CUNY students have captured 10 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowships, 13 Fulbright Fellowships, three Goldwater Scholarships and a rare $34,000 Beinecke Scholarship for graduate study, among a trove of prestigious awards from across the University’s campuses so far this spring. In the past five years, 80 CUNY students and alumni have won NSF awards, the foremost federal grant for graduate research in science, technology, engineering, math and the social sciences. The total of Fulbrights, which support travel abroad either for research or to teach English, stands at 76 so far, with several finalists remaining to hear from prospective host countries. For the federal Goldwater Scholarships, which support undergraduates seeking research careers in the sciences, mathematics and Continued on page 6

Gov. Cuomo Appoints New Trustees

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has nominated former City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr. to chair the CUNY Board of Trustees, replacing outgoing Benno Schmidt. Cuomo also named former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer to serve on the board. Prior to his election as Comptroller, Thompson had served as president of the New York City Board of Education and Brooklyn Deputy Borough President. Ferrer is Vice Chairman of the MTA and had been a New York City Council Member before serving almost 15 years as Bronx Borough President. See page 5.
Governor Nominates Thompson to Chair

GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO has nominated two prominent New Yorkers – former New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr. and former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer – to the University’s Board of Trustees.

The nominations require New York State Senate confirmation.

Chairperson Benno Schmidt, whom Cuomo recognized for his “commitment to public service” and “profound impact” on the University.

“We have a beacon of opportunity for hundreds of thousands of students each year, CUNY fulfills an integral role in the promise of New York. For more than 16 years, Benno Schmidt has promoted that promise and provided a tremendous service to CUNY and its students,” Cuomo said. “First as Vice-Chair of CUNY’s Board of Trustees beginning in 1999 and then as Chair since 2003, he has had a profound impact on this system.”

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The Anti-Defamation League, which monitors and fights anti-Semitism, welcomed CUNY’s action. “We are pleased to hear that CUNY has appointed outside counsel to review the troubling allegations of anti-Semitism,” said Evan R. Bernstein, ADL New York Regional Director. He called “the formation of a task force composed of members of the administration, faculty and students … an additional step that indicates that CUNY is taking these allegations seriously.”

Two prominent educators leading the Academic Engagement Network, a new organization focused on preserving academic freedom and free speech on campus, also praised statements by Chancellor Milliken and Chairperson Schmidt condemning “anti-Semitism, bigotry and discrimination, and reiterating CUNY’s commitment to investigate and respond to allegations of anti-Semitism,” along with the University’s establishment of the task force. “We believe the best way to counter anti-Semitic and bigoted speech is through free speech, better reasoned,” said the organization’s Chair of the Board of Advisors Mark G. Yudof, who headed the University of California, the University of Texas System and the University of Minnesota, and Executive Director Kenneth Walter, director of the Jewish Studies program at Michigan State University.

Yudof and Walter also commended Brooklyn College President Karen Gould’s “swift condemnation” of the Feb. 16 disruption by students of a college Faculty Council meeting, an incident which, said President Gould, invoked “hateful anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish comments.” A Brooklyn College review of that incident is underway.

Both groups include presidents, faculty, staff and students. The Working Group on Freedom of Expression is chaired by General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs Frederick Schaffer. The Task Force on Campus Climate is co-chaired by Professor Felix Matos Rodriguez of Queens College and President Gail Mellow of LaGuardia Community College.

The University acted after the Israel advocacy group Zionist Organization of America wrote the Chancellor and Benno Schmidt, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, detailing alleged anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist incidents and expression at Brooklyn College, Hunter College, John Jay College and the College of Staten Island. The ZOA letter alleged that Jewish students felt “harassed, threatened and even physically unsafe.” They alleged the incidents were “largely caused” by actions of Students for Justice in Palestine, a pro-Palestinian group active on U.S. campuses.

CUNY retained Paul Shechtman and Barbara Jones, both partners in the law firm Zuckerman Spaeder, as outside counsel to review alleged incidents of anti-Semitism on campus and the University’s responses to them, and to make recommendations. Shechtman, a highly regarded litigator, was New York State criminal justice director under Gov. George Pataki, chaired the state Ethics Commission, and is a former federal prosecutor. Jones is a retired federal judge and former chief assistant to former Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau.

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GRANTS & HONORS

Continued from page 1

Robert Alfano, distinguished professor of science and engineering at City College, has been awarded the 2016 Michael S. Feld Biophotonics Award from The Optical Society for leadership and pioneering contributions in the field of biophotonics, comprising the diverse use of laser light to examine biological structures, Raman spectroscopy, and optical imaging for cancer detection in tissues and cells. Founded in 1936, The Optical Society is the leading professional association in optics and photonics, home to accomplished science, engineering, and business leaders from all over the world. Dr. Alfano heads CUNY’s renowned Institute for Ultrafast Spectroscopy and Lasers.

Bruce Hoffacker of LaGuardia Community College has received the following grants: $414,425 from the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City for “Project Rise.” Evan Senreich of Lehman College has received $314,611 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for “Enhancing SBIRT Utilization among Underserved Populations in Bronx, NY and Surrounding Urban Areas; A Lehman College Training Initiative for Social Work Students and Medical Residents.”

Michael Areña, University director of communications and marketing, has been elected president of the NY Society of Professional Journalists by the Board of Governors of NY Deadline Club, SPJ’s largest chapter, founded in 1925 and serving more than 300 members working in newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and the Internet, retired journalists and journalism educators. He also serves on the faculty of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, and shared a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news.

Ramona Hernandez, director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at CUNY, has received a $1,008,056 grant from the New York City Council for “Libraries and Archives.” The College of Staten Island has received a $799,630 grant from the National Science Foundation to Jane Coffee, Nelly Tournaki, Evan Senreich, and Babette Audant, for the “Summer Youth Employment Program — Summer Youth Employment Program.”

The National Science Foundation has awarded $949,123 in grant support to Launder and Menina for “Public Investment in Parks in Urban Neighborhoods.”

A new technical education initiative targeting young women in the undergraduate and graduate schools that aims to increase the number of women working in technology has been launched by CUNY. Cornell Tech and founding partner Verison Communications. While the number of women attending college increases, the percentage of women who graduate with degrees in technology-related disciplines is less than one percent. The Women in Technology and Entrepreneurship in NY (WiTNY) will provide the access, incentives, and support needed for girls and women to succeed in the tech industry. With Verison as the founding partner, a growing list of companies are supporting the initiative including charter member Accenture as well as the Citi Foundation, IBM, Xerox, JP Morgan Chase, AppleNet and Grand Central Tech. To expand access to computer science at CUNY, Cornell Tech and the University are partnering to develop programs to broaden the participation of women. The first, a new introductory computer science course, was recently held at CUNY’s Rockefeller Center, with additional leadership in program planning and implementation by Queens College, LaGuardia Community College, College of Staten Island, and City Tech. The WiTNY initiative is also offering summer programs in technology product design and entrepreneurship for graduating high school seniors on a competitive basis. The new program is expected to admit its first cohort of students this fall.

Baruch College’s Master of Financial Engineering (MFE) students won 1st place at the 13th annual Rotman International Trading Competition (RICT) in Toronto on Feb. 19-20. The winning team members, Sandeep Bangar, Allen Long Chen, Rui Ge, Avik Roy, Mingfa Ke, and Raymond Wang, triumphed in the two-day competition with 32 universities around the world – a record number of participants in this prestigious event. The universities and colleges that participated this year, along with their standings, include Universita degli Studi di Rome (1st); University of Calgary (3rd), financial engineering programs from NYU (10th), Carnegie Mellon (11th), UC Berkeley (12th), Columbia (13th), Notre Dame (14th), Princeton (15th), Boston University (43rd), and undergraduate teams from MIT (10th), Dartmouth (21st), and Duke (31st), among others. “We are so proud of our students, their outstanding hard work and winning performance in this rigorous competition,” said Dan Stefanica, director of the Master of Financial Engineering Program. “This year was a record-breaking one with the Baruch MFE team’s overall score establishing a new all-time record, previously held by MIT since 2011, and the largest difference between first place and second place ever recorded in 13 years.” According to Stefanica the students were three of the six events: commodities trading, credit risk, safety and trading. The team also placed second in equity valuation and third in algo trading. “This results fits into the consistently stellar performance of Baruch MFE teams over the years: 4th in 2014, 3rd in 2013, 1st and 4th in 2012, 3rd in 2011,” said Stefanica. The Baruch team received preparation assistance from professors Jarrod Pickers and Richard Holowczak, with help from dedicated alumni who participated in the competition in prior years, including Eugene Krel (RICT ’09 and coach of the teams through 2014), Juan Pablo Alonso (RICT ’14), Yke Lu (RICT 2011 and 2012), and Zhechao Zhou (RICT ’12).

CUNY’s Graduate School of Public Health has embarked on an innovative research collaboration with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation that aims to scientifically establish the health benefits of living in a community with a high-quality neighborhood park. Under a $3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute announced March 17, the CUNY and city research team will spend five years tracking the use of local parks by 2,000 residents in 40 neighborhoods and exploring the extent to which it correlates with their physical and mental health. The project grew out of the city’s Community Parks Initiative, a major capital investment in smaller neighborhood parks in underserved neighborhoods launched by Mayor Bill de Blasio in 2014. The $28 million program is changing the face of public recreation in the city’s most densely populated low-income communities, redesigning and renovating approximately 65 parks that haven’t had significant improvements in decades, bringing quickly accomplished, high-impact targeted improvements to more than 80 such parks and creating new recreational and fitness programs for local residents. The CUNY research collaboration with the city — called the Physical Activity and Redesigned Community Spaces (PARCS) study — aims to measure the impact of public investment in parks in urban neighborhoods. The study is unprecedented in scale and could have far-reaching implications for urban planners across the country and globally, says Terry Huang, the CUNY professor of community health who is leading the research project. Ayman HI-Mohandes, dean of the CUNY School of Public Health, said the PARCS study “exemplifies the importance of collaborations between the CUNY School of Public Health and various city agencies. By studying the impact that renovated parks can have on the health of people in urban communities, we’re advancing knowledge that can inform public policy — not only in New York City but in cities around the world that look to us for leadership in strategies for reducing urban health disparities.”
From 1936 to 1939, Brooklyn College students were among the most active in the United States in supporting the democratically elected, leftist government of Spain’s Second Republic in its vain struggle against the Nazi-backed forces of General Francisco Franco. About 20 per cent joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, 2,800 American volunteers who went into combat against Franco. Marking the 80th anniversary of the war’s start, assistant professor of contemporary Spanish literature Alejandro Alonso curates an exhibit on that turbulent anti-fascist activity, “Brooklyn at War.” Student Sally Stone-Mguni helped with research and design. The exhibit examines campus politics, debates and confrontations — such as when students called, above, to cheer on Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party USA — as well as the activities of Spanish exiles on campus. The exhibit opened at the college library on April 14, the birthday of the doomed Second Republic, it runs through July 29. It features photographs, pamphlets, students’ correspondence and student newspapers and magazines. “Brooklyn College had the country’s largest chapter of the American Student Union,” the leftist, anti-military national college student organization of the 1930s, Alonso says. “The leftist movement was also strong among the faculty. It was a time of passion and commitment.”

New MFA programs in Media Scoring and Sonic Arts will begin at Brooklyn College in the fall. The new programs are a partnership between the Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College and the Barry R. Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. “The path to music education in the U.S. has primarily been through the lens of classical music,” said Doug Geers, about the sonic arts program. Geers is an associate professor at the Conservatory of Music and the director of the Center for Computer Music. “Although this is valuable, there are fantastically talented people who don’t have that background but are adept with using new technologies to create. They have something to say, they have musical ideas, and the Sonic Arts program gives them a route into the profession.” Most of the Media Scoring courses will be at the Feinstein campus at Steinhardt Studios in the Brooklyn Navy Yard — the only public film school located on a working studio lot — and will offer advanced instruction and technical experience in the composition and production of music for media, including cinema, television, video games, animation and other commercial applications. The program is designed to attract individuals from a wide range of disciplines and varying professional experiences, as well as trained musicians. Its students will explore individualized paths through the curriculum to serve their specific artistic and professional goals. Geers said a sonic arts degree will provide a route for nontraditional students to get an MFA in music and that both programs will offer film and music students great opportunities to collaborate on projects like the “capturate” project, which enables student composers to score movies made by students of the Feinstein cinema program. Graduates of the new master’s programs can go on to a variety of careers, including composing and arranging for television, video games and multimedia, as well as sound editing and music production.

Ted A. Henken, a Baruch College professor and former president of the Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy (ASCE), accompanied President Barack Obama on his historic trip to Cuba in March. A leading expert on Cuba and its emerging economy, Henken participated in a planning session at the White House and was then invited to attend several events during the trip, including Obama’s “meet-up” with island entrepreneurs and a baseball game between the Tampa Bay Rays and the Cuban national team. Henken blogged from Cuba for the Huffington Post. “As an American,” he wrote, “I’ve been proud to witness the process of mutual engagement between our nation and Cuba that began on December 17, 2014, when Obama announced he would be the first U.S. president to visit the island in more than 88 years. The trip, Henken said, began “a new, high-stakes and potentially revolutionary phase of American policy” that explicitly rejects the goal of regime change in favor of encouraging co-operation toward a more progressive and modern Cuban economy and society. “Still, as a student of Cuban history, U.S.-Cuban relations and contemporary Cuban society,” Henken said, “I know that the answer to Cuba’s many complex internal problems won’t come from the White House. [It] must come from within the Cuban nation and through a robust, broadly inclusive, and respectful dialogue among Cubans themselves.”

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Awards | Momentum | Winners

The powerful combination of quality academics, remarkable 24 modern campuses in the five boroughs of New York — the one CUNY a singular value in higher education today.

Faculty | Distinction

CUNY faculty members have won a host of nationally prestigious honors and grants this spring.

Andrew Carnegie Fellowships

Deborah Balk, a professor at Baruch College and Associate Director of the CUNY Institute for Demographic Research, was awarded a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, for her research on climate-related vulnerability in the 21st century and the roles of urbanization and migration. Thomas Weis, a professor of political science at the Graduate Center, was awarded a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship for his research on the concept of a world without the United Nations, focusing on how the UN can be more effective. Each will receive up to $200,000 in funding for their projects, which are anticipated to result in publication of a book or major study.

Fullbright Grants

Those winning federal Fulbright grants, which support research and teaching abroad, are: Teresa J. Bandosz, a City College-chemistry professor, won a Fullbright Senior Scholar Award for research at the University of Malaga in Spain that could help alleviate global warming and solve energy problems. Marco Castaldi, a professor at City College’s Grove School of Engineering, won a Fulbright Global Award for research in France and Italy over the next three years into transforming waste materials into energy and chemicals. Alok (A) Ghosh, a Baruch professor of accounting who has written about capital markets and corporate finance, earned a Fulbright Distinguished Chair Award for research and lectures in Finland and other European countries. Donna Gittler, a Baruch professor of law who explores the intersection of technology and ethics, received a Fulbright Distinguished Lecturing Award for travel and lectures in the Philippines. Yoel Rodríguez, an associate professor of physical sciences, will conduct research into treating cardiovascular and heart disease at the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology in the Slovak Republic. Victoria Sanford, chair of Lehman College’s anthropology department, won her third Fulbright. She will spend the next two summers in Colombia developing a curriculum on transitional justice at the Universidad Libre in Bogotá.

CUNY wins an array of awards in 2016.

Continued from page 1

engineering, the five-year total stands at 11.

Chancellor James R. Milliken said: “The continuing success that students and alumni of The City University of New York have in winning a variety of prestigious awards speaks to their curiosity, insight and intelligence, as well as to the preparation they received at CUNY. CUNY prides itself on its remarkable students and the formidable faculty members who inspire them.”

CUNY’s quality was recognized by Forbes magazine’s The Smarter College Guide, for 2016. The guide ranked four CUNY colleges in the top 25 best values – more than any other public university system in the nation.

The top CUNY schools are Baruch College, which ranks 14th nationally, followed closely by Brooklyn and Hunter Colleges, ranked 17th and 18th respectively and Queens College, which is ranked 21st. Forbes’ best value ranking lists 100 schools nationwide and The College of Staten Island and John Jay College of Criminal Justice make the top 25 rankings.

CUNY’s new award winners span the disciplines – and the world. Hasin Ishraque (Baruch ’16) won a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship to study Bangla (Bengali) for a year in Kolkata, India. Linda Mathew (Queens B.A. ’14, M.A. ’16) has a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Thailand to use her new TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) degree. Jamel Love (John Jay College of Criminal Justice ’15) won a Social Sciences Research Fellowship in 2013 to study the intersection of race, crime and ethnicity in New York City.

©CUNY.edu/nehawardees.
Brian Davis and Elaine into how the Japanese LGBT discrimination, while she xuella incorporates ethnic music education system. nce Foundation Graduate lot of ground in many fields. Andrea De Renzis studies four-year-old squirrel-like ‘mimes’ closest relatives. Aycock-Rizzo (City College 3rd Science Research Center, qualities in the interaction of visible light with individual atoms. Joining them this fall is Amanda Mancini (Hunter College ’16), who studies the genetics and behavior of Madagascar’s endangered black and white ruffed lemur. Stephen Brazen (Hunter College ’16) will use his NSF award to explore the impact of stress on learning, most likely at New York University. Several Ph.D. programs accepted Antonios (Andoni) Moudrakoutas (Macaulay Honors College at City College ’16), who is interested in spinal cord stimulation to treat illness. And Angelina Volkova (Kingsborough Community College ’13, Hunter College ’16) joins New York University’s bioinformatics Ph.D. program to catalog microorganisms that can biodegrade plastics. Several alumni are NSF winners who are in Ph.D. programs. Solomon Mensah (City College ’14), at Northeastern University, investigates the mechanical properties of biological cell coatings to better understand cardiovascular disease and cancer. Emilie Bouda (Hostos Community College ’13, Hunter College ’15), at SUNY Stony Brook Medical School’s pharmacology department, works on enzymes’ role in molecular bonding, which could lead to better drugs. Stephen K. Formel (Hunter College ’15), at Tulane University, studies the microbiome in a wetland grass, Spartina alterniflora, which is as important to us as gut bacteria are to humans. The Goldwater winners are all juniors: Paulina Librizzi (Macaulay Honors College at City College), who studies chemical engineering; Tamar Lichter (Queens College), researching areas of both pure and applied mathematics; and Elianna Schwab (Macaulay Honors College at City College), who pursues astrophysics. The Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society honored two top graduating students from each CUNY community college, recognizing achievements in academies, leadership and community service. Among them is Christina Wisring (Guttman Community College ’16) who will enroll at Hunter College to study elementary education. “I applied to Guttman because I was interested in the model of the new school,” she says. “I got a lot of support and I love it.”

In the subways. From community colleges to graduate programs, outstanding students and faculty are the stars of the University’s latest campaign underground, including two examples above. Academic quality, affordability, opportunity and diversity all wrapped into the excitement of New York City are key themes. For CUNY Rhodes Scholar Zuja Tauer, below, now enrolled in Harvard Medical School, it’s all about “CUNY’s very special mission in the context of American life,” and about leveraging “what makes CUNY special.”

C UNY STUDENTS are recognized annually with prestigious scholarships whose names — Fulbright, Marshall, National Science Foundation — many associate with students at the most elite universities. But one recent Macaulay at Brooklyn College graduate, Rhodes Scholarship winner and current Harvard Medical School student, wants CUNY students to know they “stand out” and shouldn’t hold back when it comes to applying for awards. Zuja Tauer’s own road to the Rhodes was tentative. A native of Pakistan who red with her family in 1998 and received religious asylum here, Tauer recalled she “never felt that I was eligible to apply for the Rhodes. That I had the right to apply for a scholarship like the Rhodes.” It took a page-long email from Corey Robin, her political science professor at Brooklyn College, where she was studying in the B.A.-M.D program, “to convince me that while it was a long shot I was someone who could apply and if I did it would change my life, which it did.”

A lifelong lesson emerged from that experience. “We should leverage rather than repudiate what makes CUNY special,” she told a gathering of University advisers recently. “I’ve really come to realize what a privileged experience it is to be a New Yorker and go to a university with the kind of student population we have, which makes me ordinarily sympathetic to issues of social justice and to the value of public institutions in American life.”

Her advice is threefold for those who cannot imagine themselves as applicants for top academic awards. One, recognize that CUNY is unique and that its specialness helps put its students at an advantage when competing for top honors. Two, know that every student has a story to tell and that learning how to recognize and relate that “narrative,” strengthens awards applications. And three, apply not once, but many times, it’s good practice.

“Being a public university in New York with a majority student population of students of color, gives CUNY a very, very special mission in the context of American life, something that most of the universities do not share,” Tauer said. “CUNY’s identity is intimately tied up with what makes CUNY students so special.”
Ahmed Reid of Bergen Community College has been appointed as one of only five members of the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent of the organization’s Human Rights Council, representing in his case Latin America and the Caribbean.

Peter Mertens and Ninoska Uribe of Hostos Community College have been awarded $290,000 from the U.S. Social Security Administration for a “Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program”; while Mertens received two grants from the NYS Education Department, $309,011 for the “Liberty Partnerships Program,” and $165,451 for the “Workforce Investment Act Program”; as well as $492,608 from the NYC Department of Corrections for the “Next Steps Project,” and $130,000 from the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation for the “Hostos Community Heroes Pilot Program.”

Ana Ventuneac and Jeffrey Parsons of Hunter College have won $700,716 in grant funding from PHS/National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Drug Abuse for “A Structured Intervention to Improve Substance Abuse Diagnosis & Treatment Practices in HIV Clinic Settings Senior”; and Parsons has been awarded two grants: $141,856 from the University of Minnesota/National Institutes of Health/NIDA for “A Technology-Delivered Peer-to-Peer Support Art Allowance Intervention for HIV+ Adults”; and $133,506 from Wayne State University/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism for “Comparing the Effectiveness of Two Alcohol-Adherence Interventions for HIV+ Youth.”

Michelle J. Anderson, dean of the CUNY School of Law, received City & State’s “Above & Beyond Award for Outstanding Women in Public Service” at the organization’s annual gala honoring the 25 most powerful women in New York that have demonstrated exemplary leadership in their field, combined with having made significant contributions to society.

Alexandra W. Logue of the Graduate Center has received a $350,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation for “A Project for Relevant and Improved Mathematics Education,” with co-investigator Mari Watanebe-Rose. The goal is to implement clear, efficient, aligned, successful, evidence-based quantitative pathways for students at Borough of Manhattan, Hostos and Guttman Community Colleges that will be used as models for other CUNY and non-CUNY colleges.

Emily Greble, deputy chair of City College’s history department, has been awarded a 2015-2016 Fulbright Scholar Award to research and write a book about Muslims in post-Ottoman Europe. She is spending the spring of 2016 in Serbia working on Muslims in the Edges of Europe: the Making of a ‘European’ Islam in the Balkans, 1788-1946, a book analyzing Muslim life, politics, law, and culture in the post-Ottoman Balkans.

Continued from page 5

Many challenging decisions lie ahead, but we have been gratified by the outsourcing of support for CUNY from so many New Yorkers who recognize its critical contributions to the state’s future,” Chancellor Milliken said.

Speaking on the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations, the Chancellor said CUNY officials were “encouraged” by state budget director Robert Mujica’s comment that the state would “address the funding issue once the contracts are settled.” The governor’s initial executive budget, and the separate Assembly and State Senate budgets, had included $240 million to help settle the contracts with retroactive raises. That funding was not included in the enacted budget. The University labor contracts with the Professional Staff Congress and District Council 37 expired more than six years ago.

“We’re in mediation with the PSC but we’re also bargaining outside of mediation,” the chancellor said at the April 4 meeting of the Board of Trustees Committee on Fiscal Affairs. “I believe it’s in our interests to reach an agreement as soon as we can, and then revisit this issue with the [state] administration and the Legislature.” Tuition will remain at current levels for 2016, as there was no agreement in Albany on extending the predictable tuition policy, which permitted modest, predictable tuition increases during the past six years, or on state funding in lieu of tuition. CUNY and SUNY had requested authority for tuition increases of up to $300 a year for another five years.

The loss of revenue, and the University’s modestly increased state funding, will have an impact, said Chancellor Milliken and Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance Matthew Sapienza.

“While some additional operating funding was provided for specific programs,” the Chancellor said, “the loss of tuition revenue or its equivalent will impact CUNY’s ability to make needed investments in its faculty and staff at a time of record enrollment and increasing graduation rates.”

Sapienza told the Fiscal Affairs committee that the $21.3 million increase in state funding for the senior colleges includes $16.6 million for fringe benefits, “about $12 million short” of the $29 million CUNY requested. He said the University will have a $27 million total shortfall in its mandatory-needs budget that will result in “cuts at the senior colleges and at the Central Office.”

“We have communicated to our campuses and to our college presidents that they should expect an additional round of budget reductions for next year,” Sapienza said.

He pointed out that the maintenance of effort legislation, requiring the state to cover increases in public university operational costs, expires as of July 1, 2016, “so that protection is not in there.”

The community colleges fared well in the new state budget. Base aid was increased by $100 per student, generating $8.3 million in new state aid. “When you couple that with the enrollment increases that the governor’s executive budget recognized back in January, the community colleges will have $17.6 million in increased state aid,” Sapienza told the committee. He noted that New York City’s budget already provides an increase of $32 million for the community colleges, most of it for expansion of the ASAP program. “The community colleges are in a much more stable budget situation than our senior colleges,” he said.

The budget agreement also increased the University’s capital budget allocation by $296.6 million to $2.5 billion, with the largest chunk of state funding, $143 million, slated for critical maintenance projects. It includes $61.6 million for critical maintenance at the University’s modestly increased state funding, will have an impact, said

For FY2017, funding for the University totals nearly $3.32 billion, including close to $1.3 billion in state aid, $834 million in city support and $81.47 billion in tuition and other revenue.
**INTERVIEW**

When I was interviewing models for my study I found they did a lot of work that was unpaid and aimed at creating a specific kind of salable, marketable look that didn’t necessarily guarantee that they would get work and be paid for work that they were doing. Glamour labor entails working on the body to make it fit with the fashionable ideal, which is constantly changing. It also involves the work to be in the know about trends, following fashion, shopping to style an appropriate look. And it entails the work involved with seeing like one is on the fashion scene. Going to parties is a big part of modeling work.

You also use the term that this is the “age of the blink.” How does that factor into keeping up with trends? I looked at modeling from its origins in the 1800s until the current digital age, which I have termed the age of the blink. I found an interesting shift in the intensity of glamour laboring in modeling after the 1990s and the onset of the Internet and the social media age. A 1990s fashion model might have been asked to, once in a while, go out on a well-planned date with a serviceman asked to, once in a while, go out on a well-planned date with a serviceman to the fact that this was going to happen and the whole thing was scripted. Nowadays, models are asked to cultivate their image in social media and places like Instagram where large advertising campaigns or beauty companies are looking for models who have already established a level of popularity before they even hire them. So that brings up the level of glamour labor in which the models are producing their online image. They’re promoting their popularity even before they can get a paid job.

What’s the relationship between fashion and beauty? Beauty and fashion are separating on some levels more and more so that we have the idealized image of the fashion model, which is tall, lean, often white, fashionably dressed, but not necessarily beautiful but definitely edgy. And then we have the idea of beauty, which is more like Kim Kardashian as an example of somebody who is considered beautiful in this day and age. She’s voluptuous. She has exotic features. She’s very carefully turned out and groomed and presented as a sexually beautiful woman. So in the age of the blink when fashion models have been engaging more intensely in glamour labor, what’s been happening is that the idea of being fashionable, the idea that one should labor to be glamorous is being made attractive as a job description, first by fashion models and now this mantle has been picked up by the likes of celebrities like Kim Kardashian or Beyoncé to some extent, or actors like Selena Gomez. Beautiful women are out there on social media and they’re working hard to build their Instagram followers, their Twitter followers, their notoriety and their reputation.

You mentioned Kim Kardashian and the idealized image of the fashion model. There seems to be a disconnection between who becomes a fashion model and who becomes a sex symbol. Why is that? If we go back to the origins of fashion modeling, it became a job around the same time that the ideal fashionable image was a slender one. Think of the 1920s flapper: no breasts, no hips, very straight. So in that moment the public’s image of the fashionable woman was linked with the tall, slender body. There was an image of beauty at that time, Theda Bara, the silent film star with a very curvy body. It was considered attractive but that image was associated more closely with lower class. So once that link between the voluptuousness and curviness and cheap, low-class imagery was made, then in order to appear fashionable one had to divest oneself of that sexuality, of that curviness. Fast forward to the internet age where everything needs to be so extremely presented that it can be read as fashionable in a blink — the very tall, very lean, and androgynous. Kim Kardashian and her body type has become so well known through less fashionable channels — like reality television. She’s been able to parlay this body type into being fashionable. There’s an interesting thing going on now with media where we used to have Vogue and W magazines that dictated what was fashionable. Now there’s a lot of breaking down of those types of rigidities into a more fluid sense of what a fashionable body is. I would argue based on what I found in my study that there’s an opening up now of what’s considered fashionable to encompass different body types.

We’re not seeing diversity on the runways. For the most part it’s white women of a specific height and weight and look. Why is that? It seems that fashion is moving in a direction where it will become even more all encompassing, which is good and bad. It’s good in that it opens up imagery for all types; people of color, women with curves, transgender, people who are disabled. There is a fashion model who has one leg and she wears lots of different prosthetics, which are very beautiful. They’re pushing the envelope in ways that are politically wonderful. But we also have to keep in mind that this is a business. Fashion is probably opening up because it needs more customers. It needs to expand. And now more people can feel the pressure to be fashionable. The more people who think, “Oh, I can be in fashion,” the more the markets will grow.

This Q & A is excerpted from a CUNY Book Beat podcast. To listen to entire Wissinger interview, go to www.cuny.edu/bookbeat.

**BOOKTALK**

**NEWTITLES / CUNYAUTHORS**

**Precision, Pomp And The Marching Band**

Joel Allen, a Queensborough Community College art and design profes-
sor, spent five years traveling the country photographing African-American marching bands. What he saw was “a precision art form” in public spectacle and a culture that “breathes the soul and spirit of Africa within the modern world.” The result is the simply titled Marching Bands.

**The Math Myth**

In his latest book, The Math Myth and Other Education Myths, Andrew Hacker, professor of political science and mathematics at Queens College, argues that mandat-
ed mathematics courses that students are required to pass are the principal academic reason for the high dropout rate in American high schools and colleges. Hacker demonstrates how the requirement filters out talented liberal arts students, and that math in the workplace bears little relationship to math in the classroom.

**Immigration and Integration**

Strangers No More: The Social, Political, and Economic Challenges of Integration delves into the issues of importance for Western societies, where immigrants and their children form ever-larger shares of the population. Richard Alba of the CUNY Graduate Center and Nancy Foner at Hunter College, both Distinguished Professors of Sociology, analyze why immigrant religion is a more significant divide in Western Europe than in the U.S., where race is a more severe obstacle.

**Shopping Malls and Freedom of Speech**

Public Spaces, Marketplaces, and the Constitution: Shopping Malls and the First Amendment, Anthony J. Maniscalco, director of the Edward T. Regowski Internship Program in Government at CUNY, traces the history of how the courts have balanced property rights of shopping mall owners with the First Amendment rights of patrons. The book looks at how public spaces might re-emphasize public debate and discussion in shopping malls and places of commerce.

**Deciding the Future of Education**

In Change We Must: Deciding the Future of Higher Education, educators offer ways to change American education. Collectively edited by Matthew Goldrick, former Chancellor of CUNY, and George Olte, University director of Academic Technology, these essays provide solutions to the challenges in education. As the editors say of their fellow contributors, “Their solutions mean changing hearts and minds as well as budget processes and governance, managing change and technology as well as teaching and learning.”
Milestones for Fellowship Publication

By Barbara Fischkin

Since 1998, the University’s Faculty Fellowship Publication Program has strived to retain and promote junior faculty and to encourage their diversity. The program, known as FFPF, mentors these faculty members as they teach, write, publish and seek tenure and promotion. This year, due to accelerated outreach efforts, the program also celebrated three milestones:

• A record number of sixty-three fellows
• A record number of applicants
• And, for the first time, fellows representing all CUNY senior and community college.

The program, which convenes each spring semester, also has a new Academic Director, Shelly Eversley, an accomplished author and an associate professor of English at Baruch. FFPF is sponsored by the Office of Recruitment and Diversity, with proposals reviewed by the University Advisory Council on Diversity.

In March Eversley ran a unique Publishers Roundtable for the fellows, which included editors of university presses. Ken Wissoker, the editorial director of the Duke University Press, delivered a keynote speech on how to selecting and attracting publishers. Regarding increased participation in the FFPF program, Eversley says, “We wrote to provosts and deans on more than one occasion. Also, we worked on continuing the community post-fellowship—this not only enables past fellows to keep in touch, but it inspires them to spread the word about the program to their colleagues who are eligible.”

Eversley adds, that “a diverse faculty is more than a question of quotas, but it is absolutely crucial to what public education means, what CUNY was founded for.”

Included among this year’s mentors are professors whose areas of research include Immigration Studies, Muslim-American life, Queer Studies and Sociology. There are also working groups in literature, history, and creative writing. As for the fellows, Eversley says it is important for them to meet those from other campuses whose research is similar or connects. “We have fellows working on questions of English language learning at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Queens College and Lehman... the fellows are meeting colleagues beyond their own campuses and establishing new professional relationships.” She added this is especially important for those who might be the only ones in their department doing their particular research.

Eversley teaches feminist and black studies. She is the founder of the peer-reviewed http://equalityarchive.com, a source for the history of American sex and gender equality which includes archival entries written by more than 25 feminists who are professors, artists and authors. Eversley also has been a co-director of the program, served as a mentor for four years and will continue in that role as well. Her works include the book, The Red “Negro”: The Question of Authenticity in Twentieth Century African American Literature (Routledge). Forthcoming is a book she has edited on 1960s African American literature and culture in transition. She is also writing a book entitled The Practice of Blackness, or Integration’s Discontents.

Eversley says that FPPF “demystifies,” the challenges junior faculty face. This, she adds, is why the Publishers Roundtable also included university-wide...
A FRO-LATIN Jazz composer and band-leader Arturo O’Farrill, a professor at the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music won another Grammy at the 58th annual awards ceremony. The award was in the Best Instrumental Composition category for his Afro Latin Jazz Suite, a track on his 2015 album Cuba: The Conversation Continues. He previously won in Best Latin Jazz in 2008 at the 51st annual awards.

LaGuardia English professor emerita Nora Eisenberg, was the longtime academic director of the program. And in mid-April the University sponsored a celebration of both the current fellows and work published by FFPP alums.