S A SENIOR at Townsend Harris High School, Bari Nadworny had choices. With a 97 percent grade point average and a 1950 SAT score, the 18-year-old from Fresh Meadows was eagerly sought by Boston University, SUNY, Binghamton and Macaulay Honor College at Queens College. She chose Macaulay at Queens because of its rigorous academic program and because she has always loved the “beauty and diversity” of the campus. An added bonus: It’s close to home.

A freshman who now plans to major in political science, Nadworny is emblematic of the high academic achievers with top-tier grades and competitive SAT scores who are choosing the colleges of The City University of New York. Nadworny graduated from one of five elite New York City public high schools — Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical, Staten Island Technical, Bronx High School of Science and Townsend Harris — that sent 505 freshmen to CUNY colleges in fall, 2008, a 27 percent increase from fall, 1999. But the University’s newfound popularity among high academic achievers extends beyond these five prestigious high schools.

“Open the doors to all — let the children of the rich and the poor take their seats together and know of no distinction save that of industry, good conduct, and intellect.”
— Townsend Harris, founder

Bauer Wins as More Rhodes Lead to CUNY

DAVID L.V. BAUER, a senior in the University’s Macaulay Honors College at City College, has been named a 2009 Rhodes Scholar, widely considered the world’s most prestigious scholarship.

He is the third CUNY student to win a Rhodes Scholarship in the past four years, joining CCNY’s Lev Svindov and Brooklyn College’s Eugene Shenderov, who were 2008 Rhodes Scholars. As a Rhodes Scholar, Bauer plans to conduct research in clinical medicine at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics at the University of Oxford. During his junior year, Bauer spent 11 months at the Centre. There he created a computer program to analyze raw data from a new DNA sequencing approach that is now being used to analyze genetic changes related to cystic fibrosis and other diseases. At CCNY he has conducted organic chemistry research towards the synthesis of aspirin analogues to explore aspirin’s anti-cancer properties.

Bauer entered CUNY in 2005 after winning the $100,000 Intel Science Talent Search contest while a student at Hunter College High School. He was called “The smartest kid in America” in a Daily News editorial and could have had his pick of top-ranked schools, and chose Macaulay Honors College at CCNY. He went on to win the 2007 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship for undergraduates majoring in math, science and engineering, and the 2008 Harry S. Truman Scholarship for students pursuing graduate degrees in public service.

“I am ecstatic about being named a Rhodes Scholar,” said Bauer. “Many people at Hunter College High School, CCNY, the Macaulay Honors College and the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics have helped me along the way. I am grateful to all of them, especially my mentor at CCNY, professor Kevin Ryan, and to Dr. Kalim Mir, at Oxford.”
New Budget Challenges Inspire New Strategies

The University continues to monitor city, state, and federal developments that affect CUNY’s budget. With New York State facing its largest deficit in state history—a $1.7 billion shortfall this year and $13.7 billion in 2009–10—the budget recommends actions to generate savings. The New York State Legislature is reviewing the Governor’s January Executive Budget and will hold hearings in January, in which the University will participate. In order to generate the savings proposed by the governor, the 2009–10 Executive Budget must be approved by the New York State Legislature by March 1, a month prior to the start of the fiscal year.

The University Budget Office and the Office of Facilities Planning, Construction and Management have prepared a preliminary analysis of the Executive Budget as it pertains to CUNY.

For our senior colleges, the proposed budget recommends an overall increase of almost $51 million over the current year: a decrease of almost $65 million in state support offset by over $115 million in additional tuition and other revenue; based on a tuition increase of $600 for full-time resident undergraduates at CUNY.

We are pleased that, for the first time, the Executive has proposed an investment plan that will continue to provide a portion of revenue from a tuition increase to be returned to the University, consistent with the principles of the CUNY Compact. For FY 2009–10, CUNY will retain 20 percent of the additional revenue for investment purposes.

The CUNY Board of Trustees has authorized the chancellor, in consultation with the chairman, to adopt a revised student tuition schedule. The new schedule calls for tuition increases of up to $300 per semester for full-time resident undergraduates attending CUNY’s senior colleges, and up to $200 per semester for full-time resident undergraduates attending the University’s community colleges.

At the same time, the board approved a plan that I advanced to establish an Institutional Financial Aid Initiative to assist students who will be placed at risk of continuing their matriculation due to higher tuitions and other financial difficulties on CUNY’s students.

At an October “Summit on Public Higher Education” convened by CUNY and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, there was widespread agreement of the assembled chancellors and presidents that public institutions must work in partnership with the governors, mayors, and the federal government. Following the summit, a statement signed by many institutional leaders and national and state organizations, was sent to President-elect Obama. This “open letter,” which also appeared in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and the Boston Globe, proposes immediate federal investment as part of the infrastructure stimulus package.

I have been encouraged by the commitment among public university leaders to strengthening higher education’s critical role in advancing the nation’s well-being.

The University will continue to work closely with our federal, state, and city partners to sustain and enhance CUNY’s core academic priorities maximizing the availability of full-time faculty and providing quality student services to our growing student body.

Every day, I have the privilege of witnessing the singular contributions of our faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni to our academic mission, and to the larger community. CUNY stands apart in its dedication to our students, and I deeply appreciate the work that you do on behalf of our students and all New Yorkers.

PUTTING STUDENT AID FIRST

OMING OF AGE in the streets and shadows of the city, Andrew Santiago has lived with drugs, violence, death — is not so unusual. But thanks to his own drive and the support of the Kaplan Educational Foundation, the 21-year-old recently found an oasis, a single, rented room in Harlem — a place to study, to sleep and pursue his goal of becoming a writer.

“It’s really quiet, it’s mine, and I sleep. It’s magic,” says the soon-to-be graduate of Borough of Manhattan Community College, finally savoring a few of the things most college students take for granted: a bed of his own, safety and a good night’s sleep.

Santiago and students like him are the diamonds in the rough. Bright, hardworking and the first in their family to go college, they often have little support at home and only a vague understanding of what it takes to burnish their academic careers. CUNY officials know that beyond the University’s honors programs, there are other high achievers, attending senior and community colleges, who qualify to compete for prestigious scholarships. Now the University, is moving forward with new efforts to find students like Santiago and prepare them to compete for national awards.

In November, 70 CUNY administrators from programs for high-achieving students convened to exchange ideas on how to find the brightest among CUNY’s many thousands across the University, match them with appropriate awards and mentor them through the rigorous application process. “There is a range of very talented students at CUNY,” said James Airozo, University director of student academic awards and honors. “We’ve expanded our outreach efforts, and that will expand the applicant pool for scholarships.” CUNY, he added, is “trying to break the assumption” that only Honors College students are eligible, as public institutions are increasingly competing against private colleges and universities in growing student bodies for national honors. The Kaplan Foundation is one of a number of foundations, philanthropists and other donors who are investing heavily in high-achieving CUNY students, especially students like Santiago, who has written a play and wants to develop his creative writing skills. Other foundations and donors are focused on creating paths for extraordinary CUNY students seeking careers in the sciences and technology. Along with William and Linda Macaulay, the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Rhodes Trust and others, Kaplan recognizes the potential of CUNY students as the University sharpens its own efforts to identify and mentor high achievers such as its newest Rhodes Scholar, David L.V. Bauer, and promote them for top awards and honors.

Airozo pointed to the case of Mark Smiley, who was admitted to CUNY through the SEEK program — which provides extra financial aid, tutoring and counseling to talented low-income students with shaky transcripts — who won a scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to pay for medical school.

Honors counselors don’t simply match students with awards. Carol Oliver, director of Hunter College’s Ronald E. McNair scholars program, told colleagues at the fall meeting she has played the role of friend, mentor and even psychologist with students. She pushed a student for a month to apply to graduate school, the student felt discouraged by a low GRE score.

The student now attends Rutgers University in a full scholarship. “We have to nurture these students to help them create a balance between their academic and personal lives,” Oliver said.

Andres Santiago, too, had to be nudged for a full scholarship. “We have to nurture these students to help them create a balance between their academic and personal lives,” Oliver said.

Andrew Santiago, an aspiring writer and winner of a full scholarship, is a place to study, to sleep and pursue his goal of becoming a writer. His story is an inspiration to all students and parents to pursue their dreams.

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Award Winners on the Fast Track

A scholarship from the Kaplan Foundation, has found direction in his life thanks to support and guidance from his BMCC advisers.

potential, low-income, mostly community college students each year for intensive support, advising and leadership training — from financial assistance, to “dress for success,” to preparation for transfer to a bachelor’s degree program.

Kaplan currently supports 17 students, aged 18 to 33, who either attended CUNY community colleges or have transferred from CUNY to four-year colleges including Mount Holyoke, George Washington, Morehouse, Syracuse, American and NYU. The deadline is Feb. 1 for interested students to apply to join the next cohort. Information is available at http://www.kaplaned

Santiago had been invited by BMCC to a Kaplan Foundation’s sleek midtown offices, “This journey to being a student,” as Santiago describes it, has been fraught. “I make the really hard parts of my life bearable with comedy,” he begins, sitting in the Kaplan Foundation’s sleek midtown offices, where the community college students spend Fridays meeting with advisors and each other.

Santiago has plenty of material. A beloved aunt who, at 45, was “into drugs, had HIV” and “didn’t wake up” on Halloween of 2005. A brother who has “always been into trouble,” who did time for an ignored child turned to his toy monkey, his imagination, for attention because “no one else was there;” Santiago says. The play was staged in July at a theater on East 42nd Street.

Humor is the balm for a traumatic family history with which Santiago continues to grapple. “I’ve used comedy, jokes, my whole life to deal with everything else,” he says, adding that he would like to write for “Saturday Night Live” some day. He received a writing assignment in his English class last winter: “What’s important about this program,” he says, “is the support that they give me, and how they’re a family, with foundation Director Jennifer Benn and Kaplan academic advisor Nancy Sanchez, a CUNY alumna — Kingsborough Community College and Brooklyn College — who advises and nurtures the Kaplan Scholars closely, visiting colleges with them, recommending books to expand their cultural and social horizons, bolstering their knowledge, confidence and credentials with tutoring and counseling.

“It got emotional,” said Santiago of his interview. The financial assistance the foundation offered was key. “I’d be able to go to school,” said Santiago, who had worked at Brooklyn day camps and after-school programs for years to support himself — the jobs a stabilizing factor even when his home life became so painful that he dropped out of Franklin D. Roosevelt High School. “This journey to being a student,” as Santiago describes it, has been fraught. “I make the really hard parts of my life bearable with comedy,” he begins, sitting in the Kaplan Foundation’s sleek midtown offices, where the community college students spend Fridays meeting with advisors and each other.

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It’s healing, it’s therapy, it’s fun,” he adds. “If I can use my story to make people laugh, feel connected and less alone, I’ll feel like I did my job as a writer.”

For now, the Kaplan Foundation is helping him reach for a life beyond his past, to plans that include transferring next fall to a four-year college for his B.A.

“What’s important about this program,” he says, “is the support that they give me, that someone really cares about my education as much as I do.”

“That’s what I’ve been dying for, pleading for from my family.” His Kaplan advisors, he said, are “like family when you need them to be.”

Kaplan currently supports 17 students, aged 18 to 33, who either attended CUNY community colleges or have transferred from CUNY to four-year colleges including Mount Holyoke, George Washington, Morehouse, Syracuse, American and NYU. The deadline is Feb. 1 for interested students to apply to join the next cohort. Information is available at http://www.kaplaned
Building the City’s Future

The University is building a new East Harlem home for the forthcoming graduate School of Public Health and Hunter College’s venerable School of Social Work. Also, the city and state have at long last cleared the way to demolish and rebuild of Borough of Manhattan Community College’s Fiterman Hall, which was irreparably damaged in 9/11 attack.

The School of Public Health, slated to open with masters and doctoral programs in 2010-2011, will be the nation’s only such program focusing on urban issues. “I can think of no better way to communicate the seriousness of our commitment to involving the local community than locating the school in the Harlem community,” said the founding dean, Dr. Kenneth Olden. “I want our faculty to be engaged in solving real-world problems that are important to the people of this city.” The school has University status with Hunter College. Olden, a cancer researcher, favored community health initiatives when he headed the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program from 1991 to 2005. He was the first African-American to direct one of the 13 institutes then at the National Institutes of Health and previously taught at Harvard. As he begins recruiting a faculty, Olden is weighing three global trends: the worldwide migration to cities; the aging of populations throughout the developed world; and the transformation of once-lethal diseases into chronic ones, ranging from diabetes to some cancers.

“Our vision is to bring together a school in this international city to address these problems. Whatever we learn here and whatever technologies we develop to address the challenges posed by these three interactive forces can be applied around the world,” Olden said.

Hunter’s School of Social Work will occupy most of the new eight-story building on Third Avenue between 118th and 119th Streets, which will have almost 30 percent more space than its current, 40-year-old home. The existing space at 129 E. 79th St. is leased from Lois V. and Samuel J. Silberman and the nonprofit New York Community Trust. They sold the property for $65 million to a developer, the Brodsky Organization, $40 million of the proceeds — CUNY’s largest gift to date — will help pay for the new building. (The state appropriated $85 million for the rest.) The remaining $25 million from the sale will create a perpetual fund for social work grants. In appreciation, Hunter is renaming its School of Social Work after the Silbermans. Occupancy for both schools is slated for 2011.

Meanwhile, Fiterman Hall — structurally damaged when the adjacent World Trade Center 7 collapsed after terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001 — will be replaced by the spring of 2012. The project was delayed by issues from insurance to winning government approvals, but in November $325 million in funding, including $139 million from the city, was announced by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Paul T. Williams Jr., executive director of the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, representing Gov. David A. Paterson.

“The site is an essential part of the revitalization of Lower Manhattan and of our vision of making Lower Manhattan a vibrant 24/7 community,” Bloomberg said. The 14-story tower — bounded by Greenwich Street, Barclay Street and Park Place — will have slightly more floor space than the 15-story building it replaces.

The agreement comes as enrollment at the University’s six community colleges is at record levels; enrollment at BMCC alone recently exceeded 20,000. To meet the demand, the University is examining the idea of creating a seventh community college. A special task force formed in 2008 and charged by the Chancellor to “re-imagine community college education from the ground up” has released a concept paper that draws upon the existing schools’ most innovative practices while suggesting policy changes to free educators to do their best work. The panel’s complete report is available at www.cuny.edu/news.
Inside Look at NYC Criminal Justice

S

Students and researchers will get an insider’s look into New York City’s criminal justice system via an ongoing oral history project conducted by John Jay College of Criminal Justice and funded by the Lynn and Jules Kroll Foundation. Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson, 1990s’ police corruption investigator Milton Mollen; and former Manhattan Sex Crimes Unit prosecutor Linda Fairstein are among those already interviewed. Tapes and transcripts will be available in the college’s Sealy Library.

Tune in to Talks on First Atom Bomb

The Graduate Center this fall hosted five symposia about the science, people and ethics of America’s drive to develop the first atom bomb, an effort that — with the incineration of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — hastened the end of World War II. The discussions surrounded the Metropolitan Opera debut of “Doctor Atomic,” composer John Adams’ provocative work about J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist who managed the scientific drive to build the bomb. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein moderated the inaugural session about the science and history of the atomic age. Watch segments on the University Channel at www.youtube.com/cuny.

Simone Lamont Leads Student Senate

Simone Lamont, a York College student pursuing a B.S. in mathematics, has been elected the 24th chairperson of the University Student Senate. She has devoted the past three years to representing the needs of CUNY students, including as vice chair of senior college affairs, working to develop a forum for ideas and communal action plans among campuses and as alumni liaison for student government.

As an international student, Lamont has been an active advocate for international students rights on her campus. While serving as the president of the York College Student Government Association, she lobbied on their behalf for an office space for dealing with international students’ interests. She also has been an alumna liaison for student government.

She hopes to become an educator, and believes that higher education should be accessible and affordable to all students.

Hershenson, Other Leaders Honored

Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations Jay Hershenson has received the 2008 Marvin D. “Swede” Johnson Achievement Award for leadership in higher education state relations. The award, presented in San Diego Dec. 11 by four higher education organizations, recognizes Hershenson’s achievements in advocating for CUNY to state government officials. For “enhancing the lives of others” through her leadership of Hunter College’s programs for the aging, Hunter President Jennifer Raab won the Carter Burden Center for the Aging’s Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Service to Older New Yorkers, on Dec. 1.

Hershenson accepts Johnson Achievement Award from Frances Bradford.

Medical historian Nancy G. Siraisi will use the $500,000 award to pursue research.

Hunter Professor Emeritus A MacArthur ‘Genius’

More than four decades ago, when Nancy G. Siraisi had two small children and an entry-level job editing encyclopedias, she made a decision that changed her life. “I’m from England, and I had a degree from an English University, and I had no intention to pursue other degrees,” said Siraisi, Hunter College’s distinguished professor emerita of history. “I found it difficult to work full-time. I wanted to shift to teaching and I needed graduate courses.”

She enrolled in a history course at Hunter College. Her instructor was professor Pearl Kibre, a scholar in medieval studies. “She saw that I knew a little Latin, and she immediately told me that I must enroll in a Ph.D. program,” Siraisi said. “She was a woman of great force of character, and I did so. I have never regretted it.”

Kibre was right: Siraisi, a historian of late Medieval and Renaissance medicine, is one of 25 recipients of the 2008 John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s prestigious “genius awards” that are presented annually to individuals for creativity and contributions to their fields. “Professor Kibre was a historian of considerable eminence, and what helped me was her encouragement,” Siraisi said. “The Graduate Center also gave me practical help that I can’t imagine I could have gotten anywhere else.”

Siraisi and her husband were of “very modest means,” so the Herbert H. Lehman Fellowship she received made it possible for her to continue her studies. She earned a doctorate in history from The Graduate Center in 1970 and for more than three decades taught history at Hunter and The Graduate Center. “I can’t remember how much the fellowship was, but it was the same or slightly higher than what I was making in my editing job, plus the University was tuition-free at that time,” she says. “I really do owe my entire academic career to CUNY.”

At 76, Siraisi plans to continue her research. “I have several projects, but I also see it as a validation of the work I’ve done already.” The $500,000 award, which is given out in $100,000 increments annually, will go a long way toward furthering her research. “It will make it easy to travel to European libraries and easy to get requests of scans and films of manuscripts, which can be quite costly,” she said.

Portraits of Antarctica: Whipped by 70 mph winds, dwarfed by glaciers, surrounded by whales, seals and penguins, Scott Sternbach was in heaven. Palmer Research Station, a remote Antarctic base, is open only to scientists and the occasional artist, like him. With his 100-year-old 8x10 view camera, Sternbach, director of LaGuardia Community College’s photography department, spent 2½ months making black-and-white portraits of Palmer’s scientists and crew, plus digital color landscapes, under a prestigious National Science Foundation grant. To see more of his Antarctica images, go to www.scottsternbach.com.
ACCLAIMED SCIENTISTS, writers and economics experts are among distinguished scholars joining the faculty this fall, as CUNY continues to raise its profile as a magnet for high academic achievers.

"CUNY's top priority continues to be the hiring of more full-time faculty, the lifeblood of the University," Chancellor Matthew Goldstein said. "We are fulfilling that mission, further enriching the high quality and value of a CUNY education."

"It is most inspiring to contemplate the contributions that these stellar scholars and researchers will offer our University," said Alexandra W. Logue, Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost. "As teachers, they will offer our students exceptional instruction, mentoring and guidance. As scholars, they will further enrich the vital intellectual and artistic contributions and collaborations already taking place among their faculty colleagues."

Science Standouts

A significant number of new hires reflect the University's commitment to the CUNY Decade of Science (2005-2015), a wide-ranging initiative to position CUNY at the forefront of research. They include Charles Vorosmarty, an expert on freshwater resources, who will direct the water and environmental sensing laboratory at the Advanced Science Research Center, which broke ground this fall at City College. Vorosmarty, who joins the civil engineering faculty at CCNY's Grove School of Engineering, will develop computer models and geospatial data sets to analyze the water cycle's interaction with climate, biogeochemistry and human activities. Vorosmarty comes from the University of New Hampshire's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space.

Another science star hired this fall is Alan Lyons, professor of chemistry at The Graduate Center and at College of Staten Island, where he co-directs the Center for Engineered Polymer Materials. At Bell Labs (Alcatel-Lucent), Lyons was a leading innovator of manufacturing technologies for electronic components; his work was responsible for new products and for improvements yielding over $30 million in savings. As a founding member of Bell Labs Ireland, Alcatel-Lucent's newest research and development center, he is now working to bring innovative design and manufacturing solutions to the European market.

Vorosmarty, a specialist in the study of freshwater resources, will develop computer models and geospatial data sets to analyze the water cycle's interaction with climate, biogeochemistry and human activities. His research focuses on the impact of human activities on water resources, particularly in coastal and riverine environments. Vorosmarty's work has implications for understanding climate change and for developing sustainable water management strategies. His scholarly publications include a book of poems written during the war in Serbo-Croatia.

Examining Economics

In economics-related fields, new faculty include Anne Zissu, an expert on mortgage and asset-backed securities, as associate professor and chair of business at New York City College of Technology. Founding editor of The Financier and The Securitization Conduit, she comes to City College with a background in financial services and a deep understanding of the mortgage market.

Powering-Up Faculty Prestige

Associate professor Anne Zissu, expert on mortgages and asset-backed securities, chairs business at City Tech.
Sara Schechter lectures on law at City Tech.

Mandë Holford is assistant professor of chemistry at York.

Gene Park, assistant professor at Baruch, studies Japan's political economy.
Private Lives Wins Prize

CANDICE M. JENKINS, Associate Professor of English at Hunter College, received the Modern Language Association of America’s seventh annual William Sanders Scarbrough Prize for her book Private Lives, Proper Relations: Regulating Black Intimacy. The prize is for an outstanding scholarly study of black American literature or culture, and includes a $1,000 cash award. Her book, which is a study of representations of sexuality and the body in African-American literature, was cited for being “daring in its argument and meticulous in its execution.”

Hempel Wins Rea Award

AMY HEMPEL, who is coordinator of Brooklyn College’s M.F.A. Program in Fiction, has won the 2008 Rea Award for the Short Story, a $30,000 prize awarded to an American or Canadian writer for “significant contributions to the discipline of the short story form.” Her work, The Collected Stories of Amy Hempel, was one of The New York Times’ Ten Best Books of 2006.

Chemical Engineers Honor Denn

MORTON M. DENN, Albert Einstein Professor of Science and Engineering at CCNY, received the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ 2008 Founders Award for outstanding contributions to chemical engineering. Dr. Denn, a CUNY Engineers’ 2008 Founders Award for Engineering, received the Modern Chemical Engineers Honor Denn and the MIND Alliance for Minority Scientists’ 2008 Rea Award for the Short Story, a $30,000 prize awarded to an American or Canadian writer for “daring in its argument and meticulous in its execution.”

NSF Gives Cardoso $3.1 million

HUNTER COLLEGE’s Elizabeth Da Silva Cardoso has received a $3.1 million grant from the National Science Foundation for her project “MIND Alliance for Minority Students with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.” The project is designed to increase the quantity and quality of minority students with disabilities in the sciences at high schools, community colleges, colleges and in the work force. A Professor in Hunter’s School of Education, Dr. Cardoso will partner with Southern University at Baton Rouge on the project.

$1.7 million For Spinal Research

TWO College of Staten Island faculty members, Maria Knikou and Zaghluil Ahmed, received grants totaling $1.7 million for spinal cord injury research from the NY State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center for Spinal Injury Research Board. Both members of CSI’s Physical Therapy Department, Dr. Knikou was awarded $1.4 million for research on the neural mechanisms underlying locomotor recovery, while Dr. Ahmed received $300,000 for research on the effects of combined magnetic stimulation and acrobatic exercises on an animal model of spinal cord injury.

CUNY Enrollment Skyrockets

The University counted 270,725 enrollments in 2007-2008, an increase of more than 40,000 over the previous year. Other notable enrollment trends this fall include increases in both full- and part-time study at the undergraduate and graduate levels; in professional training and in degree programs that offer flexible modes of learning. Beyond the traditional fall-spring semester model, the University promoted a feast of “Summer in the City” classes and activities this past summer — including a 4.8 percent enrollment increase over the summer of 2007. CUNY is also gearing up for Winter Session ’09. The shorter sessions are quick, intensive opportunities to earn academic credits, and are expected to boost year-round enrollments even more by exposing CUNY and non-CUNY students to the University and its affordable offerings.

The fall 2008 preliminary enrollment data show the University building upon a wave of student increases that began in 2000, when CUNY implemented administrative and academic reform that have boosted its reputation nationwide. Among the senior colleges, Medgar Evers in Brooklyn saw the biggest burst upward, 11 percent; followed by Kingsborough, 7.7 percent, and Queensborough, 5.3 percent. Among the community colleges, Kingsborough (13.5 percent) and Hostos (13.5 percent) posted the highest increases. Enrollments at Hunter, Lehman, Medgar Evers, and York saw notable increases — 14.9 percent, 12 percent, 10 percent, and 9.8 percent, respectively.

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Tristan Wright-Crishon, a student in the popular Accelerated Study in Associates Program (ASAP), works in a music technology lab at Queensborough Community College.
Justice on Trial: Revisiting Leopold-Loeb

By Gary Schmidgall

They gave a whole new meaning to the word “sangfroid,” those two famously not nice Jewish boys Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold. Indeed, they became poster boys for cold-blooded murder after they kidnapped 14-year-old Bobby Franks, smashed his head with a chisel, poured hydrochloric acid over the body, then stuffed it into a drainage pipe in a nature preserve south of Chicago It all happened on May 21, 1924, when Richard was 18, Nathan 19.

Though they confessed elaborately to the deed and scrupulous preliminary planning, they never expressed an iota of remorse. Indeed, while the rumor floated before sentencing that a despondent Leopold had hanged himself in the Cook County jail, he was blithely passing time playing the rec room piano and telling journalists that Rimsky-Korsakov was his favorite composer: “I like him for his precision and finish rather than for his emotional qualities.”

Emotional qualities were in short supply in these two callow but exceedingly bright youths. Richard was, at 18, the University of Michigan’s youngest graduate ever in 1923, while Nathan matriculated at the University of Chicago at 14. Nathan intended to apply to Harvard Law School in the fall, Richard to Chicago’s Law School.

The murderers’ icy intelligence and suave good looks combined with their high social station — both families were wealthy pillars of Chicago’s Jewish community (Richard’s father was a vice president of Sears, Roebuck) — to make the 1924 trial a major media event, right up there with the Lindbergh and the O.J. Simpson murder trials later that century Chicago’s six daily papers — those were the days! — covered the Loeb and Leopold quickly became a national obsession.

When the centennial of the births of these two famously not nice Jewish boys Richard Loeb and Nathan Leopold passed in 2005, Simon Baatz was well into his extensive research for what is, astonishingly, the first full-scale attempt to explore how the criminal justice system dealt with the case in all its “complexity and intricacy.” The 541-page study, For the Thrill of It: Leopold, Loeb, and the Murder That Shocked Chicago (Harper), has just appeared — very fittingly, since Baatz quotes Darrow’s remark to a New York Times reporter: “Modern science says that young mental defectives can be adjusted to meet the problems of life in a normal manner … Influences can bring about cures that, in their wider application, spell crime prevention.”

What happened to them? Thanks to family money funneled into his prison account, Loeb became something of a poster boy behind the scenes in prison. He was not above bribing guards or pursuing other inmates for sexual favors. One inmate, a short 21-year-old named James Day, came under pressure from Loeb for sex. On Jan. 28, 1936, Day got his hand on a contraband razor and used it when Loeb entered a shower area for a tryst (Loeb had a key to the door to ensure privacy). Loeb died that day from more than 50 slash wounds.

Nathan Leopold behaved much better behind bars, teaching in a prison school, volunteering for experiments with antimalarial medicines, and becoming an X-ray technician. In 1953, at his first parole hearing he testified, “I was a smart-aleck kid. I am not anymore.” Crowe wrote furiously he testified, “I was a smart-aleck kid. I am not anymore.” Crowe wrote furiously he testified, “I was a smart-aleck kid. I am not anymore.” Crowe wrote furiously as Crowe and countless media泛滥了 the nation’s leading one, William Jennings Bryan, to offer expert witnesses. No fewer than 12 psychiatrists, including the nation’s leading one, William Alanson White of Washington, D.C.’s famed St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, held forth on the causes of mental illness, the killers’ crippling “infantilism,” and their endocrinological disorders. Instead of being “spoiled rotten,” as Crowe and countless media kibitzers thought, the two boys suffered from “affective incapacity.”

Crowe countered with 50 witnesses intended to “aggravate” the crime through scientific evidence delivered by expert witnesses. No fewer than 12 psychiatrists, including the nation’s leading one, William Alanson White of Washington, D.C.’s famed St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, held forth on the causes of mental illness, the killers’ crippling “infantilism,” and their endocrinological disorders. Instead of being “spoiled rotten,” as Crowe and countless media kibitzers thought, the two boys suffered from “affective incapacity.”

Crowing that the confessed killers Nathan Leopold, left, and Richard Loeb, were defended by celebrity lawyer Clarence Darrow, at right in bottom photo, with the defendants.

Add to the tension was the threat of an anti-Semitic backlash — and a homophobic one, for it soon emerged that the Loeb-Leopold relationship was sexual. According to Baatz, neither backslide broke loose. The Jewish community retreated to silence, and the discretion of the presiding judge, the poised, liberal-leaning John Caverly, kept sex matters under wraps. When the only testimony on men’s sexual activities was to be given, Caverly made sure it was whispered in a huddle around the stenographers before his bench, out of earshot of audience and reporters. Spicing the atmosphere outside the courtroom was the Ku Klux Klan, newly resurgent in Chicago and promising a lynching if the wheels of justice did not produce a hanging.

Darrow’s brilliant initial gambit was to have his clients plead guilty (thus avoiding much washing of dirty laundry before a jury) and then focus on defending them at great length during the pre-sentencing hearing before Caverly alone.

Darrow, whose sole aim was to avoid the gallows, would use the hearing to throw his clients on the court’s mercy. One historic aspect of Baatz’s narrative is Darrow’s attempt to “mitigate” the crime through scientific evidence delivered by expert witnesses. No fewer than 12 psychiatrists, including the nation’s leading one, William Alanson White of Washington, D.C.’s famed St. Elizabeth’s Hospital, held forth on the causes of mental illness, the killers’ crippling “infantilism,” and their endocrinological disorders. Instead of being “spoiled rotten,” as Crowe and countless media kibitzers thought, the two boys suffered from “affective incapacity.”

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Today’s Leaders Inspire

O n the Heels — high heels — of this year’s historic campaigns by women for America’s two top jobs, a select group of more than 350 participants gathered Nov 14 at the fourth annual CUNY/New York Times Knowledge Network: Women’s Leadership Conference for tips on achieving their own ambitious goals.

The young student leaders may not be quite ready for White House runs. But their thought-provoking questions and ideas showed that they — as much as the female legislators, business executives and educators on the dais — exemplify the conference topic: Advocates for Change.

Five official student bloggers — all members of the 2008-2009 CUNY Women’s Public Service Internship Program — continually posted their observations throughout the seven-hour conclave at New York’s Roosevelt Hotel (to read their full reports, go to www.cuny.edu/womens_leadership).

Bursts of applause were frequent from the conference-goers, most of whom were women. They cheered mothers who juggle family responsibilities, jobs and college courses they hope will help them break the infamous glass ceiling. They cheered the University, their colleges, their professors, each other. And they cheered two major new role models: President-elect Barack Obama and his early challenger, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton — who they’d just learned was being considered for Secretary of State.

Obama’s win has been a “sea change,” Chancellor Matthew Goldstein told the group, noting that “in 1964 there were black people who couldn’t vote in this country.” Now, he said, “Anything is possible. All that’s needed is a willingness to work hard, learn from the mistakes of others and have the forcefulness of purpose to say, ‘Yes I can.’”

“The reason we’re here today is to celebrate what we can do, and what we have done,” said Trustee Valerie Lancaster Beal, leading up to Senior Vice Chancellor for University Relations Jay Hershenson heralding women’s initiatives and later presenting awards to Kim Jasmin of JPMorgan Chase and Brenda Griebert of TIAA-CREF, the conference co-sponsors.

An inspiring keynote speech by New York Secretary of State Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez, the first woman to hold that office, had students lining up to speak with her afterward.

Statistics — and experiences — shared during the conference indicate that women are still under-represented in leadership positions, having more education than men. They are more likely to earn the minimum wage or less, often have to work twice as hard as men in the same jobs, and are held to different standards. The U.S. ranks 27th in the world for women as top executives — after such countries as Argentina, Cuba and South Africa, reported Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management Gloriana Waters.

Many people believe the fact that wives do most of the domestic work in the home has a lot to do with “why women take less demanding jobs, jobs that don’t involve leadership,” said Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Alexandra Logue.

But there are signs of progress: Current thinking, e.g., that feminism is a trait, such as consulting widely before making a decision, are indicative of good leaders, Logue said.

In addition to the Women’s Leadership website — which summarizes the recent conference and includes links to blogs by students who covered the meeting — the newest in the series of online resources grew out of the 2009 City Life Calendar:

City Life: This highlights the importance of cities throughout American history as magnets for creativity in the arts, commerce and politics stemming from diverse people and ideas. The City Life home page also provides the links to several of the following topic sites, as well as to community service resources. www.cuny.edu/citylife

Let Freedom Ring: Listen to sounds of freedom, including slave narratives, Malcolm X’s “Message to the Grassroots” speech, songs of labor, and an interview with a Roe v. Wade attorney. www.cuny.edu/freedom

Nation of Immigrants: Immigration milestones from the 16th century to the present day are spotlighted via CUNY Radio podcasts, video of distinguished speakers and a list of prominent immigrant University alumni. www.cuny.edu/nationofimmigrants

Voting Rights and Citizenship: This section begins with events leading up to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and continues through contested elections and the expansion of voting rights to women, African-Americans, Native Americans and Chinese-Americans. It then moves on to discuss the country’s newest voices. Link via www.cuny.edu/citylife or www.cuny.edu/freedom

Women’s Leadership in American History: Read about the country’s First Ladies, women in politics, the nation’s four-month women’s strike for workers’ rights, women and war work, feminism and the women’s movement, and trends toward increased numbers of women in science and sports. Link via www.cuny.edu/citylife or www.cuny.edu/freedom

Student Jobs: The University’s employment-opportunities initiative aims to help students obtain part-time and full-time work, as well as internships. This site includes links to jobs as court interpreters, as representatives at New York
Q&A: BRIAN COHEN

Technology Plays Many Roles University-wide

SIX YEARS AGO, BRIAN COHEN joined CUNY as its chief information officer. Recently, CUNY Matters sat down with Cohen, who is also associate vice chancellor, to talk about how technology is changing CUNY.

Q: What role has technology played in shaping education at CUNY?
A: Over the last five years the University has invested between $350 million and $450 million in technology infrastructure improvements. You can see the results of this investment when you visit our colleges and see the latest technology in the labs, libraries and classrooms. The technology investment has also been used to introduce new systems and computer facilities over the last five years: upgrading our Blackboard online course management system; developing the Degwemiks On-line Academic Advisement system, expanding our resources for our scientists through the High Performance Computing Center, as well as our CUNY computer grid.

Q: What role does technology play in addressing the need to replace our antiquated computer systems?
A: When CUNY first started over seven years ago, it was a conceptual project addressing the need to replace our antiquated computer systems. The student systems, the personnel systems, our financial systems — all were based on 1970s technology. CUNY first will replace all those systems with one single integrated system. “First” stands for Integrated Resources and Services Tool. And we believe the University will thus be far more efficient in delivering critical services, operating and supporting the needs of our students. For example, in the future, if a student finishes a two-year CUNY community college and moves on to a four-year college, or goes on to do graduate work at CUNY, the student will no longer need to create a new record for each institution.

Q: What about the other technological tools that students and faculty are using?
A: Now we run Blackboard in one location supporting the entire University. It has allowed us to reduce the cost of providing Blackboard services across the board. Over the next several months we will be upgrading from Blackboard 6.3 to 8.0, which provides enhanced features and greater opportunities for collaboration. CUNY will be the first institution of this size to deploy Blackboard 8.0. In fact, it is already being used by the Online Baccalaureate program. Other systems we’re working on include DegreeWorks, an online academic advisement system for students and parents can use to determine whether or not the courses they are taking meet their curriculum requirements before they meet with a faculty member for advice. It also gives them the capability to think through what “if” scenarios: What would happen if I change my major at this point?

Q: One of the critical things today is how a university communicates with its students. What kinds of systems is CUNY using?
A: There are two types of communication initiatives that we have been working on. The first, Live@Edu, came out of many discussions among the University’s IT directors. We found that, in some cases, students were getting e-mail addresses from their campuses, in many other cases, they weren’t. We also found that, because of the high costs of running an e-mail system, it was very difficult for us to have a standard service across the University. Now, via a partnership with Microsoft, the University is able to offer all of its students e-mail services at no cost. Access to student e-mail is simplified via the Internet and accessible from virtually anywhere. And, as our students graduate, their e-mail accounts remain available to them as alumni accounts. Since we started this effort last year, Live@Edu has already established 175,000 e-mail accounts.

Q: What about the second initiative?
A: The second communication initiative is CUNY Alert, which evolved out of the tragic shooting incident at Virginia Tech. That tragedy heightened our own awareness that we needed a better tool to communicate with students, faculty and staff about any kind of emergency situation. CUNY Alert is a partnership with New York State’s Emergency Management Office. Students, faculty and staff register for the system at their campus of choice, and if there is an emergency at that campus, we alert them through the system, either by e-mail or phone, by landline, cell or text message — or all three. Since we activated the system nine months ago, we have had almost 90,000 registrations and we have already used the system several times. Most recently, the College of Staten Island alerted its campus community of a fire and advised everyone to avoid the area.

Q: Along with the many benefits of the Internet age, there is a growing concern over security issues. What sort of measures is the University taking to assure security and privacy for users?
A: One initiative involves our shift away from using Social Security numbers as IDs, not only for students, but also for employees. We’ve been looking to use the CUNY portal as a means of logging into our systems. We’ve also been investing substantially in security, providing better software to protect the environment and minimizing the amount of spam that comes into the University that potentially brings viruses. And we’ve licensed antivirus software for the entire University.

Tomorrow’s

“Leadership is hard for everybody, but we’re put in a box — you saw it in Clinton’s campaigns,” said luncheon keynote speaker Carla A. Robbins, deputy editorial page editor of The New York Times. “It’s going to be harder for you,” she assured young women in the audience. As for now, “You can have it all, but you’re not going to sleep very well.”

Young idealists often haven’t yet climbed high enough to hit the glass ceiling. But blogger Catherine Zinell, a Macaulay Honors College senior and political science major at Hunter College, wrote that, while interning in state and city government jobs, she learned of “the double standards that are unfairly imposed on female leaders, from appearance to family responsibilities.”

Other bloggers reflected on the conference’s government panels: “I was frustrated to see that if everything was so clear — we lack the money, we need the money, we need to do A, B, and C to get it,” said Legs of Congress member Carolyn Maloney. In contrast, at Baruch College, Korolkova, an international relations major and the responsibility you have. You have to put more women on it.” — Carla A. Robbins, deputy editorial page editor of The New York Times.

Why are all these policymakers so clear — we lack the money, we need to do A, B, and C to get it — they lack the money, we need the money, we need to put more women on it.” — Carla A. Robbins, deputy editorial page editor of The New York Times. "Currently, about one-third of all City Council members are females. In contrast, in the CUNY Model City Council Project, in which high school students learn about NYC government and legislation — females make up two-thirds of all participants. Could we hope to see a greater female representation in our legislature in the near future? — Megumi Saito, a senior pre-law major at City College.

Elected officials discussing their views during panels on advocating for change in government were New York State Sen. Ruth Hassell-Thompson, Assemblywomen Carol Drew, Deborah Glick and Annette Robinson, New York City Councilwomen Gale Brewer, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Rosie Mendez and Diana Reyna. The conference was chaired by LaGuardia Community College President Gail Mellow, with panels moderated by other women college presidents. It was coordinated by Pat Gray, the University’s director of special events and corporate relations. Closing remarks were by Ann Kirschner, dean of Macaulay Honors College. Speaking on a panel about Justice for Women and Children in the Family were New York Family Court Judge Blyanne Hamill, CUNY School of Law Interim Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Angela Burton and professor Donna Hae Kyun Lee of the Battered Women’s Rights Clinic at the CUNY Law School.

What traits mark a good leader? Some tips from keynote Cortes-Vazquez: • Be bold and courageous, which is not you have to put more women on it.” — Carla A. Robbins, deputy editorial page editor of The New York Times.

... Watch how people have power use it. Pay attention ....

www.cuny.edu/invest

City’s Citizen Service Call Center and with the U.S. Government Census Bureau for the 2010 census. It also provides information about the state’s next Civil Service Professional Careers Test, and links to numerous other employment resources. www.cuny.edu/studentjobs

Faculty/Student Achievements: Highlights include a faculty video showcase, podcasts of faculty lectures and features on faculty/student teams working on research projects in science and teacher development.

www.cuny.edu/lookwhoitteaching

Philanthropic Activity: Read about alumni, friends and other philanthropists and foundations that are providing an unprecedented level of private funding to University schools and programs, supporting scholarly research by world-class faculty and ending student scholarships at every college. “They are investing in CUNY, investing in New York, and investing in futures,” Chancellor Matthew Goldstein says, www.cuny.edu/invest and www.cuny.edu/investing

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### JANUARY 2009

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<td>Queensborough Community College Kuba Textiles (10 am-5 pm Tues. &amp; Fri.; 10 am-7 pm Wed.-Thur.; 12-5 pm Sat.-Sun; closed Monday) Free</td>
<td>Queensborough Community College Library Exhibit: From Star of Shame to Star of Courage usually 10 am-4 pm Free</td>
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