com

**Marla Tepper** is now general counsel and vice president of Public Health Solutions, a large nonprofit in New York City.

1979

**Anthony Esposito**

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

1980

**Joseph Sciorra** is happy to announce that his co-edited book *Neapolitan Postcard: The Canzone Napoletana as Transnational Subject* has recently been published by Rowman & Littlefield. This interdisciplinary anthology presents academic essays about the transnational history of the Neapolitan song tradition.

1981

**Debbie Schiffer-Burke**

*Class Correspondent*  
debcolumn@gmail.com

1982

**Eileen Sherman Gruber**

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

1983

**Michael Kosik**

*Class Correspondent*  
866.327.5162  
michael.kosik@morganstanley.com

The South Carolina Chiropractic Association (SCCA) presented the 2016 Presidential Merit Award to **Dr. Evan M. Cohen** at the association's Annual Awards Banquet in Myrtle Beach.

1985

**Peter Huertas**

*Class Correspondent*  
5135 Fedora Drive  
San Antonio, TX 78242-2427  
alamodude2001@yahoo.com

1986

**Ian Lee Brown**

*Class Correspondent*  
10090 Lake Vista Court  
Parkland, FL 33076  
ianleebrown@gmail.com

1987

**Eric Steinhardt**

*Class Correspondent*  
915 East 7th Street, Apt. 1H  
Brooklyn, NY 11230-2733  
eric.steinhardt@verizon.net

**Lorraine Raywood** exhibited her new works "Solebury in Symmetry" at MUSA Gallery in Philadelphia. The solos show was inspired by Raywood's natural surroundings, creating transcendent images by arranging photographs symmetrically.

1988

**Lauren Korn Popkoff**

*Class Correspondent*  
951 Woodoak Drive  
Baldwin Harbor, NY 11510-5023

**Donna Pacecca Giannoccoli** was appointed president of Al Hendrickson Toyota, in Coconut Creek, Florida. She joined the auto retailer as assistant controller and over the next two decades held positions as executive vice president and chief financial officer.

1989

Novelist **Rilla Askew** published her first nonfiction collection, *Most American: Notes from a Wounded Place* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2017).

**Paul S. Beatty**, recipient of the 2016 Brooklyn College Distinguished Alumnus Award, won the Man Booker Prize for his novel *The Sellout*, a blistering satire about race in America. This marked the first time an American writer has won the U.K.-based award.

**Anthony Maniscalco** published *Public Spaces, Marketplaces, and the Constitution: Shopping Malls and the First Amendment* (SUNY series in American Constitutionalism, 2015).



## 1990

**Beth Debra Kallman Werner**  
*Class Correspondent*  
105 Husson Road  
Milford, PA 18337-7156  
bwerner@ptd.net

## 1991

**Tami Sheheri**  
*Class Correspondent*  
140 Cadman Plaza West, #14E  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
tsheheri@yahoo.com

## 1993

**Sarah Battaglia**  
*Class Correspondent*  
P.O. Box 882  
Miller Place, NY 11764  
millerplacesb@yahoo.com

## 1994

**Ilene Berkowitz**  
*Class Correspondent*  
1575 46th Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11219-2726

## 1995

**Nathan Solat**  
*Class Correspondent*  
2793 Lee Place  
Bellmore, NY 11710-5003

## 1997

**Diane Abramowitz Rosenberg**  
*Class Correspondent*  
Rosenberg & Rosenberg, LLP  
5 Penn Plaza, 19th Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
dr@rosenbergrosenberg.com

## 1998

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

Finance lawyer **Stephen A. Rutenberg** received the James H. Fogelson Emerging Leadership Award from the UJA Federation of New York at the organization's annual Lawyers Division

event at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. The event brought together more than 600 influential members of New York's legal community.

**Joseph Voss**, a highly regarded adviser to the media and entertainment industry, has joined the prominent Chicago entertainment law firm Leavens, Strand & Glover as Of Counsel.

## 1999

**David Moskowitz**  
*Class Correspondent*  
206 Murray Road  
Newark, DE 19711-4510

## 2001

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

## 2002

**Kimy Mandil**  
*Class Correspondent*  
twixpop22@aol.com

**Michael Sarrao**, a career education and training specialist at Brooklyn College's Magner Career Center, is also the creator of his own comic book series, "S.I.D.: Special Intergalactic Detective" and "Unmasked." He has been writing his own comics for nearly a decade and attended his sixth New York Comic Con at the Jacob Javits Center as an exhibitor.

## 2004

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

## 2005

**Miriam Alexander**  
*Class Correspondent*  
118-03 228th Street  
Cambria Heights, NY 11411  
Miriam118@aol.com

## 2007

**Ezra N. Rich**  
*Class Correspondent*  
309 S. Second Avenue  
Highland Park, NJ 08904  
ezrarich@gmail.com

## 2008

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

Syrian Jewish artist **Lenore Cohen** participated in the Jerusalem Biennial for Contemporary Jewish Art as its first artist-in-residence. The residency lasted from September to November 2016.

**Cristina Moracho** recently published her second novel, *A Good Idea* (Viking Books for Young Readers, 2017).

## 2009

**Steven Juskowicz**  
*Class Correspondent*  
1485 East 32nd Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11234-3403  
SJuskowicz@gmail.com

## 2010

**Patrice Bridgewater**, a teacher at Bedford Academy High School in Brooklyn, received the Sloan Awards for Excellence in Teaching in Science and Mathematics, New York City's top honor for math and science teachers in public school. Bridgewater was awarded a \$5,000 prize and Bedford Academy received \$2,500 for its science and math departments.

Poet **Vanessa Jiminez Gabb** recently published a debut collection, *Images for Radical Politics* (Rescue Press, 2016).

## 2011

Author **Jenny D. Williams** recently published *The Atlas of Forgotten: A Novel* with St. Martin's Press.

## 2013

**Elizabeth Weiss**  
*Class Correspondent*  
2013elizabethweiss2013@gmail.com

## 2015

**Meghan Richards**  
*Class Correspondent*  
richards.meghan.a@gmail.com

# Remembrance

As of June 2017

## Faculty

Michael Mallory, professor and former chair, Department of Art

Nathan Schmukler, professor, Department of Economics and Accounting

## Alumni

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 Clarice Pryor McBarnette '75  
 Robert J. McCormack '75  
 Gladston Russell '75  
 Caroline Abbio '76  
 Gloria H. Cash '76  
 Jean Liberi Sadof '76  
 William F. Taylor '76  
 Paulette McIntosh Vann '76  
 Anthony Velez '76  
 Simi Stern Weinhouse '76

M. Randall Brown '77  
 Eliyahu D. Jacobson '77  
 Barbara Richards Oti '77  
 Edith Polinski '77  
 Marylou Scanlon Rochford '77  
 Ramona M. Rodolico '77  
 Marva Y. Styron '77  
 Arlene Olson Brickell '78  
 Phyllis Solomon Dawkins '79  
 Ann P. Ingrisani '79  
 Roger W. Levy '79  
 Theresa Raleigh Moriarty '79  
 Peter Moy '79  
 Frank P. Polizzi '79  
 Michael Gentile '80  
 Alysa Gritz Polchinski '80  
 Lorraine Porter-Cheek '80  
 Victor J. Tarrizi Jr. '80  
 Stanley S. Weinberg '80  
 Israel Fumme '81  
 Doris Oettinger Gnad '81  
 Gloria Naylor '81  
 Winston H. Robles '81  
 Peter Yellin '81  
 Albert P. Barbey '82  
 Thelma Bispham '82  
 Lawrence D. Sexton '82  
 Karen Keller Bevacqua '83  
 Jeff Gold '83  
 Robert C. Schmude '83  
 Mildred Greenstein Spinner '83  
 Angela M. Cammarata '84  
 Arthur J. Farrington '84  
 Pierre S. Lysius '84  
 David Parris '84  
 Martin Solomon '84  
 Margot Kirsch Zarny '84  
 Deborah Sagal-Cotler '85  
 John S. Vaccarino '85  
 Betty Cammon Allen '86  
 Sandra L. Graydon Ashby '87  
 Elena M. Bucciano '87  
 Lottie K. Weldon '87  
 Susan Bartlett Montez '88  
 Kanyinola O. Addie '89  
 Andrea Walters '89  
 Harold Braun '90  
 Helene R. Weissman '90  
 Gladys Alvarez '91  
 Emmy Lu Cutler-Avizov '91  
 Lawrence S. Gordon '91  
 Yoselin Mendez Roman '91  
 Gloria Todman '92  
 Bossom L. Spencer '94  
 Patricia Bertolotti '95  
 Kim Charles '95  
 Dione S. Randall '95  
 Paul I. Weinrich '95  
 Marilynne St. Louis '96  
 Etera Kaplan '98  
 Evens Dumond '00  
 Nicole Bouras Haran '00  
 Chantal Legros '03  
 Elsa A. Vandeyar '04  
 Ancio Ostane '06  
 Melvin Mangiapia '08  
 Rebecca S. Wasserstrum '10  
 Christian E. Zavala-Ramos '10  
 Allen Thomas Felty '12  
 Marc J. Rosenblatt '12



**MARVIN KAPLAN '47**, a well-known character actor who stole the scene as a court stenographer in the 1949 Tracy-Hepburn romantic comedy *Adam's Rib*, and went on to appear regularly in roles on television and the big screen for more than six decades, passed away in Los Angeles on August 25, 2016. He was 89.

Born in Brooklyn on January 24, 1927, Kaplan attended Brooklyn College and received a bachelor's degree in English. He studied theater at the University of Southern California. His original plan to become a playwright was put on hold after Katharine Hepburn saw him perform one night in a Molière play. Soon after, he was offered the role in *Adam's Rib*, by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio.

Instantly recognizable by his thick eyebrows, eyeglasses, and Brooklyn accent, Kaplan's "dull, flat voice," as director George Cukor described it, made his character a perfect comic foil to Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn's witty courtroom banter. His career launched, Kaplan appeared in numerous movies and TV shows, including *The Nutty Professor* (1963), *It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World* (1963), *Angels in the Outfield* (1951) *Wild at Heart* (1990), and episodes of *McHale's Navy*, *Charlie's Angels*, *Alice*, and *ER*.

In 2008, Kaplan established the Kaplan-Loring Foundation (named after songwriter vocal coach to the stars Richard Loring, whom Kaplan felt deserved more recognition than he had received after his death in 2005). The foundation has funded scholarships to cover the costs of tuition and books for a promising artist, particularly one who specializes in comedy at Brooklyn College.

—Audrey Peterson



**YAFFA ELIACH '67, '69 M.A.**, a professor emeritus of history and literature in the Department of Judaic Studies and a Holocaust survivor turned pioneering Holocaust scholar passed away on November 8, 2016, at her Manhattan home. She was 79.

Eliach completed her undergraduate degree at Brooklyn College in 1967 and earned a master's degree in 1969, the same year she joined the faculty. The author of many books about the Holocaust, in 1974 Eliach founded the Center for Holocaust Studies in Brooklyn (later merged with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan), which collected oral histories of survivors. The center would become a model for other such institutions.

Eliach served as a member of President Jimmy Carter's Commission on the Holocaust but perhaps is best known for an exhibit she created at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., "Tower of Faces," which features prewar photographs from her hometown of Eishyshok in Lithuania, where nearly all 3,500 Jewish residents were killed during World War II. One of the few survivors, Eliach settled in Israel after the war, then moved to the United States with her husband, David, in 1954. The 15-year project took her around the world in search of photographs and other memorabilia that would help her document and celebrate the victims' lives, rather than their deaths.

—Jamilah Simmons



**GLORIA NAYLOR '81**, celebrated author, native New Yorker, and supporter of Brooklyn College, passed away from a heart attack on September 28, 2016, near her home in Christiansted, Virgin Islands. She was 66.

Naylor was a standout student during her time at Brooklyn College. She earned the Presidential Scholarship, served as treasurer of the student government, and graduated summa cum laude.

She penned her first novel, *The Women of Brewster Place* (Penguin Contemporary American Fiction Series, 1982), while still an undergraduate English major.

*Brewster Place* would go on to receive critical acclaim, winning both the American Book Award and the National Book Award for a First Novel in 1983. It was turned into a miniseries by Oprah Winfrey's production company, Harpo Productions, in 1989. Naylor's career was notable for a number of other acclaimed novels, including *Mama Day* (Vintage, 1989) and *Bailey's Cafe* (Vintage, 1993). She also wrote nonfiction for magazines and journals.

She earned a master's degree in Afro-American studies at Yale University and received prestigious fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Naylor taught at universities in the United States and abroad, including George Washington, New York, Boston, and Princeton universities, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Kent in England.

In 1989, she established the McAlpin-Naylor Book Fund to support the Brooklyn College Library in strengthening its collections in Africana studies and Caribbean studies.

Brooklyn College awarded Naylor the Presidential Medal at its 1993 commencement ceremony in recognition of her literary excellence and her commitment to education. She also received a 2002 Distinguished Achievement Award from the Brooklyn College Alumni Association.

—Jamilah Simmons



**BERNARD GREENBERG '44** passed away in his Chicago home in May. The cause was colon cancer. Greenberg, who had an insect phobia as a child, was known as the father of modern forensic entomology because of his research on the life cycle of flies. From their presence on a corpse, he could determine clues about a murder, such as the time of death and even, in at least one instance, when windows and doors were opened at a crime scene. He testified

or provided expert opinions in scores of murder cases. After graduating from Brooklyn College with a degree in 1944, he served a stint in the Army Air Force at the end of World War II. He then earned his doctorate in entomology from the University of Kansas in 1953. He was a professor at the University of Illinois in Chicago from 1954 until he retired in 1990. He is survived by four children, 11 grandchildren, and one great-grandson. His wife of 67 years, Barbara, predeceased him in 2016.

—Jamilah Simmons



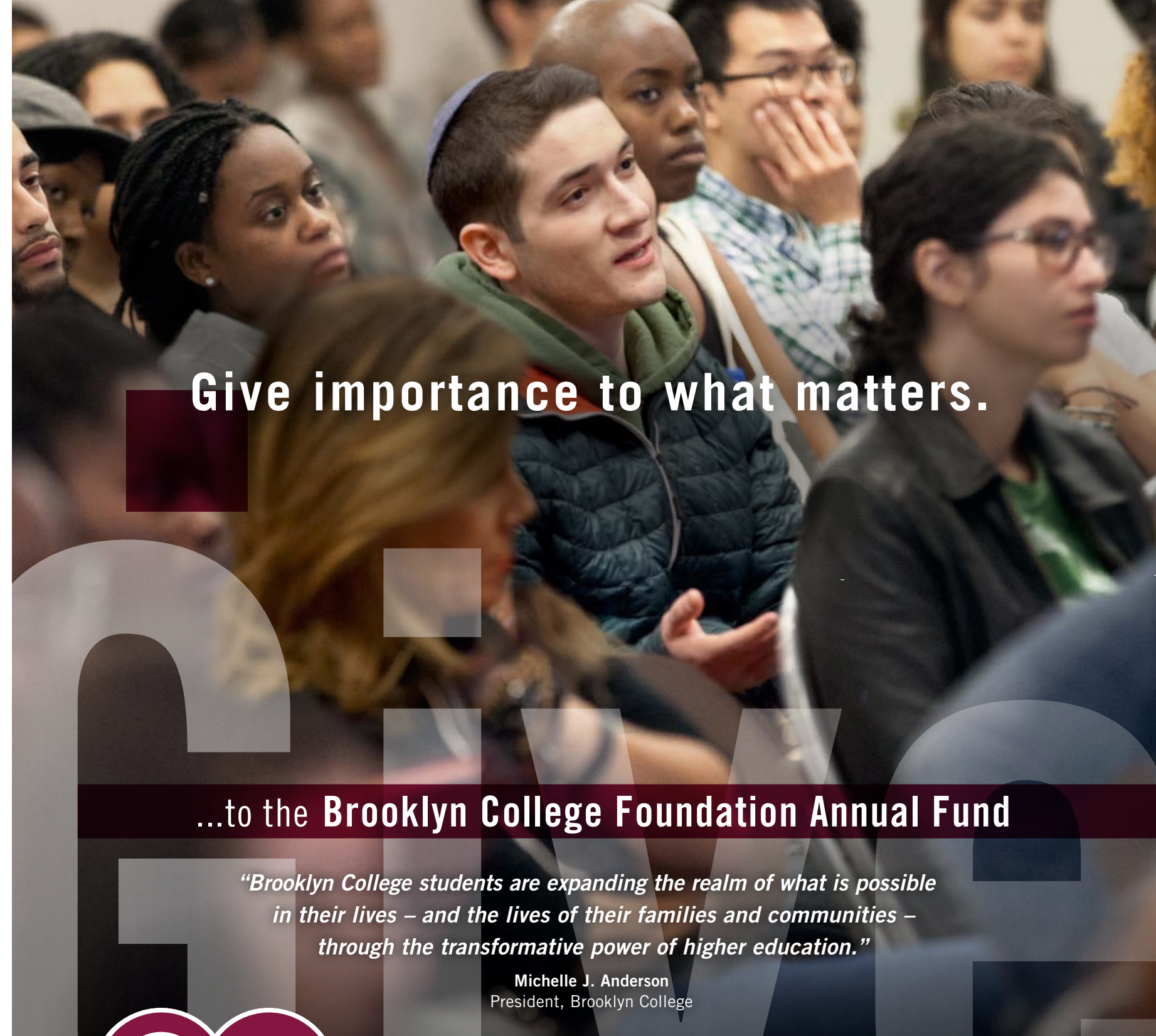


In spring of 1968 widespread turmoil erupted in the wake of the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. Riots broke out in more than 100 U.S. cities, with many of the business districts burned to the ground. That year, opposition to the Vietnam War and the draft that sent many young men to fight in the conflict hit an all-time high. Students across the nation participated in campus protests—for civil rights and against the war. Brooklyn College students joined CUNY and other schools throughout New York City in actions such as National Student Strike Day, which took place on April 26, 1968.

Although civil rights legislation would expand to protect people with disabilities and senior citizens in the workplace, and a fair housing act would protect minorities against discrimination when buying a home, the conflict in Vietnam would grind on for another five years. With the signing of the Treaty of Paris, ending U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia, the last American troops left Vietnam on March 29, 1973.

— Audrey Peterson

HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN ACTIVISM ON CAMPUS AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE? IF SO, WHAT WAS YOUR CAUSE, AND DID IT LEAD TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR ABOUT IT. SHARE WITH US AT [MAGAZINE@BROOKLYN.CUNY.EDU](mailto:MAGAZINE@BROOKLYN.CUNY.EDU) OR OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING, BROOKLYN COLLEGE, 2900 BEDFORD AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY 11210.



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Courtesy of Pat Lander

*Women's Studies office located in Boylan Hall in 1982. In the foreground are women's studies lecturer Claudette Charbonneau (left) and program co-coordinator Professor Pat Lander of the departments of Women's Studies and American Literature. In the back office are administrator Pat Quercia (right) and program co-coordinator Professor Renate Bridenthal from the Department of History. Read more about the establishment of the Brooklyn College Women's Center and Women's Studies program on page 20.*