ALUMNUS

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

FALL 2026



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLANNING SUMMIT

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From the Executive Director



Dear Members of the CCNY Alumni Community,

One of the great privileges of serving as Executive Director of the Alumni Association is witnessing the extraordinary ways City College graduates continue to make a difference—on campus, in their communities, and around the world.

This issue of ALUMNUS offers a wonderful reminder of that impact. From remarkable alumni achievements and the return of men's varsity fencing to exciting developments at the Grove School of Engineering and the Spitzer School of Architecture, these stories reflect the talent, determination, and generosity that define our City College community.

They also remind us that our connection to City College does not end at graduation. It continues through the relationships we build, the traditions we preserve, and the opportunities we create for those who follow in our footsteps.

This fall has been an especially meaningful time for the Alumni Association. Alongside our annual celebrations, alumni gatherings, scholarship programs, and other activities, we have undertaken an ambitious strategic planning process to imagine what the next chapter of alumni engagement might look like.

As President Shawn Chin-Chance discusses in the pages that follow, we are exploring new ways to strengthen our connections with one another and with City College. Your involvement is essential to that work, and I encourage you to share your perspectives through our alumni survey.

I am continually grateful to the alumni volunteers, Board members, supporters, and staff whose dedication makes this work possible. The strength of our Association has always rested in the commitment of alumni who believe in giving back.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community. I hope you enjoy this issue, reconnect with an old friend, and find a new way to engage with your Alumni Association.

Warm regards,

—David Covington
Executive Director
Alumni Association of The City College of New York

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Reimagining Our Future

Honoring 173 years of alumni leadership while building a stronger, more connected future.

A Message from the President of the Alumni Association of The City College of New York

Over the past year, the Alumni Association and City College have been engaged in important discussions about the future of alumni engagement and the relationship between our two organizations. Those discussions have raised fundamental questions about governance, operations, resources, technology, communications, and how best to organize alumni engagement for the future.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors and I recognize that the College seeks a more unified and coordinated approach to alumni relations and institutional advancement. We believe that is a worthy goal. What's important to the alumni community is that the Association's history, traditions, programs, volunteer leadership, and alumni voice remain meaningful parts of whatever comes next.

The question before us, therefore, is not whether change is necessary. **It is how we can build something better.**

> "Our challenge is to activate that potential and make the Alumni Association an incubator for connections, opportunities, and lifelong engagement."
>
> —Shawn Chin-Chance '05
> President, Alumni Association
> of The City College of New York

Creating a Road Map

Earlier this year, even before many of these questions came fully into focus, the Alumni Association embarked upon its first formal strategic planning process.

We believed it was time to step back and ask fundamental questions about our purpose, our impact, and our future.

What do City College alumni need from their Alumni Association today?

How can alumni better support one another and students?

How can we more effectively harness the enormous professional experience, expertise, generosity, and influence of our graduates?

How can alumni engagement become more connected to the strategic priorities of City College?

And perhaps most importantly: what should an exceptional alumni organization look like five, ten, or twenty years from now?

On October 9, alumni leaders, volunteers, members of the College community, and professional facilitators came together for our Strategic Planning Summit to explore those questions.

The conversation was optimistic, ambitious, and forward-looking.

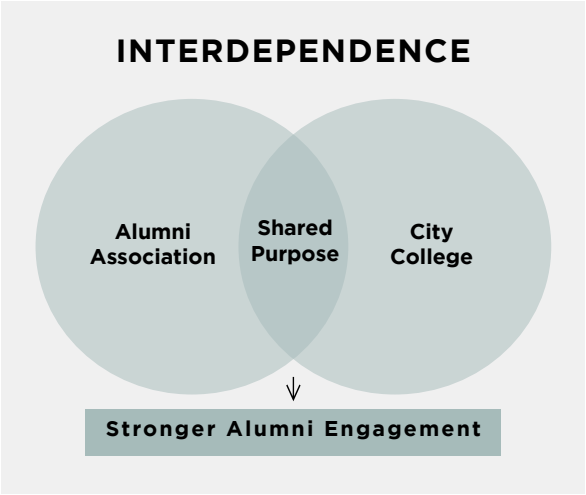
Participants imagined an alumni network in which mentorship and professional opportunity begin while students are still on campus. They envisioned alumni expertise being mobilized in direct support of students, academic programs, career development, community engagement, and the broader mission of City College. They imagined stronger lifelong connections among alumni, more robust chapters and affiliate groups, better communications, modern technology, and a more seamless transition from student to graduate to engaged alumnus.

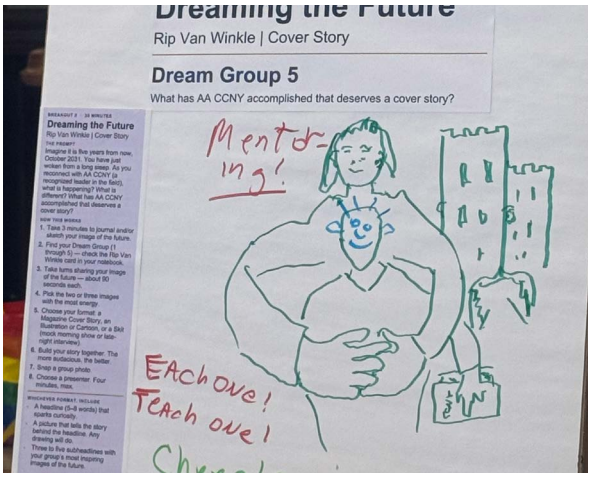
Our broader alumni survey is reinforcing many of these priorities. In preliminary survey results, 39% identified alumni communications and storytelling as a leading opportunity, while approximately 28% highlighted preserving alumni traditions and history, and 27% emphasized strengthening chapters, affiliates, and regional connections. Alumni also expressed strong interest in professional networking, mentoring, and opportunities to connect across generations.

These responses remind us that modernization and tradition are not competing priorities. Alumni want stronger connections, more meaningful opportunities to engage, and a continued sense of belonging to the City College community.

Most importantly, the Summit reminded us that the future conversation cannot simply be about organizational structure. It must begin with purpose. What are we trying to accomplish together? Once we answer that question, we can design the structure that best supports it.

Toward Interdependence





One idea has increasingly emerged from this work: Interdependence. Interdependence begins with a simple premise. **The Alumni community and City College need one another.**

The College benefits from an organized, engaged, and empowered alumni community through its Association. Alumni benefit from strong institutional partnership, professional resources, modern technology, reliable data, and clear alignment with the College's priorities.

Neither side should operate in isolation.

We envision a future in which alumni engagement functions as one coordinated ecosystem: professional staff working collaboratively, communications aligned, technology connected, data responsibly shared, and alumni programming integrated into the broader life and strategic direction of City College.

At the heart of this vision is a fundamental principle: alumni must continue to have a meaningful voice in the City College community—not simply as participants in College programming, but as active stakeholders with a substantive role in helping shape the future of their alma mater.

We believe a unified alumni engagement operation and meaningful alumni leadership are not mutually exclusive. They are complementary strengths that, together, can create something far more powerful than either could accomplish alone.

Closer institutional integration and a strong alumni identity can coexist. Modernization and tradition can coexist. The challenge before us is to determine the right structure to make that possible.

As a Board, we are genuinely open to change. We are not seeking to preserve a particular organizational model simply because it is familiar or historic. We are prepared to consider substantial changes in governance, staffing, operations, funding, and our relationship with City College if those changes create a stronger alumni engagement enterprise.

That might mean integrating Association staff within College operations, moving beyond traditional membership dues, sharing resources and responsibilities differently, or developing new approaches to funding alumni engagement.

The precise structure remains open for discussion. What matters is creating a sustainable, coordinated operation that strengthens alumni engagement while ensuring meaningful alumni leadership, participation, and representation.

Our guiding principle is straightforward: **Preserve the mission. Preserve the alumni voice. Modernize the structure.**

Preserving What Matters

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

Our responsibility is not simply to preserve them as they currently exist, but to strengthen them, expand their reach, and ensure they remain relevant for generations to come.

Change does not require abandoning the things that have made the Alumni Association valuable for generations since 1853.

Among our most cherished traditions are the awarding of the Townsend Harris Medal, the John H. Finley Award, and the Alumni Service Medal recognizing extraordinary achievement and service; the publication of ALUMNUS magazine, connecting generations of graduates through their stories and accomplishments; and our longstanding scholarships, fellowships, and student support programs.

Equally important are our affiliate groups and regional chapters, sustained by dedicated alumni volunteers who create meaningful connections across academic disciplines, professions, cultures, generations, and geographic boundaries.

These programs and networks are more than organizational activities. They represent generations of alumni commitment to City College and to one another.

We believe their continuation and growth should be essential elements of any future alumni engagement model.

Our responsibility is not simply to preserve them as they currently exist, but to strengthen them, expand their reach, and ensure they remain relevant for generations to come.

That may mean delivering programs differently, sharing responsibility with the College in new ways, or finding new resources and partnerships to support their growth.

In short, the objective is not preservation for preservation's sake. The objective is impact.

What Happens Next

Our strategic planning process is continuing. The work of the Summit, our alumni survey, benchmarking research, and the recommendations of our consultants will help inform a comprehensive strategic plan for the Association.

The Board will use that work to help define both our long-term priorities and the kind of relationship with City College that can best support them.

We have invited President Boudreau and College leadership to join us in a substantive, good-faith exploration of an interdependent model for the future of alumni engagement at City College.

Our aim is to work collaboratively toward a structure that combines the College's institutional resources and strategic priorities with the Association's traditions, volunteer leadership, and meaningful alumni representation.

While the precise structure has yet to be determined, this moment is an opportunity: An opportunity to build something together that is stronger, more sustainable, and more effective in serving the alumni community, City College, and its students. An opportunity to rethink assumptions. An opportunity to modernize a 173-year-old organization. An opportunity to strengthen the connection between alumni and City College. And an opportunity to build an alumni engagement model worthy of one of the most remarkable alumni communities in higher education.



MENTORSHIP | NETWORKING | STUDENT SUPPORT | LIFELONG CONNECTIONS

Your Voice Matters

That collective experience is an extraordinary resource for City College and a testament to the strength of the CCNY alumni community.

Our alumni are educators, scientists, physicians, artists, engineers, entrepreneurs, public servants, business leaders, advocates, and innovators.

That collective experience is an extraordinary resource for City College and a testament to the strength of the CCNY alumni community.

Our challenge is to activate that potential and make the Alumni Association an incubator for connections, opportunities, and lifelong engagement.

As this process continues, we want alumni to help shape what comes next.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to visit our website, ccnyalumni.org, and participate in our alumni survey. Your ideas, experiences, and aspirations will help inform the strategic plan and the future direction of the Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association has evolved many times since 1853. It must evolve again.

But through every generation, one thing has remained constant: City College alumni care deeply about one another and about this institution.

If we begin from that shared commitment, I am confident that we can build something stronger than what came before. Not simply an Alumni Association beside City College. But an alumni community deeply connected to it, working with it, and helping to shape its future.

THAT is the promise of interdependence. And that is the future the Board and I are working to build.





All the awardees with gala host Victor Almanzar '12 (far left), Alumni Association President Shawn Chin-Chance (second to the right) and Executive Director David Covington (end of row, right).

HONORING THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE, CELEBRATING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI, AND SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

The Alumni Association of The City College of New York celebrated its 146th Annual Alumni Gala Fundraiser on Thursday, November 12, 2026, in the magnificent Great Hall of Shepard Hall. The evening brought together alumni, friends, and supporters of City College to celebrate outstanding achievements, recognize distinguished honorees, and support the Association's mission.

The Gala is the Alumni Association's premier annual fundraiser, supporting scholarships, mentorship programs, and alumni engagement initiatives that advance the success of City College and its students while fostering lifelong connections among alumni and the broader CCNY community.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious John H. Finley Award, recognizing outstanding service to New York City and the nation, and the Townsend Harris Medals, honoring distinguished alumni for their exceptional postgraduate achievements.

FINLEY AWARDEE, MARC H. MORIAL



For more than a century, the National Urban League (NUL) has advanced economic empowerment, equality, and social justice for underserved communities.

To this end, the NUL has collaborated, locally and nationally, with communities, policymakers, and corporate partners. It now has 93 affiliates working together to close the equality gap with public policy development and its own programs that improve the lives of two million people each year in 300 communities in 37 states and the District of Columbia.

The League's own programs cover parenting, nutrition, health, college preparation, mentoring, STEM education, training for the workforce and for setting up new businesses, for home ownership and preventing foreclosure.

Marc Morial has led the NUL since 2003 as president and CEO. In the past decade, results achieved by the NUL and its affiliates include almost 250,000 people being placed in jobs, 21,000 helped into home ownership, 8.3 million benefiting from health services, three million accessing educational services, and more than six million being mobilized in civic engagement.

In 2013 the League launched a historic $100 million, five-year initiative, Jobs Rebuild America: Educate, Employ, Empower—a comprehensive approach to the nation's employment and education crises which brings together federal government, business, and nonprofits to create economic opportunity in 50 cities across the country through the Urban League affiliate network. Employment initiatives include the Urban Youth Empowerment Program and Entrepreneurship Centers in 10 cities.

Morial also helped create the Urban Empowerment Fund, which lends to urban-impact businesses, and helped create the League's New Markets Tax Credits initiative, which has resulted in $1 billion in community investments via urban-impact businesses, through both debt and equity investments. As Mayor of New Orleans between 1994 and 2002, Morial halved violent crime and unemployment while initiating a tough juvenile curfew and expanding both job and recreation options for youth. Home ownership was increased through partnerships with banks, churches, community organizations and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

As a Louisiana State Senator (1992-1994), Morial wrote or co-wrote more than 50 bills in public policy areas and was a member of the Louisiana Legislative Black Council.

Prior to senatorial work, Morial founded a law firm in 1985 and was plaintiff and chair of the plaintiff's committee in Chisolm v. Edwards which applied the 1965 Voting Rights Act to judicial elections and led to the election of Louisiana's first Black supreme court justice. Morial also won the Louisiana State Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico Award for his legal service to the poor and disadvantaged.

President Obama appointed Morial chair of the Census Advisory Committee, a member of the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability, and to the Department of Education's Equity and Excellence Commission. Earlier, he was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission.

Morial is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, and the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Economics and African American Studies.

Today, Morial is a leading national voice in the battle for jobs, education, housing, health, voting rights, and equity. He hosts a weekly syndicated television show, *America's Black Forum*, has been recognized as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans by *Ebony Magazine*, and as one of the top 50 Non-Profit Leaders by *The NonProfit Times*, among other accolades.Morial has written and published a leadership book, *Gumbo Coalition: 10 Leadership Lessons That Help You Inspire, Unite, and Achieve*, and his column, *To Be Equal*, reaches hundreds of thousands every week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOWNSEND HARRIS MEDAL HONOREES!

The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of The City College of New York unanimously selected these distinguished alumni to receive the 2026 Townsend Harris Medal, one of the Association's highest honors, recognizing outstanding postgraduate achievement.

The medals were presented on Thursday, November 12, 2026, during the 146th Annual Alumni Gala Fundraiser, held in the magnificent Great Hall at City College.

Through their remarkable achievements and contributions to their respective fields and communities, these Townsend Harris Medalists continue to inspire generations of students and alumni.

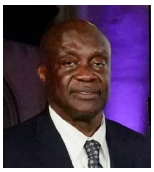
Meet our 2026 honorees:



JOHN A. CETRA, B.S. ARCH. '76, FAIA

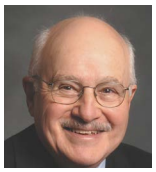
John A. Cetra is an architect and co-founder of CetraRuddy, a multi-award-winning architectural and interior design firm. CetraRuddy's residential, cultural, commercial, hospitality, educational, and civic projects have helped shape New York. The firm is known for its adaptive re-use for residential design, including the Walker Tower in Manhattan, which was formerly a telephone switch building. CetraRuddy is responsible for the country's largest office-to-residential conversion, SoMA at 25 Water Street (previously 4 New York Plaza), which was created after changes in local regulations encouraged conversions of existing buildings to create more housing. A housing lottery was created for its more than 300 affordable units.

Cetra graduated from the Spitzer School of Architecture in 1976, and holds an M.A. from Harvard University. He has taught architecture at both institutions. This year Cetra was named Crain's New York Business Notable Leader in Architecture, Engineering, and Construction.



DR. MAX PIERRE FRANCOIS, B.S. '83

Francois is a physician, educator, and researcher whose landmark work on osteoporosis in Black and Latino women brought national attention to healthcare disparities. His career has been devoted to serving and mentoring the Harlem community. Francois graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Biology from The City College of New York where he earned an Outstanding Achievement Award. He was an intern in the internal medicine program at St Luke's, Roosevelt Hospital Center. In 1989, he became an internal medicine resident at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons at the Harlem Hospital Centre. He was a clinical instructor with Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons for almost two decades until 2010. Francois has often lectured on osteoporosis, HIV/AIDS, diabetes and hypertension and is vice president and medical advisor on *Health is Gold*, a weekly medical program on Manhattan Neighborhood Network, Channel 55. Francois continues in private practice and attendance at St Luke's in Roosevelt Hospital.

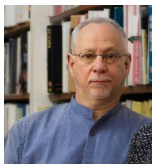


HOWARD GOLDFINE, B.S. '53

Internationally recognized microbiologist and biochemistry researcher and educator. He is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, and renowned for pioneering research on bacterial pathogenesis and cell membrane lipids. Goldfine earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry from the University of Chicago in 1957. After postdoctoral research at the NIH and in the laboratory of Konrad Bloch at Harvard University in Cambridge, he ran his own lab at Harvard as an assistant professor. In 1968 he joined the Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania as an assistant professor. He was a professor of Microbiology, until 2011. Goldfine has explored the interaction between bacterial pathogens, such as E. coli, anthrax, and listeria, and mammalian host cells. His research on bacterial pathogenesis in cells and the structures, functions, and formation of bacterial membrane lipids, especially phospholipids and plasmalogens, has been groundbreaking. He was executive editor of *Analytical Biochemistry* and associate editor of the *Journal of Lipid Research*. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Microbiology. Goldfine has a keen interest in Charles Darwin and was co-chair of "The Year of Evolution" celebration at the University of Pennsylvania in 2008-9, marking the bicentennial of the birth of Darwin and the sesquicentennial of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Although retired from teaching, Goldfine continued his research as Professor Emeritus until 2023. In much of his work, his wife, Norah C. Johnston, Ph.D., has been a colleague.

DOMINGO GONZALEZ '78

Domingo Gonzales is an architectural lighting designer and educator who founded Domingo Gonzalez Associates in 1985. His work has illuminated major landmarks, transport facilities, historic and civic buildings ever since. These include the Moynihan Train Hall, the George Washington Bridge Towers, and the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge—



and even City College's own Great Hall where his Townsend Harris Medal was presented and which won the 1998 Lucy B. Moses Preservation Design Award. Among Gonzalez Associates' much-awarded projects, the African Burial Ground Monument, for the National Park Service in New York City, stands out as possibly the most noble. The Monument in lower Manhattan, at the corner of Duane St. and Elk St., is the largest, and oldest known excavated burial ground for free and enslaved Africans in North America. Gonzalez's firm not only designed the lighting for the project pro bono, but also worked with lighting manufacturers to furnish equipment at no or low cost, in honor of the memorial's unique cultural significance and commemorative character. Another Gonzalez project, the Bronx Library Center, is a 70,000-square foot library, the borough's largest, and New York state's first publicly funded, 'green' LEED Silver building. Domingo Gonzalez Associates developed the lighting for all public spaces including main reading rooms, stack areas, conference/meeting rooms, children's story area, offices, work rooms, auditorium and grand stairs, as well as the exterior terraces and entrance canopies.

PAZEL G. JACKSON B.C.E. '54, M.C.E. '59



Civil engineer, public administrator, banking and housing-finance leader, Pazel G. Jackson significantly advanced community development and infrastructure through his leadership. After a 37-year banking career, he was senior vice president of JPMorgan Chase in 2000 following senior management roles with Chase Manhattan Bank, Chemical Bank, Texas Commerce Bank, Bowery Savings Bank, and board membership of Carver Federal Savings Bank. Upon graduating from CCNY, Jackson entered the military as a second lieutenant with the combat engineers in the Korean War. As an engineer before moving to banking, Jackson spent five years on the staff of Robert Moses, head of the 1964-65 New York World's Trade Fair. He worked on design, construction and operation as chief of engineering design and stayed during demolition, and restoration of the Flushing Meadow Park in 1966. As part of Mayor John Lindsay's administration of New York City (1966-69), he served as deputy commissioner. He was often called the "hospital czar" because his role covered public works and hospitals and he accelerated creation of new hospitals in Bellevue, Harlem, Lincoln and Gouverneur. Unexpectedly, Jackson then went into banking, firstly with Bowery Savings Bank which had an avant-garde affordable-housing development corporation. He helped create nine low- and moderate-income apartment developments in Harlem, South Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens which were sold to nonprofit housing companies. This experience showed Jackson that banking is not only about profit and this guided him through his career. In 1975 both New York State and City were in a financial crisis under Governor Hugh Carey. Jackson was among a handful of people tasked with avoiding bankruptcy and with re-establishing the New York State Urban Development Corporation board. While still at Bowery, Jackson earned an MBA from Columbia University and became Bowery's senior vice president and chief lending officer before Warren Buffett bought the company. He then joined Chemical Bank and helped integrate it with several other major banks to become JPMorgan Chase. At JPMorgan Chase Jackson ran mortgage market development across the U.S. His broad-ranging expertise was also applied to the boards of the Battery Park City Authority and Mutual Real Estate Investment Trust. After retiring from JPMorgan, Jackson went on to earn a doctorate in Economics and Business Management in 2009 and continued as a director of Carver Federal Savings Bank. Today he is still involved in making grants as a director of the Ponce Bank Foundation.



ANNE M. MANCUSO B.A. '75

Anne M. Mancuso was on the staff of *The New York Times* for 39 years. As a veteran staffer of the cultural news department, she often wrote property articles among other material, did photo-editing and research. Since retiring in 2014, she has worked as a freelance writer. She graduated cum laude from The City College of New York. In 2017, she received an M.A. in arts management from Baruch College. Mancuso served as president of the Alumni Association and the Communications Alumni Group, and received an Alumni Association Service Award in 2002. She is also a former editor of *Alumnus* magazine.



NANCY J. RUDDY

Architect, interior designer, and co-founder of CetraRuddy, she is recognized for creating spaces that strengthen community and enrich people's urban experiences. Her strategic planning and design leadership has spanned more than 20 million square feet of architecture and interiors. She studied architecture at City College which has honored her work with a Spitzer School Career Achievement Award. She has a B.A. in Architectural History from New York University. Other honors include '100 Women Leaders for the 21st Century' from *Real Estate Weekly* and the Association of Real Estate Women, 'Business Owner of the Year' from the National Association of Women Business Owners, as well as many design and sustainability awards for CetraRuddy's projects. Ruddy and the firm's co-founder, John Cetra, were inducted into the prestigious Interior Design Hall of Fame in 2015.

CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF THE CCCB EUROPEAN PRIZE FOR URBAN PUBLIC SPACE



In Spitzer School Atrium Gallery, "Design Matters: In Favor of Urban Public Space" a timely exhibition celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) European Prize for Urban Public Space, and offers profound insights into the design and preservation of shared urban environments. The exhibition continues through Friday, Feb. 26, 2027. It is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The European Prize for Urban Public Space is a biennial competition organized by the CCCB that, since 2000, has recognized projects that create, transform, and recover public spaces understood to be clear indicators of the democratic health of cities within Europe. With a robust exhibition documenting a quarter-century of exemplary design focused on urban public space, and a robust program of public events, the Spitzer School and the CCCB insist that design matters and that dialogue about cities and public space is both possible and necessary in our increasingly urbanized and fractured world.

The exhibition starts from the premise that design shapes the conditions of everyday life in cities. It positions design as a critical form of inquiry that engages questions of equity, governance, ecology, and collective well-being, and tackles design in relationship to 10 themes:

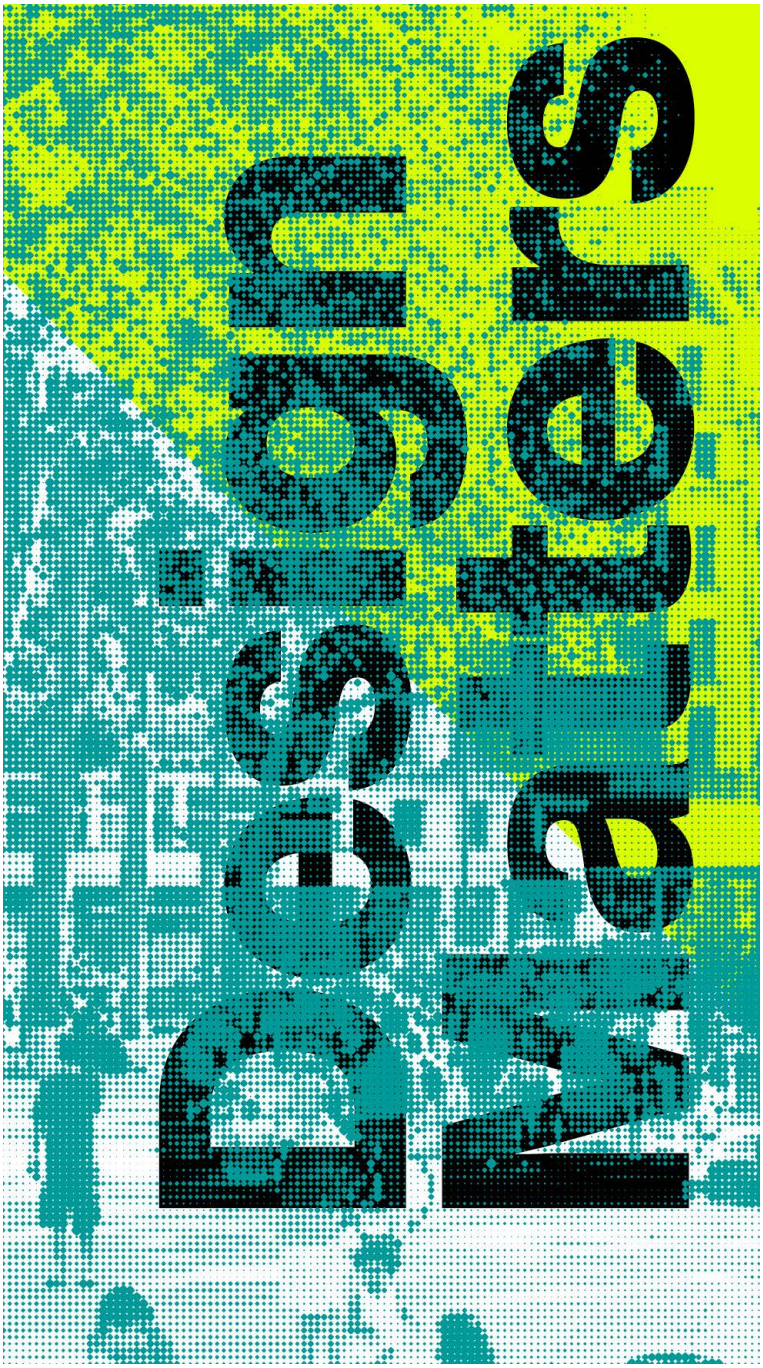
- **Memory: Overlapping Times**
- **Mobility: Sharing Movement**
- **Hybrids: Fostering Complexity**
- **Waterfront: Living with Water**
- **Naturalization: Activating Ecologies**
- **Recycle: Revitalizing Urban Fabrics**
- **Marketplace: Exchanging Wealth**
- **Participation: Being Together**
- **Housing and Public Space**
- **Childhood and Care**

The solutions exhibited offer examples of best practices at every possible scale of intervention: a bench, a playground, a waterway, a public square.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Spitzer School and the CCCB have convened a robust

program of public events, hosting conversations between colleagues from different parts of the world.

Practitioners, teachers, and thinkers will reflect on the expanded role of design in contemporary society and examine how architectural and urban practices can respond to complex, often conflicting demands ranging from public accountability and environmental resilience to cultural specificity and global interdependence. The discussions will foreground design not as a neutral act, but as a situated and ethical practice with material consequences.



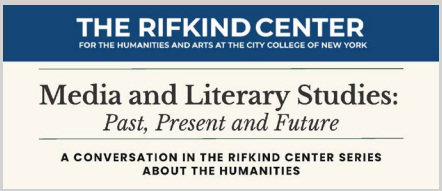
SPITZER SCHOOL ALUMNI OPEN HOUSE



The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture offers opportunities for alumni to join Spitzer campus tours this fall. Join on Dec. 8 from 4-5 p.m. to reminisce during an in-person tour led by a current student. It includes an overview of school programs and facilities, such as studios, maker spaces, and libraries. There will also be a Q&A. Meet in the lobby of the Spitzer School of Architecture. Also, an Architecture Undergraduate Open House will be held Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 5:30-7 p.m. The focus will be on the Spitzer School's 5-year Bachelor of Architecture program and the new B.A. in Urban Studies and the Built Environment. Hear from administration, faculty, and current students about the program and life at Spitzer.

MEDIA AND LITERARY STUDIES: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2026 | 5:00PM-6:30PM
Rifkind Center, NAC 6/316
In-Person & Via Zoom



How are new media ecologies changing literary production and literary culture, criticism, and scholarship? What is the relationship between the work done at institutions of higher education and the discussion on social media platforms? Between academic scholarship and its alternatives? Our two guests are literary scholars with influential profiles on Substack, where they have also discussed these questions.

SPEAKERS
Julianne Werlin teaches early modern literature at Duke. Her first book was Writing at the Origin of Capitalism (OUP, 2021). The forthcoming Renaissance Authors: A Demographic History, charts the births, marriages, and deaths of 645 authors to show how life patterns shaped writing in the period. A new project, Literary Generations, is a longue durée account of generational change in literature. She writes reviews for The Chronicle of Higher Ed. Her substack, Life and Letters, focuses on the evolution of literary genres and styles in light of trends in demography, economics, urbanization, and biography.

Jeffrey Lawrence teaches 20th- and 21st-century US and Latin American literature at Rutgers. He is the author of Anxieties of Experience: The Literatures of the Americas from Whitman to Bolañõ (OUP, 2018). A translator from Spanish, in 2024 he also published a novel in Spanish, El americano, and co-founded Libreria Bocabierta, a Spanish-language bookshop in the East Village. His public-facing writing has appeared in The Point, Lit Hub, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and LARB. His substack, Avenues of the Americas, focuses on contemporary literature and culture across the Anglophone and Hispanophone worlds.

For more information on the seminar:
https://english.ccny.cuny.edu/media-and-literary-studies-past-present-and-future/

THE THOMAS HAINES MEMORIAL SEMINAR: STEPHEN HARRISON, “WATCHING A NON-ENVELOPED VIRUS ENTER A CELL”

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026 | 11:30AM-1PM
ASRC Cafe
In-Person & Via Zoom

SPEAKER
Stephen Harrison, Professor of Basic Medical Sciences, Harvard Medical School, Boston Children’s Hospital; and Investigator, HHMI, will give a talk on, “Watching a non-enveloped virus enter a cell.”

Cell entry of nonenveloped animal viruses requires translocation of a macromolecular assembly across a cellular membrane. Double-stranded RNA viruses introduce into the target cell an inner capsid particle that does not uncoat further. Instead, it extrudes capped viral mRNA by virtue of polymerase and capping activities within it. Cryogenic electron tomography (cryo-ET) has allowed us to visualize the full course of rotavirus entry, from cell attachment and virion uptake to release of the subviral particle. The talk will outline the mechanism of each step in the entry process, including the membrane perforation.

For more information on the seminar:
https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/calendar/thomas-haines-memorial-seminar-stephen-harrison-watching-non-enveloped-virus-enter-cell

A CELEBRATION HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR JOHN FILLOS



Come celebrate the retirement of Professor John Fillos, former chair of the Department of Civil Engineering. After more than 50 years of unparalleled service, dedication, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to educating and inspiring future engineers, Fillos will be feted for his CCNY journey and career accomplishments at the elegant Club 101 on Friday, Nov. 20 from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. Club 101 is located at 101 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10178.

Fillos received his B.E. in Civil Engineering from the City College of New York in 1966, and M.S. and Ph.D. from NYU in 1970. He returned to CCNY in 1972 as a professor in the Environmental Engineering department. Since then, he has impacted the lives and careers of an enormous number of undergraduate, Masters, and Ph.D. students.

Fillos is also a leading authority in wastewater treatment in the Greater New York region. He has made outstanding contributions to protecting lives and the environment across New York City and New York state through his involvement with public agencies, such as the NYC Department of Environmental Protection and the NYC Department of Sanitation.

BLACK ALUMNI GROUP



The Black Alumni hosted its **"Windy City Heritage Trip"** to Chicago from August 20–25, 2026, for six days and five nights. The trip included round-trip, nonstop flights from LaGuardia Airport on Southwest Airlines, as well as hotel accommodations. Highlights of the trip included visits to the **Obama Presidential Center & Grounds, DuSable Black History Museum, historic Bronzeville, Skydeck at Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), Millennium Park and "The Bean," Shedd Aquarium, the Butterfly House, and Navy Pier.** The trip also served as a fundraiser to support the Alumni Association's **scholarship fund**.

LATINO ALUMNI GROUP



The Latino Alumni Group of the Alumni Association of The City College of New York (CCNY) brought together alumni, friends, and supporters for a memorable evening honoring leadership, achievement, and the enduring spirit of the CCNY community for the **16th Annual Simón Bolívar Ceremony**. The evening honored The Honorable **Judge Cynthia Isales** and **Dean Ana Isabel García Ramírez Reyes** with the prestigious **Simón Bolívar Award**, recognizing their outstanding accomplishments, leadership, and commitment to serving others. **Tiffany Del Valle** received the Rising Star Award, celebrating her achievements and emerging leadership within the CCNY community. The signature event brought together CCNY graduates and supporters from across generations, creating an opportunity to celebrate shared connections and the many ways alumni continue to make a difference. Guests enjoyed an elegant three-course dinner accompanied by the vibrant sounds of a live Latin jazz quartet, adding a festive and memorable note to the evening. At its heart, the celebration reflected the values that define the CCNY alumni community: excellence, service, leadership, and a deep commitment to giving back. It was a fitting tribute to the honorees and a celebration of the generations of alumni who continue to carry the CCNY legacy forward.

D.C. ALUMNI GROUP



The DC Area Chapter of the Alumni Association enjoyed a memorable evening at the Olney Theatre Center on Saturday, August 1, 2026, attending the 7:30 p.m. performance of the Tony Award-winning musical, **A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder.** This Tony winner for Best Musical is a witty and delightful satire of money, manners, morals, and murder. With discounted tickets at just $55 for reserved excellent center orchestra seats, the event combined top-notch entertainment with a meaningful cause. Each ticket contributed $5 to the Chapter's Scholarship Fund, which has supported educational opportunities through the Alumni Association for decades.

ALUMNI AFFILIATE GROUP UPDATES BY EMMANUEL AFRIYIE

GROVE STUDENTS TO GET HANDS-ON PRACTICE FROM THE START



Engineering students will have opportunities to research and practice engineering from introductory courses onward at the Grove School of Engineering, thanks to a new $5 million Kenneth and Gloria Levy Initiative for Engineering Practice and Measurement.

The latest support from alumni Levy ‘64 and his wife Gloria will boost graduates’ professional readiness because it will enable them to conceptualize, design, build, test, measure, troubleshoot, and improve real systems from the beginning of their academic careers through to graduation.

Levy is the Chairman of the Board of KLA-Tencor Corporation. He founded KLA Instruments in 1974, and was the CEO of the company for 25 years. KLA-Tencor, one of the three largest semiconductor capital equipment companies in the world, is the leading company in inspection, metrology and yield management systems serving the semiconductor industry.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from CCNY, Levy began his career as an engineer in the aerospace industry. In 1969, he joined the founding team of Computervision Corporation, and held a number of technical and management positions, including president of the Cobilt Division, a company that pioneered in automation and lithography equipment for the semiconductor industry.

In 1974, Levy founded KLA Instruments. He led projects which developed the first commercially available automated mask and wafer inspection systems which were instrumental in enabling low-cost manufacture of large, highly integrated semiconductor devices.

He received a Master of Science, Electrical Engineering, from Syracuse University, in 1967. He has received a number of awards and honors: he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering;



Kenneth Levy ’64 and Gloria Levy

has received the SEMI’s Lifetime Achievement Award; the Needham Legend of the Industry Award; and many others for his technical and business achievements.

“I believe that engineers learn not only by understanding the theory, but also by applying it to real problems,” said Levy. “We established this initiative to give today’s engineering students the opportunity to complement their strong, theoretical education with meaningful, hands-on project experience.”

The Levys are renowned for their commitment to Grove and its students over almost four decades. They have supported more than 100 students through scholarships, professional development, and by funding competitions. They also set up The Kenneth Levy ’64 and Gloria Levy Scholarship Fund in 2021 to help undergraduate students with financial needs.

“City College gave me an outstanding engineering education that benefited me throughout my entire career. Gloria and I are deeply grateful for that opportunity,” said Kenneth Levy.

Introductory engineering courses across all departments will benefit from new discipline-specific, project-based learning modules and curricular enhancements to be developed by Grove School as part of the initiative.

The Levys’ investment in students and the Grove School will also launch the inaugural Levy Practice Fellows. The fellows, who will become leaders and mentors, will represent multiple engineering disciplines and will receive intensive training in engineering design, measurement, instrumentation, fabrication, testing, and project execution through structured, faculty-guided experiences.

Alexander Couzis, Dean of the Grove School, said engineering education shouldn’t stop at knowing how something works. “Students need to understand how to apply what they learn, test their ideas, work through uncertainty, and learn from the results. Ken and Gloria’s commitment gives us an extraordinary opportunity to make that experience central to how our students learn engineering at Grove,” said Couzis.

“Ken and Gloria see the importance of engaging students early in their academic careers—at the very moment they are beginning to imagine that what they learn in the classroom will have real-world impacts far beyond their time at City College,” said Dee Dee Mozeleski, 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 CCNY President.

“We are grateful not only for their generosity, but also their expansive thinking about education,” said Mozeleski.

The Levys’ initiative builds upon efforts—like the reinvention of the manufacturing lab, the makerspace, and the Green Energy Initiative lab—that are already underway.

“Ken Levy understands that the sooner we allow students to undertake their own research, the better it will be for their professional preparation,” said CCNY President Vincent Boudreau. “With this inspired gift, Ken and Gloria Levy are creating the conditions on campus for generations of City College engineering students to begin their careers well-positioned for success.”

EN GARDE: MEN'S FENCING TO HAVE ITS DAY ONCE AGAIN AT CCNY

By Christine Powis



The team photo of the 1971 CCNY men's team with legendary Head Coach and Assistant Professor Ed Lucia, center.

Great news was reported in USA Fencing and CCNY Athletics.com this year: varsity men's fencing is being revived for the 2027-28 season.

A multi-year grant from USA Fencing has been awarded to The Foundation for City College in support of men's fencing. It includes a guaranteed base investment of $30,000, with the potential to receive up to $60,000 over the next two to three years to support facility development, equipment purchases, and broader program growth. This investment sets up the basis for long-term success while expanding collegiate fencing opportunities at CCNY and building pathways for aspiring student athletes to compete at National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) level.

CCNY's men's fencing had a fabled past before being disbanded 30 years ago. The women's program has carried the fencing banner at CCNY since then, regularly sending athletes to NCAA regional and national competitions.

This revival is a result of The Foundation for City College's support combined with USA Fencing's sustained, behind-the-scenes work with campus leaders to grow fencing opportunities—from feasibility to program guidance to long-term strategic planning. The voices of alumni and other Friends of CCNY Fencing have been heard behind the scenes too, and will continue their efforts in a bid to help CCNY reclaim some of its past fencing glory.

Jerry Moy, Class of 1972, who was on the CCNY varsity fencing team 1971-72, believes that the business experience of many Friends of CCNY Fencing could help the potential $60,000 become a reality.

"We've been working in corporate America for years, so we've done a lot of business plans and that could be useful in attracting the bigger, potential part of the grant," said Moy who, in his mid-seventies, still regularly fences. He's also vice president of CCNY's Asian Alumni Group.

The new program restores a men's team that, in its heyday, produced Olympic medalists, NCAA individual champions and a U.S. Olympic coach.

In the coming season, CCNY will compete as an NCAA Division III member of the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC), and its women's fencing team competes against opponents across all three NCAA divisions.

CCNY Fencing Director, Paul Yuen, Class of 2017, is now head coach for both the men's and women's varsity teams. Yuen had phoned USA Fencing to ask for support at a time when USA Fencing was working to expand collegiate fencing and was at its most receptive.

For alumni fencers and Friends of CCNY Fencing such as Joe Wu, Class of 1972, and Moy, who both fenced in CCNY men's fencing's glory days in the early '70s, the news is wonderful.

"It's like a day of salvation," said Moy. "When we were fencing, it was near the high point of men's fencing at CCNY. Joe and another veteran fencer and assistant coach who preceded us, Arnie Messing, had gone back to CCNY to help coach the women's team, and we've also raised money for equipment for them.

"It makes us feel proud that the mantle of men's fencing has been picked up so CCNY can become a competitor again."

Moy said the glory days of last century under coaches Ed Lucia and Frank Seeley would be hard to recreate in the near future. But, in the longer term, he said it depends on the people Paul Yuen manages to gather around him as he reaches out for both team members and assistant coaches.

Yuen aims to recruit at least 15 experienced, rated male fencers for the fall of 2027, with a later goal of having 21 athletes on CCNY's men's fencing team.

"Their experience can range from low to high but they should at least have a USA Fencing rating," said Yuen, who was on CCNY's men's fencing team from the early 1990s onward and was shocked when the program was disbanded. He became CCNY's assistant coach in 2004 and now that he runs the program for men and women, he could well be in his dream job.

"Ever since I started coaching more than 20 years ago, my dream was to bring back the men's team and Friends of CCNY Fencing have also worked towards that goal," said Yuen, who had just returned from the College Fair at the North American Cup, Florida, where high school students meet college fencing coaches—an event for creating awareness about CCNY's fencing programs and recruiting athletes.



CCNY competing in Wingate. Photo: Jerry Moy

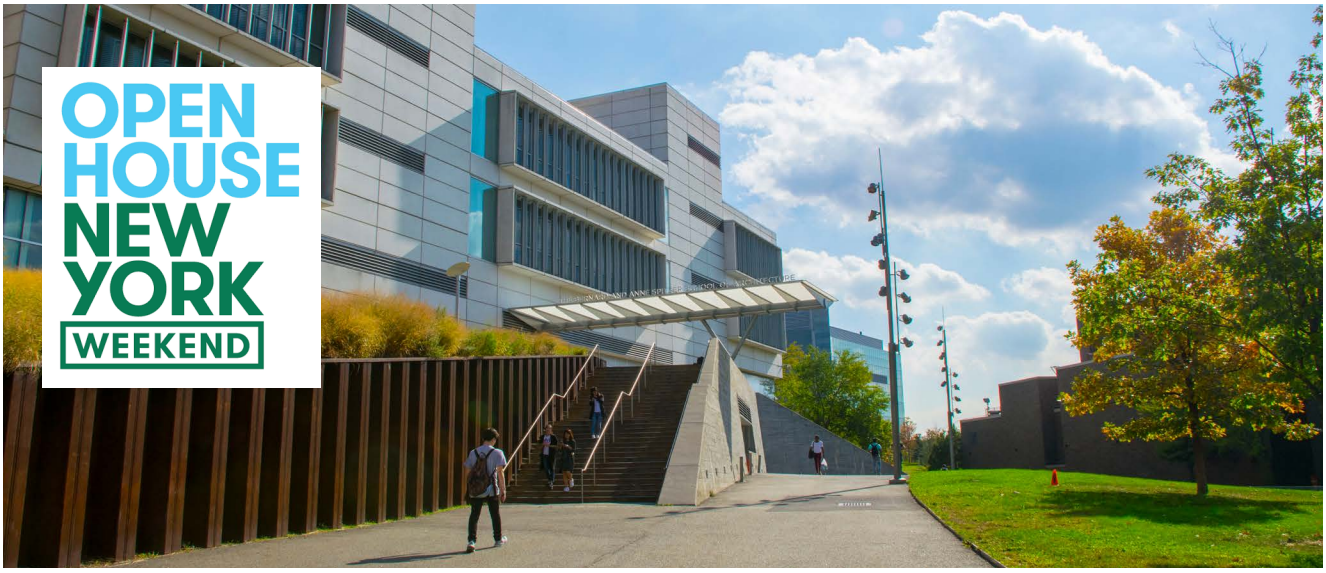


The 'last' gathering of the former CCNY men's fencing team at CCNY (circa 2018). From left: CCNY's Fencing Director Paul Yuen '17, alumni fencers Joe Wu '72, Jerry Moy '72, Jack Lee '74, Wang Yung '74, Dave Cypel '76, and David Kiung '73.

FINDING A PROPER HOME IS A CHALLENGE FOR THE TEAM

Fencing Director Paul Yuen '17 is looking everywhere, including to alumni, for donations of physical space for the team. Requirements are very specific: it needs to be a dedicated space and large enough to accommodate the long, wide metal fencing strips for practice and tournaments, as well as equipment storage and maintenance space for its growing collection of equipment and weapons. Please contact Yuen at pyuen@ccny.cuny.edu.

OHNY IS OH, SO CCNY: SPECIAL BEHIND-THE-SCENES PUBLIC TOUR HELD AT SPITZER AND SHEPARD HALL



DID YOU MISS THE OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK WEEKEND OCT. 16-18? THIS ANNUAL FESTIVAL UNLOCKS 300 DESTINATIONS ACROSS THE FIVE BOROUGHS FOR BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES. TWO FREE PUBLIC TOURS OF CCNY WERE PART OF THE FESTIVITIES.

A TOUR OF THE SPITZER SCHOOL AND SHEPARD HALL

Specifically crafted for OHNY Weekend, visitors were invited to a rare, behind-the-scenes look at where tomorrow's designers and urban thinkers hone their craft. Open House New York Spitzer School of Architecture tour was held on Saturday, Oct. 17. As the flagship public architecture school in New York City, The Spitzer School is committed to shaping the future of the built environment. Visitors explored a variety of unique academic and creative spaces on a drop-in basis. The new cutting-edge Robotics Lab was open to the public. The Lab introduces advanced technology that transforms architectural fabrication.The tour continued with the Sorkin Reading Room, part of the Architecture Library, which is dedicated to its namesake, Michael Sorkin, the distinguished late professor of architecture. Sorkin's books, papers and ephemera are contained in the collection courtesy of his wife Joan Copjec. Guests were able to view the neighborhood from a spectacular vantage point thanks to the newly renovated rooftop.

In addition to the Spitzer School of Architecture, a separate OHNY Drop-in took place on the same day in the historic Great Hall of Shepard Hall. Participants were able to experience the soaring jewel of the Neo-Gothic campus and learn about its remarkable history and renovation.

MORE AT THE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

An alumni Open House was held on Oct. 22. In addition, an Awards Ceremony for Continuing Students took place the same day. It was a chance to network with fellow alum, and applaud those who have attained their academic goals, and network with those working in the industry.

If you were unable to attend this event, there's a slew of other events available for you to connect with the Spitzer School. See https://ssa.ccny.cuny.edu/events

WE STAND CORRECTED BY GOOD NEWS



A note arrived from a befuddled alumnus when he learned of his recent death. Our sincere apologies for the incorrect listing in the In Memoriam section of the Fall 2021 issue.

Paul A. Jacobs '63 (B.S. Meteorology) is happy to report he's back from the "dearly departed." Turns out there was confusion with another alumnus of the same name, but with a different middle initial.

From Jacobs' letter: "Ah, the halcyon years at CCNY, 1959-63. JFK was president and there was excitement in the air. Dr. Buell G. Gallagher (an ordained Congregational minister) was President of CCNY (we called him 'cool Buell'). The slide rule was king for engineering and science majors—no PCs, laptops, smartphones, or AI. And stopping into the South Campus snack bar in Finley Hall was almost always met by the cool sound of jazz pianist, Ahmad Jamal, playing 'Poinciana' on the juke box—because a dime bought the longest playing record in the batch! I was in ROTC and a highlight were the semi-annual parades of the Corps of Cadets in Lewisohn Stadium, well-attended by students and faculty. In those days, CCNY had the largest college ROTC enrollment—about 1500 of us—east of the Mississippi. And who can forget that great CCNY institution, Raymond the Bagel Man, whose scrumptious 25-cent salted pretzels 'nourished' those of us who trudged between north and south campus.

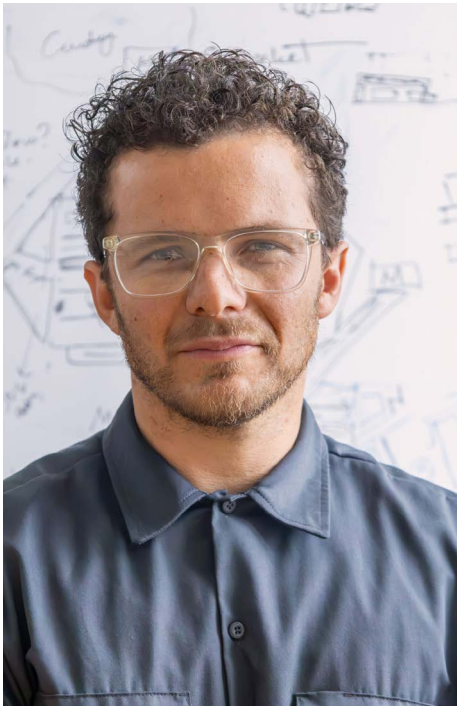
I worked part-time in the college bookstore which had an LP record section (no tapes or CDs) managed by an audiophile who kept an eye on the latest musical trends and had a stereo system to play the records he ordered. One day, he played a strange-sounding vocal group called The Beatles which caught people's attention (but not necessarily their approval); another time, an album featuring guitarist Charlie Byrd and tenor saxophonist Stan Getz, called Jazz Samba which introduced Americans to the Bossa Nova. Customers in the store literally stopped and swayed to the rhythm. The record sold out in no time.

After two years in the Army Signal Corps in Alaska and getting my M.S. from NYU, I settled into my career with the National Weather Service mostly in the D.C. area and retired in 1996 as Program Manager for Marine Weather Services for U.S. and international waters and the Great Lakes.

Along the way, I married my dear wife, Gloria '64 (B.S. Education). We have a daughter and son, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. We enjoy theater, gardening, woodworking and antique cars from our home in Huntington, Long Island."

INTRODUCING SPITZER'S NEW ROBOTICS LAB: NURTURING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

By Christine Powis





After a long construction process, the new Robotics and Digital Fabrication Labs opened at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture this year, and the labs' new director, Elijah Williams, looks forward to hosting workshops and events to bring the huge role of robotics for the built environment to Spitzer students.

Williams is an educator and technologist whose work has focused on simulating building performance and on the complexity of both physical and digital modeling. He's also a Certified Passive House Designer, who is often found tinkering with environmental control systems.

When he co-founded ARTIFEX, Williams challenged the digital-first nature of building assessment by creating hardware and software tools to improve access to complex systems and data structures. Later, Williams was a founding member of the Simulated and Measured Environments Lab at New York Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Design where he also taught.

In addition to teaching at the Spitzer School of Architecture, Williams has taught at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO) and Boston Architectural College. He earned his B Arch and his M.S. in Architectural Technology at Cal Poly SLO.

The new labs at Spitzer offer what Williams describes as a unique combination of teaching-focused collaborative robots—which can share space and safely collaborate with people—and industrial or research robots.

"Elsewhere architectural robotics labs focus on either being a teaching lab or a research lab, but CCNY's new labs are uniquely positioned to do both," he said. "Faculty can be focused on actively engaging students—at undergraduate and

graduate levels—with the collaborative robots, while the industrial-scale robots for research applications can build and foster collaborations across CUNY and in industry," said Williams, who is keen to build partnerships and collaborations at CCNY, and CUNY— and beyond.

"We're excited to see these lines blur as the culture of robotics research expands to give students hands-on experience with this emerging technology," said Williams.

According to Williams, Ph.D. labs across CUNY have robotic-focused research interests but do not have the same facilities or infrastructure as CCNY's new Digital Fabrication and Robotics Labs, and [the other labs] focus on the few graduate students in the lab.

"Our lab is by and for the CUNY Public University System, making it unique within CUNY and NYC as a whole."

The significance of robotics for architecture, says Williams, is massive, because it represents a paradigm for experimental fabrication, for new and optimized ways to make, study and document the built environment.

In the robotics paradigm, students and researchers look for optimizations that can't happen in conventional fabrication processes. Examples include 3D printing on doubly curved surfaces, or repeating a measurement thousands of times, or using the strength and weight of the robot to move or manipulate real-world materials.

"Our new Digital Fabrication Lab has tools for various kinds of conventional fabrication from laser cutters to fused deposition-modeling plastic 3D printers that are widely used by students and research faculty. These tools teach meaningful project management and drawing skills … helping students tell the story of their design studio projects."

Industrial robots' ability to repeat tasks accurately without intervention also makes them vital.

"It makes them great candidates for tasks like environmental measurement, 3D scanning, and simulation of real-world phenomena in relation to the built environment, such as Global Sun Path Simulations or precise measurement protocols."

Looking across all possible opportunities, Williams' goal is bringing ideas and new tech for the built environment into Spitzer's robotics research lab to nurture the student engagement that's central to a large public university like CCNY.



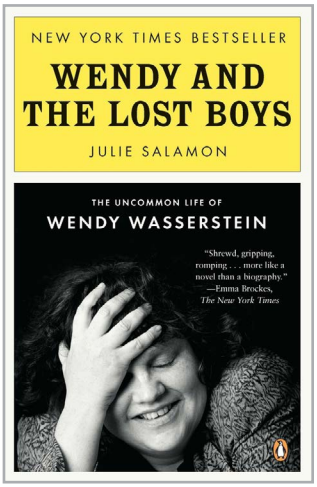


CLASS NOTES

'70s

Posthumous Award for Tony Award-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein

By Esther Tolkoff '68



Wendy Wasserstein M.A. '73, Creative Writing (1951-2006) was posthumously inducted into the Communications Alumni Group's Hall of Fame this year.

After Wasserstein earned her B.A. at Mount Holyoke College, she studied at Playwrights' Horizon and worked with well known off-Broadway playwright Israel Horovitz, who urged her to study at CCNY, where he was teaching at the time. She also studied with Joseph Heller at CCNY.

In her acclaimed biography of Wasserstein, Julie Salamon wrote that classes with Horovitz and Heller awakened something profound in Wendy.

"At City College, she began to work on the approach that would become her signature—mingling memory, observation, reality and fiction."

Wasserstein went on to earn an additional master's degree at Yale University's School of Drama. She became a stellar playwright and was prominent in the theater world.

In 1989, she was the first woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the first woman playwright to win a Tony Award for Best Play 'solo'—as opposed to working with a male collaborator. Both awards were for her masterpiece *The Heidi Chronicles.*

In another first, the lights on Broadway were literally dimmed when she tragically died of cancer at 55. This ultimate Broadway tribute had never been made for a woman who was not a performer.

This past August and September, her play *An American Daughter* (1996) was revived at the off-Broadway Pershing Square Signature. The second act of the revival consisted of previously unpublished drafts from Wasserstein's work on the original production. The original was staged on Broadway by the Lincoln Center Theater and before that at the Seattle Repertory Theatre, where Meryl Streep, Liev Schreiber and Julianne Moore starred.

Wasserstein's plays are known for her combination of pathos and humor which pulls tight focus on issues faced by bright women, the double standards they encounter and other difficulties as they try to have both fulfilling careers and fulfilling personal lives.

Among her most well known works are: *Uncommon Women and Others*, *Isn't It Romantic,* and *The Sisters Rosensweig*. She also wrote the scripts for the television movie versions of *The Heidi Chronicles* and *An American Daughter*, in addition to several books, many essays and additional plays.



'90s



Beatriz Carolina Peña '98, alumna of the Spanish Department who received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center CUNY in 2007 in Latin American, Iberian and Latino Cultures, received an Alumni Achievement Award in 2025 from the Graduate Center. A professor at Queens College, Peña is the author of *Manuel Jala: un afrocampechano ataca la esclavitud en la Boston colonial* (Bogotá: Academia Colombiana de Historia, 2024) which was the winner of the Best Academic Themed Book, College Level, The 26th International Latino Book Awards, Gold medal, and was an Honorable Mention, Best History Book, in The 26th International Latino Book Awards. She also wrote *26 años de esclavitud: Juan Miranda y otros "negros españoles" en la Nueva York colonial* (Bogotá: Universidad del Rosario, 2021) which received the 2023 Willi Paul Adams Award.

'20s



Jack Li B Arch '23 graduated from the Spitzer School of Architecture in 2023 after completing the five-year B Arch with a minor in Studio Art. Since then, he has worked across three very different aspects of the design world. What connects them is Li's fascination with AI and automation, particularly with how quickly the fields have changed and continue to change the design landscape.

Today, Li is a virtual design and construction engineer at Turner Construction where he manages preconstruction logistics and sales pursuits for projects across New York.

Prior to Turner Construction, Li introduced 3D Printing and AI visualization into Ralph Lauren's design workflow for retail stores across APAC and EMEA.

To build his foundation as a designer, he started his career at Kohn Pedersen Fox, working on large luxury residential and commercial renovations including Ralph Lauren's shop in the LaLaport Yokohama shopping complex in Kanagawa, Japan, and the yet-to-be completed One Island Drive, a two-tower development, The Residences at Mandarin Oriental, and Miami Mandarin's North American flagship hotel.

Li likes to spend his free time building tools, including Wayfeel, a community platform that's a direct continuation of his undergraduate thesis on designing spaces for emotional release.

Wayfeel offers map-based journaling and community members' reactions—not replies—to each other's posts. Anonymous users drop a pin on a map when they experience an emotion, tag it with an emoji, and a personal note about their experience. With enough posts, it can create a visual diary of feelings experienced at particular locations. The idea is to help people find empathetic, relatable yet anonymous community members and who share their posts, and connection across places.

For Li, Wayfeel is much more than a platform for sharing emotions and finding a responsive community.

"It's a research instrument that acts in multiple facets from understanding how built form might hold or measure emotion to making emotional experience visible," says Li.

"I'm working on a physical prototype with sensors and a kinetic facade for a large-scale model."

Li continues to be closely connected to Spitzer and is grateful to the many faculty who shaped his undergraduate experience, including Spitzer School Deputy Chair and Associate Professor Ahu Aydogan and Spitzer School Director of Operations Jason Garcia.

"Jason is a driving force in shaping the Spitzer experience," says Li. "From fixing a leaky roof to never hesitating to sit down with students to discuss any ways that we could improve the building."

Li worked extensively with Ahu on her Breathe research project for three years.
"Ahu's research lens and advanced studios gently shaped my perspective," says Li.

Li is keen to do more of his own research to further explore his thesis, and would love to teach in the future.

RELENTLESSLY FILMING TRUTH: A CLASS FROM TWO MASTERS



Emmy Award-winning alumni **Ana Maldonado '24 B.F.A Film**, sat in on a Master Class with Academy Award- and Pulitzer Prize-winning documentary director Laura Poitras to film students in CCNY's BFA and MFA in September.

Poitras' 2025 film, the Emmy Award-winning *Cover-Up*, won high praise on the international film festival circuit. The film is about veteran investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, and Poitras appears to be as relentless an investigator as Hersh. It took her 20 years, and a reputation built on many films on topics the powerful would rather we did not see, to convince Hersh to let her make *Cover-Up*.

Maldonado worked as associate editor with Poitras on *Cover Up*, and was part of the editing team that won the Emmy. Maldonado also worked with Poitras on her most recent film *They're Here* (2026). A short yet powerful film, *They're Here* covers Minneapolis community resistance to—and evidence of—ICE agents' actions in 'Operation Metro Surge' in 2025. It premiered at this year's Venice and New York Film Festivals.

A CCNY 2024 Great Grad, Maldonado was born and raised in Colombia, and moved to the U.S. in 2016 when her parents sought better educational opportunities for their children. Maldonado overcame language and cultural barriers through her adaptability and versatility. She views storytelling as a powerful tool for change and is determined to make a difference with her work, and have a lasting impact in cinema.

Poitra's intention in *Cover-Up* was to show "how investigative journalism works, to slow down time and see how he [Hersh] gets a tip and how he follows it" and of course, to also show the push-back Hersh gets against his work.

Maldonado shared her process on the film with students, showing them the storyboard she created for the film. The duo played excerpts of the film, which traverses Hersh's six-decade career from the Vietnam War onward.

Hersh's first big investigative story was about the U.S. military's massacre of several hundred people of all ages—the entire My Lai village in Vietnam—which was published in the *Dispatch News Service* in 1969. The story won him a Pulitzer Prize. Hersh also exposed how the CIA used LSD for mind control experiments on U.S. citizens which ran in *The New York Times* in 1974, and, more recently, U.S. military use of torture and humiliation in Abu Ghraib prison in the Iraq war for *The New Yorker* magazine in 2004.

Poitras has said Hersh "angered every president he's ever reported on", and Poitras herself has made authorities react. She has been under harsh government surveillance, especially following her film *My Country, My Country (2006)* about Iraq under U.S. occupation. After many detainments, including interrogations, and threats, Poitras filed under Freedom of Information law to discover the reason. More than a year later, she was deluged with over 1,000 pages of files to search for buried detail.

Poitras is also well known for her 2022 film about Nan Goldin, the activist photographer who worked against the Sackler family's unfettered promotion of opioids. *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* became only the second documentary to win a Golden Lion, the top prize for a film of any category at the Venice Film Festival in its more than 80 years.

Possibly her most famous documentary is 2014 Academy Award-winning *Citizenfour* about whistleblower Edward Snowden, a U.S. National Security Agency contractor who leaked classified information about the agency's surveillance practices.

Once asked if she sees herself and Hersh as 'kindred spirits', Poitras said: "We're both looking for the truth. It's a dark time—but we can't just lay down and feel despair".

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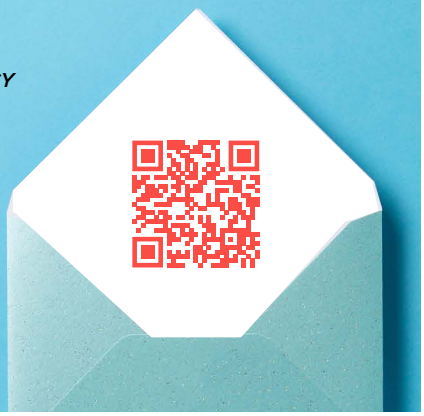
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Petr Stand ’73 (1951 - 2026)



Petr Stand ‘73 passed away on May 31, 2026, one week after his 75th birthday. He was a visionary architect, urban planner, and lifelong advocate for the community. After graduating from CCNY with his B.S. in Architecture and Environment, he launched a career spanning more than five decades of design, planning, and community-centered development. As a principal at Magnusson Architecture and Planning (MAP Architects) and later at Stand Development & Consulting, he led the design and construction of more than 1,500 affordable housing units in the Bronx’s Melrose Commons neighborhood and hundreds more across NYC. The development was rooted in Stand’s conviction that well-designed housing creates beautiful neighborhoods, and public open space transforms neighborhoods into communities.

His work earned recognition from the Boston Society of Architects, the Congress for New Urbanism, and a NYC Partnership Brownfield Practitioners Award.

Stand served as a Design Fellow with the Design Trust for Public Space, where his research helped shape landmark policy to protect hundreds of community gardens across New York City. He was an active member of the local community, working to create NYC’s first magnet school (now P.S. 51) and serving on the board of the neighborhood’s Community Development Corporation.

In his later work with Project Abigail, Stand turned his expertise toward fighting gentrification and preserving spaces where communities could define themselves on their own terms. Stand joined the NYC Community Land Trust Learning Exchange to shape land trust policy for the City.

Alongside GLITS and its founder Ceyenne Doroshow, he worked to develop community-centered plans for Jacob Riis Park Beach—a historic safe haven for New York’s LGBTQ+ community—advocating for wellness, dignity, and self-determination for people vulnerable to displacement. Above all, Stand believed that “people need to feel that they have some self-determination and a place where they can go and celebrate community.”

Stand was preceded in death by his parents, Holly and Mille Stand. Stand is survived by his beloved wife, Susan Blaine Walker; his sons Jeremy Stand (Tara) of the Bronx, N.Y., and Blaine Stand (Jennifer Fiocca) of Toronto, Canada; his grandchildren Cassandra, Osiris, and Ezra Stand, and Callum Stand; and his brother Kurt Stand.

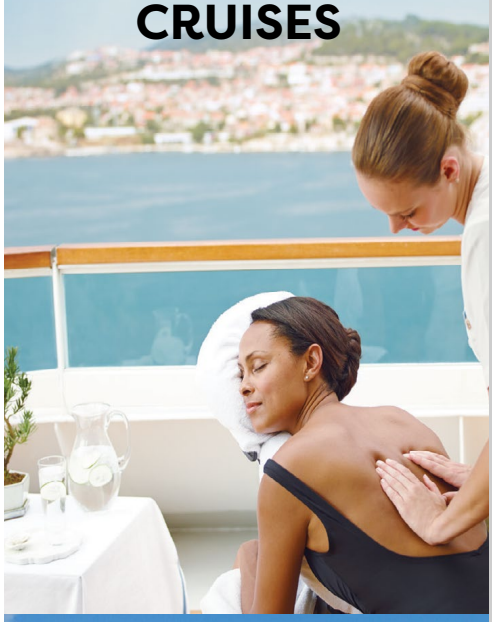
Those who knew Stand knew a man who was curious, present, and generous with his time. Stand was a trusted confidant to his teenage grandchildren and cherished the annual trip to Canopus Beach each summer with his grandchildren, a tradition he returned to year after year. He and Susan were frequent visitors to the farmers market, gathering fruit through the seasons to make into jams and compotes—and each year, carefully processing fresh strawberries to freeze, ready for their Christmas morning strawberry shortcake. When his boys were young, the family camped their way across the country, discovering a new state each summer—a beloved tradition that spanned more than 30 years and grew to embrace his grandchildren as well. Stand traveled often—to visit family, to discover new places, to stay close to the people and the world he loved. He fostered and leaves behind an abiding love of art, music, science fiction, comic books, and life-long curiosity. He made things better wherever he went. He will be deeply missed.

Stand is remembered not only for the neighborhoods he helped build, but for the people he loved deeply and showed up for every day.

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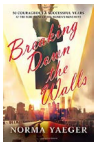
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50s

Jerome B. White ’50 (1929-2026) passed away peacefully on July 5, 2026. He was 96. After graduating Stuyvesant High School, White attended CCNY and received his B.S. in Civil Engineering. Upon graduation, he helped build significant elements of New York City and Philadelphia infrastructure while a senior executive with Slattery Construction (now Skanska) and NAB Construction. Notable projects included the approach roads to the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge, the foundations of the World Trade Center towers, and portions of I-95 through central Philadelphia. White was predeceased by his beloved [first] wife, Marjorie White. Together they raised three children, Rick, Greg, and Julie, and were blessed with six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his [second] wife, Eileen White, and her family. White wished to be remembered as a professor of Construction Management, an avid backgammon player, a devoted New York Rangers and Jets fan, and, above all, a dedicated father and grandfather.

Elaine Jacobson, ’51 B.A. (1925-2025), Business Administration 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.



Norma Yaeger (1930-2026) smashed walls around Wall Street, as the title of her 2012 memoir *Breaking down the Walls* tells. She did not set out to break anything when entering stockbroking—just to get a well-paid job, as her husband had lost his job as a garment cutter.

Known as Norma Nahmias when she began her stockbroking career in 1962, Yaeger had studied business at CCNY before dropping out to work as a buyer for a department store.

At the time, the New York Stock Exchange had sponsored a film to encourage women to invest in equities, and New York stock brokerage firm Hornblower and Weeks believed hiring a woman broker might attract women as clients. Despite this, Hornblower clearly told Yaeger that she couldn’t attend sessions on the trading floor, and that some of the male stockbrokers considered women ‘bad luck’. However, she persisted and was eventually allowed on the floor.

By 1968 she was earning good commissions, good enough to cover her two sons’ education at boarding school.

After her first marriage split up, she and second husband, surgeon Lawrence Yaeger, moved to Los Angeles where she started working for Bear Stearns. She founded Yaeger Securities in 1981 and it grew to employ 50 brokers—including one of her sons whom she later fired for not working hard enough.

Lawsuits resulting from employees’ risky investment advice led Yaeger Securities to file for bankruptcy in 1997. Her second firm, Yaeger Capital Markets, served state—employee pension funds and succeeded. New laws required government bodies to give more business to firms owned by minorities or women. Yaeger sold her second firm in 1998, but continued investing well into her 90s and monitored the market every day.

Norma Yaeger was the daughter of a North Macedonian Sephardic Jewish father, Samuel Hason, and Turkish Sephardic Jewish mother, Regina.

Morton D. Sinkoff ’55, ’57 (1932-2025) of Venice, Fla., passed away on Aug. 1st, 2025. He was 92. Sinkoff was born on Sept. 20, 1932 in Brooklyn, N.Y., the son of Ben and Gertrude Sinkoff.

Sinkoff attended The City College of New York earning a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1955, and continued his education



at The City College of New York, earning a Master’s in Civil Engineering in 1957.

He had a career as a Marketing Manager with the IBM Corporation for over 30 years and achieved the rank of Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service.

As a consultant he created a seminar, “Computing for the Terrified,” to introduce computers in a simple and understandable way.

His achievements include being on the team that brought the IBM Personal Computer to market and he more recently served on the Board of Directors for The Venice Golf & Country Club, and the Advisory Council for the Jacaranda Trace Community.

Sinnkoff was an avid photographer, an adventurous storyteller and had a great sense of humor. He enjoyed golf, tennis and fixing things.

He was a loving husband to Linda with whom he shared 50 adventurous years. He was devoted to his family, a loyal friend and a long-suffering NY Giants football fan.

Sinkoff was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Bonnie Sinclair; and brother, George Lewis.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Sinkoff; son, Steven Sinkoff (Lisa Portnoff); daughters, Kirsten Lofgren (Peter Sanchez), Valerie Voutsas (Stephen Voutsas), and Alyssa Bickler (Michael Consentino); and grandchildren, Kyle Sinkoff, Jamie Davis, Alexandra Guelzow, Leo Brooks Sinkoff, Reese Lofgren, Amanda Flashner, Micayla Flashner, Riley Lofgren.

Memorial Contributions may be made in Mort’s memory to the Jewish Congregation of Venice, 600 North Auburn Road, Venice, FL 34292.



Howard Rubin ’56 (1934-2026) died on May 27, 2026. He was 92. Rubin spent much of his life working in public education and identified strongly as a secular American Jew. Rubin was born in Middletown, N.Y. to Abraham Rubin and Clara Finkel Rubin, both immigrants from what is Belarus today. Raised in the East New York section of Brooklyn, he was a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High and the streets of Brooklyn. After CCNY, Rubin earned an M.A. degree from Brooklyn College and a Ph.D. in Education, from New York University. He spent 42 years in public education, mostly as an administrator. He taught in New York City junior high schools for 12 years where he also served as acting assistant principal at JHS 49 in Williamsburg. In 1968 he started his career in NYC suburbs working as an assistant principal in what is now the Blind Brook School District, where his children later attended school. A highlight of his career was as a principal in Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y., when his elementary school was recognized in 1986 for ‘national excellence’ in education for which President Ronald Reagan honored him among a small group of principals in the White House rose garden. He served briefly as a superintendent on Long Island and after his retirement worked many years as an interim principal in school districts in Rockland, Westchester and Nassau counties.

Between 1989 and 1996 he was executive director of what is now known as the Westchester Jewish Council, the umbrella organization of more than one hundred synagogues and organizations in Westchester County. He always viewed that phase of his career as a gratifying contribution to the Jewish community of Westchester. While living in Rye Brook he was a longtime member and officer of Congregation KTI in Port Chester.

He was extremely proud of the accomplishments of his children and their contributions to society as a nurse and social worker, a police officer, a teacher, and as a successful illustrator and cartoonist.

Rubin and his long-time partner, Helene Barnett, travelled widely and married in Cuba in 2007. He was active in his Florida community, Ponte Vecchio West, enjoyed piloting his 20-foot boat on the Intracoastal, liked to tool around town in his 2003 Mazda Miata, rode his motorcycle across the country with his lifetime friend Red Finkel, volunteered and served on the board of the Boynton Beach Soup Kitchen and self-published more than twenty volumes about travel and his family. He was an avid gardener who spent time each day pottering on his patio.

A life-long liberal, he was proud of his roots as a first-generation American Jew. He owed many of his views and Jewish identification to the hard work of his parents who fervently loved their adopted country.

Rubin left his loving partner and wife, Helene, his four children: Stacey Rubin, Jonathan Rubin (Liz), Benjamin Rubin (Theresa), Molly Rubin Robinet (Carlos,) his beloved dog Mazel, as well as eight grandchildren: Alex, Claudia, Thomas, Sarah, Ernest, Joshua, Daniel and Jon Jr. He also left behind Helene's family, who became his own: Sherri and Pete Snyder and their children, Jared and Noah.

60s

Judit Ungar '68 (1947-2026) died on July 23, 2026. She was 79. Ungar earned her B.A. in Psychology at CCNY and brought guidance and practical, concrete assistance to people who suffer from Tourette Syndrome, a neurological disorder which causes cognitive and motor tics which often lead to severe stigmatization. As president of the national Tourette Syndrome Association for nearly 20 years, she worked closely with families, teachers, and health providers while educating the public and seeking support.



Paul Devore, a board member of the Tourette Association of America, points out one example of Ungar's "tireless efforts," her meetings with members of Congress which led to her working directly with then Senators Ted Kennedy and Hillary Rodham Clinton. As a result, the Center for Disease Control allocated $1.5 million dollars per year directly to the Association in 2004 plus roughly a million dollars every year since, right up to the present, for research, educational outreach and assistance to patients and their families.

Ungar was a key consultant for the HBO documentary *I Have Tourette's but Tourette's Doesn't Have Me*. The program won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Children's Program. It showed children between the ages of six and 13 explaining how they manage their lives and it's still used by teachers and others to increase public understanding.

She was born in Budapest, Hungary. Her father had been sent to Nazi labor camps during World War II and her mother was hidden by locals. In 1956, when the USSR sent tanks into Hungary to crush a rebellion against Communism, nine-year-old Ungar and her family fled to Vienna, where they spent two years packed into crowded refugee quarters. Finally, a cousin in the United States was able to arrange for them to emigrate.

Ungar arrived in the Bronx knowing no English—but she learned. After graduating from Taft High School, she went to CCNY, where she was very active in the House Plan Association. Aside from serving as president of Sis Hunt '68, she was Speaker of the House Chairman, Lower Class Representative to the Managing Board, and Freshman Advisory Committee Chairman. She earned her B.A. in Psychology in 1968.

She went on to become a social worker, earning her MSW at New York University. Ungar once said she was inspired by watching a caring, proactive social worker help her grandfather when he was ill with lung cancer.

She worked for organizations serving people with severe cognitive developmental disabilities. When she arrived at the Tourette Syndrome Association she had already developed strong skills in pin-pointing the practical assistance patients needed. She remained directly involved with them while supervising a large staff and national chapters. She also served as president of Temple Judea of Manhasset.

Ungar is survived by her husband Jack, her daughters Erika (Eric) and Stacey (Richard), her grandson Joshua, and devoted friends, not least among them her still-in-touch fellow members of Sis Hunt '68.



Vincent J. Giangreco '69 (1947-2025) died in his Greenwich Village apartment where he lived for more than 45 years. Giangreco died at 78 of cardiac arrest and complications from Parkinson's disease.

Brooklyn-born Giangreco was a consummate New Yorker and a true culture maven. He loved the arts, including the MET Opera, the New York Philharmonic, New York City Ballet, Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, among many other favourites. He was a devotee of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park, WQXR radio, good literature, The New York Times, New Yorker Magazine, and his guitar.

A graduate of CCNY in 1969, and The New School, Giangreco taught through the CUNY International English Language Institute at Hunter College, and ESL at the John Jay College Writing Center. Giangreco also taught ESL courses in Rome, Italy.

Always Vinny to his sister, Paula Cullison, he leaves behind a loving family and many friends.

VIVIEN R. CLARK The City College of New York and The Foundation for City College mourn the loss of longstanding Foundation Board Member Vivien Ranschburg Clark. Ms. Clark served as a dedicated volunteer in support of the College's mission and led its Audit Committee (both for the Foundation for City College and its predecessor organization, the 21st Century Foundation) for more than a decade. A devoted full-time volunteer, Ms. Clark was raised in New York and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science. She spent 10 years in advertising and public relations before changing fields to manage her husband's medical practice, which she did for 15 years. She is the former President of the LCU Foundation, and in this role secured annual six-figure gifts for CCNY designated for women's student housing. Among the other positions she held outside CCNY were Chair, Council of Fellows, at the Morgan Library and Museum; Member, Council of Fellows, The Frick Collection; Member, St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Associate Trustees Board; Board Member, New York Metropolitan Committee for UNICEF; and Member, Ovation Society (bequest constituency) at Carnegie Hall. The City College is proud and privileged to have known and to have worked with Ms. Clark. Our hearts and condolences go out to her family. Vincent Boudreau, President Dee Dee Mozeleski, Senior Vice President Frank J. Sciame, Jr. '74; Foundation Board Chair. Published by The New York Times on Jun. 28, 2026.

Edward Lehner '54, The New York Times obituary led with the headline: Edward Lehner, Who Got New Yorkers to Pick Up After Dogs, Dies at 93.

Mets fan **Donald Fried '56** passed away at age 90.

Miss Brooklyn College and Miss New York **Judith Friedlander '53** who graduated with an M.S. in Social Work passed away at age 90.

Jaqueline (Subkis) Wolff, who graduated with an M.S. in Education, Riverdale Press obituary passed away at age 95.

Small Appointments.
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Most of us don't think much about our teeth or our eyesight until something hurts, something breaks, or something suddenly becomes more difficult than it used to be.

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Think about all the little moments that make up a normal week. Sharing a meal with friends. Reading a favorite book. Driving at night. Smiling for family photos. Following a presentation at work. Watching your grandchildren play. These moments depend on healthy vision and a healthy smile more than we often realize.

Routine dental visits help identify small concerns before they become larger—and more expensive—problems. A simple cleaning today may help prevent the need for more extensive treatment later. Likewise, regular eye exams do much more than update your prescription. They help detect changes in your vision early and may even reveal signs of other health conditions before symptoms appear.

Preventive care is one of the simplest ways to invest in your future quality of life.

Unfortunately, it's also one of the easiest things to put off.

Busy schedules, competing priorities, and out-of-pocket costs often cause people to delay routine care. What begins as "I'll make an appointment next month" can quickly become months, or even years, without seeing a dentist or eye doctor.

The good news is that staying on top of your dental and vision health doesn't require dramatic changes. Scheduling regular checkups, replacing worn eyewear when needed, and addressing small issues early can help you continue enjoying the activities that matter most.

Good health isn't only about responding to emergencies. It's about maintaining the everyday abilities that allow you to work, socialize, stay active, and live confidently.

Because sometimes the smallest appointments make the biggest difference.

If you're looking for an easy way to make preventive care part of your routine, your alumni association has partnered with AMBA to offer dental and vision coverage designed to help make routine care more affordable and accessible. It's one more way to help protect not only your health, but your everyday quality of life. **Visit alumniplans.com or call 888-560-ALUM(2586) for more information.**

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