New Talent and Programs, Record Enrollment Mark 2007-08

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novative new degree programs have been rolled out. An infusion of new faculty talent is on board. Student enrollment is surging to record levels. The City University of New York is reaching upward and outward in 2007-08, both raising academic standards and expanding educational opportunities to increasing numbers of diverse New Yorkers.

The University has hired more than 800 new full-time faculty members—highly accomplished and renowned academic minds, and newly minted Ph.D.s with promise. Vibrant new degree-granting programs are on tap for 2007 and 2008, including master’s degrees in Forensic Computing at John Jay College, in Real Estate at Baruch College, and in Middle Eastern Studies at the Graduate Center. At the same time, CUNY continues to explore new ways to serve the city’s burgeoning educational needs.

Student enrollment at the City University of New York climbed to its highest level since more than three decades this fall, to 231,602, a 19% increase from 194,994 in 1999 and up 2.5% over last year. Undergraduate enrollment increased 3.1% at both the senior colleges and community colleges from last year and first-time freshman enrollment is up 4.3%, breaking down to a 3.4% rise at the senior colleges and 5.6% at the community colleges. CUNY also serves 230,000 adult, continuing and professional education students.

Black and Latino enrollment increased 14.6% from 1999 to 2006; from 98,659 to 110,839, making CUNY the nation’s largest and most diverse urban public university. The senior colleges saw 16% growth in the number of black first-time freshmen and 43% in Hispanic first-time freshmen during the seven-year period. At the community colleges, both groups saw first-time fresh-

man enrollment leaps of more than 27%.

The new enrollment and hiring figures mark a new moment in the University’s drive to raise standards and tighten admissions requirements has gone hand in hand with continuing, steady enrollment increases among all racial groups on both the senior college and community college levels, the figures show. From the senior colleges to the community colleges to CUNY’s free, college preparatory programs like College Now, where public high school students are snapping up seats in record numbers. “The enrollment numbers are proof that the University has succeeded in raising standards while continuing to reflect the rich diversity that is a unique characteristic and a great strength of the city we serve,” said Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

At the Board of Trustees meeting, Chairman Benno Schmidt extolled Goldstein for his administration’s accomplishments, from the steadily rising enrollment and continuing diversity of the student body, to the University’s burst of full-time faculty hiring for 2007-08, and doing all of that “in a time of budget stringency and lack of strong budget support.”

“It is necessary to say that there is not a public university system in the country that has a record of movement that is even close to as impressive as the movement of the City University of New York,” said Chairman Schmidt, thanking Goldstein for “an unequalled record of progress over these eight years.”

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Macaulay Honors College, above, has a new home, at top. CUNY Xpress is a new service center in an Upper Manhattan immigrant community. CUNY Month Offers Daily Special Events Throughout November

O
vember is CUNY Month 2007, the annual month-long smorgasbord of open houses and special events at the University’s 23 colleges and institutions throughout the five boroughs. The University’s colleges are showcasing their best performances, lectures and activities, many of them free, during the month.

For those considering enrolling in college courses or a degree program, the campuses offer CUNY Month workshops and seminars where prospective students can hear from financial aid experts and speak with counselors, faculty, alumni and currently enrolled students. Learn firsthand which college program best meets your needs, and how affordable a CUNY education can be.

For details about CUNY Month programing, including college fairs, campus tours, lectures, concerts, theatre performances and exhibits, such as those featured on the mini-calendar posted on Page 12, please visit our Web site, www.cuny.edu/cunymonth, or call CUNY’s hotline, 1-800-CUNY-YES. Ask about the “Decade of Science” activities our colleges will be featuring to highlight STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Inquire about the William E. Macaulay Honors College, the Graduate School of Journalism, our highly ranked undergraduate and graduate degree programs, adult and continuing education, the new online undergraduate business degree, and other outstanding opportunities available at CUNY.

To learn about CUNY’s many faculty and student stars, please visit “Look Who’s Teaching and Learning at CUNY” and listen to lectures on CUNY Radio at www.cuny.edu and watch CUNY-TV Cable Channel 75, premiering the seventh season of the Emmy-nominated magazine series, “Study With the Best.” Celebrate CUNY Month every day in November.

Pondering Views Of Black Intimacy

An African American professor at Hunter College examines how 20th Century black women novelists have represented this provocative subject.
Compact Increases Investment

This fall the University welcomed 800 talented new faculty members to its 23 colleges and professional schools. I am delighted that students and the community alike will benefit from the expertise and experience of scholar-teachers in disciplines ranging from biology to art history to journalism.

Increasing the ranks of full-time faculty is a high priority for the University and one of the initiatives in our 2004-2008 Master Plan. We know that faculty are the backbone of the University, fulfilling its mission to serve students and society through the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Being able to hire new faculty was one of the key motivations for the creation of the CUNY Compact — the new model of financing public higher education that we introduced two years ago.

Prior to the CUNY Compact, funding for public higher education in New York was determined on a year-to-year basis. This discouraged long-term investment and made public universities vulnerable to economic downturns. Students were hurt when large, unexpected tuition increases were used to cover operating expenses some of which were non-institutional public funding.

In order to increase public support, keep tuition manageable, and create new revenue sources within the University, I proposed, and the Board of Trustees supported, a new funding partnership: the CUNY Compact. This investment plan delimits shared responsibility for financing the University among government, the University, its alumni, and friends, and its students.

The Compact asks the State and the City of New York to cover the University’s mandatory costs (such as energy and labor contracts) and at least 20 percent of the academic initiatives in the four-year Master Plan. The remainder of the funding for investments comes from the University, in the form of increased philanthropic revenues, internal restructuring and efficiency measures, managed enrollment growth, and tuition increases, not to exceed the Higher Education Price Index over the life of the plan. A critical part of the Compact is that revenue from tuition increases would go exclusively toward funding programmatic initiatives in the Master Plan, with recommendations from CUNY students and faculty. Over the last two years, the state provided revenue in lieu of tuition increases. We are working now in the third year of the CUNY Compact, and we are seeing the results of a renewed focus on investment. In its first year, Compact funding allowed both senior and community colleges to hire additional faculty. It helped the University to launch the School of Journalism and the School of Professional Studies.

Millions of dollars were invested to expand technology in teaching, including science instrumentation and electronic library acquisitions, and to expand student services, including additional counseling staff, child care, veterans’ support, and student fellowships. Information management systems were upgraded, and new computer hardware and software were purchased. All of these areas are priorities outlined in the University’s current Master Plan.

Our 2008-09 budget will continue to focus on investing in the University, particularly in two key CUNY-wide initiatives, the Decade of Science and the Campaign for Student Success. Our decade-long focus on increasing participation and proficiency in the sciences, at all levels, will be assisted by funding for new faculty, fellowships for doctoral students, and high-end equipment. Our Campaign for Student Success, which seeks to cultivate and sustain a culture of accomplishment throughout the University, is targeted for investment through continued faculty growth and enhanced advising, counseling, financial aid management, and other student services.

Simultaneously, the University’s new five-year capital request, covering 2008-09 through 2012-13, is being developed through a consultative process with the CUNY colleges. Ongoing funding to support science facilities on several campuses, as well as the University-wide Advanced Science Research Center, will be a priority, as will infrastructure maintenance and upgrades, to ensure that CUNY’s buildings will be able to serve students well into the future. Compact funding is already making a difference in our capital plans, as well; last year, almost $4 million was invested as facilities improvements across the University.

By taking as its starting place the University’s Master Plan, the Compact appropriately emphasizes our academic initiatives as the foundation of our funding requests. Development of the 2008-12 Master Plan is now under way, with input from every CUNY campus. A continued funding partnership through the CUNY Compact will enable our ongoing plans to build a university of national renown to become a reality.

Build a university of national renown to become a world-class institution, with programs in the health professions, social services and sciences, as well as the arts and humanities. This is the University’s dream. This is the plan. This is the budget. This is the investment.

"College Now helps students meet high school graduation requirements and ensures that graduates are better prepared to do college-level work," said Chancellor Matthew Goldstein. "Research has shown that students who participate in College Now tend to do better academically than their counterparts once they enter college." He added that the state Commission on Higher Education is looking at CUNY’s program as potentially "a good model statewide.

Goldstein also pointed to "an impressive increase in enrollment" in the University’s language immersion program. For $12 a week, intensive, 25-hour-per-week, English immersion classes are offered to qualified immigrant CUNY students who want to improve their reading and writing skills. Eligible students with a high school diploma can enroll at a CUNY college and work on improving their skills for up to one year in preparation for college-level work.

The City University continues to explore innovative ways — such as the recently opened CUNY XPRESS, a street-level service center in the heart of an immigrant community in Upper Manhattan — to reach prospective students seeking new educational and career opportunities. This fall marked
remains an adjunct curator. He completed undergraduate studies in France in philosophy, received his master's in art history from Courtauld Institute in London and a Ph.D. in art history from University of Texas at Austin.

Sheryl McCarthy, Distinguished Lecturer in Journalism, Queens College. McCarthy has been a reporter and education editor at the NY Daily News, an ABC News correspondent, and a special writer and columnist for Newsday and New York Newsday. She received Columbia University’s Meyer Berger Award for her columns about New York City, National Education Writers Association awards, and a Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University. She is on USA Today’s board of advisors.

Rachelle Arrigo-Restrepo, Professor of Biology, New York City College of Technology (City Tech). Arrigo-Restrepo researches cellular processes involving proteins linked to cancer and neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. She received her Ph.D. in molecular genetics from Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Bruce P. Braun, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The Graduate Center. A scholar of human geography, Braun explores the relationship between social and environmental forces — “the politics of nature.” His book The Intemperate Rainforest: Nature, Culture and Power on Canada’s West Coast, about struggles over British Columbia’s rainforests, has received favorable journal reviews. He holds a B.A. from University of Winnipeg, and M.A. and Ph.D. from University of British Columbia.

Lisa E. Farrington, Professor, Art, Music and Philosophy, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. An author, art historian and curator focusing on contemporary African-American women artists, story quilts and the black female nude, Farrington received her Ph.D. in art history from The Graduate Center and has taught at Parsons The New School for Design.

Tamara Levitz, Professor of Music at The Graduate Center, effective Feb. 1. A scholar of musical modernism, Levitz has taught and published on the Weimar Republic, American experimentalism, Cuban modernism, avant-garde music after 1945, modern dance, Stravinsky, John Cage, Kurt Weill and 1960s popular music. Her interests in gender, race and identity embrace “the new musicology.” Levitz holds a B.Mus. from McGill University, M.A. from Technische Universität Berlin and a Ph.D. from Eastman School of Music.

Vasileios Marinis, Assistant Professor of Art, Queens College. An expert in Byzantine art and history with degrees from the University of Athens, the Sorbonne (Paris I), the Divinity School at Yale, the Pontifical Institute at the University of Toronto and the University of Illinois, he has taught everything from early Christian art to modern architecture and brings wide research and museum experience. Marinis will teach in the art and history departments.

Stephen Neale, Professor of Philosophy, John H. Kornblith Family Chair in the Philosophy of Science and Values, The Graduate Center. Neale is acknowledged as a leading philosopher of his generation in the English-speaking world and the best working at the interface between philosophy of language and linguistics. He is known for scholarship related to descriptions, pronouns, quantification and demonstratives, and for his influential books Descriptions and Fixing Facts and has advised the Department of Justice on linguistic, logical and philosophical issues. He holds a B.A. from University College London and a Ph.D. from Stanford University.

Alexis Piquero, Professor of Anthropology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Piquero has studied patterns of lifetime criminal activity. In 2002 the Journal of Criminal Justice ranked him the leading scholar in criminology/criminal justice, in terms of scholarly productivity. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles on issues related to criminal careers and quantitative methodology. Piquero has a Ph.D. in criminal justice from the University of Maryland at College Park.

Salman Ahmad, Visiting Distinguished Lecturer in Music at Queens College. A physician by training and rock musician by profession, Ahmad was a member of his native Pakistan’s first pop band, Vital Signs, and founded Junoon, South Asia’s biggest rock band. A U.N. goodwill ambassador for HIV/AIDS, he has appeared in the PBS- and BBC-aired documentaries “It’s My Country Too,” about Muslim Americans, and “The Rock Star and the Millennials.” He graduated from Taipan Zee High School, Orangeburg, N.Y., and King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan. Ahmad’s career was profiled in the Fall 2007 CUNY Matters (www.cuny.edu/ cunymatters).

Some other notable hires:

Ben Alexander, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, Queens College, has lectured on archival theory and practice. He received his M.A. in British and American literature from Columbia University and his Ph.D. in American literature from CUNY.

Michael J. Hickerson, Assistant Professor of Biology, Queens College. Hickerson, who is teaching biometrics, studies how species are affected by large climatic and geologic changes. His Ph.D. in biology is from Duke University.

Yael Neumann, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and Communication Disorders, Queens College, earned undergraduate and master’s degrees at Brooklyn College and did her Ph.D. work at the Graduate Center. Her research interests include neurolinguistics, and lexical access in typical aging and in adults with aphasia. She has extensive clinical experience in speech, voice and fluency disorders.

Eric Byung Chan Song, Assistant Professor of English, Queens College, is teaching 17th century literature. His M.A. is from University of Chicago and his Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

Sheryl McCarthy

as CUNY Adds More Innovative Programs and Renowned Academic Minds

the opening of the new Upper West Side home of the William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, which has attracted some of the best and brightest students from across the five boroughs and beyond.

Earlier this summer, the state Education Department approved CUNY’s second online degree offering — a fully Online Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, which is accepting students now for January, 2008 classes. This innovative program is available for former students who left college in good standing without a bachelor’s degree, often because of work or parenting responsibilities. Now a return to college is available through this fully online program offered through the University’s School of Professional Studies, based at CUNY’s Graduate School and University Center.

As of this writing, the University’s extensive offerings have been expanded even more for 2007 and 2008. The new curricula include: Forensic Computing, the M.S. program offered by John Jay College that is the first in the nation to merge criminal justice and computer science studies. Students will be trained to solve crimes such as cyber-terrorism and Internet child pornography and will be qualified to conduct investigations of security-breaching electronic crimes.

The Public Health Ph.D. program at The Graduate Center, which focuses on urban health issues and is part of CUNY’s overall expansion of health-related courses to meet growing demand.

Diabetes and Nutrition Science, A.S., Bronx Community College: Students completing this new program are automatically accepted into Lehman College’s B.S. degree program in Dietetics, Foods and Nutrition.

Real Estate M.S., Baruch College. Starting in fall 2008, this 30-credit curriculum — designed for prospective and current real estate professionals and those with substantial real estate portfolios — will provide an intensive look at the real estate industry. The master’s program joins Baruch’s already large roster of real-estate-related degree-granting programs.

CUNY Online Baccalaureate, B.S., Business School of Professional Studies. Now taking applications for the spring 2008 semester, this core business curriculum is designed for independent, computer-savvy students looking for a flexible way to earn a high-quality bachelor’s degree while balancing family and career needs.

Creative Writing, M.F.A., Queens College. Under the direction of award-winning poet Nicole Cooley, this program will allow students to earn degrees in specialized areas of writing such as poetry, fiction or literary translation.

Educational Leadership, M.S. Ed., Lehman College. Designed to prepare students for careers as leaders of schools and school districts in urban schools with diverse populations.

Other new degree programs include Religious Studies, B.A., Medgar Evers College; Applied Mathematics, B.S., New York City College of Technology and Mental Health Counseling, M.A., City College.

“More students continue to choose to attend CUNY colleges, they will benefit greatly from these new opportunities and become better prepared to compete effectively in the workforce and global marketplace,” Goldstein said.
Warming to the Widening World of the Wiki

Earlier this year, Angela Carrington gathered one evening with a group of classmates from New York City College of Technology to talk about how to write a 500-word essay. The topic: Which of the growing crowd of Democratic and Republican candidates would make the best President?

The five students were not meeting in their English class; they were gathered online, using a collaborative Web site known as a “wiki.” Each student’s assignment was to contribute to the essay, critiquing the strengths and weaknesses of a candidate. “We all wrote a paragraph,” recalled Carrington, a freshman from Brooklyn. “Then we IM-ed [instant-messaged] each other.”

Over several days group members “explored each other’s ideas, edited each other’s paragraphs,” she said.

In the end, it was Carrington’s job to blend the paragraphs into a cohesive whole. She messaged her draft around to the group and got final comments until everyone agreed the piece was ready to show the rest of the class. “A lot of people told me, ‘I’m not sure I would have been able to do this myself,’” said Carrington. “It helped improve their writing and helped improve my writing. Our wiki got an ‘A’ for that paper.”

Welcome to wiki world.

While wikis have been used by techies for years, they’re recently sprung up in many universities like CUNY — and are starting to change the way students and faculty learn and work together. “Wikis are used pretty much for collaborative projects,” said Karen LustdREM, Director of Instructional Technology at City Tech. “When you edit each other’s work and build on it, you promote greater critical thinking and teamwork.”

First created a dozen years ago by innovative West Coast software designer Ward Cunningham, the wiki is a Web site that allows its content to be created and edited by anyone who has access to it. (Some wikis are private and require users to have passwords; others are open to the public.)

“Wiki-wiki” is the Hawaiian word for “very quick,” and indeed, such sites can be quickly used by their visitors. “Just click on the page and write,” said Ann Matuschi, head of acquisitions for the Brooklyn College Library. The college’s librarians use their wikis for “practical information-sharing,” said Matuschi, as well as a “communications bridge” to make up for the fact that they meet as a staff only a few times a year.

Wikis have become popular among communities large and small, including the widely known Wikipedia, the sprawling, such sites can be quickly used by their visitors. In the end, it was Carrington’s job to blend the paragraphs into a cohesive whole. She messaged her draft around to the group and got final comments until everyone agreed the piece was ready to show the rest of the class. “A lot of people told me, ‘I’m not sure I would have been able to do this myself,’” said Carrington. “It helped improve their writing and helped improve my writing. Our wiki got an ‘A’ for that paper.”

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Wikis have become popular among communities large and small, including the widely known Wikipedia, the sprawling, online encyclopedia. At CUNY, wikis are often accessed through Blackboard, the university’s online course management system. In contrast to wikis, blogs are “more linear” in nature, with one person posting a comment, the next person responding, and so on, said LustdREM. “A wiki is more fluid. You can make changes on the same version. And you have more flexibility to add things, like film clips or articles.”

Professor of English Jane Tainow Feder, who taught Carrington’s City Tech writing class, noted that wikis offer a lot of variation in design. In some cases, students can comment on each other’s writings, in other instances students can use it as a private blog where only the teacher can review their assignments. But when students exchange comments with each other “it’s more powerful,” Feder said.

Another City Tech teacher, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Isaac Barjis, has been using wikis to help his students solve problems presented in various case studies. In one study, for example, “A victim of poisoning presents a cherry-red appearance” and students are asked to determine the type of poisoning involved.

Each group of four to six students discussed a case study for a couple of weeks, posting responses and editing each other’s responses on the wiki site. Students learned not only from their group, Barjis said, but from other groups in the class, who then get an opportunity to challenge the case presented by the first group.

Wikis “generate a very different vibe” from traditional learning, said Jim Russell, Director of Instructional Technology at Baruch College. “Collective problem-solving helps promote greater participation and flushes out mistakes earlier in the process. ‘Student ownership of content becomes more real.’”

At Kingsborough Community College, students enrolled in CUNY’s Institute for Virtual Enterprise program are using a wiki to assemble a business plan over the course of a semester — each student acting as a different department head. The goal is “to put students into real-world situations,” said Christoph Winkler, Associate Director of CUNY’s Institute for Virtual Enterprise. “The wiki allows students to collaborate without having to meet in person,” he said, “but also lets them edit at 3 o’clock in the morning.”

Like their students, CUNY’s faculty are using wikis to work on joint projects and share information. At Hostos Community College, for example, librarians created a wiki to develop a collaborative assessment of the library’s goals. “It made sense because we were all working on a collaborative document,” said Catherine Lyons, Reference & Information Technology Librarian.

Some faculty may be reluctant to use a wiki because, simply, “they don’t know how to use it,” acknowledged Tom Greene, Reference & Information Technology Librarian.

Still, many faculty members have already embraced wikis as a pedagogical tool for their own skills development. At City Tech, for example, Associate Adjunct Professor Tamara Winkler, President requires small groups of students in his “Using Technology in Education” course to write assignments based on two chapters of an assigned text, using a wiki to collaborate on their work.

While the wiki is “just one piece of the technological diet,” in the other classroom, President says, it’s a piece that’s likely to stay awhile: In March, “wiki” was officially entered into the Oxford English Dictionary.
City Housing Authority Funds CUNY Educations

Ten NEW YORK CITY Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents have received $1,000 scholarships to further their education at CUNY.

For Kimberly Golden, the award couldn’t have come at a better time. “Without the scholarship I would not have been able to purchase all of my books and attend the winner session,” said the single working mother of two, who attends York College and lives in South Jamaica Houses in Queens. Kit Hing Lam, another scholarship recipient, said she feels honored to have won and hopes that her success will encourage other Asian-American students who live in public housing to pursue this and other opportunities that NYCHA makes available to residents. The NYCHA/CUNY program, started in 2005, provides scholarships for qualifying residents of public housing who are enrolled in CUNY Colleges.

Hunter Gene Center, Nursing School Share NIH Award With Weill Cornell

The HUNTER COLLEGE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND THE COLLEGE’S CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GENE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION are sharing in the latest round of National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA), joining a consortium that ultimately will enable researchers to provide new treatments more quickly and efficiently to patients nationwide.

Hunter researchers, who work in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medical College and other prestigious institutions on Manhattan’s East Side, are part of an expanding national consortium that is transforming how clinical and traditional research is conducted at academic health centers across the country. When fully implemented in 2012, 60 institutions will be linked together to energize the discipline of clinical and translational science. “Through collaboration and leadership, these sites are serving as discovery engines that can rapidly translate research into prevention strategies and clinical treatments for people who need them,” said NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., who announced the expansion.

Hunter’s Gene Center recruits and nurtures minority talent and has established an effective electronic network with minority scientists nationwide. The Hunter College School of Nursing, training nurses from a diverse urban population, participates in community outreach and education in under-served areas.

Report: Raise the Bar for Early Childhood Education

New York City’s early-childhood centers face a number of challenges — including serving a growing number of children for whom English is a second language and getting qualified professionals to enter and remain in the field — according to a new report by the New York City Early Childhood Professional Development Institute at CUNY.

“Learning About the Workforce,” prepared in collaboration with the Cornell University Early Childhood Program, is the first such in-depth study in the city. The report, which focuses on the community- and school-based early-childhood centers that educate children from birth to age 5, paints a portrait of a workforce that is educationally and ethically diverse but reveals substantial gaps in education, certification, and compensation between teachers at school-based and community-based centers. For the full report, go to www.earlychildhoodnyc.org.

Hostos Community College’s Library recently unveiled the first phase of the Tito Puente Legacy Project, a permanent exhibit of music and memorabilia defining the life of one of the 20th century’s most influential Latin-jazz musicians. The exhibit at Hostos — venue for many of Puente’s concerts in the Bronx — includes his musical instruments, recordings, posters, videos, press clippings and photographs from his days as a Boy Scout through his later life. In time, his complete works are expected to become part of a Tito Puente Museum on the campus to preserve the memory of the man known as King of the Mambo, the King of Latin Music, or simply El Rey.

Puente, who died at 77 in 2000, was born in Harlem to Puerto Rican parents and achieved worldwide fame as a orchestra leader, musical arranger, composer and instrumentalist. “This is a dream come true,” said Joe Conzo, director of the Legacy Project and a noted music historian who worked with Puente for more than four decades. “It will be a good tool for children, students and adults of all ages and of all ethnic backgrounds to learn about our music through the unique legacy of our great Tito Puente.” Special guests at the opening included Puente’s wife, Margaret, his daughter, Audrey, and his son Ron, Puerto Rican singer Sophy Hernandez, and Congressman Jose E. Serrano, who secured $50,000 in federal funds for the project.

Bloom, Fume, Zoom

ITS BLOSSOM looks like a rocket blasting out of a head of cabbage, and it definitely doesn’t smell like a rose. But it lasts only a day and another might not appear for a decade, so visitors flocked to Lehman College recently to sniff the tiny blooms of the aptly nicknamed “Corpse Flower.” Greenhouse manager David Cain likened the smell to a two-week-old elephant carcass.

Amorphophallus titanum — its botanical name — is the world’s largest flower. It normally blossoms only once every 10 years in its native Sumatran rain forests. But Cain began growing this one only six years ago from seeds collected in 1993 by Mohammad Fayyaz, director of the Botany Greenhouses and Botanical Gardens at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Leyman’s plant thus was dubbed Big Moziy after Fayyaz.

Cain attributes Big Moziy’s early flowering to the conducive environment within the greenhouse but also to the reaction of Lehman students in its presence. “Students came in and just went crazy over the plant,” Cain said. “They hugged it and talked to it and returned for repeated visits. This plant has gotten a lot of love from the Bronx.”

Dr. R. HENRY VANCE DAVIS, who has more than 25 years’ experience in diversity initiatives, has been appointed University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity after a nationwide search. “Dr. Davis brings significant experience and outstanding accomplishments,” to CUNY in the area of inclusion initiatives, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said. “We look forward to his efforts in support of the University’s mission.” It was also announced that University Director of Environmental, Health and Safety Dr. Howard Apsan has assumed the area of inclusion initiatives, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said. “We look forward to his efforts in support of the University’s mission.” It was also announced that University Director of Environmental, Health and Safety Dr. Howard Apsan has assumed the responsibilities for risk management, including chairing a new Risk Management Council that includes members from each campus to serve as key contacts for risk management communication throughout CUNY. Ongoing risk management activities within specific campus units already include environmental and financial audits, personnel procedures, emergency preparedness and lab safety training.
Overall, this was an event to celebrate the health of the system and not one to pull at the violin strings...for what it is and where it is, Jamaica Bay is probably doing quite well.

— Gillian Stewart

24-Hour BioBlitz Probes Jamaica Bay

John Waldman discovered tidewater silversides (Menidia beryllina) frolicking in the brackish part of Jamaica Bay in Queens. Everyone had assumed these fish were Atlantic silversides (Menidia menidia), but Waldman looked more closely. An invisible line separates saltier from sweeter water, providing just the right habitat for the salt-loving Atlantic’s unsuspected tidewater cousin. Not far away, Chester Zarnoch found the Asian shore crab, an invasive species whose population is exploding, to the detriment of native wildlife. Andrew Burnick spotted an eared grebe, a small waterbird native to the western states that evidently took a wrong turn. Jon Speiling noticed an unexpected species of sphagnum moss in the western states that evidently took a wrong turn. Jon Speiling noticed an unexpected species of sphagnum moss, a plant whose abundance signals the health of the system.

With such a baseline, it becomes easier to track change. And change is very much under way.

“I’ve looked at maps from late 1800s when there was this great, green field of salt marshes, with some narrow creeks [reaching the ocean west of the Rockaway Peninsula],” Waldman said. Now 63% of the marshes that survived in 1951 have vanished, killed largely by human activity. Unless marsh restoration begins immediately, scientists say, most of Jamaica Bay will become unvegetated mud flats and sand bars.

The bay’s salt marshes once were “one of the most productive habitats, nurseries for juvenile fish, crustaceans and mollusks,” as well as habitat for 20% of migrating bird species in the northeast. But with the death of marsh grasses, eggs and larvae are less likely to grow into adults. Oysters, for example, thrived in the 1800s, but if you placed them in the bay now, he said, “they’ll survive, but won’t reproduce. Jamaica Bay is a sewered, not a watershed. You’re losing one of the major components of the ecosystem.”

Stewart, a biogeochemist who studies how plankton affect the carbon cycle, is more upbeat. “Overall, this was an event to celebrate the health of the system and not one to pull at the violin strings,” she said. “The system isn’t pristine, but this is one of most urban estuaries in the country, so of course it won’t be pristine. Maybe we need to be more realistic and say that, for what it is and where it is, Jamaica Bay is probably doing quite well. Anyone who goes out there will be overwhelmed by the diversity of life.”

That’s certainly true for two Queens College students who spent all 24 hours helping with BioBlitz logistics, which Stewart organized.

“I was with a group that was trying to identify spiders and insects, comparing pictures with what we were looking at,” said biology major Corinna Singleman, a senior. “We also were trying to catch damselflies, but our effort was for naught because they already had identified them. In the middle of the night someone came in and screamed, ‘I found a black widow spider in the men’s room,’ that was fun.”

Katherine Paccione, who is earning a master’s degree in ecology and animal behavior, broke away for one walk with scientists. “I’d never seen the Jamaica Bay Refuge at night, and it was a different world, dark and peaceful,” she said.

They spent most of the 24 hours at the visitor center amid microscopes, dissecting kits, nets, bottles, jars, preservatives, fish tanks, field guides and a tent for coffee and snacks. There were six cots, but volunteers too excited to sleep used only four.

Fifty-three students came from Baruch College. “I was thrilled at their response, because most are business majors,” said Chester Zarnoch, a first-year assistant professor of environmental sciences at Baruch. “Many came up to me and said, ‘I live 15 minutes away and never knew this place existed.’”

On the other hand, Andrew Burnick knows the bay well, having conducted his doctoral research on the forag-
Waters and marshes that shelter hundreds of flora and fauna species are within sight of the city skyline, bayside homes and the Verrazano Bridge. At right, Professor Waldman’s net yields native creatures including silversides, bottom left.

An Oasis in Peril

Human activity puts intense pressure on Jamaica Bay, a tidal wetland that supports a rich array of life. Sixty-three percent of the marshes that existed in 1951 have vanished. In August, a scientific panel warned in August that without immediate action, all life-sustaining vegetation could die by 2012.

"An Update on the Disappearing Salt Marshes of Jamaica Bay, New York" by the Gateway National Recreation Area and the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee lists some reasons for the die-off, including:

- Four city water pollution control plants discharge 250 million gallons of treated waste water into the bay daily. This water contains 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of nitrogen — "far too much nitrogen for the remaining marshes to use up or assimilate."
- Rainfall can sweep untreated sewage, high in organic pollutants, into the bay.
- Factors that impede the normal flow of sediment that builds and sustains marshes: commercial development and bulkheads, navigational canals and underwater pits left by the excavation that provided fill to build both JFK’s runways and two artificial islands used by the A subway line.

There is hope. The city Department of Environmental Protection in October announced a water quality restoration plan, including stepping up nitrogen control methods at two waste water treatment plants. Habitat restoration is also under consideration in selected areas where oyster reefs and eelgrass, which were once native, may be reintroduced.

The executive summary of the report is available at www.nyc.gov/dep.

To visit the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, take the A train to Broad Channel Station or the Belt Parkway to Exit 17S onto Cross Bay Boulevard.

Brooklyn College Professor David Franz, a specialist in marine invertebrates, found about 45 species, including crabs, worms, hard clams and blue mussels, "but nothing unusual."

He summed up the BioBlitz this way: "The value is to get people who are not professionals interested in what’s going on in the bay — a diverse ecosystem that we don’t think much about in urban environments. The results are not as important as the enthusiasm that’s generated in collecting them. It’s a lot of fun."
Baruch’s White House Intern

A BE GOLDSCHMIDT (Baruch College ’07) is currently assisting Rudy Giuliani’s presidential campaign, but he has already worked in the White House. Goldschmidt added that his internship “distinguished himself.”

Hunter Urban Planners No. 1

A TEAM of 12 Hunter College Urban Planning graduate students won the $25,000 first prize in the JP Morgan Chase Community Development Competition for their proposal for a Health and Fitness Center for taxi drivers at Kennedy Airport. The annual competition challenges urban planning graduate schools to work with nonprofit community groups on the development of small-scale community-based projects.

11 New Watson Fellows

C LASS OF 2009 WINNERS of Jeanette K. Watson Fellowships, which provide paid internships for three summers, have been awarded to the following: Talia Kreovsky, William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, Hunter College; Nicole Lebenson, William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, Brooklyn College; Mikaela Chase and Valero Russo, William E. Macaulay Honors College at CUNY, Lehman College; Aaron Gavin, Brooklyn College; Long Tran, Hunter College; Alvin Bradbury and Lindsey White, City College; Amsamna James, Lehman College; Maria Gonzalez and Anaja Islam, Queens College.

9 CUNY Women Recognized

W OMEN’S FORUM Education Fund Awards of $5,000 each are bestowed to encourage mature women to fulfill their potential through education and to enhance their capacities to provide productive service to their communities. Nine CUNY students are 2007 recipients: Donna Ash, York College; Evita Brilmonte, New York City College of Technology; Linda Dwyer and Sonia Valentin, Brooklyn College; Patty Jatkowski, City College; Suzi Myers and Elizabeth Soto, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Hong Xin and Lei Yu, Hunter College.

Bomb Leaves Busy Student With Challenge of His Life

U NTIL ONE TRAGIC DAY this summer, the life of tow truck driver Gregory McCullough was very much emblematic of the typical multi-tasking CUNY student. Aspiring to a career in law enforcement, he balanced classes at The New York City College of Technology with a full-time job, a burgeoning schedule of responsibilities and passions — and did it all with impressive enthusiasm. In his “spare” time, he mentored young cadets, trained in karate and was devoted to his church and his family.

“Tanya McCullough-Stewart’s ‘beautiful and loving son’ is in the struggle of his life, following the horrific Manhattan steam pipe explosion on July 18 that ripped apart the pavement at Lexington Avenue and 41st Street and swallowed McCullough and his tow truck into a scalding geyser of steam that left him severely burned and near death.”

“Tanya McCullough-Stewart said of her only child at a news conference in August. “At City Tech, McCullough’s determination stood out. He enrolled in City Tech in fall 2005 and took classes in the legal studies department for four semesters, switching to a liberal arts program in spring 2007. “Our students tend to have work demands, family demands and yet they want to succeed. They find ways to wear all of the many hats,” said paralegal studies Professor Lise Hunter, who taught McCullough in an introductory course at City Tech two years ago.

McCullough, she said, “was one of those students — full-time jobs, juggling everything. I remember him because he distinguished himself. She said she “gapped … just horrified” when news of the tragedy first flashed on the evening news in July. “Often students like to hide in the back of the classroom,” Hunter recalled. But McCullough was different. “He made a point of always asking questions and participating and engaging in class discussion, so I got to know who he was early on.”

“He had a lot on his plate,” said Will Molloy, a karate instructor at Tiger Schullmann’s dojo in Bensonhurst. “But I don’t think I ever had anyone who was more enthusiastic. I wanted to talk to him about becoming an instructor.”

Said Pastor A. R. Bernard of Christian Cultural Center in Brooklyn, the family’s church, “He is a dynamic young man who is at the beginning of his life, and it could have been any one of us.”

“I do want the family to be comforted in knowing that his teachers remembered him and cared about him,” said Prof. Hunter. “We keep him in our prayers.”

McCullough’s family has called for an independent investigation and announced a lawsuit against Con Edison, which issued a statement of sympathy for the victims and their families but has not commented directly on the litigation. His mother and stepfather have been at his bedside daily, singing to him and praying for his recovery as he undergoes ongoing treatment to remove dead skin and stave off infection. McCullough’s medical bills are expected to exceed $1 million.
Pondering the Representation of Black Intimacy

By Gary Schmidgall

CANDICE JENKINS has an axe to grind, which of course is a good thing. Books without a cutting edge are scarcely worth the bother. In her Private Lives, Proper Relations: Regulating Black Intimacy, just 1961 observation by James Baldwin on the work of a fellow black novelist, Richard Wright. "In most of the novels writers until today, there is a great space where one ought to be; and what usually fills this space is violence." The important feat of Eva's Men, suggests Jenkins, is that "violence and sexual expression are forced to occupy the same narrative space." Jenkins hastens to note, several times, that one enters the arena of intimacy—in real life or in fiction—at some risk. The picture may not be pretty. Eva Canada goes mad and turns murderous; Eva's extreme actions ruthlessly expose the unpleasant 'truth of desire.' Desire can turn vicious. "Intimacy itself is a kind of horror because it forces one to accept the painful reality of another individual, and to gain pleasure from that acceptance." Finally, however, Jenkins votes for risk: "To enter the realm of the sexual, the erotic, is to take a risk, and no amount of silence, no amount of propriety will erase that risk." She seems genuinely happy that black American writers are proving increasingly willing to imagine and explore intimate and improper relations. She doesn’t like the word "regulating" of her subtitle; in fact, in her text she uses the blunter word "policing" in its place. This argument is extended provocatively by Jenkins in a short epilogue in which she suggests that, in representing sexual and familial intimacy, black culture could do worse than take a page from queer theory—not the page about sexual identity, but the one about nonconformity. (Her chapter on The Color Purple is titled "Queering Black Patriarchy"). It is this ideological nonconformity that I suggest becomes the chosen approach to intimacy in African-American culture. Jenkins is thinking particularly of challenging black premises about heterosexuality and marriage, but her ultimate insight goes beyond mere distortions of gender, race, or sexual preference. Nonconformity (like intimacy) requires risk, and fully living life requires that risk trump the safety always tantalizingly on offer from the hand of the salvific wish. The epigraph Jenkins chose for her epilogue, from the black lesbian Shay Youngblood’s novel Black Girl in Paris, makes her point: "Baldwin’s a good writer but depressing as hell. I don’t ever want to love like that." "Maybe that was the point," I said.

"To take risks for love, not to be afraid of it."
When talk turns to crime and punishment, it’s the headline-grabbing issues — the death penalty; wrongful convictions; mandatory sentences and human-rights abuses in prisons — that spark the most lively public debate.

But for Nicholas Freudenberg, a Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health at Hunter College, it’s the inmate-related topics that go virtually unnoticed that have the biggest impact. So for two decades, Freudenberg has been going behind the bars at Rikers Island Detention Center to try to find out what’s keeping jail inmates from making a fresh start on the outside.

There was, for example, the 19-year-old who grew up in Brooklyn coping with a mother who died of a drug overdose and a father who had a tendency toward violence. He left school after 10th grade and had been arrested eight times for minor offenses that ranged from possession of marijuana and jumping a turnstile to burglarizing a furniture store after 10th grade and had been arrested eight times for minor offenses that ranged from possession of marijuana and jumping a turnstile to burglarizing a furniture store.

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What helped this young man break the cycle of crime? He credited REAL MEN, along with a host of other factors, including the support of family members.

And there was the 18-year-old felon from Manhattan with the “I hate the world attitude” who had spent nearly eight months at Rikers for two robbery convictions. He’d had a penchant for violence and to live — his drug-addicted parents had recently died of AIDS and his younger brother succumbed to severe asthma shortly afterward — much less make something of his life. The only thing that eased the pain and anger was pot.

He says REAL MEN helped him another path: He’s working on finishing his high school equivalency degree and hoping to begin a career in music so as to provide for his girlfriend and their baby.

Supported by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, REAL MEN aims to help young men who are released from jail stay healthy and free by offering them a 30-hour jail and post-release program on health issues.

Freudenberg noted that half the people leaving jail are reincarcerated within 12 months. Many inmates have infectious diseases such as HIV, or suffer from asthma, or abuse drugs or have mental health problems. “There are more mentally ill people in jail than those under psychiatric care,” he said, adding that his research explores “what happens to jail inmates when they go home, how the re-entry experience may contribute to health inequities in low-income communities, and how our social policies may contribute to re-incarceration. It’s one piece of the puzzle of improving health in poor communities.”

The research, which begins in 2002, was funded with more than $9 million from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has led to changes in city and state policy. When one of his recent studies showed that women who had Medicaid were more likely to stay out of jail, the city began a program to offer sentenced inmates the opportunity to sign up for coverage that begins on their first day of freedom. And it was his data that helped lead to the passage of a state law in July that restores immediate Medicaid coverage to jail and prison inmates after their release.

“Dr. Freudenberg’s research was an important factor in our starting this,” said Kathleen Coughlin, Deputy Commissioner for Programs and Discharge Planning for the New York City Department of Correction. “Some people might ask, ‘Why give incarcerated people extra services?’ Dr. Freudenberg’s research helped us to demonstrate that the answer is at least partly economic — it costs more not to provide the services that help people to stay out of jail than to pay for putting them in jail again.”

The benefits accrue to the released inmate, and also to society at large, Freudenberg said. “We have the opportunity to connect these people to services while they are in jail as opposed to making our jails schools for criminals.”

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Entrepreneurial Training Seen as Key to Productive Jobs for Former Prisoners

Small businesses that provide landscaping, office cleaning and other personal services have helped entrepreneurial-minded welfare recipients and immigrants find success. Now a new study suggests that these opportunities to work faced by another marginalized group: former prison inmates.

According to a study by the Economic Development Institute of Pennsylvania, 34 percent of adult public housing residents in the nation experience unemployment. The report noted that “entrepreneurship may represent a means of capitalizing on an underutilized pool of "entrepreneurial talents.""

“Entrepreneurial training and technical assistance; credit and access to capital; economic literacy and asset development; and follow-up services are critical to the success of any prison-based entrepreneurship program,” said the report. "The publication noted that self-employment may not be a viable option for all former inmates, but there is value in the entrepreneurial training. These individuals may never become entrepreneurs themselves, but will use their entrepreneurship training to improve their performance as employees and to proactively engage with their families and communities,” the report said.

Case studies of formerly incarcerated persons who have launched their own successful businesses are interspersed throughout the publication. Adrienne Smalls saw a need while incarcerated for a service that would help families purchase and send “high quality, state-approved products to their loved ones in New York State prisons.” Smalls started in 1999 with $500 and a shopping cart to haul her inventory. Her company, Small Quality Packaging Corp., now nets $2 million a year.

Another former inmate, Theo Tiger, launched Ocean Touchless Car Cleaning in 2000, using his first tax refund as start-up capital. The company received a minority business contract from Kansas City, MO, last April to provide multiple cleaning and sanitation services to firms in the city’s metropolitan area.

In San Diego, CA, Robert Casas used knowledge he acquired on a prison work crew to develop Cut and Trim Landscaping, according to the monograph. Founded in 2000, the company provides yard work to residences and businesses in the area. Casas has three full-time workers and three freelancers. Cut and Trim Landscaping grosses between $120,000 and $150,000 a year.

The report serves a dual purpose as a primer for those unfamiliar with the issues surrounding reentry, and as a guide for others who may be acquainted with its inherent problems, but not the cutting-edge solutions being applied. A study the monograph cites found that in 2003, as many as 41 percent of inmates at federal, state and local correctional facilities lacked a high school education, as compared to just 18 percent of those 18 and older in the general population.

Mass incarceration, the phrase commonly used to describe the nation’s current state of criminal justice, has had a significant impact on state budgets. The report cited a federal Bureau of Justice Statistics analysis of expenditures by state corrections departments which rose nearly 800 percent from 1980 to 2004 or from $6.9 billion to $62 billion.

“Imprisonment itself prevents hundreds of thousands of people from participating in the labor force and from contributing to the economy, resulting in reduced tax revenue and productivity,” according to the report.

Changing these policies will benefit community health because the inmates are connected to the people and services that can help them stay on a healthy path. If we’re going to see any improvement, though, we’re going to have to deal with all the other issues, including employment and education, as well as health care.

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We have the opportunity to connect these people to services while they are in jail as opposed to making our jails schools for criminals. — Nicholas Freudenberg, Distinguished Professor of Urban Public Health, Hunter College

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K Cycle of Repeated Incarcerations

The support of Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s administration, as well as interest from the state and federal government, has given Freudenberg hope that there will be more reforms. “I’m optimistic,” he said. “We’ve only begun a process of disenchantment with incarceration as a response to every problem. We send too many people to jail. More people are beginning to see that it’s not possible — or desirable — to lock people up and throw away the key because almost everyone who is jailed does eventually come home.”
## NOVEMBER

### Sunday

- **Rose**
  - 1 PM: Members Free, $5
  - Also Queens College Jewish Lecture Series 2 PM: Free

### Monday

- **Queens College**
  - 6 PM: Recital with pianist and leader of the L.A. Police Choir
  - Also John Jay College Lecture Series, L.A. Police Chief 4:45 PM: Free
  - Also CSI: The Republic: Black, White, and Red 1070x18 PM: $25
  - Also CUNY: New York’s Fanning 1090x18 PM: Free

### Tuesday

- **Kingsborough C.C.**
  - 6-7:30 PM: Kingsborough College: Free Sundays at 1 PM

### Wednesday

- **Queens College**
  - 6 PM: Moscow Classical Ballet: The Nutcracker by the Lehman College Symphony
  - Also: Wyckoff: Free Sundays at 1 PM

### Thursday

- **Queens College**
  - 6-8:30 PM: Students of Geoffrey Dorfman, Tracy Jones, Free

### Friday

- **Kingsborough C.C.**
  - 7 PM: Angelo's: Pizza & $5 beer and wine
  - Also: New York City Dance Company 2 PM: $25

### Saturday

- **Queens College**
  - 3 PM: The Kiss

## DECEMBER

### Sunday

- **Queens College**
  - 6 PM: Recital with pianist and leader of the L.A. Police Choir

### Monday

- **John Jay College**
  - 4:45 PM: Free

### Tuesday

- **Lehman College**
  - 12:30 PM: Free

### Wednesday

- **Hunter College**
  - 6 PM: Recital with pianist and leader of the L.A. Police Choir

### Thursday

- **Lehman College**
  - 7:30 PM: A Christmas Carol

### Friday

- **Brooklyn College**
  - 7 PM: Free

### Saturday

- **Kingsborough C.C.**
  - 3 PM: The Kiss

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**For more, visit [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu) and click “Podcasts.”**

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**The Skinny on Trans Fats**

Trans Fats Help Center is helping restaurateurs rid their menus of harmful trans fats. Laura Stanley, coordinator of the center, explains how substitute oils can be just as tasty.

**Forensic Scientist Bill Bass**

A pioneer in forensic anthropology, Dr. Bill Bass built his reputation around the “Body Farm,” the world’s first laboratory dedicated to the study of human decomposition. Dr. Bass discusses his latest book at John Jay.

**Kathryn Harrison: Author of The Kiss**

Write Kathryn Harrison is best known for her controversial memoir The Kiss. Currently a visiting professor at Hunter College, she previews her upcoming book, When They Slept: An Inquiry Into the Murder of a Family.

**New Help for Vets**

Wilfred Cotto, a 28-year Navy veteran, is now the Coordinator of Veterans Affairs for CUNY. He explains how he hopes to continue to help vets.