Governor George E. Pataki announced on May 30 his appointment of Herman Badillo to the Chairmanship of the City University Board of Trustees, effective June 1. This decision came shortly after the May 25th resignation of former Chair, Dr. Anne A. Paolucci, who wished to return to “writing and publishing tasks [that] have been neglected for too long.” Badillo served as a CUNY trustee in 1980-82, appointed by Governor Carey, and returned to the Board as a Governor Cuomo appointee in 1990. He had been Vice Chair of the Board from 1997, designated by Governor Pataki.

“Chairman Badillo shares my commitment,” said Pataki, “to ensuring that CUNY students meet the highest standards so that graduates, particularly those who go on to teach in city schools, are well-prepared to do a good job.”

A lawyer with a magna cum laude degree from City College in Business Administration, Badillo was born in Puerto Rico and has lived in New York City since the age of 11. He was the city’s first Hispanic Borough President (of the Bronx) and became the first U.S. Congressman of Puerto Rican origin in 1970. He is currently lead attorney at the firm of Fishbein, Badillo, Wagner, & Harding.

This appointment was the first of several other on the Board, which consists of 17 trustees: ten gubernatorial and five mayoral appointees who serve staggered seven-year terms, plus two ex officio members (a non-voting Chair of the University Faculty Senate and a voting Chair of the University Student Senate).

On June 9 Governor Pataki nominated Benno C. Schmidt Jr., to a full seven-year term as trustee—and to the Vice Chairmanship of the Board—replacing James P. Murphy, who has been a trustee and a former Board Chairman, except for a four-year hiatus, since 1974. Schmidt, a former president of Yale University and now Chairman of the Edison Project, a for-profit educational firm, has just completed a year of work leading a mayoral task force studying the City University (see separate story in this issue). Praising Schmidt as “a renowned scholar” with “hands-on knowledge of CUNY,” Pataki said the Task Force report is “both a challenge and a roadmap for change at CUNY.”

A third new trustee is mayoral appointee Randy M. Mastro, formerly a chief of staff and deputy mayor for operations in Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani’s administration and now a lawyer with the firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. Mastro will also serve a full term, succeeding Richard Stone, whose term expires on June 30. Mastro, who began his legal career as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, holds degrees from Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The appointments of Wiesenfeld and Mastro were confirmed by the New York State Senate on June 15.

Both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees serve at the pleasure of the Governor. All University’s trustees, including the Chairman and Vice Chairman, serve without salary.

The final report of the seven-member advisory task force appointed by Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani to study the City University was unveiled at City Hall on June 7. Chairman of the task force was Benno C. Schmidt Jr., CUNY Board of Trustees Vice Chairman designate, formerly a scholar of constitutional law and dean of Columbia University’s School of Law and then, from 1986 to 1992, the 20th president of Yale University. Currently, he is chairman of the Edison Project, a for-profit company that operates public schools. On June 9, at CUNY headquarters, Schmidt was introduced by Chairman Herman Badillo to CUNY’s trustees, the Chancellor, college presidents, and other University leaders for a briefing on the 109-page report and its 11 supporting research documents. Acknowledging the honor of his nomination as Vice Chair by Governor Pataki, Schmidt responded, “I can tell you that in the role of Trustee the City University will have no more avid and fierce supporter of its mission.” Following are excerpts from Schmidt’s remarks, which began on a personal note.

In my life I have found myself sometimes—not always—developing a feeling almost of affection for certain institutions.

Now, I realize there are critical things in this report that may seem more important than what I hope is the spirit of optimism and promise that I have tried to emphasize as well. So I want to say that I’ve developed a great affection for The City University of New York in the course of doing this work. And I mean that very honestly. . .I told the Governor that I would take on the responsibility and the opportunity to serve on the Board with Herman Badillo and the other trustees with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm.

Today the great question—and it is a question—and the great struggle for opportunity is not mainly about political rights, is not mainly about civil rights in the traditional sense. The issue of opportunity in our time is education. There is really no substitute for education as a source of opportunity in our society.

You can see in our history that when we are able to provide opportunity, there is almost limitless potential for prosperity and justice in our society. Where we fail to provide it, where we are unequal in the way we open opportunity to people, our society is fundamentally threatened. . .And if there is one critical frontier in this struggle for opportunity in the 21st century, it is urban public education. . .

CUNY Board Chairman Herman Badillo addressing the “Writing Gotham” reception on June 9 at the New York Public Library (see story on page 3). See next page for his message to the University community. Photo, André Beckles.

Mayoral Task Force Report Introduced by Benno Schmidt

I see one of CUNY’s most important opportunities and responsibilities as being to provide leadership for the whole system of public education in New York City. Now, I know this is not a new idea. I know CUNY has developed over the years a number of excellent and effective initiatives and areas of cooperation with the public schools. But one very important theme of this report is that CUNY must aggressively take the lead in every way it can to raise standards in the public schools. . .I think there are tremendous opportunities for CUNY to exercise leadership in this regard.

A second major theme of this report is Continued on next page.
A Message from the Chairman Of the CUNY Board of Trustees

As a proud alumnus of The City University of New York—City College, Class of ’51—I have long agreed that CUNY must provide New Yorkers with the widest possible access to higher education. But I have also long argued the need for rigorous academic standards to match that access.

As the new Chairman of the Board of Trustees, it is now my privilege and obligation to insure that the University moves securely into the next century as an institution in which excellence and opportunity are encouraged and available.

The challenges facing us as we pursue this goal are described in considerable depth in the report recently released by the seven-member Mayoral Advisory Task Force, on which I served under the chairmanship of Benno C. Schmidt Jr. As the report’s title—“The City University of New York: An Institution Adrift”—indicates, hard, but I hope rewarding, work lies ahead for all of us.

No matter who pitches in or who becomes a bystander, the problems recently identified by the Task Force must and will be confronted. Our city simply cannot afford to let the academic drift and organizational confusion that has plagued the University for more than 20 years to continue.

It is no secret that CUNY’s graduation rates are too low, or that the number of students unprepared to do college-level work when they arrive at our colleges are shockingly high, or that too many highly qualified high school graduates look elsewhere for their college education.

But it is also clear that these conditions are solvable—and that citizens of New York City want them solved. A poll released by the Quinnipiac Polling Insti- tution on June 16 found that by a 72% to 23% margin, New Yorkers support the raising of admissions standards at CUNY’s senior colleges, and also that almost 70% agree with the need to repair public schools and raise standards across the board.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor George Pataki, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and my fellow trustees, renewal at CUNY is now clearly underway. This renewal will create the only kind of access worth fighting for: the access to challenging expectations. The positive changes needed or underway include:

- Expansion to all New York City high schools of the highly successful “College Now” program, which, through CUNY/Board of Education collaboration, tests students and provides remediation and academic support prior to graduation. “College Now” should also be expanded to allow earlier intervention, not only in the 11th but also the 9th and 10th grades.

- The phased-in elimination of remedial classes at the eleven senior colleges, beginning early in the year 2000, as approved by the CUNY Board this past January. In order to assist students before they begin college-level work, CUNY is planning for an expanded pre-freshman year skills program (an estimated 20,000 students will be enrolled), year-round remedial immersion offerings, intensified use of seven language-immersion sites, new tutoring programs, and expanded distance learning resources. Remediation classes will also be available at the community colleges.

- Further strengthening of teacher training in CUNY’s schools of education. A widely predicted shortage of certified public school teachers in the near future makes it vital that CUNY— the single largest source of teachers for the Board of Education—take the lead in restoring vitality in the city’s classrooms.

- The marshaling of increased efforts to exploit the University’s potential for being a principal resource in the city’s business, labor, human services, technology, and government sectors. We must demonstrate how our faculty scholars and experts make CUNY a major economic engine and intellectual resource for solving the problems facing New York City.

For more than 150 years, our University has been a major maker of the city’s history—as vital as our subways, skyscrapers, and that welcoming lady with the tireless right arm who has greeted so many new New Yorkers to America. She greeted me as an 11-year-old orphan from Puerto Rico, and not many years later The City College opened its arms to me as well. Together, we can help CUNY continue to serve not only the countless immigrants who have traditionally depended upon it, but any and all who simply possess the desire to learn. If we do our job properly, City University graduates will have a large hand in writing the city’s history in the 21st century.

— Herman Badillo

Board Appoints Hostos President

Dr. Dolores M. Fernandez was named President of Hostos Community College by the Board of Trustees on June 28. She had served as Interim President since March 1998. Previously, she was Deputy Chancellor for Instruction and Development of the New York City Public Schools system and Professor of Curriculum and Teaching at Hunter College. President Fernandez is a nationally recognized expert in bilingual education, teacher training, and curriculum development, and she is credited with establishing the “Hostos Renaissance” program to strengthen standards and enhance educational opportunities on the Hostos campus.

The City University’s long tradition of welcoming new immigrants to its campuses was stunningly underscored at the 13th annual CUNY Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete Awards ceremony on May 11 at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

All four of the honorees (a top woman and man from both the senior and community colleges) were relatively recent immigrants—from Hungary, Italy, Poland, and Ghana.

Gabriella Nagy left her parents in Hungary and moved in with her aunt and uncle on Staten Island. Her plan A at the College of Staten Island was to play soccer, but there was no women’s team. Plan B turned out just fine. Nagy succeeded spectacularly in juggling tennis balls (leading the Dolphins to CUNY titles all four of her years), softballs (starring as center fielder and helping to win three CUNY titles), and a computer science major (racking up a 3.91 GPA).

Stephen Aboagey, a biology major who will continue his pre-med studies at Clarkson University this summer. In addition to being a member of the women’s soccer team, the 11 at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and leading its volleyball team to two CUNY championships.

In his freshman soccer season, 1995, Polish-born Grzegorz Lada was the CUNYAC Player of the Year. Then he got ready good, helping Hunter College to achieve its current resurgence in soccer, including its first post-season appearance in 22 years (all of this while working in the computer business 50 hours a week). Lada studied in January magna cum laude in computer science (3.75 GPA), and his wife has recently transferred to Hunter herself, from LaGuardia Community College.

Task Force Report, continued from page 1

that CUNY has enormous unapped opportunities if it can organize itself effectively as a coherent corporate system and more decisively away from its history as a somewhat loosely organized collection of individual institutions.

This is not to say these institutions should not have highly distinct traditions, identities, and missions. This does not mean a collection of homogenous institutions—not at all. Nor does the report envision a centrally micro-managed system. But it is an important theme of this report that, at the system level, CUNY needs to create a “constitution” for itself for the 21st century—needs to give attention to fundamental questions of its system architecture.

This has to start, believe, with the central administration. I do not believe that CUNY has had a well-thought-out, strong tradition of central governance, and I think we have to think in very fresh ways about the role of the trustees. I believe—and the report takes this position—that CUNY will not be able to pursue its tremendous potential without a strong Chancellor and a central administration that has the authority to help con- stitute a system, a university system that, to be sure, leaves the responsibility and creativity and initiative where they belong, on the campuses, long and strong.

This opportunity in the 21st century is as important as the achievement of the land grant colleges and universities in the 19th century.

I don’t think there is any more vital or important or interesting challenge in the whole range of education in the United States than this one of creating a model public urban institution of higher education, one that can inspire institutions all across the country in countless ways and continue to make New York City a capital of opportunity in the next century.
African Ape Conservation And the Origin of AIDS

John F. Oates, a professor of anthropology at Hunter College and at the Graduate School, has followed the fortunes of African primates for many years. He made the first of about 30 trips to the continent in 1964, when he was an undergraduate, and his doctoral research required 18 months’ residence there. When this issue of CUNY•Matters appears, Oates will be in Nigeria advising on the conservation of gorillas of the AFI Mountains. His University of California Press study, Myth and Reality in Rain Forests: How Conservation Strategies are Failing in West Africa, appears in September; it is especially timely, given recent research that suggests an African origin for the HIV virus. Oates offers an overview of the subject here.

In February, wide media attention was given to new research findings published in the journal Nature about the origin of the most common human AIDS virus, HIV-1. The key finding of a research team, led by Beatrice Hahn and Feng Gao of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, was that HIV-1 almost certainly evolved from a strain of non-human primate immunodeficiency virus, SIVcpz, which has been found only in a particular subspecies of chimpanzee from western equatorial Africa. This finding, based on DNA sequencing, has several connections to research that I am engaged upon with students in CUNY’s Ph.D. program in Anthropology.

As reported in the Fall 1997 issue of CUNY•Matters, research by CUNY doctoral student Katherine Gonder has revealed that four subspecies of chimpanzee can be distinguished, rather than the three traditionally recognized. In particular, as we discussed in a paper published in Nature in July 1997, there seems to be a distinct subspecies of chimpanzee in southern Nigeria and western Cameroon; this subspecies can be called Pan troglodytes vellerorum. If vellerorum is distinct, the western equatorial chimps of chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes troglodytes) has a much more limited distribution than was previously thought, occurring as far west only as southern Cameroon, and not reaching to the Niger River in Nigeria, its previously supposed limit.

So far, the SIVcpz strain that appears to be the progenitor of HIV-1 has been found only in the blood of troglodytes chimpanzees, and in one young vellerorum that shared a cage with a young troglodytes at a chimp orphanage. This strongly suggests that HIV-1 originally got into humans from chimpanzees somewhere in a relatively limited area of equatorial Africa, west of the Congo River. When this happened is unknown, but the oldest human blood sample containing HIV-1 was collected in 1959 in west-central Africa.

How the cross-species transmission of the immunodeficiency virus from chimps to humans occurred is another mystery, but the research of Hahn and her colleagues suggests that such transmission could have occurred on at least three separate occasions. One possible means of transmission is through the accidental mixing of blood, which can occur when local hunters butcher the carcasses of chimpanzees they have shot or trapped. Chimpanzees, gorillas and other nonhuman primates are commonly hunted for their meat in the forests of Africa, and in recent decades the scale of this hunting in equatorial Africa has increased as remote forests have been opened up to commercial logging.

The danger to the survival of Africa’s forest primates posed both by logging and by the commercial trade in the meat of wild animals—often called the “bushmeat” trade—is another area in which I have been undertaking research. In 1986, I published, with Nigerian colleagues, an article in Human Ecology that drew attention to the huge scale of the bushmeat trade in that country. And since 1993 I have been conducting surveys of primates in the rain-forest zone of Ghana; these surveys have failed to find any surviving populations of a local form of red colobus monkey, which has probably been driven to extinction by a combination of hunting for the bushmeat trade and habitat destruction.

Other such extinctions will probably follow soon, unless a greater effort is made to protect the few remaining areas of relatively undisturbed forest in West Africa, along with their unique fauna. This last February, soon after the new findings on the origins of HIV-1 were published, I attended a meeting at the headquarters of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association in Washington, D.C., that addressed the crisis arising from the African bushmeat trade. The meeting led to the formation of a Task Force charged with increasing U.S. public awareness and lobbying decision-makers in Washington.

In April, as I write these notes, I am on my way to Nigeria to discuss a protection program for the AFI Mountains in that nation’s southeast. Another CUNY doctoral student, Kelley McFarland, has been studying a remnant population of gorillas in the AFI Mountains that constitutes the most westerly population of gorillas in Africa. Collaborative research I am conducting with Todd Disotell of New York University and Esteban Sarmiento of the American Museum of Natural History is showing that these gorillas, like the local form of chimpanzee, are also a distinct and long-neglected subspecies, Gorilla gorilla diehli.

The gorillas of this area, which is on the borders of Nigeria and Cameroon, are teetering on the brink of extinction as a result of hunting and the destruction of their habitat. McFarland’s team of field assistants provides the only protection of AFI’s gorillas from hunters, and even that is not fully effective. A male in one of McFarland’s study groups was killed by a hunter last October. When McFarland’s study ends this May, there is a risk of AFI’s gorillas being left unprotected. My mission is to advance plans for a wildlife sanctuary and permanent ranger force to assure this population a long-term future.

At this point, there is no evidence of gorillas having transmitted any immunodeficiency virus to humans, but the origin of another human AIDS virus, HIV-2, has been traced to West Africa’s sooty mangabey monkey, and this virus may have entered the human population from hunted animals in the same way as HIV-1.

In the late 1980s, I was involved with virus researchers in plans to study sooty mangabey and their virology at a primate research-and-conservation site in Sierra Leone. The site was developed jointly by Hunter College, the University of Miami, the University of Sierra Leone, and the Sierra Leone Forestry Department. But then the mangabey studies were vetoed by the Forestry Department when someone raised the point that our research could possibly implicate Sierra Leone in the origin of the AIDS virus.

At that time, there was considerable resistance in much of Africa to any open discussion of the AIDS problem, and especially African Apes.

Prime-Time Primatologist

Brigitte Antonocci knows primates. Certain ones, like Murray—with whom she is pictured here at the ages of two and nearly five—are old friends. For several years Antonocci was a caregiver for the bleached chimpanzee, a refugee from a get-your-photo-taken-with-a-baby-chimp-for-$5 gig in Arkansas who now resides in Rockland County. Chimps like Murray can live to 60 in captivity, says Antonocci.

Her sweatshirt is no mere cute touch: it gets colder in New York than in an African rainforest.

The June 7 CUNY Baccalaureate Program cum laude graduate in biological anthropology/environmental science and conservation has followed the interests of her mentor, John Oates, in far-flung places. She has observed the effect of food abundance on groupings patterns of chimps in Uganda and the effect of forest fragmentation on mantled howler monkeys in Nicaragua. And when this summer issue appears, she will be in Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil correlating species density with forest structure along the Amazon River. While pursuing her primatology, Antonocci gained six years of experience caring for chimps owned by an entertainment company called Chimp Imp Production, and she is currently active in designing the conversion of Chimp Imp into a non-profit entity dedicated to research, rescue, and retirement of many vulnerable species. For two years she also volunteered at the upstate Laboratory for Experimental Research and Surgery in Primates (then owned by N.Y.U.), where she provided enrichment activities and collected behavioral data on chimpanzees and several monkey species.

Antonocci begins her doctoral studies in environmental biology this fall.

HUNTER PROF VIEWS LATEST RESEARCH

A very useful John Oates in the Mami River Forest Reserve of Nigeria in 1966, with his field assistant Joseph Ekumson. Oates’s doctoral studies there were aborted temporarily by the Nigerian civil war. Last April Oates met Ekumson for the first time in 27 years. Photo, Peter J ewell (Oates’s late Ph.D. supervisor).

African Ape Conservation And the Origin of AIDS

Prime-Time Primatologist

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“Writing Gotham” Reception Honors City University Authors

By Gary Schmidgall
Editor, CUNY•Matters

C hecking my facts for this story on June 9, I had a question for the kind lady behind the New York Public Library’s famed information desk that I figured would be a snap: What are the names of those two lions who gaze so benignly at the Jay-walkers on Fifth Avenue? “Oh dear!” she said and disappeared. She returned clutching a thick black binder filled with lioniana—numerous clippings, cartoons, and articles all devoted to Patience and Fortitude. Thumbing through this trove, I also learned the two names had been suggested by Fiorello La Guardia. This piqued my curiosity. Why Patience, why Fortitude?

I knew precisely what to do: march down this flight of those grand marble stairs, head for the Trustees Room of the Library, and buttonhole Thomas Kessner, the Graduate School historian who wrote the book on the city’s hands-down most colorful Mayor. Sure, he could explain this.

I was certain Kessner would be present in this grand old wood-paneled, red-carpeted, chandeliered room because a festive reception under the rubric “Writing Gotham” was underway there. Its purpose was to honor well over 50 authors from the CUNY faculty and staff whose publications have enriched knowledge of New York City, its society, culture, and environment.

Kessner, in fact, was present by virtue of what could be called a Gotham Hat Trick: three books on the city. In addition to Fiorello La Guardia and the Making of Modern New York, Kessner is also the author of Golden Door: Italian and Jewish Immigrant Mobility in New York 1880-1915 and (forthcoming in late 2000) Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898. With them is Chancellor Christoph Kimmich, in honor of his just-published Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898. Also prolific has been Graduate School political scientist and sociologist John Mollenkopf, whose books include another definitive mayoral biography (on the “How I’m doing?” one), an atlas devoted to New York City in the 1980s, and Dual City: Restructuring New York. John Jay historian Blanche Wiessen Cook, author of the city’s quintessential activist and agitator for human rights counts as a Gotham Hat Trick, too; her Eleanor Roosevelt will be a triple-decker (the second volume, covering 1933-38, has just appeared).

Interim Chancellor Christoph Kimmich, who conceived of “Writing Gotham,” during his remarks singled out Cook, Gittel, and Mollenkopf, as representatives of the assembled honorees, with glittering memen- tos of the occasion. “They are symbolic prizes,” Kimmich joked, “awarded synecdochically, which, they tell me, means that a part stands for the whole.” They were—need one add?—big red apples.

Opening the ceremonies with a warm greeting, the Library’s President, Paul LeClerc, recalled “his vast number of years in the City University” (laterly as President of Hunter College) and summarized succinctly the double-helix relationship between CUNY authors and the Library’s resources: “our house is your house.”

Kimmich underscored the point by asking for a show of hands from authors who “have called upon the resources of the Public Library in the preparation of their work.” Seeing so many, Kimmich asked again for hands on the negative proposition: not one was raised. “My point stands,” he added, “This is a marriage made in heaven.”

The new Chairman of the CUNY Board of Trustees, Herman Badillo, also spoke. He praised the distinguished authors and with expression of pride, said, “I am proud that among them might do their part to correct the impression that he was not alive. When young persons hear that I was the first Puerto Rican Congressman in the nation’s history, they assume it must have been so long ago that I can’t possibly still be around,” he explained.

Badillo then greeted the event’s featured speaker, author and journalist Pete Hamill, and paid his hat cock a copy of an old Hamill column that, Badillo said, helped him win that first-ever election back in 1970 by a mere 500 votes. “There ought to be a statute of limitations on dangling out old columns,” he heckled the veteran journalist, who started out at the New York Post in 1960.

If there is a dean of Gotham Writers, it could well be Pete Hamill, Registro, correspondent, sports writer, columnist, and editor-in-chief (both the Post and the Daily News) over a 40-year journalistic career, Brooklyn-born Hamill has also written novels set in the city (Moby Snow in August, set in 1947 Brooklyn) and a best-sell- ing memoir, A Drinking Life, and his col- umns have been anthologized. He knows a lot about Hoboken, too—his latest book is Why Sinatra Matters: and a lot about Mexico: he studied at Mexico City College and has long spent part of each year in Cuernavaca. His next book, from Abrams this fall, is about the Mexican painter Diego Rivera.

Before stepping up to the plate—I mean podium—and confronting the sound and fury of recent debate over CUNY, Hamill saluted Edwin Burrows (Brooklyn College) and Mike Wallace (ohn Jay College) on recently being awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898. He allowed it was a wonderful award to get, adding “even though it is named after a publisher!”

“Will we not be served,” Hamill began, by “discussions full of heat and no illumination... They will not serve the idea of the University if they are corrupted by demagoguery.” Hamill also called for “good manners and good faith” and urged that all sides understand “half a loaf is better than none, that compromise is the essence of the American system.”

Hamill alluded several times to CUNY’s tradition of serving immigrants to the metropolitan area, and one was struck by how “all” the honorees had published studies of immigration past, present, and future. Happily, Baruch Emerita Selma Berrol was present: her many publications on the subject stretch from the New Yorker to the Wall Street Journal, from New York City, 1899 to 1914 to her 1994 study, East Side/East End: Eastern Euro- pean Jews in London and New York.

Peter Kwong, of Hunter College, has just published Forbidden Workers: Illegal Chinese Immigrants and American Injustice, while Allan Wernick, at Hostos Community College, is the author of U.S. Immigration & Citizenship, a leading guide to immigration law and how to negotiate the maze of application regulations. Queens College sociologist Pyong Gap Min has published two books on Korean immigrants, the most recent being Changes and Conflicts: Korean Immigrant Families in New York.

Not surprisingly, the city’s many ethnic populations have attracted the interest of CUNY authors. Virginia Sanchez-Korrol, at Brooklyn College, has published From Color to Color: How Historical Memory Transformed Puerto Ricans in New York City. Hunter College sociologist Philip Kasinitz is the author of Caribbean New York: Black Immigrants and the Politics of Race, while Gabriel Haslip-Viera, at Hunter’s Puerto Rican Studies Center, just brought out Latinos in New York: Communities in Transition.

Silvio Torres-Saillant, at Hostos Community College, saw his The Dominican Americans appear last year.

From numerous books by CUNY faculty members on major civic social issues, a few exemplary ones can be highlighted: Graduate School sociologist William Kornblum’s The Uptown Kids: Struggle and Hope in Harlem; John Jay sociologist Andrew Karmen’s New York Murder Mystery (on the decreasing crime rates, forthcoming next spring); and The Struggle for Black Empowerment in New York City, by Hunter sociologist Charles Glass.

As co-editor of The City and the World: New York’s Global Future, from the Council on Foreign Relations, Hunter historian Margaret Crahan remarked, at the reception, on how “all roads lead back to education” in the essays she collected. She also expressed astonishment that, amid all the debate, “no one was admitting that improving education will require increased funding. The silence on this point...it’s like the emperor’s new clothes!”

Several of the honorees’ most recent publications address topics of extraordinary current interest. Among them is Graduate School sociologist David Lavin’s Changing the Odds: Open Admissions and the Life Changes of the Disadvantaged; The Future of Us All: Race and Neighborhood Politics in New York City, by Queens College anthropologist Roger Sanjek; and NYPD Battles Crime: Innovative Strategies of Policing, by John J. ay’s Eli Silverman, who appeared this June.

Chancellor Kimmich might have arranged to bestow a very tiny Red Apple on Bronx Community College’s historian emeritus George Lancevitk, in honor of his just-published American Metropolis: A History of New York City; his triumph of synopsis, at 270 pages, easily trumps the 1383-page masterpiece of condensation by Burrows and Wallace (see page 5 for an excerpt).

It is probably safe to say no forthcoming Gothamite title is more eagerly awaited this fall than the monumental of the AIA Guide to New York City, in the hands of City College Professor of architecture emeritus Norval White. “A number of the increasingly rare third edition will no longer have to keep their copies under lock when it appears next year.”

Serendipity was very well served, too, by “Writing Gotham.” Also honored were authors of books on local “deviant street networks”—a ka prostitution (Bernard Cohen, Queens College), on the art deco skyscrapers (Rosemarie Bletter, Continued on next page
EXCERPTS FROM PETE HAMILL'S ADDRESS

“The Future of the University”

As everyone in this room knows, this is an extraordinary time in the history of this great university. We have been engulfed for days in much sound, much fury. The future of the City University system appears to be at stake: its character, its mission, its place in the future of this city.

Such debates are absolutely necessary. The collisions of opposing visions, or conflicting ideas, generally lead to a synthesis that is healthy, solid, and practical. In this city, the blurring of a distinction almost always gives way to the concrete. Along the way, however, the debate can become jaded and cabbed; such debates are almost always accompanied by much nonsense. Political nonsense, Media nonsense, Ideological nonsense.

The people assembled in this room are a great refutation of nonsense. They are living proof of the value of this University, of its existence as one of the major engine rooms in the supply of New York City’s intellectual energy. Their books—products of intense, often viva- cious scholarship—exist now in the wider world to be used, savored, challenged by many thousands of strangers. A university does not produce goods. It does not produce diplomas. It produces ideas.

I hope you are neither discouraged nor intimidated by the sound and the fury. Always remember how important you are to people whose names you do not yet know. Last night, I was reading about the great generations of impoverished Jews who came to this University and placed brilliant new suns in the skies above New York, and above the United States and the world. I came across these lines by Abraham Cahan in his great book, The Rise of David Levinsky:

My old religion had gradually fallen to pieces, and if its place was taken by something else, if there was something that appealed to the better man in me, to what was purest in my thoughts and most sacred in my emotions, that something was the red church-like structure on the southeast corner of Lexington and 23rd Street.

It was the synagogue of my new life. Nor is this merely a figure of speech; the building really appealed to me as a temple. As a House of Sanctity, as we call the ancient Temple of Jerusalem. At least that was the term I would fondly apply to it, years later in my retrospective broodings upon...my first years in America.

One of the ancient and traditional functions of the synagogue, of course, was to serve as a place of learning. You who work in this city’s places of learning should know: we honor you. Another generation of the immigrant poor honors you.

In the very best sense, in the secular synagogues of this great University, you continue to make such places holy. Keep flying the banners of passionate intelligence and tempered reason. Now, more than ever, we need you.

EXCERPTS FROM PETE HAMILL'S ADDRESS

“The Future of the University”

As everyone in this room knows, this is an extraordinary time in the history of this great university. We have been engulfed for days in much sound, much fury. The future of the City University system appears to be at stake: its character, its mission, its place in the future of this city.

Such debates are absolutely necessary. The collisions of opposing visions, or conflicting ideas, generally lead to a synthesis that is healthy, solid, and practical. In this city, the blurring of a distinction almost always gives way to the concrete. Along the way, however, the debate can become jaded and cabbed; such debates are almost always accompanied by much nonsense. Political nonsense, Media nonsense, Ideological nonsense.

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She thought it was something I ought to publish, promised never to send me anything unless I was interested in almost everything that I've pursued. I've felt that glee, still are. I'm still interested in almost The Moviegoer. That was a serendipitous incidentally, that film is a clear example of Hitchcock's cleverness. He had Janet Leigh murdered about 25 minutes into Psycho. He had such a shot, aside from her being nude and shock, one cannot even tell whether or not one is going to be murdered. That was the real psycho, the opera, psycho, film that you've seen before and watch it again?

SK: Often, often. And it's a characteristically that film was a second film for a second time, if it is worth making another film. I think that in the first time, in fact, that film is a complete failure, no sequence should be reviewed without being seen at least twice. When you saw it after the start that the film was a serious, great master of the cinema. Truffaut's view with the man he considered one of the fine artist. "I see the final edit of The Birds, François was being featured prominently at a major international film festival in 1962, when Alfred Hitchcock was made

SK: The place was jammed.

SK: It was pleasant when done by people who understands it—he clearly loves it. The thing is that he loved the idea that his films might be killed. He certainly is a New York director. I happen to have a book out that you've seen before and I couldn't possibly pertain to the re-make. That particular shock was mimicked frame-by-frame. Psycho was mimicked frame-by-frame.

SK: You've said that there are more than 2000 film directors this summer. The film appears this summer.

SK: His "office" was in Gould Library. In Going in Style (1979), the Rotunda was a bank robbed by Walter Matthau. The place was jammed.

SK: When I first saw this, it wasn't a question of trying to make it center on some ideas, but rather a matter of having some argument about films. I believe this was the film that the Romans made several times. The Romans made it a couple of times, and every time in the smaller scale, it was a failure. When I first saw this, I thought it wasn't really about some idea. What the Romans did a very good job.

SK: I think that I was the end of that, because I think the movie critic who is saying that there aren't men that have read, and I mean working. It went through three different departments, who read the reviews. As soon as it was accepted by the three men who read it, it was disappro- benjamin here in Goodyear Columbia in 1868. It was the first film in America to be released in color. That's when I first saw this, I thought it wasn't really about some idea. What the Romans did a very good job.

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SOME AMAZING JUNE GRADUATES

Of Transitions, Transformations, And One Kidney Transplant

For ten years, skin-deep was exactly how far Karen Kennedy wished to probe. That's how long she was a teacher of cosmetology. Four years ago her focus became decidedly more subcutaneous: in order to save her mother's life, Kennedy donated one of her own kidneys. Her most notable post-operative procedure has been to earn a magna cum laude CUNY Baccalaureate Program degree that emphasized psychology and marketing management. The unusual disciplinary combination—the raison d'être of the Program—allowed Kennedy to expand her studies of a subject close to her heart (and kidney). . . the world of organ donation.

The CUNY BA Program also aided summa cum laude January grad Heidi Dehncke-Fisher in a remarkable transit from big estates to the fourth estate. After working in television (including a several-year stint as an assistant producer on "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous"), she moved on to government and media studies at John Jay and Hunter Colleges. In addition to interning in the New York office of Senator Charles Schumer, she is an accomplished clarinetist affiliated with the Brooklyn College Conservatory and her own chamber music group, and she has two daughters. "I have gotten very good at organizing my time," Dehncke-Fisher says of her full plate. This fall the plate gets even fuller: though accepted to law school, she has just decided to attend Columbia as an M.A. student in broadcast journalism.

Christopher Bartlett was resting on his laurels as a SUNY Associate in Occupational Science in culinary arts and working at the popular Harlem Davidson Café when he began to notice there were fewer interns and alumni from New York City Tech's flagship Hospitality Management Program in the kitchen. He recognized the need to hit the (cook)books again and transferred into Tech's Program in 1996, while working full-time at Dean and Deluca, Verena, and, during the summers, at famed Mohonk Mountain House in the Shawangunk Mountains. The winner of awards from the Chef de Cuisine Association and the Société Culinaire Philanthropique, Bartlett takes charge of the kitchen at Mohonk House this summer, following his June Tech graduation. And this fall his educational soufflé will continue to rise when he becomes a graduate student at Baruch College.

June Grads, continued on page 12
As one would suspect, studying heroin users is not a bundle of laughs. Some folks get addicted, others get arrested, a few get AIDS, and some die. But separating fact from lore on the state of heroin use in New York City is why the National Institute on Drug Abuse funded our “Heroin in the 21st Century” grant. Our team—Ric Curtis, Barry Spunt, Stephanie Herman, and myself—has been working for three years now on an ethnographic study of users and sellers of heroin. As we enter the fourth of the five-year study, we have discovered much that contradicts the premises of our original grant proposal (i.e. heroin is not being used in epidemic proportions) as well as many things we had not even considered: for instance, that there are virtually no young African-American users of the drug. If you want to read our findings, pick up one of the sociable academic journals we’ve published some of our data in: the Journal of Psychoactive Drugs, for example, or the Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, and Harm Reduction Communication. Not exactly summer reading.

This article will be different. One always hears about the devastation, dysfunction, and disease that heroin use contributes to, but there is a lighter side of heroin. Now, I do not propose a callous joy-ride into other and disease that heroin use contributes to, I hear about the devastation, dysfunction, but many of are fun, smart, and fascinating. And it’s in the bag.

Designer jeans and detergent are not the only commodities where there is an overlap. A crystal meth lab burner is a Euclier. Since the 70s, heroin in New York City has been sold, for the most part, in formal glassine bags stamped with a brand name and sometimes a crude illustration. Since the inception of the John Jay project, my colleague Travis Wendel has been collecting these bags—after they have been emptied, of course. He has compiled a partial list of the names that drug entrepreneurs have invented for their wares. Here is a sampling from the lexicon of the Big Apple’s heroin commerce, broken down by category.

Movie/TV/Literary: Titanic, 24 Hours, Blackhat, Dead Man Walking, Dynasty, Euclier, Godfather (Hard Target, Hard to Kill, Hard Rain), King Kong, Lion King, Mortal Kombat, New Jack City, No Way Out, Rescue 911, Scarface, Tango and Cash, Sting, Temple of the Sun, Tomahawk, Homemade, Emma (a Jane Austen reference), Moby Dick, Looney Tune, Godzilla, Lambada.

IT’S IN THE BAG

Brightly lit by a setting sun, the panoramic view of the Hudson River from the Richard C. Harris Terrace at Borough of Manhattan Community College was the backdrop at this year’s Annual Spring Reception honoring more than 160 winners of major institutional grants for the City University.

Interim Chancellor Christoph Kimmich noted with “particular pleasure” how “the roster of successful grant applications celebrated at the May 27 ceremony showed the enormous depth and breadth of what the University offers. They range from pre-kindergarten education to bilingual engineering, from telecommunications to opportunities for study abroad, from advanced spectroscopy to arts education; from increased legal services to improved health care.”

Kimmich also applauded the “astonishing array of private corporations, charities, and public institutions that have supported the projects.”

Among the honorees was Ann Marie Trodin (pictured above) of New York City’s College of Technical Trades, the middle and high school for technicians in the City University of New York. She was honored for her “Reading Starts With Us” program. This early-childhood literacy program supports the training of pre-kindergarten-to-2nd grade teachers to preside over workshops for parents that nurture reading skills, offer learning strategies, and identify high-quality children’s books.

Each year co-organizers (there have been four so far) consists of 20 teachers, who serve in pairs at 10 public schools. This initiative, which grew out of City Tech project, called “Parent Reading Partner,” founded by Goldsmith in 1986, now serves schools in all five boroughs: “We are reaching many parents who were never read to themselves,” Goldsmith said a few days after the reception, “and— an added benefit—we are breaking down the feeling of intimidation many parents have in interacting with teachers.”

Anthony Tsegaye, of CUNY’s Office of Academic Affairs, was responsible for the latest five annual grants—each just under $100,000—from the DeWitt Wallace Fund. These funds support $1,000, $750, and $500 grants for foreign study that are made by Study/Travel Opportunities for CUNY Students (STOCOS). This year 134 STOCOS grants were made, notably for a new summer program for dancers in Chester, England, that is sponsored by the Dance Program of the Old Vic.

The College of Staten Island’s Anshel Gorokhovsky (pictured above) was honored for a three-year$180,000 grant from the U.S. Air Force that supports graduate student training for research in optical storage memory through spectral hole burning—that is, the study of solids that absorb light through laser-induced removal of molecules.

Gorokhovsky, who was a research scientist in Estonia before arriving at CCNY to work with Professor Robert Alfano nine years ago, remarked that “it is not easy these days to find applicants for work in physics who are U.S. citizens” (a requirement for this grant). He believes, as does the U.S. military itself, that the field of physics suffers by having qualified candidates piped off by a strong demand for workers in the commercial sector.

City College’s Deputy Dean for Social Science, Marina Fernandes, spoke enthusiastically about her campus’s Empowering Communities Program, which was funded at $465,000 over the last two years by the New York State Office of National and Community Service and operated through the federal AmeriCorps Program.

This public schools enrichment initiative deployed City College undergraduates to one elementary school (P.S. 92), a middle and high school (Thurgood Marshall Academy) in Harlem. There they assisted teachers in tutoring and after-school programs. They were also responsible for introducing creative approaches to reading and writing and for enhancing the children’s understanding of advanced applied science and math. It is hoped that a five-year grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Education for a similar venture called Gear Up Partnership will be approved and continue the momentum of the current Empowering Communities Program.
The annals of Tinseltown are rich in droll skirmishes between the literate and the power-ful, and more than a few are captured in Twentieth Century's Fox: Darryl F. Zanuck and the Culture of Hollywood (Basic Books, 1997), by Professor of Communications and Cinema Studies at the College of Staten Island George F. Custen. Following here is his wry narrative, slightly adapted, of what happened when W. Somerset Maugham offered to come to Hollywood and work on a screenplay based on his best-selling novel The Razor's Edge, assuming the storyed mogul Darryl Zanuck would hire his friend and fellow sophisticate George Cukor to direct. By 1945, Maugham had 30 years' experience with film-makers meddling with his work, and he took his lumps on this project with shrewd poise. (After meeting Zanuck for the first time, Maugham remarked, "He speaks very loud, doesn't he? I don't like people who shout.") The film, a about a well-to-do Chicagoan's soulsearching world travels after World War I, appeared in 1946 with Tyrone Power, Clifton Webb, Gene Tierney, and Ann Baxter.

Custen, who is also the author of Bio/Pics: How Hollywood Constructed Public History and the founder and series editor of the "Depth of Field" series at Rutgers University Press, has just received the 1999 Achievement in the Humanities Award conferred by the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island. He is also currently the director of the American Studies Program at the Graduate School, where he has held an appointment in the Theatre Program since 1992.

As was typical on any Zanuck film, the real problem was the screenplay. An old man, Lamar Trotti, quickly sensed the obvious and observed, "Darryl can't bring himself to understand that his and Maugham's concepts of life are as far apart as the North and South Poles." To Zanuck, The Razor's Edge fit in with his new vision of the kind of films postwar Fox should make, for he felt it was a serious investigation of man's spirit amid the world of postwar alienation and changing cultural values. To Maugham and Cukor, the work was meant to be played as a probing social comedy whose irony was leavened by its serious moments. We see this in the Maugham-Cukor "prologue," which contains instructions that were written but never used:

Please note that this is on the whole, a comedy and should be played lightly by one except in the definitely serious passages. The actors should pick up another's cues as smartly as possible... The director is respectfully reminded that the action should accompany and illustrate the dialogue. Speed, speed, speed.

Hold up at Cukor's Hollywood Hills home for months, Maugham did turn in a script in July 1945 to the man he and Cukor had privately nicknamed the "bizarre colonel." But Zanuck found it too verbose and not full enough of action. Cukor told Maugham that, while Zanuck did have some valid points, "for the most part I do not agree with him." The problem with Zanuck, Cukor sighed, was the same as with the rest of Hollywood:

They are accustomed to treating books and plays, etc., for pictures with either a matter-of-fact realism, sentimentality, or in a sanctimonious, Sunday-school way. They shy from any elevation of spirit. They are in strange territory with The Razor's Edge. Its approach is unfamiliar to them. That's what worries them.

The pragmatic Maugham (who had worked in Hollywood before there even was a studio system) told Cukor that he didn't find any great damage done. He even told Zanuck the changes had his stamp of approval. After all, noted Maugham to Cukor, "as they were going to do it as it now stands," he was not being hypocritical, just realistic in calling the final script "first rate": "It was better they should do it with conviction of its excellence rather than the feeling at the back of their minds that they might very well be proving you and I right..."

Meanwhile, beyond the complicated doings of this odd trio, there were other intrusions. . . Hedging his bets should Tyrone Power not be available, Zanuck had shown the script to [Jimmy] Stewart. Cukor was amused that the actor "was frightened off because he thought the character of Larry was a Christlike hero...decided not the kind of image Stewart wanted for his postwar return to the screen. In any event, Cukor found him all wrong for the part—far "too homespun," with an alarming inclination to be cutie-pie.

In the end, time ran out. When principal photography started in early April 1946, Cukor was no longer available, and the equally worldly (but more pliable) Edmund Goulding directed the film. As for the degree—"You can't find this without advice from some cheap speaker"—on an inspirational note that evoked whistles of derision:

"You learned to persevere. You learned not to quit. Breslin got a laugh quoting the writer Ben Hecht, "The competition is idiots. Keep it under your hat." And he ended his gritty speech—"You came this far without advice from some cheap speaker"—on an inspirational note that evoked whistles of derision.

"You have so much that we need. You must not be denied." —Mark Noonan

Ph.D. candidate in English, GSUC

"America's Treasures" Grant Announced by First Lady

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton announced on May 19 that the U.S. Department of the Interior will fund nearly half of a $775,000 Master Plan renovation of Queens College's Louis Armstrong House, whose Archive contains extensive materials related to the late trumpeter and the history of American jazz.

The grant is part of "Save America's treasures," a program supervised by the White House Millennium Council and the National Trust for Historical Preservation and dedicated to protecting the nation's historical and cultural heritage.

Last December Mrs. Clinton toured the Corona, Queens, House, in which "Satchmo" lived for the last three decades of his life.
On April 19, NASA arrived in force on the York College campus to highlight the beginning of a two-year program, funded by a $525,000 grant, that will enhance access to science and math careers among minority and under-represented K-12 students.

Top NASA officials, a technology-packed Mobile Aeronautics Education Laboratory, and some enthusiastic NASA trainers joined York President Charles Kidd, Far Rockaway’s Congressman Gregory Meeks, and City Council Member Alfonso Stabile to celebrate the launching of NASA’s newest Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) site.

Checking out the various workstations and attending training sessions were science cluster 5th-graders from P.S. 40 and P.S. 116 in Queens. Pictured here with the students is NASA astronaut Joan E. Higginbotham, who happens to be a third cousin of the late eminent jurist and civil rights leader A. Leon Higginbotham.

NASA Visits Queens Launch Site

A vision of former Ohio Congressman Louis Stokes and NASA’s Administrator and City College graduate Daniel Goldin (who was present for the ceremony), the SEMAA program began in 1993 at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland and now includes sites nationwide. York’s SEMAA will feature an Aeronautics Education Laboratory with electronically enhanced, computerized classrooms and workstations that allow interactive modeling of real-world challenges in aviation.

Shakespeare Out of Love

(Intramural Insults)

A recent, much-celebrated film may have left the mistaken impression that William Shakespeare was the great poet of love. In fact, his true gift was for expressing hatred, antipathy, and disgust. CUNY+Matters offers its readers some choice insults by the Bard perfect for deployment within the Grove of Academe.

To a student whose paper (or dissertation) is late:

“I abhor this dilatory sloth.” (Henry VIII) or “How have you come so early by this lethargy?” (Twelfth Night)

Of a search committee that has run amuck:

“Oh, these deliberate fools!” (Merchant of Venice)

Of legislators unsupportive of higher education:

“Fit to govern? No, not to live.” (Macbeth)

Of a self-infatuated colleague:

“. . . the music of his own vain tongue
Doth ravish like enchanting harmony.” (Love’s Labour’s Lost)

To an incompetent department secretary:

“You do me insupportable vexation.” (All’s Well That Ends Well)

At a departmental meeting:

“Fie, fie, what tediousness and disinsanity is here among ye!” (The Two Noble Kinsmen)

To complaining adjuncts:

“No more, you petty spirits of region low, offend our hearing.” (Cymbeline)

To a detested colleague:

“I do desire we may be better strangers.” (As You Like It)

To a dean, from a desperate chair in need of a new hire:

“I eat the air, promise-crammed.” (Hamlet)

Of a president or provost who lacks the human touch:

“Those he commands move only in command, Nothing in love.” (Macbeth)

Of a campus fussbudget:

“His passions, like a whale on ground, Confound themselves with working.” (Henry IV, Part 2)

To a colleague who should retire but won’t:

“Canst thou believe thy living is a life, So stinkingly depending? Go mend, go mend.” (Measure for Measure)

And when he or she finally does:

“Farewell, sour annoy!” (Henry VI, Part 3)

Finally, the colleague who really pisses you off:

“King-Urinal.” (Merry Wives of Windsor)

Then, of course, from the hundreds of verbal hand-grenades apt for all occasions might be added thou imperseverant thing, stretch-mouthed rascal, cream-faced loon, stocking knave. Perhaps the most withering insult Shakespeare ever penned is also the simplest. When a campus denizen causes you grief, borrow these four words from Timon of Athens and deliver them with a cool stare: “You breathe in vain.”
the idea that the virus had originated on the continent. In Sierra Leone I discovered there was widespread acceptance of speculation—broadcast in a story by Radio Moscow—that the virus had been produced in CIA laboratories in the U.S. as part of a plan to eliminate black people and homosexuals.

This illustrates the difficulties of HIV research in Africa and of attempts to integrate such research with primate conservation efforts. Beatrice Hahn and others have suggested that the identification of central African chimpanzees as the host of the ancestor of HIV-1 can be used as an argument for the better protection of wild chimps. Chimps do not seem to develop AIDS symptoms when infected with SIVcpz, and it has therefore been suggested that research on infected chimpanzees could lead to discoveries about how humans might be protected from AIDS.

But conservationists fear that large-scale studies of wild-chimpanzee virology could lead to invasive research on wild animals, or even produce a demand for new lab animals, thus threatening vulnerable populations as did other laboratory research in the 1970s.

It has also been suggested that chimpanzee hunting could be reduced by spreading word about the dangers to people of acquiring infections from the apes. But this argument could be a double-edged sword, possibly leading to draconian proposals for slaughtering chimps so as to eliminate the possibility of human infection.

The most powerful argument in favor of protecting chimpanzees, gorillas and other primates from extinction is that they have a right to continue living in a natural state in at least the few small areas of the planet we share with them—and that human life as a whole will be greatly diminished by the loss of these other species.

Rather than arguing for the conservation of wild chimpanzees because they carry the progenitor of the HIV-1 virus and that they might therefore be of use to us, we should instead add this new knowledge to the growing store of evidence pointing to our very close relationship to these apes, and realize that we have an ethical obligation to protect them because of our close kinship.

Readers interested in pursuing the science of these topics may wish to consult these journal articles: Nature (388: 337 and 397: 436-41), Human Ecology (16: 199-208), Conservation Biology (6: 570-80), and Primate Conservation (17: 138-44).