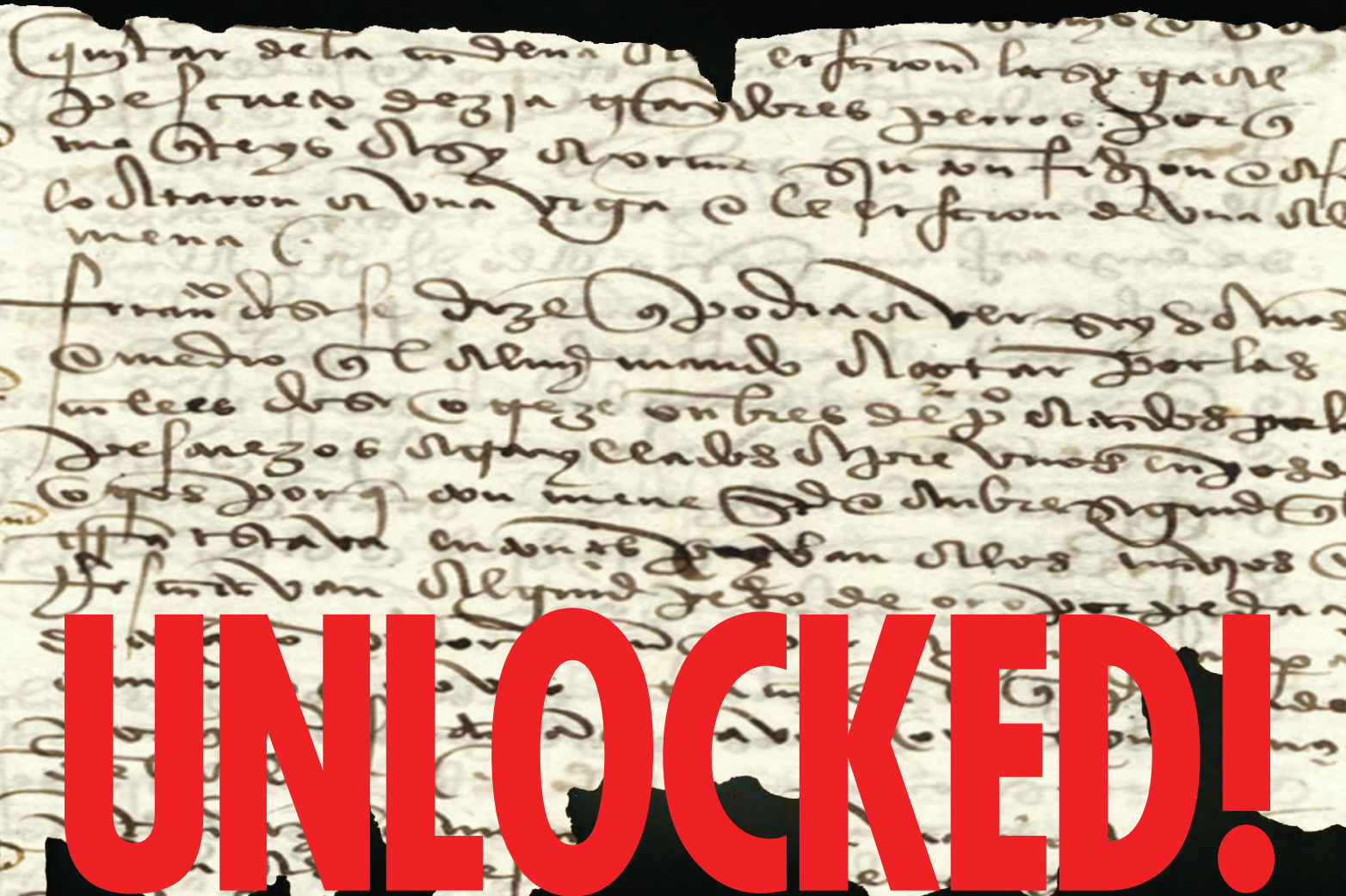




THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK • FOUNDED IN 1847 • WINTER 2019

ALUMNUS

"To transmit this City ...
not less, but greater, better,
and more beautiful
than it was transmitted to us."
Ephobic Oath



Deciphering the Lost Story of the First Blacks in the Americas

Above, From rare manuscripts five centuries old, the Dominican Studies Institute's researchers at CCNY are uncovering lost details of the earliest African presence. See page 8.

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Nobel Farewell

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Noel-Schure page 19

Persistence

Sarachik page 14

**3 Decades of
Service**

Jordan page 10

Complete Coverage of the 138th Annual Alumni Awards Gala Page 11



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ALUMNUS

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Take the Crossword Challenge —
Featured due for Alumnus puzzle:
"___ the 'pragel man' (pictured
above with mortarboard) delighted with
his sui generis bagel-pretzel invention on
campus and at sporting events for more
than three decades. Puzzle: page 23.

TODAY AT CITY COLLEGE

External Recognition for

TEN STUDENTS are the recipients of prestigious scholarships and awards in engineering, the sciences, humanities, and social sciences.

Grove School of Engineering seniors **Abraham "Avi" Rubel** and **Xinbin Xu** are the recipients of scholarships from international engineering firm Thornton Tomasetti. Rubel is the winner of the Lee Petrella '80 Memorial Scholarship and Summer Internship. Rubel, specializing in structures, interned with Thornton Tomasetti's Structural Engineering practice last summer. Xu is the winner of the Daniel A. Cuoco '67 Endowed Memorial Scholarship. Each scholarship provides \$5,000 annually.

"We are proud to provide top engineering students like Xinbin with a scholarship in Daniel's memory that will help them achieve their goals and move forward in their careers," said Thomas Scarangelo, Thornton Tomasetti chairman and chief executive officer. "Our structural engineering team thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with Avi throughout his summer internship in our New York office, and we look forward to his continued academic success."

The Mellon Mays Fellowships honored six students with awards to support to doctoral careers for students from traditionally underrepresented groups and others with a demonstrated commitment to the goals of the national program.

Fellow **Abraham Arriaga** spent six weeks at UCLA studying how animal companions diminish their homeless owners' feeling of otherness, act as barriers and provide a sense of home and



Garrido-Lecca



Rubel

Covington Appointed Executive Director

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION appointed David Covington, director of the Office of Events Management at the College, as executive director following a national search.

Covington joined the College in 2010 after serving as an associate producer at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., where he produced events and directed cast, crew, and volunteers. In addition to his role as events director at the College, Covington, along with senior management, launched a new campus-wide performing arts initiative known as the City College Center for the Arts and serves as artistic director. He is a graduate of American University, magna cum laude, in Washington D.C.



Covington

The executive director oversees operations, including administrative duties, for the Association's Board of Directors, the planning and execution of programs such as the annual gala event and other initiatives. Donald K. Jordan, longtime executive vice president who retired at the end of January 2019, (full story: page 10) will serve as a consultant to the board and the executive director during a transitional period.

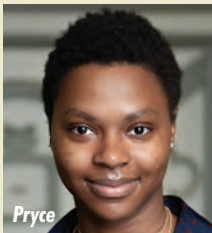


On the way up to the hilltop campus, students climb the gray stone steps of revitalized St. Nicholas Park, one of the "ribbon parks" of a resurgent Harlem. The College recently climbed in rankings of two surveys, including one which gave high marks for CCNY's outstanding venue in New York City.

Excellence



Zapata



Pryce

family outside of socially constructed understandings. A history major, **Kiran Baldeo's** study of Guyanese identity focuses on why Guyanese of Indian descent and East Indians are perceived as one in the U.S.

Colin Powell School undergraduate **Fiorella Garrido-Lecca** is studying gender-based violence and Peru. Powell School's **Alexander Huaylinos** is studying long-term effects of human modifications to river systems and coastal regions once inhabited by indigenous peoples. **Abir Petiwala**, CUNY Baccalaureate major with concentrations in Middle Eastern and French studies, was accepted into the Mellon Mays/University of Cape Town January Program. Also, **Kendrick Zapata** is pursuing a combined BA/MA degree in history before working toward a Ph.D. in American studies.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholars awards went to undergraduates **Seher Ali** and **Oneika Pryce**. A junior majoring in biotechnology, Ali traveled to Amman, Jordan, to study Arabic at the Qasid Institute. She plans to pursue a medical career, specializing in either neurology or oncology. Pryce, a senior in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership's international studies program, will spend her time as a Gilman Scholar working in rural Senegalese communities learning ecologically sustainable development practices.

Global, National Rankings

IN ITS FIFTH ANNUAL RANKINGS of the Best Global Universities, U.S. News & World Report places CCNY in the top half of the 1372 top institutions from 75 countries.

Best Global Universities rankings, produced to provide insight into how universities compare globally, focuses on schools' academic research and reputation overall. The College ranked #669, high among institutions in the New York metropolitan area. Hunter College also scored high on the overall rankings, coming in at #853, while area schools Hofstra University and Fordham University were #927 and #1005, respectively.

In a separate ranking survey, SUNY Binghamton and CCNY battled to a statistical dead heat for third place in CollegeVine's national rankings of **Top Ten Most Underrated Universities in America**.

The CollegeVine survey pointed out that both institutions overachieve for job placements and other "serious factors that get left out," of traditional college rankings. "Our primary focus is on outcomes — more specifically financial outcomes like starting salary and [return on investment], as well as qualitative outcomes like job placements."

In these categories, CCNY in New York City and Broome County's SUNY Binghamton excelled, according to the CollegeVine report. "Another way of understanding SUNY and CCNY is that they are (for academically qualified students) often the cheapest way to get good access to the NYC job market," CollegeVine reported.



Merlin Padilla

Long Distance Planner

JUNIOR MERLIN PADILLA led the Beavers' long-distance runners to their third-consecutive league crown and picked up Most Valuable Performer honors in the 2018 CUNY Army ROTC Men's Cross-Country Championship at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. The Beavers ran away with the title, placing four runners in the Top 10. Padilla won the 8k with a time of 28:11.6 at the November championship. His run was 32 seconds faster than the second-place finisher.

A native of Washington Heights, Padilla got a taste of military life participating in the Army Cadet program for five years in middle school and at Cardinal Hayes High School. He could have earned his commission by enrolling in City College's ROTC program, but he chose to follow a different path, that of the long-distance runner.

"When I came to City College, I knew they had an ROTC program, but I could either commit 100 percent to athletics or 100 percent to ROTC," he said. "There was no way I could keep my head in two different places." Padilla plans to join the Army with the goal of becoming an officer after completing his college education in 2020.

His day revolves around running and academics. He said he has no time for outside interests, other than working part-time as a sales associate for JackRabbit, a running specialty retailer. "I have very set goals, and if an activity doesn't help me to achieve them, I have no need for it," Padilla explained. "I know what I have to do every day: wake up, run, go to school, go to work, rinse and repeat. Everything in between helps me running-wise or academic-wise."

In addition to CCNY athletes from years past, Padilla draws inspiration from another CCNY alumnus, Gen. Colin L. Powell (USA) ret., who was the first African-American to serve as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary of State. No doubt, he will reach for the stars by applying the same discipline and focus to military service that he brings to running and schoolwork.

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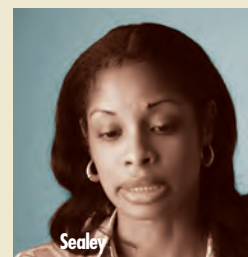
TODAY AT CITY COLLEGE

Fellowships, Grants and Awards for

Historian **Laurie Woodard** is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities faculty award for her book project on the famed actress and civil rights activist Fredi Washington's contributions to the Harlem Renaissance. Best known for her role as "Peola" in the 1934 classic film "Imitation of Life," she quit Hollywood after her last film role in "One Mile from Heaven" in 1937 to return to New York. She continued to work in theatre and civil rights activism. Prof. Woodard is the fourth faculty member from the College's Division of Humanities and the Arts to receive an NEH award — all for writing projects — since 2016. Recent recipients include Václav Paris, Mikhal Dekel and Andras Kisery.



Woodard



Sealey

Nicole Sealey, the College's Lippman Visiting Poet, has been awarded the 2019-2020 Hodder fellowship, one of five selected internationally. Princeton University presents the awards annually to early stage artists and humanists, with "much more than ordinary intellectual and literary gifts." Sealey is the author of *Ordinary Beast*, a finalist for the 2018 PEN Open Book Award. Her honors include the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from *The American Poetry Review*, a Daniel Varoujan Award, and the Poetry International Prize. She is the executive director at Cave Canem Foundation, which promotes the artistic and professional growth of African American poets. The Doris Lippman Visiting Poet is a guest faculty position in the MFA program that is generously funded by the Lippman and Himmelfarb families.

Associate Professor **Catherine Seavitt Nordenson** '07 BS Arch, was honored with the President's Award for Leadership and Service by the American Society of Landscape Architects New York Chapter. Her recent Rockefeller and the National Science Foundations funded work focuses on improving the resilience of New York Harbor and Jamaica Bay. Many of her Master of Landscape Architecture students' studio theses, design projects, and publications have received national and international awards. Seavitt Nordenson is a graduate of the Cooper Union, Princeton University, and City College's Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture program, the precursor of the current MLA program. She is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome and a recipient of the Latrobe Prize and a Fulbright Fellowship for research in Brazil.

Major \$30 million Upgrade in the Works for

MORE THAN \$30 million has been approved for significant upgrades and the installation of a new heating and air conditioning system for the North Academic Center, the 850,000 square foot campus-within-a-campus that is home to the Morris Raphael Cohen Library and Archives, the Finley Student Center, the School of Education, classrooms, labs and dining facilities for students and faculty.

The upgrades are part of a series of state-financed capital improvements to the College physical plant.

The College recently completed a \$13 million renovation of Harris Hall and other locations on campus in support of the CUNY School of Medicine at City College, which opened in 2016. More than 45 construction and renovation projects are ongoing or in development in eight buildings across the campus.

The North Academic Center, the largest

More than 45 construction and renovation projects are ongoing or in development in eight buildings across the campus.

structure in the University system, was designed by William Pedersen of John Carl Warnecke and Associates and opened in 1983 following five years of delays

during the New York City fiscal crisis of the late 1970s. The site was once home to Lewisham Stadium, a popular venue for College and cultural activities.

The New York State Power Authority administers the project which is scheduled for completion in two years. In addition to improved climate control, the project is expected to reap significant cost and energy savings and reduce greenhouse gas generation. The center's heating and cooling plants also serve the adjacent 1907-vintage neo-Gothic landmarked buildings surrounding the quadrangle directly north.

Funding was approved by the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York on November 10.



Distinguished Faculty



Nordenson



Dmochowski

Biomedical engineering professor **Jacek Dmochowski** has received grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Translational Research Institute for Space Health, in partnership with NASA, for advanced ultrasound and laser research. The NIH research will apply ultrasound to brainwave patterns associated with schizophrenia, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Stimulation therapy is precision-applied to one area of the brain, as opposed to pharmaceuticals, which are generally taken orally and delivered to all parts of the nervous system, causing unwanted side effects. Dmochowski's two-year Translational Research Institute will test the possibility of using lasers to increase energy metabolism in the brain and enhance cognitive function in spaceflight for astronauts. Total funding for both grants will exceed \$1.1 million.

North Academic Center



*The North Academic Complex
is the largest academic
complex in the CUNY system.*

A Vision for CCNY

By President Vincent Boudreau

LAST MONTH, IN REVIEWING the year's accomplishments, I wrote about the construction of an apparatus that included a consolidated foundation structure and a reinvigorated partnership with an alumni association committed to building a network of CCNY graduates. I'd like, this month, to start a more extended conversation with you about my plans for the college — where I think we're going and how I'd like us to get there.

I want to start by saying that the college needs a radical modernization in its apparatus for institutional advancement. For most of our existence, the college has relied on public funds, and increasingly, tuition, to run its operation. This reliance has left us exceptionally vulnerable in an age when states across the nation are pulling back from earlier levels of support for public higher education. But it's also allowed us to think about philanthropic contributions to the college as extras: state funding and tuition revenue would ensure that classes were staffed, the buildings were maintained, and our laboratories have up-to-date equipment. Philanthropy, in that way of thinking, would provide for student scholarships, or study abroad opportunities, or leadership programs.

As many of you know and have demonstrated through your generosity, this way of thinking is outmoded. The colleges and universities that have been best positioned to weather hard times have set out to build endowments that secure the college's mission in good times and bad. To get to that state, we need to begin thinking about our advancement operation in entirely new ways. We need to develop an approach to philanthropy that embraces the need to make sure we have the resources to offer all the classes our students need and to make sure their classes are not over-filled. We need to make sure the college can afford to hire a sufficient number of advisors and financial aid counselors. We need to make sure the campus is well maintained, and our laboratories are up to date and fully equipped.

I have a vision of CCNY that I'm building towards, where every new budget doesn't require us to decide what program to cut, or where we can reduce staff, or what piece of necessary equipment needs to be foregone. In my vision of our campus, the remarkable men and women who study at CCNY do not merely succeed, as they do now, by dint of their extraordinary effort and commitment — and the extraordinary effort and commitment of those who teach them and take care of them — but because we have invested in a college that provisions their education in ways equal to their potential and promise.

In the next several of my letters to the alumni, I will

lay out this vision of CCNY — how we get there, what we are doing, and how you can help. In the next several letters, I'll talk to you about how we aim to change CCNY's public profile, how we will mobilize the resources of the campus to tell our story, and how our connections with the social landscape of New York will advance our cause.

For the moment, let me begin where I left off last month: with our apparatus. We have labored for more than one year to merge our two foundations. As I travel around the country and meet alumni chapters, one thing I hear at virtually every turn is that CCNY graduates constantly receive appeals from their "other" schools, but hear very little from CCNY. The merger of our Foundations allows us, for the very first time, to undertake a com-

prehensive outreach strategy, working with combined and all-inclusive contact lists, making sure we have your updated information, and keeping you all as connected to the college as possible.

The alumni association is a big part of this. As an independent organization, you have your own dynamic, and the dues you pay allows the association to service its organizational needs. But the bigger mission of the Alumni Association — its role in our larger



Boudreau

advancement strategy — is to identify and build networks around CCNY graduates, to make sure that no alum is unaware of the work we're doing, and that each builds and maintains a relationship with the college. I'll have more to say about this in later chapters of this discussion.

Next month, I'll talk to you about the college's public profile. An essential element of a successful strategy is the reanimation of the image of CCNY in the public sphere. We're doing great work at your alma mater, and we need a strategy to ensure that everyone knows that. And, mainly because I can't resist leaking truly spectacular news, allow me to let you in on something special.

For years, CCNY, along with other CUNY colleges, has been classified by the Carnegie Classification System, as a "Regional, Masters Degree Granting College." Carnegie classifies all the colleges in the country based on their research activity and degree granting capacity. At the start of the new year, CCNY was elevated to a "Doctoral Degree Granting, Research Intensive" campus. This is huge for us. It opens up new grant opportunities, it elevates our prestige, and it brings some well deserved recognition to our world-class research efforts.

Next month, I'll have more to say on the work we're doing to elevate our public profile, but for now, I hope you will mark April 11th and join us on campus for our inaugural Day of Science. Details will be announced soon.

Richard Perlman '34
 Nathaniel Zelazo '40
 Seymour Bernstein '40
 Daniel Waxler '41
 Melvin Cohn '41
 Joseph Bressman '42
 Leslie E Schwartz '46
 Seymour Savetsky '47
 Bella Bergman '47
 Sol Schwartz '48
 Harold Agler '48
 Arthur Steinthal '48
 George Papoulas '48
 Allan Katcher '49
 Julius Wagman '49
 Earl Hazan '49
 Jules Morton Price '50
 Herman Nagel '50
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 Jerry Cassuto '52
 Frank Depiola '52
 Morton Lowell Crair '52
 Walter Mischel '53
 Sidney Schwager '53
 Ira Grushow '54
 Irwin Math '54
 Estelle Kisseloff Haber '54
 Joan Elaine Cohen '54
 Stafford W. Thompson '54
 Doris Karow Singer '54
 Judith Cline Schaffel '54
 Marilyn Levy '55
 Michael Getler '56
 Arthur Siegel '56
 Claude Le Monier '56
 Melvin Parnes '56
 Mario Fortunato '56
 Gaetano Fragala '57
 Irving Stein '57
 Arthur Echenal '57
 Michael Goodstein '58
 Frank Faillace '58
 Fred K. Buelow '58
 Martin Topf '59
 Herbert James White '60
 Harvey L Kaylie '60
 Nicholas A. Livote '60
 Stanley Grumet '60
 Allan C. Christopher '62
 Oscar Lasdon '62
 Harry Eckstein '63
 Eunice V. Rinehart '64
 Anthony Rigono '65
 Edward M. Oblow '65
 Sal Campanelli '66
 Barbara Hahn '66
 Jose G. Siry '66
 Steven Wasserman '66
 Martin L. Greenwald '67
 Bernard U. Small '68
 Robert Brodowski '71
 Karen Kotecha '72
 William A. Medley '73
 Gerhard Sehne '76
 Robert Mendillo '79
 Myrtle A. Hamilton '79
 Adrian Royal '05



Leon Lederman, '43, on October 3, 2018

C CNY'S SEVENTH NOBEL LAUREATE, Leon Lederman was the son of a Bronx launderer who attended James Monroe High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the College. He shared the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1988, along with Melvin Schwartz and Jack Steinberger, for their research on neutrinos. Among his achievements are the discovery of the muon neutrino in 1962 and the bottom quark in 1977. He was Director Emeritus of Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory (Fermilab) and founded the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, in Aurora, Illinois. "I got a free college education at CCNY," he said in 1965. "I went to graduate school [and received a Ph.D. in particle physics at Columbia University] under the GI Bill. When I got my degree, I was handed the finest equipment to do the work I most wanted to do. And now they are giving me a medal [the National Medal of Science]. That's really pretty funny." He said one his best teachers was his brother Paul, who "imparted a lifelong fascination for the kind of mechanical relationships that are part of science," yet never completed high school. Lederman co-authored five books including, *The God Particle: If the Universe Is the Answer, What Is the Question?* (Dell, 1993). He returned to the College in 2010 to deliver the 164th Commencement keynote address. Excerpts appear at right.

"Beneficiaries of the Greatest Education I Know"

By Leon Lederman '43

LET ME TRY TO PAINT A PICTURE of the world into which you are entering, from the point of view of a scientist who loves the process of doing science, who worries about the consequences of an explosively growing knowledge base and of the awesome technologies that are now at hand.

I'll do this in the context of problems facing society, many of which are induced by science or technology.

The major concern facing you, the citizens of the 21st century, will be population. Today, 6.8 billion people inhabit our planet with the expectation of 9 billion by the mid 21st century. Populations will either stabilize at levels which enable people to improve their standard of living or will expand beyond the limits of earth's carrying capacities.

Environmental and global climate change.

Ozone.

Acid rain.

The vanishing of forests.

The relentless increase in CO₂.

Toxic and nuclear wastes.

These are all connected to population: each human uses a certain amount of energy depending on the standard of living. Meanwhile, the gap widens, between the rich and the poor, between the quality of life of the 80% of the world's population that lives in the poor nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the lucky 20% we know so well.

We know today that our universe started 13.7 billion years ago in an explosion incomprehensible in scale. In the incandescence of the first trillionth of a second, matter and radiation existed in original form, primordial and crystalline in mathematical simplicity.

That's what you get when you appoint a physicist to an honor. You get a lecture on how the world began.

The laws of nature must have dictated this creation and then

supervised expansion and the cooling, supervised the governing of fluctuations, which later became clusters of galaxies, billions of stars encouraged by the existence of massive black holes.

Out of the primordial soup, protons and neutrons were formed and eventually hydrogen and helium. Later, the heavier elements cooked in the ovens of dying stars. Somewhere, at least on one tiny planet, a soup of chemicals congealed to form proteins and eventually life.

We're still wrestling with many of the details, but the broad outlines are pretty well understood.

This knowledge base has given us very large capabilities and a vast and deep technology. Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, how can we assess these capabilities for addressing the problems I've listed? This requires some projection through the 21st century.

I want to summarize and tell you about the kind of world that you're

entering as you leave this inspiring City College campus, and the view I get from this podium is extremely nostalgic. These magnificent buildings above the heads of all the people here today are so familiar to me.

But once upon a time, a nation was wealthy because it had natural resources, oil, coal, minerals, water, and forests. Today, we see nations fully endowed with natural resources, but which live in dire poverty. We see nations with limited natural resources living in great wealth because they have brain power, imagination, inventions and organizations.

They have the educational power that all of this requires. That educational power is here at CCNY. It is my wish that you—the beneficiaries of the greatest education I know, here at CCNY—can enjoy these benefits and put them to use to make the world a better place.

Thank you very much.



Lederman with Interim President Robert Paaswell at 164th Commencement in 2010

The Ten CCNY Nobel Laureates

Arthur Kornberg
Nobel Prize in Medicine, 1959

Robert Hofstadter
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1961

Julius Axelrod
Nobel Prize in Medicine, 1970

Kenneth Arrow
Nobel Prize in Economics, 1972

Arno Penzias
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1978

Herbert Hauptman
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1985

Jerome Karle
Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 1985

Leon Lederman
Nobel Prize in Physics, 1988

Robert Aumann
Nobel Prize in Economics, 2005

John O'Keefe
Nobel Prize in Medicine, 2014

Bernice "Bunny" Sandler, MSci '66, known as the "godmother of Title IX," dedicated her life to fighting discrimination against women, particularly at colleges and universities. "It was a genuine 'Eureka' moment," she said of the moment she realized how she might apply President Lyndon Johnson's Executive Order 11246, as amended in 1967. "Many universities and colleges had federal contracts, and were therefore subject to the sex discrimination provisions of the Executive Order." With



guidance from Vincent Macaluso, an obscure attorney and assistant director of compliance at the federal Department of Labor, she drafted a complaint on behalf of the Women's Equity Action League against the University of Maryland, and eventually against

250 colleges and universities. Macaluso then advised that she send the complaints to members of Congress. In 1972, Congress passed the anti-discrimination Title IX laws. In interviews, Sandler described Macaluso as "the godfather" of Title IX. A native of Flatbush, Brooklyn, Sandler died on January 5th, 2019, age 90.

Melvin Cohn, '40, an immunologist recruited by the polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk, '34, to establish the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in 1962, died on October 23 in San Diego. He was 96. Born in 1922, Cohn was raised in Brooklyn. His parents were attorneys – his mother was among the first women to be admitted to the bar. His father, who lost his sight as a child, became an accomplished pianist and shared a law practice with his wife. Cohn attended Boys High School, sold candy in a burlesque theatre and held down other jobs, including a one-time clothing show that earned \$10, enough to



pay for many months of subway fares to attend the College, he later remarked. Drafted into the Army in 1943, he served in a medical research unit. In 1945, he was sent to Hiroshima to study the after-effects of dropping the atomic bomb.

Afterward, he moved to the Pasteur Institute in Paris where he worked with French biochemist Jacques Monod exploring how genes turn on and off and describing a set of *E. coli* genes called lac operon, which encodes proteins that break down sugar. During a 57-year association with the Institute, Cohn studied the body's immune system, including the evolutionary selection pressures that shape it, and showed that immune cells and antibodies respond directly to infection and pathogen exposure to protect the body. He also developed computer models to predict immune behavior.



WHEN CHRISTOPHER Columbus landed in La Española in 1492—in what is today the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti—he was accompanied by a crew of about 90 sailors, almost all of them experienced seamen.

But in recent years, City College researchers have discovered an intriguing, little-known fact: That among the crew members was a young personal servant to Columbus, known interchangeably as Juan Prieto or Juan Moreno, John the Black in English.

Prieto is now considered the first person of African descent to have arrived in the Americas—and by all indications, he was a free man.

Unlocked from a trove of largely overlooked Spanish historical accounts of the Americas' earliest African inhabitants, Prieto's story and many others represent the first comprehensive effort to weave the complex narrative of both free blacks and slaves in the first European colony in the

New World—what one prominent scholar has called “the cradle of blackness in the Americas.”

The Dominican colony even has a place in the history of the black civil rights movement in the Americas. It is the site of one the earliest slave rebellions against the Spaniards around 1532, led by an African slave, Sebastián Lemba.

These findings of a nearly decade-long inquiry by scholars at the City University's Dominican Studies Institute, located on the College campus, are presented through a ground-breaking, bilingual website, *First Blacks in the Americas/Los Primeros Negros en las Américas* (www.firstblacks.org).

Leading the ongoing effort is Institute Director Ramona Hernández along with a team of archivists, historians, paleographers, librarians, sociologists,

and undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral students.

Today, the core resource comprises a collection of more than 70 images of original 16th-century manuscripts assembled from major historical archives across three continents—but never before widely disseminated or studied. Each manuscript is accompanied by a transcription, English translation, and brief analysis. The site also includes some of the earliest maps of the New World, as well as articles on various historical topics and photos of significant locations in colonial La Española.

Much of the website content has been aggregated through the work of Institute researchers, who painstakingly sift through books by well-known Spanish and Dominican historians, academic publications, bibliographies, ar-

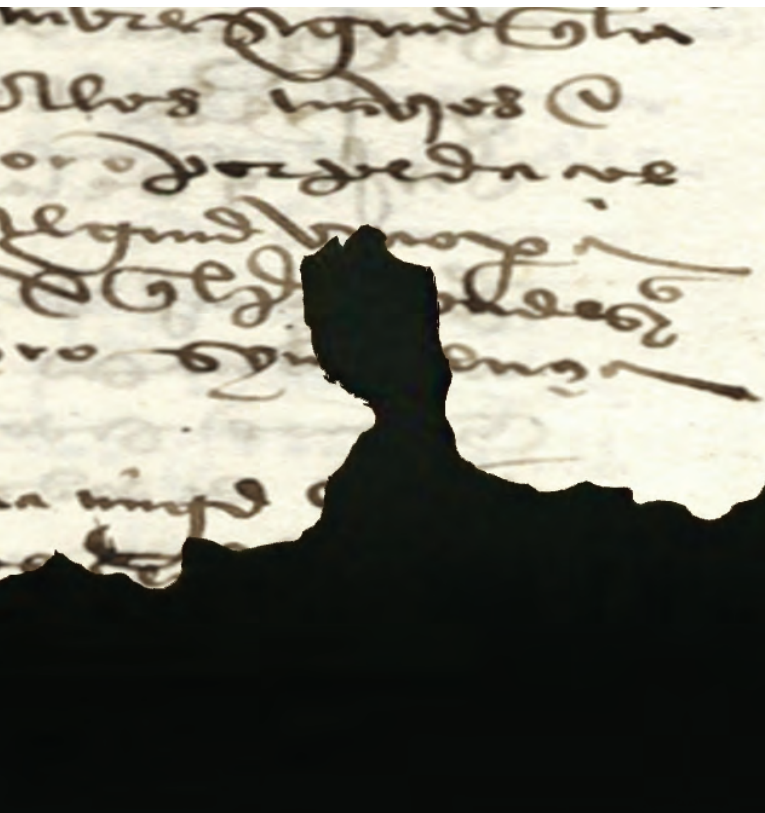
chives, government records and databases across the Americas and in Europe, searching for clues to the lives of the earliest black Africans in the Caribbean. Many documents are uncovered by searching a massive Spanish database called PARES (Portal de Archivos Españoles), focusing on keywords like “mulatto,” “negro” and “negra,” according to Institute Assistant Director Anthony Stevens-Acevedo.

Documents are often tracked down to original manuscripts in major repositories, such as the Archivo de Protocolos and the Archivo General de Indias, both in Seville, Spain. Then the Institute obtains permission from government ministries to copy and display the manuscripts, said Stevens-Acevedo, the lead investigator in the Institute's colonial research projects and a skilled paleographer who has deciphered the ancient handwriting of many colonial manuscripts.

Increasingly cited in academic circles, *First Blacks* is also the first digital platform to make such a

“The library and archives are elite resources, the largest collection of 15th and 16th-century colonial documents in the country.”

—Dominican Studies Institute
Director Ramona Hernández



This 16th century engraving of workers processing sugar cane is one of the earliest depictions of slavery in the Americas.

collection available to the general public. “The intention is not to tell one story but to put knowledge out there, so it’s not forgotten,” says Hernández, Professor of Sociology at Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. We are exposing knowledge that has been hidden, ignored, overlooked for hundreds of years.”

The website is a summary of the more extensive collection housed in the Institute’s archive and library—about 300 pages of raw documents and between 125,000 and 150,000 total pages

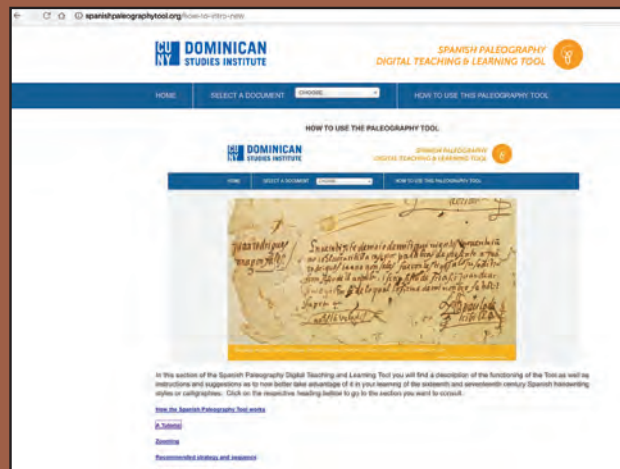
of documentation. “The library and archives are elite resources,” Hernández says, proud of the largest collection of 15th and 16th-century colonial documents in the country.

Founded more than 25 years ago, the Institute began as a tool within the heart of the city’s Dominican community and has gone far beyond, becoming the nation’s first university-based research entity devoted to the study of people of Dominican descent. With seven full-time and several part-time staff members, the Institute organizes lectures, conferences, and exhibitions that are open to the public.

Hernández, the director since 2001, is recognized as a leading sociologist and the author of pioneering texts in the areas of migration and labor. A Dominican native, Hernández was the

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The Spanish Paleography Tool website offers instructions and suggestions as to how to learn ancient Spanish handwriting styles



Innovative Digital Tool Helps Decipher Ancient Manuscripts

PALEOGRAPHY – the study of ancient handwriting systems and manuscripts – is one of the most challenging hurdles historians face. But thanks to an innovative digital tool developed by the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, the task can be a lot easier for those analyzing 16th and 17th century Spanish documents.

The Spanish Paleography Digital Teaching and Learning Tool, is a self-teaching instrument that connects to First Blacks website, allowing individuals to learn how to decipher archival manuscripts at their pace, in their own homes or offices. Created about

distinctive handwriting styles of the time.

There are two ways of simultaneously viewing a manuscript. One mode shows the manuscript image alone, accompanied by word-by-word transcription tips or tags. The other shows the side-by-side images of an entire manuscript page and its line-by-line typed transcription. By offering repeated exposure to manuscript words of different handwriting styles and their respective transcriptions, the tool is designed to help users progressively familiarize themselves with the letters and words, until they finally master them.

While the site now has thousands of visitors, says Stevens-Acevedo, Spanish

“It’s not easy to learn these old handwriting styles. It requires a lot of patience, but it’s not beyond those with a knowledge of high school Spanish.”

—Dominican Studies Institute Assistant Director Anthony Stevens-Acevedo

five years ago with a start-up grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Paleography Tool is a designed not only for specialists, but for the general public. Admittedly, “it’s not easy to learn these old handwriting styles,”

says DSI Assistant Director Anthony Stevens-Acevedo. “It requires a lot of patience, but it’s not beyond those with [a knowledge of] high school Spanish.” The Paleography website displays about 40 images of manuscripts from First Blacks, each document with a transcription and English translation. The site also features an alphabet that displays four

paleontology is still a field with a “small crowd of experts,” in part because such skills are mainly taught in Ph.D. programs. “It’s a missed opportunity,” he says. “Younger people are perfectly capable of learning these skills earlier in their careers, and they should be encouraged and supported, because it will ultimately lead to the production of new knowledge.”

Three Decades of Service

Alumni Anchor and Innovator Don Jordan Moving on to Retirement

AFTER MORE THAN three decades of service, Alumni Association Executive Vice President Donald K. Jordan has announced his retirement effective at the end of January, 2019.

Jordan joined the Alumni Association in 1988 during a time of transition as the association sought to attract new members, expand services and explore new approaches to its unique mission in support of the College. Jordan is credited with increasing dues-paying membership, installing and growing an array of new services for members including popular insurance programs and special discounts, and increasing student scholarships by 90 percent through bequests and alumni donor support.

Under his tenure, regional chapters opened in greater Las Vegas, greater Houston, greater Chicago, Northern New Jersey, and Connecticut and local affiliates such as the Latino/Latina Alumni, the ROTC Alumni, the Young Alumni, the Business and Economics Alumni and the Center for Work Education Alumni were launched or expanded. He also developed signature events such as the annual “Spring Fling” and led efforts to invigorate the *Alumnus Magazine* which increased alumni participation by 60 percent.

A former public school teacher who rose to become national program director for the Boys Club of America and administrative director at St. Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital, Jordan came from a family with an abiding affection for City College. His older brother was a CCNY graduate and the first in the family to attain a college degree. His mother was a polio victim who championed Jonas Salk, '34, the famed researcher whose efforts ended the polio scourge.

“I can remember as a very small boy going to my brother’s commencement in Lewisohn Stadium,” Jordan recalled. “My mother was so thrilled, not only because he was the first in our family to graduate from college but also because the commencement speaker was Jonas Salk.” He noted that Salk’s success in eradicating the



Above, Executive Vice President Don Jordan circa 1988 and, right, at a recent Alumni event

dread disease came too late for his mother, who raised her family with the aid of a wheelchair.

“She did not benefit from his work, but Jonas Salk was her hero because he helped others who came after her. That remained with me my entire life.”

Jordan recalls shortly after taking the job with the Alumni Association and talking with the leaders of the College he realized that he had to form a closer partnership and build trust between the independent association and the College. Jordan said the collaboration worked especially well with President Gregory Williams who arrived in 2001. “He saw the Alumni Association as a true partner with the College’s success as our common goal. He created a renaissance at the College.”

Jordan said that the new executive director, David Covington, (see page 2) will take over the operations of the Alumni Association at a most propitious time. “During my time here, I have seen a complete

transformation. Students are very positive and upbeat about their experience. The campus has never looked better, and the neighborhood is experiencing its own renaissance.”

Moreover, the cooperation forged during the Williams administration continues under President Boudreau.

“The Alumni Association board will continue to enhance our partnership with the College in the years to come,” Jordan said. “We are the College’s link with the past and foundation for future.”



Donald Jordan (wearing CCNY baseball cap) with Finley Award winner Christopher Cimino surrounded by family and friends at the 2018 Alumni Gala in the Great Hall



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS GALA, among the oldest celebrations of its kind in the nation, moved to the resplendent Great Hall, the first-ever AA Gala at the Hamilton Heights campus since the festivity's first annual gathering 138 years ago. More than 350 guests filled the landmarked hall, its twelve majestic columns suffused in lavender lighting. Among the guests were many delighted alumni who were returning home to the campus for the first time in decades. The 71st John H. Finley Award went to Dr. Gregory H. Williams, the 11th president of the College and Christopher Cimino, the NBC meteorologist in New York. This award, named for the College's 3rd president and a former editor of the New York Times, was institut-

ed 1948 and remains the premier recognition for service to New York City offered by a public institution of higher learning affiliate. Six Townsend Harris medalists were also honored for outstanding postgraduate achievement. The medal was established in 1933 by a gift from the Class of 1906 named for Harris, who pioneered free higher education in America and founded the College in 1847. Today, the large majority of full-time undergraduate students enjoy full tuition coverage under an umbrella of state, federal and alumni financial and scholarships. These include alumni scholarships presented at the gala each year to deserving students and the recently adopted New York State Excelsior Scholarship first proposed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo.



Members of the Alumni Association Board and guests enjoy the festive evening in the Great Hall.

THE 2018 JOHN H. FINLEY AWARDS

Dr. Gregory H. Williams

As City College's visionary leader for eight years, Gregory Williams, presided over the renaissance of America's first public urban institution of education at a critical time in this city's history. As CCNY's 11th president, enrollment grew by more than 60%. A surge in academic excellence resulted in major national and international student awards. He led the College's first major fund-raising campaign that garnered more than \$330 million. The Alumni Association salutes and is indebted to Dr. Gregory H. Williams for his distinguished service to the City of New York as a leader of tremendous energy, amazing foresight and exceptional accomplishment in the fields of education and race relations.



Chris Cimino '83

For many early risers in New York, Chris Cimino is the trusted source of weather information. CCNY's most famous meteorology graduate serves as the meteorologist for NBC's in New York's morning show "Today in New York." In a career that spans more than two decades, Cimino covered many important meteorological events, including the landfall and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for the Today Show. Some of his non-weather career highlights include interviews with Elton John and his childhood baseball hero, New York Met Don Clemen. He has been recognized for excellence by the prestigious American Meteorological Society. The Alumni Association salutes Chris Cimino for his excellence, his caring heart and for his many years of exceptional contributions to television and the meteorological field in New York City and beyond.



THE 2018 TOWNSEND HARRIS MEDALISTS

Michael J. Del Giudice '64bba

Michael Del Giudice forged a high profile 20-year career in senior government positions before establishing a highly successful second career in investment banking and private equity. He is chair and senior managing director of Carnegie Hudson Resources LLC, a capital markets advisory firm and senior managing director of Millennium Capital Markets LLC, an investment banking firm he founded in 1996. He previously served as chief of staff to Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and deputy chief of staff to Gov. Hugh L. Carey.



Peter Delfyett '80ee

One of the world's pre-eminent ultrafast photonics researchers, Peter Delfyett's contributions to laser science include development of the world's fastest, most powerful mode-locked semiconductor laser diode. He demonstrated an optically distributed clocking network for high-speed digital switches and supercomputer applications, and he performed a first observation of the optical nonlinearity induced by the cooling of



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Alumni Association Gala Dinner Co-Chairladies (seated at left) Ellen and Elaine Golding '62, '65 MS, joined by friends and colleagues.



Twenty-three student scholarship winners were honored for their achievements.



Left, seated, front row, (l-r) David Laub, '42, retired construction executive, Harris medalist; Yvette Noel-Schure, '86, philanthropist and publicist to creative and performing artists, Harris medalist; Interim Chancellor Vita Rabinowitz, City University of New York; Anthony Belli, '76, health care executive and author, Harris medalist, and Michael Del Giudice, '64 BBA, investment banker and chair, New York State Committee on Scholastic Achievement, Harris medalist. Second row, standing, (l-r) Donald Jordan, AA executive vice president; Jack Laub, '47, generic pharmaceutical pioneer and former NBA player, Harris medalist; Dr. Gregory Williams, nationally recognized leader in higher education and 11th president of the College, Finley recipient; Peter Delfyett, '80 EE, professor in ultrafast photonics, Harris medalist; Dr. Vincent G. Boudreau, president of the City College of New York, and Alfonso D'Elia '73, president of the Alumni Association. At right, left to right, AA President D'Elia, CCNY System Interim Chancellor Rabinowitz, and CCNY President Boudreau congratulate Finley honoree Cimino, top; Harris Medalist Del Giudice, middle, and Finley honoree and CCNY President Emeritus Dr. Williams.



More than 350 guests filled the landmarked hall, its twelve majestic columns suffused in lavender lighting.

MORE PHOTOS SEE PAGE 22



achievements.

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highly excited electron-hole pairs in semiconductor optical amplifiers. He holds 41 U.S. patents.

Yvette Noel-Schure '86

Yvette Noel-Schure used the passion and work ethic imbued in her as a young Caribbean immigrant to make it to the top as a publicist to the stars. She is the not-so-secret weapon of many iconic stars including Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, and Will Smith. Ms. Noel-Schure embarked on a fabulous career after graduating from CCNY. She was a publicist at Columbia records when a young group named Destiny's Child--and its star singer Beyoncé--became her client, and she has represented Beyoncé ever since.



Jack Laub '47

Jack Laub's remarkable life can be summed up thus: World War II hero, CCNY basketball Hall of Famer (coached by the legendary Nat Holman), NBA veteran and pioneering pharmaceutical industry executive, where he became a pioneer in the development of generic drugs.



David Laub '42ce

David Laub entered CCNY in 1938 having captained the Townsend Harris High School basketball team. He is the older of the two Hall of Fame Laub brothers. He played under the legendary coach Nat Holman and was a teammate with Red Holtzman, NBA Hall of Fame coach for the New York Knickerbockers. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II and enjoyed a successful engineering career, building inns, supermarkets, fast food franchises and an underground parking lot in Washington, D.



Anthony Belli '76

Anthony Belli went from SEEK student to a nationally renowned healthcare executive, author, sales consultant and speaker. In between, there was a CCNY master's degree and a graduate degree from the school of business at Pace University. The SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, Knowledge) program enabled Mr. Belli to earn a bachelor's degree that would be a springboard to his immense postgraduate success.



Still, She Persisted

Pioneering Female Physicist Honored for A Lifetime of Achievement

By Michael Arena

LIKE A TRAIL of meteorites beating down from the sky, hardship knew Myriam Sarachik.

As a young child in Belgium with the Nazis in pursuit, as a refugee on the island of Cuba, miles from freedom's grasp in America, as a brilliant young woman urged to abandon her dream in the male-dominated field of physics research, hardship knew Sarachik.

More heart-wrenching challenges were to follow, challenges that might topple weaker giants.

"Still, she persisted," said Dr. Gordon Thomas, mentor, colleague, friend and professor of applied biophysics and biomedical engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Sarachik joined the CCNY faculty in September 1964. More than 54 years later, colleagues, friends, and admirers joined together at the Advanced Science Research Center on the South Campus on November 27 to honor her exceptional research career and celebrate her extraordinary life. Sarachik, a bit abashed, seemed unaccustomed to all the attention at the event organized by Prof. Michael S. Lubell, her colleague in the Physics Department.

Her credentials speak otherwise. She is a recipient of the Sloan Public Service Award and the Buckley Prize in Condensed Matter Physics "for fundamental contributions to experimental studies of quantum spin dynamics and spin coherence in condensed matter systems." She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a Fellow of the New York Academy of Sciences, and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She served as President of the American Physical Society in 2003.

Sarachik's research, detailed on her "Low-Temperature Laboratory" website, covers many topics, including superconductivity, disordered metallic alloys, met-



Professor Sarachik in her laboratory on campus

al-insulator transitions in doped semiconductors, hopping transport in solids, properties of strongly interacting electrons in two dimensions, and spin dynamics in molecular magnets.

In 1941 Sarachik's extended family lived in Antwerp, Belgium under Nazi occupation. They prepared to flee "as the situation steadily worsened — yellow stars, curfews, searches by the Gestapo. Antwerp was under relentless British bombardment every night," she wrote in a memoir published in March 2018.

"By the time we arrived at the border between France and Spain, the border guards had been alerted to the fact that our exit permits were false. My father engaged the services of a smuggler to get us across the border to Spain; unfortunately, we were apprehended by a gendarme on a motorcycle, interned in Merignac, a concentration camp surrounded by barbed wire near Bordeaux, then transferred to Camp de la Lande, a *résidence forcée* near Tours. We escaped from the camp on a Sunday (my father's gift to me for my eighth birthday, he said) and smuggled across the Ligne de Démarcation between German-occupied France and Vichy France in the dead of night.

"I vividly recall arriving at a farm near the border around midnight. After no more than two hours' sleep (I was so tired), we were woken up and succeeded in smuggling across the border — walking, and walking, and then running as fast as we could across an open field ('Ma, I need to go — *fait dans tes culottes*)."

Many years later, she returned to the camps on the fiftieth anniversary of the Normandy invasion and learned that her family was among the last to get out alive. Barbed wire fences were installed shortly after their escape from La Lande. By mid-1942, the residents had been transported east to the extermination camps in Poland.

From Spain, the family obtained passage to Cuba where they spent the next



(l-r) Prof. Michael S. Lubell, who organized the Sarachik tribute, the honoree, and President Vincent Boudreau, at the South Campus Advanced Science Research Center

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**"To transmit this City ...
not less, but greater, better,
and more beautiful
than it was transmitted to us."**

Ephobic Oath

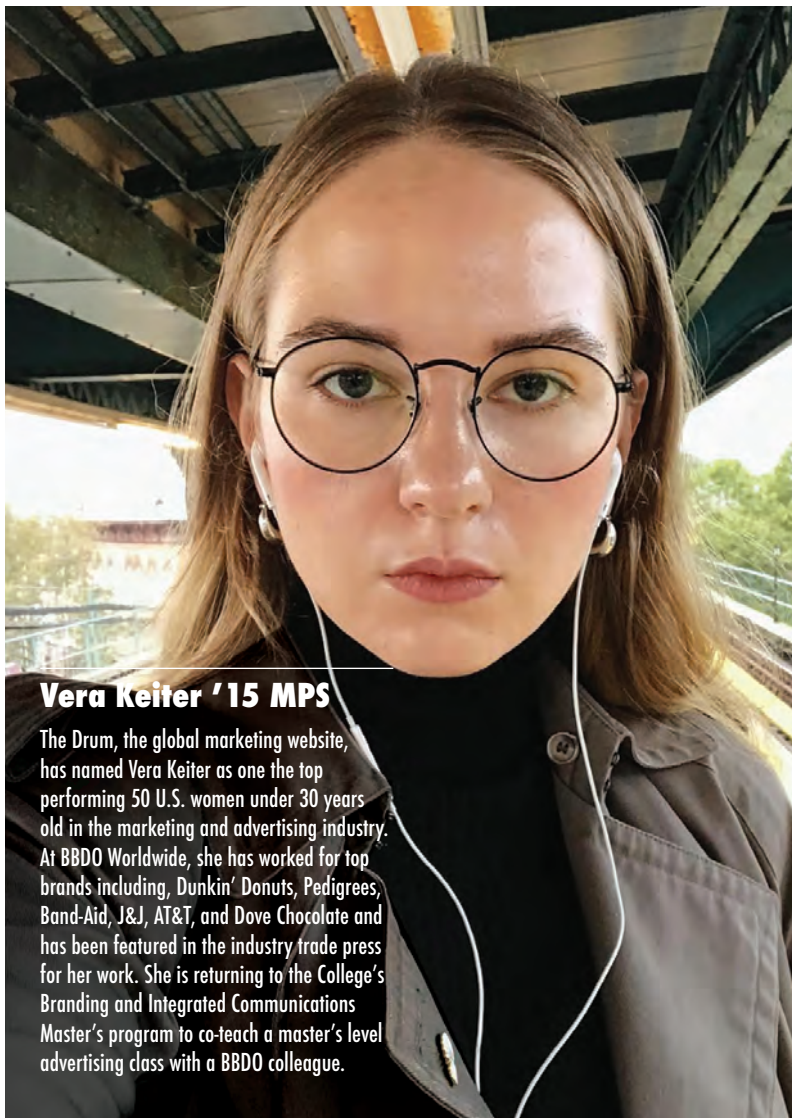
Myrna L. Fischman

BA '60, MS '64 Longtime Professor of Accounting, Taxation, and Law at Long Island University, Myrna L. Fischman is a recent recipient of the Albert

Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. The honor is reserved for members of "Marquis' Who's Who" who demonstrate leadership, excellence, and longevity within their respective industries and professions. She has served on the board of directors of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and is a past president of its Brooklyn chapter.



Fischman



Vera Keiter '15 MPS

The Drum, the global marketing website, has named Vera Keiter as one of the top performing 50 U.S. women under 30 years old in the marketing and advertising industry. At BBDO Worldwide, she has worked for top brands including, Dunkin' Donuts, Pedigrees, Band-Aid, J&J, AT&T, and Dove Chocolate and has been featured in the industry trade press for her work. She is returning to the College's Branding and Integrated Communications Master's program to co-teach a master's level advertising class with a BBDO colleague.

Andy Holten '62

Holocaust survivor Andy Holten was recently profiled in *The Albuquerque Journal* recounting his harrowing childhood escape from the Nazis in Holland. The Holocaust took the lives of more than 6 million Jews, including Holten's family, but he survived because his parents made the ultimate sacrifice, sending him to live with a Christian family in the countryside outside Amsterdam. Holten immigrated to the U.S. in 1956, worked as a messenger on Wall Street and enrolled at the College. He became a soccer star (inducted in 1980 into the Varsity Hall of Fame) and earned a degree in physics. He joined the Air Force, married, became a U.S. citizen and moved with his civilian job to New Mexico. Holten eventually traveled back to Holland, taking both his sons to the world of his childhood. He told *The Journal* that only as an adult did he fully understand the gravity of his parents' sacrifice. Search youtube.com for "Andy Holten" for his first-person video account.

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Holten

Murray Fradin '61

An updated edition of his 2013 book "JIHAD: The Mahdi Rebellion in the Sudan," is the recent work by CCNY graduate Murray Fradin, a retired high school history teacher who has devoted his retirement years to the study of the contemporary Middle East. The book is available at Amazon and other book sites. Details about the book can be found at www.jihad-themahdirebellion-in-the-sudan.com.

Alfred Posamentier MA '66

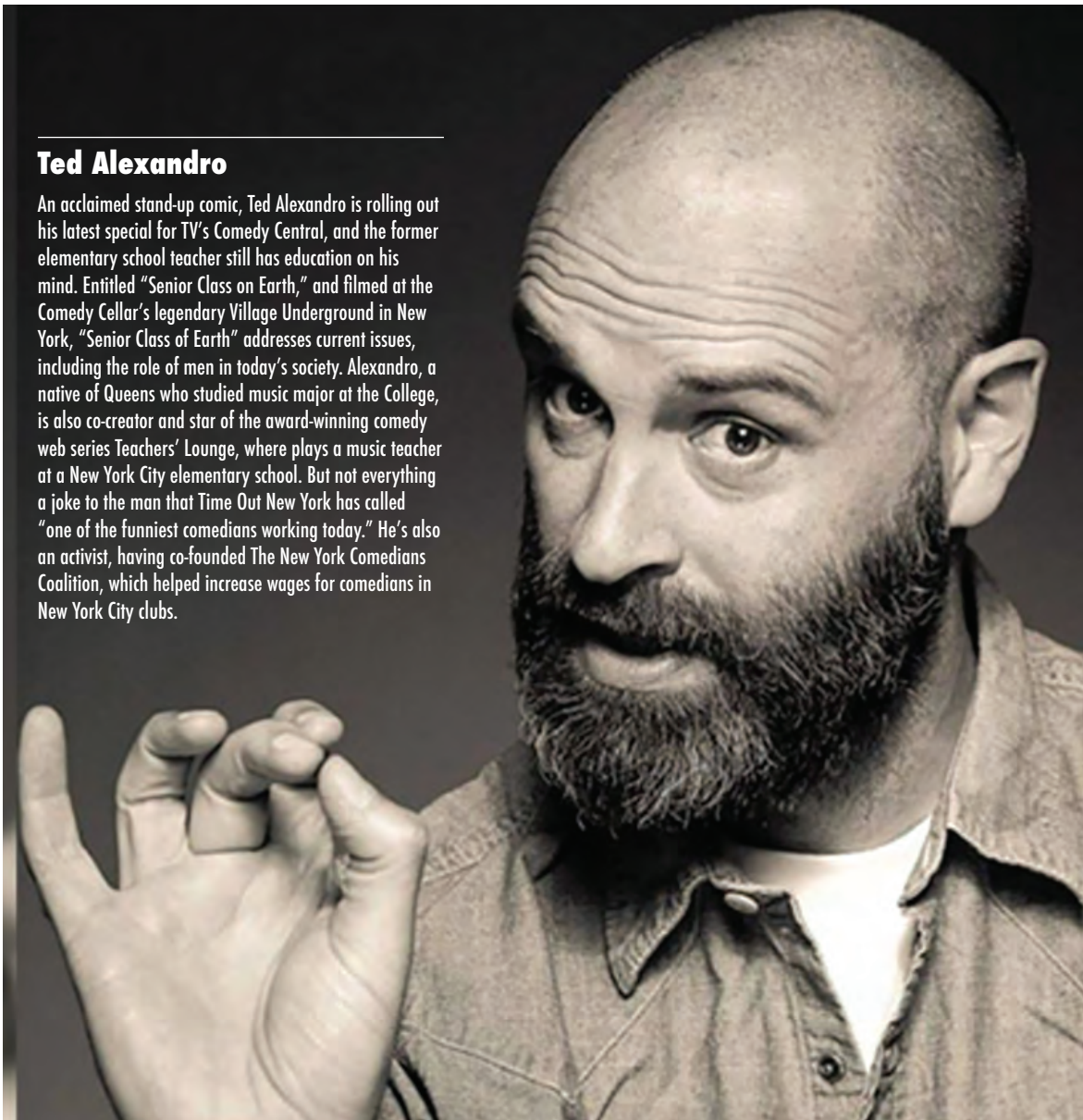
Professor and Dean Emeritus, School of Education, Posamentier is the author of more than 60 books on Mathematics, many of which are intended to motivate students and the general public to better appreciate the science. Some of his more recent books are: *The Mathematics of Everyday Life* (Prometheus Books, 2018), *Strategy Games to Enhance Problem – Solving Ability in Mathematics* (World Scientific, 2017), *The Joy of Mathematics: Marvels, Novelties, And Neglected Gems Are Rarely Taught in Math Class* Prometheus books, 2017), and *The Circle: A Mathematical Exploration Beyond the Line* (Prometheus, Books, 2016).



Posamentier

Ted Alexandro

An acclaimed stand-up comic, Ted Alexandro is rolling out his latest special for TV's Comedy Central, and the former elementary school teacher still has education on his mind. Entitled "Senior Class on Earth," and filmed at the Comedy Cellar's legendary Village Underground in New York, "Senior Class of Earth" addresses current issues, including the role of men in today's society. Alexandro, a native of Queens who studied music major at the College, is also co-creator and star of the award-winning comedy web series Teachers' Lounge, where plays a music teacher at a New York City elementary school. But not everything a joke to the man that Time Out New York has called "one of the funniest comedians working today." He's also an activist, having co-founded The New York Comedians Coalition, which helped increase wages for comedians in New York City clubs.



"Zaxai" Alberto Pierre '11

Zaxai, pronounced "Zah-K-eye," gained national attention as an audience-pleasing competitor on NBC's wildly popular program, "The Voice." Though he fell just short of victory, Zaxai, the 29-year-old Flatbush, Brooklyn resident, was coached by two of the judging panel's singing stars, Jennifer Hudson and Kelly Clarkson. Singer, songwriter, producer and acoustic guitarist, Zaxai genres including rock, pop, soul, r&b, gospel, and classical. Zaxai credits his sound to his upbringing in Flatbush and its diversity. He performs in English, French, Creole, Spanish, Italian and Russian.



Zaxai

Please send updates for inclusion into Alumnus Class Notes to Tom D'Andrea at [tdandrea @ ccnyalumni.org](mailto:tdandrea@ccnyalumni.org)

Phil Marius '12

The Anthropology major and Staten Island resident serves as community liaison to Manhattan Assemblyman Richard Gottfried. After graduating from the College, he completed a one-year internship with then State Senator Ruth Hassell Thompson of the Bronx and then joined the staff of State Senator Bill Perkins, also of Manhattan, in 2015 as a legislative policy analyst. He is the son of Haitian immigrants who instilled in him the importance of public service. His dad is a university administrator and professor, and his mother is a health care professional. His great-great-grandfather, Septimus Marius, served as Minister of War and Navy of the Republic of Haiti. In addition to his professional responsibilities, Mr. Marius devotes significant time to community work on Staten Island and was recently the subject of a profile in the Staten Island Advance.



Marius, performing in the NYS Senate Chambers with twin Richard-Olivier Marius in 2012



Stanley Feingold '46

Four-term Congresswoman and former Brooklyn District Attorney Liz Holtzman and New York State Republican Leader Ed Cox joined forces to discuss the 2019 national and statewide political scene at the Stanley Feingold inaugural lecture. Named for the beloved political science professor whose teaching career spanned nearly five decades, the event is the beginning of a series planned by a group of Feingold's former students who remained in close contact with him through his retirement years. They include journalists, social scientists, professors of political science and law, attorneys, judges, and many thousands of informed citizens. *New York Times* Correspondent Sam Roberts, who has covered national, state and local politics over the course of his lengthy career with the newspaper, served as moderator for the evening event in Shepard Hall. Feingold, who graduated from the College with honors in 1946 and immediately began teaching, died in 2017.

F Abdul Jaleel '08

(Jerrard Scott Joseph)

The African-American digital media artist recently celebrated the first solo exhibition of his work, entitled "Covered: Celebrating Muslim Women," at the Art Sanctuary in Philadelphia. On display were brightly colored graphic designs depicting various Muslim women dressed in a variety of beautiful coverings. Jaheel, who was known as Jerrard Scott Joseph while studying at CCNY, uses digital art to explore Muslim women's clothing and modesty as an extension of faith as a positive representation of Islam. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Electronic Design and Multimedia from the College and currently resides in Yonkers.



Rajaram



Delgado

Devon Rajaram BFA '16

Kia Delgado BFA '16

Devon Rajaram and Kia Delgado returned for Alumni Night during fall semester to talk career tips and life after school with students in the Art Department's Electronic Design and Multimedia Program. Rajaram is a partner at the design firm Wayfx, where clients include health and wellness, software and cyber security companies. Delgado works at *Washington Post* Brand Studio where she designs branded content pieces for the *Post's* various partners. *Please Turn to Page 18*

Dream of a City (2018)



Manfred Kirchheimer '52

Veteran Indie filmmaker Manfred (Manny) Kirchheimer is busy as ever with the debut of no less than three films in 2018 in runs at New York City theaters. In January, "TALL: The American Skyscraper and Louis Sullivan" ran for five weeks at the Metrograph, while "My Coffee with Jewish Friends" played at the Lincoln Plaza in in midtown. Kirchheimer, a 2016 Guggenheim fellow, presented "Dream of a City," featured at the New York Film Festival and a 9-day retrospective of his work at The Museum of Modern Art. In recent weeks, he is putting the finishing touches on his latest film, "Middle-Class Money, Honey," working toward a 2019 debut. *The New York Times* has called him "an indispensable New York filmmaker, a noticer, and a listener without peer."



Maurice Ashley '93

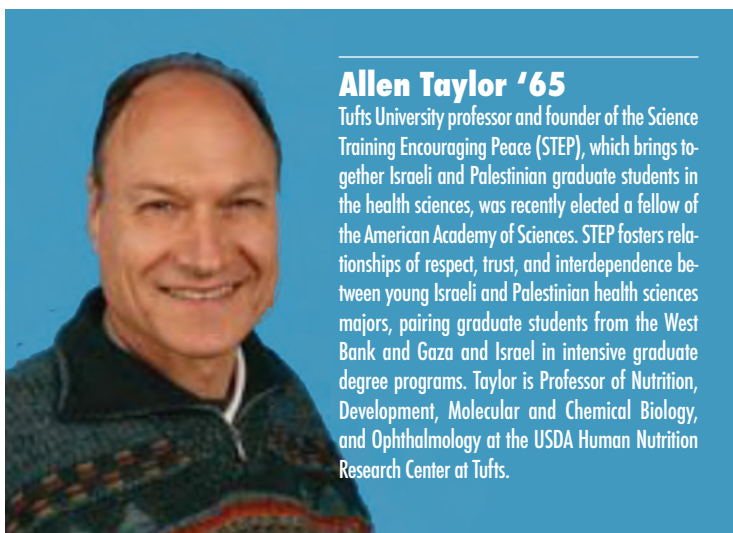
International chess grandmaster Maurice Ashley (above left) appeared as a featured guest on a recent Daily Show with host Trevor Noah, who was clearly wowed by the accomplishments of the gamer from Brownsville, Brooklyn. Not only did Ashley achieve grandmaster status back in 1999, becoming the first black person to attain the honor, but he is also an author, commentator, app designer, puzzle inventor, and motivational speaker. Ashley is a popular commentator for high-profile chess events and has devoted many years to teaching the game to young players. In 2016, he was inducted into the U.S. Chess Hall of Fame.





Irma Ostroff '96 MFA and Albert Vecerka '97 BS, Arch

The works of Professors Ostroff, Vecerka and three of their colleagues at the Spitzer School of Architecture were featured in a recent show entitled, "Five Artists + Architecture." Curated by Distinguished Professor Lance Jay Brown, the show presented five distinct and inspired points of view that illustrate the dynamic relationship between art and architecture. Included were Ostroff's vivid abstract paintings and Vecerka's photographs of various architectural scenes, along with the urban landscape paintings of Daniel Hauben, the sculpture of David Judson and the pictures of built environments of Alan Feigenberg.



Allen Taylor '65

Tufts University professor and founder of the Science Training Encouraging Peace (STEP), which brings together Israeli and Palestinian graduate students in the health sciences, was recently elected a fellow of the American Academy of Sciences. STEP fosters relationships of respect, trust, and interdependence between young Israeli and Palestinian health sciences majors, pairing graduate students from the West Bank and Gaza and Israel in intensive graduate degree programs. Taylor is Professor of Nutrition, Development, Molecular and Chemical Biology, and Ophthalmology at the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center at Tufts.

Larry Greengrass '73

Larry and Nancy Greengrass reported back from a recent excursion to Lanzarote, the third most populous of the Canary Islands. Located off the coast of West Africa, Lanzarote is an island, almost entirely a volcanic



landscape. "Riding a camel in Timanfaya National Park was a glorious experience," notes Larry. "Timanfaya's rocky landscape was created by a volcanic eruption in the 1730's. Camels were first introduced at the end of the 15th century, as a means of transport, because of their ability to survive in the environment." Sunny days prevail; the island averages 18 days of rainfall per year. The annual average temperature is 77 degrees. Larry Greengrass serves as treasurer of the Alumni Association.

Yvette Noel-Schure '86

2018 Townsend Harris Medalist Yvette Noel-Schure, executive vice president of Schure Media Group, has represented Mariah Carey, Will Smith, Jessica Simpson, Prince, John Legend, Adele, Wyclef Jean, Destiny's Child and many other performing artists. Excerpts from her Townsend Harris Medal remarks follow.

"I am thrilled to be back here at my favorite building on this campus, Shepard Hall, where I took my first class, where I formed roots. A tree is unhealthy without good roots, proper soil, my grandfather would say in his Caribbean way. A house is not a home without a solid foundation, words that were spoken so eloquently by my brilliant — yet uneducated — grandmother. From my grandfather, I learned about finances and how to enter a room with my head held high. From my grandmother, I learned to be kind, to be compassionate. I learned the ability to dream and not just dream big but to dream wide. I am so grateful to City College for giving me a solid foundation. For putting soil under my battered boots (the ones this immigrant girl got on sale in the East Village that I think I wore for the entire four years), and for planting and nurturing the seeds of success in me. And it was not just an education I received here. It was a massive hug from a community that cares. I was allowed to dream a bigger dream at CCNY. This Grenadian girl. Wherever I go, from Britain on a world tour or Burundi, East Africa, where I am part of a team that is trying to solve the water scarcity crisis there, I take a huge part of City College, this magnificent edifice, with me."

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UNLOCKED!

Continued from Page 9

first child in her family to go to college, getting her high school degree by attending school at night, then earning a B.A. in Latin American History from Lehman College and a Ph.D. and an M.Phil. in Sociology from the CUNY Graduate Center. Her work has been recognized in the Dominican Republic, where she received the Meritorious Order of Duarte, Sánchez y Mella, the country's highest civilian honor.

As more historical data is collected, Institute researchers are looking to shed additional light on the complexity of black history created by the intersection of race with social class, gender, ethnicity and other factors in 16th century La Española.

"The documents give a sense of how rich and diverse social life was for colonials, free blacks, and slaves, men, and women—a whole panoply," says Stevens-Acevedo, who has an M.A. in History from the College.

The story of Juan Moreno is an example of the complexity and shifting nature of social relationships, sometimes revealed in unexpected circumstances. In one document, dated 1500, a notary records witnesses testifying in a judicial investigation ordered by the Spanish Crown into Columbus' reportedly abusive behavior as governor of the Spanish colonies. (He was removed from his post in 1500.)

Moreno is identified as a personal servant to "the Admiral," who one day sent Moreno out hunting for game, but when the servant returned with insufficient food, Columbus had him severely flogged and forced to march naked through the streets, yelling out that he was being punished for being a "rogue."

In another document, dated 1516, an inquiry is being conducted regarding litigation brought by Columbus and his



Dated 1560, this is one of the earliest known maps of La Española, detailing 55 geographical features of the island.

sons over contractual benefits the family claimed were owed them by the Spanish Crown. One of the witnesses, an older black man who called himself Juan Portugués (John the Portuguese), testified that he had been a paid servant of Columbus who arrived in La Española in 1492 with the Admiral and accompanied him from island to island on the 1492 and 1493 expeditions.

Later, he said he became involved as a businessman in the colonization of Central America. Many researchers believe that Juan Moreno and Juan Portugués are the same non-slave black man. While further evidence has not yet emerged to confirm this premise, there is no doubt that free Africans were residing in the early colonial days of La Española, even as Spanish monarchs were considering using enslaved blacks to develop the colonies.

Several years after the Columbus voyages, two other cases of free black men traveling to La Española have been identified from centuries-old manuscripts. The first man, named Pedro, had previously been the servant of a merchant, and in 1501, was hired under contract by a resident in Seville. The contract covered his traveling to La Española and serving his employer as a worker for two years,

digging for gold or doing whatever was required in exchange for a salary of 6,000 maravedis per year, food and shelter — plus a twentieth of all the gold extracted. The second man, identified as Andrés García, was hired in 1501 by another employer to travel to La Española and work there for four years at a salary of 8,000 maravedis per year.

Other documents indicate that free black women, too, lived in La Española. In a 1695 letter from Santo Domingo's archbishop to King Carlos II of Spain, the archbishop described a hut or shack where a black woman "took in the sick people and attempted to heal them or cure them" somewhere between 1497 and 1501, the year a large Spanish expedition arrived in the colony, Stevens-Acevedo said.

According to local oral tradition, she was remembered simply as "the black woman of the hospital," pious and poor, who opened her hut before there were any hospitals in Santo Domingo.

By 1501 there is evidence in several documents that the Spanish monarchs were considering the use of enslaved blacks in the colonization of La Española, especially in the development of the early plantation economy. Indeed, the trans-Atlantic slave trade is gen-

Documents indicate that both free black men and women lived in the early days of La Española. In one letter, a hut was described where a black woman "took in the sick people and attempted to heal them or cure them" somewhere between 1497 and 1501.



erally considered to have started in La Española, expanding from this epicenter to other parts of the Americas.

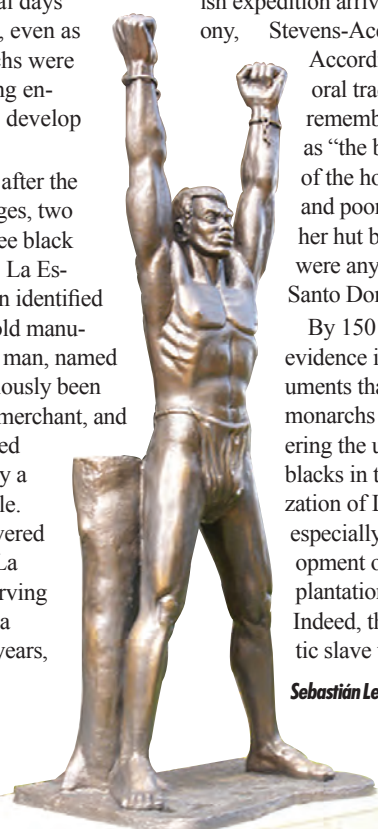
At the same time, documents also provide clues of the complex relationships and blurred social classes that sometimes existed between masters and slaves in early colonial days.

"Slavery was not as rigid or unilateral a system as it later became," Stevens-Acevedo says. There are several accounts of black African women who were slaves in the colonies but later given their freedom in Spain and granted licenses to return to their families in Santo Domingo as free citizens, he says.

Hernández notes that the Dominican colony even has a place in the history of the black civil rights movement in the Americas. It is the site of one of the earliest slave rebellions against the Spaniards around 1532, led by the African slave Lemba, nearly nine decades before the arrival of the first slaves to North America in 1619 in Jamestown.

A member of the African Lemba tribe, Lemba and several hundred followers fought against the Spanish colonizers for 15 years, attacking and looting villages throughout the island while freeing other slaves until he was captured and beheaded following a bloody battle.

"Lemba is part of the hidden stories," says Hernández, "the hidden history of blackness."



Sebastián Lemba, maroon and freedom fighter

Continued from Page 19

Larry Brooks '72

The veteran sportswriter for the New York Post received the Elmer Ferguson Award and was enshrined into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto in November. Brooks, 68, has covered the National Hockey League and its New York area teams for more than 40 years with time out to serve in executive capacities with the New Jersey Devils. He grew up on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and was a devout "blue seat" Ranger fan from his earliest days. As a reporter and columnist, Brooks told those gathered at the ceremony: "I feel like I represent the Blue Seat. I try to represent them every day," he added. "I've done my best to be honest, informative, accurate and entertaining."



Debra Satz '78 BA

Stanford University Professor Debra Satz has been named dean of the School of Humanities and Sciences. A native of the Bronx, Satz began pursuing political philosophy as a first-generation college student at CCNY where her interest in the field was driven by questions surrounding inequality in society. In April of 2018 Satz was named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. At Stanford, she served as senior associate dean for the humanities and arts from 2010 to 2017. Her numerous awards include Stanford's Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching for "her extraordinary teaching that combines the importance of rigorous thought with serious engagement in the moral dilemmas facing humanity."



Still, She Persisted

Continued from Page 14

five and a half years waiting for an American visa. "I was now a 'displaced person,'" she recalled. In March of 1947, they entered the United States. "It was exhilarating, reminiscent of the day I suddenly realized that my line of sight had risen above the dining room table top — an incredible new world had opened to me. Few people value and treasure American openness and freedom more than do immigrants."

From Bensonhurst, Brooklyn to Washington Heights in upper Manhattan, Sarachik completed junior high school, followed by Bronx High School of Science, Barnard College, and Columbia University graduate school, where she studied physics and met her husband, Phillip.

As a female pioneer in a male field, Sarachik was one of a handful of women who faced hurdles from their male professors and employers in the 1950s. "...a physicist can marry a taxi driver's daughter, but a female physicist cannot marry a taxi driver," advised one professor. Another counseled, "Why don't you take a teaching job and take care of your baby?"

CCNY was the only university to offer a faculty position. She joined the Physics Department in the fall of 1964, just as Harry Lustig, the chairman of the department, was embarking on a highly successful plan to upgrade the department with funding from a National Science Foundation "Center of Excellence" grant.

As Sarachik worked to set up her research laboratory, the department grew in size. She recalled that Lustig "recruited three special overscale distinguished professors:

Bunji Sakita, Herman Cummins, and Mel Lax; others included Henry Semat, Mark Zemansky, Danny Greenberger, Joe Birman, Bob Alfano, and many more."

In March of 1947, they entered the United States. "It was exhilarating . . . an incredible new world had opened to me."

Then tragedy struck. As reported in the New York Times, Leah Sarachik, the couple's youngest daughter, disappeared on September 10, 1970. Also missing was the child's caretaker. The caretaker's body was discovered twelve days later in Vermont. Police ruled her death a suicide. Six weeks later, Leah's remains were found 70 miles south near Bennington, Vermont. Police concluded that the caretaker had kidnapped Leah, five

years old, and killed her before taking her own life.

"The next ten years or so were very difficult. I recall the day, (a year or two after Leah died) when I suddenly sat up straight on my psychiatrist's couch holding my head: 'Everything I say is acrid and corrosive, it burns my mouth as I say it; I absolutely MUST stop.' In retrospect, I believe that was a defining moment; it was the beginning of my long road back."

She searched for a way to spark the curiosity, energy, drive, and excitement that had propelled her earlier research. "I started by writing small proposals to apply for internal research support, with mixed success... I was no longer at, or even near, the forefront where the interesting stuff was happening. With the small amount of money I did manage to obtain and with the occasional help of an undergraduate student, I started to run the low-temperature Faraday balance magnetometer that a graduate student had built. In the mid-1980s, I succeeded in getting funds from the Department of Energy. Thus began the most productive (25-year) period of my life, starting when I was in my early 50s."

She has also found great fulfillment in human rights advocacy and as a champion for women's issues. "Human rights violations persist and will surely continue in various parts of the globe — it is crucial that we continue to do battle to try to help individuals who are trapped," she said.

Opportunities for women in the sciences, and prospects for acceptance success have improved substantially. "I do not mean to imply that we've solved this problem — far from it," she said, "But it is unquestionably true that we've made a great deal of progress."

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Townsend Harris medalists and brothers Jack and David Laub



All standing for the national anthem, student performers entertained throughout the evening.



President Boudreau with Finley Honoree and President Emeritus Williams



Members of the Center for Worker Education Alumni join in celebration with white-capped Executive Vice President Don Jordan.

On our cover: The Alumnus now proudly spotlights the College's Ephebic Oath, modeled upon the oath of ancient Athens, introduced by President John H. Finley at Commencement exercises in 1913, and recited by new alumni at exercises annually for more than a century.



Surprising Solution

By Alfred S. Posamentier

A LENGTHY READING PROBLEM can put some people off, for fear that they won't even understand what is being asked. Although this problem does require a fair bit of reading it is rather easy to understand and could even be dramatized. Once past the statement of the problem, it is very easy to understand, but quite difficult to solve by conventional means.

This is where the beauty of the problem comes in. The elegant solution offered later — as unexpected as it is — almost makes the problem trivial. However, our conventional thinking patterns will likely cause a confusing haze over the problem.

Don't despair.

Give it a try. Struggle a bit. Then read the solution provided below.

We begin by stating the problem:

We have two one-gallon bottles. One contains a quart of red wine and the other, a quart of white wine. We take a tablespoonful of red wine and pour it into the white wine. Then we take a tablespoon of this new mixture (white wine and red wine) and pour it into the bottle of red wine. Is there more red wine in the white wine bottle, or more white wine in the red wine bottle?

To solve the problem, we can figure this out in any of the usual ways — often referred to in the high school context as "mixture problems" — or we can use some clever logical reasoning and look at the problem's solution as follows:

With the first "transport" of wine there is only red wine on the tablespoon. On the second "transport" of wine, there is as much white wine on the spoon as there is red wine in the "white-wine bottle." This may require students to think a bit, but most should "get it" soon.

The simplest solution to understand and the one that demonstrates a very powerful strategy is that of using extremes. We use this kind of reasoning in everyday life when we resort to the option: "such and such would occur in a worst case scenario, so we can decide to . . ."

Let us now employ this strategy for the above problem. To do this, we will consider the tablespoonful quantity to be a bit larger. Clearly the outcome of this problem is independent of the quantity transported. So we will use an extremely large quantity. We'll let this quantity actually be the entire one quart. That is, following the instructions given the problem statement, we will take the entire amount (one quart of red wine), and pour it into the white-wine bottle. This mixture is now 50% white wine and 50% red wine. We then pour one quart of this mixture back into the red-wine bottle. The mixture is now the same in both bottles. Therefore, there is as much white wine in the red wine bottle as there is red wine in the white wine bottle!

We can consider another form of an extreme case, where the spoon doing the wine transporting has a zero quantity. In this case the conclusion follows immediately: There is as much red wine in the white-wine bottle as there is white wine in the red-wine bottle, that is, zero!



Dr. Alfred S. Posamentier, MA '66, is dean emeritus of the City College School of Education and the author of many books on mathematics, teaching and learning.

Twittering Teasers

Featuring questions found on CCNY's twitter feed

By Miriam Smith

Across

1. Which well-known figure delivered CCNY's Commencement address in 2016? (2 words)

13. Directed a weapon or camera

18. Light bluish-green precious stones

19. 1922 Physics Nobel

21. Biochem. abbr.

22. "Splendid!" pl.

23. Deborah's "The King and I"

co-star

24. Emily of "Our Town"

26. ____ Gang

27. Short trader?

29. Opp. of SW

30. Black, in poetry

32. Murder ____

33. Noninvasive diagnostic procedure, for short

34. Area with scarcity of water

37. Put ____, Anesthetized

39. Japanese art of flower arrangement

42. "Yippee"

44. Convictions

46. ____ juice (milk)

48. In other words, abbr.

49. Invitation heading

51. Chemist ending, science

52. State bet. NC and GA

53. "____ say!"

54. Crumb

56. Alma ends with annual calendar publication

57. Throat dangler

59. "Fables in Slang" author

60. Comp. software manager, abbr.

62. Wheels

65. Christmas tree

67. The Schutzstaffel

68. Trestle that supports wood for sawing

72. Attachment to a surfboard tied to the surfer's ankle

73. Adj. suffix

74. Impossible to prevent

76. Paraguay, abbr.

77. ____ of the father

81. Shortness

83. The chemical element tellurium

84. How many NCAA sports does CCNYSports have?

86. Immigrant's class

87. Young gangster, abbr.

88. Bank offering, for short

90. Extremely disgusting

91. Where is the location of Bennys CCNY?

(The first floor of the ____ Building)

93. Victorian, for one

95. Walker, for short

96. 2 fifties in Roman Numerals

97. ____ jour

98. Eared seal

102. Alien, abbr.

103. "That's ____"

104. Elevated observation point

108. Put her ____ (makeup)

111. WWII battle site

113. What floor of the NAC building is the Food Pantry located on?

115. Of all the CUNY schools, which was established first? (The City ____ of New York)

117. Brainiac

118. ____ the "pragel man"

120. FaZe ____

122. A silvery, hard, ductile metallic element

123. "Help!"

124. Simple fastener

125. Japanese ornamental box with compartments

127. "For the Boys" subj.

128. Unchaineth

131. Automated Dialog Replacement, abbr.

132. Alternative to acrylics

134. Leave two blank lines between lines of copy

137. Gloom

138. What is the podcast hosted by City College President Vincent Boudreau? (____ World)

Down

1. Expensive nut

2. Smarts, abbr.

3. Cubicles

4. Kramden laugh syllable

5. Emissions

6. What is CCNY's official color?

7. Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, abbr.

8. Marbl ____, striate

9. ____ demand

10. CCNY graduate and Townsend Harris medalist Yvette Noel-Schure has been publicist to which major celebrities? Also see 17 Down

11. In pieces

12. Abdominal muscle

13. the city college

14. Sun, that is

15. Bouquets

16. Bury

17. See 10 Down

20. Control

25. Born's partner

28. Railroad, abbr.

31. Butyl, abbr.

32. Flushing line

35. ____ and behold

38. "____ he drove out of sight..."

40. The University of Kansas, abbr.

41. What is the CCNY mascot?

43. ____ Bridge

45. Persia, now

47. Traditional

50. Santa says it 3 times

52. Shod with low, comfy shoes

55. Who is the founder of CCNY?

57. Un-Leaded Gasoline, abbr.

58. Amateur video subject, maybe

61. Librarian's warnings

62. 100 lakh in the Indian numbering system

63. Ancient Greek shield

64. Drive away

66. Flower fanciers

69. Old French cloth measure

70. Gambling inits.

71. Second Amendment

73. "____ the night the day..."

75. ____ Mellon

78. Oregon airport, abbr.

79. ____ ka, island country off the southeastern coast of India

80. Manhattan addition

82. Most dignified

83. Way of greeting or saying goodbye to someone, 3 words

85. Seagoing, abbr.

89. Letter opener

92. Do ____ die

94. Communicate again

98. DUI or DWI

99. Corresponded with, online

100. medium of imaginative or creative self-expression

101. ____ -19 Alpha One Excalibur, fictional car

104. ____ of Oz

105. Checker, perhaps

106. Clockwise, abbr.

107. Picky ending for cho

109. Cooler

110. Suffix forming names of organic compounds

112. Rather, informally

114. Name for God in the Eckankar religion

116. ____ Miss

119. Mail login site

121. Spying start for onage

126. Discouraging words

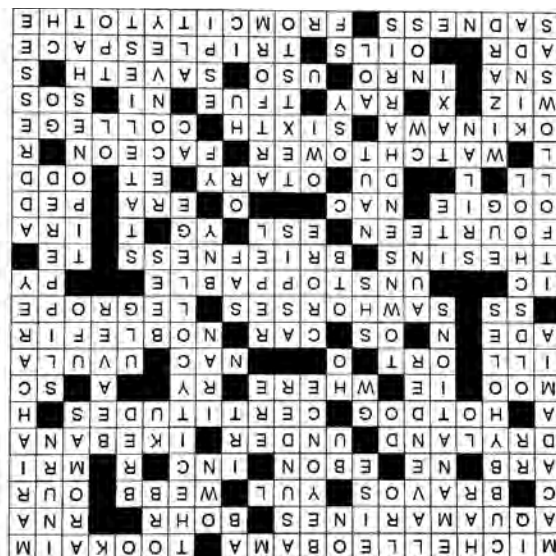
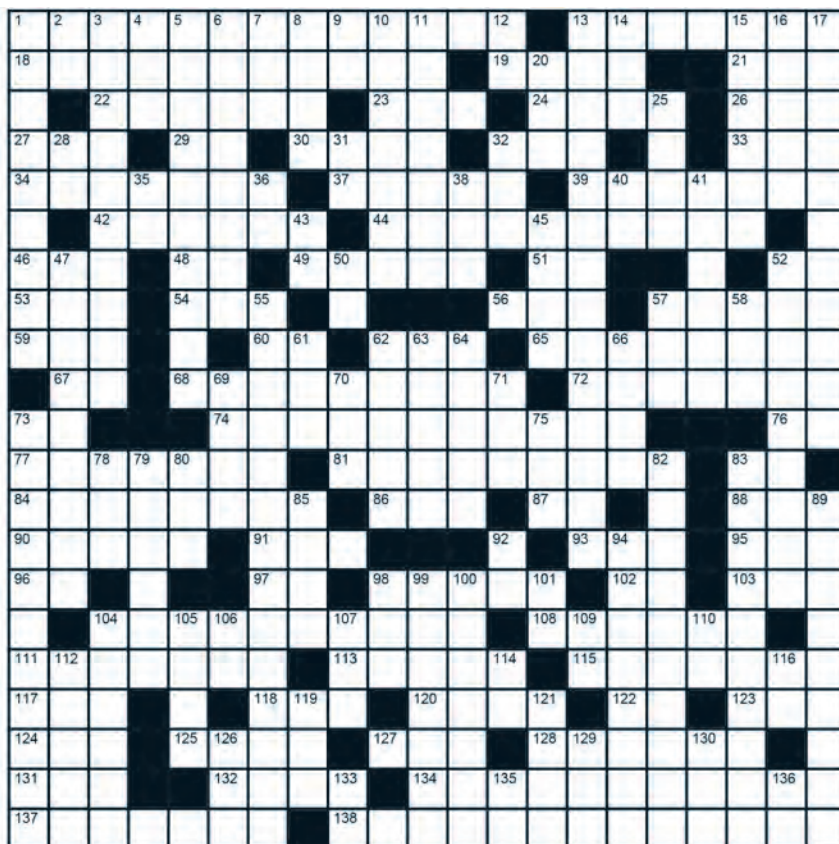
129. Cockpit, abbr.

130. Enzyme found in the thyroid gland

133. Tony Bennett left his heart there, abbr.

135. Ending for sarcastic iron

136. Courthouse, abbr.



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Townsend Harris Medals are awarded at the annual Alumni Dinner to alumni for outstanding contributions to their chosen fields. Since the Medal Committee has no research staff, it relies on those submitting nominations for biographical information regarding candidates. Please send nominations to Townsend Harris Medal Committee, Alumni Association of CCNY, Box 177, New York, N.Y. 10027, no later than March 15 to qualify for the 2019 Medal.

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