

RESEARCH ADVANCEMENT

John Jay Unveils New Office

On October 31, 2005, John Jay College of Criminal Justice officially inaugurated the Office for the Advancement of Research. To celebrate the occasion, University Dean for



Research Dr. **Gillian Small** was on hand to officially cut the ribbon along with John Jay College President **Jeremy Travis** and the John Jay College

Dean of Research and Graduate Studies Dean **James Levine**. The new office has been given the responsibility of encouraging, supporting, and facilitating research at the College.

President Travis created this office shortly after assuming his position in August 2004. It was consistent with his passionate commitment to scholarship as one of the major items on the College's agenda. "John Jay's extraordinary faculty puts the College in a unique position to enable it to become the pre-eminent research institution nationally in criminal justice and related fields," remarked President Travis. "It is my hope and belief that creation of the new office will provide the structure and resources to enable the College to achieve this goal."

Dean Small gave a presentation entitled "Advancing the Research Agenda at CUNY: Goals and Challenges" in which she discussed various research initiatives sponsored by the City University of New York and the overall goal for the University in terms of future research endeavors. The presentation was followed by a reception where many faculty, staff and administrators showed their support of the Office. This new office was created by President Jeremy Travis and will be directed by Dean James Levine to help spur and coordinate research initiatives at the College. It incorporates the Office of Sponsored Programs, directed by Jacob Marini. (Courtesy of Susy Mendes/Rita Taveras, John Jay College)



CIRCE CONFERENCE

Why Nature Matters to New Yorkers

On Friday, December 2, Nature and New York: A Conference on Why Nature Matters to New Yorkers was held at Queens College to inaugurate CIRCE, The CUNY Institute for Research on the City Environment. CIRCE, housed at Queens College, was initiated in 2005 with major support from Theodore Kheel and his Nurture Nature Foundation. The conference was convened by **John Waldman**, Professor of Biology at Queens College, both as a means to introduce the new institute and to explore the rationale for its existence.

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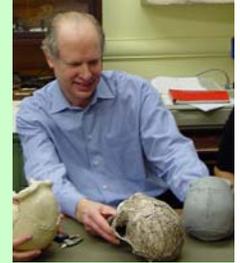
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Eric Delson

Professor **Eric Delson**, Chair of Anthropology at

Lehman College, received Lehman's first award for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creative Works in the natural and physical sciences and mathematics. Presented during the June 2005 commencement ceremony, the award is a fitting recognition of Dr. Delson's more than three decades of research accomplishments and service to Lehman and CUNY.

Dr. Delson came to CUNY as an assistant professor of Anthropology in 1973. He earned his Ph.D. in Geology from Columbia University and held an assistant professorship at University of Pittsburgh's Anthropology Department prior to becoming a faculty member at Lehman College and the Graduate Center. He became an associate professor in 1976, a full professor in 1980 and Chair of Lehman's Anthropology Department in 1999. *(Continued on page 2)*



Professor Delson's lifetime record of grant support from the NSF exceeds \$8.5 million; it predates his career as an academic and continues today. While at Harvard College he received a NSF Undergraduate Summer Research Grant in 1965. Since 2003, he has been the Principal Investigator of a 5 year \$4 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) award. Dr. Delson has been a member of National Academy of Sciences Delegations, taking him to China in 1975 and to Moscow in 1982. In 2002, he was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Delson has been a Research Associate in the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History since 1975.



One primary focus of Dr. Delson's research is the integration of the morphology of extant and extinct species of humans and monkeys with advanced techniques in statistical biology and computer graphics. A new project in this realm was funded in June by the NSF. The collaborative research team is composed of research groups at the University of California-Davis, CUNY and Stony Brook University. In this study, the team will combine research in genetics, anatomy, paleontology, biostatistics, and computer science to reconstruct the shape of the skull in inferred intermediate ancestors along an evolutionary tree. Rather than simply morphing graphically between two shapes,

this work uses a statistical model of evolutionary change to calculate average shape information from 3D laser scans of actual skulls. A video explaining the process and presenting preliminary results won Honorable Mention in the 2005 AAAS/NSF Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge in the category of non-interactive media.

A second project using laser scan data seeks to develop methods of discriminating the joint surfaces of species and individuals. When the skeletal remains of more than one individual are mixed in a paleontological, archaeological or forensic assemblage, it is important to determine which elements might be derived from single individuals. The underlying hypothesis here is that the bony surfaces of joints will fit more congruently in a given individual than will bones from different individuals or species. With support from the NSF Physical Anthropology Program, Dr. Delson and colleagues at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and the University of Oregon, assisted by CUNY graduate students and Lehman undergraduates, are undertaking research to determine if this concept is feasible.

In addition to these "high-tech" endeavors, Dr. Delson continues his comparative morphological study of a number of samples of fossil monkeys from Africa, Asian and European paleontological sites. One such study is of the extinct monkey *Paradolichopithecus*, known from deposits ranging in age from 4-2 Ma (million years ago) in Spain, France, Romania, Greece and Tajikistan. This animal appears to be an offshoot of the macaque lineage, which became larger (males up to 35-40 kg, compared to a maximum of about 20 kg for living macaques) and more adapted to terrestrial life than their modern relatives.

In part as a result of that study, Dr. Delson is also undertaking field paleontological reanalysis of the first site, which yielded *Paradolichopithecus*, the locality of Senèze in central France. In collaboration with colleagues from the Universities of Lyon and various other institutions in France and the US, Delson has worked for five summers at Senèze, where a volcanic cone partly filled with water some 2 Ma, allowing a variety of animals to drink around its margin. The Senèze Research Project seeks to clarify the age and paleoenvironment of the fossils recovered from this site since 1892; most of them were collected by local farmers who did not keep records of the geological situation, in part to prevent others from finding their saleable treasures. Moreover, the team is analyzing the mode of formation of the deposit, as well as trying to recover additional remains of some of the less well-known species, such as rodents, carnivores and *Paradolichopithecus* itself. A number of CUNY graduate and undergraduate students have participated in this project.



In addition to these research efforts, Professor Delson is the PI and Director of NYCEP (the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology), a collaborative Ph.D. training program in physical anthropology and related disciplines funded by the IGERT Program. NYCEP combines graduate faculty and students from CUNY, NYU and Columbia with selected staff of the AMNH and the Wildlife Conservation Society. Currently, NYCEP includes some 45 faculty and 53 doctoral students. The IGERT grant runs from 2003-2008 and includes support for student stipends and tuition, research travel, shared equipment and supplies, and various forms of meetings and conferences.

NYCEP convened its first international conference from October 28-30, 2005. Entitled *Monkeys Old and New*, the conference provided a venue for discussion of topics in the evolution, behavior, genetics, paleontology and morphology of extant and extinct monkeys from the New and Old Worlds. Following a reception at the AMNH on October 28th, a daylong symposium was held on the 29th at the Graduate Center, where eighteen talks and 40 posters were presented by invited speakers from the USA, Brazil and Britain and students, faculty and alumni of NYCEP. Roundtable discussions of platyrrhine (New World monkey) ecology and evolutionary biology and of baboon behavior, reproduction and mating systems completed the conference at the AMNH on the 30th. The *Monkeys Old and New* Conference was organized by Dr. Delson, Dr. **Larissa Swedell** (Queens) and Dr. **Alfred L. Rosenberger** (Brooklyn), assisted by numerous NYCEP graduate students.

Why Nature Matters to New Yorkers

(Continued from page 1)

More than 200 attendees heard **Theodore Kheel** describe his vision for stewardship of the urban environment, in addition to welcomes by CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor **Selma Botman**, Queens College President **James Muyskens**, and Acting CIRCE Director Dean **Thomas Streckas**. Introductions were followed by talks from seven prominent natural and urban history writers. The sequence included David Rosane (Nature of New York, forthcoming), Tony Hiss (The Experience of Place), Mark Kurlansky (The Big Oyster: New York on the Half Shell, forthcoming), CUNY's **William Kornblum** (At Sea in the City), **Anne Matthews** (Wild Nights: Nature Returns to the City), **Phillip Lopate** (Waterfront), and **Robert Sullivan** (The Meadowlands). These speakers then joined a panel discussion that included Queens College professors **Frederick Buell** and **George Hendrey** and doctoral candidate **Devin Zuber**; afterwards the panel engaged in a lively question and answer session with the audience.



(All Photo Courtesy of Nancy Bareis)

Why does nature matter to New Yorkers? A broad spectrum of standpoints emerged at the conference, including the myriad and shifting ways that New Yorkers experience and view nature, the historical role of nature in shaping New York's development, what factors contribute to the regional identity of New York, the environmental tradeoffs made by urbanization, and even nature's dark side. Dr. Waldman intends to reach a far broader audience by editing a book of chapters contributed by the speakers at this meeting. This was the inaugural event of an annual conference series that CIRCE plans to sponsor. (Courtesy of Prof. John Waldman, Queens College)

RESEARCH CONDUCT

CUNY Faculty Featured in IRB Professional Meeting

Nearly 2,700 IRB professionals, institutional officials and regulatory personnel from around the globe met in Boston December 3-6, 2005, for the Annual Human Research Protection Programs (HRPP) Conference. The conference was sponsored by PRIM&R and ARENA, the professional organizations affiliated with HRPP. PRIM&R is the policy and educational organization, Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research. ARENA is the membership organization of IRB professionals, the Applied Research Ethics National Association. CUNY was privileged to contribute to the conference.

Dr. **Martin Wallenstein** and Dr. **Karen Terry** of John Jay College of Criminal Justice presented at one of the plenary sessions. Dr. Wallenstein, an Associate Professor, is the Chair of the John Jay IRB and the Chair of the Department of Speech and Theater. Dr. Terry, an Associate Professor in the Department of Law and Police Science, is conducting research regarding sexual abuse in the Catholic Church. Their presentation, entitled *The IRB Process in Difficult Cases: The Art of the Possible*, discussed the benefits of collegiality and cooperation between the IRB and the researcher in the preparation of a difficult IRB application for submission. The human subjects' protections devised by Dr. Terry, with guidance from Dr. Wallenstein, were so complete that Dr. Terry was able to achieve a 97% response rate in her survey of sexual abusers and their victims. The presentation, focusing on the collegial process, was well received and generated numerous thoughtful questions from the audience.



Drs. Wallenstein and Terry received so many questions at the podium after the plenary session ended that they were nearly late for their next session. Following the plenary session, they conducted a workshop on oral history, the role of the IRB and human subjects protections. Linda Shopes of the Oral History Association was a co-presenter at that workshop. Similar to many other research institutions, CUNY maintains the policy that oral history researchers must contact the IRB for a determination as to whether standard IRB review is necessary.



Patricia MacCubbin, Director of the CUNY Office of Research Conduct, was recognized for her contributions as a member of the PRIM&R/ARENA Conference Planning Committee, and for bringing the work of Dr. Wallenstein and Dr. Terry to the attention of the Planning Committee.

The 2006 Annual HRPP Conference will be held November 15-18 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC.



DEAN'S CORNER

Accurate Reporting of Researchers' Use of Time

Generally, this Newsletter is a means for us to share with the CUNY community the achievements and accomplishments of our research faculty as well as alerting you of upcoming events. However, it is also a mechanism for us to raise to the forefront external issues that may affect us in our research lives. It is along these lines that I bring to your attention the recently proposed federal guidelines regarding accurate reporting of researchers' use of time. A number of cases over the last year, in which several prominent institutions have been brought to task and have paid high prices, make it clear that the federal government wants precise tracking of academic scientists time on their federal grants and is actively investigating these matters. The draft compliance program guidance for recipients of PHS research awards can be viewed online at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/E5-6548.htm>

Note that these guidelines highlight three areas of concern, 1) time and effort reporting, 2) properly allocating charges to award projects, and 3) reporting of financial support from other sources. Of these, perhaps the first is the one that is the easiest to fall foul of, albeit unintentionally, as researchers move technicians, graduate students and postdocs from one grant to another to ensure continuous funding but without always matching the exact specific aims of the award with the work being carried out by that particular person. But, it should be noted, as stated in the guidelines, "the failure to maintain accurate time and effort reporting may result in overcharges to funding sources and, in certain circumstances, could subject an institution to civil or criminal fraud investigation".

The document includes many suggestions for academic institutions including the recommendation that a compliance officer be charged with the task of overseeing effort reporting. Faculty currently have total oversight of their own grants and to change this along the lines suggested in this document would be a big culture change—and I suspect an unwelcome one. At the same time, it is the institutions that are held accountable for settling charges of "over billing". Thus, I believe this is an issue we need to be discussing across our campuses, and I welcome your thoughts on this.



Around the Campuses

BROOKLYN COLLEGE

16.4 Million Year Old Skull Recovered



Dr. **Alfred Rosenberger**, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Brooklyn College, and colleagues have recently recovered a 16.4 million year old skull

of a fossil monkey, in Patagonia, Argentina. An article reporting the discovery will soon be published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS). Dr. Rosenberger is also in the process of submitting an article proposing a new classification of primates, based on his interpretation of a 35 million year old skull from Texas, discovered 40 years ago. The skull is still the only one of this particular type. Professor Rosenberger believes it is a "missing link" between Lower and Higher Primates, i.e., the group that first gave rise to monkeys, apes and humans. He is a leading authority on the evolution of South American monkeys and has conducted fieldwork on fossils and on living monkeys in half a dozen different countries. Dr. Rosenberger recently co-organized (Oct. 28-30, 2005) with Dr. Larissa Swedell of Queens College, CUNY, the highly successful conference, "Monkeys Old and New", at the CUNY Graduate Center and the American Museum of Natural History. (Courtesy of Barbara Naso, Brooklyn College)

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

w/Hole in the Heart: An Illuminated Play



w/Hole in the Heart: An Illuminated Play involved the collaboration of writer and critic Professor **Lea Fridman** and painter and illustrator Professor

Judith Wilde, both of Kingsborough Community College. The collaboration, made possible by a CUNY Community College Collaborative grant, resulted in a print ready illustrated book as well as three productions of the play under the direction of Tony award winning director, Robert Kalfin. Professor Judith Wilde, an expert in the medieval technique of gold leaf, illustrated the play in the great tradition of the Hebrew illuminated Haggadah. Ms. **Olga Mezhibovskaya**, a colleague of Professor Wilde, designed the book in the same tradition.

"We saw the notion of illumination itself, as a conceptual key, not only in the illustrations and design of the book, but also to the central philosophical question raised in the play: how do works of art about catastrophe give visibility to the terrible in human history," remarked Professor Wilde. As a direct result of the collaboration, Yeshiva University's Cardozo School of Law in partnership with Kingsborough Community College presented the play on December 8, 2005 followed by a panel discussion by authors Geoffrey Hartman, Lillian Kremer, and Bernard Schlink, in a series devoted to Stories and the Holocaust: Challenges to the Artistic Imagination. The illustrations and mannequin figure created for the play by Professor Wilde were used in this production, which was held at the Center for Jewish History in New York. (Courtesy of Prof. Judith Wilde, KBCC)



GRADUATE CENTER

Professor Sullivan is a 2004 National Medal of Science Winner

Dr. **Dennis P. Sullivan**, Albert Einstein Chair in the Sciences at the Graduate Center, has been named a winner of a 2004 National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor. The medals will be presented by President Bush, on an unspecified date, to eight recipients for their contributions to the fields of physical, biological, mathematical, social, behavioral, and engineering sciences. Professor Sullivan is being honored for having developed new fields of mathematics and finding ways to connect seemingly unrelated disciplines.

An internationally renowned theoretical mathematician, Dr. Sullivan specializes in topology, geometry, and dynamical systems. He was named Albert Einstein Chair in Science in 1981, at the time in cooperation with Queens College. During the 1980s the resources of the chair allowed the founding of a regular seminar in geometry and chaos theory that brought first-rank international scholars to CUNY and New York City. Subsequently, the seminar has been supported by the Graduate Center, pursuing

the connections between topology and the mathematical models of nature provided by quantum field theory and fluid mechanics.



Along with the title of Albert Einstein Chair, Dr. Sullivan is a Distinguished Professor of Mathematics at the Graduate Center. Prior to coming to CUNY he held positions at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California at Berkeley, and Princeton University, and he had a

long research association (1973–1996) with the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifique outside Paris. He received his B.A. from Rice University and a Ph.D. from Princeton.

Professor Sullivan's work has been acknowledged by some of his field's most prestigious prizes and distinctions, among them: the Oswald Veblen Prize in Geometry from the American Mathematical Society (1971), the Elie Cartan Prix en Geometrie from the French Academy of Sciences (1981), the King Faisal International Prize in Science (1993), and a 1997 New York City Mayor's Award for Excellence in Science and Technology.

In 1991, Dr. Sullivan was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and of the New York Academy of Sciences, and is a former Vice President of the American Mathematical Society. (Courtesy of Nan Shaw, Graduate Center)

First Comprehensive National Study Finds Centers Safest Form of Childcare



Dr. **Julia Wrigley**, Professor of Sociology and Ms. **Joanna Dreby**, Ph.D. student in Sociology at the Graduate Center, created a comprehensive database of childcare failures, including fatalities, between 1985 and 2003. They found that childcare is quite safe overall, and childcare fatalities are rarer than outside of paid care. But the fatality rate for children who receive childcare in private homes is sixteen times higher than the fatality rate for children in child care centers.

The study, which was funded by the Foundation for Child Development, appeared in the October issue of the American Sociological Review.

While more than 8 million children are in paid childcare every day, until now little has been known about their safety. Dr. Wrigley and Ms. Dreby analyzed reports of 1,362 fatalities (among 4,356 care-giving failures) from 1985 to 2003. The fatality data was gathered from media reports, legal cases, and state records. Three forms of child care were investigated: child care centers, nannies working in children's homes, and family day care providers working in their own homes.

"While accidents can happen anywhere, child care centers are almost 100% protective against children's deaths by violence. They are much safer than arrangements in private homes," explains Professor Wrigley.

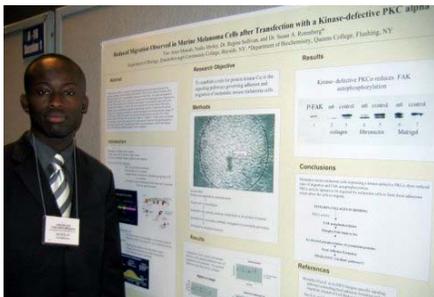
Infants are by far the most vulnerable children in care. Their fatality rate from both accidents and violence is nearly seven times higher than that of children from one to four. Equally striking are differences in infant fatality rates across types of care. The infant fatality rate in the care of nannies or family day care providers is more than seven times higher than that in centers.

Professor Wrigley and Ms. Dreby conclude that centers are the safest form of childcare because they afford children multiple forms of protection. Most importantly, staff members do not work alone. They have others watching them and helping them cope with fussy infants or whining toddlers. This helps them maintain their emotional control. It also helps identify and remove unstable or volatile workers. Center teachers also have more training than most caregivers in private homes and they are supervised by professionally trained directors. Finally, centers control access by outsiders more effectively to keep out people who might pose risks.

These protections help reduce risks of accidental deaths, such as suffocation and drowning. But they are especially important in preventing violent deaths. Not a single shaken baby fatality was found in a child care center, while 203 were reported in arrangements in private homes. The stress of infant crying, in particular, can drive caregivers to impulsive acts of violence. With little professional training, without supervisors or coworkers, and often paid very little for long hours of work, even some experienced caregivers can lose emotional control. Once children are past the toddler years, safety differences between centers and other forms of childcare diminish. (Courtesy of Nan Shaw, Graduate Center)

Science Students Win National Honors

The QCC-NIH Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program is a partnership between Queensborough Community College (QCC), Queens College, York College and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. It was established to achieve the long-term goals of improving the ability of QCC to train and graduate under-represented minority science students, and facilitate their transition to baccalaureate programs in science or biomedicine. A key component of the program is faculty-mentored research.



On October 29th, five QCC-NIH Bridges to the Future students presented their research through poster presentations at the 38th Annual Conference of The Metropolitan Association of College and University Biologists held at Monmouth University in Staten Island. Two projects received awards:



First Place: "Examination of Yeast Cell Parameters Using Optical Techniques". by **Jessenia Burgos**, **Karen Leon**, and **Julio Romero**, Mentors: Dr. **Schneider**, Dr. **Cheung** and Dr. **Flamholz** (QCC); and

Second Place: "Reduced Migration Observed in Myrine Melanoma Cells after Transfection with a Kinase-defective PKC alpha". By **Nadia Abole**, and **Yaw Amo-Mensah**, Mentors: Dr. **Regina Sullivan** (QCC), and Dr. **Susan Rotenberg** (Queens College).

Four QCC-NIH Bridges to the Future students attended the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) held November 2 to 5 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta. ABRCMS is designed to encourage students to pursue advanced training in the biomedical sciences, and the Bridges students took full advantage of the programming including scientific sessions, professional development workshops, poster sessions, exhibits, and networking opportunities. All undergraduate presentations (1000+) were judged and those receiving the highest scores in each scientific category and in each educational level received awards at the final banquet. Top student researchers in the nine scientific categories received cash awards of \$250 from sponsoring organizations. Two of these national awards went to QCC students. (Courtesy of Dr. Patricia Schneider, QCC)

Gene Center Wins \$13.2 Million NIH RCMC Award

Hunter College's Center for the Study of Gene Structure and Function (Gene Center) was awarded a \$13.2 million grant in September from the National Institutes of Health. The grant, which will be disbursed over five years, represents a 55% increase over the previous award of \$8.5M for 2000-2005.

The Gene Center was founded in 1985 to foster inter-departmental collaboration in genetic research. Since its inception, the Gene Center's faculty has grown to 43 professors from departments ranging from chemistry to anthropology. According to Program Director **Robert Dottin**, the NIH grant will help develop and maintain the Center's six research facilities, and recruit faculty from an increasingly wide variety of disciplines. Dr. Dottin hopes the grant will enable further interaction among disciplines in the coming years saying, "Almost every element of science research at Hunter will benefit from this grant."



The Gene Center successfully competed for this highly selective award from the Research Centers in Minority Institutions Program. Only eighteen institutions currently receive grants through the RCMC Program and the Gene Center is one of only eight graduate schools to receive this coveted award. Centers such as the Gene Center not only foster environments that are conducive to excellence in basic, clinical, and behavioral research, but they establish a critical mass of scientists that more closely reflects the growing ethnic and cultural diversity of the U.S. population.

The Gene Center is a highly diverse research enterprise, with 43 scientists of whom eight are minority researchers underrepresented in the Sciences, four are Asian-Americans and fifteen are women. The Gene Center focuses on biomedical-related research in the fields of Biology, Chemistry, Biopsychology, Biophysics, and Bioanthropology.

Having surpassed most of the recruitment and productivity goals of the previous five-year grant period, the funded proposal seeks to focus on research on AIDS, Human Behavior, and Bioinformatics -- research which impacts the issue of health disparities. The Gene Center will continue to hire outstanding researchers - especially scientists from underrepresented minority populations. In addition to supporting new facilities in Genomics, Internet2 and Digital Electron Microscopy, the award will continue to support professional development; technology workshops; post-doctoral fellows; graduate student researchers; core research facilities; the computer network; shared research equipment; the research infrastructure; colloquia; and symposia. (Courtesy of Jeanne Waxman, Hunter College)

CITY COLLEGE

New Five-Year, \$12.5 Million RCMI Grant from NIH

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has approved a five-year grant to City College through the RCMI (Research Centers for Minority Institutions) initiative. The grant, which is retroactive to August 2005, provides \$2.158 million funding in year one with recommendations for an additional \$10.3 million over the life of the grant.

"The City College has participated in the RCMI initiative since it was established in 1985," noted President Dr. **Gregory H. Williams**, who is Principal Investigator for the grant. "The program has played a vital role in strengthening our science faculty and enabling us to provide better facilities and expanded research opportunities for our students. This new commitment from NIH will enable us to build on our 20-year track record of accomplishment, and we thank NIH for its ongoing support."



With the proceeds of the grant, City College plans to add four scientists to its faculty, one for each of the four research specializations within the Center for the Study of the Cellular and Molecular Basis of Development: Bio-molecular Structure and Function; Cancer; Neurobiology, and Immunology. The Center is the research arm that was created through

the RCMI funding. Under the direction of Dr. **Jerry Guyden**, Professor of Biology, it has developed into a center of research excellence with an increased level of national recognition.

The grant pays the first two years of salary for new faculty plus support personnel and funds refurbishment of laboratory space and travel to conferences. After the second year, the faculty member receives a funding line from the state of New York.

In addition, CCNY plans to use some of the proceeds to replace an existing Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorting machine and to acquire a Confocal Microscope. The microscope, expected to cost over \$215,000, will support the work of nine principal investigators and over 40 other research personnel and obviate the need to use for-fee facilities at other research institutions in New York and Boston.

Since becoming a charter participant in the RCMI initiative in 1985, City College has been able to hire 21 additional faculty members in biology, chemistry, physics and biomedical education and to renovate laboratory facilities to accommodate them. With the exception of the latest hires, who were appointed in 2003, all have obtained tenure.

The current RCMI faculty rank among City College's most prolific researchers. Since 1990, collectively they have brought in \$35 million of research support above and beyond the RCMI grants and have published over 400 papers and given more than 600 research presentations at conferences around the country. (Courtesy of Garnet Lewis, City College)

Nobel Laureate Nicolaas Bloembergen Visits CUNY-CAT

On December 5, 2005 Nobel Laureate **Nicolaas Bloembergen**, Global Advisor to the Institute for Ultrafast Spectroscopy and Lasers (IUSL) at the City College, reviewed recent advances in photonics research at the IUSL. During his visit, Distinguished Professor **Robert R. Alfano**, Director of the IUSL, offered an overview of the Institute's current photonics programs. In addition, selected IUSL researchers presented their recent results and discussed plans for the future direction of their research projects.

Professor Bloembergen and Mrs. Bloembergen also met with CCNY President **Gregory H. Williams** and the College's Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, **Lois Cronholm**.



Later, Professor Bloembergen delivered the inaugural lecture in CUNY's Distinguished Lecturer Series on "Advances in Photonics." In his presentation entitled "From Millisecond to Attosecond." Dr. Bloembergen reviewed the history of photonic pulse generation. The lectures are sponsored by the CUNY's New York State Center for Advanced Technology in Photonics Applications (CUNY CAT), and by CUNY's Photonics Initiative, a leadership initiative of the University's Master Plan.

Dr. Bloembergen shared the 1981 Nobel Prize for physics with Dr. Arthur L. Schawlow for their contributions to the development of laser spectroscopy, which involves the use of laser beams to obtain detailed information about molecular structure. Dr. Bloembergen is Gerhard Gade University Professor, Emeritus, at Harvard University, and is presently Professor of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona.

The Distinguished Lecturer Series, which will continue through 2006 and 2007, is designed to showcase the latest advances in all aspects of photonics research and will feature world leaders in the field. It is intended to serve as a catalyst for further research and development in this cutting edge discipline of the 21st Century. (Courtesy of Charles Decicco, City College)



Events & Announcements



Happy New Year

FEBRUARY 22, 2006

EVC Distinguished Lecture Series:

Josh Sanes: *How Nerve Cells Form Connections*



CUNY Faculty and Students are invited to attend the 3rd installment of the Distinguished Lecture Series, being co-hosted by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Hunter College Biology Department, and the New York Times. Dr. **Joshua Sanes**, Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology and Paul J. Finnegan Family Director,

Center for Brain Science, Harvard University, will deliver the lecture entitled, "How nerve cells form connections," on February 22, 2006 at 4:00 pm in the Segal Theater of the CUNY Graduate Center.

Dr. Sanes is a graduate of Yale and Harvard Universities and held an endowed professorship at Washington University where he collaborated with late Dr. John Merlie—"one of the early molecular neurobiologists" and later with Dr. Jeff Lichtman—his present colleague at the Center for Brain Science and "the world's greatest expert in live imaging of synapses as they form." Dr. Sanes' laboratory studies the rules of synapse formation at the neuromuscular junction in the brain using molecular methods in a biological context with the help of live imaging.¹

To register for the event please and obtain information about upcoming lectures in this series, please visit:

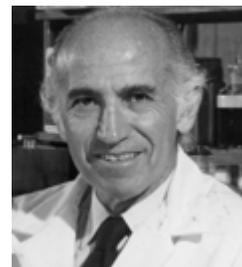
www.cuny.edu/research

¹ Davis, Tinsley, PNAS, Vol. 102, No. 1, January 4, 2005, pp 5-7.

APRIL 11, 2006

Salk Scholarship Applications Due

Graduating seniors and holders of a BA/BS degree from a CUNY college, who have been accepted to an American medical school in pursuit of the M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc. or D.O. in biomedical research, are eligible to compete for the prestigious **Jonas E. Salk** Scholarship award. The award offers \$6,000 over the three or four years that the student is in medical or graduate school.



At most campuses the process for nomination is coordinated by the pre-med or pre-professional advisor. Colleges may put forward up to four nominees. Each nominee must submit a paper describing original research undertaken with a mentor who is a prominent scientist. Often, but not always, the mentors are from the student's home college. A team of faculty from one of New York's leading medical schools judges the submissions and selects eight winners. For the last few years the team has been made up of former Salk Scholars from Montefiore Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

This year, candidates for the Salk Scholarship will also have the option of competing for two, eight-week paid internships at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California. During the internship, students will work with faculty mentors at the Salk Institute and will have some discretion in selecting the research area in which they are interested. Interns will be paid \$6,000 and airfare and housing costs will be covered.

Guidelines for this program are available from the campus liaisons. All materials for the application are due to the Office of Student Development in the Central Office by Tuesday, April 11, 2006. Campus liaisons may impose an earlier deadline. Students who intend to apply should be thinking about writing up their papers fairly soon and should be encouraged to use the winter break for this purpose. The Salk Scholarship Award Ceremony will be held at Baruch College on May 24, 2006. For help in identifying campus liaisons please contact Ms. Judy Hendricks at Judith.Hendricks@mail.cuny.edu or (212) 794-5448.

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