

ALUMNUS

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

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DR. AUGUSTINE
MOSCATELLO '69

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Members of the CCNY Alumni Community,

As the leaves turn and the campus hums with a new academic year, I'm reminded that every fall brings with it both reflection and renewal—a time to celebrate our legacy and to look ahead with purpose.

In this issue, we honor the life and work of Dr. Augustine Moscatello '69, whose remarkable career in medicine and humanitarian service exemplifies the best of City College's spirit of compassion and courage (p. 4). You'll also read about CCNY's record enrollment and the outstanding recognition of our campus leadership—including Crain's New York Business naming Dee Dee Mozeleski one of its 2025 Notable Leaders in Philanthropy (p. 18). These stories remind us that the City College mission continues to thrive—in classrooms, boardrooms, clinics, and communities around the world.

And of course, we look forward to gathering for our 145th Annual Alumni Gala on November 13 in the Great Hall—a night that will celebrate UFT President Michael Mulgrew, recipient of the John H. Finley Award, and our seven Townsend Harris Medalists (p. 8). Together, their achievements affirm what City College has always stood for: knowledge in service of others and excellence with purpose.

As you turn these pages, I hope you see yourself reflected in these stories—each one a reminder that our strength lies in connection. The Alumni Association exists to help you channel your pride and purpose—to mentor, to volunteer, to give back, and to see the difference your engagement makes in the lives of others. Together, we're shaping what's next for City College.

Now is the moment to re-engage: attend an event, join an affiliate group, become a member, or make a gift. However you choose to participate, there's a place for you in shaping the CCNY community.

With gratitude and pride,

—David Covington

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GROVE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING ALUMNI UPDATES: IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

By Robert Welner '71



From left to right: Reza Khanbilvardi, Nir Krakauer, Grove School of Engineering Dean Alex Couzis, President Vince Boudreau, Robert Welner, John Fillos, Pazel Jackson, GSoE Professor and Chair of Civil Engineering Anil Agrawal and Alison Conway.

Serendipity struck in April at the Brooklyn Technical High School annual reunion when Grove School of Engineering graduate John Eschemuller '70 met GSoE civil engineering graduate Pazel Jackson and learned about his extraordinary career. When Pazel expressed an interest in visiting the GSoE, after a 65-year absence, John sprang into action and contacted the just appointed chairperson of the Civil Engineering Department, Professor Anil Agrawal, along with me, his BTHS and GSoE alumnus.

Pazel Jackson, graduated from BTHS in 1949. He earned his B.C.E. from CCNY in 1954, his M.C.E. from CCNY in 1959, his M.B.A. from Columbia University in 1972 and his Ph.D. from Pace University in 2009. A member of the Board of Directors of Carver Federal Savings Bank since 1997, Jackson retired as a senior vice president of JPMorgan Chase after 37 years in banking, which included positions at Chase Manhattan Bank, Texas Commerce Bank, Chemical Bank and The Bowery Savings Bank. Jackson was a vice chairman of the Battery Park City Authority and a chairman of the Mutual Real Estate Investment Trust. A highlight of his career was working on Robert Moses's staff that implemented the Design and Construction of the 1964 -1965 World's Fair. Jackson also

received a variety of presidential, gubernatorial and mayoral appointments during his time in the public sector.

At the GSoE gathering of staff and students, Jackson gave a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation of his career with the expressed interest of engaging and conveying to the students that engineers can serve in multiple capacities. After a tour of the campus a luncheon was held in his honor.

In the never too late category, a long overdue recognition was given to John Fillos, a noted professor in environmental engineering for over forty years. Beginning when the field was in its infancy, Fillos's contributions have had a significant impact on the design of wastewater treatment systems.

Rounding out the event were presentations by Dean Alex Couzis to both John Eschemuller and myself, a GSoE Advisory Board member and Board Member of The Foundation for City College, as distinguished Civil Engineering Alumni for our civil engineering contributions in the public and private sectors, as well as ongoing outreach work for the Civil Engineering Department.

Be the Change. Ignite the Future. Activate Your Legacy.



Dear Fellow CCNY Alumni,

The start of a new semester always brings a surge of purpose and optimism—that same energy fuels me as I step into my new role as president of the CCNY Alumni Association. I am deeply honored that the Board of Directors has entrusted me with this responsibility: to build on our proud legacy and ensure that our mission thrives in every community where CCNY alumni make a difference.

Like many of you, I remember my first steps onto campus, the hum of possibility in the air, even as a commuter student. And I'll never forget that powerful moment on the South Lawn when we were told, "You may now move your tassel to the left." Pride. Sadness. Joy. In that instant, we became part of something larger—a lifelong family of dreamers, doers, and changemakers known as CCNY alumni.

As president, my vision is clear: to stabilize and strengthen our association's foundation, expand our impact, and create programs that truly connect, inspire, and serve our alumni community. The CCNY Alumni Association must be a force—a catalyst for innovation, leadership, and collective purpose.

Our world needs what CCNY has always given us: grit, brilliance, and an unwavering commitment to lift others as we climb. Every day we wait is a day our collective potential goes untapped. Every moment we hesitate is an opportunity for impact lost.

So, I invite you—no, I challenge you—to join me in making this the most dynamic and impactful year in our association's history.

Here's how you can activate your legacy:

- Attend & support the CCNY Alumni Association Gala — November 13, 2025
- Amplify our reach by sharing our mission across your networks
- Invest in our scholarships and programs that open doors for future generations
- Mentor a student or young alum—your story can change a life
- Champion CCNY's mission of access, opportunity, and transformation
- Contribute your expertise to strengthen our initiatives
- Connect with fellow alumni across fields and regions

Together, we can honor the past, energize the present, and shape the future of CCNY for generations to come.

With pride and purpose,

Shawn Chin-Chance, Class of 2005

President, Alumni Association of the City College of New York

DR. AUGUSTINE MOSCATELLO '69

Dares to Venture Where He is Needed Most

EMBRACING LIFE, AN ALUMNUS GIVES BACK IN UKRAINE

By Lauren Yanks

As the chair of otolaryngology, known more colloquially as ear, nose and throat, at Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College, Augustine Moscatello has lived a full and exciting life—and it's far from over.

"My life has been blessed," he said.

When speaking with the 77-year-old doctor, one is struck by his sweet nature and good humor. Born in East Harlem in 1948, Moscatello grew up in what he refers to as the "typical immigrant family." His grandparents came from Italy in the late 1800s. His father worked as a mechanic in the transit authority and served in the Coast Guard during World War II. After the war, his parents married, and the family lived in the NYCHA Jefferson Housing projects before moving to a three-family home on the northern border of the Bronx.

"On one floor was my family—my parents, sister, and I—while my grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousins lived on the other floors," said Moscatello. "It was a home brimming with life."

His sister, Jennifer Moscatello Berkeley, is an ordained

minister who recalls her sibling fondly.

"My brother is three years older and shaped me in profound ways," she said. "Today, our rare bond is a mix of love, respect, and a shared purpose to heal."

Moscatello went to public school, and although he skipped eighth grade, he did not apply much effort to his studies.

"I liked baseball," he laughed.

In 1964, Moscatello graduated high school and started at CCNY. But like many freshmen, he had a little too much fun.

"I was very social," he said. "My studies were not my top priority."

His first semester, he took calculus, chemistry, German, and political science. He got Ds and Fs in everything but political science. When this pattern continued his second semester, he was thrown out of school and worked odd jobs.

"For a while I worked as a shipping clerk for a medical

device company,” he said. “The owners were CCNY engineering graduates and encouraged me to go back to school.”

Moscattello was readmitted to CCNY as a political science major, and this time, took his studies seriously.

“I aced all my classes,” he said. “It was very rewarding to know I could do it.”

Still a lover of sports, Moscattello also took up lacrosse—an endeavor that helped him thrive and led to lifelong friendships. He cites the two CCNY coaches, George Baron and Seymour Kalman, as major influences.

“They taught me discipline, hard work, and the importance of teamwork,” he said. “I still remain very close to my teammates.”

In fact, one of his teammates has a yearly July 4th barbecue, where the whole team enjoys a spirited game of bocce.

“We have a wonderful camaraderie,” he said. “We try to see each other every month or two.”

THE PATH TO MEDICINE

Moscattello graduated in 1969 at the height of the Vietnam War.

“If you were a schoolteacher at the time, you were exempted from the draft,” he said. “So, I got a job teaching in the South Bronx.”

While he enjoyed teaching, he grew interested in the work of his roommate, a medical student.

“His studies intrigued me, and I thought maybe I could do it, so I started pre-med courses at night at City College.”

Moscattello applied to some medical schools but his job as a teacher worked against him, and he was not accepted to any of the schools.

“They did not look favorably on candidates who were trying to change careers,” he said.



Not to be defeated, Moscatello learned of a program at Wagner College in Staten Island. If you received a master's degree there in microbiology, you were guaranteed entrance to an Italian medical school.

"After I finished my master's, I entered a medical school northeast of Rome," he said. "I had to learn Italian first."

Moscatello gave it his all. In the Italian system, there was only one big oral exam at the end of the year. He fondly remembers his first exam question.

"His studies intrigued me, and I thought maybe I could do it, so I started pre-med courses at night at City College."

—Dr. Augustine Moscatello '69

"It was on jaundice," he said. "I was so nervous but knew the answer."

He did so well, he was able to transfer back to the third year of Mount Sinai School of Medicine, where before graduating, he was elected president to the medical honor society.

"I have always been immensely proud of my brother," said Moscatello Berkeley. "But one of my proudest moments was watching him walk down the aisle at his medical school graduation."

When it came to his specialization, Moscatello found himself drawn to otolaryngology, or ENT for short.

"I was intrigued by the anatomy, the variety of conditions, and treating infants to geriatrics," he said. "I received great training."

Moscatello was hired by Westchester Medical Center (WMC) right out of his residency in 1987, his professional home for 38 years.

"Since I began, we increased the department from two specialists to 16," he said. "I am very proud of our growth and ability to help more people."

HEALING THE WORLD

About 20 years ago, Moscatello decided to go above and beyond his intense workload at WMC. He wanted to help those without basic healthcare.

"I went on a couple missions to Vietnam and Cuba, and then I learned about [Healing the Children Northeast](#) and started doing medical missions in India, Thailand, Ethiopia, and South America."

Moscatello usually goes on 2-3 missions a year. Many of his patients are children with cleft lips and palates.

Recently, however, he's traveled to a more harrowing destination, war-torn Ukraine. In May, he made his fifth trip to Ukraine.

"Going to a war zone is a different experience, with greater intensity, pressure, and more significant injuries," he said.

He believes it is imperative that more people become aware of the situation in Ukraine.

"I don't think enough attention is being paid to the war," Moscatello said. "The war is grinding on, and people are paying a tremendous price fighting for their independence. People outside of Ukraine have grown tired of hearing about the situation, but it's devastating and cannot be ignored."

A NEW CHAPTER

After almost 40 years at WMC, Moscatello is ready to retire and start the next phase of his life.

"I'd like to continue to stay involved on these trips as much as possible," he said. "And I always wanted to be a philanthropist. My father taught us that anytime you can do something to help, you should."

In fact, 10 years ago, Moscatello started a scholarship fund at CCNY in honor of his parents.

"My parents—especially my father—was a big supporter of public education, and I like to carry on that legacy," he said. "I work hard to keep contributions going into the fund and help kids similar to me."



Dr. Augustine Moscatello '69 with Dr. John Frodel, a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, and Iryna Matsiuk from the nonprofit organization Razom for Ukraine

Moscatello Berkeley also described her father as a great influence on her and her brother.

"We were profoundly shaped by the culture and traditions of our upbringing, especially by our father," she said. "He

going to Ukraine, I said, 'Louie, there's a war over there!' But he didn't blink."

DeLise emphasized Moscatello's humility, humor, and easygoing nature.

"City College provided me with a broad education and enhanced my life in every way... That's why I want to give back. I've been so fortunate and seek to bring hope and healing to others. I believe everyone—no matter your background—deserves the best life possible."

— Dr. Augustine Moscatello '69

"You don't know right away that he's a doctor," he said. "He's extremely humble and unassuming."

DeLise, a former president of the Alumni Association which awarded Moscatello the Townsend Harris Medal in 2017, believes Moscatello deserves an honorary degree from CCNY.

"He's always been supportive of the college and puts a lot of time and emotion into it," he said. "Additionally, his humanitarian work is very special. When he travels, he always wears a City College hat. It's a way to honor all that City College gave him."

had great compassion and a commitment to championing the marginalized. All of my brother's work is about that."

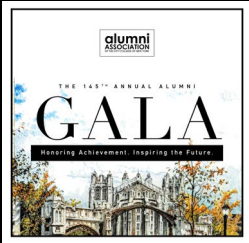
Jon DeLise agrees. One of Moscatello's lacrosse buddies, DeLise started City College in 1966. Like the other lacrosse players, he calls Moscatello by his middle name, Louie. (According to Moscatello, friends from college and earlier call him Louie, family call him Louis and people he met after college call him Augie or Augustine.)

"Louie's very committed to everything he does, especially his humanitarian work," he said. "He started doing these medical missions a few times a year. When he told me he was

Indeed, there are pictures of Moscatello in his CCNY hat in operating rooms throughout the world.

"City College provided me with a broad education and enhanced my life in every way," Moscatello said. "That's why I want to give back. I've been so fortunate and seek to bring hope and healing to others. I believe everyone—no matter your background—deserves the best life possible."

CELEBRATE FINLEY AWARDEE UFT PRESIDENT MICHAEL MULGREW AND OUR SEVEN TOWNSEND HARRIS MEDALISTS!



If you haven't already done so, now is the time to [purchase tickets](#) to the 145th Gala on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025 in the Great Hall. A 6pm VIP reception will be held before a 7pm dinner. Performances will be given by CCNY students and alumni. The 78th John H. Finley Award will be presented, as well as seven Townsend Harris Awards to alumni. The dress code is to impress, although Black Tie is optional. This is the Alumni Association's major fundraiser of the year, please join the festivities and to honor achievement and inspire the future.

The John H. Finley is awarded annually to someone in the New York City community whose outstanding example and professional achievements have contributed to the city of New York and the greater good.

Established in 1948 by the Class of 1918, it was named after the third president of The City College of New York, John H. Finley, who served from 1903-1913. His goal was to instill in the minds of students and alumni the concept of dedicated service to the community, state, and nation as the first principle of good citizenship.

Former recipients of the Finley Award include Leonard Bernstein, Harry Belafonte, Ruby Dee, Neil Simon, Dr. Kenneth Clark, Tony Randall, Arthur Miller, C. Virginia Fields, Barbara Walters, Chita Rivera, Deborah Lipstadt, and 2024's awardee, Neil deGrasse Tyson.

This year, **Michael Mulgrew**, president of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), is being recognized with the John H. Finley Award for his outstanding work as a teacher and union leader. He is an exemplary member of the New York City community.

A Staten Island native, Mulgrew has degrees in English literature and special education from CUNY's College of Staten Island. He taught for 12 years at William E. Grady High School in Brooklyn, where he also served as UFT chapter leader.

Mulgrew is the fifth president of the United Federation of Teachers, which represents nearly 200,000 New York City public school educators and school-related professionals, as well as child care providers, nurses, adult education instructors, retired members and other titles and organizations. Re-elected to his fifth full term in spring 2022, Mulgrew has served as president since July 2009.

Mulgrew met the COVID-19 pandemic head-on, leading the union and its members through the unprecedented and significant health, safety and professional challenges. He fought for stringent health and safety protocols, even creating the union's own vaccine program. With members' livelihoods at stake, through collective bargaining and successful arbitration, he fought layoffs, negotiated payments for operational issues and secured paraprofessional workday equity.

Under his leadership, the UFT has won contracts that raised educator pay and benefits, extended due process rights to paraprofessionals, and expanded the authority of school based UFT consultation committees. His lobbying efforts have achieved class-size reductions in NYC, increased funding for schools, and expansions of student academic and mental health programs.

Following the union's decades-long state lobbying effort, Mulgrew won the automatic inclusion of full-time paraprofessionals into the Teachers' Retirement System. He forged a partnership with the





UFT's state affiliate, New York State United Teachers, and TRS trustees, and successfully garnered two modifications for Tier 6 members that reduce from 10 years to five years the service time they must accrue before their pensions vest.

With further astute lobbying, Mulgrew convincingly made the case in Albany for class-size reductions in New York City. Heeding his call to action, the state Legislature overwhelmingly passed legislation that codified class-size caps in state education law.

Mulgrew remains a relentless force for funding the city's public schools. The fiscal year 2023 New York State budget recorded historic levels of education funding, including support for the union's United Community Schools and the Teachers Center's professional development for members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOWNSEND HARRIS MEDAL HONOREES!



The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of The City College of New York has unanimously voted to confer on these seven individuals the 2025 Townsend Harris Medal. This medal symbolizes recognition by the Alumni Association for their outstanding postgraduate achievement. The medals will be presented at the 145th Annual Alumni Gala, a fundraiser for the Alumni Association of CCNY, on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, in the magnificent Great Hall at CCNY.

The AACCNy is a nonprofit, membership supported organization incorporated within New York State, with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt Internal Revenue classification. It operates independently from The City College of New York and the Foundation for City College. We receive no direct financial support for our operations, though we are fortunate to be housed on campus thanks to the College's in-kind support. We are also the oldest alumni association connected to a public college in the United States, established in 1853 by the first graduation class.

Since its founding, the Alumni Association has connected, informed, served, and invested in alumni, current students, and the College by building strong bonds and affinity on and beyond the campus. With a rich history of innovation and self-governance dating back 170+ years, the Alumni Association has been and continues to be an invaluable partner to City College.

For more information about membership, please go to: www.ccnyalumni.org/price.

Joining the Alumni Association makes a resounding statement of commitment to the entire CCNY community, connects young alumni to our vast alumni network via mentorship and professional development opportunities, strengthens the CCNY network through programmatic support to keep alumni engaged and informed, and fuels the Alumni Association's scholarship efforts for current students. Benefits are tangible.

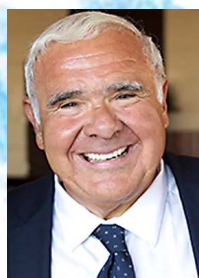
As Townsend Harris Medalists, their stories inspire generations of students and alumni. These are the 2025 Honorees:

Leon Golub '67



Leon Golub was nominated in recognition of his remarkable career as an astrophysicist and senior executive at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Golub grew up in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn Technical High School, graduating in 1963 with the Gold Medal in Physics. He majored in Physics at CCNY, and was a member of Holzer '67 House Plan. He graduated with honors. At MIT, he

worked in high energy experimental particle physics and completed his Ph.D. in 1967. Upon graduation, he joined the space research group founded by Riccardo Giacconi at American Science and Engineering in Cambridge, Mass. Golub worked on analyzing data from the Apollo 15 and Apollo 16 lunar missions, then studied the sun, as part of the team operating an X-ray telescope on NASA's Skylab space station. He developed the film digitization operation and supervised the data analysis effort, publishing results in *The Astrophysical Journal*. In 1976 he moved to the Center for Astrophysics, first at Harvard College Observatory, then at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. There he co-founded the Solar and Stellar X-ray Group (SSXG), working on understanding the X-ray corona of the sun, and the coronae of solar-like stars. In 1985 he began overseeing the group, and developed cutting-edge imaging methods for a new generation of X-ray telescopes to study the sun. This work led the way to NASA satellite missions that were and are in space for long-term studies of solar activity. He co-wrote *The Solar Corona* with his friend Dr. Jay Pasachoff, the first updated textbook on the solar corona in 30 years, now in its second edition. They also co-wrote *Nearest Star: The Surprising Science of Our Sun*. In 2005 Golub was promoted to senior astrophysicist. The SSXG has grown into a large group of students, postdocs, junior and senior scientists, and engineers, working on new solar missions and developing advanced analysis methods for understanding the sun and its influence on the interplanetary space around it. Golub retired from the Center for Astrophysics in Aug. 2025, but continues work as a Smithsonian Distinguished Research Associate. His book, *Heliosphere: A Natural History*, is to be published by Harvard University Press.



E. James "Jim" Stergiou '71

E. James Stergiou, known as Jim, was nominated in recognition of his distinguished leadership in actuarial science, his dedication to empowering future generations through scholarships and mentorship, and his unwavering commitment to giving back to his alma mater and alumni community. Stergiou was born in 1949 to Greek immigrant parents and grew up on the Upper West Side. He attended public schools before fulfilling his parents' dream of attending CCNY. As the first in his family to pursue higher education, he majored in mathematics, inspired by both his academic passion and his parents' steadfast belief that education was the pathway to success. He later pursued graduate studies at NYU. He built a career as an actuary, founding his own consulting firm in 1980, which he continues to lead today. He married Roseanne, whom he met at the famed Cheetah discotheque. Together, they raised sons, Bill and Andy, and are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren—Molly, Benji, Zoe, and Liam. Stergiou has long embraced a personal philosophy rooted in gratitude: to always remember where you came from, to honor those who helped you along the way, and to give back to your school, your community, and society. He continues to live by these principles through service to his alma mater. He is a member of the City College Foundation Board and chairs its Audit Committee, always ready to lend his time, expertise, and support. He credits his success to the unwavering support of his parents, his education, and the friendships forged along the way—and he remains steadfast in his commitment to honor them all.



Gary Weiss '75

Gary Weiss was nominated in recognition of his fearless journalism, investigative reporting, and his work to expose white-collar crime and organized corruption in the U.S. for more than 30 years, including at *BusinessWeek*. Weiss is known for a series uncovering the Mafia's infiltration of Wall Street, which took place under the noses of regulators and law enforcement. His stories led to indictments and convictions, and are widely recognized as a seminal achievement in investigative reporting. Weiss was a contributing editor at Condé Nast *Portfolio*, and his work has appeared in *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Barron's*, *Money*, *Forbes.com*, *The New York Times*, and other publications. He was an adjunct professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He is the author of *Born to Steal*, an exploration of the mob's takeover of microcap brokerages, the muckraking *Wall Street Versus America* and *Ayn Rand Nation*, which probed Rand's influence on U.S. politics. His latest book, *Retail Gangster: The Insane, Real-Life Story of Crazy Eddie*, was published in 2022, and greeted by critical acclaim in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. He has won numerous awards, and was a finalist multiple times for the National Magazine Award and the Gerald Loeb Award for Distinguished Business and Financial Journalism. In May 2018 he was named to CCNY's Hall of Fame of distinguished journalism graduates. Weiss was born and raised in the Bronx and attended public schools. He received his master's from the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University. He lives in New York City with his wife, Anjali Sharma.



Dr. Nichola Davis '94

Dr. Nichola Davis was nominated in recognition of her distinguished career in medicine, research, and public health leadership. She is an embodiment of the City College mission to heal, educate, and serve. Davis is vice president and chief population health officer at NYC Health + Hospitals, the largest public hospital system in the United States. Davis leads Population Health and Research Administration, overseeing initiatives that include innovative care models, population health analytics, chronic disease prevention and management, and social medicine. She co-chairs the organization's Equity & Access Council. She is also a clinical professor in the Department of Population Health at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Prior to her current roles, Davis served as the director of Ambulatory Medicine at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx and was a professor of clinical medicine in the Departments of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, and Epidemiology and Population Health, Division of Behavioral and Nutritional Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Dr. Davis graduated in 1994 with a B.S. from Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, and earned her medical degree from NYU School of Medicine in 1996. She completed her residency in primary care internal medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in 1999 and earned an M.S. in Clinical Research Methods from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 2003. Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Obesity Medicine, Davis is dedicated to improving patient outcomes and population health particularly for underserved communities. She maintains an active clinical practice in weight management at NYC Health + Hospitals/North Central Bronx Hospital where she works directly with patients to develop tailored strategies for long-term health and wellness. Davis's contributions to healthcare and research have earned her numerous accolades, including from the National Medical Association Council on Concerns of Women Physicians, a "Rock Star of Science" Award from the American Heart Association and induction into the Leo M. Davidoff Society for excellence in teaching medical students. She has also been recognized as a prominent healthcare leader by *Crain's New York Business*, Becker's Healthcare media group, and as a Castle Connolly Top Doctor.



Dr. Arien Muzacz '09

Dr. Arien Muzacz was nominated in recognition of her leadership in advancing inclusive, trauma-informed mental health care and her service to underrepresented communities through counseling, education, and advocacy. She graduated from CCNY's Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling program in 2009 and earned her license as a professional Mental Health Counselor in New York in 2011. She began teaching in counseling programs in 2014 and has supervised master's- and Ph.D.-level learners as a full-time faculty member in CACREP-accredited counseling programs since 2016. Arien's research agenda centers on human sexuality and social justice counseling and advocacy. She is an active researcher and scholar who publishes academic work that shapes clinical practice. She has authored or collaborated on peer-reviewed publications in professional journals, book chapters, and invited conference presentations on topics ranging from aging to sizeism to substance use. At Oregon State University, she is the primary investigator and project director for the Oregon Integrated Behavioral Health Training Initiative, which is designed to increase access to counseling for children, adolescents, and emerging adults, and financial access to professional development for counselor trainees from marginalized backgrounds. Muzacz has served as the COO and clinical director of Revolution Consulting, LLC, since 2022. Arien holds professional leadership roles including faculty advisor for the Omega Sigma Upsilon Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota, the Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International (2023-present). Arien's most important life roles are spouse to an Autistic avid birder and parent to a thriving Wolf Scout who does taekwondo and K-pop dance. She is a duck mom who lives in Salem, Ore., where she reads, tries to garden, and eats vegan food.



Garri Rivkin '10

Garri Rivkin was nominated in recognition of his impactful work as founder of The City Tutors, a platform that has expanded mentorship and access for countless students across New York City. Rivkin is also executive director and chairman of the board of the New York City-based non-profit. It connects learners, mentors, tutors, and communities across all five boroughs with free academic and career support. The City Tutors break down barriers and open access, ensuring every New Yorker, especially first-generation students and underserved communities, can navigate their own path to academic and professional success. Rivkin has more than 10 years of higher education teaching experience, having taught 150 plus courses (across English, Academic Basic Skills,



and Social Science departments), and logging over 6,500 in-class teaching hours. He currently teaches in the MPA Program at Metropolitan College of New York. He has seven years of higher education director-level experience, with experience in conceptualizing, building, managing tailored academic support programming built on learning best practice, and more than two years experience overseeing Academic Readmission/Probation at CCNY's Colin Powell School where he has logged over 1,600 advising sessions. He is a regular panelist at Non Profit Con, and has presented at CRLA, NCLCA, ACTLA, and ATP conferences. He is a co-author of a chapter in *Critical Reading Across the Curriculum: Social and Natural Sciences, Vol. 2*. Rivkin is a proud graduate of The City University of New York. Originally from Vilnius, Lithuania, he and his mother immigrated to the U.S. on the basis of religious asylum in 1996 with the help of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.



Kirk McDonald '22

Kirk McDonald was nominated in recognition of his visionary leadership in media and marketing, his commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion across industries, and his dedication to mentoring and empowering the next generation of leaders through education, innovation, and advocacy. His return to CCNY to complete his degree in 2022 is a powerful testament to his belief in lifelong learning. He is the CEO of Sundial Media & Technology Group (SMTG), a vertically integrated media, technology and experiential company. It has represented consumer brands Essence Ventures: ESSENCE, including Girls United and Naturally Curly; AFROPUNK; ESSENCE Festival of Culture; and R29: Refinery29's including Beautycon; Somos and Unbothered. McDonald serves as a director on the boards of Elanco and Ziff Davis, and is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, as well as a founding member of the Black Executive CMO Alliance. He serves on the boards of industry organizations, such as the Ad Council and Paley Center for Media. From 2020 through 2023, McDonald was CEO of GroupM North America. During that time, he also created and launched the Media Inclusion Initiative to support and grow diverse media companies and creators. His passion for developing the next generation of talent led to the launch of GroupM University, NA and GroupM Launch Pad programs to bridge career gaps for applicants from non-traditional backgrounds and education pathways. Prior to GroupM, McDonald was the chief business officer at Warner Media, a division of AT&T. Previously, he was CMO at Xandr, where he spearheaded the business development and launch of the Xandr brand within AT&T, which won the 2019 award for Best Brand Launch in The Drum Marketing Awards. McDonald has been recognized throughout his career for his pioneering leadership. He was named to *Ebony Magazine's* Power 100 List and *Empower's* Top 100 Executives List twice. He was an honoree at the 2022 Black Men Xcel Summit and on the Adweek 50 List of Vital Leaders in Tech, Media & Marketing. His expertise and commentary have been published in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Huffington Post*, *Beet.TV*, *AdExchanger*, *Adweek*, and *The Drum*.



NY CARES VOLUNTEER ALUMNI DAY OF CARE



AACCNY partnered with New York Cares this back-to-school season for a special Alumni Day of Care on Sept. 27.

CCNY alumni rolled up their sleeves to help spruce up P.S. 366 in Washington Heights in time for the new school year. Everyone's time and energy made a meaningful impact on students, teachers, and the community.

MORE AFFILIATE GROUPS ON THE WAY

The Alumni Association of CCNY is home to vibrant Affiliate Groups that connect alumni around shared interests, identities, and experiences. From the Black, Latino, and Women's Alumni Groups to the Asian American and Young Alumni networks, there's a place for everyone. Learn more about our current official affiliate groups here: <https://www.ccnyalumni.org/alumniGroups>

One that we are especially keen on forming is the [House Plan Alumni group](#). Michael Colucci '66 and his Wittes '66 house plan brothers have gotten our attention as they are currently planning a 60th anniversary reunion to be held next year in upstate New York. The Wittes '66 group may be the most active house plan left at CCNY, as they publish a newsletter, administer a scholarship fund, and hold meetups.

Is your house plan still active? Are you in touch? Send us your house plan story to alumnus@ccnyalumni.org. Your house plan might be featured in an upcoming issue!

In addition, we are currently exploring the formation of the following new affiliate groups (If you are interested, click the link to learn more!):

[Jewish and Jewish Studies Alumni](#)

[LGBTQ+ Alumni](#)

[Psychology Alumni](#)

As an Alumni Association member, you can join these groups (at no extra cost!) to network, socialize, and give back.

Sign up today to help bring these new groups to life!



DISCOVERING THE CITY'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE

The Black Alumni Group of AACCCNY sponsored a special one-day heritage tour, "Discovering African-American Heritage in New York City," on Aug. 16. The tour began with guided tours of the Jackie Robinson Museum in Hudson Square and of the Louis Armstrong House and Center in Corona, Queens, followed by a private lunch at Peaches Lewis in Stuyvesant Heights Brooklyn. The day was capped by a fun activity at Escape The Room in Flatiron.

ALUMNUS DANIEL COLON '14 NAMED HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT CCNY

By Sebastian Bush, Assistant Director of Athletics for Communications & Finance



Daniel Colon, a proud alumnus and decorated grassroots program leader, has been named the new head men's basketball coach, according to Interim Director of Athletics Karina Jorge.

"We're thrilled to welcome Coach Colon back to CCNY," said Jorge. "As an alumnus, former student-athlete, and accomplished leader in the basketball world, he brings a deep understanding of our mission and values. His track record of developing talent, building community, and leading with integrity makes him the ideal person to guide our men's basketball program into its next chapter."

Colon, Class of 2014, was a former standout guard for the Beavers. He returns to his alma mater with over a decade of coaching and administrative experience across some of the most competitive basketball platforms in the region. A respected figure in New York's basketball community, Colon was named one of Silverwaves Media's Top 100 Most Influential Grassroots Directors in 2025 and is the co-founder of the Academic Elite Showcase, a platform for high-academic student-athletes. He is also a three-time national champion coach at the grassroots level (2014, 2016, 2018).

"I'm excited to be back where it all started at CCNY," said Colon. "Coaching is a privilege—to lead, inspire, and elevate. I'm ready to embrace this new era with leadership, purpose, and

passion. This program means a lot to me, and I'm committed to building something our student-athletes, alumni, and community can be proud of."

Colon's coaching journey includes stints at La Salle Academy, Iona Prep, and Cardinal Hayes High School, where he developed championship-caliber teams and mentored dozens of student-athletes who advanced to college programs. During his time at La Salle, Colon helped guide the team to a New York City, State, and Federation Championships in 2019. He also previously served as an Assistant coach at CCNY from 2011–2013, gaining collegiate-level experience in recruitment, player development, and game preparation.

Colon currently serves as the director of athletics for the Riverside Hawks Basketball Program, one of the nation's premier grassroots organizations dedicated to youth development and community impact. He leads all facets of the program, from designing and executing long-term strategies that enhance player development and performance to supervising and mentoring a diverse coaching staff. Under his leadership, the program has achieved measurable growth across all levels. Colon manages the organizational budget, spearheads fundraising efforts—including corporate sponsorships and donor campaigns—and oversees large-scale events that expand community reach and visibility.

PERLA SANCHEZ NAMED CCNY HEAD WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COACH



Interim Director of Athletics Karina Jorge has announced the appointment of Perla Sanchez—a proud Dominican Republic native, CUNY standout student-athlete, and accomplished coach—as the next head coach of the CCNY women's volleyball program.

"We're incredibly excited to welcome Perla Sanchez as the new head coach of the CCNY Women's Volleyball program," said Jorge. "As a CUNY alumna, former student-athlete, and championship-caliber coach, she brings a powerful combination of passion, resilience, and experience to our program. Her commitment to student development, team culture, and competitive excellence makes her the perfect leader to guide our volleyball team into a new era."

Sanchez's journey reflects her lifelong dedication to the sport. She first discovered volleyball at Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy, where she helped lead her team to back-to-back undefeated seasons and its first-ever semifinal appearance. At John Jay College of Criminal Justice, she walked on to the volleyball team, quickly earning the starting libero position as a freshman and serving as team captain by her sophomore year. Under her leadership, John Jay achieved its first CUNYAC quarterfinal and semifinal appearances. Sanchez earned multiple honors, including CUNYAC Libero of the Week and the CUNYAC Sportsmanship Award.

"It's an honor to come back to CUNY and lead the Beavers into this next chapter," said Sanchez. "Volleyball has shaped so much of who I am—from walking on as a student-athlete to now stepping into this role as head coach—and I'm ready to pour that same drive and passion into our team. My vision is for CCNY Volleyball to compete with pride, discipline, and resilience, while also helping our athletes grow as confident leaders on and off the court. We're here to put in the work, set high standards, and make sure Beaver Volleyball is a program people recognize and respect."

Bringing more than a decade of coaching and recruiting experience to Harlem, Sanchez has served since 2014 as a master coach at Legacy Volleyball Club, guiding athletes to success at the collegiate and national levels. In addition to coaching, she worked as the club's recruiting coordinator and program manager, mentoring student-athletes and managing operations. In 2021-2022, Sanchez became the head coach at Hostos Community College, where she immediately elevated the program, leading the Caimans to the CUNYAC Finals in her first season.

Fluent in English and Spanish, Sanchez is respected for her ability to mentor student-athletes both on and off the court. At the heart of her coaching philosophy is the belief that success extends beyond wins—it's about building character, confidence, and community.

A proud CUNY graduate, Sanchez earned her bachelor's degree in Criminology with a minor in Psychology and Police Studies from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2016.

For the latest news on the CUNY Athletic Conference, log on to cunyathletics.com—the official site of the CUNY Athletic Conference. Also, become a follower of the CUNYAC on Instagram (@CUNYAC), Twitter (@CUNYAC) and YouTube (@CUNY Athletic Conference), and "LIKE" Us on Facebook (CUNY Athletic Conference). Click [here](#) if you want to be added to the athletics mailing list.

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David Covington, Executive Director

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JAMES CUNNINGHAM, BEE '69 AND VICKI CUNNINGHAM CREATE GSOE SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Wishing to provide opportunities for future generations of full-time Grove School of Engineering undergraduate students, James Cunningham, BEE '69 and his wife, Vicki Cunningham, have contributed \$1,000,000 to establish the James and Vicki Cunningham Scholarship Fund. The new endowed fund will generate annual awards of \$40,000 to support five full-time Grove School undergraduate students who maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher with scholarships of \$8,000 each. The scholarships are to be used for tuition costs and research-related expenses, allowing recipients to continue their studies.

SPITZER SCHOOL TO RECEIVE TRAVEL FELLOWSHIP FROM JOHN PLOSS, B ARCH '77



John Ploss, B Arch '77 is funding a \$5,000 annual travel scholarship for advanced students in the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture's undergraduate and graduate programs. The John Ploss Travel Fellow will be selected by a selection committee based on a research proposal with a concise description of the topic, a bibliography, itinerary with a budget, and a transcript.

CCNY ADMINISTRATOR RECOGNIZED FOR PHILANTHROPY BY *CRAIN'S*



[Dee Dee Mozeleski](#)—senior vice president of the [Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations](#) (OIACER), executive director of the [Foundation for City College, Inc.](#) and senior advisor to the president of The City College of New York—has been named a [2025 Crain's New York Business Notable Leader in Philanthropy](#). Mozeleski was selected for her commitment to advancing her industry and community.

This is not the first time that Crain's has recognized Mozeleski for her achievements. In 2023, she was a [Crain's Notable in Advertising, Marketing & PR](#). In 2021, the publication selected her as one of 57 [Notables in Nonprofits and Philanthropy](#) for her efforts to help New Yorkers ride out the upheaval wrought by Covid-19.

In her capacity as executive director of the Foundation for City College, Mozeleski manages total assets of more than \$405 million. In FY 2023-24, the Foundation raised more than \$30 million in contributions and grants as it continued to advance its mission to provide access to educational and research excellence, particularly to students who might not otherwise attend a senior college.

Mozeleski was instrumental in forming the Foundation in late 2019, culminating a three-year process that merged two precursor, and often conflicting, organizations. The current Foundation began operations with an endowment of more than \$290 million.

Since then, Mozeleski overhauled CCNY's public philanthropic profile. She launched its billion-dollar campaign, [Doing Remarkable Things Together](#), in 2022, the 175th anniversary of the College's founding, while improving the College's infrastructure to allow greater reach and better stewardship.

Mozeleski's responsibilities also include workforce development activities, community engagement projects and management of campus emergency needs programs. One such program, Benny's Food Pantry, continues to serve all CUNY staff and students beyond its initial expansion during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overseeing a diverse staff of 125—many of whom are CCNY alumni—as senior vice president of OIACER, Mozeleski is responsible for the College's external communication profile, and government and community relations. She has been a trusted advisor and confidante to [CCNY President Vince Boudreau](#) since she arrived at the College in 2012 as the development director of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, of which Boudreau was then the founding dean.

"Upgrading City College's philanthropic operation was a central aspect of my strategic plans for the College," said Boudreau. "Dee Dee has been the chief architect, engineer and implementer of those plans, and the fact that we are well on our way to meeting our ambitious campaign goals is entirely a testament to her professionalism and vision. She richly deserves this recognition, and I am thrilled that she is receiving it this year."

She is also the proud mother of a two-time CCNY graduate.

Since 2017, Crain's Notables has recognized over 5,000 outstanding leaders across industries. Honorees are selected through a peer nomination and editorial review process.

THE BERNARD & ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



Students Rafah Alzindani and Era Hulaj won second place in the 2025 Concrete Masonry Student Competition. Their winning project, “East Harlem Fire Station & Local Marketplace,” was sponsored by Spitzer School Professor Suzan Wines and was recognized for its outstanding design and community-focused approach. Hosted by the Concrete Masonry & Hardscapes Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the national competition challenged students to design a fire station using concrete masonry as the main material while incorporating elements that promote local civic engagement.

The [Fall 2025 Sciamé Lecture Series, rePURPOSE](#), centers on the practice of adaptive reuse in the built environment. The Fall series invites architects, planners, developers, advocates, and engineers to present the technologies, designs, economic incentives, and policy changes that are needed to advance a substantively renewed and at-scale program of repurposing in New York and other global cities. The lectures are free and open to the public but please reserve your space. The events are held in the Spitzer School of Architecture's Sciamé Auditorium unless otherwise noted. The next lecture is "[Creating Home and Community at 25 Water Street: The Nation's Largest Residential Conversion](#)" given by Nancy Ruddy

and John Cetra B Arch '76 on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 5:30 p.m. Reserve your space [here](#).

COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

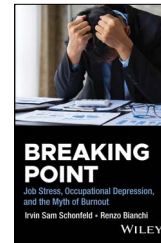


Associate Professor of Psychology Glen Milstein is the lead author of “COPE: Community

Outreach & Professional Engagement—a framework to bridge public mental health services with religious organizations,” published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* in August. Milstein first thought of the concept as a doctoral student in 1992. “I knew this would be a big project,” he said, reflecting on his 33-year academic journey. “I wanted to think in terms of the whole system that surrounds people. I thought about the distinctions between community clergy and clinicians, and how each could bring that expertise to help one another and reduce one another's burden, while also helping people thrive and sustain recovery.” Milstein was also elected to the presidency of the American Psychological Association's Division 36, The Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality.

Entering its third year of operations, the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Center welcomed its largest cohort of fellows yet, with a total of 45 Public Service Fellows, eight Public Scholars, three Distinguished Practitioners, and two Postdoctoral Fellows. This fall, the Center launches an initiative to develop and deliver a new curriculum

on the Theory and Practice of Academic Freedom. The Center has also partnered with the Jack Miller Center, a Philadelphia-based educational nonprofit committed to solving the national crisis of uninformed citizenship by teaching America's founding principles and history, to organize a high-level speaker series to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.



CCNY Professor Emeritus of Psychology Irwin Schonfeld published his latest book, *Breaking Point: Job Stress, Occupational Depression*, in May.

Co-authored with his longtime collaborator, Renzo Bianchi of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, the book offers a timely, research-based rethinking of job stress, arguing that “burnout” may often be a form of depression. Schonfeld's work with Bianchi in researching burnout's overlap with depression caused him to develop a skeptical view of the popular concept of job-related burnout. This book reflects that skepticism as it explores the stigma surrounding both conditions and presents evidence that therapies like CBT and IPT, effective for depression, can also help with burnout. It calls for workplace reforms to reduce stressors and prioritize prevention.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The School received a \$2.4 million grant from New York state for “Expanding Participation in the New York City Teaching Fellows



Program: Addressing Three Key High-need Areas,” which would expand the existing New York City Teaching Fellows program by increasing the number of teachers the School trains in high-need subject areas, placing them quickly into high-need New York City public school classrooms to reduce the current teacher shortage.

The School’s Best Alternative Teacher Certification Program and its Fastest Alternative Teacher Certification Program were ranked among the best in New York by leading peer-reviewed education resource Teacher Certification Degrees.

GROVE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING



Krish Ramalingam and Alex Rosenthal of the Department of Civil Engineering are co-principal investigators of a team awarded

a \$2 million National Science Foundation grant to develop a device to detect so-called “forever chemicals” in drinking water. The three-year project, “NSF Convergence Accelerator Real-World Chemical Sensing Applications: Engineered Microbial Sensors for Monitoring Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Drinking Water,” is a cooperative agreement between CCNY and Columbia University that commenced on July 1, 2025.

HUMANITIES & THE ARTS

Professor of History Andreas Killen and Professor of Classical Languages and History Jennifer T. Roberts earned CUNY Distinguished Professorships, which are conferred by the CUNY Board of Trustees and reserved for faculty with records of exceptional performance by national and international standards of excellence in their profession. A noted historian and author, Killen has written widely on German history, the history of psychiatry and brain science, and film history. Roberts teaches courses ranging from Latin and Greek grammar and literature to warfare in antiquity to women’s studies. She served as president of the Association of Ancient Historians, from which she received a distinguished service award in 2024.

Supported by funding from the H&A Mellon Foundation grant, the new Humanities Experiential Learning Partnership Seminars (HELPS) program allows the Division of Humanities and the Arts faculty the unique opportunity to plan and implement a seminar in partnership with a NYC-based museum, archive, or cultural center in order to create unique learning experiences with hands-on research for a small cohort of students. Open to any full time faculty member teaching undergraduate courses within the Division, faculty develop a three-hour seminar for a small student cohort and provide mentorship during internship hours worked at their partner site. On successful completion of the seminar, students receive three credits as well as a stipend for their

participation in the internship hours that complement the seminar.



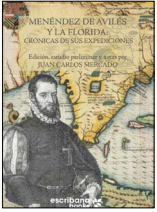
This year’s [Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing Program’s](#) Chai and Chat Reading Series kicks off with Professor

[Salar Abdoh](#) (*A Nearby Country Called Love*) in conversation with writer [Irvin Weathersby, Jr.](#) (*In Open Contempt: Confronting White Supremacy in Art and Public Space*) on Wed., Oct. 22 at 6:30p.m. in the Rifkind Center, NAC 6/316. Weathersby is the CCNY Bernard Mendik Guest Professor. Prospective MFA students will have an opportunity to meet with MFA Creative Writing Program Director [Michelle Vallardes](#).

DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION

CWE welcomed its first cohort of three students to the B.A. in Social Justice and Urban Life program in the spring 2025 semester, and its second cohort of nine students in the fall. The new degree program provides an interdisciplinary framework for analyzing social justice issues and inequality within urban communities in New York City, the Americas, and globally. Drawing on strengths in Urban Studies, Human Rights, Labor Studies, Carework, Black, Race, and Ethnic Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies, students engage with scholars, professionals, and activists through coursework, experiential learning, and public lectures. Designed for working

adults and transfer students, the program offers in-person, online, evening and weekend classes. The Center expects as many as 25 students to register for the spring 2026 semester.



In a groundbreaking contribution to the study of early American and colonial history, Dean

Juan Carlos Mercado published a new edition of his book *Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the Chronicles of La Florida*. This groundbreaking edition introduces new scholarship on one of the most vital figures in American history, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. In 1565, Menéndez de Avilés founded St. Augustine, the oldest European colony in the modern continental United States. Mercado examines the historical record of Menéndez de Avilés and through close reading and contextual explication highlights such significant topics as early cross-cultural encounters, imperial ventures, and the dynamics of colonization.

DIVISION OF SCIENCE



Professor of Chemistry Mahesh Lakshman has been awarded a \$600,000

research grant from the National Science Foundation for “Novel Synthetic Platforms

for the Modifications of Nucleosides.” This award, the fifth that Lakshman has received from the NSF since 2003, will enable him to continue his efforts on the development of novel chemical methods for the modifications of nucleosides. Since coming to CCNY in 2000, Lakshman has been awarded more than \$4.5 million in research grants, and has received numerous accolades for his teaching and research.



Leslie B. Vosshall, the noted molecular neurobiologist renowned for her work on the genetic basis

of chemosensory behavior in both insects and humans, delivered the 10th Annual Sharon Cosloy-Edward Blank Family Distinguished Scientist Lecture on “Mosquitoes: A Flexible & Dangerous Predator of Humans” on Sept. 30. Vosshall’s contributions to science include the discovery of the insect odorant receptors, and the elucidation of general principles regarding their function, expression, and the connectivity of the sensory neurons that express them to primary processing centers in the brain. She founded the Rockefeller University Smell Study in 2004 with the goal of understanding the mechanisms by which odor stimuli are converted to olfactory percepts.

ACADEMIC YEAR KICKS OFF WITH RECORD ENROLLMENT

Twenty twenty five is already shaping up to be another successful one for CCNY, as evidenced by recent good news.

So far this year, the College experienced record enrollment: as of Sept. 10, CCNY enrolled 16,543 students, exceeding the previous record of 16,515 set in 2017!

The attraction of increasing numbers of students to the College could be influenced by the accolades that keep pouring in from prominent publications covering higher education. CCNY continues to notch high rankings from those publications, such as: The Wall Street Journal and College Pulse (#4 for best value, and #225 in the best college category, out of 500 Best Colleges in the U.S.); Money magazine (four and half stars in the Best Public Colleges and Best Colleges in the Northeast categories); The Princeton Review (Best Colleges Guide 2025 and Best Value College list, #13 of the Top 20 Best Schools for Making an Impact (Public Schools); and U.S. News & World Report (#10 for social mobility in the National Universities category, in addition to the Grove School of Engineering being #120 in the Best Graduate Schools rankings, and #113 in the Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs category for schools whose highest degree is a doctorate).

MAMI AND THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK BOOKSTORE

By Rose Sevillano '00

Rose Sevillano received her M.A. from the School of Education in Secondary English Education in June 2000. As a child, her mother worked at the CCNY bookstore. She writes about her mother for our “Remembrances” section.



CCNY Bookstore ID tag belonging to Rose M. Sevillano, as well as swag she collected over the years. Her daughter is Rosie Jr.

I have known the CCNY bookstore practically all my life. The first time I stepped into the CCNY bookstore was in 1963, when my mom, also known as Rose M. Sevillano, who worked there already about four years, was visiting the store with her new baby during her maternity leave. I remember one of the employees, saying “We’ve missed you Rose.” I was five years old, with my older sister and my new sister, while my mother was showing off the baby. The CCNY bookstore was located on the first floor of Finley Hall, which was demolished several years later. I had no idea where she worked until my little sister’s birth.

Now my mother or Mami was born in La Calle San Sebastián, El Viejo San Juan, Puerto Rico, who came to New York City as a teenager. She met my father in Riverside Park, New York, NY one nice day, in the late 1940’s and the rest was history. They were married sixty years, had four children all born in Manhattan, living a few blocks from the College in Hamilton Heights. After child

number three was born, which was me, Rosie Jr., she found a job in 1959 at the bookstore, when my father read in the newspaper, probably the Daily News, that they were looking for workers. The rest is history, 35 years of her working at the City College Bookstore, which eventually became a Barnes & Noble’s store by the time she retired in 1994. In those three decades, the bookstore moved from Finley Hall to Shepard Hall to the North Academic Center (NAC).

A few years ago, I visited the campus, and stopped by the area where the bookstore was last located, because I wanted to show my nephew, who eventually received his BFA at CCNY, where his grandmother worked for over 35 years. I was sad to see the store had been reduced to the size of a small studio apartment, selling everyday items, like paper, pens, notebooks, and other small necessities for classes, as most students now buy their books online, which eliminated the need for a proper bookstore.



Rose M. Sevillano in the pen section of the CCNY Bookstore in 1981.

Mami's job at the bookstore consisted of many facets. She worked mostly up front in the pen section. This involved of course selling pens, candy, cigarettes, buying back textbooks, ordering school rings, and framing school diplomas, in other words, she was a jack of all trades in the pen section. She enjoyed speaking and helping the students get their supplies, besides making friends with some of the professors. Years later when I visited the campus with her, after her retirement, she saw a couple of the older professors, who recognized her, with smiles and laughter. When she visited the bookstore to say hello to her ex-coworkers, she went back to the pen section to help them out with the lines of students wanting to pay for their items.

Mami's work hours were the usual business hours, nine to five, except in the summers and start of the semesters which they called "the rush." In that case the hours were extended for the first week of classes and into the second week. Then there was the yearly graduation, in which the store was opened for visitors wanting to buy CCNY clothes and souvenirs. To this day I still have a few souvenirs in my display case.

When our family lived in the area, Mami would sometimes come home for lunch, but when we moved to Fordham Road in the Bronx, she took the D train to 145th and walked to the college campus, or in later years, my father and I would take her, and pick her up. The buildings where we lived eventually became NAC (North Academic

Center), between 136th Street and 138th Street. For a while we literally lived right in front of Lewisohn Stadium. It was a place where many concerts, competitions and graduations were held. The college was part of my younger years, staring at it, every time I left my building or looked out the window.

Walking through NAC in the 1990s reminded me of my childhood, because it was the place that I lived from 1964-1968, which was torn down years later after we moved to the Bronx. Mami kept her job at the bookstore, and it influenced all our lives. She wanted all her children to get their degrees like she saw many young adults studying for theirs. I can say that it worked. All her children went to college, became working professionals, and are now retired. I came to CCNY as a working adult for a second Master's degree, then eventually a doctorate from the University of Nebraska. Reminiscing about the schools that I have attended, CCNY has been one of my favorites.



A very elegant Rose M. Sevillano posed near the magazines section in the Bookstore.

Rose M. Sevillano senior died in Dec. 2008 in the Bronx, N.Y. Her daughter, Rosie, Jr. taught Spanish in the Yonkers public school system for 20 years. She received her Ph.D. from University of Nebraska in 2011. She taught for four years as an adjunct professor of Spanish at Iona College. Rosie, Jr. is currently retired.

FRESH FRUIT, COURTESY OF CCNY'S PRESIDENT AND AN ALUMNUS



The greening of CCNY's campus is taken very seriously, not just by the administration but also by alumni. Albert De Leon '72 is responsible for the donation of a fig tree by New York-based artist [Lee Cannarozzo](#). ALUMNUS interviewed Cannarozzo about the circuitous way in which this donation came about.

ALUMNUS: Tell us more about how you decided to donate a fig tree. We understand that it started during a chance conversation with Albert De Leon '72 somewhere on or near campus. If this is so, can you please provide me with more details about how and where you met up with Al, how this topic came about, and what prompted you to make this donation?

Cannarozzo: I'm a visual artist and for the past few years I've been working on a series of land-based artworks that deal with the history of fig trees in New York City. Albert De Leon and I live in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn, and we both frequent a cafe called Un Posto Italiano. Un Posto Italiano has a back patio, and one of their neighbors has a fig tree that's growing over into that space. Last fall, I was preparing to attend a residency at the Coalesce Center for Biological Art at SUNY University at Buffalo. In preparation for that residency, I was collecting leaf and fruit samples from various fig trees, one of which was the fig tree from the cafe's back patio. As I was collecting the fruit samples, Albert and his wife were sitting nearby and asked me what I was up to. We started talking about the presence and history of fig trees in NYC, and I mentioned my upcoming residency and the fact that I had been growing a number of fig trees from clippings. Albert informed me of President Boudreau's orchard

project and asked if I might be interested in donating one of my fig trees. Though the majority of the trees I had been growing were earmarked for a series of forthcoming installations, I thought the campus orchard project was a great initiative, and I decided that CCNY would be a nice home for one of the trees. Over the next year, Albert, President Boudreau, and I worked out the logistics of the donation, and this summer we planted the tree with the help of Albert, my fiancée Misa Kobayashi, and CCNY staff members Anthony Caprioli, Georgette-Marie Owumi, and Khadesha Maxim.

ALUMNUS: Also, what is your connection to City College? Are you an alumnus? Do you live in the neighborhood?

Cannarozzo: My connection to City College is Albert De Leon. I'm an alumnus of the SUNY system, and I believe that the SUNY and CUNY systems are immensely important to the educational fabric of New York State and New York City. Public institutions provide an invaluable service to so many communities, and I saw President Boudreau's orchard initiative as something in line with the egalitarian principles of the SUNY/CUNY system. Donating a fig tree to CCNY then became a small way for me to contribute to an educational system that I am personally indebted to.

The wonders of Morocco

Dear CCNY Alumni and Friends,

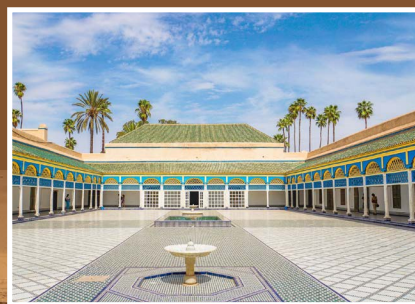
We invite you to join us on an unforgettable journey to Morocco. Together, we'll explore the country's rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes. Wander the colorful souks of Marrakech, share a home-cooked meal in the Atlas Mountains, ride camels at sunset across the Sahara, and explore the medieval wonders of Fez.

From the dramatic kasbahs and gorges of the south to the elegant capitals of Rabat and Casablanca, every day reveals a new side of Morocco's magic.

Throughout the trip, you'll enjoy carefully selected accommodations, private guided tours, cultural experiences, and the camaraderie of fellow alumni. An optional extension to Tangier and the blue-hued medina of Chefchaouen offers even more opportunities to discover Morocco's beauty.

We hope you will join us for this remarkable adventure, where history, culture, and friendship will create memories to last a lifetime.

Warm regards,
David Covington
Executive Director, Alumni Association of CCNY



10-DAY ITINERARY: OCTOBER 17 - 26, 2026



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Community Radio Veteran Keziah Sullivan is WHCR's new general manager and program director

[Keziah Sullivan](#), who has served in various capacities in the past 20 years at [WHCR 90.3 FM](#), The City College of New York's non-commercial community radio station, is the station's new general manager and program director.

Known on air as Keziah Glow, she has served WHCR 90.3 FM in a wide range of roles, including host, producer, board operator, news director, and relief production manager. In addition to her longstanding service at WHCR, she also held leadership positions at WBAI 99.5 FM, where she advanced to executive producer and interim program director, all while continuing her commitment to community radio.

Sullivan's experience and expertise span the breadth of the human experience in New York City. Her work has centered on fostering engagement through community awareness programming, and she has often been at the forefront of covering and sharing stories from local communities that have been traditionally marginalized and underrepresented.

"Keziah possesses exceptional technological and creative expertise," said Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Executive Director of the Foundation for City College and Senior Advisor to the President Dee Dee Mozeleski. "Having spent part of her career in senior case management, she also brings a strong understanding of what it means to lead in service to others. In this



new role, she will be supported by a team of talented DJs and professionals working alongside her."

"I am so excited to work closely with her in this capacity, and I know she is looking

forward to collaborating with all of us and continuing to build strong connections with our greater Harlem community."

Known as "The Voice of Harlem," WHCR 90.3 FM broadcasts from the College's campus. It is also available as a livestream: <https://whcr.org/live-audio>

The station seeks to provide skills in communications and related disciplines to students at the College as well as to community members. The station seeks to empower its listeners by providing informative, educational and cultural programming that speaks to the diverse populations of Harlem, upper Manhattan, and sections of the Bronx, Queens, and New Jersey.

WHCR's music shows are as diverse as the Harlem community. Tune in to hear African, blues, gospel, hip hop, house, jazz, merengue, neo-soul, classic R&B, reggae, rock and roll, and salsa music. Not bound by playlists, WHCR's DJs play the music of their choice and provide much needed exposure for independent artists who are often locked out of commercial radio.

2020s

Benjamin Babaev, B.E. '25, Grove School of Engineering, joined the core staff of the NYU Langone Neuromodulation Lab this summer after graduating from CCNY with a degree in biomedical engineering. During his undergraduate years, Babaev focused on neural engineering and medical device research. Babaev plans on attending medical school in the future.

Nina Colar, B.A. '25, Psychology, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, became an early intervention assistant director at Rizing Kidz, a growing early intervention agency, in June 2025.

Hithna Harish, B.A. '25, Economics, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, a Braven Fellow, joined Goldman Sachs as an analyst in the firm's Morristown, N.J. office. Harish took advantage of Braven's offerings, with the advice and guidance of her advisor in the Colin Powell School Office of Student Success, Herbert Seignoret, which led her to discover Braven, which offered a series of events and courses that helped her to determine that she could make an impact on the world through a career in finance. Launched in September 2022 at CCNY, Braven is a national nonprofit organization that helps promising college students on a path to economic mobility. Since the launch, Braven has served more than 1,400 CCNY students.



Danil Skripal, B.S. '25, Psychology, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, spent the past summer interning at the New York City Department of Education through the CUNY Career Launch Program. Placed at the Office of Student Enrollment, Skripal worked in a customer service role at a Family Welcome Center, supporting families with enrollment, transfers, and other essential services.



As a sound effects editor on the HBO Max show *100 Foot Wave*, **Eli Akselrod, B.M. '24, Sonic Arts**, Division of Humanities and the Arts, was a member of the team that was nominated for a 2025 Primetime Emmy Award in the Outstanding Editing for a Nonfiction or Reality Program. Though the sound design team did not win in this category, the show won the 2025 Emmy for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series.

Two CCNY alumni were named 2025 Jonas E. Salk Scholars by CUNY: **Beliz Kayis, B.S. '24, Biomedical Engineering**, Grove School of Engineering and a Macaulay Honors College graduate, and **Sameah Algharazi, B.S. '23, Biology**, Division of Science. Salk Scholarships recognize exceptional students who plan careers in medicine and the biological sciences. As a Salk Scholar, each will receive a stipend of \$8,000 to be allocated over three or four years of medical studies.

Nya Vincent, MPS '23, Branding and Integrated Communications, Division of Humanities & The Arts, is New York state Assemb. Chantel Jackson's director of communications.

2010s



Sixty-six-year-old **Brodie Enoch B.A. '18, Political Science**, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, is a legally blind Harlem resident who overcame his disability, as well as addiction and other personal setbacks, to become a community activist and a recent graduate of CUNY School of Law.

Michael Hattem, B.A. '18, Division of Humanities and the Arts, published his second book, *The Memory of '76: The Revolution in American History*, which was named a [finalist for the 2025 George Washington Book Prize](#), "[one of the nation's largest and most notable literary awards](#)."

Kazi Hossein, B.E. '18, Mechanical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering, is a postdoctoral research fellow at the National Institute of Health's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Md.

Grace Lawal, B Arch '18, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, a project manager at RKTB Architects, been named as a recipient of a monetary award from the 2030 Fund, a program created by AIA New York in collaboration with the National Organization of Minority Architects' New York Chapter to, in part, achieve the goal of doubling the number of licensed Black architects by decade's end.

Adelaida Baez-Urena, M Arch '15, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, joined RKTB Architects as project manager. She possesses a decade of professional experience managing projects and leading teams in implementing energy-efficient, sustainable design solutions, from design through construction, and with a strong focus on affordable housing and community-driven developments.



Shi Lingyan, PhD '14, Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering, was named Spectroscopy's 2025 Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy. Shi, a professor at the University of California, San Diego, researches development and applications of molecular imaging tools, including stimulated Raman scattering (SRS), multiphoton fluorescence (MPF), fluorescence lifetime imaging (FLIM), and second harmonic generation (SHG) microscopy.

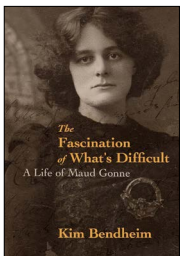
Lucy Morales Carlisle, MFA '11, Media Arts Production, Division of Humanities and the Arts, screened her new film, *DelMar*—about a female surfer who navigates life between a rural beach town in El Salvador and Maryland, where she goes to live with a mother she has never met—at NewFilmmakers Los Angeles's *InFocus: Asian Cinema* program and *InFocus: Immigration* programs.

2000s

Darren Palmet, MFA '08, Creative Writing, Division of Humanities and the Arts, is co-owner of the Kansas City Culinary Center in downtown Overland Park, Kan., which is expanding the business with the opening of a second location.

Alexander Lotovsky, B Arch '05, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, CEO and co-founder of Citiscape Construction Group, was profiled in Business Insider, which credited him with “transforming New York City’s construction industry through his innovative approach and the groundbreaking Citiscape app.”

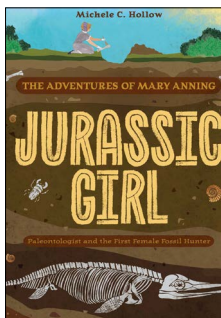
1990s



Kim Bendheim, M.A. '98, English, Division of Humanities and the Arts, appeared at the 2025 American Library Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia, where she signed copies of her latest book, *The Fascination of What's Difficult*, a biography of Maud Gonne, the Irish actress, activist, and political firebrand often called “the Irish Joan of Arc.”

Richard Foucault, B.S. '94, Biochemistry and **M.S. '97, Physical Chemistry**, Division of Science, is chief of the Chemical Threat Assessment Section at the U.S. Army's 1st Global Field Medical Laboratory. Lt. Col. Foucault has served in the Army for 19 years, including tours in France and in South Korea, where his unit trained with that country's Chemical, Biological, Radiological Field Analysis and Support Team in April and May.

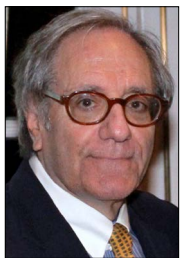
1970s



Michele C. Hollow, B.A. '79, English, Division of Humanities and The Arts, was inspired by the story of 12-year-old Mary Anning, who would one day become the “Mother of Paleontology,” to write *Jurassic Girl: The Adventures of Mary Anning, Paleontologist and the First Female Fossil Hunter* (Ulysses Press, September 2024), in which she reimagines the pivotal moment that launched Anning’s groundbreaking scientific career: the discovery of the first ichthyosaurus.

Stephen Eric Bronner, B.A. '71, Political Science, Arts & Sciences, is director of the International Council for Diplomacy and Dialogue—USA and co-founder of the Independent Experts Peace Initiative, where he continues to bridge scholarship and activism in pursuit of global peace. In an interview with The European Times, he reflected on his journey, the motivations behind his peace efforts, and the urgent need for dialogue in addressing the war in Ukraine.

1960s



Lewis Zuchman, B.A. '67 has been the executive director of SCAN-Harbor, a non-profit organization that offers integrated support to children and families in Harlem, East Harlem, and the South Bronx, since 1987. In July, he was interviewed by City & State about his many years with the organization, the state of the nonprofit sector and what drives his devotion to the job.

Charles Singler, B.S. '63, Liberal Arts, received the 2025 Youngstown State University Heritage Award for his years of service to the University. He is a former professor and chairman of the Department of Physics, Astronomy, Geology, and Environmental Science, assistant/associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and interim associate provost.

1950s

The Classical Magnet School located in Hartford, Conn. has been renamed for **Hernán LaFontaine, B.S. '54, Biology**, Division of Science, the city’s first Puerto Rican school superintendent. LaFontaine was superintendent of Hartford Public Schools for 12 years and later served as Hartford City Council president.

PERSONAL INJURY LAWYER WHO WON LANDMARK CASE FRED QUELLER '54 (1932-2025)



Fred Queller, B.A. '54, Liberal Arts, a renowned personal injury lawyer who successfully argued a landmark case that set a precedent in cases involving an alleged failure to provide police protection, died in September at 93.

In 1976, Queller filed an \$11 million civil lawsuit against the City of New York on behalf of his six-year-old client, accusing police officers of failing to act against her father in November 1975, despite his wife's order of protection against him, their knowledge of his earlier violent incidents, and his past threats, including one to kill his wife and daughter. The day after the order, he violated it and brutally attacked the toddler with a fork, a knife and a screwdriver. The assault left her in a pool of blood from wounds to her chest, back, stomach and right leg; she also suffered some brain damage from blood loss.

The father was convicted of attempted murder in 1976 and sentenced to six to 18 years in prison. The child was frequently hospitalized to deal with her injuries.

A State Supreme Court jury in the Bronx awarded the child \$3 million in 1983; the court's Appellate Division reduced the damages to \$2 million a year later.

In 1985, the State Court of Appeals affirmed the \$2 million award, ruling that the city, through the police, had a "special relationship" with the child because of the order of protection and officers' knowledge of her father's violent history. By failing to act, the judge wrote in his opinion, the city had "breached its duty to care" for the child, and that breach was the "proximate cause" of her injuries.

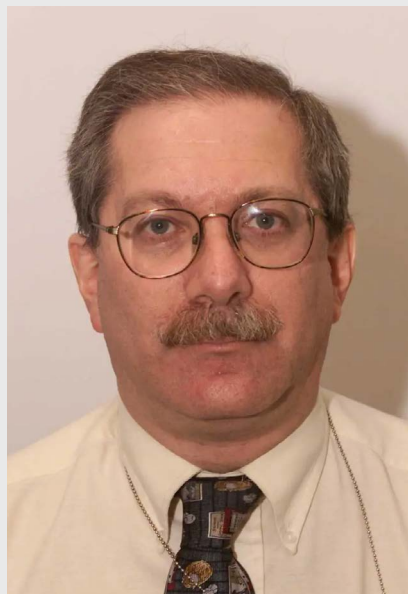
The decision in the case, *Sorichetti v. City of New York*, established that police can be held liable for failing to protect victims of domestic violence under certain circumstances.

Fred Queller was born on July 10, 1932, in Manhattan. His parents, Victor and Helen (Cenzer) Queller, were Polish immigrants who owned a small hardware store in Spanish Harlem, where Fred began working as a child.

He earned a B.A. in business studies from CCNY and his J.D. from the New York University School of Law two years later. He built a career as a personal injury and medical malpractice lawyer in Manhattan, and served as the president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association from 1984 to 1986.

In the 1980s, he and other members of the trial lawyers association started the nonprofit Big Apple Pothole and Sidewalk Corporation to encourage people to file lawsuits for broken ankles and other injuries caused by New York City's potholes and crooked sidewalks. The group hired college students to map 750,000 sidewalk and street defects in the city's five boroughs, creating a database that he presented to the city in 1982 offering proof that the problems existed. The group also took out newspaper advertisements encouraging other lawyers to examine the database, for a \$50 fee, to determine if a particular hole or crack that caused a client's fall was on the list.

NEW YORK POST LEGEND MYRON RUSHETZKY (1952-2025)



Growing up in Bath Beach, Brooklyn, Myron Rushetzky, B.E. '75, Civil Engineering, was so inspired by the building of the nearby Verrazano-Narrows Bridge that he aspired to be an engineer. That changed once he entered CCNY.

"He fell in love with newspapers," said longtime friend and colleague Milton Goldstein, the deputy news copy chief of the New York Post, where Rushetzky worked for 40 years, retiring as City Desk supervisor in 2013. His job involved, among many other things, knowing where reporters and editors were at all times, at all hours; knowing the phone numbers of the bars where they hung out, and the names of the bartenders; and knowing when a story was important enough to rouse them. "Everything was my fault," he once said. "I was the eye of the hurricane."

Goldstein, who started out as a copy kid along with Rushetzky in 1973, was by his friend's side when he died on Aug. 14 at the age of 73.

"I sat down, and I'm sharpening pencils, and Myron comes up to me and introduces himself, and 52 years later, here we are," Goldstein told the newspaper.

A sports lover, Rushetzky became the editor of the sports section for the weekly CCNY student newspaper, *The Campus*, Goldstein said. He enrolled in Professor Irving Rosenthal's popular Introduction to Journalism class, "an experience that set him on a course leading to [his] four decade career at Post," said *The Campus*'s editor-in-chief and another longtime friend, Salvatore Arena '76, a past president of the CCNY Communications Alumni Group. Rushetzky, a charter member of that Group, attended its annual dinner every year, missing only the 2025 gathering due to illness.

"He never designed a highway or a bridge, but took his life in the direction of the profession he loved best and built friendships across generations," said Arena.

"Myron mentored an entire generation of Post reporters," Stephen Lynch, editor of *The Post*'s print edition, told the paper. "He would take a 'runner,' help them, mold them, cajole them—then would advocate fiercely for them to be given full-time jobs," he said of Rushetzky's former underlings, one of whom is now-New York Times White House Correspondent Maggie Haberman. "Nothing made him prouder than watching one of his team graduate to the News Desk, and nothing made the paper better."

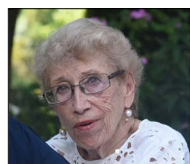
Susan Mulcahy is another acolyte. She started as a copy girl under Rushetzky at the paper in 1978 and went on to work for its Page Six. "He loved *The Post*," she said. Her 2024 book, *Paper of Wreckage: An Oral History of the New York Post, 1976-2024*, co-authored with Frank DiGiacomo, is dedicated to Rushetzky.

After retiring, Rushetzky created and oversaw Post Nation, a 1,200-name email list that kept former and current Post employees up on everything important that was going on in each other's lives. He ended every Post Nation email with a quote from Mary McGrory: "I should confess, I have always felt a little sorry for people who didn't work for newspapers."

"Myron was part of the fabric of *The Post*," said Goldstein.

40s | Otilie Adelaide Condolff, B.A. '47, Liberal Arts (1925-2025) earned her law degree at night from Brooklyn Law School in 1951 while working full time. From 1960 until 1983, she worked in small law firms, often as the only non-attorney on staff, as what is now known as a paralegal. After retiring to North Carolina in 1983, she gave her time and talent to various organizations, most notably the Guardian ad Litem Program in Durham, N.C., supporting court-appointed attorneys in advocating for children's rights. She was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Her favorite cause was St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

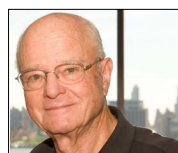
Hans (Harold) Wertheimer, B.A. '48, Arts and Sciences (1925-2025) died four months after his 100th birthday. Born in the small village of Kippenheim, Germany, he and his family fled the Nazis when he was 12. The family settled in Manhattan, where his high school teacher made him change his too-German name from Hans to Harold. After high school, the young refugee proudly joined the U.S. Army, becoming a U.S. citizen and acquiring a lifelong love for cigars. He took part in D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of Bergen Belsen. After graduating from CCNY, he began working in the tobacco industry, eventually leading Socotab Leaf Tobacco, which is now headed by his son, Jonathan.



50s | Elaine Jacobson, B.A. '51, Business Administration (1925-2025) went to work for H&R Block in the late 1960s before starting her own business, Better Tax Service, in 1976. She continued to work there until retiring at the age of 90. Even after retiring, she continued to maintain close contact with

many clients who had become friends over the years. The firm lives on today as SJ Associates NYC, LLC.

Emil Alexander Pavone, Jr., B.A. '51, Advertising (1928-2025) was a public relations and advertising executive in the wine and liquor industry. After graduating from Stuyvesant High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division. As a community organizer in the 1970s, he co-founded Alternative Pathways, a coalition of parents seeking services to avoid institutionalization of children with disabilities. Alternative Pathways helped develop group homes for those with developmental disabilities, including Emil's son. After moving to Florida, he founded the Downtown Residents Civic Association in St. Petersburg. He loved sailing, becoming a highly skilled competitive sailor on Long Island. After retiring, Emil and his wife, Ellen, continued to sail competitively, and sang together in their church choir.



Civil engineer Arthur Freed, B.E. '53, Civil Engineering (1930-2025) created the now-ubiquitous "H" sign that guides patients to hospital emergency rooms in times of need. That simple sign first appeared on North Street in White Plains and has been credited with saving countless lives around the world.

Another of his proud accomplishments was creating a program that equipped Westchester County Police cars with teddy bears to comfort children who were involved in accidents, a program that has been emulated worldwide.

Henry Brajovic, B.A. '53, History (1925-2025) was a teacher of English and history for more than two decades in the New Haven public schools. During WWII, he lived under German occupation in Yugoslavia and later worked for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agency. After receiving his degree from City College, he earned a master's degree from Teachers College of

Columbia University. During his years teaching at Fair Haven Junior High and Wilbur Cross High School, Henry was active in his union. In 1975, he was among the "New Haven Ninety" jailed during the city's teachers' strike. He was also an active member of the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute for many years. Henry was fluent in Croatian, Serbian, and German, and also studied Latin, Italian, and Russian. An accomplished accordion and piano player, he first performed live on the radio at age twelve. After retiring in 1996, Henry continued to pursue his lifelong interests in history, literature, and the arts.

Ruth (Heinberg) Herman, B.S. '59, Biology (1939-2025) and **Barry Herman, B.A. '57** (1936-2025), married for 54 years, died 10 days apart in April.

Ruth Heinberg was born in Berlin, Germany. Her family escaped Nazi Germany, first to London and then to the U.S., when she was around two years old. She grew up in the Bronx and studied biology at CCNY. She taught biology at Adlai Stevenson High School in New York City, and also in the St. Louis and Cherry Creek school systems. She received Overland High School's Super Teacher Award three times.



Barry Herman was born in the Bronx and attended Stuyvesant High School before graduating from CCNY and embarking on a career in retail. Among the roles he had in that industry were a buyer at Gimbel's, a divisional merchandise manager at 5-7-9, a vice president at Fashion Bar, and vice president and general merchandise manager of Clotheshime, from which he received its Chairman's Award. He retired in 1988.



60s | Stanley Farkas, B.E. '60, Mechanical Engineering (1937-2025) was known as a mischievous boy with a penchant for comic books and avoiding his studies, yet he went on to earn an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at CCNY and a graduate degree

at Columbia University. Beginning his career at the dawn of the space race, he worked for prominent defense contractors including General Dynamics, Chrysler, and Grumman. His most notable contribution came at Grumman, where he played a role in designing and building the lunar module that carried astronauts to the moon during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.



David Schwartzman, B.S. '64, Chemistry and Biology (1943-2025) was a professor, activist, and author. He received his Ph.D. in geochemistry from Brown University and taught at Howard University for 39 years, retiring in 2012 as professor emeritus.

His work in geochemistry and climate science was internationally recognized. He authored the book *Life, Temperature, and the Earth* and co-authored *Earth is Not for Sale* (with his son Peter), as well as publishing articles, book reviews, book chapters, and essays. He was working on his final book, *Solar Communism*, at the time of his passing. Beyond his scientific career, David was a longtime member of the DC Statehood Green Party and ran for citywide office three times and worked with countless organizations, including the Fair Budget Coalition and DC Metro Science for the People. Two weeks before he passed, he gave testimony before the DC Council, demonstrating his lifelong stand against racial and economic injustice.

Richard Cusick, B.S. '66, Pre-Medical Studies (1945-2025) earned a degree in pre-medical studies at CCNY before getting his medical

degree at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Beyond his private family practice in Emmaus, Pa., he traveled to Alaska to serve the Inuit and Yupik communities, bringing quality medical care to remote regions. In the final decade of his medical career, he focused on pain management, earning multiple certifications, including from Harvard Medical School, to better serve those suffering from chronic pain. He was also a founding member of Lehigh Valley Hospice. He was a sailor and scuba diver, a chess enthusiast and a billiards player (a skill honed in the pool halls of Brooklyn).

Renee L. Kahn, B.A. '67, Art (1945-2025) was an artist and art teacher. She studied at the Art Students League from the age of 12, attended the High School of Music & Art, and after receiving her degree from City College, she earned an M.A. in Teaching from Brown University. While living in Providence, RI, she taught art and art history. Her work was exhibited internationally, including in Canada, Israel, and China. After moving to Charleston, she exhibited in numerous Charleston galleries and founded the Charleston Professional Artists Association. Her artwork appeared in several publications, including *Transparent Watercolor* by Inessa Derkatsch, *Revealing World Religions* by Cynthia Eller, and Hedwig Brenner's lexicon of Jewish artists. In addition to her work in art and teaching, Renee was a TEDxCharleston coach for nine years and inspired countless people with her creative spirit and generosity.



70s | Rose Mendis, M.A. '71, Education (1925-2025) was originally a chemist and later pursued a career teaching in the New York City public schools. She was born in Jamaica, Queens, to immigrants from Bermuda. After earning her degree in chemistry from Queens College, she worked in the chemistry field before raising a family. Twenty years after receiving her bachelor's degree, she obtained a master's degree in education from City College. She spent most of her teaching career at P.S. 202 in Brooklyn. She enjoyed traveling, reading, gardening, camping, cycling, and tennis, and devoted many years to caring for her parents, husband, and daughter. Her generosity of spirit was celebrated last spring, when dozens of friends and relatives from across the country gathered to honor her 100th birthday.



Robert H. Cartagena, B.A. '76, Arts and Sciences (1946-2025) was born in Cayambe, Ecuador. He emigrated to New York with his parents to New York, where he attended St. Anthony's Middle School and Chelsea Vocational High School before earning his B.A. at CCNY and his M.A. at Long Island University. He served for 30 years as a teacher, mentor, and assistant principal in New York City, where he helped

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EXPLOITATION FILM AUTEUR AND IMPRESARIO SAMUEL M. SHERMAN, B.A. '60, FILM (1940-2025)



Films such as *Brain of Blood*, *Dracula vs. Frankenstein* and *Satan's Sadists* may not have the same cachet as *Casablanca*, *Citizen Kane*, or *The Godfather*, but they are part of the oeuvre of Samuel M. Sherman, the writer and producer of these low-budget features made mostly for drive-ins, who died in September at 85.

As a student at CCNY, Sherman screened Flash Gordon serials and such films as *The Mask of Fu Manchu* (1932), starring Boris Karloff, for his fellow students. For a class project, he shot a short film in one day that he called *The Weird Stranger*. He also worked as a film editor, and as a writer and editor for such magazines as *Famous Monsters*, *Wildest Westerns* and *Screen Thrills Illustrated*.

Sherman said that he came up with the idea of showing old Republic Pictures serials in theaters, the popularity of which, he claimed, led to the Batman TV series of the mid-1960s.

In 1968, he teamed up with director Al Adamson to form distribution company Independent-International Pictures. The duo made movies in variety of genres, including biker (1970's *Hell's Bloody Devils*, 1971's *Angels' Wild Women*), Westerns (1969's *Five Bloody Graves*, 1972's *Lash of Lust*), sexploitation (1973's *The Naughty Stewardesses*), martial arts (1974's *Dynamite Brothers*), chase (1974's *I Spit on Your Corpse*, also known as *Girls for Rent*) and blaxploitation (1976's *Black Heat*).

In the 1996 book, *It Came from Horrorwood*, Sherman told author Tom Weaver that most of his films were made for less than \$150,000. His company also gave veteran Hollywood actors, such as John Carradine and Lon Chaney, Jr., much-needed work.

"It was always my concept that if you have a very small budget, make the film different by very bizarre, crazy, looney elements—and this always worked," he said.

thousands of students develop a foundation for life-long learning. Many have earned advanced degrees at various institutions in the United States. Inside the classroom, he used music to help students learn fundamental concepts. Outside the classroom, he and relatives played live music at family parties where everyone would sing along.



80s | Yanick K. Larrieux, B.S. '82, Nursing (1945-2025)

immigrated to the U.S. at the age of 20 from her native Port-au-Prince, Haiti. After graduating from Bronx Community College with an associate's degree in applied nursing in 1975, she continued her education at CCNY, earning a B.S. in nursing in 1982. She faced many hardships in life, such as the deaths of her daughter, her son and her niece, but was a devout Roman Catholic who leaned heavily on her faith.



00s | Edward L. Schiff, B.A. '06, Interdisciplinary Studies (1928-2025), a respected authority in real estate law and a patron of the arts, died in July at 96. After graduating from Brooklyn Technical High School in 1947, he attended CCNY for two years before entering Brooklyn Law School, from which he attained graduate and post graduate law degrees in 1951. He returned to CCNY decades later, earning his degree in interdisciplinary arts and sciences, graduating summa cum laude, from the Center for Worker Education in 2006. He practiced law for 55 years, specializing in cooperative and condominium law, before retiring at age 93. He was an ordained interfaith minister, and served as chair of the board of New York's Riverside Symphony for more than 25 years.

High School in 1947, he attended CCNY for two years before entering Brooklyn Law School, from which he attained graduate and post graduate law degrees in 1951. He returned to CCNY decades later, earning his degree in interdisciplinary arts and sciences, graduating summa cum laude, from the Center for Worker Education in 2006. He practiced law for 55 years, specializing in cooperative and condominium law, before retiring at age 93. He was an ordained interfaith minister, and served as chair of the board of New York's Riverside Symphony for more than 25 years.

James Charles Ryan, M.A. '01, Literature (1940-2025) was a U.S. Military Academy graduate, Class of 1962, who served as a U.S. Army officer stationed in Germany, rising to the rank of captain, before building a successful career in finance at Equitable Assurance in New York City and Evaluation Associates in Connecticut. He earned graduate degrees in literature from Columbia University and CCNY and, later, a Ph.D. from Warnborough University in Ireland. He taught creative writing at Columbia and American literature at universities in Istanbul, Turkey. His writings and political essays appeared in hundreds of literary journals and newspapers. He authored books that blended history and memory.

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR SOL STERN, B.A. '58, POLITICAL SCIENCE, HERETIC TO BOTH LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES (1935-2025)

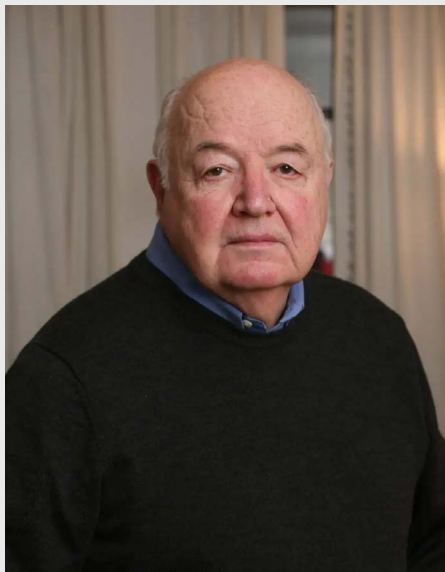


Photo credit: Chester Higgins, Jr./The New York Times

Sol Stern, whose writings on education helped shape New York City's education reform movement intellectual journey, started out on the left side of the political spectrum, moved to the moderate right, embraced school choice before reversing himself, then broke with the Republican Party over its embrace of Donald Trump, died in July at age 89.

The longtime contributing editor of, and writer for, *City Journal*, began his intellectual journey after graduating from CCNY in 1958 with a degree in political science and, later, an M.A. in political science from the University of Iowa. He pursued a doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley, where he joined the Free Speech Movement.

As a founding writer at the left-wing magazine *Ramparts* in 1966, he exposed the Central Intelligence Agency's covert support of the supposedly independent National Student Association. That article won him the George Polk Award in Journalism from Long Island University in 1966.

He ultimately split with the left over its criticism of Israel. In the mid-1990s, he joined the Manhattan Institute, which published *City Journal*, and published his book, "Breaking Free: Public School Lessons and the Imperative of School Choice" in 2003. In 2008, he reversed himself in the pages of *City Journal*, writing that his analysis of programs already functioning around the country did not substantiate earlier claims that creating competition for the public schools by distributing vouchers would by itself improve academic performance without an improved curriculum.

He claimed that his reversal cost him his senior fellowship because influential and generous trustees of the Manhattan Institute were staunch supporters of school choice. He remained a contributing editor at *City Journal* until 2017, when he resigned amid a similar conflict over what he said was the publication's reluctance to criticize Trump.

After leaving *City Journal*, he wrote for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *Commentary*, *The New Republic*, *New York Daily News*, *Newsday*, *Village Voice*, *New York*, *Sports Illustrated*, *the New Statesman*, and other publications.

"At heart, [Stern] was "an independent-minded Democrat who opposed the shibboleths and mindlessness of both left and right extremes," his longtime friend Ronald Radosh, the social conservative writer, professor and historian who also moved from the far left of ideological spectrum, told The New York Times.

Born in Ramat Gan, British Mandated Palestine in 1935, Stern moved to the Bronx with his family when he was a toddler. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School.

The background of the page features a faded, artistic photograph of a large, multi-story building with many windows, likely a university hall. In the foreground, there are bare, thin tree branches and some green foliage, suggesting a spring or early summer setting. The overall tone is soft and commemorative.

Carl Bloom, B.S. '43, Mechanical Engineering
Henry Rakoff, B.S. '44, Chemistry
Jesse Paul Farber, B.S. '49, Biology
Irwin H. Miller, B.E. '49, Civil Engineering
Eugene O'Hara, B.A. '50, Arts & Sciences
Bernice Tanenbaum, B.A., '50, Liberal Arts
Arthur Glass, B.A. '51, Business
Gerald Weinerman, BBA '51, Accounting
Conrad Berenson, BCE '52, Chemical Engineering
Henry Krisch, B.A. '52, Political Science
Armen Sanossian, B.S. '52, Psychology
David Brown, B.S. '53, Electrical Engineering
Charles Hummel, B.A. '53, History
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Thomas Orlando, B.A. '54, Art
George Olshin, B.A. '55, Arts & Sciences
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Annette Edelson, B.A. '56, Business
Hershel H. Jaffe, B.A. '56, Arts & Sciences
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Dennis Poller, B.E. '57, Chemical Engineering
Herbert Akiva Ribner, B.E. '57, Chemical Engineering
Stanley Rothman, B.E. '57, Electrical Engineering
George Derderian, B.E. '58, Electrical Engineering
Harvey Stanford Stein, B.E. '58, Electrical Engineering
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James Kehoe, B.S. '58, Chemical Engineering
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Peter Scharnhorst, B.S. '61, Physics
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Thomas B. Doolan, M.S. '68, Business
Isaac David Lissandrello, B.A. '69, English
Ronald C. McNamara, B.E. '69, Electrical Engineering
Michael S. Stocknoff, B.S. '69, Chemistry
Martin L. Horowitz, B.S. '70, Mathematics
Frank Loscalzo Jr., B.S. '70, Civil Engineering
Henry A. Skinner, B.A. '70, Arts & Sciences
Patricia M. Synefakis, B.S. '70, Physics
Nelson Abreu, B.A. '72, Spanish; M.S.Ed. '80, School Administration
Bruce Steele Samuels, B.A. '72, Sociology
Paul SooHoo, B.A. '76, Mathematics
Nathan Russell Vail III, B.A. '76, Classics
Carol Humstone, B.A. '77, Landscape Architecture
Stephanie Maher, M.A. '77, Education
Vernice Blyden, B.A. '78, Psychology
Jon M. Silveri, B.A. '79, Arts & Sciences
Shirley Garrison, B.S. '85, Education
Esther Tucker, B.A. '92, Education
Deborah Roland-Frank, M.S. '95, Environmental Science

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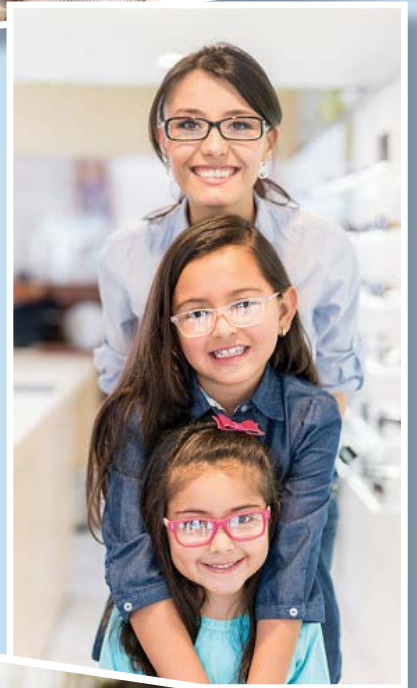
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