Faculty mentors and exceptional students help each other — and the University — to further cutting-edge research.

Win-Win Teamwork

THE RIGHT MENTOR can change a student’s life — and possibly trigger a cascade of mentoring that ripples through the next generation.

That’s the experience of cognitive neuropsychologist Jennifer Mangels, a professor at Baruch College and the CUNY Graduate Center, whose research into how people learn — particularly from mistakes — has won support from esteemed national institutes and agencies. This year, two undergraduate students in her Dynamic Learning Lab won $120,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships.

“I’m only here as a professor because I had a great mentor as an undergraduate who saw my potential and put as much into me as she would have put into a graduate student,” Mangels said. “That’s what I do for my students. I treat them like the integral part of the research team that they are.”

Despite the myth that mentoring is limited to small liberal arts colleges, CUNY offers many opportunities for undergraduates to work closely with their professors. Mentoring occurs across academic disciplines, but is particularly evident in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math).

For example, a Macaulay Honors College program links scientists with undergraduates who seek research opportunities. Hunter College found so much student interest in mentor-based science internships that it tracks federal and private funding opportunities on a special website.

Mentoring also is pivotal at the University Seminars Help Employees Plan Ahead

Reinventing — Big-Time Chancellor’s Regional Development Council Is Creating New Uses for Old Buildings

And the BOOM Goes On A $2.7 Billion Building Boom Starts Delivering New Facilities

Road Maps for Retirement University Seminars Help Employees Plan Ahead

Continued on page 3 ➤

Recognizing Faculty Achievement

THE UNIVERSITY’S renowned faculty members continue to win professional-achievement awards from prestigious organizations as well as research grants from government agencies, farsighted foundations and leading corporations. Picture on just a few of the recent honorees.

Brief summaries of many ongoing research projects start here and continue inside.

The CUNY Board of Trustees has named three outstanding scholars as Distinguished Professors, the University’s highest faculty rank. They are: Dagmar Herzog, Distinguished Professor of History, Graduate School and University Center, international-ly renowned authority on the history of religion in Europe and the U.S., on the Holocaust and its aftermath, and on the histories of gender and sexuality.

John Matteson, distinguished Professor of English, John Jay College, winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Biography for Ed’s Outcasts: The Story of Louis L’Amour and His Father, Jeffrey T. Parsons, Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Hunter College, leading authority on health behaviors, HIV prevention and HIV medication adherence.

The Spencer Foundation has awarded a two-year $330,000 grant to Alexandra W. Logan, executive vice chancellor and University Provost, and Mari Watanabe-Reese, a postdoctoral fellow in the Office of Academic Affairs, for “Mainstreaming Mathematics Remedial Students: A Random Assignment Experiment.”

Fred Mobary of City College has been awarded $310,000 from Princeton University for “NSF – Engineering Research Center (ERC) on Mid-Infrared Technologies for Health and the Environment (MIRTH).”

Hunter College’s Public Service Scholar Program (PSSP) has been selected to partner with the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation

Continued on page 3 ➤
Articulating Core Values

C Unconcrete and iron workers are converting three abandoned, World War II machine shops at the Brooklyn Navy Yard into a green manufacturing hub. The Regional Economic Development Council, chaired by Chancellor Goldstein, is turning abandoned NYC buildings into invaluable job-creating, economy-boosting projects.

High Achievers Continue

The City University of New York

Cross CUNY’s campuses, financial and city managers are reviewing budget and investment plans in anticipation of next year’s state and city budgets. And as always, I remind our managers, any financial planning must start with an emphasis on our core values.

All of us should take great pride in CUNY’s historic tradition of access and quality. Readers of Gen. Colin Powell’s book It Worked for Me know just how important the CUNY mission is. In his book, the general points out that, as a black student, he couldn’t attend West Point, the Citadel, the Virginia Military Academy, Texas A & M, and other officer-producing schools. He writes about what he calls his “undisturbed, unfinished academic years” at City College:

“My belief that kids like me deserved a shot at the top... poor kids like me with immigrant parents, Jews who couldn’t get into other schools because they were Jews, young adults with jobs who could only go to night school... kids who lived at home and came into campus by subway or bus. Education like the one I got at CCNY was how the tired, poor, hungry masses yearning to breathe free were integrated into the American social life... Though I walked away with a diploma the skin of my teeth, I did come out of college with a wonderful liberal arts education. I found in the years to come that I was able to perform well outside my West Point, Citadel, VMI, and A&M buddies:”

I’m enormously proud that these values haven’t changed. At CUNY, we ensure that there are many portals of entry to the University and ample opportunities for students to find programs suited to their needs. We value degree completion, and we value our students’ experience at every step, and, than ever before.

• First, public universities serve a student body of great variance—not only in terms of preparation and academic interests, but also in terms of family income. At our country’s competitive colleges, three-quarters of the students come from families with annual household incomes below $20,000. And while nationally about 28 percent of undergraduates receive Pell grants—which are based in part on family income—at CUNY about 68 percent of undergraduates are Pell grant recipients.

• A second issue is the shift in how public universities are funded. As state support has dwindled, tuition costs have grown. Nationwide, from 2000 to 2010, real funding per FTE student fell by 21 percent.

• A third issue is that by 2018, 63 percent of jobs will require education beyond high school. As our own CUNY Jobs Task Force found, employers are increasingly looking for college graduates with strong analytical, communication, and problem-solving skills.

In such an environment, it is essential to remember CUNY’s core mission and values—including our commitment to providing what we have called “the CUNY Value.” The “value” is providing an outstanding education that doesn’t break the bank. It is an assurance to every student that the historic promise of access and opportunity is as true today as it was in 1847.

To meet that promise, all of us must be more innovative, responsive, and efficient than ever before.

• We must pay careful attention to our students’ experience at every step and, wherever possible, find ways to enhance the quality and minimize the uncertainty.

• We must ensure that our state and city partners fully understand our students’ needs, and we must maximize all possible sources of revenue.

• We must be advocates for public higher education, ensuring that families and communities understand the value of advanced credentials and the preparation and rigor those credentials demand.

To be the university of the future Colin Powells, we must be the smarter universities that care about getting it right more than any other. That mindset must permeate every corner of the University.

A new Macaulay Honors College brochure includes a particularly memorable quote from a student: “I was attracted to Macaulay because they make the investment in you, not the other way around.” It’s our job to make sure every student at the University feels that way.

CUNY’s unique system encompasses a range of institutions and an equally broad range of students. This year, 38 percent of our undergraduates reported household incomes below $20,000. And while nationally about 28 percent of undergraduates receive Pell grants—which are based in part on family income—at CUNY about 68 percent of undergraduates are Pell grant recipients.

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In 2011, the state awarded $785 million statewide for these projects, including $66 million for five city projects.

To Enroll at CUNY in Record Numbers

Men entering this fall had SAT scores above 1200.

The strong demand for a CUNY education is fueled by strengthened academic standards, stabilized University finances and CUNY's renewed reputation for both academic quality and great value in a challenging economy where college tuitions and student debt continue to rise.

Overall, the number of students continuing at CUNY colleges increased by close to 2,000.

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein told the Board of Trustees on Sept. 24 that higher retention rates were “very much attributable to the focus and quality of the students’ coursework and entering CUNY’s most competitive colleges. A total of 268,186 students are filling CUNY classrooms in fall 2012, following 12 years of enrollment increases, according to preliminary University figures. Another 2,800 students were directed to pre-degree immersion programs to bring their skills up to college level. They included more than 740 in CUNY Start, an academic skills immersion program, and another 2,100 in the CUNY Language Immersion Program. Enrollment at CUNY’s four-year baccalaureate colleges is slightly up this fall, as is undergraduate enrollment overall. A small dip in graduate student enrollment is occurring in teacher-education programs amid drop-off in teacher hiring.

2012: A Year of Abrace

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A Hunter student led his wheelchair basketball team to its third gold in London’s Paralympic Games … In Beijing, a Brooklyn College student sang the lead in a Chinese opera … New research by a CCNY climate specialist indicates New York gardens soon might bloom all winter.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg was awarded the Chancellor’s Medal during opening ceremonies for The New Community College. Bloomberg, an avid and early supporter of the project, called NCC “a potentially game-changing model for community college education in New York and throughout the nation.” He picked up a second award at LaGuardia Community College when the National Fatherhood Initiative presented him with its Fatherhood Award. Bloomberg, who has two daughters, was honored for his role in launching the Young Men’s Initiative and NYC Dads, New York’s first citywide effort to help fathers connect with their children. The award was given at the first graduation for the CUNY Fatherhood Academy, which is part of the Young Men’s Initiative.

He Sees, She Sees: Brooklyn College professor Israel Abramov has proven that the sexes don’t see eye to eye on color because their brains look at hues differently. In his experiments, men and women were shown flashes of color and asked to identify them. Men had a hard time telling slight differences in shades of yellow, green and blue. Abramov determined that it wasn’t because of their eyes, which have the same structure as women’s, and surmised that it’s testosterone that “leads to different connectivities for males and females.” He has tens to note that the color gap is so subtle that the only time it really comes into play is when men are asked to choose between similar shades, say when picking the paint color for a room.

**NYS Spinal Cord Injury Grant Support**

Self-Coexistence Project.

Heng Ji (Thunderbolt), a research project directed by Operational Language Technologies has awarded $400,000 in grant funding to of Queens College. Bramch Halperin of Queens College has received grants from the National Institutes of Health totaling $484,145 for research concerning “Neurodevelopmental Perspectives on ADHD” and “Training Executive, Attention, and Motor Skills (TEAM): Preliminary Studies.”

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**Evolving Greenland**: City College assistant professor Marco Tedesco and a colleague evaluate a crevasse in the Greenland Ice Sheet during a research expedition to the remote Arctic island. Tedesco’s unique measurement index indicated a record ice melt there this past summer — which created new glacial lakes plus river runoff that could eventually add to rising sea levels.

**Christopher Rosa**, University assistant dean for student affairs, was among nine New Yorkers honored recently with a New York Post Liberty Medal. “It’s humbling to receive recognition for work on behalf of students who have already given me so much,” said Rosa, who has muscular dystrophy and won the educator award. He spearheads CUNY LEADS, a comprehensive career-readiness program for students with disabilities at CUNY’s 24 campuses. Seven of 10 participants are working in the first year after graduation, he said. “All that people with disabilities ask for is an equal chance to succeed or fail on their merits alone.”

**A Plant Stand**: If City College assistant professor Nir Krakauer’s research bears fruit, fig trees will grow like wildfire in New York City and camellias will winter in Detroit. Krakauer’s research, supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shows that the new USDA Hardiness Map, detailing which plants will survive where, doesn’t go far enough in taking global warming into account. More than a third of the country has shifted at least one zone since the map came out in January, he says, because the winter is warming faster than the summer.

**Lotta Lotto Luck**: Frank Ulloa, a Lehman College student, hit the jackpot when he and 24 coworkers at a Manhattan car dealership won Powerball’s $1 million prize. After taxes, he’ll get $300,081. He doesn’t have any college loans, so he’s planning to give some of it to his mom.

**The Good Fight**: This summer, wrestler William “Spartan” Ferrara, a Queens College student, took time out from his roster of East Coast fights to jump into the ring in his own neighborhood. Ferrara’s fight in Middle Village, Queens, was for Showcase Championship Wrestling, an independent organization that brings the sport to schools, youth camps and churches.

**The Next 100 Years**: Hel Kaufman, lifelong student and teacher, is entering her second century with pen still in hand. At 101, the Hunter College alumnus and teacher, best known for her 1965 bestseller “Up the Down Staircase,” is at work on a book about her grandfather, Yiddish storyteller Sholom Aleichem.

**Nature’s Best**: From ordinary aspirin to sophisticated cancer-fighting drugs like Taxol, natural products took center stage at the International Congress on Natural Products Research’s five-day scientific conference in Manhattan. Billed as the largest U.S. gathering of natural products researchers, it was organized and co-hosted by CUNY.

**Make Mine Black**: Birch Coffee, the Flatiron District shop opened in 2009 by Queens College alumnus Jeremy Lyman and business partner Paul Schlader, is perking along: A second shop will be opening soon on the Upper West Side.

**Ricardo Martinelli and more than 15 first ladies …**: from ordinary aspirin to sophisticated cancer-fighting drugs like Taxol, natural products took center stage at the International Congress on Natural Products Research’s five-day scientific conference in Manhattan. Billed as the largest U.S. gathering of natural products researchers, it was organized and co-hosted by CUNY.

**KINGSBOROUGH 10 in 1,000**: Kingsborough Community College has been named one of 10 finalists for the Aspen Institute Prize for Community College Excellence. KCC was selected from more than 1,000 entries. The award comes with a $1 million prize that will be awarded in March.

**Right Recipe**: New York City College of Technology alumna Khobe Kassaye, chef at the five-star Peninsula Hotel in Manhattan, was one of six women to win the 2012 Legacy Award for culinary achievement from the Les Dames d’Escoffier International.
And the ROOM Goes On

CUNY’s $2.7 billion building program is beginning to deliver planned new facilities ranging from cutting-edge labs to entire campuses.

Hughes.) Also the Law School, now in a gleaming Long Island City office building, that encourages aspiring attorneys to study their performances, which will be recorded by multiple cameras in trial practice rooms. (State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman was to headline the official opening in late October.)

Access is a byword. Take the new Inwood home of CUNY in the Heights, a 7-year-old continuing-education and workforce-development collaboration by Hostos Community College and BMCC. It moved from ill-ventilated quarters without elevators or provisions for people with disabilities into an inviting, $4.7 million, street-level educational emporium. “Our students do everything from upgrading their skills and attaining certification in specific fields to earning their GEDs and learning English as a second language,” says executive director Aldrin Bonilla. “We pride ourselves on some 40 certifications ranging from medical research to culinary arts.”

BMCC nursing student Katherine Mendez takes some courses there. “It makes my travel schedule much easier,” she says. “The professors and staff couldn’t be friendlier.”

When it comes to artistry, it’s hard to beat Bronx Community College’s North Hall and Library, which cloes the quadrangle flanked by Stanford White’s Beaux Arts beauties of 1894 to 1900. Fiscal control and recession-lowered costs brought the project in well under budget. And that made affordable marble and slate floors, Guastavino tile ceilings (like those in the nearby Hall of Fame), pendant lights and custom-designed study carrels – plus 16 classrooms, 25 group-study rooms and a media desk where students can order streaming videos and check out iPads, laptops, cameras and calculators.

“I’m enjoying the great beauty of this building,” says chief librarian Teresa L. McMams. “It puts forward that Bronx Community College is all about academics. Students need a place to be, to study, to learn.” Adds student Dorian Whyte, North Hall “gives you a great initiation into what a real school is.”

CUNY’s Decade of Science – hallmarked by the forthcoming Universitywide Advanced Science Research Center and a companion building for City College – also fuels the building boom.

Lehman opens a $70 million Science Hall, the first in a three-building science cluster. With its rooftop garden and unique water recycling system, it seeks the top "LEED platinum" rating for sustainability, which would be a feat for an energy-hungry science building. President Ricardo R. Fernandez predicts that with its new science muscle, Lehman “will change the direction of individual lives and research, that will lead to advances in fighting disease, malnutrition, climate change and other conditions.”

Hunter has taken two bold steps in the health sciences. One is buying a life-sciences medical-research floor at Weill-Cornell Medical College, where students and faculty can use that school’s resources. The other is to swap Hunter’s aging Brookdale campus on East 25th Street for a new tower to be built on city-owned land at
East 73rd Street and the East River. There, Hunter will consolidate science, nursing and other health instruction, next to a planned outpatient care facility coming from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. “We will train the next generation of scientists, particularly minorities and women, in conjunction with Memorial Sloan-Kettering,” said Hunter President Jennifer Raab.

Mayor Bloomberg said the two buildings, expected to open by 2018, will “enable both Hunter College and Memorial Sloan-Kettering to carry out their lifesaving missions in outstanding, state-of-the-art facilities in a beautiful location.”

In August, CUNY launched New Community College in rented space at Manhattan’s Bryant Park. Plans call for forging a public-private partnership to erect a permanent home on the West Side. Recognizing Mayor Bloomberg’s “singular efforts to ensure an accessible, high-quality education to all New Yorkers,” Chancellor Goldstein awarded him the University’s prestigious Chancellor’s Medal at the college’s inaugural convocation.

“We’re creating a potentially game-changing model for community college education,” Bloomberg said. Maria Lissete Estrada, one of the college’s first 300 students, said, “I’m inspired to have a bigger, better future for myself, and college is just the first step for me.”

Less glamorously, the University has committed $10 billion over 10 years to maintain every building in a “state of good repair,” resulting in 415 projects at senior colleges over 10 years to maintain every building in a “state of good repair,” resulting in 415 projects at senior colleges so far. CUNY Law School and Bronx Community College’s Bowman Arts inspired library.

Bronx Community College’s library offers custom-designed study carrels.

Rendering of planned Hunter College tower at E. 73rd St. and the East River.
Mentoring has become a key part of CUNY’s Decade of Science. The record 16 students and alumni who won NSF Graduate Research Fellowships in 2012 could each point to a CUNY mentor who helped set them on a path of scientific inquiry. No public university in the Northeast had more NSF winners than CUNY.

While there are formal mentoring programs around the University, most mentoring is informal. Typically, a faculty member uses federal or private funding to work with a small number of students one-on-one.

Consider NSF winner Belén Carolina Guerra-Carrillo (Baruch, B.A. in psychology, 2010), a student of Jennifer Mangels who was so intrigued with her undergraduate research that she signed on to manage Mangels’ lab for two years after graduation. This fall, Guerra-Carrillo planned to start a doctoral program at the University of California, Berkeley, intending to explore what physically happens in the brain when people learn and how those changes affect academic performance.

Mangels’ other NSF-winning student, Jimena Santillan (Hunter, B.A. in psychology, 2012), planned to start a doctoral program at the University of Oregon this fall. An emigrant from Mexico, where she attended an English-immersion school, Santillan intends to explore whether being bilingual helps people focus on what’s important while ignoring everything else that’s going on.

For her own research, Mangels examines “how we learn after we’ve made a mistake or experienced failure.” Her research has implications for teaching. Take what Mangels calls the “very American thing” of giving a medal to every kid in a race to boost the self-esteem of those who bring up the rear – or, by extension, giving lagging students some reward for effort on a test. Does that help them learn? The preliminary evidence is yes, but only if they and their teachers think they will see long-term improvement based on their efforts.

Mangels’ goal now is to work with researchers and educators to incorporate interventions promoting this message into everyday teaching practices.

There also are implications for college classrooms. “We’re looking at what mindsets can teachers encourage to get students focused less on performance and more on the learning process,” Mangels said. “I always have the undergraduates up at the front for lab meetings, so they feel they’re as much a part of the process as my graduate students. If they are close, I can better read their faces to see if they are with me or not and adjust the level of detail in my presentation.”

Few things make teachers prouder than when a student nails it. Just ask Kelle Cruz, an assistant professor of astronomy and astrophysics at Hunter College, about an undergraduate she mentored last year, Vivienne Baldassare.

Cruz asked Baldassare (Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, B.A. in physics, 2012) to help with research on wannabe stars called brown dwarfs. Baldassare measured how fast some were moving away from or toward Earth. “Vivienne wrote code to measure the wavelength shift in kilometers per second, handed me the final results with a bow on it and said, ‘See you at the next AAS [American Astronomical Society] meeting.’ It was wonderful.”

Then Baldassare took off for a doctoral program at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor where, with an NSF graduate research fellowship, “I hope that my research will contribute to our understanding of the role that galaxy mergers and active galactic nuclei play in galaxy evolution,” she said.

Cruz and Baldassare met at the American Museum of Natural History, where all CUNY astronomers hold appointments and CUNY students are welcome to be part of the community. Baldassare was wrapping up study with College of Staten Island associate professor Charles Liu, who had changed her life by asking her to classify galaxies according to their shapes. “I’d never thought about astronomy as a career, but I found I loved it,” she said.

York College associate professor Gerard McNeil has found a way to expand mentoring beyond the limits of his small biology research laboratory. “There are so few research labs and so many students, but you can give many more students a research experience by bringing real-life scientific problems into the classroom,” he said.

So McNeil teamed up with the Genomics Education Partnership, a consortium based at Washington College of Arts and Sciences, to do just that. McNeil and his colleagues at CUNY plan to use the partnership to create Web-based genomics courses and build a social networking platform to create an “open-source” environment where students can communicate with each other and with the larger genomics community.

“IT WAS WONDERFUL.”

Hunter College astronomer Kelly Cruz, left, could rely on self-starter Vivienne Baldassare.

Win-Win Teamwork  
Continued from page 1
University in St. Louis. “We use computers as tools for students to answer unknown biological questions in the classroom,” he said. “The students at each [of more than 80 undergraduate colleges] get their own piece of the genomics puzzle. They learn to gather data, use the required tools and develop and test hypotheses. Those skills are applicable to every area of science. All the data required tools and develop and test hypotheses. Those skills are applicable to every area of science. All the data is captured at Washington University, which puts it together and makes sense of it at the genomic level. Before, we needed a wet lab and a lot of room to ask unknown biological questions; now all you need is a computer.”

Which is not to say that McNeil doesn’t engage in one-on-one mentoring and old-fashioned wet-bench work in his lab. Since 2002, the National Institutes of Health-Minority Biomedical Research Support/Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) program has supported his work. SCORE seeks to increase the capabilities and competitiveness of investigators at colleges like York, where at least half the students are from groups underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral research. McNeil’s lab focuses on the genetics behind oogenesis, the formation, development and maturation of ovum, or egg cells, and is “still learning new things every day.”

With McNeil as his mentor, 2012 NSF winner Kirk Haltaufderhyde (York College, B.S. in biotechnology, 2011) chose a career in science after working in the audio-video industry. Tapping into data provided by the Genomics Education Partnership, he completed three original research projects and is a co-author on a manuscript being prepared. “To have the research experience with Dr. McNeil was definitely a turning point,” said Haltaufderhyde, ’12. McNeil said that “when you find a student like Kirk, you grab him.” They met when he was taking McNeil’s General Biology 2 class and asked for a recommendation for a summer research program. “I said, ‘What about my lab?’ He had not thought about graduate school, so we spent the summer talking about that as he did research.” Haltaufderhyde is pursuing a doctorate at Brown University.

Wouldn’t it be better if researchers could rationally predict how drugs will work when they’re still in the test tube, rather than relying on trial and error after millions have been spent on development? That’s one thing Hunter College associate professor Lei Xie hopes to accomplish in his Computational Systems Biology, Molecular Modeling and Bioinformatics Laboratory.

“We’re trying to predict drug-target binding,” explains Xie. “Suppose we design drug A to bind to protein A. If we predict that the drug also binds to protein B — and we know that protein B can cause another disease — we can use this drug to treat this other disease. This will save a lot of money in drug development.”

This is the kind of exploration that Xie encourages the students he mentors to tackle. Among them is 2012 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship winner Vincent Xue (Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, B.A. in computer science, minor in biology, 2012), who planned to begin doctoral work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall. Working with his Hunter mentor, Xue developed a Web tool to analyze and visualize the effect of mutations in proteins that enable cancer tumors to survive hypoxia (oxygen deprivation). Xie praised Xue’s work. “Hypoxia is quite complex, and we need new methods to understand it. Vincent focused on developing new methods to understand this genetic mutation.”

As well as awards from the major government sources and pharmaceutical companies, Xie received a 2010 Genome Technology Young Investigator award and a 2012 Hunter President Award for Faculty Advancement.

As Barbara Zajc sees it, when those “who are motivated about science come into your lab and get involved in research, it opens the door to different career opportunities.” Zajc, an associate professor of chemistry at City College, enjoys her role as a mentor, particularly with standout students like 2012 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship winner Deborah Ayeni (City College, 2011). Now in the experimental pathology doctoral program at Yale School of Medicine, Ayeni, who was born in Nigeria, says she intends to work with cancer-causing genes to seek “ways of interfering with cancer pathways, tumor regression and how cancers develop resistance to chemical agents.” Ayeni’s undergraduate research won her a CUNY-sponsored Jonas R. Salk Scholarship for graduate study in addition to her NSF award. She anticipates a career in industrial research.

Zajc specializes in fluoroorganic chemistry, developing new methods for chemically swapping fluorine atoms for hydrogen atoms in organic compounds. “A compound may be active, but you may not know why,” she says. “If you change it a bit, the underlying difference can give you the answer.” She currently mentors two undergraduates, two master’s students and one doctoral student, Rakesh Kumar, who in September defended his dissertation. Kumar is slated to conduct post-doctoral research in Zurich at one of the world’s top universities for STEM studies and management and where another CCNY student Zajc mentored, Maggie He, is nearing completion of her Ph.D.

“What I find very rewarding,” Zajc says, “is that students can come from very underprivileged environments. Participating in research opens new avenues for them in terms of their careers and their lives. When I hear from students who left my lab, and they say ‘I’m doing well’ or ‘I learned a lot,’ that’s what counts.”
New Hope for Undocumented Students

C

larisse was 8 when she was brought to the U.S. from the Caribbean. She discov-
ered that she was undocumented when she had difficulty registering for high
school in New York City, but her status
was never adjusted because of divorce and disloca-
tion in her family.

Now 27, Clarisse (not her real name) is among
hundreds of CUNY students in the U.S. illegally, who
hope to qualify for President Obama's new Deferred
Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA).

On June 15, the president announced that the
Department of Homeland Security would
implement a policy for granting deferred action
against deportation to undocumented young people
who meet certain requirements. They will be grant-
ed deferred action for a two-year period, which can
be renewed, and they'll be eligible for permission to
work in the U.S.

Attorneys with CUNY Citizenship Now! swiftly
swung into action to offer free legal assistance to
students who wish to take advantage of the
opportunity to apply.

Since August, Citizenship Now! staffers have been
holding free DACA assistance events on
CUNY campuses to answer questions, pro-
vide necessary photos and screen the forms
and evidence that applicants must send to
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

“They leave the event fully prepared to mail the application to the
USCIS,” said Tamara Bloom, legal coordinator for
CUNY Citizenship Now!

To be considered for deferred action, among other
requirements, applicants must show that they came
to the U.S. before their 16th birthday; have lived con-
tinuously in this country since June 15, 2007; were under age 31 as of June 15, 2012; are currently
enrolled in school; have graduated or obtained a high
school certificate; have not been convicted of a
felony or significant misdemeanor; and do not pose a
threat to public safety. A $465 fee is required with
application. During her 19 years in the U.S., Clarisse
studied at Queens College, took a semester off to
work in the hospitality industry, then earned a bach-
elor's degree in nursing and a master's in public
health at Hunter College.

Despite some roadblocks along the way, caused by
her illegal status, Clarisse received a Peter F. Vallone
Academic Scholarship, was on the Dean's List; was
vice president of a student organization; and writes a
health and wellness column for her church newslet-
ter. Her objectives: to pursue a doctorate degree to
teach, do research at John's Hopkins University and
then open a women's health clinic. "I feel my future
is brighter," she said, "because once I get authoriza-
tion I have a lot of options."

CUNY informs students about the free legal assis-
tance via e-mails sent to all students and campus
liaisons; information is posted on www.cuny.edu and
at the CUNY Citizenship Now! website:
www.cuny.edu/dreamers.

In a Sept. 6 memo to college presidents, CUNY
Senior Vice Chancellor and Board Secretary Jay
Hershenson said that as of that date 1,800 CUNY
students “have asserted that they qualify under the
program,” and he said, “CUNY is committed to
assisting all student DACA applicants.”

Baruch College professor Allan Wernick, an
attorney who started and heads CUNY Citizenship
Now! says students who qualify should apply. In a
statement on the Citizenship Now! website he says
some students fear if they sign up they are at risk for
deportation because deportation is stayed for only
two years. “Anyone who qualifies… who doesn’t apply
is missing the opportunity of a lifetime,” Wernick
states. He cautions, however, that an applicant with a
criminal record could be deported.

A former Borough of Manhattan Community
College student, who like Clarisse came to the U.S.
from the Caribbean as a child and also asked to
remain anonymous, was brought here from the
Dominican Republic by a family friend to join his
own family at age 10. “I had no idea I didn’t have any
status,” he said. When he finally found out, in his last
year in high school, he said: “I started crying. I didn’t
know what to do. I wanted to go to college. I was
stressed. This is my home now... I’m not Dominican
any more.”

He wanted to study sports medicine but dropped out
of BMCC after one semester because he “could-
’t afford to continue.” Now 29, he is a personal
trainer and has an American-born daughter who is 8.
“I hope I get this. I know I qualify,” he said of the
DACA possibility. “If this happens I’m going to go
back to school.”

Students who are approved for deferred action
and receive a work permit, Bloom said, will get fol-
low-up assistance from CUNY Citizenship Now!
They’ll receive guidance on how to apply for a Social
Security card and Medicaid, and obtain a New York
driver's license or non-driver ID card and the in-
state tuition rate at CUNY. They will also receive
cautionsary information about possible pitfalls of
traveling abroad.
Man at the Top: Bruce Springsteen

By Gary Schmidgal

T O Usher IN the high presidential campaign season—"high" in the aggravating, not the mind-altering sense—here are three vignettes from John Jay professor Marc Dolan’s savvy and probing biography, Bruce Springsteen and the Promise of Rock ‘n’ Roll (Norton).

When Springsteen introduced “Man at the Top” from the stage in the midst of the 1984 campaign, he called it “a song for an election year” and mentioned “a movie star and an astronaut” (obviously Ronald Reagan and John Glenn). The song’s reference to “a big white house” and to the man being “lonely up there” would seem to clinch the connection, but Dolan suggests that behind Springsteen’s political jokes were his own “doubts about impending mega-stardom.” The top man in the song dreams of having a record “in number-one spot.”

Part of Springsteen’s star power then was due to the long mid-’80s tenure of his “Born in the U.S.A.” album on the Billboard chart, which the Republicans tried to co-opt for their own propaganda. Dolan tells the hilarious tale of right-wing columnist George Will — sporting, one assumes, the first bow tie ever at a concert by “The Boss” — taking in a performance and pronouncing him a “wholesome cultural porte.”

Flash forward to a New Orleans gig eight months after Katrina, when Springsteen introduced a song in honor of the city, “How Can a Poor Man Stand Such Times and Live?” Based on an “How Can a Poor Man” song in honor of the city, Springsteen introduced a “The Boss” — taking in a performance and pronouncing him a “wholesome cultural porte.”

...
Free Tuition Back Then? Not

With grades below B, they were average students by the standards of academia. But the students who attended night school at New York City’s public colleges — often rushing to classes after a full workday — were anything but average. Diverse in age, income and life experience, they not only spent their evenings striving toward their college degrees and future careers, but unlike their day school counterparts, they paid tuition for the privilege.

For some 40 years, starting during the Great Depression, hundreds of thousands of these night students paid tuition, better known as “instructional fees,” to attend the college’s Schools of General Studies. Without the support of modern day financial aid programs, they worked toward their degrees or to raise their grades to the level required to enter the colleges’ baccalaureate programs, where the tuition was, famously, free.

They were students like Toni Reinhold, now a high-ranking editor at Reuters, who put herself through night school at City College by freelancing for the Daily News and local radio stations. Marty Markowitz, now Brooklyn Borough President, began his career as the longtime, activist president of the Brooklyn College Evening Division’s student government. His fellow night-school student, Stu Bykofsky, edited Brooklyn’s night-school newspaper, hen; he is now a metro columnist at the Philadelphia Daily News. Night student Stephen Somerset became an aerospace physicist, designing and building earth and space-observing satellites after obtaining his doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley.

Many started out in night school because their high school GPAs didn’t make the cut for day matriculation. Others had the marks, but like most night students were obligated to work during the day.

“It was people rushing from the subway to get to school and rushing back out to get to their families,” Markowitz recalls.

The fees collected from night-school students became significant, and necessary to help the public college system meet the pressures and costs of an ever-growing demand for higher education as enrollment soared. In fact, the Schools of General Studies not only played a key role in creating more opportunity, they provided a precedent for how the municipal colleges of New York could fund its expanding system in the face of explosive student demand, by combining affordable tuition and public support.

“The Evening Session was, and would remain, the most significant single structural innovation of the College’s history,” wrote Florence Margaret Neumann in her 1984 dissertation, Access to Free Public Higher Education in New York City. 1847-1961.

“It would increasingly become the critical mechanism for the fulfillment of CUNY’s mission and the expansion of access to public higher education,” providing the same opportunities to working students that more privileged students enjoyed.

The Schools of General Studies were phased out in the early 1970s when tuition charges were dropped for all evening students while evening courses were continued. In 1976, amid the pressures and politics of New York City’s dire fiscal crisis, tuition was established for all CUNY students. State and federal financial aid was made available to students soon after.

Today, a greatly expanded CUNY system, serving record enrollments approaching 270,000 degree credit students, offers tuition-free education for nearly six in 10 full-time undergraduates thanks to federal Pell Grants, state TAP awards and CUNY aid. Furthermore, philanthropic and private donors have funded some $700 million in scholarships through the Invest in CUNY Campaign, which has raised $2.325 billion to date. Combined with an affordable tuition that is well below the national average for public colleges and universities, and a fraction of the cost of private college tuition, CUNY offers one of the best values in higher education in the nation.

By the end of 1925, City College’s night enrollment had soared to 9,400. The following year, when the Board of Higher Education was established to administer New York’s public colleges, the charging of tuition and fees was stated to be within its purview. Under BHE policy those meeting requirements for freshman admission could enroll for free as matriculants; all others could, by paying tuition, register as non-matriculants.

Then came the Great Depression. In 1932 — with some urging a shutdown of the public colleges, then enrolling more than 36,000 degree-credit students — City College President Frederick Robinson proposed limiting admissions to only those students who could maintain enrollment at a constant level. The emergency measures placed the best students in the free Day Session, others whose average was between 75 and the requirement for Day Session would attend at night as part-time “limited-matriculated” students, paying $2.50 a credit until they had the marks for full matriculation. Non-matriculants were charged more.

The Schools of General Studies expanded to New York’s other public colleges, steadily increasing in enrollment, and often times totaling hundreds of thousands of paying students. During the 1950s — the approximate midpoint of the SGS era, Board of Higher Education Chairman Gustave Rosenberg wrote in the Board’s 1957-1959 annual report: “The municipal colleges without their night Schools of General Studies are unthinkable. For here the ideal of community service is most directly realized, with the colleges serving today’s working citizens in addition to preparing tomorrow’s. It could only be in a night college that one finds a bus driver who wants to sell electronic equipment, a dance

CUNY Spells
 Transforming Disability Care

FROM ITS BEGINNING 165 years ago, The City University of New York has always had a dual mission: Deliver high-quality education — and serve the citizens of the city. Today, CUNY’s 6,700 full-time faculty carry that legacy forward, contributing in ways that truly transform our city, benefiting the lives of millions of New Yorkers every day. Many provide critical training for the city’s diverse workforce. They teach young scientists to explore new fields like pharmacology, biodiversity and nanotechnology; they train municipal employees in emergency preparedness for large-scale disasters; they create programs that teach health industry professionals how to detect early signs of oral cancer and better serve people with developmental disabilities. These are extraordinary faculty who connect the University to its community, engaging their students in the complex challenges facing the city.

Take Allan Wemnick, for example, the Baruch College law professor who launched Citizenship Now! the largest immigrant-aid organization in the city, which assists thousands of people every year — for free — in its nine centers throughout the five boroughs. Or Mandë Holford, a professor of urban studies in the city, who launched Citizenship Now! the largest immigrant-aid organization in the city, which assists thousands of people every year — for free — in its nine centers throughout the five boroughs. Or Mandë Holford, a professor of urban studies in the city, who launched Citizenship Now! the largest immigrant-aid organization in the city, which assists thousands of people every year — for free — in its nine centers throughout the five boroughs. Or Mandë Holford, a professor of urban studies in the city, who launched Citizenship Now! the largest immigrant-aid organization in the city, which assists thousands of people every year — for free — in its nine centers throughout the five boroughs.

These are extraordinary faculty who connect the University to its community, engaging their students in the complex challenges facing the city.

Today, as academic director of the Disability Studies Programs and Distinguished Lecturer at CUNY’s School of Professional Studies, Bates is widely recognized as a leader in creating educational programs for administration and supervisory workers in the field of developmental and behavioral disabilities — and serves the citizens of the city.

When William Eberstein, now University Dean for Health and Human Services, developed the first stand-alone master’s degree in disability studies in the country, Bates came to SPS to lead it. Launched in 2009, the program now has about 90 students, most of whom are middle- and upper-level managers employed by service providers (about 20 percent of them also have some form of disability themselves).

This fall, SPS is launching the nation’s first online bachelor’s degree in disability studies, designed to provide frontline workers with a broad foundation in the field, as well as opportunities for in-depth study in one of four concentrations. “We’re focused on educating the workforce,” says Bates. “We need to give workers the tools they need to do a good job.”

Noting the recent controversy over charges of physical abuse of the developmentally dis- abled in state-run group homes, Bates stresses that “the quality of life of people with disabilities depends on those who interact directly with them.” The underlying idea, she says, is to create services for people with disabilities that nondisabled people would find acceptable for themselves.

“One of the things we’re doing is trying to transform the system of care,” says Bates. “I’m a big fan of our students. I feel lucky to be here.”
As a baby boomer retirement tsunami looms, University seminars are educating employees about financial and emotional issues they might face.

Baruch To Host Next WC2 World University Summit

Not April 15-17, Baruch College will host the spring meeting of the WC2 University Network, a forum of universities located in major world cities that addresses health, cultural, environmental and political issues. The WC2 network, which was established in September 2010, holds two meetings per year. In addition to CUNY, some other WC2 university members include Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana in Mexico, University of Delhi and University of Sao Paulo.

Jeffrey Peck, Dean of Baruch’s Weissman School of Arts and Sciences and Vice Provost for Global Strategies, said the WC2 will be a major opportunity for CUNY to present itself globally, as well as showcase faculty expertise.

If you are interested in participating in the WC2 meeting at CUNY, go to www.calpolitics.com/international/internationa 1-partnerships/wc2-university-network and check the most recent newsletter which describes the research topics. Faculty may also attend as observers. If you have more specific questions, email Dean Peck at jeffrey.peck@baruch.cuny.edu.

Fellowships for Faculty Writing Biographies

Faculty members who are writing biographies are encouraged to apply for a $50,000 fellowship at the Leon Levy Center for Biography at CUNY Graduate Center for 2013-2014. Fellows devote the year to their projects, participate in monthly seminars and attend the center’s annual lecture, conference, and public programs. Fellows may not teach orpartake in other full-time employment during their academic year-in-residence. Applications are welcome from CUNY faculty until Nov. 30, 2012. Details: www.leonlevycenterforbiography.org/fellowship_program.html, email biography@gc.cuny.edu, or 212-817-2008.

Road Maps for Retirement

FROM HER NATIVE Mumbai, India, Cassandra Pereira immigrated to New York in 1999 and found a fulfilling job at the CUNY School of Law. For the past 12 years, she has assisted hundreds of faculty members, helping with course materials, class preparation and unexpected student issues. Now, at 63, Pereira is contemplating her next act: retirement.

To help her start planning, Pereira—along with about 20 other CUNY employees—attended the day-long pre-retirement seminar in lower Manhattan. Discussed were critical financial issues including pensions, Social Security and Medicare, as well as psychological issues of transition and identity.

“There is no need to be concerned about financial issues; Social Security and Medicare, as well as financial issues including pensions, Social Security and Medicare, as well as psychological issues of transition and identity.”

Baruch To Host Next WC2 World University Summit

With the holiday season approaching, the CUNY Campaign for Voluntary Charitable Giving is an easy way to help those in need. Currently, New York City has more people living in poverty than the rest of New York State combined, said Viviana B. Wolters, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management. “They may have lost jobs or homes and find themselves in a place they never expected to be. They need our help, and the CUNY Campaign exists to provide it.” Last year’s campaign raised more than $500,000 from nearly 2,400 donors. For more details on how to give, go to www.cuny.edu/campaign.
some people, CUNY is their life,” Williams said. “It’s their identity. So when they leave their job, they’re unsure what to do. How do they use their time? Do they volunteer? Do they travel?”

Manendra K. Bhugra, manager of learning and development for Corporate Counseling Associates Inc., said those nearing retirement should prepare a psychological portfolio to consider how their relationships will be affected by the change. New retirees often expressed anxiety about loss of communication with the working world and loss of social interaction, she said. “The first few months after retirement, there is excitement. Then, later, there is a sense that they really have nowhere to go. We try to get people to see that this is a career change. It’s a new beginning.”

Marital relationships are also affected by retirement, Bhugra said. In a 1999 study by the American Psychological Association, nearly retired women tended to be more depressed than continuously retired or not-yet-retired women, especially if their husband remained employed. In addition, newly retired men experienced more marital conflict than non-retired men.

“We had a woman tell us that she married her husband for better or for worse, but not for lunch,” Bhugra said. “So, people need to think about these things.”

Linda Sarubbi, University Director of Employee Benefits, said some CUNY employees voiced concerns about being forced into nanny duties. “At some of the seminars, we had ladies speak up that they loved their grandchildren, but they didn’t want to be the chauffeur and the babysitter. And they didn’t know how to say no,” she said.

And many CUNY employees said it was helpful being among others who had the same questions and fears about pre-retirement. “There are so many things you don’t know about Social Security and Medicare,” she said. “When you’re in a group, you don’t feel bad about asking.”

As more seminars are scheduled, Williams hoped that more employees would invest the time to attend, regardless of their age. “It really puts those things together, so you see how they work. That’s critical,” he said. “Once you know what you’re facing, it’s a little bit easier to deal with. It’s hopefully an understanding of what you’re going to get into so the fear of the unknown is eased.”

Pereira, who lives far from her grandchildren, said she was excited about spending more time with loved ones. Aside from longer visits to see 12-year-old Zoe and 10-year-old Gia in India, Pereira said she has many other retirement dreams. “Plentyly,” she said. “If I can only afford it.”

New Flex Spending Account Limits

Due to passage of President Obama’s health care reform plan, officially known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, CUNY employees with Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA’s) face a new limit on how much they can set aside for medical expenses. Starting in 2013, FSA’s will have a $2,500 federal maximum annual contribution cap, down from the current $5,000. Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts are a way to pay for medical expenses not covered by insurance, such as dental, vision, and hearing expenses, with pre-tax dollars. To enroll, employees must complete the FSA Enrollment Form every year. This year, the Open Enrollment Period for 2013 ends Nov. 23, 2012. New employees may enroll within 30 days after becoming eligible to receive city health benefits. Current 2012 participants will receive 2013 re-enrollment packets, sent automatically to each participant’s address on record in October.
Lisa KellnerThe Seepage of Proserpine
Seminar in Gender and Sexuality
The Graduate Center
Noon–2 p.m.
Free

"Joshua Henkin"
November 28

Search.cuny.edu

family mourning their son's death in Iraq.

"A View From the Bridge"
Hunter College 7:30 p.m.
$12; $5 seniors; students free with ID

The World Without You, about a
Joyce Carol Oates Hunter College 7 p.m.
Free but must reserve

November 27

Brooklyn College

The Doo Wop Project featuring leading cast members of Broadway's "Jersey Boys"
Kingsborough Community College 8 p.m.
$30

Shirley Chisholm Day

November 29

From Tolstoy
Children's author R.L. Stine reads from his first novel for adults
Macaulay Honors College 7–9 p.m.
Free

November 13

Space Invaders — 18 artists who use unique spaces
Lehman College
Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Free

Through January 9, 2013

"La Traviata"
November 4

Opera In Cinema Series: "La Traviata"
Kingsborough Community College 3 p.m.
$15

Polaroid Gallery

November 7

Polls in New York City will be open 6 a.m.–9 p.m. on Election Day, with staff on hand to answer questions and explain procedures. If you have questions in advance, go to www.vote.nyc.ny.us

NYC Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan says her initiatives have boosted the number of visitors and, in the case of Times Square, have also been a boon to local businesses.

NYC restaurants now have

November 18

Defending her goal of trans-
planting dumps in the city and yielding streets to pedestrians, Commissioner Sadik-Khan says her initiatives have boosted the number of visitors and, in the case of Times Square, have also been a boon to local businesses.

City restaurateurs now have

November 6

Chefs' Secrets: In the World & on the Web

"Stephen Shepard"
City College 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Free

Through April 5, 2013

"The End of Poverty"
John Jay College 8:45 a.m.–4 p.m.
Free

November 16

"A Line Around an Area"
Queens College 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
Free

Institute Opens
November 5

Book presentation: The Italians of New York by Maurizio Molinari
Calandra Institute 25 W. 43rd St. 6 p.m.
Free

November 8

"The Italians of New York"
NYC Police Corruption
Graduate Center 6:30–8 p.m.
Free

November 1

They Wished They Were Honest: The Secret History of Art

November 1

"Black Wall Street" Fight for Civil Rights

Jeanne Sakata was so moved by the documentary "A Personal Matter," about civil rights icon Gordon Hirabayashi, she wrote her first play, "Hold These Truths," which will have its world premiere at the Alvin Theatre on Broadway on May 3, 2013. Hirabayashi is a CUNY graduate who was interned in Manzanar after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The city's Mexican population has exploded in the past three decades and while a large majority has found work, there's been less success in the classroom. Alyshia Gálvez, acting director of the CUNY Institute for Mexican Studies, based at Lehman College, shares his key objectives.

The city's Mexican population has exploded in the past three decades and while a large majority has found work, there's been less success in the classroom. Alyshia Gálvez, acting director of the CUNY Institute for Mexican Studies, based at Lehman College, shares his key objectives.