Unanimous Choice for Chancellor — James Milliken

The appointment follows the unanimous recommendation of a 16-member search committee of trustees, CUNY college presidents, faculty, students and alumni led by Board Chairperson Benno Schmidt, a former president of Yale University and a former dean of Columbia University Law School.

The committee was assisted in its national search by Isaacson, Miller, a leading executive search firm in the not-for-profit sector. President Milliken is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Nebraska and was a Root-Tilden Scholar at New York University, where he earned his law degree in 1982. He spent the better part of a decade in New York City, having served with the Legal Aid Society’s Civil Division, subsequently as an attorney with Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft from 1983 to 1988. He served in numerous leadership capacities on state, national and international levels, including recently representing the United States in the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue conference in New Delhi with Secretary of State John Kerry.

President Milliken currently leads the University of Nebraska system, a statewide public university comprising four main campuses, including one of the nation’s top 50 public universities. The University of Nebraska enrolls more than 50,000 students, employs approximately 15,000 faculty and staff, and operates with an annual budget of $2.3 billion, including research expenditures of $600 million. The University of Nebraska Medical Center has six colleges and two institutes, which train students in medicine, dentistry, public health and related fields. Previously he served as senior vice president for university affairs at the University of Nebraska system, whose current enrollment is more than 220,000 students at 16 campuses.

President Milliken has demonstrated a deep commitment to academic excellence, educational access, economic development, state and federal government relations, public affairs, communications, and advancement. As University of Nebraska president, CUNY’s chancellor-designate, James B. Milliken, center, toured high schools promoting Collegebound Nebraska, a tuition-assistance program for low-income students. Prince Anukamara, a corner on the Giants 2011 Superbowl-winning team and an All-American with the college Huskers, joined him at Omaha North High School in March 2012. Milliken invited Anukamara, who earned a B.A. in seven semesters of study, to be an ongoing spokesman for Collegebound Nebraska. Omaha North alumna Shawna Ward, a Collegebound Nebraska recipient who is now a junior majoring in athletic training, also encouraged students to use the scholarship to make higher education a reality.

He led a division responsible for the development and implementation of universitywide strategy, outreach, economic development, state and federal government relations, public affairs, communications, and advancement. President Milliken has received the opportunity to lead the nation’s top 50 public universities, and raises millions in support of innovative research and student success at the university.

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I write to inform you on some significant actions in Washington, D.C., and Albany that could greatly benefit CUNY and our students.

On Jan. 17, President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014. This bipartisan budget agreement restores the sequestration cut that had cut and increases Pell Grants to $5,720, effective in 2014-2015.

I joined Nancy Zimpher, the SUNY chancellor, and Laura Alquist, president of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, in writing letters of appreciation to New York’s members of Congress who supported the bill. We also argued for substantial increases for the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, whose grants are critically important to researchers; the act funds them.

In addition, we also argued for $150 billion in federal financial aid would have an incentive to become the public sector that DOE might seek. The president intends to tie those ratings to the University that we all love to even greater heights. I wish all of the members of the University community a successful semester as you pursue your goals and objectives.

**THE CHANCELLOR’S DESK**

**Benefits for the University**

President Milliken was appointed Interim Chancellor of The City University of New York by the Board of Trustees effective July 1, 2013, succeeding Matthew Goldstein. Dr. Kelly, a distinguished scholar of American literature, is on leave from the presidency of the CUNY Graduate Center.

**Research Grants from**

**Nationally Prominent Educator James Milliken**

Continued from page 1

strategic initiatives resulting in expanded access; record increases in research; significant physical expansion of the campuses; a highly successful capital campaign; and an emphasis on public/private partnerships and global engagement.

Chairman Schmidt stated: “President Milliken is a highly regarded national leader in higher education. He brings to CUNY an impressive record of extensive administrative experience and a demonstrated record of success in working with students, faculty, alumni and community leaders to offer quality, affordable higher education.”

President Milliken said: “I am honored and excited by this appointment to lead America’s premier urban public university. CUNY has a long history of producing leaders in the arts, engineering, business, government and a host of other fields. CUNY today has a world-class faculty, talented students, an outstanding reputation, high enrollments, increased academic standards, and the most diverse student body in the nation. It enjoys significant momentum and unlimited potential. I look forward to working with the faculty and students, the Board of Trustees and other University leadership, and city, state, and federal officials to build upon these achievements as CUNY creates new knowledge and prepares the workforce of the future.”

Under President Milliken’s leadership, enrollment at the University of Nebraska in 2013 reached a 20-year high, totaling 50,705 at NU’s four campuses: the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the system’s flagship campus and one of the nation’s top public universities; the University of Nebraska at Omaha, home of the multicampus Peter Kiewit Institute of Information Science, Technology and Engineering; the University of Nebraska at Kearney; the University of Nebraska Medical Center, site of the cutting-edge Durham Research Centers and NIC-designated cancer center; as well as a college that offers a two-year technical degree program. First-time freshmen enrollment rose by nearly 7 percent in 2013, and international student enrollment also grew to record levels, totaling 3,638, including students from more than 130 countries. During his tenure, the University of Nebraska has made record investments in financial aid, including Collegebound Nebraska, which guarantees that qualifying Nebraska students can attend NU and pay no tuition. Approximately 7,000 students attend tuition-free under the program. In addition, through several high school academies the university provides students in Omaha, Grand Island, Kearney, Lexington and North Platte with early advising and full scholarships, helping increase college-going among historically underrepresented student groups in the state, including first-generation, low-income and minority students.

President Milliken has described human capital as America’s greatest asset in a global economy. He has emphasized the value of outstanding academic programs, ranging from the liberal arts to the STEM disciplines, in order to “teach students how to communicate well, how to solve problems, and how to work collaboratively.” For example, the University of Nebraska’s Peter Kiewit Institute is designed to advance research, scholarship, and creative innovation and help meet the needs of the nation’s technology and engineering.

Building after Hurricane Sandy, the impact of climate change on New York City, the causes of crib deaths, and minority participation in medical education were among the exceptional faculty research subjects honored recently by The City University of New York. Some 250 faculty members received $379 million in grants for research that expanded the boundaries of science, detailed potential improvements in public health and deepened knowledge in other academic disciplines.

Among the research highlights were environmentally sound rebuilding after Sandy and assessing the impact of climate change on cities. Some of the weather-related fields were explored by City University of New York faculty members like Kyle McDonald of Brooklyn College, Gregory O’Mullan of Queens College, and Jack Caravano and William Solecki of Hunter College.

In the public health arena, professors Tracy Chu of Brooklyn College and Doris Citron-Nabi and Denise Hien of City College engaged in potentially lifesaving research that, respectively, could help diminish minority participation in medical education and the translation of basic research about addictions into practices that can help members of racial and ethnic minorities.

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Crib Deaths to Climate Change

In history, sociology and other disciplines, scholars including Herman L. Bennett of the Graduate Center, Alberto Hernandez of Hunter College and Maria Volpe of John Jay College of Criminal Justice explored issues that speak to the breadth of human experience. Among these, a social justice initiative that seeks to engage students in cell biology for Lalitha Jayant at Borough of Manhattan Community College, a national initiative for the Humanities Award involving Latino history and food for Regina Cardaci of Queensborough Community College and NASA grants to Michael Weissberg of Kingsborough Community College and Yasser Hassebo of LaGuardia Community College.

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A Medgar Evers College senior took center stage at City Hall during the Jan. 1 mayoral inauguration. Lisette Ortiz introduced former President Bill Clinton, who presided over the swearing-in ceremony of Mayor Bill de Blasio. Ortiz, who was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States when she was 15, said she was honored to speak about the struggles of immigrant students. “I used to see Sonya Sotomayor and other prominent Hispanics, and I would dream of being where they stood. I didn’t expect it, but when it happened, the only thing I could do was prepare and take the responsibility seriously,” said the public administration major. Ortiz, a student leader at MEC, was chosen to speak through her participation in the New York Needs You Fellowship—a career-development and leadership program at CUNY for first-generation students.

Irish letters. Pete Hamill, Jimmy Breslin and Colm McCann are among the 23 contemporary Irish and Irish-American authors profiled in CUNY-TV’s 13-part series, Irish Writers In America. The series, directed and produced by Lisa Beth Kovetz, was filmed over a year and a half.

Another ‘A’ for CUNY. A new study by the Institute for College Access and Success puts the CUNY Value in perspective. While the study showed that nationwide more than 70 percent of college students in 2012 had student loans and average debt that surpassed $29,006, nearly 80 percent of CUNY students get a debt-free education and only 15 percent end up owing money.

How many flips does it take to turn a pile of pancakes into a nicely ordered stack? It’s no accident that City College professor Jacob E. Goodman was asked this question during the celebration of his 80th birthday on Nov. 14. It was, he all, who found out the answer in 1979, but you might not connect his name to this mathematical puzzle because he published it in American Mathematical Monthly under the moniker Harry Dweighter. It seems that back in those days he had to concoct a pseudonym because he thought that such a trivial question would damage his budding mathematical career. Although some of Goodman’s other papers have been published in Irish letters, he hasn’t published anything on birthday cakes, at least not yet.

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Atlantic Forest. The team includes scientists from the New York Botanical Garden and the University of São Paulo (USP) and is co-led by Camuña and USP’s Cristina Miyaki. The NSF and MASA are jointly funding the study in the U.S., while the São Paulo Research Foundation is supporting the research in Brazil.

The New York City Department of Youth and Community Development has awarded five grants totaling $1,968,941 to Simone Rodriguez-Dorestant of Medgar Evers College for the following projects: “Steps to Success Out of School Youth”; “Beacon Center at 1532”; “Crown Heights Beacon”; “Beacon Flatbush”; and “PYE Beacon.” Brooklyn College received $376,800 in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for a research project, “A Multi-Component Approach to Extinction in Pavlov Learning,” directed by Andrew Delamater. The PHS/NIH National Institute on Alcoholism & Other Communication Disorders has extended $326,795 in grant support to offer Tcherkovich of Hunter College for research concerning “Behavior Mechanisms of Vocal Imitation.”

Jeffrey Parsons of Hunter College has received three grants, totaling $1,784,848, from the PHS/NIH/National Institute on Drug Abuse for the following projects: “Syndemics & Resilience for HIV Transmission in a National Sample of Vulnerable Men”; “Multicomponent Intervention to Reduce Sexual Risk and Substance Abuse”, and “Intervention Targeting Substance Abuse Among Older Adults with HIV.” City College has been awarded a $539,999 grant from the U.S. Army Research Office for the study “Random Fields and Collective Effects in Molecular Magnets.”

Ezequiel Jiménez of Lehman College, a visual artist and cultural activist, was recently honored by his hometown of Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican Republic, as a Distinguished Son and Meritorious by unanimous vote of the City Council. Angel Rivera, Chief Diversity Officer for Kingsborough Community College, received a 2013 Multicultural Leadership Award from former U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell at the National Diversity and Leadership Conference held in September at California University of Pennsylvania.

Marzie Jafari of Lehman College has received five grants, totaling $648,550 from Perfect Choice Staffing for “RN Completion/MSN Program,” the Hospital League. Local 1199, for “Health Care Careers Core Curriculum Certificate in Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counseling” and “BSN Cohort Classes”; from Health Professions for “RN Completion Program Korea”; and from Bronx Lebanon Hospital, for “Master of Nursing Program.” Barbara Martin of Bronx Community College has received two grants from the New York City Human Resource Administration for training programs.

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GRANTS & HONORS

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Working with NASA, Medgar Evers students launched a satellite ... CUNY students and alumni won 23 National Science Foundation fellowships last year ... The Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter celebrated its 40th anniversary ....

Tipsy Fruit Flies. If you want to know how alcohol affects your love life, ask a drunken fruit fly. That’s what LaGuardia Community College honors student Wai “Kai” Lam did to win top honors in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s Best Student Poster Presentation competition. Her experiment showed that fruit flies that got a buzz on jazzed up their courtship rituals but did not have a higher mating rate than their sober peers and also produced fewer offspring.

National Science Foundation fellowships have been awarded to 58 CUNY students and faculty in the past five years, and 2013 was the best year yet. The University had 23 winners of NSF fellowships last year — each worth up to $126,000. But CUNY could increase that number in coming years by promoting awareness of the fellowships, reaching out to superior candidates and encouraging them to apply.

That was the message of the CUNY Conference on Prestigious Scholarships and the STEM Disciplines, a gathering in November that was both a celebration of this year’s success and an informational meeting aimed at reaching students throughout CUNY who either aren’t aware of the coveted fellowships or lack the confidence or support to seek them.

“We’re focusing on individuals of high potential,” Giselle Muller-Parker, program director for the National Science Foundation’s Graduate Research Fellowships, told the gathering of CUNY faculty, advisors, mentors and administrators. “You’ve got an amazing population of people who should be thinking about applying.” Muller-Parker praised the CUNY faculty and staff for their success in recruiting applicants, but urged them to reach out to students who may not recognize their own promise. “We want even more of your students to apply and succeed in our program,” she said.

The foundation awards 2,000 fellowships a year nationwide to graduate students who demonstrate potential to be high-achieving scientists and engineers. The fellowships give them the freedom to pursue scientific research early in their careers. While winners are typically funded for research in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, fellowships are also granted for research in economics, political science and other social and behavioral sciences. Half of this year’s award recipients were women and more than 20 percent were underrepresented minorities.

One way to help students submit strong applications, Muller-Parker said, is for more students to join the specialized NSF panels that review fellowship applications from all over the country. That would help them become more familiar with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. “We view being a panelist with the application process and what the NSF is looking for. It’s what LaGuardia Community College honors student Wai “Kai” Lam did to win top honors in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s Best Student Poster Presentation competition. Her experiment showed that fruit flies that got a buzz on jazzed up their courtship rituals but did not have a higher mating rate than their sober peers and also produced fewer offspring.

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NEWSWIRE

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CUNY MATTERS — Winter 2014
Working on the railroad. A study by the Queens College Urban Studies Department may play a key role in determining the fate of a 3.5-mile stretch of abandoned railroad line that runs through Rego Park, Forest Hills, Woodhaven, Richmond Hill and Ozone Park. The borough of Queens has been grappling with several plans, including one that would turn a section of the land into a public park. State Assembly Member Phillip Goldfeder praised the college, which is supplying $100,000 in grant money to evaluate the revitalization proposals and determine how they will affect residents.

Hunting Like a Shark. When it comes to finding food, humans and animals are on the same track. So says Hunter College professor Herman Pontzer, who studied the foraging habits of the Hadza tribe in Tanzania.

Members of the tribe, one of the last groups in the world to forage on foot using traditional methods, wore GPS-equipped wristwatches that recorded their movements, which showed that they, like sharks and honeybees, move in a mathematical pattern called the Levy walk.

The study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is the first to find the match.

Students at Medgar Evers College, with a little help from NASA, recently built a mini-research satellite that was launched into space. The so-called CubeSat, which is a 4-inch cube, was part of the auxiliary payload aboard a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket and was NASA's fifth Educational Launch of Nanosatellite mission that gives students, teachers and faculty members hands-on experience developing flight hardware by providing access to low-cost research.

Center for Puerto Rican Studies 40th Anniversary. To the driving beats of Latin jazz, more than 400 scholars, elected officials and community activists gathered Oct. 17 to mark the 40th anniversary of CUNY’s Center for Puerto Rican Studies, reaffirming its role as the nation’s only research institute devoted to Puerto Ricans in the United States. The center, based at Hunter College and popularly known as Centro, was established in 1973 by CUNY students, faculty and community activists. Its origins were rooted in the largely black and Puerto Rican student-based efforts to secure open-admissions access to public higher education and the creation of ethnic studies academic programs.

“As part of our goals for the 40th anniversary, and with generous support from the Ford Foundation, we launched a national campaign to engage partners and celebrate events recognizing pioneers and Puerto Ricans who made a difference in their communities,” said Centro Director Edwin Melendez.

Fewer calories up, up and away. Air flights may be up in the air, but the calorie counts of their meals are down. That’s what Hunter professor Charles Platkin of the School of Public Health discovered in a recent annual study of the industry. From 2012 to 2013, he says, the average calorie count dropped from 388 to 360. Virgin America and Air Canada offer the healthiest fare, he says, while Allegiant Air had the distinction of being at the bottom of the list.

Making kids safe. In the wake of the December 2012 fatal shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the Connecticut district is partnering with John Jay College to review school security and make recommendations.

‘Supreme Decisions.’ A free CUNY calendar of judicial decisions that shaped American life is now available. CUNY and The New York Times in Education have partnered to publish the “Supreme Decisions” calendar and its companion website. They chronicle the history of the U.S. Supreme Court and how its interpretations of the Constitution reflect in our politics, culture and society. Published in the wake of landmark decisions on marriage equality and voting rights, it is a timely and welcome contribution to the history of this powerful, unelected branch of our government, says Interim Chancellor William P. Kelly. This is the 10th calendar from a unique partnership between the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives at LaGuardia Community College and The New York Times Photo Archives. Previous calendars have explored voting rights and citizenship, women’s leadership, immigration, freedom, city life, public higher education, health, the economy, and science, technology, engineering and math. Search.cuny.edu “Supreme Decisions”
From Film School to Photonics, Sustainability to Branding,
Graduate Degrees for Tomorrow

At Brooklyn College, plans are under way to transform a portion of Steiner Studios at the Brooklyn Navy Yard into the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, a new film school that will boast the largest production studio outside of Hollywood.

Inside a photonics lab at Queens College, graduate students are testing fiber-optic components and learning about advanced lasers for possible careers in defense or national security.

And, at City College in upper Manhattan, students in the Branding and Integrated Communications master’s program are creating inspired multimedia campaigns for Citi Bike, New York’s bike-sharing system.

On the campuses and in the research centers of the City University of New York, dozens of new and innovative graduate programs are being offered to better prepare students for careers in the emerging areas of technology, medicine, public health, advertising, film, and digital media.

Currently, the University has more than 800 graduate degree programs at its 24 schools and colleges in traditional fields such as education, business management, public administration and social services. But the newest array of graduate degrees that has unfolded in the past five years illustrates the evolution in masters programs aimed at meeting demands of highly competitive students and providing the city with a more qualified workforce.

“The City University of New York is continuing to build upon its historic mission of providing high-quality academic opportunities for New Yorkers,” said Interim Chancellor William Kelly. “These new programs represent excellent examples of how, with the help of a world-class faculty and staff, we are maintaining our momentum to provide the best possible education at an affordable cost.”

Perhaps the most highly publicized initiative has been the new Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. The Feirstein school, the first such program at a public university and the first on a commercial film lot, will offer two new master’s degrees: an MFA in Cinema Arts and MFA in Cinema Studies. Earlier this year, director Jonathan Wacks, of the television show “21 Jump Street,” was named founding director of the school.

In a show of public support for the project, the film school will receive $6.7 million in city funding to start the school and another $5 million from the state.

Another high profile project in the works is the plan to transform the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at City College into a full-fledged medical school. Currently, the school offers a five-year program that includes a Bachelor of Science degree and the first two years of medical-school education. The move to a full, medical-degree program will offer a combined B.S./M.D. degree in seven years.

The plan passed the first hurdle with Board of Trustees approval in December to create a department of medical education. Still needed are funding support from the New York State Department of Education and approval by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, which accredits U.S. medical education programs.

Jobs in the health care sector are expected to increase in the next decade, leading to a greater demand for employees with health-related graduate degrees. Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes, dean of the CUNY School of Public Health, said the expected growth in health care jobs is attributed to the combination of retirements and newly created positions.

“Approximately 250,000 retirements in the public health workforce are anticipated over the next five years,” said Dr. El-Mohandes. “So there is no doubt that there will be a tremendous need for people with public health degrees. And this is in addition to new jobs that will be created and funded through the Affordable Care Act.”

The CUNY School of Public Health, which offers master’s programs at four campuses, has added several cutting-edge degree programs including a Master of Public Health with a concentration in maternal, child, reproductive and sexual health. Dr. El-Mohandes said the focus on women and children in public health remains critical due to troubling disparities in rates of infant mortality, childhood obesity and diabetes.

Another innovative public health program is the Master of Public Health in Geographic Information Science (GIS) at Lehman College, which trains students in mapping and analysis of health data.

“GIS is a very important tool in looking...
At City College in upper Manhattan, students in the Branding and Integrated Communications degree program are creating inspired multimedia campaigns for Citi Bike, New York’s bike-sharing system.

At Queens College, the physics department recently started a Professional Science Masters in Photonics, the rapidly growing field that studies light and its role in laser printing, fiber optics, security machines and other industries. Photonics program director Lev Deych said the PSM degree is unique in that it combines physics study with courses in business, providing students with a more rounded experience.

“The old master’s degrees in physics are useless. They have become basically consolation prizes for those seeking Ph.D.s,” said Deych. “With the PSM, we combine photonics with business-oriented courses. This is more practical for preparing someone to work in the field.”

In the Queens College Art department, faculty started a new concentration within the MFA Studio Art known as Social Practice Queens (SPQ) that combines studio artwork with community activism. Social Practice Queens works in partnership with the Queens Museum, where graduate students are given collaborative studio space inside the museum.

“This concentration is coming in line with a lot of changes in the art world,” said Gregory Sholette, art professor. “The artists are not just sitting in the studio. They are finding ways of making art in the community.”

Other unique offerings at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice include the MA in International Criminal Justice and MA in forensic mental health counseling. At the CUNY School of Professional Studies, one of the more well-known degree programs is the Masters of Arts in Disability Studies, which grew from a Kennedy Fellows program in special education and rehabilitative counseling. Courses in the disabilities program may be taken in-person or online.

At City College, several new programs have enlivened the campus graduate offerings, including a master’s in Branding and Integrated Communication, or BIC. The BIC program, which started in Fall 2013, combines marketing research and communication with development of a print and electronic portfolio. In the program’s first year, the department received nearly 90 applications for 30 available spots.

“We’re living in a visual society and the industry is changing very quickly, and so is the way people consume information,” said Nancy R. Tag, program director of BIC. “We needed to create a program that brings all the disciplines together, so that creative [people] understand the data [personnel] in this data-driven world.”

Cassondra Bazelow, a student in the BIC masters program, said she appreciates the “real world” experience in the curriculum. Industry professionals assisted in creating the curriculum and also serve as adjunct faculty, guest lecturers and project advisers.

“Between the people instructing the courses and the guest lecturers that they invite, the students at BIC have access to the knowledge of working professionals relevant in their fields,” she said.

Two other graduate additions at City College are the Sustainability in the Urban Environment master’s program at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture and the Earth Systems and Environmental Science and Technology Master of Science degree at the Grove School of Engineering.

Tag said the variety of new graduate programs is likely to help diversify the upper management levels of many emerging industries that have few blacks, Latinos, Asians, and women in leadership roles. “When you look at the student population at CUNY, this is the ideal world,” Tag said. “Many industry leaders have already awakened to the fact that there is a place right here in their backyard that is producing great talent.”
By Margaret Ramirez

O

n a recent trip to Honduras, Brooklyn College Political Science professor Mark Ungar witnessed a judge gunned down in the middle of the afternoon in front of a bank. The day before, while Ungar lectured at the law school of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, a student was fatally shot at the school.

At the day's shooting in broad daylight illustrate the escalating violence in Honduras, which is now known as the murder capital of the world. According to the National Autonomous University, the murder rate in Honduras in 2012 was 85.5 per 100,000 in population, the highest in the world.

In addition to the bloodstream, murder runs rampant in the Honduran National Police with allegations of extortion, torture, and death squads that kill hundreds of gang members. Homicides and drug crimes are rarely reported as most Honduran citizens live in fear not only of guns and drug cartels, but also of the police who are charged with protecting them. If reported, even serious crimes are unlikely to be investigated.

In November, when Honduran voters headed to the polls to elect a new president in the first national election since a coup in 2009, crime was the big issue. The governing party's candidate, Juan Orlando Hernández, has been declared president-elect.

"Honduras represents a concentrated place struggling with all the problems the world faces: poverty, crime, inequality, violence, unemployment, youth disenfranchisement, drugs and even climate change," said Ungar, who is also a faculty member in the Criminal Justice Doctoral Program at the CUNY Graduate Center.

"It's also a warning for the world of what could happen if these problems go unsolved," he said.

Earlier this year, Ungar was tapped to serve on a new six-person Commission for Security Reform. Honduran human rights activists sought out Ungar because of his years of research on police reform and his book, Policing Democracy: Overcoming Obstacles to Citizen Security in Latin America.

Other members of the commission include: Edgar Gutierrez, the former minister of justice of Guatemala; Jose Ugaz, prosecutor in the Fujimori-Montesinos trials in Peru; Joaquín Mejía Rivera, a human rights lawyer; Rick Bandstra, former attorney general of Michigan; and Nick Seymour, of Transparency International in the United Kingdom.

The commission, which meets in Honduras every three months, was established to overhaul the National Police, the attorney general's office and the Honduran court system.

So far, Ungar said, the commission's efforts on police reform have seen mixed results. To purge the police force of corrupt officers, the commission ordered that all police be subjected to a four-part evaluation, including psychological and polygraph testing, as well as drug and financial tests. But the process stalled when hundreds of officers who failed the test were never fired.

"On one hand, it was the first time they had the tests. The first time we had documentation that all these police had failed these tests ... so that was huge progress. On the other hand, nothing has happened."

"It's an example of improvement, but then power reasserts itself," Ungar said.

At the next meeting in February, the commission will focus on a proposal by the president-elect to create a 5,000-member military police force. But the commission opposes the plan because the military is not trained for community policing.

"Can you imagine taking a soldier and putting him on the street? You can't do that. They're not trained for policing. They're trained to shoot to kill," he said.

More importantly, Ungar said the plan fails to address the real problems: poor coordination, police violence, endemic corruption, nearly nonexistent criminal investigation and systemic organized crime.

"We're talking about a country where courts don't work. People are being terrorized. At crime scenes, police don't collect bullets. They don't talk to witnesses. Detectives fight with each other," he said.

"So you can't just create this great new force that's going to be a military. You have to have an infrastructure."

Despite opposition to the military-police plan, Ungar has hope that the new president will work with the commission on reform efforts and be recognized as cooperative with international and socially supported efforts.

And while some might view Honduras as a country paralyzed by poverty, crime and corruption, Ungar remains inspired by the citizens who remain committed to reform.

"In such conditions, the real heroes are the human rights activists, journalists, judges, women's rights activists and others who risk their lives for change," he said.
Huddled Masses, Ever Yearning

By Gary Schmidgall

In 1776 SAMUEL SHAW, the mayor of Boston, referred to New York City as “a motley collection of all the nations under heaven.” Nearly a quarter millennium later, the city’s population is even more embersarily and colorfully motley. Almost half of the city’s adults are foreign-born, and 168 “home” languages are spoken by its public school students. The city that hosts the United Nations is itself a metropolis of united nations.

New York has been the nation’s premier gateway for immigrants ever since Dutch fur traders sailed into town around 1625, and the latest installment in the history of huddled masses yearning to breathe free has just appeared from Columbia University Press: One Out of Three: Immigrant New York in the Twenty-First Century. The City University has served new immigrants since its founding in 1847, so it is no surprise that the provenance of this essay collection has CUNY written all over it. Its editor is Nancy Foner, a Distinguished Professor of Sociology at Hunter College, whose studies on the nation’s leading immigration scholars, and nearly half of her authors are members of CUNY’s sociology community.

The focus here is mainly on immigration since the passage of the Hart-Celler Act in 1965, which abolished national origin quotas. A few essays give broad economic overviews, but it is Foner’s introduction revealing that immigrants constitute 45 percent of the resident labor force, that the immigrant population has doubled since 1970, and that Queens is the most ethnically diverse county in the nation.

In “A Portrait of New York’s Immigrant Mélange,” Arun Lobo and Joseph Silva analyze the choreography of the city’s “demographic ballet,” which is constantly in flux. In 1970 Italians were the largest “waves” of immigrants, but the immigrant population now exceeds 10 million and is made up of many smaller groups. “Forty waves” of Soviet Jews who headed for Brighton Beach (“Little Odessa”) and Forrest Hills’ “Bukharin Broadway” in “Queensistan.” Among the best-educated immigrants, they have suffered much from downward occupational mobility, doctors driving cabs and the like. Orleck also takes us into the world of the Russian mob, featuring a prolific hit man who operated out of a nightclub named Raspoutine.

New York has the largest population outside China, and Min Zhou tells us it grew 14 times larger from 1960 to 2010, spilling out of the historic Chinatown in Lower Manhattan, notably into Flushing and Sunset Park. Zhou also analyzes the “clustering” phenomenon among Chinese who gravitate to others in their own dialect group.

“Parisian Gap Min says Korean immigration was largely post-1965 (before that most Koreans settled in Hawaii or on the West Coast). She says the historical Koreatown, centered at 32nd and Broadway, has been losing its import shops and also much of its population to Bergen County in New Jersey, but this cohort has been prospering in small personal-service businesses, especially cleaners and nail salons.

There were 4,000 Korean nail salons in the New York-New Jersey area in 2006. Jamaicans have been immigrating to the U.S. and Britain for more than a hundred years, but with the Hart-Celler Act they have been arriving on the nearer shore. Milton Vickers notes the difficulties Jamaicans have adjusting to the race-consciousness of mainland life (Jamaica’s official motto is “Out of many, one people”). He also says about a third of non-Hispanic blacks in the city are Jamaican, and that their participation rate in the economy is “remarkably high” (79 percent for men, 83 percent for women). They seem to share the CUNY view of education. “Jamaicans tend to express annoyance with the idea that race is more important than educational and occupational qualifications.”

The Liberians of Staten Island are more recent arrivals. Bernadette Ludwig (a Graduate Center doctoral candidate) tells us nearly all have come in the past 15 years, refugees from a brutal civil war in their land, which was founded by slaves returning to West Africa. Resettled in the rundown Park Hill neighborhood, where a few Liberians had pioneered, these immigrants had no big ESL needs since English is Liberia’s official language. Ludwig focuses instead on parenting problems posed by “dissonant acculturation” (children turning too quickly from Liberian to Big Apple culture)

Perhaps the longest immigration history belongs to the Dominicans who, declaring their independence in 1844, were almost annexed by the U.S. under Grant, were a U.S. protectorate from 1905 to 1940, then ruled by the dictator Trujillo from 1930 to 1960. At the beginning of the 1960s there were 11,000 Dominican New Yorkers; in 2008 there were 585,000, and in the last decade Dominicans were the largest ethnic cohort of CUNY students.

The chapter by Silvia Foner (founder of CCNY’s Dominican Studies Institute) and Ramona Hernández (its current director) lays out the role of survival of Dominican cultural identity in the city, as epitomized by the Dominican Day Parade (they offer a brief history of it).

Baruch’s Robert Smith’s chapter on the city’s Mexican residents is haunted by the specter of the current congressional impasse on immigration law reform, with a strong focus on the importance of educational attainment. Of the 450,000 here now, Smith estimates that as many as 50 percent are undocumented, and his research shows that this status leads to “lower educational attainments and more negative outcomes.” A co-founder of the Mexican American Students Alliance, Smith ends on a hopeful note and efforts by CUNY, Mexican young people have increased knowledge that they can go to college, that it is affordable, and that legal status is not an obstacle to college.

The three authors of the final chapter titled “The Next Generation Emerges” — Philip Kasinits (Hunter), John Mollenkopf (Graduate Center), and Mary Waters (Harvard) — put the ball of immigration squarely in CUNY’s court: “The presence of CUNY, with its overwhelmingly immi- grant and second-generation students and its tradition of celebrating immigrant achievement, has undoubtedly played an important role in the relative success of the second generation up until now.”

But then they add: “How it will continue to serve this population in more constrained fiscal circumstances is a key question to be faced in the years to come.”

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

NEW TITLES / CUNY AUTHORS

Mayors Take Control

Barlett’s Black Bartlett’s Black Bartlett’s Black Bartlett’s Black Bartlett’s Black Bartlett’s Black Bartlett’s Black

Black Bar Quotations

New York Nobody Knows

In the New York Nobody Knows: Walking 6,000 Quotations: 5,000 Years of 6,000 Miles in the City, William Stories

Lyrics, Poems, Passages, Phrases and Poems from Voices Around the World, edited by Retha Powers, is a compilation of more than 5,000 years of quotations attributed to black people, noting Ancient Egypt up to the present day. This volume — the first-of-its-kind catalog — paints a rich canvas of black history through time. Powers is acting assistant director of CUNY’s publishing certificate program.

New York

Princeton University Press

Columbia University Press

Princeton University Press

New York

Columbia University Press

New York
FOR QUEENS COLLEGE junior Isiona Ononye there’s little question about the goal — working in a job you love. The challenge is how to get there. And Gloriana Waters, CUNY’s vice chancellor for Human Resources, is providing some help.

Waters led a panel last fall on “Finding Your Professional Passion,” discussing ways to discover a place where you can become the most successful and productive employee.

Sometimes, though, it takes a while to find the right fit.

“When I first entered the workforce, I changed jobs every two years to find out more about what interested me,” Waters says. This included using her degree in educational psychology and training in English as a Second Language to direct a Bronx Community College literacy program for adults, some of whom were studying to get high school equivalency diplomas.

“You, too, may wind up changing your job several times before you find your career,” Waters says. “I didn’t know what I didn’t know till I found it out.”

Ononye, who like many students is also a University employee, agrees. “I know I shouldn’t map out things with the expectation that there is only one way.”

An English major minoring in journalism — and an aspiring journalist— Ononye had a paid internship last winter as a marketing intern for Newsteam, a video-distribution service and is now working at another internship where she has been learning and using different, albeit related, skills. For CUNY, she is a courtesy desk attendant at the Summit Apartments, her college’s dormitory, where working with the public may someday inspire her to continue to pursue her professional dream or follow another path.

The panel led by Waters was part of CUNY’s 2013 Women’s Leadership Conference, an event for students held at Hunter and co-sponsored by Chase, The New York Times in College and the New York City Commission on Women’s Issues. Waters knows how important it is for female students to network and learn from one another and from those more advanced in their fields.

But when it comes to finding passion in work, she says that the same advice applies to those who are already on career paths, and to men as well as women.

Waters recommends “cross-pillar initiatives” — opportunities that allow individuals to combine two or more of their professional interests. “For example,” she says, “If you work with data and would also like to work with students, you might get involved with a project that involves gathering data about students, learning more about who they are.”

And what else can employees do to find work they love? Waters offers some suggestions:

- “You might have to take a cut in salary or a lesser position to find work you really enjoy. Sometimes you have to take a step backward so you can later take two steps forward. Sometimes, you have to take risks.”

- Find either a mentor or someone who can help you on a less intensive basis: “It doesn’t always require a lot of time on their part. I’ve had people come into my office to just sit and talk for a few minutes. Sometimes they give me their resume and ask me to keep my eye out. I tell them I will try; that I can’t promise...
anything. Nevertheless, it's good for employees to be on someone's radar.

- Networking. "I know that many employees have family responsibilities and second jobs. But when you can go to a university event, do so. Sometimes you can go on your lunch hour, or ask to take that hour later in the day so that you can attend. And when you do go, make sure to let people know who you are and what you can bring to the table."

- Identifying Abilities. Waters notes that some of the college career centers will administer tests to help employees find their strengths, and she recommends the book Now, Discover Your Strengths by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton.

Waters also says that if there is some aspect missing from your job — some other endeavor that makes you happy — there might be a voluntary way to make that part of your workday. For example, when she was a vice president for administration at City College she realized that she missed working with students. Drawing on her earlier experience teaching English as a Second Language she offered to lead a conversation circle for students who were also new immigrants and wanted to practice their English. "So at lunchtime we would sit and just talk," she says. "It all came out of the ESL department. I had introduced myself to the chair and said, 'This is what I did in a previous life.'"

As for Ononye, she, too, is volunteering as part of her own exploratory process. The internship she has this spring is unpaid, but she gets to work with social media for a website that teaches women about car mechanics. It's called: Women Auto Know.

Breast and Prostate Cancer Screening

If you need time to have a breast or prostate cancer screening, CUNY can help. Employees are entitled to up to four hours of paid leave in a calendar year for these screenings, as long as the tests are taken during regular working hours. The four hours include travel time. This leave is not cumulative and will be considered forfeited if not used within a particular calendar year. If more than four hours are used, the extra time will be charged to employee's annual leave accruals or deducted from an employee's salary if no annual leave is available.

W ith student loan debt nationwide hitting $1.2 trillion, graduates carrying $27,000 in debt on average and defaults rising, debate persists over how to ease the pain, including New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand’s recent proposal to allow graduates to refinance their federal loans at a maximum of 4 percent interest. At CUNY, debt is less of a burden due to the University’s golden combination of affordable tuition, availability of federal and state financial aid and tax credits — CUNY Value Plus — which made it possible for nearly 80 percent of CUNY’s Class of 2013 to graduate loan free. But it’s always wise to save, and as tax time approaches, the $2,500 American Opportunity Tax Credit is another chance for eligible CUNY students, to further trim their already affordable education costs. Authored by New York Sen. Chuck Schumer, the AOTC returned an average benefit of $2,100 per New York State family in 2011. Thanks to CUNY Value Plus, a high-quality, debt-free college education is not only possible, it opens new opportunities. As Zenas Gallion, a debt-free Borough of Manhattan Community College graduate pursuing studies at Hunter College, said, “It’s freedom. … Being debt-free, I can start a little ahead of the rest.”

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**MARCH 11**

**The Art and Ethics of Invitation and Occupation**

**Lehman College**

12:30 – 2 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 12**

**Balcony Tickets:**

- $35 Rows L-M
- $45 Rows G-K
- $55 Rows C-F
- $100 Rows A-D

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Shanghai Circus

**College of Staten Island**

5 - 8 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 13**

**Bobby Vinton in concert**

**Queens College**

3 - 5 p.m.

$65, $55, and $45

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**MARCH 14**

**Master and Margarita**

**Baruch College**

3 - 5 p.m.; 7 - 9 p.m.

Orchestra Tickets: $100 Rows A-D $85 Rows E-J $75 Rows K-N $65 Rows O-T

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**MARCH 15**

**Power, Unto Thy Sons and The Kingdom and the Power**

**Queensborough Community College**

5 - 8 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 16**

**Kathy Mattea Calling Me Home**

**Borough of Manhattan Community College**

8 p.m.

$55, $45, $35

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**MARCH 17**

**Confronting Income Inequality**

**The Graduate Center**

7 - 8:30 p.m.

$25, $20 members

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**MARCH 18**

**Reef Acidification and Coral Bleaching**

**Queens College**

5 - 8 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 19**

**John Guare**

**The Lazarus Project**

**City College**

2 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 20**

**Hillel at the College of Staten Island Jewish Author Series**

**College of Staten Island**

10:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

$36

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**MARCH 21**

**Refugees**

**Kingsborough Community College**

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 22**

**Kupferberg Presents Love is Good: An Evening with Christine Andreas and Martin Silvestri on Piano**

**Queens College**

8 - 10 p.m.

$59, $48, $38

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**MARCH 23**

**NY Flute Club presents Ian Clarke**

**Baruch College**

5:30 p.m.

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**MARCH 24**

**Live@365 - Puro Fado**

**The Graduate Center**

7 p.m.

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**MARCH 25**

**Africana Studies Dissertation Discussion — Ian Foster**

**The Graduate Center**

2 - 4 p.m.

Free

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**MARCH 26**

**Shanghai Circus**

**College of Staten Island**

3 - 5 p.m.

$15, $12

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**MARCH 27**

**Hillel at the College of Staten Island Jewish Author Series**

**College of Staten Island**

10:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

$36

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**MARCH 28**

**Power, Unto Thy Sons**

**Queensborough Community College**

5 - 8 p.m.

Free