CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK task force of business leaders appointed by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein recently presented a report entitled “Jobs for New York’s Future” providing recommendations on how the University could enhance its already extensive effort at preparing a competitive workforce and, through higher education, enable the city to sustain its global leadership.

“We know that a number of CUNY partnerships and programs with industry already address the linkages” suggested by panel members and those they interviewed, wrote task force chair Frederick Schaffer, general counsel and senior vice chancellor for legal affairs, in the report’s cover letter. “A comprehensive effort to identify and examine CUNY’s best practices, as well as those of institutions across the country, will be a critical first step toward the goal of refining and expanding such activities and ensuring their effectiveness in preparing students for the rapidly changing 21st century workplace.”

Noting that Chancellor Goldstein has already initiated such conversations, he added: “The University should further its consultations with trustees, presidents, faculty, disciplinary councils, students, alumni, governance and advisory groups, the Business Leadership Council, and other constituencies to identify ways this study can be used to inform program improvements.”

“The Jobs Task Force provides both a conceptual framework and specific approaches to enhance the University’s ability to equip students for the city’s labor market,” Chancellor Goldstein said. “With The City University granting the majority of bachelor’s degrees in the city and 80 percent of our degree recipients remaining here after graduation, CUNY has a huge impact on the city’s economic life. As we work with our college communities to implement these recommendations, we will not only help our students succeed, but also strengthen New York City’s capacity for a vibrant future.”


Examples of workforce preparation initiatives include:

- University projects including the $20.8 million New York Simulation Center for Health Sciences, launched last September in partnership with NYU Langone Medical Center; CUNY’s nearly $20 million Career PATH Program to train out-of-work, career-changing adults; and many professional and certificate programs.
- CUNY job-preparation efforts range from Kingsborough Community College’s Virtual Enterprise Program to internships, workshops and training at Baruch College’s STAR Career Development Center.
- Highlights are at the end of this article.

Taking a forward-looking, conceptual approach, the panel examined key drivers and emerging trends in five industries that factor strongly in the city’s role as a global marketplace. Task force members interviewed industry experts, including panel members, themselves; analyzed labor market information; and examined examples of workforce preparation initiatives and other programs with industry already address the linkages that have been heard at major concert halls on four continents; Dagmar Herzog, professor of history and the Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar at the Graduate Center, published widely in the history of religion in Europe and the U.S., on the Holocaust and its aftermath, and on the histories of gender and sexuality; Joan Richardson, professor of English, comparative literature, and American studies at the Graduate Center, who is the author of a two-volume biography of the poet Wallace Stevens and co-editor of Wallace Stevens: Collected Poetry and Prose; Yoruba Richen, an adjunct faculty member at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and a documentary filmmaker whose work focuses on illuminating issues of race, space and power; Teresa Bandosz of City College has received a $499,746 grant from the Environmental Protection Agency for research concerning “Sewage and Industrial Sludge Based Composite Adsorbents for Removal of Contaminants from Drinking Water Sources.” The New York City Center for Economic Opportunity has been supported by the Ford Foundation’s New York City Strategic Fund for Economic Development, a grant from the Board of Trustees of The Rockefeller University, and an award from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation for their outstanding achievements and exceptional promise, chosen from among nearly 3,000 scholars, artists and scientists from the U.S. and Canada who applied. CUNY winners were: Tom Capullo of the art and music department at Bronx Community College, a composer whose works have been heard at major concert halls on four continents;
Focused on Outcomes,

Graduation rates of black and Latino students in University baccalaureate programs have increased sharply over the past decade, according to a recent analysis by the Office of Institutional Research. In 2001, only 26 percent of Latino students at the senior colleges had graduated six years after their 1995 enrollment as first-time freshmen. But a decade later, in 2011, the six-year graduation rate for Latino students who had enrolled in 2005 was up to 43 percent.

Among black students, the six-year graduation rate has gone from 28 percent to 41 percent in the same period.

The data provide an early snapshot of an upcoming study by University Institutional Research in enrollment, graduation rates and other student outcomes for the ten-year period beginning 2001 and ending 2011. The report is scheduled for release in the upcoming academic year.

While the numbers tell an encouraging story for the University’s efforts to promote enrollment and success in bachelor programs by minority students, the figures are noteworthy because the graduation rates began rising when CUNY tightened academic standards.

In 2000, CUNY began requiring incoming freshmen to pass reading, writing and math skills tests and eliminated remedial courses from bachelor degree programs. Opponents at the time predicted the changes would lead to a drop in enrollment of immigrant and minority students at the senior colleges.

Instead, there have been enrollment increases in all categories and steady improvement in academic performance and bilingual skills is expected to grow.

• **Health care.** The main drivers are an aging population, the size of the Medicaid and Medicare population, technology changes, and regulatory and policy changes that promote disease prevention and the management of chronic conditions, as well as cost reductions. Workforce shortages are anticipated for several occupations and will be affected by the shift from hospitals to ambulatory care settings.

• **Higher education.** Employment has grown, in part because economic conditions have led more people to enroll in colleges and universities for retraining and credentialing. Workforce needs will be driven by constrained resources, government demands for accountability and an increasingly diverse student body.

• **Information technology (IT).** The speed of technological advancements and the proliferation of information generated across industries have greatly increased the need for workers with IT and related analytical skills, all across the economy. There is a shortage of programmers and developers, particularly those without special visa needs, and a need for more computer science graduates.

• **Media and advertising.** The huge impact of digital technology and social networking, as well as considerable consolidation within several segments of this cluster,
More Students are Graduating

higher graduation rates. One finding is that progress for Hispanic students continues in periods of economic decline. Hispanics have continued to boost graduation rates through the recession that began in 2008, raising five percentage points since then.

CUNY’s overall six-year graduation rates for all baccalaureate programs have increased from 35 percent in 2001 to nearly 50 percent in 2011. The Institutional Research findings come at a time when several external publications and research institutions have cited the University and its colleges for graduation rate increases among low-income and under-represented groups. The Educational Trust reported that degrees awarded in 2010 in these categories were up by 15 percent and 14 percent respectively. The June issue of Diverse Issues In Higher Education found that five CUNY colleges are ranked among the top 55 nationally for African American students receiving baccalaureate degrees. For Hispanic students, six CUNY colleges were ranked in the top 100 nationally.

And in mid-June, MDRC, an education and social research firm, reported that CUNY’s innovative ASAP programs at the community colleges have continued to boost graduation rates through periods of economic decline. Hispanics have higher graduation rates. One finding is that swapping, and making it easier for students to transfer from one program to another, has raised graduation rates by one percentage point. The CUNY ASAP program has raised graduation rates for all baccalaureate programs.

Preparation at the University

has led to widespread operational shifts. Employment has declined in some parts of the industry, notably publishing, and new workers must increasingly possess technological fluency, a facility with analytics and strong communication skills.

The task force recommendations for CUNY colleges include: • Building deeper relations with industry, including inviting industry input, from student internship to faculty/staff. The swapping, and making it easier for industry to access CUNY.

- Providing career guidance by assisting students in exploring interests, aptitudes and career pathways, as well as job search skills training, including résumé preparation, interview skills and how to research industries and companies of interest.
- Facilitating work experience via internships and summer employment opportunities.
- Simulating workplace conditions so students can acquire business skills, such as budgeting, project planning and management, and estimating timelines.
- Joining Chair Frederick Shurtleff, the CUNY Jobs Task Force were: Steve Anderman, chief operating officer and chief information officer; Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center; Orlando Ashford, chief HR officer & communications officer; Marsh & McLennan Companies; Frank Bignamino, chief administrative officer and head of home lending; JP Morgan Chase & Company; Ted Brown, Ph.D., professor and executive officer. Computer Science Department, executive director, CUNY

Personnel, Internships, Jobs

in high-demand fields, including health care, business, information technology, real estate and construction for various positions including community health workers and computer network managers.

Annual University-wide Big Apple Job Fair

About 70 major employers participated in the 2012 Big Apple Job Fair, which included workshops or social media, on creating an internship into a full-time job and on international careers.

Virtual Enterprise Program, Kingsborough Community College

Students design and run virtual businesses in tandem with students in 20 countries. More than 1,500 of these international practice firms engage in commerce with each other. Each graduating class hand its companies over to the next crop of students, who inherit whatever assets, liabilities, opportunities or problems exist at the businesses — which range from a software company to a full-service hotel and an international airline.

Magner Center for Career Development and Internships

Brooklyn College

Through partnerships with employers, faculty and staff, students receive career counseling, alumni mentoring, internships, interview preparation and career assessments.

STARR Career Development Center
Baruch College

This program includes a year-long financial leadership program for students preparing for front-office jobs in finance; an online career service-management system that posts more than 5,000 jobs and internships; a stipend for unpaid internships; yearly career-preparation workshops for undergraduates, and five annual career fairs. The website includes models of résumés, interview questions and videos. An On-Campus Recruiting Workshop covers everything from job interviews to salary negotiation, plus mentoring.

Access for Women

New York College of Technology

For women interested in non-traditional technical fields, especially hard-hat fields, Access for Women provides classes, workshops, basic skills, math and vocational training. Through the Hospitality Management Hiring Fair, held most semesters, draws participants from New York City’s leading restaurants and hotels.

BUSA (Business and Liberal Arts) Lehman College

In this rigorous interdisciplinary minor, students majoring in the arts and sciences develop additional skills through coursework and exposure to a variety of business fields.

Allied Health Career Pipeline Program

Hostos Community College

This enhanced training and intern- ship program trains students under a $7.4 million Health Professions Opportunity Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children & Families. Over five years it will train more than 900 low-income individuals to become community health workers, patient care technicians, pharmacy technicians and certified nurse assistants.
GRANTS&HONORS
Continued from page 3
from industrial partners. The Center is expect-
ed to operate for 5 to 15 years, contingent on raising matching funds and NSF renewals.
Queens College has received $220,812 in grant funding from The New York State Education Department for a “Graduate Level Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Program 2011-2016,” led by Francine Peterman, Blanche Kellownik of Bronx Community College has received grant fund-
ing totaling $145,948 from the Department of Labor for a training program. Suny South-
ern, University of South Korea has awarded Marzie A. Jafari of Lehman College a $31,452 grant for the project “RN to BSN Korea.”
The National Institutes of Health has awarded $321,956 to Mitchell R. Schaffer, the Wallace Coulter and Presidential Professor of Biomedical Engineering at City College, for research con-
cerning “Osteocyte Integrity and Bone Remodeling.”
The Center for Fiction has awarded fellowships to two writers from City College: Tracy O’Neill, who is an adjunct lecturer; and Seamus Scanlon, a librarian at the College’s Center for Worker Education. The fellowships, which include a $3,000 grant, are awarded to emerging writers living in the five boroughs of New York City whose work shows promise of excellence. O’Neill is a freelance writer whose fiction has appeared in The Literary and Promethean. Scanlon, an aspiring crime fiction writer, was a finalist for the 2011 Roanoke Review Fiction Prize and winner of the 2011 Fish Publishing One Page Story com-
petition.
The New York State Education Department has awarded a $381,815 grant to A. Ramona Brown of the College of Staten Island for the “Liberty Partnerships Program.” City College has received $251,491 from the National Institutes of Health for research on “Modeling Membrane Binding and Permeabilization by Antimicrobial Peptides,” directed by Themos Lazaridis. The United Way has awarded a $125,000 grant to Simone Rodriguez-Boreast of Medgar Evers College for a project entitled “Attendance Improvement Dropout Prevention.” Maria Hartwig of John Jay College has received $125,000 from the FBI for a project entitled “Strategic Use of Evidence (SUE) in Intelligence Investigations.”
Hunter College has received $950,459 from the New York State Education Department for the “21st Century Community Learning Centers Program,” under the direction of David Steiner. “Synthesis of Novel Bioactive Spirolignans as a Resource,” a research pro-
ject directed by Robert Bittman of Queens College, has received $193,750 in grant fund-
ing from the National Institutes of Health. David Birdsell of Baruch College has been awarded a $125,534 grant from California Education Partners for “CORE Collaborative Research.” The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded $125,000 to David Kennedy of John Jay College for “The National Network for Safe Communities: A National Security Strategy to Reduce Violence, Eliminate Drug Markets and Promote Racial Reconciliation.”

First, You Have Patience
A Salk Award solidified a student’s circuitous road to medical school.

CHRISTOPHER NAVAS grew up in a single-parent home, the youngest of three children. His mother was on welfare. When she found work, it was for minimal pay. He never met his father, who left while his mother was still pregnant with him.

To help support his family, Navas never balked at taking any jobs that came his way. He worked as a cashier at a supermarket and a video store. He stocked supplies and was a service mechanic for a refrigeration company. He became a secretary at a boiler manuf-

turning company for which he later delivered 400-pound steel boiler parts, supervised their assem-

blage and worked his way up to become the company’s quality control manager.

Going to medical school never crossed his mind.

On May 16, however, Navas, 30, was among eight pre-med CUNY students who were awarded Jonas E. Salk Scholarships to study in the medical field this year. A neuroscience major who graduated with honors from Queens College in May, Navas will enter Dartmouth Medical School this summer.

“To be a Salk Scholar is one of the most presti-
gious awards bestowed upon a gradu-

ate of The City University of New York,” Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Alexandra W. Logue said at the awards cere-

mony.

Keynote speaker Dr. Arnold Melman — a professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, graduate of City College and 1962 Salk Award winner —
told the 2012 honorees:

“It is my hope that the drive and intelligence you demonstrated to be here today will continue as you do your best to help mankind.”

Salk Scholarships recognize CUNY stu-
dents who are judged likely to make signifi-
cant contributions to medicine and research. The awards were established in honor of Dr. Jonas E. Salk soon after he delivered the polio vaccine in 1955 — 21 years after he graduated from City College. He turned down a ticker tape parade in hon-
or of his discovery, asking that the money be used instead for scholarships. Each Salk Scholar receives a stipend of $8,000 over three or four years to help defray the costs of medical school.

“Hard work definitely pays off,” Navas said in an interview. “Ten years ago, working in a factory, I didn’t think I would become a doctor.”

Medicine found him, he said. But it came in a long and arduous way. “We grew up real-

ly poor,” said Navas, who was born in Flushing, moved with his family a half dozen times in Queens, then to Great Neck, Long Island, where he still lives.

“Mom was on welfare until I was a teenager. With three kids it was difficult for her,” Navas said. He dropped out of school to do various jobs, always starting at the bot-

tom. But he passed the High School Equivalency test.

He talked with college students, and “the
class...
Math Challenge Adds Up to Big Rewards

The annual CUNY Math Challenge — sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and the CUNY Institute for Software Design and Development, and supported by the Office of the Chancellor — this year rewarded nine math whizzes with cash prizes ranging from $500 up to a grand prize of $2,500.

The top award went to Queens College freshman Cherkai Hong Lam. Two seniors, Damon Cham of New York City College of Technology and Juncheng Zhang of Baruch College, won second place awards. Third place went to Brooklyn College junior Jason Reed. City College senior Samuel (Kyuedong) Kim and Baruch College junior Aleksandr Yaroslavski placed fourth. Fifth prize went to City College senior Yin Chai Cheng, Queensborough Community College sophomore Dan Zheng and Baruch College sophomore Xiao Zheng.

At the awards ceremony, two Hunter College professors of mathematics and statistics — Sandra Clarkson and W.H. Williams — received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Mathematics Instruction.

How Would You Do in the Math Challenge?

Match wits with the ace students: See if you can solve this question from Round 1 of the 2012 Math Challenge.

Problem:

Two plants, a rose and a jasmine, grow up and around a cylindrical tree trunk. They start from the same point at the foot of the tree, but the rose goes clockwise and the jasmine counterclockwise around the trunk. When the two plants meet at the first branch, the rose has made three circles around the trunk and the jasmine has made five circles. How many times did the plants cross between the foot of the tree and the first branch? (Answer below)

Answering a Citywide Need

Annual Citizenship Now! Hotline recently helped its 100,000th caller — and thousands more.

An immigrant from the Dominican Republic, whose “green card” entitles her to live and work here permanently, learned via the 10th annual Citizenship NOW! Call-In that this year she could realize her biggest dream: to become a U.S. citizen in time to vote in the 2012 presidential election.

Her call to the hotline, made the second day of this year’s recent five-day campaign, was the 100,000th logged during the first decade of the free service for immigrants, co-sponsored by CUNY and the Daily News. The record-setting call was answered by one of the many immigrants among the volunteer counselors.

The veritable parade of officials stopping by the helpline center, set up in CUNY’s New Community College, included New York Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Secretary of State Cesar Perales, Mayr Michael Bloomberg, University Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, Senior Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson and Daily News chairman and publisher Mortimer B. Zuckerman.

Some notables who dropped by also answered a call or two before turning questions over to the counselors trained to help immigrants in numerous languages. Complex questions were referred to legal practitioners also on hand.

A record 12,571 calls were answered during this year’s Citizenship NOW! campaign — a total of 109,873 over the decade of the program, which is directed by Baruch College law professor Allan Wernick. “There are an estimated 11.5 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S., with some 800,000 in the New York area,” said Wernick. “Access to free immigration and citizenship information and assistance is greatly needed for the thousands of immigrants that arrive in the city every year, which is evident in the success of this program.”

Other distinguished speakers noted CUNY and New York’s long history of welcoming immigrants, who have made many contributions to the city, state and nation.

Dean Dave Fields Bequeaths $1 Million to CUNY Law

Dave Fields, a University dean who serves as special counsel to Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, has announced that he is leaving $1 million to CUNY Law School — the largest bequest in its history.

The money will be used equally to support student scholarships and faculty development, including conferences and training courses.

“Dave’s generosity through this gift will have an enormous impact on our ability to provide critical financial support to students and faculty alike,” said CUNY Law Dean Michelle J. Anderson. “He has been a champion of CUNY Law and our mission since it was established.”

Fields, a non-teaching member of the faculty, has also served as an associate dean there. Regarding his gift, he said, “Now is the time to support public interest law training. Now is the time to help our students, faculty, and staff work to improve the world.”

As a result of his bequest, the auditorium in the Law School’s new building at 2 Court Square will be named the Fields Auditorium.

A Brooklyn Exhibit That Really Hits Home

Long-lost original blueprints of a beloved stadium, along with mementoes of the team that played there for almost half a century, are featured in a new Brooklyn College Library exhibit: “There Used to Be a Ballpark: Ebbets Field and the Brooklyn Dodgers.”

Seven long-lost 1912 blueprints are the centerpiece of the exhibit, which also includes photos, cartoons and a 3-D replica of an illustration signed by 1949 team members. Also on display is one of the field’s last home plates — with a wry dedication to the owner who moved the Dodgers to Los Angeles after the 1957 season: “May Walter O’Malley [sic] roast in hell.”

The Dodgers played 45 seasons in Ebbets Field, where in 1947 Jackie Robinson became the first African-American to play a major league game. The field was torn down in 1960. The exhibit, where you’ll also learn the saga of the rediscovered historic blueprints, will be in the first floor Special Collections Gallery of the library until July 10; hours vary.

CUNY MATTERS — Summer 2012 | 5
College Libraries Start to Turn the Page

In a recent chilly afternoon at City College, the scene inside the five-story Morris Raphael Cohen Library is a hive of buzzing activity. Surrounding the central shelves of books and journals on each floor, students are reading, viewing computer screens, writing notes, scrolling through their smartphones. There are Quiet Floors and Group Study Floors. Some students are ensconced in tightly clustered carrels, others are sitting in semiprivate rooms with two computer workstations. Still others are working in glass-enclosed media-study rooms, hashing out team projects for several hours at a time, using laptops, LCD screens and whiteboards.

Welcome to the “e-library.”

At City College, as on other campuses across the University, academic libraries are fast evolving into a blend of print and digital materials, supported by a host of 21st century electronic devices and resources. The first-floor Tech Center is a seamless extension of the library, with long rows of students using “walk in/walk out” PCs at individual workstations. Increasingly, faculty are reserving classrooms known as STCs (Student Training Centers) for computer-based lectures.

“The library is all about getting and organizing content right now,” says Charles Stewart, Technical Services Chief at City College. “Technology facilitates that. It’s an inseparable marriage.”

Most experts maintain that print books and other hard-copy materials will remain a key part of academic libraries for some time, particularly historical and special collections that are essential to research and scholarship. At the same time, they acknowledge the inexorable march toward digitalization — and its consequences. “The relative proportion of print materials is declining,” says University Dean for Libraries and Technology Facilities. More broadly, libraries are using the digital revolution as an opportunity to convert stack space into more active learning environments, such as group study rooms or classrooms that bring outside faculty into the heart of the library.

“The goal is to create better space for users,” says Robert Shaddy, chief librarian at Queens College, which is currently undergoing a substantial library renovation. “The library needs to be more of a learning lab than a storage facility.”

Kendrick points out that no matter how CUNY libraries evolve, they will continue to be popular destinations for the University’s many commuters. “Students are still coming into the library,” he says. “We recognize that there’s a lot more group work going on, and that students also need quiet study areas. The library is an iconic place; it’s emblematic of the college experience.”

Perhaps the most dramatic changes occurring today are those affecting the collection of academic journals and periodicals. Many journals are now available in digital formats, often offered by publishers as part of large database packages. While some campus libraries still buy paper journals, they’re buying fewer and fewer these days. At Queensborough Community College, virtually all of the journals are now

Making Historical Collections Gradually More Accessible

Most books and journals today can be readily replaced by their e-equivalent, but many historical items and special collections at CUNY libraries have no electronic substitutes. They’re the real thing. And yet, even these items are gradually becoming part of digital archives, too. The goal is not to replace them, but to provide greater access to such treasures for people who can’t physically get to the library. Here’s a sampling of just a few of CUNY’s distinctive collections:

Queens College

The Louis Armstrong Archives, a collection of tapes, scrapbooks, photographs, personal papers and musical instruments, housed in his longtime Corona home.

Lehman College

A collection of primary and secondary sources documenting the history of the Bronx, including oral histories, personal and organizational papers, books, and photographs. Digital archives “Bronx Business for Everybody,” “Bronx Architecture” and “Childhood in the Bronx.”

LaGuardia Community College

The papers of Mayers Fiorello LaGuardia, Robert Wagner, Abraham Beame and Edward Koch, searchable on college website.

Brooklyn College

Published and unpublished works relating to the cultural, political and historical development of Brooklyn, ranging from the papers of Reps. John Rooney and Eugene Keogh to the Coney Island Collection.

College of Staten Island

The political papers of State Sen. John Marchi and the Fresh Kills Landfill Collection, which contains significant environmental and scientific reports.

Kingsborough Community College

Repository for the Kingsborough Historical Society collection, primarily photos documenting Manhattan Beach and Sheepshead Bay history, back to the elegant 19th century resort hotels.

Baruch College

An extensive “Baruchiana” collection, including photographs, memorabilia, books, artifacts documenting the life of iconic financier Bernard Baruch, an 1889 graduate of City College.

City College

The Russell Sage Collection of more than 100,000 reports and publications issued by social welfare organizations active in the United States from the late 19th Century to 1940.
...
A CENTURY AFTER the sinking of the Titanic—a disaster retold and reconstructed in films, books, art and science—a City Tech professor has presented a new theory about how the doomed luxury liner broke apart, giving credence to the accounts of survivors that were dismissed at the time.

Richard Woytowich, a mechanical engineer, marine forensics specialist and a professor of computer technology, says that after the Titanic hit an iceberg off the Newfoundland coast on its maiden voyage on April 15, 1912, it initially tore at the bottom before breaking apart. That doesn’t quite jibe with prevailing theories—such as the depiction in James Cameron’s blockbuster movie “Titanic”—that the ship broke first at the uppermost decks before it sank in the icy North Atlantic, taking the lives of more than 1,500 of some 2,200 aboard.

Woytowich and a colleague have developed a computer model—presented in April at the International Marine Forensics Symposium in Maryland—that shows the effect of the ship’s impact on crack propagation.

Woytowich, a New York native, first read about the sinking of the Titanic in 1972, when he was a 10-year-old living on Staten Island. “I was kind of a nerd” growing up, he said. He listed three interests that influenced his life: science, engineering and computers.

“I never really called myself a Titanic buff, but I was interested in investigating ship disasters,” Woytowich said. “I was interested in investigating ship disasters.”

He started researching the Titanic in the late 1990s. In 2003 he presented a paper on its riveted design. And a few years later, he saw pieces of the Titanic wreck in photographs taken on a History Channel expedition. “It felt, this is something I just have to work on.” Those photos showed the keel of the ship bent in an ‘S’ shape, Woytowich said, and it occurred to him that could most likely be explained by having the parts of the ship ahead of and aft of that bent part pushed together. That led me to think that the bottom broke in compression, not tension.

There were other clues to the ship’s puzzle. The edges around the bottom pieces “looked pretty neat,” suggesting “that that was the first thing to fail, not the last.” Another clue: Another part of the wreck, the “Big Piece” seemed to have failed along three edges, indicating bottom-up breakup. “The only thing that was holding up the works was the lack of any evidence that there was a weakness in the bottom that could have led it to break first,” he said.

He explained that the Titanic’s double bottom was deeper “under the main engines to give more support because they’re very heavy. … At each end of the deeper part there was a tapering portion. The end of one of those tapering portions appears to coincide with the spot where the two pieces of the bottom broke—and sure enough, my computer analysis showed that as a region where the stresses were higher than elsewhere. “So now that we have an understanding of what we thought should have happened and a computer model that said it could have happened, we were able to go out and start presenting it.”

Woytowich says his bottom-up breakup theory has not been challenged in professional circles. He noted that at the recent Marine Forensics Symposium, engineers with James Cameron’s recent TV special on the Titanic also presented their latest findings. “They actually made a model of the complete ship,” Woytowich said. “The results confirm most of my numerical findings. But all they did was present the numerical results. They left it to other people to present conclusions as to what may have happened first, second and third.

“It seems to be a subject that professionals are a little bit reluctant to engage, possibly because it’s almost impossible to prove anything analytically.

Mysteries remain, Woytowich said, in part because with a bottom-up breakup, “most of the interference of steel on steel would have happened under water,” unseen.

“Most people above the water would have seen the ship give a little bit. … With most of the actual metal breakage happening below water in compression, really nobody said that they saw the ship split in two and open up. … All of their testimony, I think, becomes more credible when we have in our minds the picture of the bottom-up breakup.

“Time will tell whether this turns out to be a significant change, or whether people will come up with yet another explanation for how the ship broke up,” Woytowich said, noting that new data gathered for recent TV programs have made him think the breakup “was a little more complicated than I thought” and may eventually lead him to revise his own theories.

“My biggest concern now,” he said, “is that we try to come up with a resolution that is in a tradition of scientific and technical inquiry. I hope that by the 200th anniversary we’ll finally have an answer.”
Global Issues and Individuals
University scholars weigh in on subjects from art to Zionism.

New Vision for Zionism
In his controversial new book The Crisis of Zionism, published by Times Books/Henry Holt & Company, Peter Beinart discusses threats to democracy in Israel and the failure of the American Jewish establishment to confront them. He makes a case for a vision of Zionism that encompasses ending the occupation of the West Bank. Beinart, who teaches Political Reporting and Opinion Writing at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, traces the history of Zionism to show how a once liberal movement came to be affiliated with conservative politics and antidemocratic policies, splitting the American Jewish community into two hostile camps. The book concludes with provocative proposals for how the relationship between American Jews and Israel must change.

Black Librarians’ Issues, Challenges
The 21st-Century Black Librarian in America: Issues and Challenges (Scarecrow Press), includes essays by library affiliates from educators and trustees to librarians at all stages of their careers. They cover topics from poorly equipped school libraries to the need to preserve the school library via innovative models of public education, advancement in information technology and library operations, special libraries, racism in the history of library and information science, and challenges that have plagued librarianship for decades. The volume is co-edited by Andrew P. Jackson, adjunct professor at York College’s Department of History and Philosophy—Cultural Diversity Program and Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies as well as executive director at Queens Library’s Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center.

The Man Behind the Adjective
Machiavelli: A Life Beyond Ideology has been called the first scholarly biography in 30 years of the Italian Renaissance statesman, political theorist and reformer whose contributions to ideas of political power and to the history of modern drama remain pertinent.

Author Paul Oppenheimer, professor of comparative literature at CCNY and the Graduate Center, explores Niccolò Machiavelli’s radical theories of treachery and social transformation in terms of their originality in an atmosphere of violence. All this unfolds in Oppenheimer’s compelling recreation of Machiavelli’s life as he actually lived it. Published by Continuum.

Upon an Island
Stephen Scott Young in the Bahamas, CUNY professor emeritus of art history William H. Gerds looks back over the artist’s 25-year career painting there. The book, published by Adelson, covers the artist’s earliest depictions of Bahamian subjects to the present day — encompassing portraits, landscapes and still lives, as well as his distinctive images of Bahamian children playing marbles in various island locales.

Why Immigrants Are Deported
Banished to the Homeland: Dominican Deportees and Their Stories of Exile, coauthors David C. Brotherton and Luis Barrios isolate the forces that motivate emigrants to leave their homeland for the United States and then violate the terms of their stay. House in urban landscapes rife with gangs, drugs and tenuous working conditions, these individuals, the authors find, repeatedly play out a tragic scenario, influenced by long-standing historical injustices, punitive politics and conservative attitudes undermining basic human rights and freedoms. Brotherton and Barrios, professors at both John Jay College and the Graduate Center, conclude that a simultaneous process of cultural inclusion and socioeconomic exclusion best explains the trajectory of emigration, settlement and rejection. Published by Columbia University Press.

Home Remedy for Crime
Taking the same concepts and tools that have tracked epidemics from flu to AIDS, internationally recognized public health specialist Ernest Drucker, currently a scholar in residence and senior research associate at John Jay College, makes the case in his new book that our current unprecedented level of imprisonment has become an epidemic. In A Plague of Prisons: The Epidemiology of Mass Incarceration in America, he argues that imprisonment — originally conceived as a response to individuals’ crimes — has become “mass incarceration”: a destabilizing force that undermines families and communities — the very social structures that prevent crime. Published by The New Press.

The Culture of Politics
N Her Book Performance, Politics, and the War on Terror: Whatever It Takes, author Sara Brady offers a unique interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture and politics — discussing events in diverse contexts including conventional theater, political protest, popular entertainment, military training exercises and performances, and university professor of communication arts and sciences at Bronx Community College, argues that the reliance on performance by government and media alike in the post-9/11 United States and abroad — particularly in the context of the war on terror — led not only to a culture of fear but also to a troubling blurring of fiction and reality. Published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Those Crafty Victorians
Talia Schaffer, a professor of English at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center, demonstrates the importance of domestic handicraft in Victorian culture and literature in Novel Craft: Victorian Domestic Handicraft and Nineteenth-Century Fiction (Oxford University Press). She uncovers how handicrafts from wax flower petals to needlework portraits of royal spaniels expressed anxieties about modernity and offered an alternative to conventional political and aesthetic ideas of the era. She reveals how this mindset evolves in four major Victorian novels, and closes with a coda on a current crafts movement as a fresh version of a Victorian sensibility.
ONCE Khadejia Bass toured the world as a back-up singer for music industry stars such as Mary J. Blige, Jay-Z and Salt-n-Pepa. Bass is emphatic, though, that her current life at CUNY is riveting in its own way. She is an employee pursuing the degree she has wanted for years, something she might not have been able — or motivated — to do without a tuition-waiver benefit.

“My goal is to be a human resources generalist; the minimum requirement is a bachelor’s degree,” says the Information Technology Assistant, a Baruch junior. Bass is one of many eligible employees who take advantage of the University’s tuition-waiver benefit. Eligibility is generally based on titles and on the amount of time an employee has worked at the University. In fiscal year 2011, CUNY provided its employees with $3.8 million in waivers and that amount is expected to grow to keep pace with tuition increases.

Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management Gloriana Waters says that the CUNY employee tuition-waiver program is “one of the most significant benefits offered by the University. In financial terms, it translates to receiving [as much as] the equivalent of $5,250 per year, tax free, if the courses are job-related. This benefit has enabled multitudes of CUNY employees to finish a degree, pursue a higher degree, or simply expand their educational horizons. As an advocate of lifelong learning, I can point to this program as one of the primary reasons that CUNY is a great place to work.” In addition to Bass, another waiver beneficiary is Safia Mohammed, a Baruch College office assistant pursuing a Master of Science in Industrial Labor Relations. “One of the things that motivated me to enroll in this program was that I didn’t have to worry about expenses,” she says.

Marquita Ferguson, a CUNY office assistant who dreams of becoming a child psychologist, also uses the waivers. She has begun her path by matriculating for an undergraduate degree in English. “The fact that tuition discounts can add up to significant savings on job-related courses.

This semester Khadejia Bass — who attends classes for two courses four evenings a week and works for OHRM by day — had $1,350 worth of tuition waived.

Free Technology Courses in June

June has been designated “Technology Month” by the University’s office of Professional Development and Learning Management. The office — also known as PDLM — recognizes that the success of every CUNY campus depends in large part on the skills and capabilities of its employees. So during June, all CUNY employees are being offered an opportunity to take free Microsoft Technology courses to learn new skills or brush up the ones they have. Courses will be offered in Word and Excel at Level 2, Publisher, PPT, PC Essentials and MS Office 2010: First Look. CUNY employees interested in registering for professional development seminars should click on www.cuny.edu/training and look on the right side of the page for “e-application form 2012,” then click on it.

Health Coverage for Same-Sex Partners

New York State now recognizes same-sex marriage but the federal government does not. Nor does it recognize domestic partnerships. Therefore, in order to get the full benefit of health care coverage available to the same-sex spouses and/or domestic partners of CUNY employees, those spouses/partners must enroll in Medicare Parts A and B when they reach 65. At that golden age, Medicare will become primary and the New York City health coverage they receive through their spouse/partner’s employment becomes secondary.

In dollars and cents, this means Medicare will pay 80 percent and the city coverage 20 percent of medical claims. If your same-sex partner is over 65 and has not already enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B or does not have coverage through his or her employer, it is essential that she/he enroll in Medicare to maintain maximum coverage and avoid additional medical expenses. Your Human Resources office can help navigate this road.
**New Pension Category**

In March, the New York State Legislature approved changes to all state retirement systems—affecting new CUNY employees attending CUNY schools for credit-bearing courses. More information is available from college human resources offices. Tuition-waiver application forms and specific eligibility requirements—for example, non-teaching adjuncts are not eligible—can also be accessed via Search.cuny.edu “tuition waivers.”

This semester Khadejia Bass—who attends classes for two courses every evening a week and works for the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM) by day—had $1,350 worth of tuition waived. In the past, she worked as a human resources coordinator for Warner Music Group and endured nine months on unemployment before she was hired by CUNY. “When I went on the road, I promised my mother that someday I would finish my degree,” she says. She hopes to graduate in 2014. Both her parents are CUNY alums.

Before the start of a recent New York Times in American History” class, Bass said: “This course connects the dots for me … for business, for writing, for proposals and for the speeches I might have to deliver.”

**ANIMAL BEHAVIOR — DIANA REISS**

Dolphins may look like big fish, but with large and complex brains the marine mammals’ behavior is more like primates and elephants, according to Diana Reiss, professor of psychology at Hunter College. “We used to think that many of our cognitive and communicative abilities were uniquely human,” says Reiss, who co-chaired the first annual CUNY Animal Behavior Initiative Conference at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. “But now we’re discovering that many of the abilities we possess — like the ability to recognize ourselves in a mirror — are found in other animals.” Reiss, who also serves as director of dolphin research at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, spoke at the all-day conference of panelists from around the country sharing their work in animal behavior.

**SCHOLARSHIP — DEIDRE M. ANGLIN**

Early adolescent cannabis use may contribute to development of symptoms of schizotypal personality disorder (SPD) in adulthood, according to new data from a longitudinal cohort study written by Deidre M. Anglin, assistant professor of clinical psychology at City College and the Graduate Center. “The uniqueness of this study lies in the demonstration of an association between early cannabis use and subsequent schizotypal-like symptoms that persisted into adulthood and that was not explained by early anxiety or depressive disorders, or exposure to other drug and cigarette use,” said Medscape Medical News. The study is published in Schizophrenia Research.

**WE REMEMBER — HERBERT BRESLIN**

Herbert Breslin—the fast-talking, street-savvy, extremely successful classical music publicist and manager who oversaw operatic tenor Luciano Pavarotti’s career for 36 years—died May 16 in France, at age 87. Born in New York, Breslin received a degree in business administration from City College. His first classical clients, in the late 1950s, included Joan Sutherland, Marilyn Horne and Elisabeth Schwarzkopf—three major opera singers of the 20th Century. Early on, he focused on getting such artists on TV shows—gaining them attention beyond the opera house. Even after Pavarotti became Breslin’s focus, his office’s client roster continued to read like a Who’s Who of opera.
"It's a mistake for any cultural institution — or any institution that is older — to think that change isn't necessary," he told a CUNY Graduate Center audience. "That's a recipe for energize America's premier opera.

When Peter Gelb took the helm of the Met, he was determined to re-