

CUNY Matters

SUMMER 2017

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The experiment is to be tried... 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 successfully controlled by the popular will, not by the privileged few, but by the privileged many."

— Horace Webster
Founding Principal, The Free Academy

GRANTS & HONORS



Recognizing Faculty Achievement



Mogulescu



Spokony



Ahmed



Knikou



Spear



Rauco



August



Kennedy



Steinberg

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 been awarded a four-year grant totaling nearly \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Labor for CUNY TechWorks, a partnership with Borough of Manhattan, Kingsborough and Queensborough Community Colleges to strengthen career-focused associate degree programs in software application development, web development, and IT systems administration. The program will serve 1,225 students over the grant period. **Valerie Westphal** headed the proposal effort, while **Nikki Evans** created the concept and wrote the winning application with **Micah Gertzog**.

David Kennedy of John Jay College has been awarded two grants: \$1,607,270 from the U.S. Department of Justice – Office on Violence Against Women, for "The National Network for Safe Communities: An Approach to Reducing Serious Domestic Violence"; and \$121,586 from the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County, for "Reducing Serious Violence in South Bend, Indiana." The National Institutes of Health has awarded a \$623,476 grant to **Mark Steinberg** of City College for

At the Graduate Center's ASRC

Science Connected

WHEN KEVIN GARDNER ARRIVED at CUNY in 2014 to create one of the scientific initiatives at the University's new Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), he found a gleaming \$350 million building with exhilarating potential and at that time, little else.

A decade in the planning, the ASRC was conceived as a game-changer for science at CUNY — an interdisciplinary and highly collaborative academic research center of great ambition for a public university. As the building edged toward its long-anticipated opening, attention turned to constructing a team of world-class scientists and researchers — and connecting it to the rest of the University.

"I walked onto this floor with four people I brought with me and there was almost nothing here but the walls," recalled Gardner, a top biochemistry researcher who was recruited from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center as the founding director of the ASRC's Structural Biology Initiative. "We had power and heat and we had a bunch of instrumentation. We've gone from that to 25 people on this floor and dozens more on the four other floors. And people from every CUNY campus coming here to collaborate and use our core facilities."

Two and a half years after its doors opened, the ASRC is hitting its stride. The center is not only a leader in innovative scientific

Please Turn to Page 6

INSIDE

PAGE 2 New tech platform will aid faculty in designing courses and expanding access



PAGE 3 The University's students and alumni score big in the 2017 awards season



PAGE 10 WorkWell NYC: a number of preventative, educational and other health-related programs



Continued on page 4 ➤



Online Learning Jumps Ahead

New Tech Platform Will Aid Faculty in Designing Courses and Expanding Access, Boosting Opportunities

THE CITY UNIVERSITY of New York is moving swiftly on a core element of Chancellor Milliken's Strategic Framework – increasing educational access by sharply expanding the opportunities for students to take high-quality, online courses, certificate and degree programs. The University has issued a request for proposals (RFP) to build the technology platform, which will guide CUNY faculty as they design and implement an expansive array of new courses and programs.

The system will ensure that there are uniform standards, and use of the most effective online teaching models and the best platform for making prospective students aware of CUNY's capabilities and offerings. Faculty will receive consistent instruction in precisely how to adapt courses for the best online experience.

The online learning initiative will open the door to far more students and give existing students new opportunities for satisfying some of their degree requirements.

"Expanding our presence online will help us address the critical goals of improving access and completion," Chancellor James B. Milliken says. "One of the great

opportunities we have in making CUNY a more powerful 21st-century University is to build on our record of using the best 21st-century tools to increase our effectiveness and our reach."

The Strategic Framework is the new vision of how CUNY can reach a higher level of success by expanding access, supporting more students as they work toward their degrees and giving students more experience to help them get started on the most promising career opportunities. Online learning is a key means of achieving those objectives.

The RFP grew out of a task force of college presidents and other University leaders that the Chancellor appointed last year to discuss the status, present and future, of online education at CUNY. Chaired by Ann Kirschner, a former Special Adviser to the Chancellor, Strategic Partnerships, and now a professor at the Graduate Center, and John Jay College President Jeremy Travis, the task force found that the University "currently lacks an integrated approach to offering online programs and needs to expand ... [its] overall offerings to meet student needs and to remain competitive with other large university systems."

Chancellor Milliken sees this as an opportunity "to think deeply about the role of online education at CUNY, use it to promote best pedagogical practices, raise CUNY's profile, and develop a united approach to vetting, supporting, and branding online programs," the task force report says. "The group saw this as a unique opportunity to plan for future needs, when online and face-to-face instruction will merge into numerous hybrid opportunities for our students."

At the group's first meeting, the Chancellor noted the strong alignment between the CUNY mission and the power of online education "to enhance access for those who otherwise could not get an education; to increase academic momentum and progress to degree for students already enrolled; to encourage our faculty to engage in the most effective pedagogy; to facilitate cross-pollination across our campuses; to grow enrollment in a time of revenue shortages; to build platforms that will expand our reach beyond the city boundaries to the rest of the world."

The task force recommended a shared-services approach that allows cross-campus collaboration, a common platform and agreed-to standards for instructional quality and branding. There will be central support for the program rather than central control.

The task force stressed the importance of a strong and specific branding identity and unified instructional quality standards for CUNY Online. "We believe this approach will leverage current strengths and will allow CUNY to leapfrog to a leadership position in online education," it stated.

The panel also considered requirements for success, not the least of which are "incentives for faculty," including "considerations for workload and compensation." It also said processes "must be easy for faculty and students," along with "adequate

instructional and technical support including advising and orientation for students as well as faculty development, and ease of registration and credit transfer."

It laid out these core principles:

- Developing a coordinated approach that maximizes CUNY and campus branding to build enrollment and enhance student access while cultivating common policies and practice for branding, recruitment, technology use, IP policies, and quality assurance.

- Focusing coordination strategically, on programs rather than courses, which would "bubble up" from the campuses and follow established review processes. Those reviews should be sensitive to the goals of growing online programs, including review for market viability, fiscal viability and differentiation.

- Having CUNY's Office of Academic Affairs take an active leadership role in cultivating new online programs, communicating priorities (especially those that promise growth in access and student success), looking for synergistic inter-campus opportunities and overseeing quality control.

- Engaging colleges that already are at an advanced stage of online readiness to prototype branding and marketing strategy.

- Promulgating practices and models that encourage collaboration among campuses.

- Creating an in-house CUNY Online Accelerator to build capacity for program development.

- Easing the path of students and faculty to use a global search to make it easy to find online courses; use a common "learning management system" (which is what the RFP is about); simplify e-permit and registration; provide technical/help-desk support; and negotiate effective workload, internet protocol and faculty incentive models for online course/program creation.

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2017 – Another Big Year for CUNY Scholars

12 NSF Graduate Fellowships, 14 Fulbright Fellows, Goldwater, Truman, Marshall Scholarships — Plus, a Student Academy Award

IN A STRONG TRIBUTE to the quality of CUNY's students and the inspiration they receive here, the University's students and alumni scored big in the 2017 awards season. They landed 12 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships and 14 Fulbright Fellowships, along with other nationally competitive awards including Goldwater, Truman and Marshall scholarships. On top of that a CUNY scholar took home a student Academy Award.

The highly competitive Jonas E. Salk Scholarships – named for the famous City College graduate who developed a polio vaccine – were also awarded this spring to eight promising scholars headed for medical school or scientific doctoral programs.

Chancellor James B. Milliken said: "These achievements reflect the exceptional talent of CUNY's students and the quality of the instruction they receive at our campuses in the sciences. Our students enjoy the benefit of studying with outstanding faculty members, who both motivate them and open the door to careers at the top of their fields. They all contribute to making New York City a global leader in higher education and the world of ideas."

Tao Hong, a Queensborough Community College student, won both a Barry Goldwater Scholarship and one of CUNY's six Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships. He went through the CUNY Language Immersion Program at Queensborough to improve his English after emigrating from China. He awaits baccalaureate admission decisions and plans to pursue a doctorate in materials science. The Goldwater supports undergraduate study for students heading toward Ph.D.s in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering. The Cooke supports community college graduates who go on to top colleges and universities for their bachelor's degrees.

Claire Lynch, a Macaulay Honors College student at City College, won a Harry S. Truman Scholarship. She is a political science and Jewish Studies major who has interned with U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer in Washington and tutored candidates for citizenship tests as a board member of the New York State Public Interest Research Group. The Truman offers up to \$30,000 for graduate study leading to a career in public service.

"These achievements reflect the exceptional talent of CUNY's students and the quality of the instruction they receive at our campuses in the sciences. Our students enjoy the benefit of studying with outstanding faculty members, who both motivate them and open the door to careers at the top of their fields. They all contribute to making New York City a global leader in higher education and the world of ideas."

— Chancellor James B. Milliken

Islamic Law, focusing on ways to make the religion flexible enough to adapt to modern societies. She foresees earning a doctorate and teaching at a public university like CUNY.

Yvonne Ng, who received an MFA from City College last year, last fall won a silver medal in the 2016 Student Academy Awards competition for her short film, "Cloud Kumo." She is the fourth graduate of the program to win a Student Academy Award in 10 years. Her film, concerning a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb blast in 1945 and the survivor's granddaughter, is the first installment in a planned trilogy about nuclear power; the second will focus on the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster after the tsunami in Japan.

The winners of the National Science Foundation awards, which provide up to \$138,000 and are the most prestigious federal grants for doctoral study in the sciences, will be pursuing research into areas ranging from astrophysics and cell biology to organometallic chemistry.

First-year doctoral student **Julia Lee Arenson**, who earned her bachelor's at the University of Oregon in Eugene, says she applied to the CUNY Graduate Center to work with Christopher C. Gilbert, a Hunter College associate pro-

fessor who pursues primate evolution. "I'm interested in the evolution of a group of Old World monkeys in Africa called the guenons, which are pretty cute and are still evolving, still radiating" from where they originally arose about 11 million years ago, when they split from baboons, she says.

Bianca Brown, a 2015 graduate of York College, is at Brown University, researching how environmental changes affect the microbiome – loosely defined as microorganisms living in other organisms, like gut bacteria – in fruit flies, barnacles and rodents. "Study of the microbiome has exploded over the past 10 years," she says. "We know it plays a role in immunity and breaking down materials in our diet, but we don't know how the microbiome changes as the environment changes."

Joseph Derosa, a 2015 Macaulay Honors College at City College graduate, studies organometallic chemistry at The Scripps Research Institute. He uses metals like copper, nickel and palladium to catalyze reactions in organic molecules; this can form bonds and materials that would not exist in nature. The research could help produce better pharmaceuticals.

Lashawn Peña, a 2015 Hunter College graduate, is now pursuing a Ph.D. in immunology at Stanford School of Medicine. His work builds on research showing that some cancer cells can be reprogrammed into immune cells, and he intends to learn about the mechanism that allows this to happen.

Among the Fulbright winners, **Michael Clark**, a CUNY B.A./Hunter College graduate in 2016 and Native American from California, will research the impact of Uganda's harsh anti-homosexuality laws on refugees now in Kenya. Last year, he used a federal Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and a grant from the nonprofit Fund for Education Abroad for similar research into refugees from Congo who had fled to Uganda to escape similar persecution. "I seek to immerse myself in the refugee communities to better understand the role that sexual orientation and gender identity have on forced migration, and what the implications are for the public health of Kenya," he says.

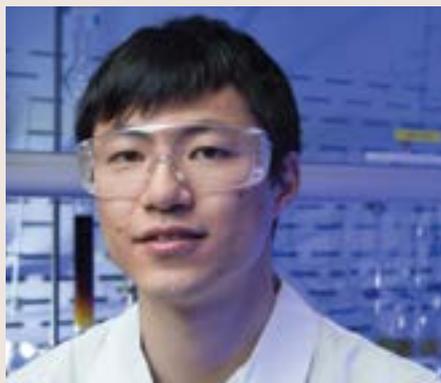
Kristina Sarkissyan, who will be graduating this year from Baruch College, has a Fulbright-sponsored Mexico Binational Internship, which will place her with a Mexican business or nonprofit to expand her knowledge of business-oriented Spanish. Born in Kazakhstan, she also speaks Armenian and Russian. She majored in international business and foresees a career in international trade. Before heading to Mexico, she will intern with Time Inc. this summer in consumer marketing. She is considering either studying for an MBA or attending law school after her Fulbright.

Alexandra Whittacker, a 2017 graduate of Macaulay Honors College at City College, has a Fulbright grant to research Fortunata Obrapalska (1909-2004), who is known as the "first lady of Polish photography" for her experimental work.

Highly selective NYC Urban Fellowships were awarded to four students graduating from CUNY colleges this year: **Giselle Cordero**, Queens College; **Thomas Hutton**, Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College; **Jibreel Jalloh**, Baruch College; and **Matthew LoCastro**, Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College. The fellowships, which are open to applicants from across the country, place participants in city agencies for nine months for policy-focused work, and provide each with a \$30,000 stipend.

Eight CUNY students and graduates garnered the University's 2017 Jonas E. Salk Scholarships, which include \$8,000 to help defray costs of medical and biomedical graduate studies.

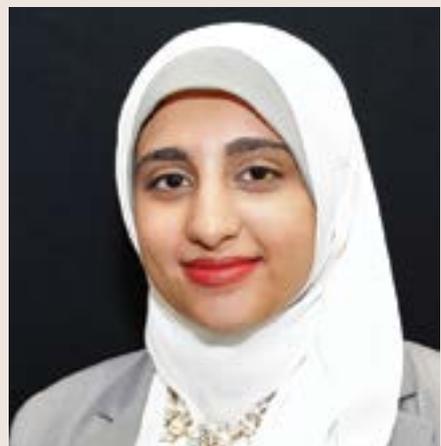
The Salk scholarships, named for the City College alumnus who developed the polio vaccine, went to **Ma Su Su Aung**, Macaulay Honors College at Baruch College '16, who will study at Creighton University School of Medicine; **Violeta Contreras Ramirez**, City College B.S.-M.S. '15, University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine; **Marisol Cortés**, City College '07, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; **Keegan R. Fernandes**, College of Staten Island B.A.-B.S. '15, M.S. '16, M.S. '17, Campbell University-Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine; **Anika Nabila**, Macaulay Honors College at City College '17, Weill Cornell Graduate School of Medical Sciences; **Olayinka Oladipupo**, York College '16, SUNY Upstate Medical University; **Christopher Reid**, City College '17, Harvard Medical School; and **Larisa Shagabayeva**, Hunter College '16, Harvard Medical School.



Tao Hong
Queensborough Community College '17
Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships



Claire Lynch, *Macaulay Honors College at City College '18*, Harry S. Truman Scholarship



Faiza Masood, *Hunter College '17*
Marshall Scholarship



Continued from page 1

“Research Support for Biomedical Careers at City College of New York.” The National Science Foundation has extended \$230,926 in grant support to **Rebecca Spokony** of Baruch College for a project entitled “RUI: Genetic Architecture of Juvenile Hormone Sensitivity.”

Robert Freedland of the College of Staten Island has received \$120,000 in grant funding from the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities for “Improvement of Pre-Post Doctoral Education.”

Joseph Sciorra, director of academic and cultural programs and editor of Italian American Review at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College, has been elected and inducted as a Fellow of the American Folklore Society for his numerous contributions to scholarship pertaining to expressive culture, urban life, ethnic and Italian American cultures. The AFS Fellows is an honorary body of folklorists who have made outstanding contributions to the field. Dr. Sciorra’s recent publication, *Built with Faith: Italian American Imagination and Catholic Material Culture in New York City*, is required reading at many graduate academic programs.



Pamela Brown of New York City College of Technology has been awarded a \$400,000 grant from the NYS Education Department for the “College Science and Technology Entry Program.” **Anne Campos** of Lehman College has received two grants: \$225,000 from the NYS Education Department for “Adult Literacy Education”; and \$109,480 from the NYC Department of Education for “Literacy School Leaders and Teachers.” Corning Inc. has awarded \$149,972 in grant support to **Robert Alfano**, Distinguished Professor of Science and Engineering at City College, for a project entitled “Optical Information Storage in Chromium Doped Ionic Crystal.”



Robert E. Paaswell, Distinguished Professor in City College’s Grove School of Engineering, was named as one of eight experts to pick a winning design for a new Port Authority Bus Terminal as part of an international panel of jurors renowned for their expertise in transportation operations, urban planning, architecture and construction management. A civil engineer, Paaswell is one of the nation’s foremost authorities on transportation operations, management and planning. He is Director Emeritus of the CCNY-based University Transportation Research Center and also formerly served as Interim President of CCNY.

Zaghloul Ahmed and **Maria Knikou** of the College of Staten Island have been awarded a \$337,218 grant from the NYS Department of Health for a project concerning the “Effects of Spinal Cord Stimulation,” while Ahmed has won a \$183,100 award from the National Institutes of Health for “Spinal Sciatic Direct Current Stimulation Normalizes Muscle Tone in Spinal Cord Injured Animals

Continued on next page ►



LaGuardia Community College’s

Program for Deaf Adults recently celebrated the first deaf students to earn their high school equivalency diplomas through a pilot of an alternative program that better accommodates deaf and hard-of-hearing learners. The program, the National External Diploma Program, was recently approved by the New York State Board of Regents as an alternative pathway to a high school equivalency diploma. This is the first-ever implementation of NEDP through the use of American Sign Language (ASL), which is the preferred language for many deaf and hard-of-hearing persons, and the

first time it has been used at a CUNY college. “Once again, our Program for Deaf Adults is pioneering pathways to help narrow education and earnings gaps between deaf and hard-of-hearing persons as compared with their hearing counterparts,” said LaGuardia Community College President Gail O. Mellow. “These graduates are now ready to pursue their college degrees, so I hope that the next time I shake their hands will be when they earn their associate’s degrees from LaGuardia.” The graduating students are Channel Arthur and Pamela Manzueta, both of New York City. They both finished high school with Individualized Education Program (IEP) diplomas, which meant that to attend college or qualify for many jobs, they also needed to earn their high school equivalency diplomas. The pilot program at LaGuardia was provided tuition-free, through a grant from CUNY’s Workforce Development Initiative, with supplemental funding from LaGuardia’s Thomas Samuels Scholarship Fund.



CUNY at the Crossroads:

Diversity and Intersectionality in Action on March 31 was the University’s third biennial conference on faculty diversity and inclusion. The daylong conference, sponsored by the University’s Office of Recruitment and Diversity and held at the Graduate Center, dealt with almost every area of the subject, so crucial to the University. It also included speeches, breakout sessions – and differing opinions. At the conference there was much discussion of the “crossroads” at which CUNY finds itself. As the country’s largest urban public university, CUNY has an exceedingly diverse student body. Forty percent of its undergraduates were born in another country. But, as is often noted, these students are taught and supported by a faculty and staff that are far less diverse. The conference opened with the need to change

this, with the charge led by the University’s own leaders, including Trustee Fernando Ferrer, Chancellor James B. Milliken, Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Management Gloriana B. Waters and University Dean of Recruitment and Diversity Arlene Torres, who organized the conference. For more on the diversity office please visit: <http://www2.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/hr/diversity-and-recruitment/>



Patricia A. Broderick, the CUNY School of Medicine professor also renowned as an inventor and researcher, is the recipient of the International Association of Top Professionals’ Lifetime Achievement Award. She will receive the award at the association’s annual gala at the end of the year. The award recognizes “incredibly talented” members for their professional and academic achievements, leadership abilities and contributions to their respective communities. Broderick has been honored for more than three decades of accomplishments as a professor, scientist, author, researcher, lecturer

and inventor. “She has been a true pioneer in the medical industry,” said Stephanie Cirami, vice president of the IATP. One of Broderick’s foremost accomplishments has been the Broderick Probe biosensors and related biotechnologies. The probe sends neurotransmitter images in real time from the brain and has become an essential tool in the study of treatment options for neurological degenerative diseases and drug addictions. For the past 30 years, Broderick has served as Medical Professor in physiology, pharmacology and neuroscience at what is now the CUNY School of Medicine on City College’s Harlem campus. She’s received numerous other honors including “Top Professor & Scientist of the Year” from the IAOTP in 2016.



The City University of New York

propels nearly six times as many students from lowest income levels in the country into the middle and upper middle classes as all the Ivy League colleges, plus Stanford, Duke, M.I.T. and the University of Chicago combined. In the most comprehensive, definitive study ever conducted, a team led by Stanford economist Raj Chetty demonstrated how powerful CUNY has been as a higher-education engine of social mobility. In a study that tracked students from nearly every college in the country and based on millions of anonymous tax and financial-aid records, of the top 10 colleges in the nation in mobility rate, six belong to CUNY: Baruch, City College, Lehman, John Jay, City Tech and Brooklyn College. Such findings demonstrate the way that the 21st-century City University continues to live up to the high ideals of its mission, first articulated by Townsend Harris in founding the Free Academy that became City College in 1847, to “educate the whole people,” and, as stated in the New York Education Law, to provide “academic excellence,” and “equal access and opportunity for students, faculty and staff from all ethnic and racial groups.”

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Second Poetry Pulitzer at a CUNY Infused With Writing Talent

WHEN TYEHIMBA JESS, an extraordinary College of Staten Island professor, won the coveted Pulitzer Prize for poetry this year, it was a singular achievement. But what was even more striking was that for CUNY, it was far from singular. In fact, it was the second time in just three years that a CUNY poet has won the award, and a Brooklyn College MFA student, Sarah DeLappe, was a finalist for the Pulitzer in drama.

What these awards underscored was that, while CUNY is an exceptionally diverse University with many strengths in fields ranging from engineering to health care and the social sciences, it is a poetry powerhouse with a wealth of talent spread across numerous campuses. Put simply, one of the strong links connecting CUNY campuses is verse, providing exceptional opportunities for students interested in scholarship or writing.

“One can find at least one poet-professor teaching on every campus,” says Kimiko Hahn, a renowned poet and a Distinguished Professor in the Queens College MFA program. “Add to this our excellent adjuncts and students and you basically have a subculture influenced by iambic pentameter on the one end and the spoken word on the other.”

There are poets among the staff too, Hahn notes. Former student John Curry is now an administrator at the New York College of Technology. “I don’t want to leave anyone out. We have basically infiltrated the system,” she says.

Hahn, the author of nine collections of poetry and winner of many prestigious awards, has led the development of a CUNY community of writers over the past eight years. Now, there are University-wide readings – as well as writer-professors in the four college MFA programs who meet and plan joint projects.

Tyehimba Jess, an associate professor of English at the College of Staten Island, won this year’s Pulitzer for his collection, *Olio*. In 2015, Gregory Pardlo, a student at the Graduate Center, was awarded the Pulitzer for his poetry collection, *Digest*. Another prominent poet, Ben Lerner, a Distinguished Professor of English at Brooklyn College, novelist and critic, has won a MacArthur “Genius” Fellow.

Other outstanding CUNY poets, who make great contributions to their field, and to their students, include: Julie Agoos, Meena Alexander, Catherine Barnett, Billy Collins, (the former U.S. Poet Laureate), Wayne Koestembaum, Jan Heller Levi, Cate Marvin, Donna Masini, Emily Raboteau, Patricia Smith, Michelle Valladares. And more. Tom Sleight, a Distinguished Professor at Hunter College, has won numerous awards, including the 2008 Kingsley Tufts Award, an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, and a three-year Individual Writer’s Award from the Lila Wallace/Reader’s Digest Fund.

Grace Schulman, a Distinguished Professor of English at Baruch College was awarded the 2016 Robert Frost Medal for Distinguished Lifetime Achievement in American Poetry, presented by the Poetry Society of America as its highest award. She relishes teaching new poets and in her Frost medal acceptance speech she also noted that she considers each poem a fresh start, something entirely “new.”

“I must confess to finding some irony in the word ‘lifetime,’” she says. “Although I’ve lived for many moons, I’m still starting. When I work on a new poem I feel I never knew how to write before, and finishing each draft is a new sunrise ... I hope to live longer, and to write poetry for the rest of my life.”

Schulman also teaches translation and asks her students to translate their work into their native languages, if other than English. Indeed, translation of poetry has become an important focus at CUNY. Nicole Cooley, also a poet, is director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation at Queens College. She is one of several



This year’s Pulitzer was awarded to Tyehimba Jess, an associate professor of English at the College of Staten Island, for his collection *Olio*. In 2015, Gregory Pardlo, a student at the Graduate Center, was awarded the Pulitzer for his poetry collection *Digest*.

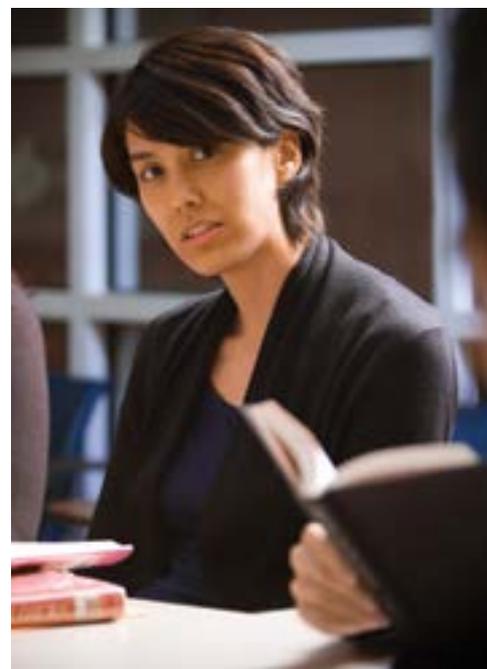
writers who founded the program in which Roger Sedarat and Ammiel Alcalay also teach.

“CUNY campuses are such wonderful multilingual worlds,” Cooley says. “I can think of no better place to think deeply about the language of poetry and to study translation than our great University.”

Students in the MFA in literary translation on the Queens College campus work in languages from Arabic to Catalan to Urdu to Japanese. Translating poetry allows us to cross not only boundaries but also worlds.”

Hahn adds that the culture of poetry at CUNY was established decades ago with such poets as Allen Ginsberg, Audre Lorde, Bill Matthews, Marie Ponsot and Adrienne Rich. She says it is important to emphasize the financial challenges so many poets face. “Unlike fiction and nonfiction writers who can conceivably make a living with their writing, poets must find a means to make ends meet. Obviously teaching offers flexible hours. And New York, although one of most expensive cities, offers vital resources: publishing connections, cultural institutions, reading venues, and, most importantly, other writers.”

So the tradition continues, stronger than ever. Creative writing is a core value at CUNY, part of our DNA. Sarah DeLappe was the Pulitzer finalist in drama for her play about a girls’ high school soccer team, “The Wolves.” DeLappe’s inventive play also received the American Playwriting Foundation’s inaugural Relentless Award and was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and the Yale Drama Series Prize. DeLappe is the Page One Playwright for The Playwrights Realm and has been a resident artist at the Sitka Fellows Program and SPACE on Ryder Farm. Her MFA is in process at Brooklyn College.



“One can find at least one poet-professor teaching on every campus. Add to this our excellent adjuncts and students and you basically have a subculture influenced by iambic pentameter on the one end and the spoken word on the other.”

—Kimiko Hahn
Distinguished Professor
Queens College



Continued from previous page with Spasticity. “Pathogenic Yeast Stress Signaling Networks,” a project under the



direction of **Jason Rauceo** of John Jay College, has won \$117,672 in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Jamie Bleiweiss of Hunter College has won

a \$491,587 grant from the NYC Department of Education for “Professional Development Services in Special Education.” **Bonne August** of New York City College of Technology has received two grants from the NYS Education Department: \$274,500 for the “Science and Technology Entry Program,” and \$134,999 for “Smart Scholars.” The NYC Department of Small Business Service has awarded a \$317,507 grant to **Milton Santiago** of Lehman College for “RN Transition to Practice.”

Lesley Emtage of York College has received a \$462,126 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Medicine for a project entitled “Re-



search Seeks to Better Understand the Molecular Mechanisms by which some Cells are able to Detoxify Huntingtin Protein, to Identify Possible Molecular Targets of Therapeutic Approaches.”

“Gene Variability & Population Processes of Lyme Disease Pathogens,” a project directed by **Weigang Qiu** of Hunter College, has received \$267,750 in grant support from PHS/NIH/National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Disease.

Eugene Marlow of Baruch College won the John Culkin Award for Outstanding Praxis in the Field of Media Ecology by the Media Ecology Association at its 17th Annual Meeting in Bologna, Italy. Dr. Marlow produced and directed “Zikkaron/Kristallnacht: A Family Story,” a nine-minute video told from Dr. Marlow’s maternal family’s perspective describing



the events of Kristallnacht (Nov. 9-10, 1938) in Germany and parts of Austria when Nazis destroyed thousands of Jewish-owned stores, buildings, synagogues and homes and arrested thousands of Jewish

males. The project was supported by a PSC-CUNY Award, jointly funded by The Professional Staff Congress and CUNY.

Ivica Arsov of York College has been awarded a \$514,224 grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Institute of General Medicine for a proposal that focuses on “The Role of Autophagic Protein Beclin 1 in Dendritic Cell Development, Activation and Antigen Presentation of Tumor Antigens Responsible for Eliciting Anti-Tumor T Cell Responses.” “Uncertainty, Cognitive Control, and the Brain,” a project directed by Jin Fan of Queens College, has received \$348,750 in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health. Camille Kamga of City College has received a \$199,956 grant from the NYS De-

Continued on page 8 ➤

At the Graduate Center's ASRC

Science Connected

In the past two years, in addition to serving as a catalyst for science within CUNY, the ASRC has forged alliances with a range of research institutions, science organizations and biotech companies.

Continued from Page 1

research and education, but it also exemplifies the kind of University-wide collaboration that is at the heart of the University's new strategic framework, Connected CUNY, released by Chancellor James B. Milliken earlier this year.

The new vision for CUNY emphasizes ways that the University can leverage its strengths and best use its assets through collaboration and partnerships between colleges, as well as with outside institutions. In the past two years, in addition to serving as a catalyst for science within CUNY, the ASRC has forged alliances with a range of research institutions, science organizations and biotech companies. Among them are Columbia University, the New York Stem Cell Foundation, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and the national tech-education organization Girls Who Code.



Carlos Carbonell Fernandez, a post-doctorate associate at the Braunschweig lab in the Graduate Center's Advanced Science Research Center, using a glove box; in the background, Colleen Chasteau and Jason Haozhen.

All told, the center provides a powerful demonstration of the strength of the Connected CUNY approach, benefiting faculty and students on all the campuses and at every academic level.

"We have extremely high hopes for the ASRC, not just because it has such wonderful facilities but because of its collaborative philosophy," said Chancellor Milliken. "It's a gem with a clear mission. We expect

that it will foster great science and it will advance great teaching for students at many of our campuses and other institutions that share our ambitions. It will be a signature resource in the Connected CUNY model."

That mission got an important boost this year when CUNY's Graduate Center assumed academic and administrative responsibility for the ASRC. The Graduate

Center, one of the jewels of CUNY, is the University's "R1" institution, the designation used by the 100 or so U.S. universities with the highest research activity.

The GC is also a pioneer with a rich history as a catalyst for collaboration and intellectual cross-pollination among faculty and students from CUNY campuses spread throughout the city. The GC has long won respect for its advanced degree programs and research in the social sciences and humanities. Now, with its oversight of the ASRC, it is poised to play a significant role in elevating CUNY's degree-granting programs in the bench sciences, turning the center into a significant resource for scientists and students across the University.

"The Graduate Center was made for this," said Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost Vita Rabinowitz. "It is the hub of our doctoral programs and it has also distinguished itself as New York City's premier forum for serious discussion on topics in the public interest. Science in the public interest is exactly the kind of science produced at the ASRC, and it needs to be disseminated to leaders, decision-makers, and the wider community. The GC affiliation will greatly facilitate this."

Graduate Center President Chase Robinson said, "Because we're aligning responsibility for the doctoral programs with responsibility for the ASRC, there are some very significant opportunities that we're going to realize in the number of students, the quality of students and the diversity of students. The conspicuous strengths the Graduate Center has had in the social sciences, arts and humanities can be brought to bear to increase the level of cooperation, collaboration and creativity

Continued on Next Page



The Graduate Center's Advanced Science Research Center, or ASRC, exemplifies the kind of University-wide collaboration that is at the heart of the new strategic framework, Connected CUNY.

At the Graduate Center's ASRC

Science Connected

Continued from Previous Page

between scientists at the ASRC and scientists at the campuses.”

As Robinson and University officials see it, fulfilling the ASRC's promise – and advancing the goals of the Connected CUNY vision – requires now moving it from an ambitious startup for cutting-edge science to a mature academic center that reaches nearly every CUNY campus and inspires stronger research and innovation.

“The measure for success can't only be the research that's carried out in that building,” said Robinson, whose 2015 report on the CUNY bench sciences included steps for increasing student and faculty recruitment. “It will be the impact on the great science that's being undertaken at the CUNY senior colleges and also on the participation in the sciences at the community colleges. We have to make sure it's sustainable, not just financially but intellectually.”

As an example, he said, the Graduate Center is exploring ways to combine distinct but connected fields into imaginative interdisciplinary degrees and programs. “For instance, blending our strengths in urban studies and social sciences with the work that Charles Vörösmarty” –founding director of the ASRC's Environmental Sciences Initiative – “is doing in sustainability and urban ecology.” Vörösmarty, one of the world's leading experts in global water issues, was the ASRC's first director, recruited years before the building opened.

The Graduate Center functions as the nucleus of a consortium, bringing together faculty from throughout CUNY to foster advanced graduate education, original research and scholarship and innovative University-wide programs. The Graduate Center's dean of sciences, Joshua Brumberg, says its consorsial model will help cultivate the ASRC's ambitious objectives within the Connected CUNY framework. “The reason the GC works is that we're connected to the rest of CUNY. We have over 1,800 faculty who are appointed to the colleges and spend part of their academic lives here. So the fact that we've been doing this for 56 years means the lessons learned can be applied to the ASRC. It's the optimal fit.”

From its conception, the ASRC was designed to be a science building that breaks down walls. It focuses on five specialized but inter-related disciplines of 21st-century science – nanoscience, photonics, structural biology, neuroscience and environmental sciences – each occupying a floor of the 200,000-square-foot building.

The ASRC has been staffing up since its 2014 opening, and directors of four of the five initiatives are now in place.

In addition to Vörösmarty and Gardner, the building opened with Rein Ulijn, an acclaimed nanochemist recruited from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, starting up the nanoscience initiative. And last fall, Dr. Patrizia Casaccia, an expert in neurodegenerative disease from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, was named the founding director of the neuroscience initiative.

In addition to the ASRC's faculty and core-facilities staff, on any given day there are dozens more researchers and students from CUNY colleges and beyond taking advantage of the building's assets – core facilities and instruments that are among the most sophisticated of their kind. Chief among them is a nanofabrication facility – informally known as the NanoFab – that features a 5,000-square-foot cleanroom that is one of the most advanced on the East Coast and the largest in New York City.

“I love the fact that when I come to work now I'm bumping into people on the floor who I don't know,” Kevin Gardner said. “And the reason I don't know them is that they're over here from Hunter, they're here from City, they're here from the College of Staten Island. They're faculty and students and post-docs. These are people getting their work done using the ASRC's instrumentation, collaboratively working with us, embedding with us. They come from CUNY, they come from around the country, the world.”

And they come to listen, learn and engage. The ASRC has hosted more than 500 seminars and other events since 2014, including six international symposia. Many of them are streamed online to reach CUNY faculty and students, as well as scientists at institutions around the world.

“One thing I'm fiercely proud of is that every Wednesday at noon we've got an expert sharing their research in a seminar that I'd put up against any in the city,” Gardner said. “Attendance keeps going up and so does the quality of the questions and the level of follow-up contacts. That's the real metric. That spark is really fantastic to see.”

Megan Webster, a Ph.D. student in chemical engineering at City College, is one of the many CUNY graduate students benefitting from the ASRC. “As a NanoFabrication fellow,” she said, “I am learning about techniques that will not only enhance the quality of the research I am able to conduct now, but will provide me with a valuable skill set for employment after graduate school.”

Students, research assistants and associates in a stairwell at the ASRC: top three, left to right, Ithaca Edupuganti, Sana Batoool and Colleen Chasteau; center, Jason Haozhen; bottom three, left to right, Dominique Gutierrez, Carlos Carbonell Fernandez and Dong Lee.



Continued from page 5

partment of Transportation for the “University Transportation Research Consortium.”

Nate Mickelson of Guttman Community College was named an Outstanding Educator of the Year by Education Update. A former Faculty Fellow for Excellence in Teaching at Guttman, he has been co-director of the College’s Summer Bridge program since 2012, taken the lead in writing curricula for the college’s First Year Experience and serves as an exemplary advocate for students.

Peishi Wang of Queens College has won a \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a project concerning “Culturally Aligned and Responsive Early Intervention (Project I-CARE).” The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has awarded a \$198,782 grant to **Thomas Weiss** of the CUNY Graduate Center for “Post-2015 Development: Strengthening the UN’s Ideational and Operational Roles.”



Mandiberg

Michael Mandiberg of the College of Staten Island received a Los Angeles County Museum of Art fellowship award and was also accepted to a residency at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire. The LACMA fellowship includes a financial award that will help support Mandiberg for a one-year research leave to work on a project recreating the Charlie Chaplin film “Modern Times” using digital labor sourced from Amazon’s Mechanical Turk marketplace. His 21st-Century version of the 1936 film will remix it to speak to contemporary digital labor.

The NYC Department of Education has awarded a \$414,579 grant to **Elaine Walsh** of Hunter College for the “Liberty Partnership Program.” **Gregory Boutis** of Brooklyn College



Boutis

has received a \$274,750 grant from the National Institutes of Health for “NMR Studies of the Effects of Mode of Birth on Vaginal Elastin.” “Reducing Socioeconomic Disparities in Tobacco Dependence Treatment

Outcomes,” a project under the direction of Christine Sheffer of City College, has received \$177,564 in grant funding from the National Institutes of Health.

Thomas Spear of Lehman College received the Gardien du Livre — or “Keeper of the Books” — prize for his work promoting Haitian literature at the annual Livres en Folie book festival in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. A scholar of Haitian and Francophone literature and founder and curator of the award-winning website, *île en île*, Spear is the first non-Haitian to receive the prize.

Judith Bergtraum, Vice Chancellor for Facilities Planning, Construction and Management, received the Honorary Member of the AIA New York State Award from the American Institute of Architects, NYS. The honor recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of a person outside the profession of architecture who has rendered distinguished service to that profession, or the arts and science allied therein.



Unearthing a Possible Medieval Synagogue

A medieval building that may have been used as a synagogue has been uncovered at the site of Huqoq, a village near the Sea of Galilee in Israel. Constructed during the 12th to 13th centuries, the building is located on top of the ruins of a fifth-century Roman synagogue known to contain fantastic mosaics, including one depicting the story of Noah’s Ark. “So far, I’ve found very little evidence of a Jewish presence in the area, which makes this structure both extremely exciting and frustrating,” study researcher Arnold Franklin, a history professor at Queens College of the City University of New York, said. The medieval builders put to use some of the remains from the fifth-century synagogue. “A monumental public building was erected on the same spot as the late Roman synagogue, reusing some of the earlier structure’s architectural elements, but expanding it in size,” said Jodi Magness, the director of the Huqoq excavation project, during a presentation of the research in Toronto at the joint annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America and the Society for Classical Studies this month. However, there is no historical information about a Jewish population in the area at the time, Magness said. The team has been searching for evidence in medieval records for a Jewish people, but has not come up with much in the surviving texts. Though the identity of the building is uncertain, one clue suggests that the building is a synagogue. Archaeologists found that the medieval building has benches lining the east, north and west walls, something that “suggests it must be a synagogue,” said Magness, who noted such benches are commonly seen in synagogues. One of the few textual references comes from an early 14th-century traveler who “visited Huqoq — then called Yakuk — and reported seeing a ‘synagogue with a very old floor.’ We speculate that perhaps our building is that synagogue,” Magness said.

Mammoth Burgers For Misogynists

When the concentration of social power in men first arose, and why, may lie in the bones of our ancestors. The clue shows up in connective tissue, or collagen, examined during a recent study involving bones from 175 Neolithic and Bronze Age people who lived in China. A carbon signature in this protein suggests the grains people consumed, and a nitrogen signature reveals the proportion of meat in their diet, according to research published in January in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA. The bone chemistry indicates male and female diets were similar during the Neolithic period, which started about 10,000 years ago and in which agriculture began. Both sexes ate meats and grains. “During early farming, females contributed a lot to food production. [Men and women] eat the same things, and they’re of more or less equal standing,” says Kate Pechenkina, an archaeologist at Queens College and senior author on the paper. The shift began at the end of the Neolithic and continued through the Bronze Age. Osteoanalysis shows that between 771 and 221 B.C. men continued eating millet and meat — but the latter disappeared from women’s diets and was replaced with wheat. Women’s bones also began showing *cribra orbitalia*, a type of osteoporosis and an indicator of childhood malnutrition. “It means already from early childhood,

young girls are treated very poorly,” Pechenkina says. Some anthropologists have a theory for why the balance of power tipped just as wheat was introduced, as well as other commodities such as cattle and bronze. These new resources afforded opportunities for wealth to accumulate and may have provided an opening for men to take control of the novel foods and wares — and to use their new power to suppress women. Violence may have played a role, too. “The [end of China’s Bronze Age] is called the Warring States Period,” says Stanley H. Ambrose, an anthropologist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, who was not involved with the study. In civilizations rife with bloodshed, a warrior class often inflates the value of men, Ambrose explains. But the early bias evidence in China extends beyond bones. Women’s graves started to include fewer burial treasures than men’s during the Bronze Age, suggesting females were also treated poorly in death. “That argues it’s a lifetime of [gender] distinction,” says Jane Buikstra, an archaeologist at Arizona State University, who was not involved with the study.

New Primate Species Discovered in India

Researchers have discovered a new primate species that lived in Jammu and Kashmir some 11 to 14 million years ago. Scientists have named the new species *Ramadapis sahnii*. It is a member of the ancient Sivaladapidae primate family, consumed leaves and was about the size of a house cat, said study co-author Biren Patel, associate professor at Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California. Researchers from Panjab University, Hunter College, Arizona State University, New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology and Stony Brook University in New York contributed to this study. The findings, published in the *Journal of Human Evolution*, could shed new light on human evolution. “Among the primates, the most common ones in the Kashmir region are from a genus called *Sivapithecus*, which were ancestral forms of orangutans,” Patel said. “The fossil we found is from a different group on the primate family tree — one that is poorly known in Asia. We

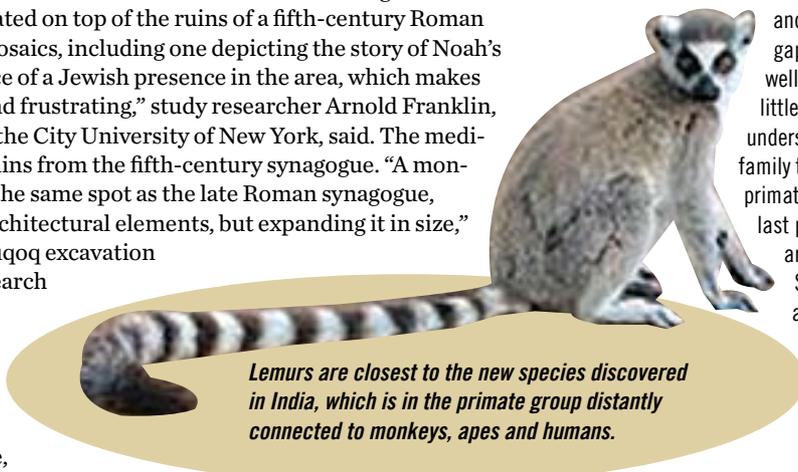
are filling an ecological and biogeographical gap that wasn’t really well documented. Every little step adds to the understanding of our human family tree because we’re also primates,” Patel said. The last primate found in the area was 38 years ago.

So, in addition to being a new species, this is the first primate fossil found in the area in decades.

After six years of digging, the researchers found part of the ancient

primate’s jawbone and analysis revealed that the species is related to lemurs — the primitive primate group distantly connected to monkeys, apes and humans.

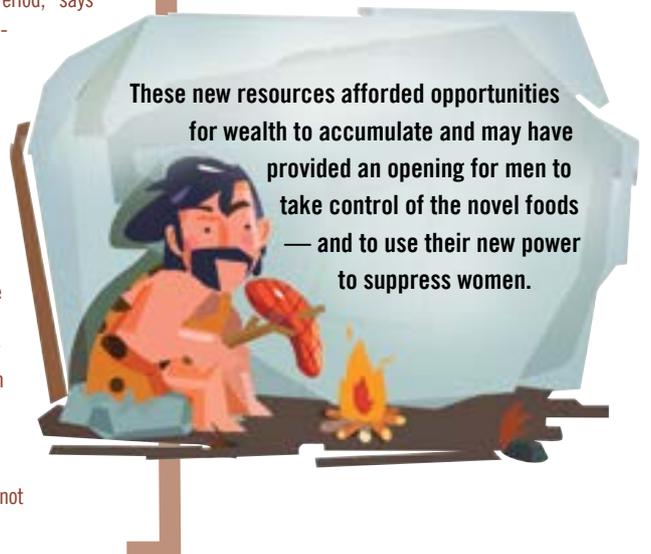
“People want to know about human origins, but to fully understand human origins, you need to understand all of primate origins, including the lemurs and these sivaladapids,” Patel said. “Lemurs and sivaladapids are sister groups to what we are — the anthropoids — and we are all primates,” Patel explained. The question that remains is how the ecosystem in northern India supported this species when its relatives elsewhere were disappearing or had already gone extinct. The researchers believe that future fieldwork and recovering more fossil primates will help answer this question.



Lemurs are closest to the new species discovered in India, which is in the primate group distantly connected to monkeys, apes and humans.



Fossil hunters have found part of an ancient primate jawbone related to lemurs.



These new resources afforded opportunities for wealth to accumulate and may have provided an opening for men to take control of the novel foods — and to use their new power to suppress women.

The Life of Lehman: From Wall Street Scion to Liberal Lion

Herbert H. Lehman was a popular, even beloved, New York governor and senator but half a century later he's known mostly as the namesake for CUNY's Lehman College. In *Herbert H. Lehman: A Political Biography*, Duane Tananbaum, a professor of American history at the college, reveals the unlikely story of the New York financier who became a liberal conscience for the nation.

Herbert Lehman was one of the most successful New York politicians of his day, but he's been largely overlooked by history. Do students at Lehman College even know who he was?

Not very many of them. Some are introduced to him in a freshman seminar and we try to commemorate him at least once a year.

INTERVIEW

So who was Lehman and what was it about him that compelled you to spend 10 years writing his biography?

Herbert Lehman was the son and nephew of the founders of the Lehman Brothers banking firm and he joined the firm at age 30, but that wasn't where his interests really were. He was devoted to public service and humanitarian causes. He was elected governor in 1932, the year [his predecessor] Franklin Roosevelt was elected president. He was re-elected in 1934 by what was the greatest margin in New York State history up to then, defeating Robert Moses — yes, that Robert Moses — and in 1938 he defeated the racket-busting district attorney, Thomas E. Dewey. In 1949, he was elected to the United States Senate over John Foster Dulles, running unashamedly on a platform defending the “welfare state” — and that was the term he used because he believed it was the responsibility of government to provide for the welfare of its citizens. In the Senate he became one of the true liberal icons of his generation.

What drove a scion of Wall Street into a life of such liberal idealism?

The most influential experience in Lehman's life came when he was a young man and visited the Henry Street Settlement on the Lower East Side and he saw people living in poverty. And through his connections with Henry Street and its founder, Lillian Wald, which continued through the rest of his life, he realized that there were a lot of people

... Eleanor Roosevelt and everybody else are recognizing Lehman as the conscience of the Senate and one of the true liberal icons of his generation. Today he'd be there with Bernie Sanders.

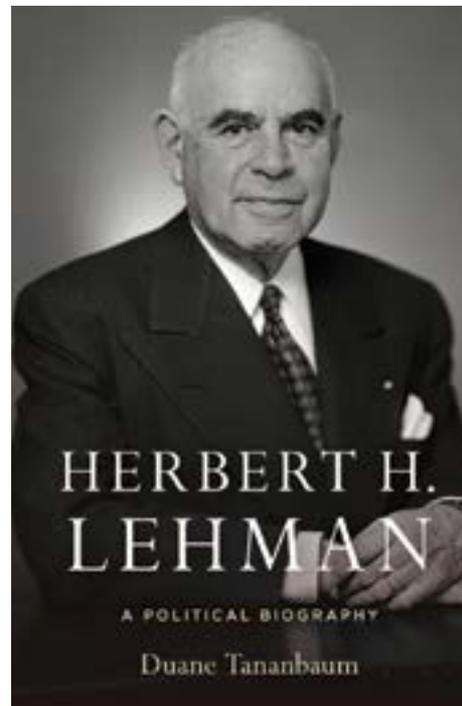
who, because of industrialization, urbanization and immigration, just could not fend for themselves, even if they were hard working. Lehman believed that government was a tool that should be used to help people, and that was really what he devoted himself to doing. Banking and private business took a back seat in his life.

Where was he in the political context of the times?

If you define liberalism as some of the more extreme liberals did in the Thirties — as really wanting to change the whole American capitalist system — then Herbert Lehman did not fit that definition. But if you define a liberal as somebody who was trying to use the government to right wrongs and correct inequality then he certainly qualifies. He broke with Franklin Roosevelt over the court-packing plan in 1937 and some questioned Lehman's commitment to liberalism because of it. But Lehman had a tremendous regard for the checks and balances that are the genius of the American political system. And by the time we get to the 1950s and Lehman is in the Senate, he's leading the charge to enact civil rights legislation, he's leading the charge to liberalize the country's restrictive immigration laws, he's leading the fight against Joe McCarthy. And Eleanor Roosevelt and everybody else are recognizing Lehman as the conscience of the Senate and one of the true liberal icons of his generation. Today he'd be there with Bernie Sanders.

You write that he was ahead of his time on civil rights but “kept the liberal agenda alive” until Congress and the nation were ready for it, which didn't happen until after his death in 1963. How did that play out?

Lehman did not get along well with Lyndon Johnson in the 1950s, when Johnson was Senate Democratic leader. Johnson believed in compromising; Lehman rejected that idea



completely. Lehman believed that you need to stand foursquare for the liberal agenda of equal rights. Not condemning the so-called radicals in the Little Rock schools dispute but realizing that those little children were the heroes, they weren't extremists. Even though Lehman did not see meaningful civil rights legislation passed in his lifetime, he kept those issues before the American people and educated them about what needed to be done to make this a better, more fair and equal society. Ironically enough it was the same Lyndon Johnson who rejected those ideas when he was a senator in the Fifties who was able to get those liberal measures through Congress as president. But that wouldn't have been possible without people like Lehman speaking up for that liberal agenda throughout the 1950s. It would have been dead and buried.

What made Lehman so successful at electoral politics?

The main thing about Lehman was that people trusted him. He was not a great public speaker, but Sam Rosenman, a friend of Lehman and FDR, said that when Lehman said something you believed him. He was sincere, and that was the secret to his success with voters. They knew he didn't need the job. He wasn't ambitious, he didn't need personal glory. He was in politics to help people and I think that really came across. He also had a built-in constituency among Jewish voters. There had been a few other Jewish politicians in other states — a few Jewish senators from the Southern states, actually, back in the 1850s — but he was far and away the most successful of his era. And after he retired from the Senate — at that point he was 78 years old — he didn't just live out his life in quietude. Ever the reformer, he along with Eleanor Roosevelt led the drive to unseat Carmine DeSapio and the Tammany Hall bosses who had controlled the Democratic Party machine in New York for decades.

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

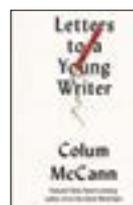
NEWTITLES / CUNYAUTHORS



Well-Armed Intelligence

Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness, by Peter Godfrey-Smith, a

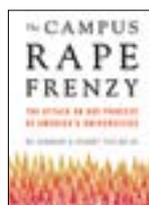
Distinguished Professor of philosophy at the Graduate Center, deftly blends philosophy and evolutionary biology. A philosopher of science and a deep-sea diver, Godfrey-Smith has rolled his obsession into one book, complete with fascinating anecdotes as well as striking photography from his numerous scuba dives. He makes the case that cephalopods' intelligence is largely “alien” to our understanding of the concept but no less worthy of wonder.



So, You Want To Be a Writer

In *Letters to a Young Writer: Some Practical and Philosophical Advice*, bestselling author Colum McCann asks his readers

to constantly push the boundaries of experience, to see empathy and wonder in the stories they craft and hear. A distinguished lecturer in the Creative Writing program at Hunter College, McCann won the National Book Award for his novel *Let the Great World Spin*, delivers an honest testament to the bruises delivered by writing as both a profession and a calling. It charges aspiring writers to learn the rules and even break them.



Campus Rape and Due Process

The Campus Rape Frenzy: The Attack on Due Process at America's Universities, KC Johnson, professor

of history at Brooklyn College and Stuart Taylor Jr., a writer, expose the assault on due process rights at American universities. The book examines many of the cases where innocent or likely innocent students have been branded as sex criminals and expelled or punished by their colleges. And it shows why all students — and society as a whole — are harmed when our universities abandon the pursuit of truth.



Black Panther History, Politics

In *The Revolution Has Come*, Robyn C. Spencer, a history professor at Lehman College, provides a

panoramic view of the Black Panther Party over its 16-year history, from its organizational evolution, beginning in Oakland, Calif., and explores how the party was more than a projection of its leaders, embodying international activism, interracial alliances and a desire to foster self-determination in black communities.



Being Gay on Planet Earth

In *Cross-National Public Opinion about Homosexuality: Examining Attitudes Across the Globe*, Amy Adamczyk,

professor of sociology at John Jay College, details how public opinions about homosexuality vary around the world. While residents in some nations have embraced gay rights, people in many other countries find homosexuality unacceptable. What creates the differences? The strength of democratic institutions, level of economic development, and the religious context of the places where people live explain the variations.

AT CUNY NOW

The Eyes Have It . . . and the Teeth and Ears

By Barbara Fischkin

HOW DO YOUR EYES function when you work at your computer, watch a movie or take in a beautiful sunset? How well can you hear your boss, your children, your partner in life? How would your teeth feel if you bit into an apple? How heavy a package can you lift at the grocery store? How far can you walk?

These are among the most basic of health questions that many of us ask ourselves, and, if something seems amiss, we want help.

Well, for CUNY employees help has arrived.

Since Dec. 1, 2016, staff and faculty who are members of the Professional Staff Conference (PSC) have enjoyed enhanced dental, vision and hearing benefits, as the result of negotiations with current and new vendors.

And, thanks to the City of New York, all CUNY employees also can participate free of cost in a number of preventative, educational and other health-related programs which are part of a new initiative called WorkWell NYC.

“We are pleased to see the enhancements that the PSC Welfare fund made to the vision, dental and hearing programs that they administer,” says Andrea Yenco, University Executive Director of Benefits. “Through the combination of these benefits and the overall New York City Health program, CUNY employees enjoy one of the most competitive benefits packages when compared to our peers in higher education” and elsewhere.

Read on for details.

Union members who qualify for these dental, vision and hearing benefits are those who receive New York City health insurance through CUNY. This includes

many full-time faculty, staff and their eligible dependents and adjuncts. Like so many matters related to insurance, eligibility can be complicated. If you have questions about eligibility and cost, contact the PSC Welfare fund at 212-354-5230, visit <http://pscunywf.org/benefits-enhancements-2017.aspx>, or speak with your campus human resources officer.

Using an “in-network” provider to obtain these benefits typically results in considerable savings. Many in-network providers are available and searching for a conveniently located one by ZIP code on the PSC website is easy. Your current optician, dentist or hearing health care professional may already be in-network. But please be aware that health care professionals do change their memberships in networks. It is best to ask for verification that a provider is in-network before proceeding.

When it comes to vision-related benefits, you could save a substantial amount of money on glasses or contacts purchased once every two years. Included are a variety of prescription lenses, including progressive lenses, high-index lenses and ultra thin lenses, many of which can be expensive when purchased without these benefits.

For dental, partial reimbursements for complicated and costly procedures such as crowns and root canal will increase markedly, especially when a network provider is used. Some dentists will permit you to pay them after you receive reimbursement. But not all. It’s best to check. This benefit is so important since many workers throughout the country do not have dental coverage.

As for WorkWell NYC, the New York City program, it

is in effect one-stop “shopping,” albeit for free wellness programs offered throughout the five boroughs. CUNY employees are encouraged to explore its website at <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/olr/wellnes/wellnesshome.page>

This new initiative from the Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Office of Labor Relations and the city’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene delivers innovative “wellness solutions that support New York City employees in getting healthy and staying healthy.” Programs that focus on smoking cessation, diabetes prevention and “healthy eating and active living” are included. This city initiative was designed with the knowledge that so many employees don’t have the time or the energy to search in various venues for preventative care. Best to put as much of it as possible in one online site.

For example, when you visit WorkWell NYC and click at Shape Up NYC <https://www.nycgovparks.org/programs/recreation/shape-up-nyc> you will see a map showing where free fitness classes are offered throughout the five boroughs. These are all drop-in programs, no registration required. Included among the many offerings are classes in yoga, Zumba, aerobics and weight-bearing exercises. Membership in recreation centers offering these classes is not required, although participants need to bring their own locks so they can use the facilities’ lockers.

According to WorkWell, “We believe that employees are at their best when they feel good and are given the tools and resources needed to take care of their health. A healthy workforce builds a healthy city, and we are committed to supporting the employees that power one of the largest and greatest cities in the world.”

AT YOUR SERVICE

More Opportunities to Plan for Retirement

TIAA counselors who help CUNY employees to plan better for retirement – and improve other investments – are often available on campuses. Recently they have increased this availability even more so, in part to help employees better understand new investment choices that went into effect on Jan. 1 and help them diversify their portfolios to get the best “bang for the buck.” So, reach out to your TIAA adviser for a free consultation, perhaps to help plan a new investment strategy. Your campus benefits officer can let you know the dates and times advisers will be on your campus. Or call TIAA directly at 1-800-732-8353 to schedule an appointment. “The private counseling is really really good,” one employee said recently. “I’m meeting with my adviser next week for the third time. She’s really educating me about my investments.”



New Courses For Professional Development

NEW TO THE SCHEDULE for the University’s Professional Development and Learning Management Office (PDLM): Certificate programs for managers, supervisors, professional staff and administrative support staff. Each program consists of five courses designed to develop and enhance the professional competencies of the employees. A certificate’s five courses must be completed over a two-year period. PDLM is also presenting workplace learning in customer service, civility and conflict resolution, written and oral communications, office administration, project management, strategic thinking, leadership, management and supervision. Also new this spring is “Introduction to Statistical Analysis.” Although “introduction” is in the title this is not a course for staffers who are new to data analytics. Actually, it is designed for statistical analysts who regularly mine and crunch data. Another course, “Data Analytics for Managers,” is a prerequisite. Intermediate working knowledge of Excel is also required for the new statistical analysis course. The Professional Development Office will round out the semester with MS office technology courses in June and HCM learning sessions for human resources end users. Visit www.cuny.edu/pdlm for information on PDLM offerings.





All CUNY employees also can participate free of cost in a number of preventative, educational and other health-related programs, which are part of a new initiative called WorkWell NYC.

Pilot Program for New Supervisors

YOU'VE JUST BECOME a new supervisor. You were great at your job and your manager promoted you. You've never supervised before. What do you do? The OHRM Professional Development and Learning Management Office (PDLM) will have an answer – a targeted professional development program for new CUNY supervisors. The program is being designed to assist new CUNY supervisors with their workplace transitions. Launched in April, the pilot program includes both interactive classroom sessions and online training. A minimum of 50 supervisors from three CUNY locations will be selected to participate in the pilot program. The selection process is now underway. This will be a benefit not only for supervisors – but for those who work for and with them. Pilot participants will complete learning programs designed to address the knowledge, skill and ability “gaps” most often experienced by supervisors with less than two years of experience in a supervisory role. The proposed curriculum contains 12 core competencies identified as integral to CUNY management success, including emotional intelligence, customer service, conflict management, performance management, compliance and diversity and inclusion.



(More)

On the Web at cuny.edu

CUNY STORE

cuny.edu/cunystore

GET YOUR COLLEGE T-SHIRT before June 5 from the online CUNY store and enjoy a 10 percent discount. Check the site to see if your school is participating.



I'M SORRY, I'M SO SORRY...

cuny.edu/doggieregrets

Dogs, unlike some people, have learned to express regret for their behavior, and are willing to say they're sorry to their owners with bowed heads and tucked in tails. Nathan Lents, a professor of molecular biology at John Jay College writes in *Psychology Today* that, “It’s a very interesting phenomenon that goes far beyond the dog-human relationship and actually reveals quite a bit about the nature of communication itself. . . . “Dogs have inherited this behavior,” from their days as wolves, “and they will use it after any kind of infraction that results in being punished,” Lents explained. “As social animals, they crave harmonious integration in the group, and neglect or isolation is painful for them.”



CAMPUS LIFE

cuny.edu/fashion



Photos of CUNY – culled from Instagram – with themes from fashion to springtime, or anything else that will provide images of weekly life on the University’s campuses now appear on Monday’s News Brief, for all the students and faculty.

WE REMEMBER

CUNY.EDU/WEREMEMBER

Harvey Lichtenstein, 87, Brooklyn College, an arts administrator known for revitalizing the Brooklyn Academy of Music during his 32-year tenure as its president and executive producer. Lichtenstein re-branded the facility as “BAM” and shepherded its rebirth as a preeminent venue for music, theater, and dance.

Mildred Dresselhaus, 86, Hunter College, an M.I.T. professor, known for her research in the properties of carbon that helped transform it into the superstar of materials science and the nanotechnology industry. She was awarded the National Medal of Science, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom (bestowed by President Barack Obama), the Kavli Prize in Nanoscience, and the Enrico Fermi prize.



Kenneth Arrow, 95, City College, a Nobel Prize-winning economist who was a professor at Stanford for decades. Arrow, a world-renowned scholar of economic theory and research operations was also awarded the National Medal of Science.

Gerard Washnitzer, 91, Brooklyn College, Princeton University professor of mathematics, emeritus, known for his work in algebraic geometry, and his interest in the history of mathematics.

Heen M. Marshall, 87, Queens College, the first African-American to be elected Queens borough president. She served three four-year terms as borough president starting in 2001; before that she was on the City Council for 10 years and in the State Assembly for eight.

Intelligence

In the World & on the Web



ART EXHIBITS



Gardens Yes, Nitro No
 “There’s a big movement ... to change what people do in their yards,” says Peter Goffman, ecosystems professor at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, referring to the use of lawn fertilizer. Fertilizer



contains nutrients like nitrogen, which washes into waterways, hurting aquatic life. Flower-growing homeowners’ habits may change, Goffman says, if they can keep “the benefits” of having a lawn. “The vast majority of human environment interactions occur in people’s yards or in their parks, and all those are in urban, suburban and exurban areas.”
Search.cuny.edu/science



Minority Participation Not Immaterial

Materials science research needs more minority students and teachers, says City College Chemistry professor Maria Tamaro, who with colleagues won a \$5 million, five-year National Science Foundation grant to create a center to diversify the field of discovering and designing new materials. Recruiting and preparing diverse students and creating a master’s program are part of the strategy to bring more minority students to CUNY’s Ph.D. programs. “At the student level, at the faculty level, we can really be recognized for being able to have this diverse environment ... and be a model that other universities can try to emulate,” says Tamaro.
Search.cuny.edu/science

LECTURES • PANELS

May 11
 Climate Change in the Age of Trump: The Role of Faculty and Students
 Baruch College
 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
 Free

After Piketty
 The Graduate Center
 6:30 p.m.
 Free

May 15
 Mental Health Methods Series: Planning, Preparing, and Submitting a Successful Grant Proposal
 CUNY School of Public Health
 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Free

Stress And Resilience: The Science Of Adapting To a Challenging World
 Hunter College
 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Free



May 19
 Struggles for Democracy in the Caribbean Basin
 The Graduate Center
 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.
 Free

June 1 - June 2
 Emergent Molecular Systems Symposium
 CUNY Advanced Science Research Center
 Time varies
 Free

June 20, 2017
 LGBTQ Pride Month A Conversation with Broadway Artists-Activists
 The Graduate Center
 6:30 p.m.
 Free



THEATER • FILM



May 10
 KHRCA Film Screening: “Woman In Gold”
 Queensborough Community College
 12 noon – 2:00 p.m.
 Free

May 11
 Throwback Films: “Apollo 13”
 College of Staten Island
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Free

May 13
 TAC Family Theater Series: John Steptoe’s “Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale”
 Borough of Manhattan
 1:30 p.m.
 \$30

On Stage At Kingsborough: Morgan’s Journey
 Kingsborough Community College
 2 p.m.
 \$12

May 15
 50 Years Of Theatre Of The Ridiculous
 The Graduate Center
 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 Free

May 16
 Nocturnes
 Baruch College
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 \$15; Students free



May 18
 Throwback Films: “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?”
 College of Staten Island
 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Free

Eugeny Grishkovets: “How I Ate a Dog”
 Baruch College
 8 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.
 \$66 – \$96



Sex and the Single Mole Rat

What’s the difference between a human and a naked mole rat? Genetically, not much, says College of Staten Island Associate Professor Dan McCloskey, whose focus is social neuroscience. Thirty-five million years ago mole rats started to burrow underground, and in doing so they realized that they needed ways to get food and so they started to work together leading to a social system in which a queen did most of the breeding and the rest of the animals worked. Re-creating a day in the life of these mole rats can teach us more about humans and the brain, McCloskey says.
Search.cuny.edu/science.

MUSIC • DANCE



Spine-Tingling Research
 “The brain has to talk to the spinal cord in order to make any kind of movement,” says John Martin, medical professor at the CUNY School of Medicine at The City College of New York, “so after a spinal cord injury, those connections become impaired. That results in a reduced ability to make the kinds of movements we are accustomed to.” To help change that, the New York State Department of Health awarded Martin a \$4.27 million grant to look into brain development and the recovery of movement function after brain or spinal injury. The grant brings his research awards since October 2013 to \$7.97 million. “Normally nerve cells communicate with one another by way of what are similar to little electrical impulses,” Martin says. “We found out that if you increase the number of those impulses you can get the nerve cells to make new connections,” he says. Martin and his colleagues have been experimenting with neuromodulation to activate nerve cells. “The reason we’re excited with this neuromodulatory approach is that it can be noninvasive,” Martin says. “I see our work as a piece to a larger puzzle, which is to try to repair neural circuits.”
Search.cuny.edu/science

May 11
 Brooklyn College Opera Theatre With the Conservatory Orchestra
 Brooklyn College
 7:30 p.m.
 \$15

May 13
 Choral Society 76th Annual Spring Concert: Haydn’s Creation
 Queens College
 7:30 p.m.
 \$20, \$5 with valid QCID)



CSI Young Artists’ Recital
 College of Staten Island
 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
 \$5.00

May 17
 The Gornel West Concerto With the Brooklyn College Big Band
 Brooklyn College
 8:00 p.m.
 \$10; Seniors, \$7; CUNY students and staff (with ID); free

May 18
 BMCC Foundation 2017 Gala
 Borough of Manhattan Community College
 6 p.m. Free

May 19
 Fuzjiko Hemming Piano Solo Concert 2017 in NYC
 Baruch College
 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. \$35

May 20, 2017
 QPAC Fundraiser – Lights, Camera, Music! Queensborough Community College
 3 p.m. \$40

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 11
 “Celebrating 60 Years” Bronx Community College
 12 noon – 2 p.m.
 Free

From ‘Idea to Pitch’: Insights Into Launching Your Business
 School of Professional Studies
 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.
 Free

May 13
 Conference On Autism And Disabilities
 Queens College
 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Free

May 24, 2017 - May 26
 Transatlantic New York International Conference
 The City College of New York
 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Free



May 25
 Nanoscience Seminar Series With Cheng-Han Yu, The University Of Hong Kong
 CUNY Advanced Science Research Center
 12 noon – 1:00 p.m.
 Free

June 2
 IDACO NYC - Italian Dance Connection
 Baruch College
 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
 General Admission: \$30
 Alumni: \$25
 Faculty/Staff: \$20
 Students (with ID): \$15

June 23 to June 24
 2017 Latino Media Summit
 CUNY Graduate School of Journalism
 All Day
 Free