The University’s renowned faculty members continually win professional-achievement awards from prestigious organizations as well as research grants from government agencies, farsighted foundations and leading corporations. Pictured are just a few of the recent honorees. Brief summaries of many ongoing research projects start here and continue inside.

John Mogulescu, Senior University Dean for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Professional Studies, has received two grants from the NY State Office of Children and Family Services: $1,619,750 for the “CUNY School of Professional Studies, to Provide Online Education, Training Management Systems Development, Training Needs Assessment and Evaluation,” and $703,401 for the school to “Provide Information Technology Training to Social Services Staff throughout NY State;” as well as a $121,740 award from the NY City Office of Emergency Management for the school to “Revise Online Courses to Inform Emergency Responders on the City Incident Management System.” “Computing Cluster for Basic Research,” a project under the direction of Roman Kezerashvili of New York City College of Technology, has received a $204,370 grant from the U.S. Army.

Cynthia Jones of Hostos Community College has been selected as the 2014 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching New York Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Pamela Mills, Sarah Bonner, Janet Loo-Mark

“...whether the children of the people, the children of the whole people, can be educated; whether an institution of learning, of the highest grade, can be successively controlled by the popular will, not by the privileged few, but by the privileged many.” — Horace Webster

Weitz Nomura Jones Richen Mirkin Gupta Crouse

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Pursuit II 153 New Haven, CT
Our Subways Are Teeming With Microscopic Life

WITH EACH SWIPE of his MetroCard and every ride on the New York City subway, Macaulay Honors College student Ebrahim Afshinnekoo imagines a trip into an underground teeming with mysterious microorganisms and live bacteria.

Until recently, few researchers ventured to find out more about these microbes. But a new study released by a team of investigators at Weill Cornell Medical College has produced the first genetic profile of New York City’s subway system, uncovering a vast ecosystem of bacterial, fungal and animal species.

After collecting DNA samples from all 488 subway stations, researchers detected 15,152 types of microorganisms including traces of germs that can cause bubonic plague, anthrax and meningitis. Other microorganisms including traces of germs that can break handrails, often drawing stares from riders.

The team also swabbed the inside of trains, metal benches, stairway hand railings and trash cans. The team also swabbed the inside of trains, including seats, doors, windows, poles and handrails, often drawing stares from riders. Mason said the PathoMap provides a baseline assessment that could be used for long-term, accurate disease surveillance or tracking disease outbreaks.

While news reports hype the traces of bubonic plague and anthrax, Afshinnekoo said their presence isn’t substantial enough to pose a health threat. “The subway system has been around for over a century and there has never been reported cases of outbreaks or any sort of disease,” he said. “So it’s really a testament to our immune systems and our ability and staff who have been without an agreement there are additional challenges to get everybody on the same page… No one wants to do this more than I do. “I’ve been in this business for over 25 years, and first among my priorities — whether it was in North Carolina or Nebraska or New York — we need to be competitive for faculty. We need to retain the best faculty. To do that, we need to reach an agreement with the PSC. We need to be in a position to have a fair agreement with them. And so that’s a high priority for me — investing in people.”

He pointed to the “amazing statistic” that years ago, (CUNY) “had far more full-time faculty than we have today, with far fewer students. We’ve added tens of thousands of students and we’ve actually reduced the number of full-time faculty. That’s unsustainable.”

The FY2016 state Executive Budget for CUNY’s senior colleges totals $2.329 billion, an increase of $70.7 million, or 3.1 percent, over this year, according to the University Budget Office. The Executive Budget does not provide funding for mandatory needs including employee fringe benefits. For CUNY’s community colleges, which receive more than half of their funding from the city, the Executive Budget proposes $221.6 million, a decrease of $8.4 million from this year’s level. In his budget testimony in Albany, Chancellor Milliken emphasized. “CUNY’s core priorities remain: the retention of talented faculty and staff, the recruitment of more full-time faculty, increased academic support and broadening our student services. Over the last decade, we

High-Quality, Full-Time Faculty Is a Priority for the University

The luncheon was attended by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie of the Bronx, a Baruch College MBA, who had only days prior been appointed to the powerful post. “I’m a proud product of public education,” Heastie noted as he outlined his higher education-rich Assembly agenda, which includes passage of the state Dream Act, providing state tuition aid to undocumented students; funding for CUNY’s successful and expanding ASAP program to improve community college graduation rates; and for the CUNY Leads academic program for students with disabilities.

“I want all of you to know — particularly the students — where our hearts are: It is really the utmost important thing for us to provide a foundation for you to have a quality education,” he said.

Other luncheon speakers at the CUNY program included State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, Public Advocate Tish James, City Comptroller Scott Stringer and Conference Chair and Assembly Member Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Speaker Pro Tempore Jeff Aubry.

In speeches, interviews and testimony in February, Chancellor Milliken repeatedly touched upon the value of CUNY’s faculty to the University and the critical importance of retaining and attracting accomplished full-time professors. But he noted that these goals cannot be achieved without a new contract for faculty and staff who have been without an agreement since October 2010. “Our ability to attract and retain talented faculty is compromised by our inability today to reach a collective bargaining agreement with appropriate salary and attracting accomplished full-time professors.”

At the same time, he noted that resources must be identified. “We cannot make an agreement we cannot pay for,” he said. “It’s essential we get state support for an agreement that will be in alignment with those of other state unions, including retroactive increases that would recognize the commitment our faculty and staff have made over the last six years.”

The Chancellor elaborated in an appearance on CUNY TV’s City Talk public affairs program hosted by Doug Muzzio. “It doesn’t matter whether you’re talking about K-12 education or university education,” Milliken said. “A fundamental principle is that the quality of teaching, the quality of the faculty, makes the most difference. There is no such thing as a great university without a great faculty.”

“We have to be fact in years for our faculty,” Chancellor Milliken continued. “It’s a difficult position at CUNY because we have city and state support for the University. In some ways that’s a great advantage. In some ways, to try reach an agreement there are additional challenges to get everybody on the same page… No one wants to do this more than I do.”

“I’ve been in this business for over 25 years, and first among my priorities — whether it was in North Carolina or Nebraska or New York — we need to be competitive for faculty. We need to retain the best faculty. To do that, we need to reach an agreement with the PSC. We need to be in a position to have a fair agreement with them. And so that’s a high priority for me — investing in people.”

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have achieved a 23 percent net increase in full-time faculty. However, these gains have been countered by an unprecedented growth in enrollment during the same period, slowing our ability to increase the percentage of classes taught by full-time faculty. This year we are working to hire 325 new faculty members. And through our FY2016 budget request, we hope to hire 500 more.

His testimony added, “While the Governor’s executive budget proposal provides a relatively stable budget for CUNY in fiscal year 2015-2016, there remain many areas that we hope you will address in order to provide our students with the higher education experience they deserve, and to ensure that employers are being served with skilled graduates that are ready to enter the workforce.”

Chancellor Milliken told the legislators the University is requesting additional funding to expand its online programs, which “offer many benefits” to students “juggling multiple roles” and can prepare students “for a competitive future since many of them will need to refresh their skills through online learning.” He said CUNY is also seeking funds to provide students with opportunities for international study and faculty with “opportunities to work collaborative- ly with international colleagues. “To compete and thrive in the transna- tional environment, it is no longer a luxu- ry, but a necessity, to bring CUNY to the world and the world to CUNY,” he said. CUNY also needs “sufficient funding” to transition its libraries to the digital age,” the Chancellor testified. “Many of our most important resources are textbooks and books that are not digitized. But the new generation of learning and scholarly materials are being produced online.

“Our libraries must be redesigned to support a variety of instructional modes,” he said. “However, our libraries continue to be challenged by the price increases that outpace inflation, and students continue to struggle to purchase necessary textbooks and course materials. CUNY’s libraries have the capacity to help students in this regard, and sufficient funding would enable us to invest in costly text- books for use by students and to purchase electronic texts, together with the means to display and catalogue them. The Chancellor thanked the Legislature for your continued attention to our facility needs, which remain urgent. We are thankful for the more than $3.8 billion that the state has provided CUNY since 2008 in support of our academic mission. This funding has allowed us to open new facilities as well as maintain our 24 campuses. Despite this strong support, much more needs to be done.”

Because of rising enrollment, he said, an additional 56,000 students over the last decade are now using CUNY facilities. “Not surprisingly, our classrooms and computer areas are experiencing significant wear and tear.” Additional funding is needed, he said, for critical maintenance and for key capital projects including the Roosevelt Hall Science-Complex at Brooklyn College, the Academic Village and Conference Center at York College, the College of Staten Island’s High Performance Computational Center and Hostos Community College’s new Allied Health and Sciences Building.

“Projects like these,” the Chancellor said, “are critical to our academic growth, helping to improve classroom instruction and research capacity and create good pay- ing jobs... CUNY is a public university in every sense of the word and one in which I hope you will continue to make wise investments.”

Continued from page 1 and Leslie Keiler of Hunter College have received a $2,265,637 grant award from the National Science Foundation for “MSNPVUC: A New Partnership to Transform Urban Secondary School Mathematics & Science Experiences.” The U.S. Education Department/Office of Postsecondary Education has awarded a $324,558 grant to John Graham of Borough of Manhattan Community College for an “Educational Opportunity Center Project.” “On-Campus Discoveries in Science,” a project directed by Loretta Brancaccio-Taras of Kingsborough Community College, has received $299,933 in grant support from the National Science Foundation.

Steven Markowitz of Queens College has received a $3,177,500 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for a “Former Worker Surveillance Program”, as well as $1,435,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy/Steelworkers Charitable and Educational Organization for “Medical Surveillance of Former Department of Energy Workers”; and $334,601 from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for a “New York City Community Air Survey.”

Eric Delson of Lehman College has received a $649,963 grant from the National Science Foundation for a project entitled “IGERT: Integrative Evolutionary Primatology.”

Allan Werneck of Baruch College, the director of CUNY’s Citizenship Now, received a special award at the Society of Arab Journalists Conference, Entre Nosotros Luncheon in San Juan, Puerto Rico from NYS Assemblywoman Carmen Arroyo and NYC Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo for his “outstanding and devoted service in immigration on behalf of the Hispanic Community.”

The National Science Foundation has awarded $227,623 to Sebastian Poget of the College of Staten Island for “CAREER: Structural and Mechanistic Analysis of Potassium Channel Modulation by a Novel Activating Snake Toxin.” Queens College has received a $207,823 grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research/Northwestern University for “Electrochemical Imaging and Mechanistic Studies on the Nanometer Scale,” directed by Michael Mirkin.

Babette Audant of Kingsborough Community College has received two grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. $4,816,947 for “CUNY PATH” and $1,285,217 for the “Northeast Resiliency Consortium”.

David Kennedy of John Jay College has been awarded $600,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for “A Proposal to Address Violent Crime in Chicago: Years Three to Five”; and $450,000 from the Jacob & Valeria Lamploth Foundation for “National Network for Safe Communities: Outreach and Support for Chronic Violent Offenders.”

Sunil Gupta of Borough of Manhattan Community College has won a $265,382 grant from the Wadhwani Foundation for a project entitled NACE TO A JOB (RTA).

The Empire State Development Division of Science, Technology and
**NEWSWIRE**

**HAVE YOU HEARD?** Afro-Latin jazz composer and bandleader Arturo O’Farrill, a professor at Brooklyn College, won his third Grammy at the 57th awards ceremony … A statue of John Jay, one of our Founding Fathers and the first Chief Justice of the United States, was unveiled at his namesake school, John Jay College of Criminal Justice … Three Queens College students won top honors in the CUNY IBM-Watson Case Competition with the creation of a new app to aid in preventing child abuse …

**HUNTER COLLEGE**

To assist students, faculty and staff in understanding President Barack Obama’s recent executive action on immigration, CUNY Citizenship NOW! has launched a new initiative that includes a series of free legal clinics, a new Web page and an information hotline. Last year, President Obama announced the executive order to defer the deportation of millions of undocumented immigrants and granted them work authorization for three years. The presidential order is expected to impact scores of CUNY students who may now become eligible for in-state tuition, internships, job opportunities and authorization for three years. The presidential order is expected to impact scores of CUNY students who may now become eligible for in-state tuition, internships, job opportunities and admission into degree programs requiring licenses, such as nursing and law school. Although a federal court judge has temporarily blocked the president’s deferred action order, CUNY Citizenship Now! Director Allan Wernick said his staff would continue with plans to help people prepare for the program. “Deferred action or no, immigrant New Yorkers need our help,” Wernick said. The Administrative Relief includes two programs that benefit undocumented immigrants. The first is an expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, for qualified persons who came to the U.S. before age 16; the second, Deferred Action for Parental Accountability, or DAPA, is for qualified undocumented parents of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident who was born on or before Nov. 20, 2014. CUNY citizenship Now! is holding free legal clinics in February and March on CUNY campuses for applicants seeking to apply for DACA. Undocumented parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents are also invited to attend so they may gather information and obtain a free and confidential consultation on the DAPA program. Citizenship NOW! is also making plans for its 13th annual call-in event co-sponsored by the New York Daily News. The weeklong hotline will operate at Guttman Community College from April 27 to May 1 and provide immigration assistance to thousands of callers.

**John Jay was one of our Founding Fathers,** the second governor of New York and the first Chief Justice of the United States. But until recently, at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in Manhattan, there were few memorable images that honored his important legacy. That changed in December when President Jeremy Travis unveiled and dedicated a life-size bronze statue of John Jay in the Lynn and Jules Kroll Auditorium at his namesake college. The statue, created by StudioEIS in Brooklyn, stands at 5-foot-10 and weighs 670 pounds. Jay is wearing a judicial robe with one hand outstretched and the other hand holding the justice’s oath of office. A nearby plaque describes many of the highlights of Jay’s career as a patriot, jurist, elected official, diplomat and essayist. “You can’t help but be impressed” by what Jay accomplished, President Travis noted, calling him “our forgotten Founding Father, one of the greatest New Yorkers, who helped create our democracy.” The statue, he said, provides “a way for us to reconnect with an important part of our nation’s history.” Ivan Schwartz, one of the co-founders of StudioEIS, detailed the yearlong process of creating the likeness, speaking of his team’s “forensic pursuit of evidence” that included examining portraits and busts of Jay, measuring his only surviving judicial robe, and having a model photographed in different poses at the installation site to provide alternative approaches to the eventual statue. “We had to be meticulous about what John Jay looked like,” said Schwartz, whose studio has also created statues of such historical figures as Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Frederick Douglass and other signers of the Constitution.
Students’ Innovative Apps Offer Technology to Improve Services

CUNY students are tackling some of New York City’s biggest challenges and creating apps to solve them in the CUNY IBM-Watson Case Competition, hosted recently at Baruch College. Students used IBM’s Watson cognitive technology — processing information more like a human, understanding natural language, generating hypotheses based on evidence, and learning as it goes — to pitch ideas for apps that would help improve city services and higher education.

“The partnership with IBM offers students the opportunity to look into the future and the way society does business and provides services. It empowers students to shape the future that they will inherit,” said competition director Stan Altman, a public affairs professor at Baruch. The first-place pitch, Watson LMSW — Licensed Master Social Worker — proposes a new statewide child welfare information system that would act as a virtual caseworker assistant, integrating information across all agencies to identify child abuse and maltreatment cases quickly and accurately. Caseworkers are spending a lot of time filing paperwork so they’re left with less time to sit down with the children and families. This app is all about preventing abuse as opposed to reacting to abuse,” said Queens College senior Kimberly Sy, who along with classmates senior Nekita Singh and junior Lineth Mejia, pitched Watson LMSW. The next step is to work with the CUNY Center for Student Entrepreneurship at Baruch College to develop their app. They will also have the opportunity to present their winning pitch to leadership in the Administration for Children’s Services. The second-place proposal, SmartCall, uses Watson to improve the city’s 311 helpline. And Advyze, the third-place pitch, is an app that integrates academic goals and user preferences to provide personalized academic advisement to undergraduates. The CUNY-IBM tech challenge attracted more than 300 students from 16 CUNY campuses. The top three teams were awarded a total of $10,000 in cash prizes donated by the Shelley & Donald Rubin Foundation. The first-, second- and third-place teams were awarded $5,000, $3,000 and $2,000, respectively.

The Pathways curriculum is in its second academic year and has been implemented across all undergraduate campuses. Here are some of the findings so far:

• Preliminary data show that in Fall 2014, 135,510 degree-seeking students at the University (61 percent of all degree seeking students) were following the Pathways curriculum. Approximately 13,900 of these students were enrolled at CUNY prior to implementation of Pathways and thus could have continued in their original curriculum, but chose to switch to Pathways.
• Preliminary data also show that in Fall 2014 approximately 419,607 seats were filled in Pathways courses.
• Over the period of Pathways (Fall 2013, Spring 2014 and Fall 2014), students have transferred Pathways courses from one CUNY college to another on more than 418,500 occasions.
• More than 1,660 courses have been approved for the Pathways Common Core by the Common Core Course Review Committees, composed of CUNY faculty. Additionally, more than 500 “STEM variant” math and science courses (courses colleges require for majors in STEM fields) are offered in the Common Core.
• The Common Core Course Review Committees (CCCRC) will continue to review and approve courses on an ongoing basis. Currently, there are 55 faculty members serving on these committees.
• Faculty committees have identified common entry-level courses into 10 popular majors — Biology, Business, Criminal Justice, Economics, English, Nursing, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Teacher Education. A total of 639 courses have been identified by colleges offering these majors and are guaranteed to transfer for credit toward the majors.

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Faces of Islam at LaGuardia

TUNNING EXHIBITIONS are filling galleries across The City University of New York, provoking thought, enriching the life of the University community and adding insight into cultures close to home and far away.

Among the most thought-provoking works is the small but powerful bronze sculpture by South African artist Percy Kongobe that depicts a student carrying a dying schoolmate. Based on a renowned image by photojournalist Sam Nkosa, it dramatizes the aftermath of the police fusillade that launched the 1976 student uprising against apartheid in the Soweto ghetto of Johannesburg. Police had opened fire on youngsters who were demanding better education and protesting having to take classes in Afrikaans, the language of their white oppressors, rather than Zulu.

This and the other artwork shown at Queens College’s Godwin-Ternbach Museum as part of a campus “Year of South Africa” were collected by Les Payne, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Newsday reporter.

“I was covering the Soweto uprising, with all the gore and blood, and it was pretty bleak,” Payne recalls. “And then I saw a picture called ‘The Breakfast Table’ [by Hargreaves Ntukwana], which was warm and inviting and made me homesick. It spoke to me.” That started Payne’s passion for collecting works by South African artists, many of whom gained international reputations, including David Mbele, Velaphi Mazibuko and Winston Saol.

Payne singles out a mixed media work by Cecil Phiri showing students running in a field — presumably from police.

“That piece is very rare. The artist didn’t sign his last name, just his first. If police had known, he would have been arrested because Africans weren’t allowed to take photos or depict the uprising. If they found artists were doing even drawings, police would raid their houses and destroy the art.”

Complementing the Payne collection is “Next Generation: Emerging Photographers from South Africa,” a show of younger photographers who highlight the political and social shifts that have taken place since the Soweto uprising.

“So much of what we know of South Africa is filtered through the often-sensational news media,” says Elizabeth Hoy, the museum’s collection curator, who organized the show with museum director Amy Winter. “By looking at South Africa’s history through the lens of artwork, the audience is able to see the course of events through the eyes of the participants — artists involved in the anti-apartheid movement in the 1970s and young artists who will help shape the future of South Africa.”

Sharply different in tone and media are the colorful and energetic quilts and related works on paper from Gee’s Bend in rural Alabama that are on display at the Lehman College Art Gallery. Gee’s Bend quilts, made by generations of African-American women descended from enslaved people, have become famous in recent decades for their intrepid designs.

As an enthusiastic New York Times review of this exhibition put it, “What makes this tradition so compelling is that unlike most quilts in the European-American tradition, which favored uniformity, harmony and precision, Gee’s Bend quilts include wild, improvisatory elements: broken patterns, high color contrasts, dissonance, asymmetry and syncopation. Aesthetically similar to modern geometric painting and West African textiles, the quilts came into being alongside gospel, blues and jazz.”

Quiltmaker Mary Lee Bendolph mixes camouflage fabric and denim to evoke the hunt. Loretta Bennett’s quilts mix strips of fabric in sometimes eye-popping colors, creating invigorating visual rhythms. Leota Pettway riff’s on more traditional approaches with repeating starburst patterns, but each burst strives to outshine the others.

In another exhibition at the Queens Museum, LaGuardia Community College students have turned their cameras on the borough’s Muslim community.

Scott Sternbach, director of LaGuardia’s photography department, says “The Faces of Islam” exhibition portrays a diversity of community college students, their families and their communities. “These teachers, artists, airline pilots, community activists, attorneys and myriad others joined with our students and alumni to share the bond of creative photography. In the process they met as human beings working together for a common cause: to be seen as individuals and not as stereotypes,” he says.

LaGuardia students Gianni Sanchez Cruz, 27, and Jorge Rodriguez, 21, took many of the portraits. “We had Muslims from around the world; Iranian, Pakistani, African-Americans, Whites, Salvadorian, and Mexican,” said Rodriguez, who is from the Dominican Republic. “Seeing so many people from so many parts of the world that follow the same religion was a beautiful experience.”
EVERYWHERE, SOMETHING TO SEE!

Baruch College - Sidney Mishkin Gallery
World of Shojo-Manga: Mirrors of Girls’ Desires
This exhibition of shojo (girls’) manga is the first to focus on the unique genre of Japanese manga. Closes Feb. 27 cuny.edu/manga

Borough of Manhattan Community College – Shirley Fiterman Art Center
At This Moment: Recent Artwork by BMCC Faculty
Closes March 24 cuny.edu/bmccart

Brooklyn College Library
The World Knows: Jan Karski’s Mission for Humanity
Karski carried information from the Polish underground to the government in exile, and in 1943 met with FDR to inform him about the genocide in the concentration camps. Closes April 19 cuny.edu/karski

City College – The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture
Sagrada Familia - Gaudí’s Unfinished Masterpiece
An exhibition of La Sagrada Familia, the magnum opus of Antoni Gaudí, the father of Catalan Modernism that includes architectural models and casts used in construction and 3D computer imaging software. Closes May 8 cuny.edu/sagrada

College of Staten Island Art Gallery
Creative Connections: School of Paris Prints from the Staten Island Museum
The exhibition is an loan from the Staten Island Museum with works by Picasso, Matisse and Chagall, among others. Closes April 2 cuny.edu/parisprints

The Graduate Center: The Amie and Tony James Gallery
Specters of Communism: Contemporary Russian Art
The exhibition includes the works of artists from Moscow, St. Petersburg, and New York, including Alina and Jeff Blum, Ket Chukhrov, Cito Delat, Anton Vodake, and Arseny Zhiyare. Closes March 28 cuny.edu/russianart

Kingsborough Community College Art Gallery
Return to Tomorrow: 3D Printed Sculpture for the Posthuman Age
Using 3D printing technology, Ashley Zelinski creates sculptural forms composed of the computer code that describes them. Closes March 11 - April 14 cuny.edu/zelinski

LaGuardia Community College – Queens Museum
The Faces of Islam
A collection of photographs of LaGuardia students, staff and their family members, as well as New York City politicians and community leaders who practice the Islamic faith. Closes March 1 cuny.edu/faces

Queens College
Louis Armstrong House
To Jack Bradley, the Greatest’ Photo Taker: Treasures from the Jack Bradley Collection
Celebrating the legacy of Louis Armstrong through the private access of longtime friend and photographer Jack Bradley. Through March cuny.edu/armstrong

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Year of South Africa
Next Generation: Emerging Photographers from South Africa; Mezzanine Gallery
Closes March 21 cuny.edu/southafrica

Queensborough Community College Art Gallery
Windows of Inspiration
Acknowledged Taiwanese painter and QCC student, Lisa Chin-Jung Baw, displays a selection of her already impressive career as an artist. March 11 - April 9 cuny.edu/baw

UNIVERSITY
Continued from page 4

Brooklyn College. "Hunter College has received $435,481 in grant support from the Institute of International Education for "A Domestic Chinese Language Program Under the Language Flagship," directed by Der-lin Chao. “Research Experiences for Undergraduates,” a project directed by Reginald Blake of New York College of Technology, has been awarded $199,614 in grant support by the National Science Foundation.

President William J. Fritz of the College of Staten Island received the Effective Leadership Award on behalf of CSI at the 22nd Annual Golden Age Awards Banquet held by the Latino Center on Aging (LCA) for CSI’s significant contributions and exemplary commitment to the betterment of the Latino/Hispanic communities throughout the world. The Board of Trustees has named five outstanding scholars as Distinguished Professors, CUNY’s highest faculty rank. Cathy N. Davidson of the Graduate School and University Center is a leading theorist of using social media and digital technologies in education; Jeanne Theoharris of Brooklyn College specializes in American race relations and authored the prizewinning and best-selling biography, The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks; Eric Weitz is a leading human rights historian and Dean of City College’s Division of Humanities and Arts; David Waldstreicher of the Graduate School and University Center specializes in U.S. political history though 1900, particularly the struggle over slavery; and Anthony Tamburri, Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute at Queens College, is a leading scholar of modern Italian literature and culture.

To-Nehisi Coates, Journalist-in-Residence at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and Yoruba Richen, the School’s Documentary Program Director, have been named to The Root 100 list of African Americans 45 years old and younger who are responsible for the year’s most significant moments and themes. Coates for his cover story for “The Atlantic,” “The Case for Reparations,” and Richen for her award-winning documentary, “The New Black.”

Dennis Sullivan, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at the Graduate School and University Center, who also holds the Albert Einstein Chair in Science (Mathematics), has won the 2014 Balzan Prize for his major contributions to topology and the theory of dynamical systems and his exceptional results in many fields of mathematics, such as geometry, the theory of Kleinian groups, analysis and number theory. Half of the $800,000 award will finance research projects by young scholars and scientists.

### GRANTS & HONORS

The Board of Trustees has named five outstanding scholars as Distinguished Professors, CUNY’s highest faculty rank. Cathy N. Davidson of the Graduate School and University Center is a leading theorist of using social media and digital technologies in education; Jeanne Theoharris of Brooklyn College specializes in American race relations and authored the prizewinning and best-selling biography, The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks; Eric Weitz is a leading human rights historian and Dean of City College’s Division of Humanities and Arts; David Waldstreicher of the Graduate School and University Center specializes in U.S. political history through 1900, particularly the struggle over slavery; and Anthony Tamburri, Dean of the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute at Queens College, is a leading scholar of modern Italian literature and culture.

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### RESEARCH

A new home for Hunter College scientists — the product of an unusual partnership between Hunter and Weill Cornell Medical College — is the latest entry in CUNY’s decades-long emergence as a leading research university.

In January, Hunter opened its floor of the medical school’s new Belfer Research Building at East 69th Street and York Avenue, a 21,000-square-foot space where Hunter faculty scientists and their students will conduct research in cancer biology, infectious diseases, bioinformatics, computational genomics, bioimaging and nanotechnology. Just as important as the space itself is its location inside Weill Cornell’s new $650 million research building, a center devoted to translational bench-to-bedside medical research. From this base, Hunter researchers will collaborate with Weill Cornell scientists — a step in CUNY’s drive to forge partnerships with leading institutions and play a key role in New York’s fast-growing science and technology economy.

The move is part of an ambitious expansion of science research and education at CUNY that began in 2001, when the University set in motion a long-term commitment to attracting and retaining the best and brightest science faculty, building state-of-the-art facilities and competing with the nation’s top institutions for government and foundation research dollars. Elevating research and education in advanced disciplines and emerging technologies — being an exemplar of science in the public interest—has since become elemental to CUNY’s mission as the nation’s largest urban public university.

Twelve Hunter faculty researchers — from the biology, chemistry, physics and medical laboratory sciences departments — have moved into the new Belfer building. It’s a move that marks “a truly incredible partnership” between a great public college and a great Ivy League institution, said Hunter President Jennifer J. Raab.

Hunter Opens New Home for Research at Weill Cornell Medical College

Elizabeth Gorodetsky, undergraduate Sage Honors Scholar, working in the lab

“"A truly incredible partnership..."” — Hunter President Raab

Patient sits in chair while nurse administers treatment.

Hunter’s new home for research scientists at the Weill Cornell Medical College center at East 69th Street and York Avenue in Manhattan.
Big Apple & La-La Land Compared

By Gary Schmidgall

I AM THE PERFECT READER for New York and Los Angeles, a compendious sociological thumbnail analysis of the nation’s two largest urban centers—the two iconic US cities of the twenty-first century. My first 20 years unfolded in the LA basin, though I fled north for a decade to study at Stanford. After teaching a decade in Philadelphia, I have for the last 30 years been a happy resident of New York (don’t get me started on sirens or tourist helicopters). So I am in spirit perfectly bicoastal.

The subject, of course, is huge, and so is the thumbnail—it’s nearly 600 pages long and has been edited by Queens College and Graduate Center sociologist Andrew Beveridge and UCLA sociologist David Halle (Oxford). Their very first paragraph in the jointly written first chapter explains why they gave their study a rather ominous subtitle, The Uncertain Future: “The direction of New York and Los Angeles, the nation’s two largest cities and urban regions, is hugely uncertain, more so than it has been for decades.” They suggest there is a dark side to the optimism of the Frank Sinatra lyric: many people don’t “make it” in New York—or in Los Angeles for that matter.

Iconic cities inevitably have their defining characteristics. New York’s disasters are more likely to be floods, LA’s will be earthquakes and wildfires. New York is legit theater; LA is film. But they have much in common. The two cities are tops in percentage of renters (NY is 70 percent, LA 61 percent), both weathered the 2008 recession, though NY fared marginally better. Both cities have been in the forefront of the fight against intolerance, notably toward immigrants (especially under mayors Bloomberg and Villaraigosa). Another point of similarity—and perhaps the source of the editors’ “uncertain” future—is inequality: “both New York and Los Angeles are among the most unequal US cities and have shown a clear trend of growing inequality over the past three decades.”

Both cities fit the definition of “global,” that is, they have command-and-control functions and associated investments in property development, along with production and a distinctive industrial base. Both are major ports for shipping traffic, and so an entire chapter is devoted to the Port Authority and the Port of LA and Long Beach (the busiest in the nation). Even before the Bridge-closing scandal, the authors of this chapter lament how policies and patronage were obstructing the managerial efficiency of the Port Authority. The better news at the LA Port is its recent embrace of “green” principles.

The editors have divided their study into five categories: Politics and Economics, Social and Urban Problems, Immigration and Ethnic Problems, Planning and Environmentalism, and Culture. Within these are chapters, usually on specific topics. One chapter is devoted to comparing the two public school systems (New York is the largest, with Los Angeles in second place); it reveals that in Los Angeles the mayor has to contend with a seven-person school board, while New York’s mayor has more free rein. Another chapter is devoted to the non-profit sectors of the two cities; the budget totals for those in New York are more than double those in Los Angeles.

A chapter on the cities’ two police departments tries to account for the historic declines in crime in both cities over the last two decades, but also shows the entire book’s willingness to tell it like it is. Thus, we learn that “While the LAPD has emerged from a period of crisis and deep institutional reform to build an umbrella of legitimacy, the current posture of the NYPD and its resistance to outside monitoring and internal reforms suggests a less clear future.”

Another chapter on housing notes that the two cities are virtually the only large metros that regulate rent, and there is a proliferating few pages on how and why the regulation in the two cities differs. A chapter on “Financial, Economic, and Political Crises” is also co-authored by the editors, and it identifies all the evils that led to the 2008 recession. It ends depressingly with thoughts about the implications of the Supreme Court’s Citizens United ruling: “Finally, a long-standing concern is protecting democratic politics from plutocracy.”

Did I mention New York and Los Angeles, in good sociological style, is rich in graphs and tables? These are particular- ly helpful in the chapter on the two cities as immigrant destinations, co-authored by Hunter College’s Nancy Foner, the chapter on Government and Politics in the two cities co-authored by the Graduate Center’s John Mollenkopf, and in a chapter on Chinese communities in the two cities co-authored by Hunter’s Margaret Chin. Chin gave me a new definition for my hometown, Alhambra, whose founders were crazy about Washington Irving’s Tales of the Alhambra. My high school was homogenously white in the 1960s; our football team was the Alhambra Moors, though there was exactly one black student in my class of 500! Now, Chin says, Alhambra is part of a huge Asian “ethnoburb” in the San Gabriel Valley.

The reader gets to relax a bit in the Culture section with a charming off-the-wall essay on “Los Angeles, Where Architecture Is Art,” in which (among other things) the new Alice Tully Hall is juxtaposed with Gehry’s Disney Concert Hall.

Another colorful survey—on how New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago have been depicted in hit movies—is co-authored by Halle and three others. Chicago was added to the mix because any survey of “city” films, the authors say, must include the most popular city film of all time (judged by ticket sales): The Sting. Among the surprises noted here is how rarely movies of iconic New York-centric directors Woody Allen, Spike Lee, and Martin Scorsese have been hits. Another surprise is how rarely films noir—an iconic LA film genre—triumphed at the box office—not even Sunset Boulevard. Which happened to remind me of (in my view) the greatest LA flick of all time, and a delicious noir spoof, Who Framed Roger Rabbit?

It is noted that New York has recently been a tempting venue for disasters films (Godzilla in 1998, Dark Night in 2008), but this book left me feeling that—barring the apocalypse—the two cities have a certain future. There is too much evidence here of practical and inventive responses to the full array of massive urban problems to be anything other than optimistic.

CUNY Matters welcomes information about new books that have been written or edited by faculty and members of the University community. cuny.edu/booksonauthors

NEW TITLES / CUNY AUTHORs

The Rise of Sunset Park
With a $100 million investment from Mayor Bill de Blasio and the arrival of artisanal businesses like Jacques Torres Chocolates, Sunset Park seems poised for a revival. But the transformation of this Brooklyn neighborhood won’t be easy, says Queens College urban studies professor Tarry Hum. In her book, Making a Global Immigrant Neighborhood: Brooklyn’s Sunset Park, Hum outlines challenges, including job development, environment, gentrification and forging alliances between immigrant communities.

Beat Writers And More
Mayhem
John Tytell, a longtime professor of modern American literature at Queens College, in his latest book, Writing Beat and Other Occasions of Literary Mayhem, takes a new look back at the Beat Generation. An author best known as a prominent historian of that idiosyncratic period of postwar American literature, Tytell reflects on writers and writing from the perspective of someone who’s been doing it, and teaching it, for more than 50 years.

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HEALTH CARE
FOR STUDENTS — AND EMPLOYEES

Colleges Offer a Range of Services for Staff

By Barbara Fischkin

DOROTHY GALE, a registered nurse known at Kingsborough Community College as “Dottie,” says that when it comes to health, people sometimes need “a little reinforcement.”

So when a college employee, recently diagnosed with diabetes, expressed a bit of confusion concerning a new glucometer, Gale said: “Bring it in and I’ll work with you on using it.”

At Queens College, Tsui-Fang Shen, associate director of health services, has designated a private room that nursing mothers can use to express breast milk, in accordance with CUNY policy. On a far grander scale, she has developed relationships with over a hundred agencies and providers who have expressed a willingness to accept referrals. Some offer free services or reduced and/or sliding-scale fees, and the center has compiled a referral booklet to help prospective patients negotiate the terrain.

And now that it is winter and cold season, both Gale and Shen remind everyone at their colleges to cover their coughs, wash their hands and get plenty of sleep.

Much of what Gale and Shen are doing at the helm of the health centers in their respective colleges, while wide-ranging, is not that unusual. What is different though, is that at Kingsborough and Queens colleges, employees as well as students can take advantage of the services offered.

At many CUNY campuses these health centers are funded by student fees and therefore for students only.

Employees should check with their human resources offices to find out what health services are available on campus.

For example, some health centers, even if they are not open to employees, run large-scale annual or periodic health fairs to which the entire college is invited.

When it comes to “walk-ins,” Queens and KBCC serve employees as part of long-standing traditions. “It goes back many years,” says Shen. Gale, a Kingsborough alumna (’95) and my blood glucose level and sent me to my primary care physician,” said Oswald Fraser, who added that it was reassuring to have this information before that office visit.

Employees should check with their human resources offices to find out what health services are available to them on campus.

Disaster Survival — Having a Plan to Keep You Safe

CUNY’s Work/Life program, available gratis to all employees, will be hosting another Webinar in March. And with the winter the Northeast has experienced this year, especially our urban neighbors in Boston, you could find some useful information in this program. This Webinar makes the global personal — and speaks to the fears many of us feel in light of current events.

It has a simple title — “Practical Strategies to Stay Safe” — but deals with complicated issues. The key to surviving a disaster is being prepared, according to CCA, the company that runs the Work/Life program for the University.

“Whether your community is prone to hurricanes, vulnerable to wildfires, or waiting for the next big earthquake, having a plan in place can make all the difference for you and your family.” The March Webinar will illuminate, “strategies to keep you and your family safe in case of natural disasters, terrorist attacks or other emergencies.” It is scheduled for March 17 at noon and again at 2 pm.

To access the Webinar please sign on to www.myccaonline.com with the user name CUNY. And if you can’t participate but have questions regarding these matters, you can call the program’s 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, toll-free number: 800-833-8707

New 2015 Tax-Deferred Annuity Plan Limits

If you contribute to one of CUNY’s 403(b) Tax-Deferred Annuity (TDA) Plans, now is the time to submit deferral changes. Here are the Internal Revenue Service’s new contribution limits for TDAs for the 2015 calendar year:

• For those under age 50, the maximum is $18,000
• For those who are age 50 or older, the maximum is $24,000

For a complete list of IRS contribution limits for 2015, Search.cuny.edu “IRS Contributions” If you wish to make any deferral percentage changes to your TDA plan for 2015, please complete the 2015 Salary Reduction Agreement Form and return it to your HR Office for processing. Search.cuny.edu “TDA Plans”
Into the Maze of Retirement

Navigating the complex maze of pensions, annuities, Medicare and retiree health insurance can be daunting. And so last November, 75 University employees received help doing this. The University Employee Benefits Office hosted a “pre-retirement” seminar at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In a day-long session, participants learned about applying for Social Security, earnings limitations after retirement along with other matters and received professional advice on transitioning to retirement. The University Benefits Office will host similar seminars in the future — meanwhile, read more about your CUNY retirement options at Search.cuny.edu “Retirement” they can provide. But they can, for example, provide over-the-counter medicines and first aid.

Gale is especially proud that although she is the only full-time nurse at the center, she has 10 nurses working for her part time. Shen, who has a master’s degree in clinical nutrition and is a public health specialist, administers the many services offered and has a registered nurse on staff. She has also arranged for health care navigators for the Affordable Care Act to be on campus several times a week to assist with the complicated enrollment process for those not covered by CUNY or PSC insurance.

“I always wanted to be a nurse,” says Gale, who started out working as a clerk for a Wall Street firm and raised two children. Her associate nursing degree is from Kingsborough and her bachelor’s, which she earned years later, is from CUNY’s New York City College of Technology. “So my husband supported me and I went back to school. I became a nurse at 35. It was the right time. I just liked helping people. It was something I wanted to do.

For more information on these centers, their locations on campus and hours please visit Search.cuny.edu “Queens Health” and Search.cuny.edu “Kingsborough Health”

CROSSWORD

Think you know about CUNY? Test your knowledge with the Crossword Puzzle in each issue of Salute to Scholars magazine. The latest puzzle, “It’s an Honor,” focuses on the Macaulay Honors College. Here are some clues:

Macaulay was the brainchild of Chancellor Matthew _______.
Dean of Macaulay Ann _______.
More than 60% of Macaulay students are from families of _______.
William Macaulay’s gift was _______ million dollars, the largest single donation in the history of CUNY.
It’s fun and interesting. Give it a try.

FREE DIGITAL NEW YORK TIMES

Enjoy 52 weeks of free digital access to the New York Times. CUNY’s Office of Library Services and the campus libraries are pleased to announce that The New York Times Digital is now available to all CUNY students, faculty and staff. This means that anyone with an email address ending in cuny.edu (or cuny.tv) can sign up any time for an academic pass for free access to www.nytimes.com website and smartphone app.

To begin your subscription, go to: https://myaccount.nytimes.com/verification/edupass

How ISIS Keeps Control

No extremist group has been able to maintain control over a territory and its people like ISIS — the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq. At Hunter College’s Roosevelt House, a group of experts, including NPR Middle East correspondent Deborah Amos and Hunter history professor Jillian Schwedler, examine how ISIS, with its oil revenue, arms and organization, has been able to dominate these vast areas.

WE REMEMBER

Joseph Raben, 90, Professor Emeritus, Queens College, member of the English Department 1954 to 1984. In 1966 he founded the journal Computers and the Humanities, which became the leading journal in the field, and went on to start the Association for Computers and the Humanities in 1978. Died Jan. 18, 2015.

Timothy J. Dowd, 99, B.A. City College, MPA, Baruch College, New York City police detective who led the manhunt that captured serial killer David Berkowitz (Son of Sam) in 1977. Died Dec. 26, 2014.
