

Volume 6 | Number 1 | Spring 2019

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Brooklyn College Magazine

A New Nexus for Art and Culture

The Leonard & Claire Tow

Center for the Performing Arts

Cultivates Brooklyn's Most Talented

LEONARD & CLAIRE TOW
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

CU
NY



“Brooklyn College has given me an enormous advantage beyond the classroom!”

— Faith Crawford '17

“What differentiates us from other schools is grit. Brooklyn College has taught me how to succeed in the professional world.”

— Valeriya Zelenyak '18

“At Brooklyn College I’ve found teachers and mentors who have recognized my strengths and directed me toward them.

I’m incredibly thankful!”

— Jessica Andersen '19

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Brooklyn College Magazine
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From the President's Desk

Dear Friends:

Brooklyn College celebrated the opening of the magnificent Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts last semester. As you can see on the cover of this magazine, the building is a beautiful new face of the college, welcoming the community through our new east gate at Hillel Plaza. The Center has dramatically transformed the campus entrance with a gorgeous edifice of open glass, space, and light.

The Tow Center is the first LEED-certified, sustainable building at the college, made with recycled materials, low water-use facilities, and highly efficient HVAC and lighting systems. It houses the Don Buchwald Theater, a glorious, double-height, acoustically sophisticated auditorium and new home stage for our exceptional theater and music departments. The Tow Center is fully ADA-accessible, and includes many state-of-the-art rehearsal and performance spaces, a set design and construction workshop, classrooms, faculty offices, and meeting spaces.

Leonard met his late wife Claire in the Boylan Hall basement lunchroom when they were students in 1949. Their experiences together on campus sparked a lifelong connection to Brooklyn College. Over the years, the Tows' incredible generosity to their alma mater through their family foundation has supported more than 700 students and faculty through internship programs, scholarships, travel fellowships, research stipends, and awards.

Today, Leonard and his daughter Emily Tow Jackson are fully invested in the academic and strategic goals of Brooklyn College. They want to provide the means for our faculty and students to become exceptional in their fields. The Leonard and Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts is one of those means.

I remember walking through the Tow Center for the first time with Len. Rooms were filled with classes and music spilled into the halls. We got lucky and walked into a rehearsal space where the Brooklyn College Choir was practicing. The professor and students were so thrilled to meet Len in person that they broke into applause and cheered, and then treated us to an impromptu rendition of the Brooklyn College Alma Mater. Sound vibrated throughout the grand, wood paneled room. The meeting ended with students saying one after another, "Thank you, Mr. Tow."

It is that sense of gratitude that I feel about so much that is wonderful here at Brooklyn College. I hope this edition of the magazine shares some of that wonder and appreciation with you. On a daily basis, our alumni enhance the college, providing our students and faculty with transformational learning and teaching opportunities.

Thank you all for being part of the Brooklyn College family.

Warm regards,
Michelle J. Anderson

From participating in international humanitarian work to winning prestigious national awards, Brooklyn College students and alumni are contributing to positive change in the wider world.



Jonathan Cabral works atop a roof in Puerto Rico, where he helped rebuild homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria with CUNY Service Corps. Inset, Cabral with fellow CUNY students.

Brooklyn College Students Help Rebuild Puerto Rico

Senior Jonathan Cabral was among the nearly 200 who traveled to the island with CUNY Service Corps to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Maria.

BY JAMILAH SIMMONS

For two weeks last June, senior Jonathan Cabral rode in a van down a San Juan, Puerto Rico, highway five mornings a week. Viewed from the expressway, “you’d barely know anything happened,” he says, describing how parts of the island looked nearly a year after being ravaged by Hurricane Maria, the Category 4 storm that left an estimated \$100 billion in damages in its wake in September 2017. “I was expecting to see disaster, but a lot of central San Juan had been cleaned up.”

But then his van made a right turn into the Playita barrio. “It was another world when you entered Playita,” says the television and radio major. “Some houses were completely destroyed. Most of them didn’t have roofs. It was just a mess.”

Conditions like those are exactly what attracted Cabral and 39 fellow students to sign up to help the island—where hundreds of residents remained without power—through CUNY Service Corps, a five-year-old program that places CUNY students in paid work experiences, usually in local community-based organizations and government agencies, with the goal of improving the civic, economic, and environmental sustainability of New York City.

This year, however, Service Corps administrators decided to heed the call of Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s “NY Stands with Puerto Rico” initiative and sent 195 CUNY students—15 of them from Brooklyn College—to the island in trips staggered throughout the summer, where they spent two weeks mostly building and repairing roofs.

Under the supervision of a professional construction crew, the students learned to work with drills and hammers in the service of ripping up and repairing badly damaged corrugated-steel roofs.

Cabral says he’ll never forget the sprightly and funny older Dominican woman who had immigrated to the island and told stories of her life adventures, or the local veteran who cooked rice and peas, turkey, and fried pork for the group—“the best I ate while I was there,” says Cabral.

As a Spanish-speaking student, Cabral often served as an interpreter and enjoyed many opportunities to simply sit and chat with residents. “It felt good getting to know the people we were helping,” he says. “It started to feel personal.” ♦

John Eugenis '15 Receives Prestigious National Science Foundation Grant

The Stanford University Ph.D. candidate's stem cell research earned him the honor.

BY ERNESTO MORA

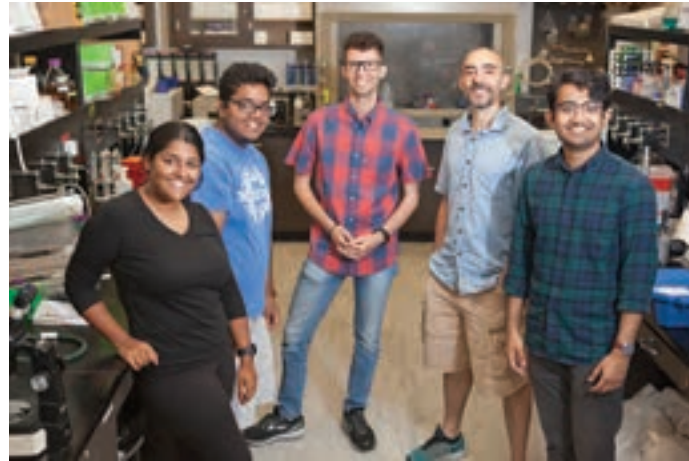
Ioannis “John” Eugenis '15, recipient of a recent grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop replacement body parts using stem cells, had little clue of his future career as a researcher until after he started college.

“I knew I was into sciences, but aside from a research project in my senior year of high school, it didn't cross my mind that my life would head in that direction,” Eugenis said last summer while visiting his alma mater and his mentor Assistant Professor Nicolas Biais, head of Brooklyn College's mechano-microbiology laboratory.

Now a bioengineering Ph.D. candidate at Stanford University, Eugenis first declared a major in biology, which ushered him into lab work. In his sophomore year, he pursued an internship at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in Manhattan, where he worked on a bacterial infection that occurs in the gut. However, it was in Biais' lab that he became a synthetic biologist, programming bacteria, Eugenis says. At the time, the lab was interested in studying the motility of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, a model organism, but one that had no way of controlling when it could or couldn't move.

“By adding a few genes, I was able to turn on and off the bacteria's ability to move using LED lights so we can study it further.”

Eugenis' research earned him a full scholarship to Stanford's Ph.D. program. His research at different labs at Stanford opened new pathways in his career.



Ioannis “John” Eugenis '15, center, with Assistant Professor Nicolas Biais, second from right, in his microbiology lab. Also pictured, from left to right: Shreya Jain '18, Jerryl Abraham '18, and Ishak Noble '18.

“I ended up switching fields to tissue engineering and biomaterials.”

At Stanford, he worked with and was co-advised by two Stanford researchers: Professor Fan Yang, a tissue engineer whose focus is bone/cartilage engineering, and Professor Thomas Rando, who studies muscle stem cells and aging. As a result, Eugenis has made inroads in the field of muscle generation. This research could lead toward advances in muscle regeneration for patients living with muscular dystrophy, severely wounded war veterans, and even the elderly, he explains, since humans lose muscle mass as they age.

“This NSF award isn't mine alone,” Eugenis says. “It belongs to many other people, including all of my mentors at Stanford and Brooklyn College.” He adds, “I hope other Brooklyn College students are not intimidated by things that may seem insurmountable, but seek opportunities to achieve their goals in life.” ♦

“I hope other Brooklyn College students are not intimidated by things that may seem insurmountable, but seek opportunities to achieve their goals in life.”

What Alumni Mentorship Means for Student Success

Renee Blumenfrucht '15 was prepared to give up on securing a dream job—until Leonardo Rizzi '93 and the Brooklyn College Magner Career Center intervened.

BY ROBERT JONES JR.

During her senior year at Brooklyn College, Renee Blumenfrucht '15 went on an interview at Goldman Sachs to apply for an internship. Imagine her surprise when she was instead offered a full-time position set to begin right after she graduated. She believes she was able to impress the employer because of advice she received from one person in particular: Leonardo Rizzi '93.

“He was incredibly instrumental and encouraged me to apply to Goldman, and I got the position I applied for,” says Blumenfrucht, who received her bachelor of science in actuarial science and financial mathematics and is currently a senior analyst at Goldman. “I often tell Brooklyn College students that while it's helpful to know someone in order to get your foot in the door, once your foot is in the door, it's up to you to keep it there.”

Blumenfrucht says that she had initially given up on working for Goldman after she twice applied for internships at the company but the opportunity never materialized. Then, Natalia Guarin-Klein, director of the Brooklyn College Magner Career Center, sent out an e-mail to students informing them of a chance to meet with alumni who worked at Goldman.

“Natalia is amazing and one of Brooklyn College's most valuable resources,” says Blumenfrucht. “She helped me to secure many interviews across various firms, as well as mentorship opportunities, and connected me with Marge Magner '69, who helped me determine which firms I should seek positions with.”

“From the minute I met her, I knew she had what it takes to succeed. She only had to focus on being more confident,” Rizzi says of



Blumenfrucht, adding that Brooklyn College students are among the smartest and most determined he has ever come across.

A former vice president at Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, and now a vice president at The Clearing House, Rizzi sees his own success as a blessing and believes it is part of his responsibility to pass that blessing on. He does so through mentoring and also by participating on panels and in workshops organized by the Magner Center. And his connection to Brooklyn College students and other alumni is not fleeting, as exemplified by the fact that he still mentors and advises Blumenfrucht to this day.

“I grew up in a blue-collar, immigrant neighborhood, where most young people didn't have access to the people who worked at the Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanleys of the world,” says Rizzi, the first person in his family to receive a college degree—a bachelor of science in business management and finance. “For me, there was no grand plan like, ‘I'm going to go to college; this is what I'm going to do and this is my dream.’ It was more like, you can go to college after high school or you go to work—just don't go to jail.”

For Rizzi, success means improving processes at the organizations he works for and having a positive impact on the lives and careers of the people he comes in contact with. He says he focuses on standing out in two specific ways.

“First, in any situation, I won't be outworked. And when it comes to dealing with difficult circumstances, being direct while simultaneously empathic is something I always strive for.” ♦

Have You Heard?

Notable news about Brooklyn College alumni, faculty, and students

Dr. Armin Tehrani '91, founder of Manhattan Orthopedic Care, was sworn in as an Honorary NYPD Surgeon.

Dr. Bernard Tandler '55 was selected as Top Science Educator of the Year by the International Association of Top Professionals.

Chemistry **Professor Brian Gibney** was named a fellow of the American Chemistry Society for his outstanding achievements in and contributions to science.

Graduate student **Avi Cummings** and **Ellen Adams '13** were both named 2018 Emerging Writers Retreat fellows by the Lambda Literary Foundation.

Mushfica Masud, a graduate of Brooklyn College's Film Production B.A. program and a third-year M.F.A. Cinema Arts student at Feirstein, is one of 10 students to be awarded \$10,000, as part of Nikon's first annual Storytellers scholarship program.

English **Professor Rosamond King**, author and poet, has been tapped to become the next director of the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities.

New Field School Transforms Manhattan's Lower East Side into a Classroom

For one month last summer, students crossed the East River to study the effects of climate change, gentrification, and a shifting population in the storied lower Manhattan neighborhood.

BY AUDREY PETERSON

It's mid-June and a lively discussion is in progress among Brooklyn College undergraduate students at CUNY's Center for Worker Education at 25 Broadway. The subject is gated communities and their effects on an increasingly polarized American public. But instead of focusing on suburban enclaves far outside New York City limits, the students are talking about recently gated co-ops on Manhattan's Lower East Side.

After dissecting the concepts of urban fear, security, class division, and gentrification, Anthropology Professors Naomi Schiller and Kelly Britt walk the class more than two miles to the Masaryk Towers. A subsidized middle-income housing complex, the towers have just had new gates installed, cutting off a shortcut through the complex that was particularly helpful to the residents of the Bernard M. Baruch and Samuel Gompers Houses across the street.



Students meet with a staff member from GOLES (Good Old Lower East Side), a housing advocacy organization that works to build resiliency in the Lower East Side.

The classroom discussion is now playing out in living color, as a guard asks the students for proof that they have legal access to the property. "It's OK, I live here," says one of the students, flashing her ID. "These people are my guests."

For Schiller and Britt, the summer course, called The Urban Anthropology Project, was a bit of an experiment. This type of cultural anthropology and archaeology field school had never before been taught at Brooklyn College. "The neighborhood is in the midst of a major new wave of gentrification and waterfront development," said Schiller in June. "We're asking the students to explore how class, race, gender, and migration status intersect to shape the ways that residents approach the contemporary threat of extreme weather and rising seas."

Walking tours were just one of the ways Schiller and Britt helped their students explore the history and the ongoing struggle for space and survival on the Lower East Side. The professors also scheduled films, museum visits, trips to observe community board meetings, visits from experts, interviews with local residents, and archaeological artifact analysis.

"What's different is that we're teaching archaeological and ethnographic methods in the same course. That's not been done here before," said Britt during the project.

"We are aiming to give future anthropologists the tools to approach the field in a more ethical, holistic manner than is traditionally taught in many anthropology departments," Schiller added. ♦



Angela Lavali '18 Overcomes the Odds to Become a National Institutes of Health Fellow

A civil war in her native Sierra Leone all but derailed Angela Lavali's career in medicine. Brooklyn College's Pre-health Professions program helped her stay the course.

BY ERNESTO MORA

Angela Musu Lavali '18 thought about giving up her study of medicine after the death of her father, James K. Lavali, a schoolteacher. That was in 2013, less than a year after she had emigrated from her native Sierra Leone to reunite with her parents in Queens. She later had a change of heart and now plans to pursue medicine after she completes a yearlong fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Lavali was one of 25 students chosen to become a fellow at a February 2018 conference organized by the NIH.

Lavali's uncertainties about her education were heightened by events unfolding in her homeland. An 11-year civil war left 50,000 dead and thousands more uprooted. Her father immigrated to Queens and her mother stayed behind until 2004. The couple were finally able to bring their only child to the United States in 2012.

Until then, Lavali lived in the midst of the civil war and its aftermath. Militias marauded throughout the tiny West African nation, forcing schools to close mid-year and displacing families from their homes. In the process, Lavali's family lost what little property

they owned; food scarcity and lack of jobs were among the many problems they and other Sierra Leoneans had to confront.

Despite the social and emotional turmoil, Lavali finished high school at 16 and decided to attend college to prepare for medical school in Sierra Leone. After five years, a lucky legal break allowed her to join her parents in the United States.

"I knew that after five years at the College of Medicine and Applied Health Services, University of Sierra Leone, I had a good foundation," she says.

Starting anew at Brooklyn College as part of the Pre-health Professions program under Director Steven Silbering was a blessing.

"Professor Silbering encouraged me to participate in internships and apply for scholarships, and his staff helped me with my résumé and mock interviews. They keep track of each student's development," Lavali says.

In 2015, she joined Biology Professor Peter Lipke's laboratory to work on a project to understand the role of adhesion proteins used by *Candida albicans*, a common pathogenic yeast, during which time she learned to prepare solid media to grow microorganisms and learned sterilization techniques to handle infectious materials.

"It was my first exposure to research using a particular model to analyze the function and structure of how the fungus invades different organisms."

Not one to shrink from demanding work, Lavali decided to obtain a nurse's aide certification from Long Island Jewish Hospital in order to work at several hospital facilities, including the Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation. She also logged hundreds of hours at Long Island Jewish Hospital and Queens General Hospital, assisting patients and monitoring their condition, and at a health-care facility of the NYC Department of Sanitation as a summer intern.

In 2017, thanks to the Pre-health Professions program, she obtained a fellowship at Weill Cornell Medical College, where, under Dr. Simon Durham, she learned to design and fabricate coronary artery bypass grafts from a CT scan. She also shadowed three physicians in the emergency room and the cardiac care unit. Lavali continues her work at the NIH's National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases.

"Based on my experience," Lavali says, "my dream after graduating is to go back to Sierra Leone to establish a foundation to help

Have You Heard?

Notable news about Brooklyn College alumni, faculty, and students

Melissa R. Sande '09 M.A. became the new Dean of Humanities for Union County College.

PBS *NewsHour* spotlighted **Flossie Lewis '45**, who continues to teach professionally at the age of 94.

Theater **Professor Rose Burnett Bonczek** received the Oscar Brockett Award for Excellence in Teaching Theater at the Association for Theater in Higher Education's national conference.

Brooklyn College student **Wirdah Khan** has been awarded the Joseph E. Mohbat Prize for Writing for a moving #MeToo essay.

Fencing legend **Nikki Franke '72** earned her 800th career win in February.

Kenneth A. Gould, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, was awarded the 2018 Fred Buttler Distinguished Contribution Award by the American Sociological Association Section on Environment and Technology.

LEONARD & CLAIRE TOW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



The Tow Center features a new grand entrance to the college (left), the new 225-seat, state-of-the-art Don Buchwald Theater (above), and many new rehearsal spaces for students, like the Bobbi and Mort Topfer Rehearsal Studio (next page).

BY JAMILAH SIMMONS

Early in the fall semester, at about midday, the Don Buchwald Theater in the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts is dim, but in a corner of the stage's back wall it looks like morning sunlight is peeking through partially opened blinds. There's a lot of booming, clacking, and the jingling of keys as fewer than a half-dozen stagehands undertake preparations for *Porto*, the first student-directed production to grace this new playhouse.

Matthew Deinhart, an M.F.A. student in lighting design, is on the stage hanging out by a bar that is part of the set, alternately checking a laptop and a massive blueprint. He's plotting the lighting plan and shouting directions, such as "Right about here" and

"Can I get that a little sharper?" while beams cast from the luminaires above bounce across the stage. The production manager shouts back from the catwalk, and Caitie Miller, another M.F.A. theater student, focuses lights from a cubby just off stage left.

The Buchwald Theater is intimate and state-of-the-art. There are some 150 LED lights that the students can operate within the new 225-seat, double-height concert hall, which is also fitted with eight-channel sound and acoustic wall paneling.

"For me, as a lighting designer, there are a lot of opportunities that come with the new space," says Deinhart of the theater. "It's a great new building and we're still figuring out what we can do, which is exciting."

The brand-new Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College is an ambient presence at the college's Hillel Gate entrance, with its open plaza, glass-enclosed grand lobby, and balconies with views of the Flatbush Junction's new pedestrian promenade, and beyond.

"It's a very transparent building," says Maria Ann Conelli, dean of the School of Visual, Media and Performing Arts. "Being able to see in and out of the center really connects us back to the campus and the surrounding community in an active way."

The center is home to the Conservatory of Music and the Department of Theater. In

addition to the Buchwald Theater, there is a second performance space plus numerous practice and rehearsal rooms, set design and construction workshops, a post-production studio, and class, meeting, and reception rooms. There's a new recording studio with its own live room overlooking the concert hall with direct audio ties to all the other performance spaces in the building.

The Tow Foundation, founded by the center's namesakes, Leonard '50 and Claire '52 Tow, donated \$10 million to the college to create it.

"Brooklyn College is a place that surrounds its students with the tools and confidence

needed to succeed. The new Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts ensures that Brooklyn College students are fully supported in their artistic endeavors, and that there is a dedicated place in which they can learn, create, and perfect their skills," says Emily Tow Jackson, executive director and president of The Tow Foundation.

The building, which is fully ADA accessible, includes technology in the performance hall for audio and visual impairments, and is the first LEED-certified, sustainable building on the campus, incorporating low-water-use toilets, recycled materials, and highly efficient HVAC and lighting systems.



Brooklyn College President Michelle J. Anderson, Leonard Tow '50, and Emily Tow Jackson (top left) at the ribbon cutting for the Tow Center. Students will build sets and rehearse their productions amid some of the best views on campus.



The Tow Center is Brooklyn College's first LEED-certified, sustainable building on campus.



Leonard and Claire Tow, 2003

A Lifetime of Giving

It's been almost 70 years since Claire '52 and Leonard '50 Tow met in the Boylan Hall basement lunchroom. Leonard was a member of the Longfellows Club, a group of six-foot or taller male Brooklyn College students. Claire hung out with the Hi Hites, an organization of women of similar tall stature. Their courtship began with a date at the highly popular (but long-since closed) Park Circle Roller Skating Rink in Midwood. They were married a few weeks after Claire's graduation.

Leonard earned a doctorate in economics and found success in the nascent cable television industry. Claire worked as an elementary school teacher and emergency medical technician; she also co-founded Century Communications Corp. with her husband. In 1998, Brooklyn College presented the couple with the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. Claire passed away in 2014 after a 14-year battle with Lou Gehrig's disease.

The couple were among the earliest and most active supporters of the Brooklyn College Foundation, a commitment

to their alma mater that only increased after they created The Tow Foundation in 1988.

"We felt ourselves to be stewards of what it was we accomplished and accumulated, and to redistribute it, and to focus that redistribution on the venues from which it was generated," Leonard Tow said at the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts dedication in November. "Brooklyn College is one of those places. We are ever grateful, forever grateful."

The Tow Foundation has supported many endeavors at Brooklyn College, including signature programs like the Tow Student and Faculty Research Travel Fellowships, Tow Professorships, and the Claire Tow Distinguished Teacher Award. Each spring, the college hosts a Tow Award luncheon in the Christoph M. Kimmich Reading Room of the Brooklyn College Library.

Their biggest gift to the college to date—and the largest the college has ever received—is the \$10 million challenge grant from The Tow Foundation in 2003, which established the Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts. The gift was given on the condition that the Brooklyn College Foundation would raise an additional \$15 million in private funds. The college raised more than \$50 million in public and private funds, and broke ground on the new building in 2011.

In August, Leonard Tow visited the newly opened performing arts center and received a warm welcome from the students as he toured the facilities as part of an open house and celebration of a partnership between the Public Theater, Brooklyn College, and The Tow Foundation that was announced last year.

Through their foundation, the Tows have given close to \$16 million to Brooklyn College, funding nearly 700 fellowships, scholarships, internships, professorships, and teaching awards. The Tow Foundation celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. ♦

—Jamilah Simmons

AT BROOKLYN COLLEGE, THE TOWS HAVE FUNDED:

109

TOW
PROFESSORSHIPS
SINCE
1994

187

TOW FACULTY
RESEARCH TRAVEL
FELLOWSHIPS SINCE
2000

166

TOW
INTERNSHIPS
SINCE
2000

95

TOW
SCHOLARSHIPS
SINCE
2000

116

TOW STUDENT
RESEARCH TRAVEL
FELLOWSHIPS SINCE
2001

12

CLAIRE TOW
TEACHING AWARDS
SINCE
2005

Our Campus *through the years*



Campus Construction 1930s



Funded with money from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Work's Progress Administration, and built on the former site of a Dutch farm that was also later the fairgrounds for Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, the Brooklyn College campus opened on October 18, 1937, to a crowd of some 7,000. Many of the attendees were students, eager to take classes in one of two academic buildings

(today's Boylan and Ingersoll Halls), enjoy sports and recreation in the brand-new Roosevelt Hall gymnasium—complete with swimming pool—and study at the LaGuardia Hall Library, its clock tower a focal point of the entire campus. In the days following the inauguration of the neo-Georgian style buildings, a downpour turned parts of the



East Quad 1950s



Lily Pond 1960s

campus that had not been landscaped into a muddy swamp. Urgent requests from students via the school newspaper *The Vanguard* yielded temporary wooden sidewalks connecting the main buildings.

The school's grounds would be transformed in the next few years with a lily pond, grace elms among a variety of trees, and a well-manicured landscape that would garner the college recognition as one of the most beautiful urban campuses in the nation.





Plaza Building Overpass 1980s



West Quad Center 2010s

An athletic field, student center, and two more academic buildings—Whitehead and James halls—would be added in the 1960s and 1970s, and in 1973, the Bedford Avenue Overpass was built, providing a pedestrian walkway to the Plaza Building on the West Quadrangle. A wide concrete stairway provided a favorite place for students to sit, chat, and study. The overpass and Plaza

Building were torn down to make way for the West Quad Center, opened in 2009.

Brooklyn College continues to be transformed. The Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts, located at the intersection of Campus Road and Hillel Place, opened its doors in fall 2018, providing a westernmost anchor and grand entrance to the school's 35-acre campus.

The Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts stands at the intersection of Campus Road and Hillel Place, the former location of Whitman Hall and Gershwin Theater (inset), which opened their doors in 1955.



The Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts 2018

Tell Us Your Story

Brooklyn College alumni have some of the most interesting news to share, and we've made it even easier for you to share your stories with us. Please visit our new online form at brooklyn.cuny.edu/magazine/classnotes.

Professor Michael Mandel Awarded \$500,000 NSF Grant

Mandel's research aims to help computers better understand sound.

BY JAMILAH SIMMONS

Michael Mandel, an associate professor in the Computer Information Science Department, has just secured a five-year grant worth more than \$500,000 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to analyze audio recordings from the Alaskan wilderness. This analysis will allow researchers to study the migration patterns of animals like songbirds, waterfowl, and caribou, and assess how they are affected by climate change and noises generated by human activity.

"This project is an interesting scientific application of audio processing algorithms," says Mandel. "As part of the bigger project, it's important to know how climate change is affecting these environments. We're developing new tools to make that easier."

Mandel is working with researchers at Columbia and Colorado State Universities, as well as the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in a

\$3.1 million collaborative project. He is developing techniques for the sound analysis, while the other scholars focus on the fieldwork, data analysis, and high-resolution modeling of environmental variables like weather.

Mandel is an expert in machine listening, which combines the fields of machine learning, signal processing, and psychoacoustics to create systems that can understand sound. He is interested in making noise less disruptive to automatic speech recognition, hearing aids, voice communication systems, and virtual assistants like Apple's Siri. He recently received another grant from the NSF to support this work.

He adds, "We can apply technology from our Arctic sound analysis project to other problems in the future, such as identifying sources of sound and noise in other environments." ♦



The Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery Acquires Professor Patricia Cronin's Sculpture

Memorial to a Marriage was one of 25 pieces of art selected for an annual show highlighting the gallery's new acquisitions.

BY AUDREY PETERSON

Last spring, Brooklyn College Art Professor Patricia Cronin's sculpture *Memorial to a Marriage* (2002) was chosen to be part of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery's 50th anniversary "Recent Acquisitions" exhibition.

Called an "icon of the marriage equality movement" by the Smithsonian, the larger-than-life-size bronze shows Cronin and her partner, artist Deborah Kass, in a loving embrace. The work was created in the style of 19th-century mortuary sculpture.

Modeled at a time when Cronin and Kass could not legally wed (they have since married, in 2011), the sculpture was intended as a commemoration of their relationship, as well as a critique of the lack of real (as opposed to allegorical) women portrayed in public sculpture, and the near total absence of public art by women in American cities.

"I used a 'nationalist' form—American neoclassical sculpture—to address what I saw as a federal failure," Cronin told the Smithsonian. "I made a double-portrait funerary sculpture because the only legal protections gay people could have [at the time] were wills, healthcare proxies, and power-of-attorney documents, and those didn't celebrate our life together but the end of it."

"I purchased our burial plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx and installed it there," said Cronin in a 2017 lecture at the Villa La Pietra/NYU in Florence, Italy. "I'm ensuring our final resting place . . . and I also ensured a permanent place for my public art. If you're a woman and you want to make public art and have it be permanent, you should buy the land."

A two-time recipient of the Brooklyn College Tow Professorship, which provides \$25,000 to the awardee in support of exceptional new and ongoing projects, Cronin gained notoriety in 1993 for "Girls" and "Boys," two mixed-media series of Polaroids and watercolors that showed sexual intimacy from the vantage point of the participants. Since then, she has continued to explore such themes as gay and lesbian representation, the recovery and writing of women's history, the relationships between feminism and contemporary art, and social justice and the human condition.

Said Cronin at her Villa La Pietra lecture, "The main questions I'm interested in asking with my work are: Whose body has value? Who gets to decide? And what are the consequences to the individual and the community?" ♦

Memorial to a Marriage is now on view until August 18, 2019 at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., in an exhibition titled "Eye to I: Self-Portraits from 1900 to Today."



Jeanette K. Watson Fellowships



“What I like about this fellowship is that it is big on challenging you on what you think you want to do with your life.”

NINA DARO
year: senior
major: sociology



“I love that it sets you up with internships that don’t necessarily have to do with your career.”

SALMA MOHAMED
year: junior
program: CUNY BA

They were selected from **TWELVE** NYC colleges and universities.

The Thomas J. Watson Foundation, which funds and administers the fellowship, partnered with some of the leading corporate, nonprofit, and government organizations to pair the students with a diverse array of internship experiences.

1999

The year the fellowship was founded

3
summer internships

+
\$20,000
in stipends

The fellows also participate in weekly summer seminars and cultural events, and receive mentoring from industry professionals and the fellowship’s older students and alumni. They are represented in the country’s top graduate programs across many disciplines, including law, medicine, public policy, business, and the arts.

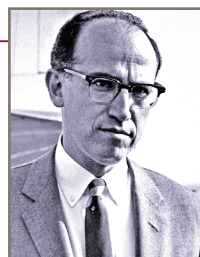
Jonas E. Salk Scholars

The award is given annually to students who are selected based on the quality of their research and recommendations from professors and mentors.

\$8,000

each to defray the cost of medical or graduate school

JONAS SALK, A CITY COLLEGE GRADUATE WHO DISCOVERED AN ANTI-POLIO VACCINE, TURNED DOWN A PLANNED PARADE TO CELEBRATE HIS LIFE-SAVING DISCOVERY AND ASKED THAT THE MONEY BE USED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS INSTEAD.



“It’s very rewarding hearing from smokers who have changed their lives.”

LILY LEE '18
A Brooklyn College Macaulay Honors College graduate, she double majored in chemistry and children and youth studies, and is currently in an M.D. and M.P.H. program at SUNY Downstate. She has conducted extensive research on tobacco and continued that work with New York University professor Michael Weitzman '68 during her undergraduate years.



“The belief that students can be agents of social change keeps me hopeful.”

IQRA NADIM '18
A political science graduate, she was an activist for issues relating to women’s health, mental health, and social justice during her time at Brooklyn College. She sees medicine as a tool to help people advocate for their community and says she really found her calling at the college.

Aaron Frank Heads Molecular Research Team Seeking to Treat and Eliminate Cancer and Other Diseases

Computers are helping Frank and his collaborators study the links between the structure and function of RNAs associated with human diseases.

BY ROBERT JONES JR.

Aaron Frank '06 and his research team, together with collaborators, are using what they know about the tiniest parts of human biology to one day develop treatments and cures for some of the most devastating illnesses known to humankind.

“My research team uses computer tools to study the link between biological function and the structural dynamics of a class of biomolecules called ribonucleic acids, or RNAs,” Frank says. “Many diseases are associated with the abnormal expression of RNAs. We hope to use insights about the link between function and RNAs’ structural dynamics to design and discover small molecules that may one day be turned into drugs to fight against neurological diseases, like Alzheimer’s disease, various forms of cancer, and infectious diseases.”

Born and raised in Grenada, Frank—who is an assistant professor of biophysics and chemistry at the University of Michigan—came to the United States in 2001 with his parents and siblings, settling in Brooklyn. He was the first person in his family to attend college in the United States and the first to earn a Ph.D.

Frank attended Brooklyn College for pragmatic reasons. “It was really close to home and it seemed like an obvious place to be,” he says. “But it was also a safe space. When you come to a new country, things are quite different. But because Brooklyn College is so diverse, you don’t really feel like an outsider. It’s interesting when you come from someplace else and you still feel at home.”

He notes that even the low tuition at the college was a financial hardship for his working-class family. Unable to afford college, Frank began working to save money. He entered Brooklyn College full time in 2002 while continuing to work full time, taking courses around his work schedule. Wanting to find a way to focus entirely on his academics without any distractions, Frank discovered the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program at the college.

MARC is an honors program that offers mentoring, research experience, and financial support for academically gifted undergraduate students who are



interested in entering graduate programs leading to research careers in the biomedical sciences. Its goal is to increase the number of minority professionals in biomedical research.

Frank says that receiving the opportunities afforded him through the program was a real privilege. “When I look back on it, I tell my wife that I feel as though I was given the chance to attend college in the way a person with greater financial means would have because of MARC. That was huge for me.”

Frank’s original plan was to attend medical school after completing his undergraduate studies, but the MARC Program—which provided him with the time to engage in research and the access to support from his mentor, Chemistry Professor Alexander Greer—was essential in spurring Frank to choose research.

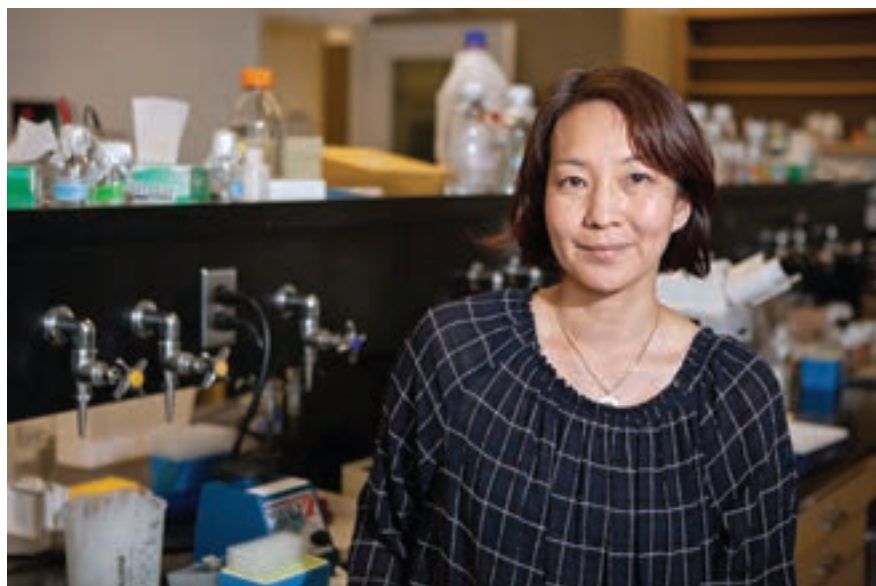
“I realized I wanted to have my own research group and have control over the types of questions I could explore and that were interesting and exciting to me. Academia was the space that would allow me to do that.” ♦

“When you come to a new country, things are quite different. But because Brooklyn College is so diverse, you don’t really feel like an outsider.”

Aaron Frank '06 (seated right) and the Frank Research Group seek to “develop and deploy integrative modeling tools to elucidate the structure and dynamics of biologically relevant molecules.”

Repairing Cell Membrane Damage Could Go a Long Way, Estimates NIH Grant Winner Professor Amy Ikui

BY ERNESTO MORA



From July 2017 to June 2018, Brooklyn College faculty garnered more than \$9 million in grants and awards for new and ongoing research, including that of Biology Professor Amy Ikui, whose new study using yeast as a model system could help determine the mechanics of the process of cell division in order to arrest the endless growth of cancer cells.

For a complete list of faculty awards, visit brooklyn.cuny.edu/mag18/facultyawards

For the last nine years in a row, Biology Professor Amy Ikui has received three grants from the National Institutes of Health totaling \$2.4 million. The most recent one, a four-year grant for slightly more than \$1.4 million, came after her paper on the effects of cell membrane damage during the cell cycle was released by the prestigious journal *PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America)*. Ikui is the first Brooklyn College faculty member to publish in that journal as a corresponding author.

“For our research, we are using cells of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*—better known as yeast—because it is a model system very close to the human genome,” says Ikui, explaining that humans share a lot of common genes with this single-cell eukaryote.

Scientists have been using yeast as a model system because they can easily manipulate its genome using genetic tools in order to study a function of genes and proteins. Eukaryotes are

organisms whose cells—unlike those of bacteria and archaea—have a nucleus enclosed by a membrane that protects the organelles governing its reproductive cycle.

A graduate of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Ikui completed a five-year postdoctoral training program at Rockefeller University before joining Brooklyn College in 2007. Because cancer cells have lost the ability to control cell division, they cannot stop dividing, explains Ikui, whose doctoral dissertation focused on cancer biology and on how Taxol, a derivative of the Pacific yew tree first isolated in 1971, assists in healing. Her new study could help determine the mechanics of the process of cell division in order to arrest the endless growth of cancer cells.

According to her, most scientists have focused on how DNA damage to the cells arrests the normal cell cycle—the process of cell division known as mitosis where multicellular species grow their cells by first duplicating a cell’s DNA before dividing into two daughter cells.

Inspired by Harvard University researchers who are studying how damage to the cell membrane caused by a laser might stop cancerous cell division, Ikui decided to try a new approach.

“No one has studied whether damage to the cell membrane can also arrest the cell cycle,” which is important, Ikui says, given that the membrane is the layer protecting all cells and has many receptors and ports to get signals from the outside world and communicate with other cells.

“The grant is to study how cell membrane damage can send a signal for cells to take notice, stop reproducing until they heal in order to survive,” she says, adding that the Harvard team is now collaborating with her. “If we can determine what factors, which proteins are at work to assist in stopping the cell division, it will be a big step.” ♦



Dr. Arvind Badhey (center) on his wedding day in 2017 with best men and fellow Brooklyn College alumni Fa’iz Bayo-Awoyemi ’11 (left) and Bryan Flores ’11.

Dr. Arvind Badhey ’11

BY AUDREY PETERSON

A biology/philosophy major in the Coordinated B.A.-M.D. Program and Honors Academy, an Arthur Ashe scholar-athlete and captain of the men’s cross-country track team, a highly awarded member of the Speech and Debate team, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Arvind Badhey ’11 credits the example of his hardworking parents and his rich experience at Brooklyn College for his career trajectory from scholar/athlete to his position as a fourth-year resident at Mount Sinai Hospital in the Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery Department.

What brought you to Brooklyn College?

The Brooklyn College B.A.-M.D. program was what originally brought me to the college.

I knew I wanted to be a physician, and was motivated enough to be sure this was my career path. I interviewed for the B.A.-M.D. program and was lucky enough to get one of the then 16 spots. It really was a decision that would forever change my life, and shape the person and physician I am today. Both my parents were emigrants from India who came to the United States to practice medicine. They both went through many trials and tribulations to succeed, including

finding residency spots even after excelling in school in India. My parents have always been an inspiration for me, as well as my sister, Smita—all three of them were already in medicine when I was finishing high school.

Was there any one professor or class that influenced you the most or provided a catalyst for success after you graduated?

There are many amazing professors at Brooklyn College, but for me the person who will always stand out is Professor Jerrold Mirotznik in Health and Nutrition Sciences. I met him when he was an associate provost at the college, and he became my research mentor. He taught me beyond academics. He was great at making me feel confident in myself. Also, I maintain my relationship with Professor Mirotznik; he came to my wedding. And Professor Lisa Schwebel [director of the Honors Academy] and I are in regular contact. I still attend Scholars Program events. I met some of my closest friends, as well as half of my groomsmen and both best men, at Brooklyn College.

Could you tell us more about your field of work?

I am currently in my fourth of five years of training as an otolaryngologist, a field

that ranges from treating patients for daily issues like postnasal drip, to head and neck cancer, and complicated reconstruction. On a day-to-day basis, I see multiple patients and operate under the guidance of our faculty. I have been lucky to work on research projects with them; for instance, calvarial (skull cap) reconstruction, one of several of my interests in the broader field of head and neck reconstruction surgery.

Do you have any words of wisdom for B.A.-M.D. majors, particularly those who would like to go into your field?

Make connections in your field early on. This is so important. I at first believed as a college student and medical student that networking and making connections would be an impossible task—I’m still not great at it. But I will say that being motivated and willing to reach out to people for advice and guidance is a great skill to develop.

That said, do what you love: If that means athletics, or acting, or traveling the world, do it. It is so important to understand that while medicine may be your future career, it will be your life experience that allows you to relate to your patients. ♦

CLASS OF 2018 STATS

85

Number of languages spoken

3,035

Number of baccalaureate degrees

1,029

Number of master's degrees

37

Number of veterans

88

Number of students who identify as disabled

4,131

Total number of graduates



Diversity and Inclusion Celebrated at Brooklyn College's 93rd Commencement Ceremony

The event, which drew politicians from across the city, highlighted student success with hopeful messages from alumni and friends of the college.

BY ROBERT JONES JR.

"We know that our diversity is our strength and enhances the academic experience for all," said Brooklyn College President Michelle J. Anderson at the 2018 Commencement Ceremony, held at Barclays Center in Downtown Brooklyn. "Studying at Brooklyn College provides our students with the opportunity to engage with difference and complexity, which makes them more interculturally competent and willing to assume challenging positions of leadership in the service of others."

Disability rights activist Judith Heumann gave the keynote address and accepted an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. Known as the "mother of the independent living disability rights movement," Heumann's work has had a significant impact on the implementation of legislation and policies that benefit and protect people with disabilities.

"Without ever planning to, my parents, who had come from Germany and had lost so many family members in the Holocaust, taught me the value of advocacy," Heumann said. "They taught me that if a situation feels wrong, it probably is wrong. They taught me about the need to join with allies to speak up and, especially, to speak up for equality and rights in the face of discrimination and injustice. Eventually, the time came when I needed to become my own advocate. Some of you would say, 'Stand up on your own.' I would say, 'Sit up in my own wheelchair.'"

The valedictorian of the Class of 2018, William E. Macaulay Honors College Scholar and English education major Margaret Iuni, inspired the audience by sharing a hopeful philosophy and challenging the audience to reach for the highest of common goals.

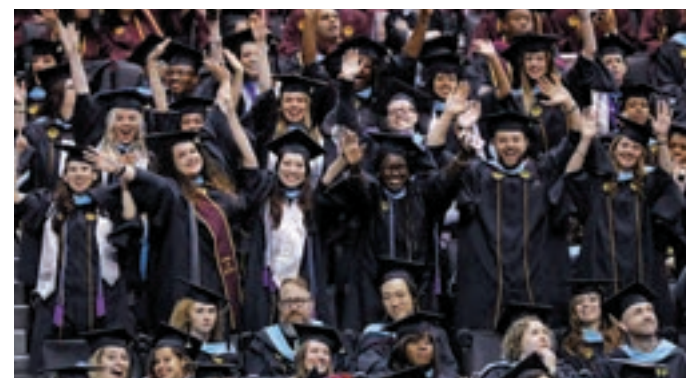
"We are more likely to believe that our individual success is determined by our own hard work than citizens of nearly any other country in the world," she said. "The narrative of individual achievement without the assistance of others is a fiction that persists in American culture. We cannot and will not succeed without one another." ♦

Ethel Lagarenne Hagquist '32

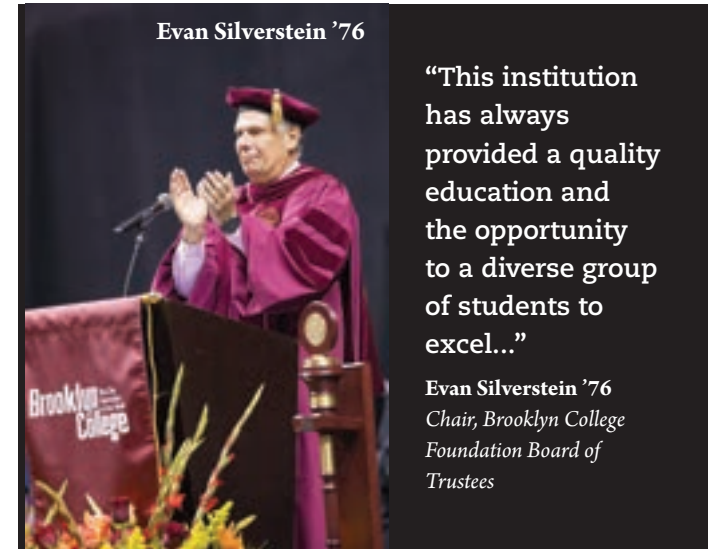


One-hundred-and-six-year-old Ethel Lagarenne Hagquist '32, the sole surviving member of Brooklyn College's inaugural graduating class, filmed an inspirational message for the Class of 2018, offering good wishes for the future.

"I had two majors: Latin and English," she said. "I graduated in 1932, at the height of the Great Depression. I graduated cum laude. When I entered the workforce, I received as my first salary—are you sitting down, all of you?—\$14 a week. You heard correctly—per week! I just want to say as a member of the very first graduating class of Brooklyn College, I wish all of you the very best. I know things will be much easier for you than they were for us in those days. And I thank you for letting me talk to you."



Evan Silverstein '76



"This institution has always provided a quality education and the opportunity to a diverse group of students to excel..."

Evan Silverstein '76
Chair, Brooklyn College
Foundation Board of
Trustees



Judith Heumann



For Bulldogs' Freshman Star Ezri Shor, Brooklyn College Is a Family Affair and a Destiny Fulfilled

BY ALEX LANG

The Brooklyn College women's volleyball team's 2018 season has come and gone, and for the third time, the CUNY Athletic Conference has awarded the Bulldogs' freshman setter, Ezri Shor, the league's Rookie of the Week award.

That's impressive, and if you take a look at her statistics, and the squad's 9–3 record to begin the season, it is obvious that her early-season achievements are well deserved.

One might even comment that the team is lucky to add such a talented freshman to their roster.

When you get to talking to Ezri Shor and her family, you realize that luck has nothing to do with her talent as a volleyball player—or her being at Brooklyn College.

“The joke with all my friends is that I was accepted to Brooklyn College in the womb,” says Shor, who, as it happens, didn't really have much of a chance of going anywhere else; her immediate family has a love affair with the college that dates back to 1993, when her parents met on the first day of an ESL class.

Irina Shor, Ezri's mom, not only earned her degree from Brooklyn, but got a work-study job, and has been employed at the college ever since, making her way up to her current position with the Office of Information Technology Services as a business systems coordinator/IFAS support manager, client services/analyst, and developer.

She speaks of the college with great affection. “Brooklyn College has been everything to me, and therefore it seems only natural for my children to go to school there as well,” she says.

Ezri's older brother, Dayton, is a senior Honors College student at Brooklyn College, double majoring in computer science and math.

Ezri Shor's days as a scholar-athlete date back to middle school, when she began her volleyball career, earning Bay Academy's Athlete of the Year award at the school's graduation. She was the first female award winner in the school's history.

As a junior at Midwood High School, Shor was part of a volleyball team that would take the Public School Athletic League city championship, the first for longtime coach Tomasina Lenzi, who retired



Freshman volleyball player Ezri Shor, second from right, with family members.

from coaching the squad after the team's achievement. Shor's high school coach during her senior year was Tommy Ma, a former star volleyball player for Brooklyn College on the men's side.

During the summer of 2017, between her junior and senior years of high school, Shor tried out for the U.S. team in the Maccabiah Games, an all-Jewish athletics competition of teams from around the world, which is held every four years in Israel. She initially was put on the team as an alternate, but after a player picked ahead of her couldn't go on the trip, Shor was named to the team and then ended up earning a starting spot, and helped her team to a gold medal.

“Ezri is a great athlete and competitor, who tries her hardest every time she steps on the court,” says women's volleyball head coach Matt Gotowicki. “She has limitless potential, so long as she continues with the same mindset.”

Shor is the early favorite to win the conference Rookie of the Year award this year, which has become a goal of hers. “The thought of winning the award never crossed my mind coming into the season,” she says, “but now that I've been named Rookie of the Week twice, I've made it a goal of mine to be CUNY Rookie of the Year.”

The women's volleyball team had their most successful season in team history in 2017, winning 17 matches and earning Gotowicki the conference Coach of the Year award. While the CUNYAC Player of the Year, Sarina Rozek, departed after her senior season, the team is on target to quite possibly surpass that win total and have an even better 2018, with Shor being a big reason for the team's continued success. ♦



The 2017–2018 women's basketball team capped off a tremendous campaign by winning the 2018 CUNYAC Championship, their first since 1980, defeating Staten Island in a rematch of the 2017 Championship Game, 59–50. Freshman forward Chanel Jemmott was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, finishing the contest with 18 points, 14 rebounds, and 2 blocked shots. Senior all-conference point guard Karen Mak and freshman shooting guard Taylor George were also named to the all-tournament team. George was the CUNYAC's regular-season Rookie of the Year award winner as well, while Mak and forward Alexandra Moogan were named to the All-Star Team. Head Coach Alex Lang was

awarded with both the CUNYAC and Metropolitan Sports Writers Coach of the Year awards. The Bulldogs earned an NCAA Tournament berth as well, but lost in the first round to Cabrini, 65–52. Coach Lang and the Bulldogs have much of their nucleus together and expect to make another run in the 2018–2019 season.



In October, the Brooklyn College women's tennis team captured the CUNYAC Championship for the first time in the program's history, defeating Hunter College, 5–1, in the conference tournament final at the USTA Billie Jean King U.S. National Tennis Center. With the victory, the Bulldogs receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in May 2019. The Bulldogs improved to 15–2 with the victory, while Hunter ended the season with a 9–4 mark as the conference runners-up.



Do you have a great photo to share from your time at Brooklyn College? Email us at magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu.



Dear Alumni,
It is always a pleasure to connect with members of the Brooklyn College family. As I attended our Commencement Ceremony last May, where more than 4,100 members of the Class of 2018 celebrated this incredibly significant milestone, I thought about the numerous ways our graduates have made a meaningful impact in the wider world, in virtually every industry.

Watching the sea of gold gowns donned by the 50th-anniversary class as they entered Barclays Center, giving high fives to the graduating students and warmly welcoming them to our community, I was reminded of the camaraderie and fellowship that typifies the spirit at Brooklyn College.

Last summer, we hosted a 10-year-reunion bowling night in Times Square, organized by the Brooklyn College Alumni Association (BCAA) with the support of the Brooklyn College Office of Alumni Affairs. Our alumni not only work hard, they also play hard, and moments like these remind me that the Brooklyn College family is just that—a family.

As alumni, you have used your achievements and experiences to make a measurable difference. We want to support you as we also tout your accomplishments. The BCAA is here to help you maintain a lifelong connection to our alma mater. So stay connected, whether it's through attending alumni get-togethers, following us on social media, or joining a local chapter. You can also visit the Office of Alumni Engagement at 1239 Ingersoll Hall or check out our website to learn about the benefits available to you as alumni. As well, keep up to date on the latest college news, or read a story about an old classmate.

The generosity of the college's alumni plays a crucial role in providing the awards, internships, scholarships, and mentorship that enhance and enrich the opportunities for today's students. I invite you to continue the tradition of giving time, talent, and resources, and participate by becoming active members of the college's alumni community. I thank you for the many ways in which you already contribute to the vibrancy of our alma mater.

Warmest,

Ella Friedman Weiss '62, '65 M.S.Ed.
President, Brooklyn College Alumni Association

Moved recently or changed addresses? Please be sure to update your current mailing list information with the Office of Alumni Engagement so you can continue to receive information from Brooklyn College.

Visit brooklyn.cuny.edu/mag/contact, e-mail alumni@brooklyn.cuny.edu, or call 718.951.5065



1947

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

DR. MURIEL GERHARD released *Teach Them All to Think* (Page Publishing, 2017), a book aimed at educators. In the introduction, she writes, "We can teach for thinking! We can improve our pupils' cognitive skills, be it decision-making, creativity, analysis, problem solving, inductive and deductive reasoning, as well as concept development."

1948

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

1949

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

1951

HELENE NATHAN GUTTMAN is the donor of the Priscilla Frew Pollister Award for a biology major. The award supports a summer stipend for the student to do research under the mentorship of a Biology Department faculty member. Several prior awardees have gone on to continue in graduate school. **SYDELL GASNICK ROSENBERG's** book *Hi Is for Haiku: A Treasury of Haiku from A to Z* (Penny Candy Books, 2018) was published posthumously by her daughter, Amy Losak.

1952

FRANCINE LIFTON KLAGSBRUN is the author of the biography *Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel* (Schocken, 2017).

1953

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

LUBIN HUNTER was part of a delegation of Shinnecock Indians who were recognized during the preliminary ceremonies before the U.S. Open golf tournament. This recognition brought to light Hunter's achievements, which include service in World War II as a pilot in the Pacific and pioneering work on behalf of Native American rights.

1954

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

DANIEL GINSBERG currently serves on six boards of directors of social service agencies, among them Jewish Family Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania, United Cerebral Palsy of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and United Neighborhood Centers.

PHILIP ZIMBARDO travels the world giving lectures that focus on the transformation of research on the psychology of evil into the psychology of everyday heroism. He is now the president of the Heroic Imagination Project.

1955

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

Artist **KARL VOLK** recently exhibited his work at the Kent Art Association in Kent, Connecticut, the Barrett Art Center in Poughkeepsie, New York, the Art Collective of Hyde Park, New York, and the Art Society of Kingston, New York.

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

Joel Kosofsky '63, '69 M.A.



"My son says I should write a memoir," says Joel Kosofsky '63, '69 M.A. His tone is warm but ambivalent about the idea. He sounds like a man who prefers to look ahead to new achievements rather than back at previous ones.

Still, he has much to look back on. Kosofsky won three Emmys for his work as a writer, director,

and producer on the celebrated children's television show *Captain Kangaroo*. He worked his way up to that position at CBS by doing gigs that included time as a page, putting him backstage when the

Beatles performed on *The Ed Sullivan Show* in 1964. He ran his own television production company, TeleTale Productions, and continues to work as managing editor at a division of the media company Havas Life. "I still go to work every day," he said with a chuckle. "If you do that, you can achieve a lot."

Not all of Kosofsky's efforts are part of his day job. Recently, he and his son built, on their own, a two-story log home in the Catskills near Hunter Mountain. The endeavor followed a path probably familiar to many New Yorkers. The couple regularly vacationed on Fire Island and began to think of buying, but the costs directed their interests elsewhere. They investigated upstate, found it to their liking, and purchased a lot. From there it was much like any business venture: assembling the right team, setting goals for time and cost, then meeting those goals.

After 15 minutes discussing his career and personal accomplishments, he paused and offered about the possible memoir, "Maybe my son is right." —Martin Johnson

HOWARD A. PALLEY, professor emeritus of social policy at the School of Social Work, University of Maryland, and distinguished fellow at the Institute for Human Services Policy, University of Maryland, Baltimore, co-authored "DNA, Privacy, and Social Justice: The Policy-making Process in the State of Maryland," published in the *Journal of Social Welfare and Human Rights*.

Medal of Honor in 1984, will lead NYCHA until a permanent director is found.

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

LARRY KATZ serves as co-chair of the Brooklyn College Alumni Association—Long Island Chapter, raising scholarship funds through membership and donations. He is active on and off stage in local community theater with wife, **MAXINE SILVER KATZ '64**.

DON LANDOLPHI is spearheading the development and popularization of blind baseball, a sport involving no pitchers and catchers, but rather a ball and bases containing audio signals. The sport was developed in Italy, where Landolphi learned of it, and it has taken hold in Columbia County, New York. Landolphi has been involved in baseball for his entire life and is an inductee of the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was an assistant coach for both the

Brooklyn College and the Italian National teams.

CAROL ZIMMERMAN BRODY was recently honored with an award for her painting *Party Papers, Ribbons and Red Confetti*, which was exhibited in the Missouri Watercolor Society's 2018 International Exhibition in Qingdao, China.

1963

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

ANNE ROTHSTEIN has resumed the directorship of the Lehman Center for School/College Collaboratives, which she founded in 1985. Her new book, *Creating Winning Grant Proposals: A Step-by-Step Guide*, will be released by the Guilford Press in late fall.

1964

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

ELLIS KRAUSS was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun Gold Rays and Neck Ribbons by the Japanese government for his decades of devoted study and education on Japanese society and government.

He has promoted academic exchange between Japan and the United States for more than 45 years.

1965

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

SANDY GOLD will be traveling to St. George, Utah, in October to participate in the Huntsman World Senior Games cycling events. **JOEL KLEIN** has retired after 52 years in the field of education. He has since been involved in various humanitarian efforts. One highlight was a trip to Vietnam in April with the Spring Valley Rotary, donating funds, time, and materials (school supplies, bicycles, wheelchairs, etc.) to several orphanages and schools.

1966

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

1967

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



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

1943

GEORGE WALSH, who fought as a dive bomber in the Battle of Iwo Jima, is an expert on World War II air battles, and his expertise will underpin an upcoming documentary, *Midway*, on the war's key conflicts.

1946

Irene Hammer Goldstein
Class Correspondent
igoldhammer10@gmail.com

George Plafker '49



Anyone who considers geology and seismology to be dry and purely academic subjects is not familiar with the work of George Plafker '49. His research on what is literally a groundbreaking topic has won him honors and

accolades throughout his storied career. He was awarded the 2017 Harry Fielding Reid Medal by the Seismological Society of America. It's the highest distinction for scientists in this discipline.

Plafker's study of the 1964 Alaskan earthquake has reshaped the field. His research on the causes of the quake, plate slips at convergent boundaries, established the concept of plate tectonics. After applying those concepts to the Chilean earthquake of 1960—the largest in history, at 9.5 on the Richter scale—his work became the gold standard. His research and writings on massive earthquakes and tsunamis have altered the way in which researchers understand the potential of these devastating events today.

After Plafker received a bachelor of science degree at Brooklyn College in 1949, he went on to earn a master's degree in geology at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1956 and a doctorate at Stanford University in 1972. He has worked hard to enable students at Brooklyn College to follow in his large footsteps by endowing the Plafker Family Scholarship. Created in 2010, the scholarship goes to a Brooklyn College student majoring in earth and environmental sciences with a minimum GPA of 3.5, and may be renewable provided the recipient continues to meet the criteria. —Martin Johnson

1968

Eileen McGinn

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

PHIL HEIT was honored by the City of New Albany, Ohio, which named its 54,000-sq.-ft. wellness center the Philip Heit Center for Healthy New Albany. The center focuses on prevention in partnership with the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children's Hospital.

BARRY F. HERSH is the author of *Urban Redevelopment: A North American Reader* (Routledge, 2017). Chamber musician and concert soloist **MARK KROLL** recorded the harpsichord music of composer François Couperin for Centaur Records. The project, a 10-CD set, is to be completed in 2019.

SETH LEWIN is currently vice president and chief medical officer of the New York County Health Services Review Organization/MedReview, Inc., New York's longest-established peer review and audit organization.

SHELDON STONE was awarded the W. K. H. Panofsky Prize in Experimental Particle Physics for 2019. Stone is a distinguished professor of physics at Syracuse University.

1969

Edward M. Greenspan

Class Correspondent
emgreenspan@optonline.net

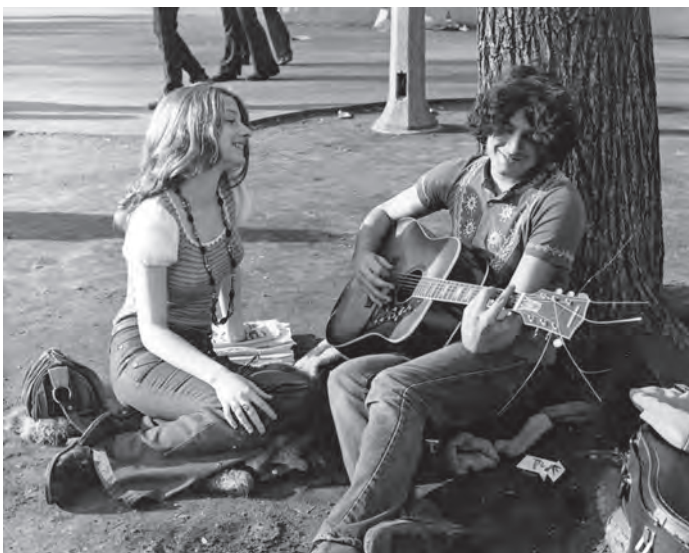
ALLAN GIBOFSKY, professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and director of the Clinic for Inflammatory Arthritis and Biologic Therapy at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, was recently honored by the Arthritis Foundation for his lifetime commitment to research, education, and patient care.

IRVIN SCHONFELD is the co-author with Chu-Hsiang Chang of the 2017 book *Occupational Health Psychology: Work, Stress, and Health* (Springer Publishing Company). In 2018 Oxford University Press published Schonfeld's annotated bibliography on occupational health psychology, and in June 2018 he delivered a keynote address at the annual meeting of the Brazilian chapter of the International Stress Management Association in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

1970

Barry Silverman

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



GAIL GURLAND is the author of the children's picture book *Olives, Where Are You?* (Austin Macauley Publishers), which was released this fall.

HARRIET MOSATCHE is the author of the award-winning *Breaking Through! Helping Girls Succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math* (Prufrock Press, 2017).

GARY ROBBINS was voted to the board of directors of the U.S. Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists. He is also editor of the newsletter of the U.S. Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists.

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

JACQUELYN BURCH SHIPE has served as the chief executive officer of Global Ties Alabama, which hosts international exchange delegations under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State. Shipe chairs the board of the Global Ties U.S. network.

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

YOSSI KLEIN HALEVI authored the *New York Times* bestseller *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* (Harper, 2018), a collection of works that empathizes with the Palestinian plight from an Israeli perspective and attempts to find ways to create a peaceful coexistence.

1976

Henry P. Feintuch

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

HENRY FEINTUCH has been elected as CFO of the PR World Alliance, an international partnership of independent public relations firms. Artist **MARIE ROBERTS'** works were the subject of a solo exhibition, "Coney Island: From the Studio," at the Figureworks Gallery in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

1978

Susan A. Katz

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

ELLEN FEIG GRAY co-wrote *Hacking School Culture: Designing Compassionate Classrooms* (2018), published by Times 10 Publications as part of its Hack Learning series for educators.

SUSAN KATZ recently became chair of the Department of Mass Communication at the University of Bridgeport.

JEFFREY KRAUS has been named provost and vice president for academic affairs at Wagner College in Staten Island.

1979

Anthony Esposito

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

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

1985

Peter Huertas

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

RACHEL GORDON BERNSTEIN exhibited oil paintings and watercolors in two exhibitions at DIAA Gallery in Deer Isle, Maine.

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

FLORALBA ARBELO is an associate professor of education at Carlos Albizu University and recently

Rachel Strauss-Muñiz '01



In the decades since the Internet first infiltrated, then conquered American life, LOL has become one of the most recognized and understood abbreviations. Rachel Strauss-Muñiz '01 has found a unique and dynamic tweak to those three little letters; with a

few friends, she has launched *Latinos Out Loud*, a podcast featuring commentary, sketch comedy, improv, pranks, character segments, and guest interviews, among other things. It is rapidly becoming one of the hottest podcasts on the Web and is the winner of the 2018 Hispanicize Tecla Award for Best Podcast Content Creator.

The show began two years ago when Michael Diaz approached Strauss-Muñiz about creating a podcast. "At the time I was really in the dark about them," she says. She did some research and found that "Latinos are severely underrepresented and underserved" in the media. That led her and Diaz to conceptualize a podcast "that married our passion for sketch comedy, improv, character acting, pop culture, interviewing the artists we love, and moving our people forward." Now in its fourth season, the *Latinos Out Loud* show is available on most major podcast platforms and is sponsored by the ReVolver Network.

The show dovetails her interest in sketch comedy and multicultural marketing. For Strauss-Muñiz, a business major who minored in Puerto Rican and Latino studies, love of comedy was born in the wee hours of the weekend watching *Saturday Night Live*; the latter passion came out of her experience at Brooklyn College. Her degree in business management and finance helped gain her a career in marketing with top firms. Now a writer, producer, and actor in the comedy troupe Room 28, as well as a podcaster, Strauss-Muñiz says that her Brooklyn College education gave her one more thing: "It allows me to kick my dad's butt when we compete and watch *Jeopardy* together." —Martin Johnson

published articles in the *Journal of Ethnographic and Qualitative Research* and *The Journal of Teacher Action Research*.

GINO DIORIO's play *James Hemings* was staged at the Great Plains Theatre Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. Another new play by Dilorio, *Crib*, was given its world premiere at Playhouse in the Square in Memphis, Tennessee. Poet **JEFFREY CYPHERS WRIGHT** published *Blue Lyre* (Dos Madres Press, 2018).

1988

Lauren Korn Popkoff
Class Correspondent
951 Woodoak Drive
Baldwin Harbor, NY 11510-5023



1989

PAMELA HUGHES released *Meadowland Take My Hand* (Three Mile Harbor Press, 2017), a collection of lyric and narrative poetry that explores the outdoors from industrial landfills to the Manhattan skyline and from majestic mountains to serene mudflats.

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

1992

CONNIE TANG released *Fearless Living: 8 Life-Changing Values for Breakthrough Success* (Clovercroft, 2017), a book about her experiences as an immigrant in New York City and the keys to her professional success.

1993

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

RIVKA WEINBERG authored *The Risk of a Lifetime: How, When, and Why Procreation May Be Permissible* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

1994

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

TIMOTHY GERKEN is an associate professor of humanities at SUNY Morrisville, and is the first recipient of the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) Award for Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice.

TIMOTHY LYNCH has been named interim president of Queensborough Community College. Previously, Lynch served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at both QCC and SUNY Maritime College.

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

OMAR LIZARDO is the LeRoy Neiman Term Chair Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles. This appointment follows

a 12-year stint in the Department of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame.

1998

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

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

PRISCILLA FLORES-DOHNERT has been named vice president of brand marketing for Universal Kids, a network under NBC.

2002

Kimy Mandil
Class Correspondent
twixpop22@aol.com

GREGG KORROL released his first book, *The Gifted Storyteller: The Power Is In the Story You Tell* (Motivational Press, 2017).

2004

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

ROBERT CONWELL has been appointed the commanding officer of the NYPD's 68th Precinct in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

CARA FULTON was named the director of the Career Development Center at Geneva College.

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

R.O. KWON released her debut novel, *The Incendiaries* (Riverhead Books, 2018), a coming-of-age story about losing one's religion. The story and characters were inspired by Kwon's experiences in high school.

2009

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

MIRIAM ANI is adjunct professor of theater at California State University, Sacramento. She just understudied the role of Margaret d'Anjou in *The War of the Roses* (the Henry VI Parts 1, 2, 3 and Richard III tetralogy), and directed

the critically acclaimed production of *The Crucible* for Pacifica Spindrift Players' 2018 season.

2010

Playwright **JEAN ANN DOUGLASS** published *The Providence of Neighboring Bodies* (Oberon Modern Plays, 2018). The book's release coincided with a production of the play at the Underbelly theater in Edinburgh, Scotland.

2011

CHRISTINE SHAW recently completed her first feature-length documentary, *Panorama: Jamming to the Top*. It follows the efforts of a group of Brooklyn steel pan enthusiasts to keep the music they love alive. The film premiered in October as part of the La Femme International Film Festival. **MAGGIE STEIN** became the education director of the Brooklyn Preschool of Science. **DONNA-LYN WASHINGTON's** essay "Frank Yerby and His Readership" has been included in the upcoming anthology *Edited Collection: Critical Insights into Frank Yerby*. She is also editing *Conversations with John Jennings* as part of the

Conversations With series. Both books are from University Press of Mississippi.

2012

JOANNA CANTOR published the novel *Alternative Remedies for Loss* (Bloomsbury, 2018), a Best Books of the Month selection at Amazon. **KATE SIDLEY**, a writer for *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, was recently nominated for her third Emmy award for writing. She also performs regularly at UCB Theatre with Alfredo: Late Show Writers Improv and is co-host of the monthly sketch open mic *Liquid Courage*.

2013

Elizabeth Weiss
Class Correspondent
2013elizabethweiss2013@gmail.com

LORETTA CHIN is co-editor and contributor to the book *Rod Bush: Lessons from a Radical Black Scholar on Liberation, Love, and Justice* (Ahead Publishing House: Okcir Press, 2019).

2015

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

MOLLY DEKTAR will release her novel *The Ash Family* (Simon and Schuster) in early 2019. **JOSE SONERA** is making his off-Broadway debut with his one-man show *Prinze*, a new play based on the life of the late comedian Freddie Prinze Sr., the pioneering Latino actor. It will be featured on PBS's new network ALL ARTS in 2019.

2017

WILLIAM HOLLEY, assistant men's basketball coach at Brooklyn College, is pursuing a doctorate of education from East Tennessee State in Global Sport Leadership. **SHIRLGANDY SAINT JEAN** is coordinator of the Pathways for Expecting and Parenting Students (PEPS) program at Borough of Manhattan Community College. **SARAH VALENTINI** works as the interactive assistant at Broadway Across America, where she manages social strategy and execution for the national tour of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* and Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*.

Have some news to share? Contact your class correspondent, or visit brooklyn.cuny.edu/mag/classnotes and tell us what's new with you.



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11



12

1. Brooklyn College alumnus and presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders (I-VT) speaks at a rally on campus on March 2.
2. Director of Chorus, Coordinator of Voice Studies, and Assistant Professor Malcolm J. Merriweather conducts at a concert in May.
3. Renowned Hollywood agent Don Buchwald '59 and Brooklyn College President Michelle J. Anderson celebrate the opening of the Don Buchwald Theater in the Tow Center.
4. Politicians, students, administrators, and Brooklyn College neighbors celebrate at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Hillel Place Pedestrian Plaza.
5. *Cannibals*, written by M.F.A. students Heather Dundas and directed by Chris McCreary, was part of the college's One Act Festival, showcasing the works of graduate students in the Department of Theater.
6. At the 2018 Diversity Awareness Fair and Culture Fest, students from the Mexican Heritage Student Association demonstrate classic Mexican dances.
7. At the Puerto Rican Day Parade, the Department of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies supported Virginia Sánchez Korrol—professor emerita, prominent historian, and former chair of Puerto Rican and Latino studies—who was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by parade officials.
8. Distinguished Professor Jeanne Theoharis celebrates the release of her new book, *A More Beautiful and Terrible History*, with Henry Louis Gates Jr. at the Harvard Book Store.
9. Award-winning poet Sonia Sanchez and Director of the Shirley Chisholm Project for Brooklyn Women's Activism Zinga Fraser pose with members of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority on Shirley Chisholm Day after a keynote dialogue between Sanchez and Fraser about Chisholm's legacy.
10. President Michelle J. Anderson meets with some of the new faculty joining Brooklyn College in fall 2018, at a reception in the Student Center on August 22.
11. The Department of Theater pays tribute to its partnership with the Public Theater and The Tow Foundation with an open house at the new Leonard & Claire Tow Center for the Performing Arts.
12. President Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs Ron Jackson, and Buster the Bulldog share the big chair with students at the Involvement Fair.

Faculty

Carlos Russell, *dean, School of Contemporary Studies*

Alumni

Perlette Levy Abecassis '33
 Yetta Gitterman Kratenstein '33
 Benjamin Melniker '33
 Eunice Antine Simon '33
 Helen Nechamkin Stemple '33
 Murray Seeman '34
 Kate Mandel Tuchman '34
 Belle Berman '35
 Paula Lance Garland '35
 Pearl Siegel Taubkin '35
 Frances Di Paola Beech '36
 Helen Snyder Granatelli '36
 Carmelita O'Shea Gregory '36
 Ann Michael Lefkowitz '36
 Sara Samuels Marcus '36
 Elise Miller '36
 Marion Morrell Robinson '36
 Roslyn Spreiregen Samuels '36
 Ruth Katz Shapiro '36
 Israel Gold '37
 Elizabeth Wiener Henretig '37
 Elias Burstein '38
 Julius "Jules" Glogower '38
 Lilyan Sendrow Goldberg '38
 William Kahan '38
 Belle Koenigsberg Kleinberg '38
 Jewel Feldman Lewis '38
 Justin C. Lewis '38
 Eleanor Kaplan Pecker '38
 Shirley Magid Rubin '38
 Roslyn Friedman Weiman '38
 Saul A. Bell '39
 Arleen Von Nagy Henriteg '39
 Helen Belfert Honig '39
 David Klein '39
 Ruth Isaac Worthman '39
 Naomi R. Adir '40
 Leila Reden Dardick '40
 Shari Fischer Ganz '40
 Eva Weiss Hubschman '40
 Roselyn Tissenbaum Katz '40
 Anne Coppersmith Marke '40
 George Rosen '40
 Solomon S. Seidenberg '40
 Arlene Seplow Bakal '41
 Bernard Blankenheimer '41
 Jean Jacobs Buchin '41
 Vincent J. Capozzi '41
 Sylvia Kassner Corwin '41
 Elaine Yospin Melnikoff '41
 Elsa Bronson Pincus '41
 Rhoda Stern Rabson '41
 Roslyn Dorfman Robinson '41

Joseph I. Savoca '41
 Lois Silverstein Aboff Stamberg '41
 Murray Wallach '41
 Harriet Rosenfeld Wolf '41
 Isaiah Zeldin '41
 Leanora Leftoff Barkan '42
 Clara Gershunoff Blackman '42
 Shirley Bloom Brody '42
 Irving L. Cohen-Carlin '42
 Harriet Marcus Feiring '42
 Gladys Siegel Fields '42
 Isabelle Poss Gordon '42
 Herbert Greenberg '42
 Sarah Wigutoff Kafka '42
 Dorothy Myers Koppelman '42
 Helen Schwartz Kroop '42
 Harvey D. Levine '42
 Pearl Hoffman Mandel '42
 Ruth Lasky Oppenheim '42
 Renee Segal Pasternack '42
 Nathan Schmukler '42
 Freida Dusowitz Schwartz '42
 Emile H. Serposs '42
 Janice Berek Slepian '42
 Claudia DiNunzio Stryker '42
 Madeline Goldman Weisenfeld '42
 Freida Drillick Zeira '42
 Jack Blacksin '43
 George D. Carroll '43
 Stanley M. Crain '43
 Ernestine Feigl Daniels '43
 Leanore Nirenblatt Deaner '43
 Abraham S. Friedman '43
 Hilda Waterman Grunblatt '43
 Ruth Schapiro Heymann '43
 Richard Knapp '43
 Ruth Cheron Koritan '43
 Dorothy Levinsohn Kurjan '43
 Elaine Krosney Levine '43
 Harold A. Levine '43
 Adelay Bakst Liss '43
 Monroe Y. Mann '43
 Annette Michelson '43
 Lillian Chechick Mikelman '43
 Edith Sonn Oshin '43
 Margaret Collotta Pappas '43
 Vilma Raskin Potter '43
 Pearl Kraus Roth '43
 Sylvia Satz Salem '43
 June Alpert Schofield '43
 Marsha Berman Schonberg '43
 Albert I. Schutzer '43
 Arthur Shay '43
 Dorothy Navin Teale '43
 Ruth Smith Wade '43
 Etta Ellman Weinglass '43
 Josephine Corsello Wise '43
 Millicent Cohen Aronoff '44
 Ralph Daniels '44

Helen Fine Glatt '44
 Jacob Goldhaber '44
 Bernard Hildebrand '44
 Eugene J. Kaplan '44
 Adele Markowitz Leight '44
 Zella Hurwitz Luria '44
 Joseph A. Marstello '44
 Ruth Javer Mondschein '44
 Millicent Felton Neusner '44
 Charles Neustein '44
 Leanore Rubin Schamberg '44
 Edna Horlick Zinar '44
 Cecelia Powers Ceva '45
 Bernice Ehrlich Cohen '45
 Shirley Wolhandler Daniels '45
 Helen Pashin Goldsmith-Mandell '45
 Gladys Jena Itzkowitz '45
 Ezra S. Krendel '45
 Marjorie Wasch Rubenson '45
 Robert A. Squeri '45
 Bertha Weinstein Stein '45
 Claire Lipshutz Weidman '45
 Ann Shapiro Aibel '46
 Alex Braiman '46
 Sarah Lichtenberg Hammond '46
 Shirley Wein Kirschner '46
 Edwin A. Lakin '46
 Lillian Green Mann '46
 Milton J. Rosenberg '46
 Lorraine Blake Roth '46
 Eleanor Katz Rubin '46
 Seymour Sarokin '46
 Morris Schulman '46
 Sarah Mayer Staubus '46
 Sylvia Kopelman Taubman '46
 Bernice Kross Wagge '46
 Florence Goldberg Weiser '46
 Cynthia Blocker Bardach '47
 Bernice Curtis Bauman '47
 Gerald Bauman '47
 Libby Newman Flum '47
 Joyce Romm Froot '47
 Helene Kalmowitz Greenberger '47
 Annette Musk Hochstadt '47
 Phoebe Goldenberg Meyers '47
 Jack Panes '47
 Lenore Wilkinson Payne '47
 Stanley Rosenfeld '47
 Eileen Rice Saper '47
 Howard S. Stein '47
 Doris Cohen Stone '47
 Sylvia Roseff Swerdel '47
 Helen Hersh Weisel '47
 Ephraim Weiss '47
 Stanley Zimmering '47
 Myron Albert '48
 Martin Balser '48
 Joel Beier '48
 Joyce Geller Bradford '48

Richard I. Crossland '48
 Marion Zimny Dickman '48
 Beatrice Supnick Ferleger '48
 Ruth Bisen Field '48
 Herman Fins '48
 Dorothy Faikorn Glasgow '48
 Sarah Cohen Gotbaum '48
 Murray M. Halfond '48
 Benjamin Hammer '48
 Renee DuBrov Harwood '48
 Lillian Renner Karasyk '48
 Anna Knauer '48
 Robert S. Kreindler '48
 Norman Kuperschmid '48
 David A. Lewis '48
 Arno Linder '48
 Erna Caplow Lindner-Gilbert '48
 Phyllis Braverman Lowe '48
 Norman Manson '48
 Eugenie Rivkin Mirelowitz '48
 Sonia March Nevis '48
 Miriam Jasphy Newman '48
 Eli M. Ostern '48
 Hanna Kaiser Papanek '48
 Jean Gordon Payne '48
 Marvin Rogoff '48
 Ralph Schiller '48
 Irving Silverman '48
 Alvin M. Stein '48
 Esther Samber Stone '48
 Janet Sepersky Tonkonow '48
 Lorraine Katcher Weicman '48
 Lenore Gold Weintraub '48
 Elissa Strassberg Yellin '48
 Muriel Albert Abrams '49
 Fred Bass '49
 Beverly Zims Bornstein '49
 Jack Deitch '49
 Franklyn Elliott '49
 Ruth Gittelman '49
 Abraham Hazelnorn '49
 Iris Paul Hill '49
 Jack S. Hiller '49
 Melvin Karp '49
 Selma Weinstein Kutner '49
 Lillian Getman Lander '49
 Howard M. Lester '49
 Walter E. Phelps '49
 Sonia Sklar Reiner '49
 Audrey Flaum Roberts '49
 Gladys Guss Gold Tarnove '49
 Stanley Tick '49
 Irving S. Yudelowitz '49
 Florence Jacobs Bickell '50
 Arnold Bookspun '50
 Harvey G. Busch '50
 Norman Edelman '50
 John Garoogian '50
 Alice Saltzman Gingold '50

Lottie Besmann Goldsmith '50
 Sheldon (Greene) Greer '50
 Marilyn Lifshitz Hoffman '50
 Philip J. Kipust '50
 George C. Kiriakopoulos '50
 Sylvia Margolin Lebenger '50
 Gertrude Honigbaum Moskowitz '50
 Leonard M. Polisar '50
 Martin Rein '50
 Herbert Steier '50
 Harold S. Zimmerman '50
 Elaine Gordon Bard '51
 Lawrence Baum '51
 Elliot Bergman '51
 Frances Grande Conti '51
 Herbert I. Dorfman '51
 Harry First '51
 Gerald R. Guralnik '51
 Selma Levy Kapatkin '51
 Shirley Josephson Krauthamer '51
 Ephraim K. Leibowitz '51
 Samuel T. McSeveney '51
 Pearl Salpeter Miller '51
 Marvin Nathanson '51
 Doris M. Ohlsen '51
 Ruth Markoe Prigozy '51
 Daniel B. Rivkind '51
 Richard J. Scarpellino '51
 Jan Wolfe Silverman '51
 Belle Simon Tolor '51
 Muriel Bernhardt Warren '51
 David L. Bachrach '52
 Burton J. De Fren '52
 Frederick Shizuo Kai '52
 Saul Katz '52
 Dolores Quadri Klein '52
 Helen Liebel-Weckowicz '52
 Mildred Sternberg Lutzky '52
 Jack N. Mazer '52
 Louise Thebault McDermott '52
 Melvin S. Mittler '52
 Jack Pierce '52
 Frank Rothman '52
 Rosalie Tolkin Sauerhaft '52
 Frank P. Saul '52
 Carole Holzman Sclar '52
 Arthur A. Shaw '52
 Leonard Solomon '52
 Lawrence J. Sonders '52
 Bernard "Bud" Spodek '52
 Thalia Odette Yeadon '52
 Stanley Yedwab '52
 Herman G. Zaslov '52
 Marvin Zimmerman '52
 Joan Feldman Adler '53
 Alfred W. Alberts '53
 Marilyn Ravitz Bulos '53
 Edward M. Cohen '53
 Erving Katz '53

Ronald R. Khaleel '53
 Harold D. Levine '53
 Marvin B. Levitt '53
 Sheila Bernstein Lewis '53
 Gloria Oberstein LuKacher '53
 Robert M. Miller '53
 Martin O'Reilly '53
 David Pankin '53
 Mark H. Sanders '53
 Howard Sapon '53
 Janet R. Scheff '53
 Francine Meklinsky Solomon '53
 Caroline Tengström Spicer '53
 Sybelle Sherman Omessi
 Timberlake '53
 William E. Welsh Jr. '53
 Eugene A. Wolkoff '53
 Sheldon Robert Carroll '54
 Harold P. Christensen '54
 Jerome L. Dittkoff '54
 Ruth Schachter Ginsburg '54
 Pauline M. Goodrich '54
 Francis "Frank" J. Hilovsky '54
 Grace Holder Holmes '54
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Alfred Alberts '53

Alfred Alberts, who discovered the chemical compound that led to the first approved cholesterol-lowering statin in the United States, passed away in Colorado on June 16 at the age of 87.

Alberts was born in Manhattan but attended school in Brooklyn, first at Erasmus Hall, then at Brooklyn College, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in 1953.

He was accepted into a Ph.D.

program at the University of Kansas, then transferred to a similar program at the University of Maryland, where he studied cell biology. Beseated by financial pressures, Alberts left the university before finishing his dissertation and took a job at the National Institutes of Health, where he met P. Roy Vagelos, a key mentor. He followed Vagelos to the pharmaceutical firm Merck, where he was tasked with finding a drug to lower cholesterol. Since the mid-1960s, cardiologists and scientists had sought a drug to lower cholesterol, dieting and exercise having been only moderately effective. Alberts' discovery in 1987 of the compounds that would lead to the creation of lovastatin and simvastatin would revolutionize cardiac medicine.

"Another major contribution of Al to the Merck scientific community was his mentoring of younger biochemists who became important scientists under his guidance," Vagelos told the British medical journal *The Lancet*. "He loved science and he brought optimism and excitement to his colleagues for many years." —M. J.



Fred Bass '49

Fred Bass passed away in January of 2018 at his home in Manhattan; he was 89. As owner of the iconic Strand bookstore in New York City, Bass was one of the most influential figures on the New York City literary scene.

Bass was born in Manhattan in 1928, the year his father, Benjamin, a Lithuanian immigrant, opened the Strand on Fourth Avenue between 10th and 11th Streets in what was a booksellers' row of small shops

stretching from Astor Place to Union Square. Fred began working at the store when he was 13. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, and earned a bachelor's degree in English from Brooklyn College in 1949.

After a two-year stint in the Army, he returned home and took over management of the bookshop in 1956, moving it to its current location on Broadway and 12th Street, and overseeing a rapid expansion. Prospective employees were famously required to pass a test created by Bass, matching 10 titles with their authors, and answering one trick question. The store's inventory grew in the 1990s, proving the store's tagline of housing over 18 miles of books. Bass continued to work at the shop until his retirement in 2017. Today, the Strand remains a favorite destination for bibliophiles.

—M. J.



Vera Katz '55

Vera Katz, a legendary figure in Oregon politics, passed away from complications from kidney disease and leukemia on December 11, 2017, at her home in southwest Portland. She was 84. She began her political career stuffing envelopes for Robert F. Kennedy's 1968 presidential campaign. Four years later, she won her first election to the Oregon Legislature. She was ahead of the curve in advocating for gun control

and equal rights for women, the LGBTQ community, and migrants. Katz also spearheaded an overhaul of Oregon's education system. She ascended to the role of speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, one of only two women in America at the time to hold such a post. She served as mayor of Portland from 1993 to 2005 and led the city to its stature as one of the most environment-friendly and livable cities in the United States.

Katz was born Vera Pistrak to Russian parents in Düsseldorf, Germany, in 1933. Her parents had escaped their homeland during the rise of the Bolsheviks, and Germany during the rise of Hitler. She attended Julia Richman High School in Manhattan and Brooklyn College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1955 and did graduate work in sociology. She also studied dance with renowned modern dancer and choreographer Martha Graham. Katz is survived by her son, journalist Jesse Katz; grandson, Max Katz; sister, Zena Linden; and former husband, artist Mel Katz. —M. J.



Randy Weston

Randy Weston, who received an Honorary Doctorate in Music in 2006, passed away on September 1 at his home in Brooklyn. He was 92. Weston was a profoundly influential jazz pianist, composer, and educator. He was born in Brooklyn on April 6, 1926, and grew up in the borough. He served in World War II in a segregated unit, and upon returning took over the operations of his father's restaurant, Trios, which quickly became a

meeting place for many of the preeminent musicians who lived in the area, such as Thelonious Monk and Max Roach.

On behalf of the United Nations, Weston visited Africa frequently in the early 1960s, and settled in Morocco in 1968, living there for five years, first in Rabat and then in Tangier. He opened a club, the African Rhythms Cultural Center, which fostered exchanges between American musicians and their African counterparts. He became particularly intrigued by the traditions of the Gnawa people and integrated their music into his performances. A master of interpreting the repertoire of Duke Ellington and Thelonious Monk, he wrote several jazz standards such as "Hi Fly," "Little Niles," and "Marrakech Blues."

In 2001, the National Endowment for the Arts named him a Jazz Master, one of the highest honors it confers upon musicians. For many people, the connections between jazz and African music are an academic exercise; for Weston they were a lifelong spiritual quest, and he invited everyone to come along with him and explore. —M. J.



On November 27, 2018, Brooklyn College and the nation celebrated Shirley Chisholm Day, marking the 50th anniversary of Chisholm's historic election to the U.S. Congress. The Shirley Chisholm Project on Brooklyn Women's Activism and its director, Zinga A. Fraser, held a daylong symposium on campus featuring a dialogue with activist and the Academy of American Poets' Wallace Stevens Lifetime Achievement Award-winning poet Sonia Sanchez, as well as other prominent black, female political scholars.

Chisholm—who graduated from Brooklyn College in 1946 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology—united women, the working class, and racial minorities in a diverse coalition of voters with her “Catalyst for Change” and “Unbought and Unbossed” campaigns in 1968. As a national figure, she fought against the massive war spending in Vietnam in the face of significant poverty in the United States; supported the Equal

Rights Amendment, enlisting more women into positions of political power; publicly funded daycare, parental leave, and civil rights and political autonomy for black people; and petitioned for voting rights for all and women's reproductive freedom. Further, she was deeply concerned with issues of hunger, lending her influence to the expansion of food stamps and acting as a principal architect of the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

In 2015, Chisholm was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor, by President Barack Obama. In 2018, it was announced that a 407-acre park along Jamaica Bay would be dedicated to Chisholm, with the park's amphitheater to be named after her. The first phase of the space is set to open in the summer of 2019. In 2020, a monument will be erected in Brooklyn's Prospect Park to commemorate Chisholm's legacy. To learn how to support the Shirley Chisholm Project on Brooklyn Women's Activism, visit its website: brooklyn.cuny.edu/mag18/shirleychisholm.

—Robert Jones Jr.

Did you attend the college when Shirley Chisholm was a student?

Were you politically active as a student, taking part in student government or other civic activities? We'd love to hear about your experiences! E-mail us at magazine@brooklyn.cuny.edu or write to us at the Office of Communications and Marketing, Brooklyn College, 2900 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210.



Shirley Chisholm '46 re-enacting her swearing in to office as the representative of New York's 12th Congressional District in 1969. Read more about Chisholm's political legacy at brooklyn.cuny.edu/mag18/shirleychisholmday.

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