CUNY Matters

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Inspired new Master Plan outlines University advances expected over five years.

Rigorous academics empowering students to achieve — and graduate on time in record numbers. Workforce training for professions that drive New York’s economy. The University’s historic mission to promote opportunity, expanded for the new century for returning veterans, the disabled, immigrants, their children and others who seek a valued higher education for the challenges ahead.

These are among the highlights of The City University of New York envisaged by the 2012-2016 Master Plan. Titled “Investing in Our Future,” approved by the Board of Regents as required under state Education Law, the 171-page plan sees CUNY five years from now as a public university fulfilling its historic missions by more efficiently and creatively providing access to a high-quality education for increasing numbers of better-prepared students, and functioning as an “integrated university” as described since the early days of the city’s public colleges.

The plan builds on the remarkable accomplishments of a decade, particularly CUNY’s redefined and strengthened standards, the Decade of Science initiative and the hard-fought, successful CUNY Compact funding strategy advocated by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein — which have fueled the University’s renaissance, attracting record numbers of students seeking value for their education dollar. It also reiterates its commitment to meet the challenge expected over five years.

Continued on page 6 ➤

CUNY Matters
Office of University Relations
535 East 80th St.
New York, NY 10075
AM DELIGHTED to welcome the entire CUNY community to the start of a new academic year — one that brings a number of promising developments across the University.

In Manhattan, just across from Bryant Park, the new New York City College of Technology is already hard at work, engaged in the innovative new curriculum. Guided by the success of the ASAP initiative — a doubling of graduation rates — the New York City College is focused on supporting student achievement through elements such as a required summer bridge program, a common first-year course of study, intensive advising and a model that links learning to career experiences. The college, New York City’s first new community college in more than four decades, was awarded nearly $1 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to document its launch and evaluate the effectiveness of its programs and operating principles over a two-year period. We will closely monitor students’ experiences over this first academic year.

Elsewhere, new facilities opening this fall at several CUNY campuses will transform the educational experience for other students. In Brooklyn, Lehman College will open its new science building, the first of a three-phase facility to support the college’s strong work in plant science teaching and research, while Bronx Community College will officially open its North Instructional Building and Library, the first new building constructed on the campus in more than 30 years. In Queens, students at the CUNY School of Law are now attending classes in a modern, environmentally green building in Long Island City, complete with a moot courtroom, new classroom spaces and smart technology. At Borough of Manhattan Community College, the new Fiterman Hall, with dramatic views of downtown Manhattan, will provide much-needed space for the college’s 24,000 students.

Facilities projects at our community colleges received an additional boost this spring in the city budget: $71 million in capital funding over the next four years. Through a match with existing state allocations, this funding will help the colleges address critical maintenance issues, including urgent needs such as fire alarm upgrades, boiler and roof replacements, and façade repair. Our community colleges had a 48 percent enrollment increase from 2001 to 2011, and the resulting increase in facilities usage has only exacerbated the need for maintenance, renovation and repair. In addition, the University received baseline support from the city for the Black Male Initiative, a crucial measure of financial stability for this important program. Funding from the city and state is timely and much appreciated.

The many new facilities across the CUNY colleges — whether those opening this year, those recently opened (including buildings at John Jay and Medgar Evers), or those still in progress (such as the Advanced Science Research Center expected to open in 2014) — reflect the ambitious plans for continued academic revitalization the University detailed in its 2012-2016 Master Plan.

CUNY’s master plans, submitted to the state every four years, outline the University’s academic priorities going forward. The 2012-2016 Master Plan, adopted in 2011, describes ongoing projects at the City University and provides an environment that encourages sustained academic engagement. Anchored by four key elements of CUNY’s historic mission — maintaining academic excellence, sustaining an integrated system, expanding access and remaining responsive to its urban setting — the plan looks ahead to ensure the University’s receptiveness to the city’s changing demographics, national and local economic conditions, and new technologies and pedagogies. The plan emphasizes expansion of innovative academic programs, investment in new, full-time faculty, student success at every level and the construction of 21st-century facilities. These priorities will be further supported by our follow-up work to the CUNY Jobs Task Force report.

The Master Plan was developed under the guidance of Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alexandra Logue and the Office of Academic Affairs, with input from the colleges, the chancellorcy, the Council of Presidents, the Council of Chief Academic Officers, the University Faculty Senate and the University Student Senate. My thanks to all of those whose ideas helped shape this inspired plan. In June, CUNY’s Board of Trustees adopted the 2012-2016 Master Plan, which is now under review by the State Education Department. The plan is available online: www.cuny.edu/masterplan2012-2016.

None of these auspicious advancements would be possible without the outstanding work of our faculty, staff and alumni, day in and day out. I am overwhelmingly grateful for your contributions and look forward to working closely with you to serve our students and our city in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Achievement, grit, perseverance and creativity: These are the hallmarks of the Class of 2012, which earned a record 14,800 associate degrees, 21,500 bachelor’s degrees and 11,000 graduate degrees. That total is 37.6 percent higher than in 2001, when the University took steps to increase academic quality, including raising senior college admission standards.

“Their common aim was to succeed. Any graduates are well

GEOGRAPHICALLY speaking, 2012 reflects a changing world. With the completion of American University’s Research Center expected to open in 2014, the University has an opportunity to focus on emerging technologies and pedagogies. The plan emphasizes expansion of innovative academic programs, investment in new, full-time faculty, student success at every level and the construction of 21st-century facilities. These priorities will be further supported by our follow-up work to the CUNY Jobs Task Force report.

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“Their common aim was to succeed. Any graduates are well
2012 Grads

education. After a close friend was killed, this decorated Marine corporal promised “not to let any more Marines die on my watch.” He crawled streets on hands and knees, looking for explosives before he’d let his convoy pass. Wan finished York’s physician assistant program in three years and is studying for the MCAT medical-school test. He plans to pursue neurological disorders among other triumphs. He is interning with Apple this summer, hopes to become an entrepreneur and may train for the 100-yard backstroke and his leg of the 400 medley relay in the 2016 Olympics.

Jordan Stockdale (Hunter College M.A., special education) grew up in Kansas City, but wanted to live and teach in New York. He joined the city Teaching Fellows Program and taught in East Harlem’s PS 57, “a high-needs school and a really good school. Being a minority male, I want to inspire younger students who look like me to succeed.” He won a Fulbright Fellowship to teach English in Spain for 2012-2013, but intends to return to teaching in the city and earn a doctorate. Some already are pursuing high goals — such as expanding accessibility for the disabled and inspiring tolerance along with scholarship in schoolchildren.

At KCC, One Cuomo Hails Grads and Two Cuomos Are Honored

“The Nation is aching for a change ... you will have to heighten efforts to do what must be done to encourage a more intelligent, constructive and reasonable acceptance of our nation’s unique diversity, through dialogue and hard work and respect,” former New York first lady Matilda Raffa Cuomo told graduates at Kingsborough Community College’s 47th commencement ceremony. “If we are able to do that,” she continued, “we will not only improve current conditions, we will have an opportunity to make the kind of progress we have not seen since the Industrial Revolution.”

Noting her own family’s immigrant roots, she said “immigrants have helped build us into the most powerful nation in world history, blessed with the fruit of foreign cultures.” In recent years, she said, “the surge of discovery, innovation and technology, and accelerating globalization has opened new markets to scores of new products and techniques — and jobs for many more people. Kingsborough has provided you with the precious insights that will help you in approaching the global workplace ... a whole new world awaits building.”

Before the commencement address, Kingsborough President Regina Peruggi presented the college’s highest honor — President’s Medals, designating a lifetime of dedicated service — to Matilda Cuomo and to her husband, former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, both pictured at left.

Continued on page 8
Hostos — and the Bronx — Laud ‘Mr. Arts and Culture’

The South Bronx was burning when Wallace “Wally” Edgecombe arrived at Hostos Community College in 1973. Gangs were active, drugs were ubiquitous and many people lived in poverty.

“You could see the storm brewing,” Edgecombe recently recalled as he reviewed nearly 40 years of association with the college, which opened two years before he took the position of assistant director of college relations. “Don’t ask me why I took the job,” said Edgecombe, 66, speaking from behind the desk in his office, which showed signs of being pared down this June as he prepared to retire. “I was just taken up by the issue of urban America and the people I met.”

That interest would make Wally Edgecombe a veritable household name in the South Bronx. Because he was bilingual, “I got all the exposure to Afro-Caribbean culture in Cuba — to the avant-garde — attracting a lot of favorable press,” said Edgecombe.

Admirers speak of him as a visionary and a trailblazer who empowered the area’s ethnic groups through the center’s programs, which last year served more than 108,000 patrons — 15,000 of them children. Hostos plans a major concert in November dedicated to Edgecombe.

In 1982, Edgecombe set up a committee of faculty, staff, community and student leaders to develop a plan “to serve the cultural needs of residents of the South Bronx and similar inner-city communities who do not have the means or the inclination to attend arts events in midtown Manhattan.”

Undaunted by doubters, he organized concerts in the gym, featuring professional performers from the community as well as such luminaries as Tito Puente and Celia Cruz, the Dance Theatre of Harlem and Ballet Hispanico. “Other Latino and African-American arts groups emerged. It was sort of a phenomenon,” Edgecombe said. “From the beginning we got full houses.”

A makeshift gallery was set up in the cafeteria to exhibit works by community artists, and from that modest beginning the center has grown to include a museum-grade art gallery and two theaters (900 and 367 seats), with a box office and full-time production manager.

From the outset, patrons indeed have come from all over the metropolitan area, making the center an arts institution of regional importance. A typical season means or the inclination to attend arts events in midtown Manhattan.”

“Even though we don’t pay high fees a lot of professionals want to participate, because the reputation is so high,” Edgecombe said. Programming also includes a visual arts series and a children’s performing arts series; periodic festivals featuring different cultural traditions, and works of the Hostos Repertory Company. Individual artists are offered commissions and residencies.

The Center has co-produced productions with such organizations as the Latin American Writers Institute and the Bronx Council on the Arts. Bill Agudo, retired executive director of the council, said Edgecombe “built bridges between the community and the college using music. ... He was able to empower various ethnic groups through that music. He had just about every major performer perform there and also younger people who got their first break because of him.”

Elba Cabrera, who was on an advisory council formed to consider creation of the arts center, said Edgecombe did two jobs. “He was the college person writing wonderful press releases, and he was Mr. Arts and Culture. ... His vision, his foresight made this possible for Hostos. ... People just refer to him as Wally. You don’t have to say his last name ... his contribution will be forever,” said Cabrera, now secretary and a member of the board and chairperson of the Arts and Culture Committee of the center and college.

Gerald Meyer, a retired Hostos history professor who arrived at the college a year before Edgecombe and currently mentors teachers, created a film series for the Center and was on the board for 15 years. Meyer said Edgecombe “... was the main leader at every point ... Wally and the board had a deep commitment to the belief of culture as a very powerful force against demoralization and for personal, individual and community acclamation. ... We saw the community as a great resource that had a need, but it wasn’t like we were fixing anything. It’s really giving a chance for this culture to be expressed and making it available.”

The arts and culture program was a major source of positive publicity for the college, Meyer said. “It was an invaluable piece of the college and a great resource for recruitment.”

Hostos President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez — one of eight presidents with whom Edgecombe served — said, “For the past four decades Wally Edgecombe has been a driving force in the cultural life of Hostos Community College and in the South Bronx.”

Looking back over his years at Hostos, Edgecombe said, “I had the best job in the college. ... You get feedback right away. ... Our cultures have a life of their own. All they need is a little space and light. They are so powerful and so rich I think anybody in my position would be successful.”

Hostos plans a major concert in November dedicated to Edgecombe.
The Gates Foundation recently bestowed generous funding and praise on CUNY’s New Community College … Discoveries by University researchers could solve two major medical mysteries … Why streets in an Irish village are being named for Hunter College’s founder.

Brian D. Obergfell, a senior partner in the New York City law firm Emmet, Marvin & Martin, joined the Board of Trustees in June. Nominated by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the Brooklyn resident has an extensive background in banking, real estate and commercial finance and is the permanent trustee of the Heisman Trophy Trust.

Iconic Support: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded $81 million to the New Community College, which Bill Gates called a breakthrough learning model in post-secondary education.

Ancient Mystery Solved: John Jay assistant professor Angelique Corthals has discovered that a 500-year-old frozen mummy had a bacterial lung infection at the time of death. Corthals, a forensic anthropologist, used proteomics – a method that decodes proteins instead of DNA — to profile the mummy of a 15-year-old Inca girl. Instead of DNA, she used proteomics to decode proteins for a method that decodes proteins instead of DNA — to profile the mummy of a 15-year-old Inca girl.

Curious about his opponent. Intercolligate football continued until 1955.

Cold war mystery.
faced by CUNY almost since its beginnings: to provide access to rising numbers of diverse New Yorkers seeking a college education amid limited and stretched University resources.

On this point, the plan spreads some good news. For the first time in its history, CUNY can enjoy predictable revenues feeding directly to its colleges for new faculty hiring, programs, facilities and services. The $300-per-year tuition increases slated for the next four years, approved by New York State last summer, not only ensure predictability and funding stability for CUNY but — in an unusual turn — will be plowed directly back into the University for investment to meet current and future needs. Individual CUNY colleges and institutions will evaluate their own needs and propose how to use their allocations.

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein praised the 2012-2016 Master Plan as “a comprehensive, forward-looking plan that reflects The City University of New York’s leadership role in public higher education. It builds on the foundation of academic achievement and innovation that the University has strengthened over the last several years, and defines an ambitious framework for advancing the creative work of our students and faculty going forward."

“I commend Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alexandra Logue for leading a University-wide process to develop an inspired plan grounded in CUNY’s historic mission of expanding access to a high-quality education and serving New York’s communities,” the Chancellor said.

What will CUNY look like in five years? The Master Plan — which can be read at cuny.edu/masterplan2012-2016 — focuses on these key “missions” for development and investment:

**Mission One: Academic Excellence**; $295.1 million over the next four years, including $191.5 million for full-time faculty; $72.3 million for Decade of Science initiatives, and $20 million for the new Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), a CUNY-wide science hub to open at City College in 2014.

“Any university can achieve true excellence without a significant core of full-time faculty,” the report said, but it noted that despite the hiring of hundreds of new faculty in recent years “student enrollment growth has outstripped faculty hiring.” The University now has more than 7,100 full-time faculty. By 2017, it projects nearly 2,000 new full-time positions.

The Advanced Science Research Center, to be operational in 2014, is central to CUNY’s continued “Decade of Science” focus on world-class science education and research facilities. Five years from now, according to the Master Plan, CUNY will have hired distinguished faculty to direct each of the ASRC’s key research areas: photonics, nanoscience, structural biology, neuroscience, and environmental science, plus additional research faculty, technicians and other staff. “The ASRC will also facilitate the development of integrated research collaborations both within CUNY and between CUNY and peer institutions across New York State, and nationally.”

“Access and excellence are core principles of the University’s mission, then online and hybrid learning are integral to that mission (with hybrid courses combining online and..."
face-to-face instruction),” the report noted. Online and hybrid courses have been successful at CUNY and have “expanded the enrollment capacity of campuses and programs,” giving them an important role in reducing the impact of increasing enrollments.

By 2016, online and hybrid courses are to comprise 20 percent of instruction at CUNY, the Master Plan stated. “In fall 2010, the percentage of instructional (student) FTEs [full-time equivalents] offered partially or totally online on each campus ranged from under 1 percent to over 25 percent (at BMCC). The goal for 2016 is to triple the 2010 mean—a target of about 20 percent of instruction (measured as FTEs) delivered online either fully or partially.”

**Mission Two:** Maintain Integrated System/Facilitate Articulation.

$23.6 million, including $2.4 million to implement the Pathways to Degree Completion initiative transforming general education at CUNY and smoothing transfers; and $17.8 million for the expansion of the New Community College.

The Pathways reform “will integrate the University as never before,” the plan said. Pathways strengthens and streamlines general education requirements CUNY-wide, and ensures that only high-quality faculty-approved courses are accepted for a new “Common Core” of required courses, and that the courses transfer “seamlessly” among CUNY colleges.

“The Pathways courses will be first offered in fall 2013. By 2016, the first associate-degree holders who have taken the entire Pathways Common Core will be transferring to CUNY senior colleges. As a result, by 2016, CUNY’s undergraduate retention and graduation rates should start to increase significantly,” the Master Plan stated.

To improve those rates further, CUNY’s successful ASAP program to speed and improve community college graduation rates will be expanded over the next three years to more than 4,000 enrolled by fall 2014. The New Community College at CUNY will open this fall as a model for enhancing academic achievement and “the timely attainment of degrees.”

**Mission Three:** Expanding Access, which includes a total of $9.6 million for programs spanning college preparation, developmental education, SEEK and services for veterans and students with disabilities. Just as CUNY is seeing an increase in better-prepared, higher achieving students, the number of poorly prepared students also is up, requiring continued attention to programs that improve student skills. In addition, “To ensure that students can access and complete a college education that will support their advancement, CUNY will continue to take a lead in advocating for the availability of robust state and federal financial aid.” The University’s safety net for students in need is a national model, with nearly six of 10 full-time undergraduates qualifying for full financial aid and paying no tuition.

**Mission Four:** Remaining Responsive to the Urban Setting.

CUNY is an economic driver of the city and state, and over the next five years will expand that role. The Master Plan calls for an investment of $16.7 million in operating funds for equipment at the campuses, for workforce training, and education for teaching, health care and other in-demand New York professions. The University will also establish the CUNY Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to develop and commercialize its cutting-edge research.

CUNY “has built significant capacity in research, especially in science and engineering, positioning the University as a major regional resource for economic development,” the report noted. “During the period of this Master Plan, the University will expand on its burgeoning entrepreneurialism and increasing number of collaborations with business and industry through the establishment of a CUNY Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

A $2 million capital allocation from the New York City Council will fund this initiative, which will encourage development and novelization of commercialization of cutting-edge research, and “fast-track new technologies from the laboratory into the marketplace.” The center will occupy 6,000-10,000 square feet at an external site and eventually house between 15 and 25 companies, science and non-science based. Faculty inventors will be trained in developing business plans, performing market research, launching spinoff companies, and applying for small business grants.

“The entire University will benefit from a flourishing culture of entrepreneurship,” attracting increased research funding from private companies and accomplished faculty interested in commercializing their inventions. “University-industry collaboration will also encourage the creation of startup companies that will both generate a new source of revenue for CUNY and have a positive impact on local economies,” as well as provide internship, research and career opportunities for CUNY students, according to the Master Plan.

For a copy of the full report, snap the nearby square with your smartphone or visit search.cuny.edu “master plan 2012-2016”

**Master Plan Highlights**

“High-end core facilities, such as the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, will allow CUNY scientists to expand the scope and scale of research beginning in 2014.”

“The 2012-2013 budget request calls for 440 additional faculty positions for next year alone.”

“The goal for 2016 is a target of about 20 percent of instruction fully or partially delivered online.”

“Few public universities take money from their operating budgets and dedicate it to financial aid for students; that CUNY does so reflects the values of its leadership.”

“The University will expand its burgeoning entrepreneurialism and increasing number of collaborations with business and industry through the establishment of a CUNY Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”

“Fueled by record enrollments and lower construction costs, CUNY has about $2 billion of projects in the pipeline, from state-of-the-art laboratories to major renovations of historic buildings.”
oberto Perez was already a self-described “political junkie” when he was introduced to state politics through CUNY’s Model New York State Senate.

He produced and hosted a political radio show while he was a liberal arts student at LaGuardia Community College. “Now I’m doing my own thing,” he said earlier this month, referring to “The Perez Notes,” an online program he produces and hosts that focuses on politics, entertainment and the arts.

Perez, 35, has interviewed scores of elected officials for bilingual blogs he posts at the website, which has received more than 350,000 visitors from 120 countries since its inception.

He credits participation in the Model Senate for his success. “You learn about how government works at the state level,” said Perez. “It helped me enormously to achieve my goals.”

Perez was among more than 120 young adults — most of them Latinos — gathered at the Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work in East Harlem on July 14. They were there for the first reunion of alumni of the annual Model New York State Senate Session, which is in its 16th year.

The all-day event provided an educational and networking opportunity for the alumni, many of whom were meeting each other for the first time.

Since its inception in 1997, the Model Senate has served nearly 1,000 students from CUNY and the State University of New York, giving them a chance to develop their leadership potential and understand the importance of public service as they learn what it might be like to walk in the shoes of legislators.

In preparation to role-play as sitting senators, the students get four weeks of training that CUNY provides through the CUNY Edward T. Bogowsky Internship Program in Government and Public Affairs.

They study democracy and legislative representation, the demographics of state counties, and major public policy issues debated in Albany. Their training also involves legislative decision-making and boosts their organizational, research and public speaking skills.

The project culminates with a mock legislative session on the Senate floor in Albany during the annual Somos de Futuro (We Are the Future) conference of CUNY.

Scores of young adults, most of them Latinos, recently attended the first alumni reunion of Model New York State Senate Session, founded by CUNY.
By Gary Schmidgall

ERHAPS the most distinguished marriage of two American artists was that of the abstract expressionists Jackson Pollock (1912-1956) and Lee Krasner (1913-1984). It was brought vividly to the screen in the 2000 film “Pollock.” The title says it all. For all her married life and nearly 30 years of widowhood, Krasner lived in her own right, was for maven of the arts scene merely Mrs. Jackson Pollock. A spousal footnote.

Gail Levin has now given her first biography, Lee Krasner (William Morrow), and its readers will savour the delicious irony of what happened at the Academy Awards that year. Ed Harris, who played the title role in Pollock, was nominated for best actor but did not win it. Marcia Gay Harden was nominated for best supporting actor and took home the statuette. The feminist gods must have cherished over Krasner finally coming out on top after decades of suffering the male chauvinism of the mid-20th century art world.

The film zeros in on the real-life Pollock’s moodiness and binge drinking: in 1956, aged 44, he fired his manager — another woman — while driving near their studio/home in Springs, Long Island (Krasner was in Paris at the time). But Levin, a Distinguished Professor of Art History at the Graduate Center and the author of a cache of books on Edward Hopper, devotes her attention mainly to giving a vivid sense of the arc of Krasner’s developing and changing sensual style and placing her in the context of the New York arts scene over nearly half a century, which Krasner referred to once as “a nice nest of snakes.”

Scrupulously researched and footnoted, Levin’s book fills in the largely unknown years before Pollock: the scrapping by her family of Russian immigrants in Brownsville, her early studies at Cooper Union and City College (aiming for an art-teaching certiﬁcate), and a long-term affair with another deaf-mute Russian immigrant (his family objected to her being Jewish). Krasner subsisted through the Depression working for WPA, frequently getting arrested for labor protests. She once booked herself into the WPA, frequently getting arrested for objecting to her being Jewish). Krasner substituted psychotherapy, but the main fun and inter­est of Lee Krasner is the art-historical gossip of which Levin is a clear mistress, including the feud over surrealism, action painting and the art-chat wars, with art gurus Harold Rosenberg and Clement Greenberg making numerous cameo appearances.

Levin makes it clear she has some skin in the game she is telling. Back in 1977, she was a young curator for the Whitney Museum and working on a show titled “Abstract Expressionism, The Formative Years.” She was determined to include Krasner and drove out to her Springs studio near East Hampton. They hit it oﬀ. There’s a photo of her and Levin on the visit on page 389, which begins one of the happiest chapters in the book, “The Feminist Decade, 1970-79.” If not a labor of love — Krasner was manifestly not a lowly presence — this biography is certainly a labor of respect.

Krasner’s ﬁrst-ever New York museum show was in 1973, and much of her belated recognition was thanks to the ﬁrst wave of feminism. Though she was genuinely grateful for what feminism achieved in the arts, Krasner was never comfortable with the concept of “feminist” art, just as she always grieved over experts blathered about “American” art. She didn’t know what that was either (and despised the Whitney for being a “Museum of American Art”). Krasner gained some comfort in her own skin in the 70’s, bluntly telling the Village Voice in 1977, “I painted before Pollock, during Pollock, after Pollock.”

The last chapters also honor Krasner’s ferocious dedication to Pollock’s legacy in her supporting role of wife. Her wish for a catalogue raisonné of his works was published (in four volumes) by Yale in 1978, and she jealously guarded the Pollock estate, which he left entirely to her. “I can say no very harshly,” she boasted. Dealers growled that she inflated the Pollock market, and she doled out his paintings happily only to museums.

Thanks to rocketing auction values for Pollock, Krasner’s last years were ﬁnancially comfortable. She left a $10 million estate, most of which funded the Pollock-Krasner Foundation to support “needy and worthy” artists, and there is a Pollock-Krasner House and Study Center at SUNY-Stony Brook.

From its opening in 1929, Krasner harbored love-hate feelings about that male bastion, the Museum of Modern Art. “You have to hold it for the ﬁne source you have to make peace with.” One of her most cherished hopes was to get her own retrospective at MoMA (she had never had any retrospective in her entire career). At long last, one was planned that would open on Oct. 17, 1983, her 75th birthday, at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, then move to San Francisco. It would then go to MoMA. She made it to the opening by a miracle, but by the time it was at MoMA she was too ill to attend. She had also missed getting her ﬁrst honorary degree, from Stony Brook, in person in May 1984.

In June she was dead and lying near Jackson in a cemetery in Springs. Her grave is oddly placed not next to but at the feet of Pollock’s much larger one. But never mind: Gail Levin and Lee Krasner are in the running.

CUNY Matters welcomes information about new books that have been written or edited by faculty and members of the University community. Contact: Sheila.McKenna@mail.cuny.edu.
CULTIVATING TEAMWORK — AND TEAM SPIRIT

Training employees to guide students
is one key to creating University-wide collaboration.

ASK STACI COHEN of Queens College about teamwork and she smiles knowingly. Recently she put together a team of workers and gave them an unusual assignment — for New York City, anyway. Their mission: to guide and teach students in the planting of a 50-tree orchard on campus.

As a project and energy manager for the Queens College Office of Buildings and Grounds, Cohen is accustomed to challenges. But she emphasizes that such endeavors are never the work of one person. For example, she credits supervisor Timothy Gibbons with training the employees who worked with those students to plant the trees.

“I think you’re only as good as the people around you,” Cohen says. “And, as project manager at Queens College, I’m simply a team leader who coordinates the efforts of our most valuable resource — people.”

Cohen’s middle name is Hope and, as she will tell you herself, hope certainly propels her when building a team. As does planning.

“I chose a couple of guys who had good personalities and were very good with students,” says Cohen. “I gave them a design. I gave them the space to do the job they needed to do. Collaboration was key… and there was a teaching lesson in it for the students.”

The manager, it would seem, is a teamwork expert. Yet, operating in tandem with the tenets propelling this skill — that one can always learn more and it is crucial to share what you know — Cohen attended a CUNY-sponsored spring training session on teamwork held after the orchard was planted.

It was one of a number of such sessions offered by the University’s Office of Professional Development and Learning Management (PDLM).

“Maximizing Your Role on Your Team’ was introduced to CUNY audiences about two years ago,” says Rhonnye L. Ricks, University Training Director at PDLM, part of the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM). “Participants have indicated that they learn … how to ‘manage themselves’ as part of a team.”

“Participants have indicated that they learn the positive benefits of teamwork, how to ‘manage themselves’ as part of a team, and the importance of communicating with all team members, including their managers and/or supervisors.”

The May 21 session Cohen attended was held in Manhattan and attended by employees who work in various positions at Queens College — and at Bronx Community College, the Graduate Center, Lehman College and the Central Office. It was facilitated by Robert Kane, Senior Learning Partner at Training Unlimited, a human resources consulting firm.

Kane emphasized the importance of employees from different CUNY campuses brainstorming with one another. “Collaboration comes from seeing the big picture,” he noted. He added that sharing is also vital and asked participants to think about how many times they have heard that there is only one person who knows how to do a particular task. “What if that person wins the lotto tonight?” he asked, causing a

CUNY Work/Life Program: A Reminder of All It Offers You

THE MAINSTAY of the CUNY Work/Life Program is a 24/7 toll-free HelpLine staffed by trained professional counselors who provide free guidance and support to all CUNY employees. The program is provided for CUNY and its employees by CCA — Corporate Counseling Associates.

If you need specific help, calling is best. Employees have called about any number of issues from babysitting and eldercare referrals to how to relieve stress at home and at work — even to ask where to find a reliable kennel. However, if you prefer to explore online before making a phone call, you can visit the CCA website (contact information at end).

Online visitors will find information about the program — and an array of articles and webinars on topics such as parenting, aging and balancing work and family. More information can be found in the online publication “Lifelines: Information for your Life.” CCA emails this publication to human resources and benefits contacts on each CUNY campus for distribution.

A recent Lifelines article titled “Six Myths about Stress” dispelled several myths and explained that:

• Stress is not always bad for you.
• You can plan your life so that stress does not overwhelm you.

Another article detailed methods on safely disposing of prescription medicine, discussed medicine take-back programs and suggested contacting city or county trash and recycling services, or pharmacists, for information on how different communities handle this subject.

For related support, information, or resources call 800-833-8707 or visit www.myccaonline.com.

HR AT YOUR SERVICE

Enhancing CUNY’s Faculty Diversity

BUILDING on a Strong Foundation” was the theme of a recent, well-attended University-wide reception on the importance of faculty diversity in helping CUNY continue to support talented, diverse students.

CUNY’s goal is “how can we get to the next level. The discussion is about enhancing what we already have,” said Jennifer Rubain, University Dean for Recruitment and Diversity.

The reception — co-sponsored by the Office of Human Resources Management and the Office of Recruitment and Diversity — was hosted by John Jay College of Criminal Justice in tandem with the release of an extensive University report on the subject, subtitled “a strategy for enhancing CUNY’s leadership in the areas of faculty diversity and inclusion.” The report concludes that CUNY is doing well when it comes to faculty diversity but must both maintain this success and do more to increase it.

Two individuals who have over the years made significant contributions to promote diversity and inclusion were recognized at the reception. Professor Emeritus Don Watkins for his pioneering work with affirmative action and Nora Eisenberg, Professor Emerita, LaGuardia Community College, for her work as a mentor. Also honored were award winners of the Diversity Projects Development Fund and participants in the Faculty Fellowship Programs Program.

Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenhorn reminded the audience that CUNY’s students hail from 225 countries and that the new study will “help us to make sure we are as good as our students when it comes to diversity.”

For details: www.cuny.edu/diversityactionplan.

FORYOURBENEFIT

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chuckle to ripple throughout the room. About these sessions Bicks has said, “It’s one of those courses where you have so much fun, you don’t realize how much you’re learning.” Indeed, at the May session participants initiated, organized and completed a spontaneous coffee and doughnut run. “Good teamwork,” the facilitator agreed, when after a break they returned with the refreshments. Technology and teamwork was another issue discussed.

Thelma Carmona, Manager of Computer Services in the IT Department at Bronx Community College, noted: “With technology, as soon as you think you know it something else comes up and you need teamwork to figure it out.”

Rumors in the workplace, which can sabotage teamwork, was also on the agenda. Kane noted that rumors often “catch on fire… Try not to judge because you don’t know the whole story. And what do you do when you don’t know the whole story? You make it up.”

Among the other employees at the session was Sgt. Juan Velazquez, a Public Safety Peace Officer at the Graduate Center. He chimed in many times, including during a discussion on how to quell rumors in the workplace. He noted he does this by using a law enforcement technique called roll call — which has been depicted on many a television program. For a few minutes before the start of a shift, his officers line up to hear about any situations occurring that day, receive their “marching orders,” — and learn about the stories going around the campus that simply are not true.

Velazquez’s role call protocol, Kane added, epitomized teamwork.

Others in the room, where there was a healthy give-and-take, suggested that in many offices it’s not possible to round up everyone before the workday starts. They discussed a roll call-like session held periodically instead of daily. Cohen offered a format: “A quarterly leadership session to build morale, discuss positives and negatives.”

Participants also completed a number of exercises, including one on the core values they look for in team players. “Integrity, respect, courtesy, loyalty and dedication,” Cohen said. It was with those values in play that an orchard was planted at Queens College.

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GET YOUR NEW APP

The new CUNY App brings services and information to your mobile device. Get campus maps, access to student health services, counseling and scholarships, the CUNY library catalog and daily CUNY Newswire reports. To download the free app for your mobile device, search The City University of New York at the Apple or Android online stores. Or snap the nearby box with your smartphone to subscribe to Newswire.

WE REMEMBER — ELSE HOLMELUND MINARIK

ELSE HOLMELUND MINARIK, whose Little Bear picture-books have sold millions of copies over half a century and were the basis of an animated TV series, has died at her home in North Carolina at 91. The first book by Minarik, who studied psychology and art at Queens College, Little Bear launched the “I Can Read!” series. In 1997, The New York Times Book Review named Little Bear — the story of an anthropomorphized cub’s forays into the wider world — one of the best children’s books of the previous half-century. Yet early on, she had to fight one editor’s suggestion to change her bears into humans.

WRESTLING WITH STEREOTYPES — EMBER SKYE KANE-LEE

BROOKLYN COLLEGE JUNIOR EMBER SKYE KANE-LEE, a sociology major, is also a former high school wrestler who often withstood violence and harassment from male opponents (only 2 percent of U.S. wrestlers are women). When she discovered “the topic of female wrestling is one that has never been written about from a research standpoint,” she sought — and won — a $5,000 grant from the Rosen Fellowship Program. The grant enabled her to travel to Colorado and interview tryouts hoping to qualify for the Olympics — which introduced women’s wrestling in 2004. She now is writing a research paper on the subject, which she hopes might turn into a book.

SCIENCEWIRE — FAT AND OTHER WEIGHTY MATTERS

ABooMIMAL FAT has been linked to a number of health conditions, including high cholesterol, insulin resistance and high blood pressure. Body Mass Index is a widely used indicator of obesity, but a new City College study suggests it may not be the best predictor of whether your weight raises your risk of death. Researchers have developed a new measurement tool called a “body shape index” that combines the Body Mass Index and waist circumference.

NEW CUNY WEBSITE: Adds Many Features

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INANCIAL EDUCATION web seminars and financial insights are a new feature of the enhanced CUNY Retirement Plan website for TIAA-CREF members at www.tiaa-cref.org/cuny. The site also has easier navigation and improved tools, an announcement area and assistance with investment choices. A quarterly counseling calendar will note when TIAA-CREF consultants will be on different campuses.

Under a “needs help” feature, CUNY employees can find the name and office location of their campus TIAA-CREF consultant and campus benefit officer. There will also be a link for making appointments.
The shows – his first solos in the city since 1998 – all are expected to quickly sell out.