

# ALUMNUS

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

WINTER 2026



## CCNY ARCHIVIST GOES TO D.C.

The Free Academy building at Lexington Avenue and East 23rd Street, which was designed by James Renwick.

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# *From the* **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



**Dear Members of the CCNY Alumni Community,**

Winter has a way of clarifying things. After weeks of bitter cold, shortened days, and a political climate that has felt especially heavy for many in our community, the arrival of a new semester—and the promise of spring just ahead—offers a welcome moment to pause, reflect, and recommit.

Across the country, higher education is facing profound challenges. Public institutions like The City College of New York are navigating shifting political pressures, renewed scrutiny of immigration and international students, and questions about access, affordability, and the role of public universities in a divided moment. For a college founded on the radical idea that talent exists everywhere—and opportunity should too—these conversations are not abstract. They are personal, and they matter deeply.

And yet, what continues to distinguish CCNY is its resilience.

Even amid uncertainty, this campus remains a place in motion and full of possibility. This winter marked the start of a new spring semester filled with energy and ambition and continued growth across our academic divisions, affiliate groups, and alumni networks. As you'll see throughout this issue, CCNY faculty, students, and alumni are engaging the world through public service, scholarship, creativity, athletics, and community—with clarity and purpose. From remembrances of lost landmarks to celebrations of new deans and new programs and milestones, this issue reflects a community that honors its past while steadily building forward.

As always, the Alumni Association remains committed to fostering connection, advocacy, and support for CCNY and its graduates—especially in moments that call for steadiness, empathy, and leadership. Thank you for being part of this enduring community, and for carrying the values of City College into the world.

With warmth, and hope for the season ahead,

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

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City College football began in 1883-84 when City College played their first two games against Columbia College and Rutgers College 0-2-0 record, 38.8 Rating. It became popular in the 1930s when Benny Friedman was the coach and later the namesake of the Benny the Beaver Mascot.



The chapel, which occupied the entire top floor of the building.



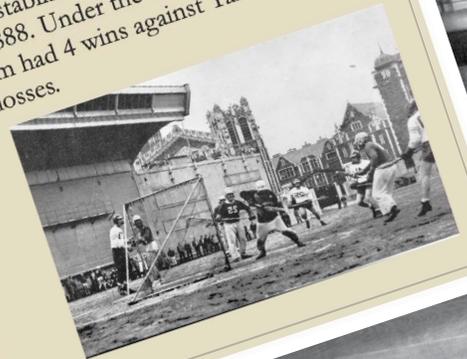
### School of Mines Building and Geological Museum on 49<sup>th</sup> Street Campus



The 1866 announcement of the Free Academy's official name change to The College of the City of New York.



Lacrosse was one of earliest established team sports played by City College students since 1888. Under the direction of Leon "Chief" Miller, the 1952 team had 4 wins against Yale, Army, Rutgers and 1 other with 4 losses.



**BURIAL**  
OF THE  
**New York Free Academy**  
CORNER LEXINGTON AV. & 23d ST.,  
Monday Evening, April 30th, 1866, 11, P. M.  
AND  
**CHRISTENING**  
OF THE  
**COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.**

#### Committee of Arrangements.

*Senior Class.*

- H. NEWTON,
- S. CAHEN,
- A. HERSHFIELD,
- Clonian Society.*
- J. C. HALLOCK, Jr.
- C O. KIMBALL,
- R R. BOWKER.

*Sophomore Class*

- C. S. WELLES,
- F. W. ANGEL,
- J. A. PARKER.
- Phrencosmian Society.*
- R. GORDON, Jr.
- C. M. HIBBARD,
- T. K. CRUSE.

*Freshman Class.*

- E. M. SHEPARD,
- J. B. GRANT,
- C. W. GOULD.
- Glee Club.*
- H F. CHAPMAN,
- H. MOTTEL,
- M. R. KNOWLTON.

New York University  
Founded  
Original name  
University of  
City of New  
Construction  
began on this  
building in 18  
on the east side  
Washington  
Square



## CCNY Archivist Visits Washington, D.C. Chapter



CCNY Archivist Sydney Van Nort was the AACCNy Washington, D.C. chapter's guest at its most recent meeting on Jan. 22, when she gave a presentation on *The Colleges of New York: A Historical Overview*, at Riderwood Senior Living Community in Silver Spring, Md.

After a private dinner hosted by Chapter President Harvey Kaplan '63, Van Nort entertained the more than 40 attendees with a survey of the institutions of higher education for which New York City is known. The first was Columbia College, founded in 1754 for educating the elite of New York. Its campus was on West 49th Street, the present-day site of Rockefeller Center.

The students were seen as aristocrats, with fancy canes and kid gloves. Scholarships were not offered during the 18th century, and this continued into the 19th century. Tuition was \$90 for a full course of study in 1831 and was reduced to \$50 in 1860. Students could purchase a set of tickets to attend the lecture sessions for each class. Professors would sometimes hold one or two sets of class tickets and give them to a selected student.

In 1831, the University of the City of New-York, now New York University, was founded by Albert Gallatin, President Thomas Jefferson's secretary of the treasury. The founders envisioned a nondenominational institution that would be "a social investment and a direct response to the needs of the rising mercantile classes in New York," intended both for those students "who devote themselves to scientific or literary pursuits" and for those preparing for "the learned professions, commerce, or the mechanical and useful arts."

New York University students came from New York's middle class and small towns, and rural communities nearby. Tuition was \$80, but nearly half of all students received scholarships or some form of financial assistance. They thought of themselves as "men of moderate means preparing to engage in the fluid occupational world of Victorian America." Tuition was abolished in 1871, which caused serious financial difficulties.

The Free Academy was founded in 1847 by Townsend Harris. The building at Lexington Avenue and 23rd Street was designed by James Renwick and constructed between May 1847 and December 1848. The entire top floor was the chapel, where a mandatory daily assembly took place when the academy president did a Bible reading.

The Free Academy officially changed its name to The College of the City of New York at a formal ceremony on April 30, 1866.

Van Nort concluded her presentation with a nod to some of City College's lesser-known athletic milestones.

City College football began in 1883-84 when CCNY played its first two games against Columbia College and Rutgers College. The program became popular in the 1930s, under head coach Benny Friedman, for whom Benny the Beaver is named. Lacrosse was also one of earliest established team sports, played by City College students since 1888. Under the direction of Leon "Chief" Miller, the 1952 team defeated Yale, Army, and Rutgers.



The College of the City of New York, founded as The Free Academy in 1847

The building at Lexington Avenue and 23rd Street was designed by James Renwick.

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## JACQUELINE BROOKS RETIRES AS AACCNYS HISTORIAN, PASSES TORCH TO RANDY BROZEN



Jaqueline Brooks, M.F.A. '83, is retiring as the Alumni Association historian. We wish her well and thank her for her intense commitment to the association.

Randy Brozen, M.F.A. '01, is taking on the job. We welcome her and look forward to working with her. Brozen is known for her steadfast work with the Art Alumni affiliate group, where she is currently president. The award-winning sculptor is a lecturer in childhood education in the CCNY School of Education.

“As one of the former presidents of the Alumni Association and the Art Alumni, I continued my services to the association by becoming historian! Now with a great deal of joy, I’m passing on the role to Randy, who is also a dedicated and long-standing member of the Alumni Association,” said Brooks.

According to David Covington, executive director of the Alumni Association, “The historian’s role is important for institutional memory.”

The role of historian is to note and compile the activities of the Alumni Association, through records, photos and important documents, and organize them for future reference, as well as file a historian’s report. One of Brozen’s tasks will be to bring the historian’s reports up to date.

## UNU HUB R-SIRUS WORKSHOP ADDRESSES GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES



Marking the first anniversary of its establishment at CCNY, the United Nations University Hub on Remote Sensing and Sustainable Innovations for Resilient Urban Systems (R-SIRUS) presented a weeklong Professional Development Workshop in Digital Earth and Artificial Intelligence for Sustainability in January.

The five-day workshop, an intensive and highly engaging week of learning, collaboration and applied practice, enabled the more than 80 participants—including early-career professionals, graduate students and researchers from across the country and the world—to strengthen their knowledge and understanding using Earth observation data, geospatial analytics and artificial intelligence/machine learning tools to address real-world sustainability and resilience challenges. The workshop included lectures, hands-on learning and practical applications of satellite data for environmental monitoring, forecasting and decision support.

Beyond technical training, the workshop fostered a global learning community, enabling meaningful exchanges across disciplines and sectors. The workshop concluded with a shared commitment to advance responsible and inclusive AI for sustainability; strengthen capacity building across research, policy and practice; and expand global collaboration aligned with the mission of the United Nations University.

“We hope that the momentum generated during this workshop will continue through ongoing collaborations, applied projects and knowledge sharing in support of sustainable development goals,” said National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) chair and professor of civil engineering Reza Khanbilvardi of the Grove School of Engineering, R-SIRUS’s executive codirector. “This inaugural workshop reaffirmed the importance of integrating emerging technologies, such as AI, to create actionable solutions for a sustainable Earth.”

# GROVE INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE AIMS TO RECRUIT FUTURE ENGINEERS

*Contributed by Robert B. Welner, B.C.E. '71.*



Professor of civil engineering Reza Khanbilvardi presenting in front of the students at the conference.

A suggestion by alumnus Pazel G. Jackson, B.C.E. '54, M.C.E. '59, a former JPMorgan Chase senior executive, for an event connecting CCNY engineering alumni and practitioners with promising high school students was enthusiastically taken up by Grove School of Engineering alumnus Robert B. Welner, B.C.E. '71, a member of the Grove School's advisory board, resulting in the Conference on Infrastructures for High School Students on Sept. 26.

“We felt it would be a great idea to showcase the achievements of our CCNY alumni to high school students who may be interested in a career in engineering and who may be motivated to come to Grove,” said conference chair and professor of civil engineering Anil Agrawal, a co-organizer of the event. “The objective was to motivate and involve high school students from New York City schools in Grove School activities, and in the achievements of CCNY alums, and motivate them to choose CCNY for their undergraduate degrees in engineering.”

Approximately 120 high-performing students from such high schools as Brooklyn Tech, Welner's alma mater, gathered at the Center for Worker Education's offices at 25 Broadway for the conference, which featured speakers from both academia and the private sector. The roster of

speakers included Asheque Rahman, B.C.E. '09, senior program traffic manager for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey; Diniece Mendes, B.C.E. '12, assistant commissioner for transit development at the New York City Department of Transportation; Christian Pena, B.C.E. '17, project manager at construction firm AECOM Tishman; Nabeeb Haseeb, B.C.E. '15, project manager at architecture, engineering, planning and construction management firm STV Inc.; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) chair and professor of civil engineering Reza Khanbilvardi, who also serves as the executive co-director of the United Nations University Hub on Remote-Sensing and Sustainable Innovations for Resilient Urban Systems (R-SIRUS) at CCNY.

The speakers covered a range of topics, after which students were afforded opportunities to interact with speakers and provided with materials and contacts for follow-up. They were also encouraged to inquire about summer internships and to arrange visits to the Grove School.

After the formal presentations concluded, the afternoon session was given over to student technology showcases.

## CWE ALUMNI GROUP SPREADS JOY TO THE WORLD AT HARLEM CHURCH ON CHRISTMAS



Christmas Day was filled with joy as the Center for Worker Education Alumni Group, alongside affiliates from the Black Alumni and the Colin Powell School of Civic and Global Leadership community, gathered to spread love and hope to the less fortunate in Harlem through members of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on West 127th Street. The Christmas event represented a long-standing relationship between the College and the community, as many church members are CCNY alumni.

The CWE Alumni Group and St. Andrew's have been upholding this tradition of service, compassion and shared commitment since 2012.

"During a season often centered on celebration and togetherness, this community service served as a beautiful reminder of the importance of giving back while enjoying fellowship with one another," said Michele Sweeting-DeCaro, president of the CWE Alumni Group and director of the Writing Center at CWE. "Sharing the holidays through service reinforces our responsibility to uplift our communities, honor our roots, and extend hope, joy, and dignity to everyone present."

In addition to Sweeting-DeCaro, the Group's executive team—Secretary Lebab Fallin, Treasurer Heather Lane and former President Renotti Hill-Whale—also participated in the day's festivities.

## DUANE BAILEY APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AND RECREATION



Following a national search, Duane Bailey was selected as The City College of New York's new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation.

Bailey brings to CCNY more than two decades of leadership experience across collegiate and professional sports, with an accomplished career that spans the Big East Conference, the Atlantic 10 Conference and the National Football League, as well as senior administrative roles at Seton Hall University, the University of New Haven, the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

"Duane Bailey's appointment represents an exciting new chapter for CCNY," said Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Ramon De Los Santos. "His energy, experience and commitment to holistic student development align perfectly with our mission to foster leadership, wellness and pride across our entire community—both on the field of competition and

throughout the campus. Under his leadership, we look forward to advancing athletic excellence and building innovative leaders who will carry the CCNY legacy forward.”

Bailey most recently served as deputy director of athletics and chief financial officer at the University of Louisiana, where he oversaw the department’s business operations, human resources, facilities, equipment and event management, while serving as sport administrator for women’s soccer. In 2020, his role expanded to include oversight of such campus auxiliary units as housing, retail operations, dining, transportation and media, reflecting his wide-ranging expertise in both athletics and university administration.

“I’m truly grateful for the opportunity to join The City College of New York and become part of this incredible community,” Bailey said. “Athletics and recreation have the power to bring people together, to inspire pride and to create a sense of belonging that reaches far beyond the playing field. My goal is to build on CCNY’s strong foundation by supporting our student-athletes, engaging the entire campus and strengthening our connection to the city we serve.”

Before joining Louisiana, Bailey held key leadership positions at Seton Hall University, overseeing external relations, compliance and financial operations. He managed more than \$39 million in athletic facility construction and renovations, negotiated a major apparel partnership and advanced student-athlete development programming.

As director of athletics at NYIT, Bailey guided 13 varsity programs and led the addition of women’s lacrosse and e-sports, the construction of a student fitness center and multiple key hires. Under his leadership, NYIT achieved record competitive and academic success, earning Bailey the 2016 ECAC Division II Athletic Administrator of the Year award.

At the University of New Haven, he oversaw 17 varsity and 12 club sports, leading programs that exceeded NCAA Academic Success Rate standards and advancing major fund-raising efforts for athletic facilities. Earlier in his career, Bailey spent a decade in the National Football League, where he held positions in salary cap management and player compensation both at the league office and with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Bailey currently serves as vice chair of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Board of Directors and recently completed his term on the NCAA Women’s Soccer Committee, having served through June 2025. He has also contributed to the boards and subcommittees of various national sports governing bodies, including US Lacrosse, USA Bobsled & Skeleton, and the United States Tennis Association. Additionally, he remains an active member of NACDA and CABMA, two of the nation’s premier professional organizations for collegiate athletic leaders.

A proud New Yorker and graduate of St. John’s University with a bachelor’s degree in finance, Bailey also holds a master’s degree in athletic administration from Adelphi University and an M.B.A. from Long Island University

## CCNY BASEBALL ALUMNI RETURN FOR ANNUAL GAME AT OHIO FIELD



The CCNY baseball program welcomed back its alumni to Bronx Community College’s Ohio Field on Oct. 18 for a fun and competitive afternoon celebrating Beaver pride.

The annual alumni game brought together multiple graduating classes, creating an atmosphere filled with energy, camaraderie and shared memories. Former Beavers enjoyed reconnecting with teammates and coaches while celebrating the proud tradition of CCNY baseball.

“It was incredible to see so many alumni return and reconnect with the program,” said Head Coach Scott Losche. “Days like this remind us of the strong bonds and tradition that make CCNY baseball so special. Once a Beaver, always a Beaver.”

The event continues to serve as a meaningful tradition for the program, strengthening the connection between generations of Beavers and honoring the lasting legacy of CCNY baseball.

## UFT PRESIDENT MICHAEL MULGREW HONORED WITH FINLEY AWARD



Michael Mulgrew, president of the United Federation of Teachers, received the 77th Finley Award at the Alumni Association's 145th Annual Gala Fundraiser on Nov. 13. The annual honor is bestowed in recognition of providing exemplary and dedicated service to the City of New York and the nation while enhancing the quality of life of its people.

The UFT 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. Mulgrew, who has served as the union's president since 2009, was reelected to his fifth full term in 2022.

A Staten Island native, Mulgrew graduated from the College of Staten Island with a degree in English literature. He taught for 12 years at William E. Grady High School in Brooklyn, where he also served as UFT chapter leader. But, as he described in his recorded acceptance speech, it was not a clear path.

"I think about my career and I go back to the fact that I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the City University of New York," he said. "When I left high school, I went directly into the construction industry, and the construction field and apprenticeship. After a couple of years, I was just interested in going back to school. And I remember many times walking into my classes at the St. George campus at the College of Staten Island, full of construction dirt and

dust, and people looking at me, but I wasn't the only one. There were others like me. It gave me such an opportunity, and that is the beauty of our City University. It allows people to really have the flexibility to achieve goals that otherwise they could not."

He credited one of his professors with helping him to launch his career path.

"When I first started to teach, I quickly learned that I had to be able to teach children how to read, which I was not prepared to do. But I had no issues because I went right back to my college, and I asked Professor Simmons, and she helped me a great deal. She gave me all of these different diagnostics that I could use with different students, and she told me what questions to ask my school-based support team, which, thankfully, because of where I taught in the basement, were there with me, and how to use all of these different tools, and that allowed me to stay in this profession. But I don't believe I would have had the access if I would have gone anywhere else. And that is the beauty of our City University."

Mulgrew described his 65-year-old union as being "of service to the City of New York, which is a big part of this award. It's what you learn when you walk into a school one day. You're going to walk into a school building saying, I'm going to change children's lives. It really is something that is inside your DNA, inside your soul, that you want to help and make things better. It's a conviction . . . to try to use

our ability as an organized group of workers to actually make the world a better place because that's what we all have in common. We can't help ourselves. If we see people or children in need, we're going to help. That's what we do."

Speaking of his and his union's responsibilities as educators, he said, "It's a good responsibility because you get to fight for the good things. You get to fight to make the world a better place and make a difference. And that is a gift. That's a gift which I wish everyone could actually experience."

He closed his address by expressing his gratitude to CUNY.

"I would not be here or have been able to do any of this by working with different people if I didn't have the ability to go to the City University of New York, the College of Staten Island. It gave me a great opportunity. It allowed me to see that there was a world outside of what I was thinking when I was 18 and 19, and it truly changed my life. It has allowed me in my work to help change other people's lives. So thank you for this honor. It means the world to me. Thank you to our phenomenal City University. And thank you to everyone who has ever advocated on behalf of a community in New York City. Because everyone who does that is a hero to me."

## UFT PRESIDENT AND SEVEN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECEIVE CCNY HONORS AT ANNUAL GALA



From left to right: CCNY Alumni Association President Shawn Chin-Chance, Dr. Nichola J. Davis '94, CCNY President Vince Boudreau, CCNY Alumni Executive Director David Covington.

United Federation of Teachers President Michael Mulgrew received the 2025 John H. Finley Award from the Alumni Association of The City College of New York at CCNY's 145th Annual Alumni Gala on Nov. 13 in the Great Hall in Shepard Hall.

The award is given for exemplary and dedicated service to the City of New York. For Mulgrew, it recognizes his steadfast advocacy of public education and his leadership representing more than 200,000 educators and school professionals across New York City.

In addition, the Alumni Association honored seven CCNY alumni with the Townsend Harris Medal for outstanding postgraduate achievement. The 2025 Townsend Harris Medalists recognized for their exceptional postgraduate accomplishments and their lasting contributions to society were as follows:

- Dr. Nichola J. Davis '94, physician and vice president of Health and Hospitals NYC
- Dr. Leon Golub '67, astrophysicist, Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory
- Kirk McDonald '22, business and marketing leader, and CEO of Sundial Media & Technology Group
- Dr. Arien K. Muzacz '09, professional counselor, educator and advocate for mental health
- Garri Rivkin '10, founder and executive director of The City Tutors
- Emanuel James Stergiou '71, actuary, and founder and CEO of SG Risk
- Gary Weiss '75, investigative reporter, author and columnist renowned for exposing white-collar crime and organized crime in business and finance

"These honorees exemplify the transformative power of a City College education," said David Covington, executive director of the CCNY Alumni Association. "Their accomplishments across science, education, healthcare, media, business and public service reflect the spirit of access, excellence and social mobility that defines The City College. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and to gather our alumni community in support of programs that continue this legacy."

## THOMAS HAINES PORTRAIT DONATED TO CCNY BY WIDOW POLLY CLEVELAND



The Gala glittered with CCNY stars but none could compare with [Polly Cleveland](#), widow of [Thomas Haines, '57, '59 M.S.](#), as she graciously displayed a portrait of Haines. A gift to City College, the painting is by artist [Richard Pantell](#) and is based on a photo of Haines in his lab, according to Cleveland.

“It appeared in the 1979 Sophie Davis yearbook, six years after the founding of the school. He would have been 46, six years before I met him in 1985. The portrait I think conveys his warmth, unpretentiousness and sense of humor,” said Cleveland.

Haines founded The Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Medicine with President Robert Marshak.

“It’s still an amazing story how he came to found the school with President Robert Marshak,” said Cleveland. “After the school was founded, he was offered the position of dean. Instead, he chose to return to teaching biochemistry, including summer remedial, and spending hours counseling students in his office.”

Haines [died](#) in December 2023 at the age of 90. He wrote a memoir, [“A Curious Life,”](#) in 2019. Cleveland’s account of [Tom’s last months](#) is available on [PersimmonTree.org](#).

Pantell is a Bronx-born artist with work in more than a dozen public collections, including The New York Public Library, the Museum of the City of New York and the New-York Historical Society. Largely self taught, he classifies his artwork as Contemporary Paleo-Realism. He studied at the Art Students League of New York. He taught there from 1996 to 2023 and is an Instructor Emeritus.



Left to right:  
Lev Sviridov,  
Seymour Sternberg  
and his wife,  
Laurie Sternberg,  
at the President’s  
Circle dinner on  
November 4, 2026.



# BENEFACTOR SEYMOUR STERNBERG '65 RECEIVES CCNY PRESIDENT'S MEDAL

Seymour “Sy” Sternberg, B.E.E.’65, along with theater impresario Voza Rivers and the late Lloyd Williams, received The City College of New York’s 2025 President’s Medal, awarded for distinguished achievement and public service, from President Vincent G. Boudreau at the annual President’s Circle Dinner on Nov. 4 at the University Club of New York. Williams’s son, Lateef Ade Williams, accepted his father’s posthumous honor on the family’s behalf.

Sternberg was the longest-serving chairman of the board of New York Life Insurance Company, the largest mutual life insurance company in the U.S. and one of the largest life insurers in the world. He and his wife, Laurie Sternberg, established the [Sternberg Lecture in Public Service](#) at the [Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership](#) in 2014 to foster conversations about relevant public and policy-related discussions. This gift also established the Sternberg Family Lecture in Public Scholarship, as well as the [Sternberg Family Professorship of Leadership](#) at the Colin Powell School, a position now held by former New York City Commissioner of Health and Mental Hygiene Dave A. Chokshi, M.D.

Sternberg has served CCNY and CUNY as a member of the City College 21st Century Foundation Board and the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies Advisory Council, and as chair of the CUNY Business Leadership Council. As chairman of the New York Life Foundation, he announced the Foundation’s \$10 million grant to establish the New York Life Endowment for Emerging African-American Issues at what was then the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies.

“Sy Sternberg has been an energetic and forceful supporter of City College since the founding of the 21st Century Foundation,” said President Boudreau. “I had the lucky opportunity to work with him since I began directing the Colin Powell Center back in 2002, and he guided our efforts from that point through to

the founding of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. It was a deep and personal honor to present him with the President’s Medal.”

For his distinguished service to college, city and country, Sternberg received [an honorary doctorate in humane letters](#) from his alma mater in 2010.

Award-winning music and theater producer Rivers took over Harlem’s New Heritage Repertory Theater in 1983 from its founder, the playwright, set designer, actor and lecturer Roger Furman. As executive producer, Rivers reorganized the theater as New Heritage Theatre Group. Now the oldest Black nonprofit theater in New York State, NHTG has spawned productions, workshops and presentations that reflect the historical, social and political experiences of African and Latino descendants in America and abroad. NHTG counts luminaries such as Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Gertrude Jeanette, Rosetta LeNoire and Alice Childress among its many alumni.

Last year, to mark the 60th anniversary of its 1964 founding, [NHTG donated its extensive archives to CCNY’s Libraries Archives](#) and Special Collections Division.

Williams chaired the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce for more than half a century. The organization spurred residential and commercial development, tourism and pride in the neighborhood’s history and potential. Williams was a founder and architect of Harlem Week, a festival that began in 1974 as Harlem Day, originally conceived as a one-time event that was expanded to a week the next year. He also served as a chairman of the CCNY President’s Executive Advisory Board.

He passed away on Aug. 17, during Harlem Week 2025.

## ATHENA DEVLIN HEADS UP CCNY'S PUBLISHING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



CCNY welcomes Athena Devlin. Devlin worked in the publishing industry right after graduating from Barnard College, where she majored in English. Her first job in publishing was at Grove Atlantic when the two presses merged. There, she first worked in subsidiary rights, responsible for helping

titles from the press secure overseas distribution. Later, she became editorial assistant to the publisher, Morgan Entrekin.

She then went to graduate school, receiving her Ph.D. in English and American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Returning to New York, Devlin became an assistant professor then associate professor at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. At St. Francis, she created and directed a new minor in American Studies, before becoming director of the Women's and Gender Studies program and ultimately chair of the English department for three consecutive terms.

Throughout her career in higher education, Devlin has worked with diverse, mostly working-class, first-generation college students. This is a population she cares about deeply and for whom she has created relevant programs to give

students a clear path to fulfilling careers. At St. Francis College, she led the collaborative effort, bringing together faculty and administration, to update the English department's courses and mission, transforming it into the Literature, Writing, and Publishing Department. The intent of the restructuring and curriculum overhaul was both to preserve for students the critical-thinking skills and writing-intensive coursework that define the English major and to prepare them to take advantage of writing and publishing opportunities after they graduate.

Devlin's commitment to both professional training for humanities students and increasing diversity in the publishing sector led her to join CCNY's Publishing Certificate Program (PCP). She views the program's mission as essential for ensuring that diverse voices are a real force within an industry so central to cultural production and representation. She brings with her deep experience at the intersection of literature, pedagogy and access, and is eager to expand the program's partnerships across publishing—from literary agencies and independent publishers to major houses—and to design innovative courses, mentorships and internship opportunities that help diverse voices find a home in the industry.

ALUMNUS magazine had a chat with Athena Devlin about the Publishing Certificate Program to discuss upcoming changes.

### ALUMNUS: What exactly is the program?

**ATHENA:** The Publishing Certificate Program at CCNY was established in 1998 on the initiative of best-selling author and CCNY graduate Walter Mosley. The program offers undergraduates and non-degree students a variety of courses and seminars that will provide them with the knowledge, professional skills and contacts necessary to enter the publishing industry, with industry veterans teaching the core curriculum.

A special concern of the program is diversity in the publishing industry and its impact on cultural production. Drawing on CCNY's racial, ethnic and class diversity and its proximity to the national center

of the book industry, the PCP is perfectly situated to address this industry-wide concern. Professional training, meaningful employment and job retention are of key interest to the program faculty and administration.

The PCP curriculum focuses on an array of different knowledge areas and skills required to successfully enter the industry and includes courses in editorial, copywriting and proofreading, global sales, publicity and marketing, as well as production and design.

### ALUMNUS: What are the new goals for the program and how do they dovetail with the original mission?

**ATHENA:** My immediate goals for the PCP are to raise

the profile of the program within CCNY; establish new partnerships inside and outside CCNY to give our students the training, exposure and network to thrive in publishing; and better serve graduate students in our Creative Writing M.F.A. program and our M.A. in Literature program.

To raise the profile of the program across CCNY, I have been visiting the Division of the Humanities and Arts classes and speaking directly with students about the program. Careers in the humanities or with a humanities degree have historically been difficult to identify—and at times even justify. The PCP provides one very important avenue, especially given the range of jobs within the industry and the number of transferable skills one gains from our courses. More of our students need to know about this unique program, and I am thankful for the warm welcome I have received from professors at CCNY who have so graciously opened their classrooms to me.

Partnerships could not be more important to the success of the PCP. I inherited some wonderful connections, and there is a lot of goodwill toward the PCP in the publishing industry from those houses and agencies that we have worked with in the past. But people move around a lot, and those partnerships need to be tended to and at times reimaged. I recently visited Creative Artists Agency, one of the largest talent agencies in the world, to give a presentation about the PCP to a roomful of literary agents. We are now in the process of figuring out the best ways we can work together.

I have also been building a new partnership with a nonprofit called Inkluded, which shares the PCP mission to “train and place young people from underrepresented groups into their first publishing jobs.” We are working together in two main areas: internships for our PCP undergraduates and programming for our graduate students in the M.F.A. and M.A. in Literature programs.

We have two very exciting events coming up in partnership with Inkluded aimed at graduate students. One will be an overview of the industry, focusing especially on editorial opportunities, and the other will be a creative writer’s guide to publishing, looking at the industry through the lens of the author. One event will take place at Hachette and the other at Macmillan in the spring.

In addition to working with Inkluded, I have also had the opportunity to expand our partnerships

with other nonprofits connected with the publishing industry. We are very lucky at CCNY to have recently received a \$5 million grant from the Mellon Foundation. This grant, operating under the Humanities Internship Program, is specifically for humanities undergraduates at CCNY. Under the provisions of the grant, students in the Humanities and Arts division can get paid to do internships with nonprofits. There are several nonprofits, like PEN America, The National Book Foundation and the Bookhouse at Centro Primo Levi, with which PCP students can now intern and receive a stipend.

This is of significant value to the PCP, and I am extremely grateful to the director of the Humanities Internship Program, Marisa Hollywood, for all her help and support. In fact, the partnership between the PCP and the Humanities Internship Program is one of the most important and consequential for our certificate students.

**ALUMNUS: How has the publishing industry changed since the inception of the program, and what is the pivot that you see graduates having to make?**

**ATHENA:** Like so many other industries, the publishing world has been transformed by digital technologies, social media and AI. Students now entering publishing will need to know more about how such technologies have changed marketing practices, workflows, editing and production.

To help students with this pivot, I am working on an update of our Digital and e-Books Publishing course. The new course will address changes in e-book and audiobook workflows, accessibility standards and file distribution, while also showing students how metadata, search optimization and social media drive visibility and sales.

With AI and automation entering publishing workflows, students need to have some knowledge of emerging tools and how to understand the new roles of these technologies in the publishing landscape.

**ALUMNUS: How does the program provide a pipeline to the commercial industry post graduation?**

**ATHENA:** The best pipeline to entry-level jobs in publishing is the internship. It is by far the best way to transition into full-time work. Many of our students have been able to parlay their time and

networks from interning into paid jobs. Creating and sustaining networks in the industry runs a close second, which is one of the reasons it's so important to have instructors who work in the industry, often becoming the students' first important connection in the publishing business.

Mentorship programs also help students build networks, and we are very fortunate to have a great mentorship program with Viking Penguin that runs from November to April every academic year. The mentorship program matches PCP students with people in the industry working in departments students hope to enter. Students have been paired with editors, editorial assistants, publicists, marketing teams, art and design directors, production editors and (for one lucky student) Viking's President and Publisher, Brian Tart. Finally, former students can choose to stay on our mailing lists and continue to get announcements for internships and entry-level positions.

### **ALUMNUS: How important are partnerships?**

**ATHENA:** Partnerships with publishing houses and literary agencies are crucial to the success of our students because students need hands-on experience via internships and, as I mentioned above, it is one of the best ways to secure full-time work after graduation. But, quite literally in some cases, thousands of people apply for internships at the Big 5 publishing houses and the larger literary agencies. Strong ties and formal partnerships with houses and agencies allow me to refer recruiters to our students. So, I see building partnerships as one of the most important parts of my job.

In addition, partnerships with nonprofits like Inkluded, discussed above, and the Women's Media Group (WMG) create crucial opportunities for our students. Founded in 1974, WMG members include more than three hundred leaders in book publishing, digital and online publishing, journalism, television and film. Up to two summer fellowships of \$3,000 each are awarded every academic year to women in the Publishing Certificate Program who are juniors or seniors, have diverse backgrounds, and have demonstrated a keen interest in pursuing a career in the book publishing industry. The stipend can be used in any way (e.g., for tuition, living expenses, as a supplement to one's internship salary). Fellows are also invited to WMG events and assigned a team of mentors composed of WMG members who meet with fellows one on one to serve as professional advisors.

### **ALUMNUS: What is unique about the program?**

**ATHENA:** There is no other publishing certificate program in New York City that has the diversity of students the publishing industry needs. Moreover, unlike Columbia's Publishing Course, Pace's M.S. in Publishing or NYU's Summer Publishing Institute, CCNY's PCP is only one of two NYC professional certificate programs in publishing offered to undergraduates at no extra cost to students. The other undergraduate program is at Pace, which is private and charges more than twice what CCNY does per credit hour. This makes PCP the only truly affordable certificate program in the city. And if we want people in publishing to reflect the economic diversity that exists in the U.S., we need a truly affordable program.

In addition, students throughout the CUNY system can also participate at no extra cost by signing up for PCP courses through ePermit. For those outside the CUNY system, CCNY's PCP is dramatically less expensive than courses at Columbia, NYU, or Pace. This lowers a significant barrier for more economically diverse candidates to enter the industry.

### **ALUMNUS: What attracted you to the Publishing Certificate Program at City College?**

**ATHENA:** I have been in higher education for my entire postgraduate career and worked exclusively with working-class, first-generation college students. I have always believed that a rigorous intellectual education and attention to professional opportunities and training can go hand in hand. I worked hard to make this happen at St. Francis College. However, when I saw an opportunity to work more exclusively with students on their career goals in an industry I both understood and enjoyed working in, I knew I wanted to do it.

And, on a more personal note, it has always been a dream of mine to work in the CUNY system. Not only am I an enthusiastic advocate of public education generally, but the CUNY system has also been part of my heritage. My parents met as students at Queens College, and my maternal grandparents and aunt all attended CCNY. Almost all of them became educators. This place feels like it is in my blood.

And I have to add that working with CCNY students has been everything I hoped it would be. The students here are courageous and invested in their education. They are also charming and wonderful to talk to. I feel very lucky to be here and believe more strongly than ever that their inclusion in the publishing industry will make a real and positive difference.

## FORMER AMBASSADOR MARC OSTFIELD APPOINTED COLIN POWELL SCHOOL DEAN



Executive, scholar, educator and diplomat are all titles that describe Marc Ostfield, who became the Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at the beginning of the spring semester in January.

Ostfield spent more than two decades in government service, including serving as the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay from January 2022 to January 2025. As the chief diplomatic representative of the U.S. government to this South American ally—one of only 12 countries to recognize Taiwan rather than China—Ostfield oversaw all bilateral relations and public engagement, a 230-person staff, 6 U.S. government agencies and a \$20 million operating budget. Among his accomplishments were advancing U.S. efforts to support Paraguayan institutions advocating for rule of law, and fighting corruption and impunity in their country; managing the completion of a new, \$270 million embassy compound in Asunción, the capitol; and reaching an agreement for Paraguay, the world's eighth largest beef exporter, to resume exporting its beef to the U.S. after a hiatus of many years.

Ostfield previously served in numerous leadership roles in the U.S. Department of State, including ombudsman; acting director and deputy director of the Foreign Service Institute, responsible for the training of U.S. government foreign affairs professionals in everything from diplomacy to languages to leadership; director of the Office of Policy and Global Issues in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; senior foreign affairs officer for the Office of Science and Technology Cooperation; and senior adviser on bioterrorism, biodefense and health security in the Office of International Health and Biodefense.

He has also created and led large-scale United States Agency for International Development, Centers for Disease Control, and donor-funded HIV/AIDS and global health programs in the U.S., Latin America, Europe, Asia and worldwide. An accomplished researcher, he has published and presented extensively on foreign policy, national security and global health issues,

“I believe in public service,” said Ostfield. “My career has always been about helping to make the world a healthier, safer, more just and more equitable place. The Colin Powell School talks about lifting leaders, shifting power and transforming society. It’s a mission that goes beyond how we prepare an individual student to take on their professional lives; it’s about helping students grow and become leaders that can change the world for the better. We also represent something important in terms of social mobility—the ability to change not just the lives of an individual, but those of their family and, potentially, their community through higher education.”

“Ambassador Ostfield brings a unique set of skills to the Colin Powell School deanship: he’s a lifelong public servant who has worked both in government and education,” said President Boudreau. “His responsibility for training programs across the U.S. foreign service speaks to his particular facility at linking education to immediate public purposes, a facility entirely in line with the Colin Powell School’s core mission. His eloquent representation of why he was attracted to this position, specifically at our school, at this precise moment in history, makes it clear that an extraordinary dean is joining our ranks.”

**COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**



**Torry Bernsten** and **Lorelei Salas** are this year's Leaders-in-Residence, teaching courses aligned with their professional experience and providing general career development and networking support to the

School's student community. Bernsten, who possesses more than four decades of high-level leadership across global finance and real estate development, is currently the co-CEO of Phoenix-based real estate acquisition, development and management company JDM Partners. Salas, an accomplished labor and consumer law advocate with decades of experience in public service, served as supervision director at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.



The Public Service Career Hub has partnered with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) to support a second cohort of interns, thanks to the continued efforts of Powell School alumnus Camden Malone, M.I.A. '24. Five students from the Master of International Affairs (M.I.A.) program will be working with the foundation in focus areas that include Future Generations, UN Affairs, Peace and Security, and Sustainable Development Initiatives.



The International and Global Studies Program within the Department of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Programs welcomed **Nehal Amer**, a doctoral candidate in anthropology at the CUNY Graduate Center, as the inaugural 2025-2026 Marina Fernando Guest Lecturer. Established in 2024 with funding provided by a group of alumni, this lectureship honors International Studies and Study Abroad Director Emerita Marina Fernando in recognition of the impact she had on their lives.

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**



Educational Theatre Program Director **Elizabeth Dunn-Ruiz** received the Outstanding Service Award at the 2025 American Alliance for Theatre and Education conference in Cleveland. The co-chair of the AATE's Leaders of Color Institute, Dunn-Ruiz was recognized for her dedication and commitment to transforming young people and communities through the theater arts.



Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership **Terri N. Watson** delivered a lecture entitled "Creating Beloved Communities in the Schoolhouse" before a full house at Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Education. Building on her influential 2024 article from the Journal of Educational Administration and History, "A Framework for Black Feminist

School Leadership," her lecture explored community-centered leadership practices and frameworks often overlooked in educational leadership literature and introduced her framework for school leadership that centers on just and community-centered leadership practices.

More than 80 students attended the Science Learning & Public Engagement program's Oct. 16 Science Engagement Internship Share Out Event, which featured six student panelists, each of whom discussed his or her experiences in the program as well as the internships in which each is participating.

**DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS**



The relaunch of the CCNY Chorus this spring marks a return to a long and meaningful musical tradition at the College, rooted in classical training, student musicianship and public education going back to the late 1960s. The course, MUS 16002, will be offered on Tuesdays from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and is open to students of all experience levels who enjoy communal singing. No audition is required.



Professor of English **Lyn Di Iorio's** short story Maritza and Carmen, about the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, is one of 20 stories selected to be published in the noted anthology "Best American Short Stories 2025."



Associate Professor of Philosophy **Elise Crull** was Neil deGrasse Tyson's guest on his StarTalk podcast, where she discussed the philosophy of physics and her new book, "The Einstein Paradox: The Debate on Nonlocality and Incompleteness in 1935" (Cambridge University Press, November 2024).

## SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



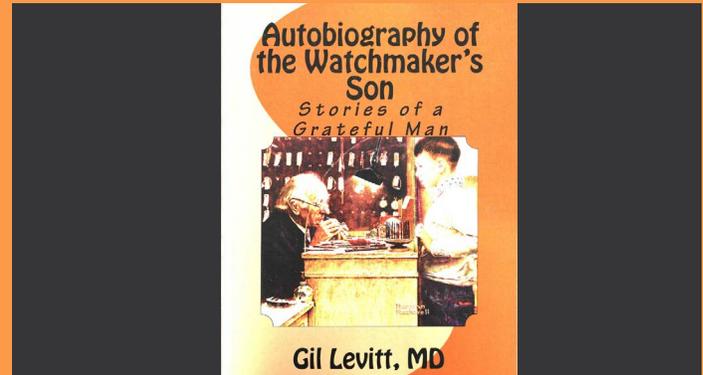
The architecture library's [Postcards from an Architect: Capturing Old New York](#) documents New York City's evolving architectural landscape in the early nineteenth century. The images capture iconic and ephemeral views of the city, with handwritten messages offering glimpses into the lives of those who passed through it. The exhibit was curated by Associate Professor and Chief Architecture Librarian **Nilda Sanchez-Rodriguez** and co-curated by **Jessy Perez-Camilo**, **Riley Mang** and **Taida Sainvil**.

## DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION



Chair of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences and Professor of Latin American Cultural Studies **Carlos Aguasaco** was interviewed by La Opinion on the topic of whether President Trump's discourse promotes unity or reinforces division. The interview was part of a collaboration between La Opinion, the largest Spanish-language newspaper in the U.S., and the Brennan Center for Justice at the NYU School of Law.

## FORMER CCNY SALK SCHOLAR ENDOWS FUND FOR FUTURE SALK SCHOLARS



Gilbert W. "Gil" Levitt, B.S. '58, pre-medicine, is endowing \$500,000 to the CCNY Jonas Salk Scholars Alumni Awards Fund to provide supplemental financial support to CCNY students who receive CUNY Jonas E. Salk Scholarships.

Starting in 2026, the Alumni Association of the City College of New York will coordinate with CCNY to administer the stipends to eligible CCNY awardees. The purpose of the gift, explained Levitt, is to entice previous Salk Scholars from CCNY to donate to the endowment as well, with the goal of increasing the award available to future CCNY Salk Scholars to cover their full tuition.

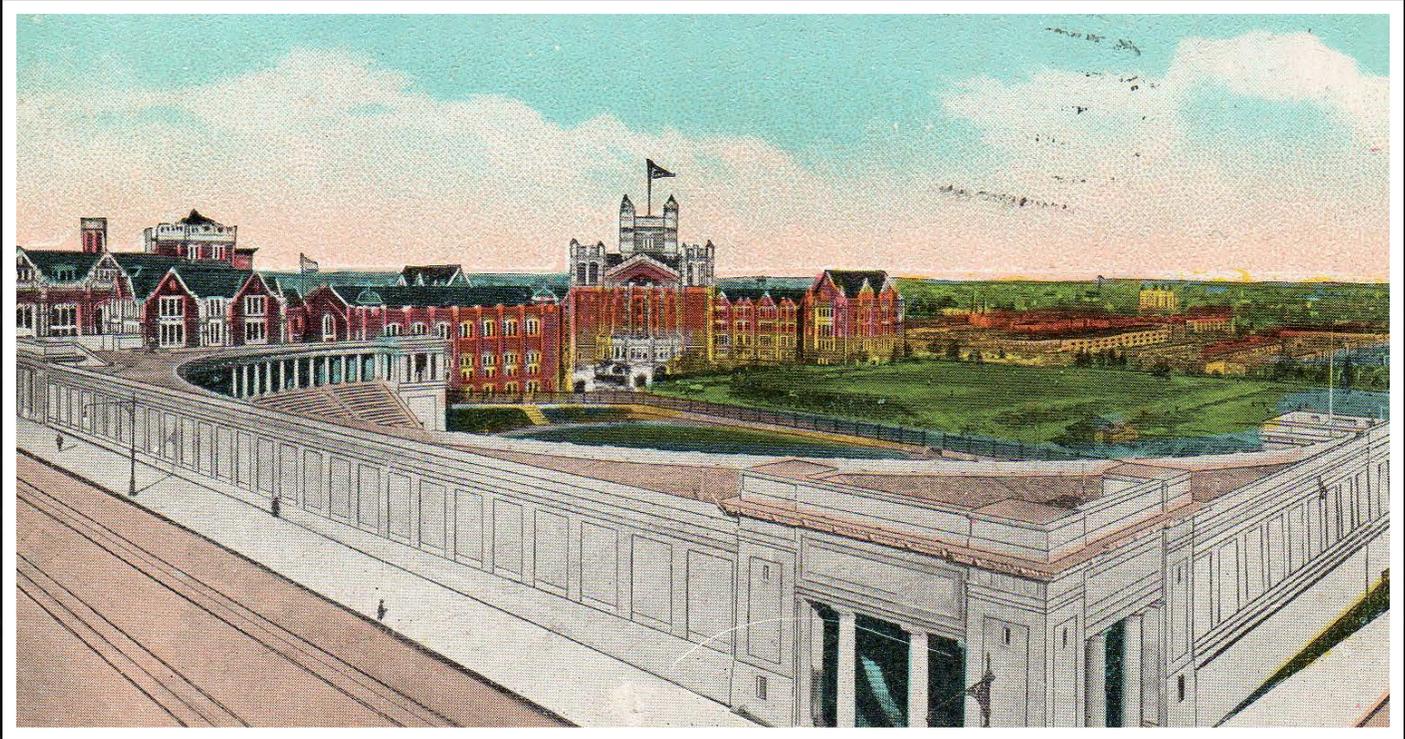
"I'd like this gift to be the first of many," said Levitt. "We [alumni] should be giving back for all that City College did for us."

After graduation from medical school, Levitt practiced otolaryngology-head and neck surgery for 30 years, retiring at age 58. Nearing 80, he wrote two semiautobiographical novels, "Sundays with the Watchmaker's Son: Let's See What the Day Brings" and "Autobiography of the Watchmaker's Son: Stories of a Grateful Man," the latter of which he adapted as a screenplay.

## THE LEWISOHN STADIUM OF MY CHILDHOOD

By Rose Sevillano '00

*Rose Sevillano received her M.A. in Secondary English Education from the School of Education in June 2000. As a child, she lived across the street from Lewisohn Stadium. She writes about her memories of the stadium for our “Remembrances” section.*



A 1920s postcard of CCNY's Lewisohn Stadium, which has since been demolished, with Shepard Hall in the background.

Lewisohn Stadium (1915-1973) was a whitewashed structure facing the apartment building where I lived at 492 West 136th Street in Manhattan. It was located on the North Campus of CCNY. It was a Doric-colonnaded amphitheater. The seats, from what I remember, were steps, but during events management added chairs in the arena section in front of the stage.

The stadium, which covered an entire two blocks, 136th to 138th Streets, was huge in the eyes of a child. Researching the stadium, I found that it had the capacity for about 8,000 people, so it was a landmark in NYC's upper Manhattan for the years that it was there.

The stadium was demolished to make way for the North Academic Center (NAC), with its dozens of classrooms and the Cohen Library. After it was torn down and NAC opened, the school paid homage to the stadium and its benefactor, Adolph Lewisohn (1849-1938), by naming the plaza Lewisohn Plaza.

This white building that I used to stare at from the window of our first-floor apartment was a cultural empire. No one would think that I absorbed so much culture from a building that seemed to be so bland from the outside, but was hardly so. When it went down in 1973, I was starting my freshman year of high school, and I had moved away five years earlier. Around the same time or maybe a few years earlier, another NYC landmark was also torn down, the Pennsylvania Station on West 33rd Street in midtown Manhattan, to make way for a new Madison Square Garden.

I used to see the students walking to CCNY, mostly from the 137th Street subway station, and teenagers walking with instruments and their art projects to the High School of Music and Art (now A. Philip Randolph Campus High School), which was also down the block from where we lived.

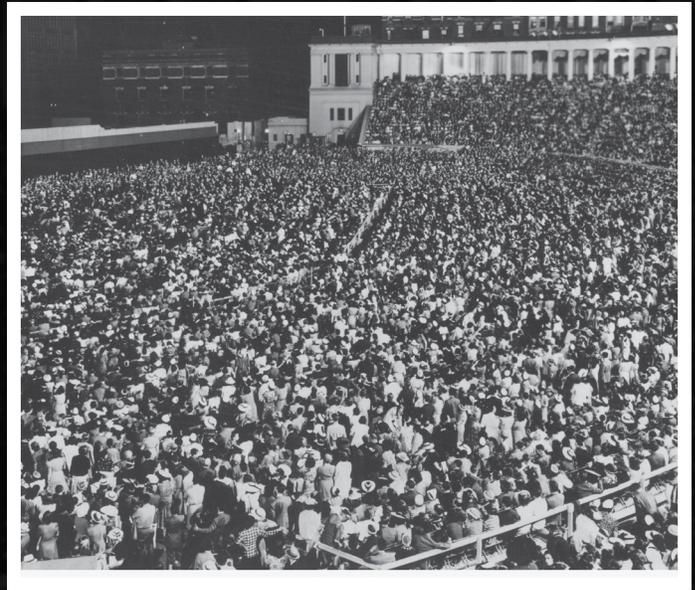
The walls of the stadium served as a place where I played handball, stickball, and on the hillside of the

stadium jumped rope, played on the sidewalk skully (skelly), rode a little bike up and down the hill from Amsterdam to Convent Avenue and slid down on my sled when it snowed. The small slope gave me speed on my little bike and sled. I still had the sled that was given to me for Christmas in 1964. Recently I gave it to my niece's daughters, who live in the suburbs of NYC.

The stadium also was a place where I saw many cultural and scholarly events. Besides Commencement there were a lot of firsts for me living in front of the stadium. Every type of event left an impression on me. These events were so numerous I can mention only a few. Since it was an outdoor stadium, it was used mostly during the spring, summer and fall. It was crowded for graduations, concerts, theater, political rallies, sports events and marching band competitions. Lastly, outside the stadium I saw a protest against a speaker endorsing the candidate running for office during the 1964 presidential campaign. This one event stands out in my mind because I saw protesters yelling, intending to interrupt someone's speech. My guess is that they were protesting against the candidate running for governor of Puerto Rico, Roberto Sánchez Vilella (1913-1997), who was at that event, possibly endorsing the U.S. presidential candidate. One man with a blowhorn was chanting "U.S. Puppet," and the rest of the protesters would answer "Sánchez Vilella." I heard those words over and over again for a couple of hours. Of course I did not know what was going on, but now as an adult, I know it was political. They had signs and were walking in a circle. That was the first time I observed the practice of our right of free speech or our First Amendment right, not that I knew that was its intended purpose. It was a peaceful protest and I did not see anyone arrested.

I loved anything that had to do with music. Anytime there was a concert or marching band event, I would sit outside the stadium closer to Convent Avenue, by a grated window or opening through which one could see the entire event. The grated window, I feel, was possibly used as a box office, because a little farther down was the gate where people walked in, or the lower entrance. There was another entrance on Amsterdam Avenue. The upper entrance was spectacular, because one had a view of the entire stadium from the top overlooking the steps, the columns, the field and the stage on the lower part of the site.

That is where I saw my first college graduation and some students in green graduating in their ROTC uniforms, next to the black-gowned students. Also I saw and heard operas, musicals, marching bands



An overhead view of the Lewisohn Stadium.

in their full uniforms. I was so impressed. This was an awakening not only to college life but to actual musical performances.

In my adult years I have also seen the stadium in films, three that I can name. In *Rhapsody in Blue* (1945), a biopic of George Gershwin, the last musical scene was filmed there. *Splendor in the Grass* (1961) used CCNY as a stand-in for Yale. And in *Serpico* (1973), two undercover cops were talking on the stadium steps and one was Al Pacino. *Serpico* was probably the last time it was used in a film because it was torn down around the same time.

Since the stadium was used as a performance center, CCNY now has Aaron Davis Hall (opened 1979) as an indoor theater, used for drama, music and school events, but for my taste nothing can make up for the loss of the beautiful whitewashed stadium. Urban renewal sometimes leaves a visual memory of what was once there.

A cultural icon from upper Manhattan was demolished to make way for the college's expansion. The space added classrooms, department offices, cafeterias and the library within what used to be the grounds of Lewisohn Stadium. Now only a few who lived in the area can talk about the stadium, plus any student who was present there in the Vietnam War era of the 1960s and early 1970s. We are the ones who can appreciate the grandeur of what CCNY had for 58 years.

# CLAS S NOTES

## '50s



**Leonard Kleinrock, B.E.E. '57,** School of Engineering, was awarded the Wireless Pioneer Award at the annual Brooklyn 6G Summit, co-sponsored by Nokia and the NYU Tandon

School of Engineering, in November. Honored for his pioneering work on the mathematical theory of packet networks, the distinguished professor of computer science at UCLA was instrumental in developing ARPANET, the technology that grew into the internet.

**Jeffrey H. Bunin, B.C.E. '71, Grove School of Engineering,** vice president of Commercial Lending at Capital Lending Corp., was a guest on Hall Martin's Investor Connect podcast.

**Robert Welner, B.C.E. '71, Grove School of Engineering,** has been named a Fellow by the American Society of Civil Engineers' Board of Directors. He is executive vice president for Jobco Incorporated, a Long Island-based construction, real estate and property management firm.

## '60s



**Frank van Riper, B.A. '67, English, Arts & Sciences,** and his wife, Judith Goodman, published their latest joint book, "The Green Heart of Italy: Umbria and Its Ancient Neighbors," their first book in color. The book follows 10 years of workshop teaching

in this region, which the couple say is now poised to become Italy's next great tourist destination. As part of the book's rollout, the couple held an invitation-only reception, presentation and book signing at the Embassy of Italy in Washington on October 30.

## '80s

**Nancy King Wang, B.A. '89, Bilingual Education (Chinese), School of Education,** published her latest book, "Xiao Ming's Aspiration" (Fulton Books, December 2025), about a third-grade student who seeks to emulate her older brother by earning the Seal of Biliteracy on her high school diploma.



**Marilyn Zayas, B.E.E. '87, Electrical Engineering, and B.S. '88, Computer Science, Grove School of Engineering,** an Ohio state appellate judge from Cincinnati, is a 2026 candidate for a seat on the Ohio Supreme Court.

## '70s



**Guillermo Linares, B.A. '75, Education, and M.S.Ed. '78, Bilingual Education, School of Education,** retired as president of the Higher Education Services Corporation after eight years. A public servant for half a century,

he started his career as a bilingual elementary school teacher in Washington Heights, serving on the school board and advocating for the construction of public schools for the area's growing immigrant community. In 1991, he became the first Dominican-born person elected to public office in New York when he won a seat on the City Council.

**Milly Quezada, B.A. '81, Communications and Mass Media, Division of Humanities and the Arts,** discussed her career in an interview on D'AGENDA, which is broadcast every Sunday in the U.S. on the Dominican networks Telesistema channel 11 and TV Quisqueya.

## '90s



**Richard Gonzalez, B. Arch. '98, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture**, principal of Richard Gonzalez Architect PLLC, received three American Institute of Architects awards, including a

High Honor category for the firm's Industria Superstudio project in Brooklyn. The awards program was facilitated by the Westchester + Hudson Valley chapter of the AIA.

**Ashanda M. Saint Jean, B.S. '96, Biomedical Science, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education**, has been selected as a Collective Action Advancing Respect and Equity delegation (CAARE) delegate for the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG)'s District II.

## '00s



**Tanya Martinez-Gallinucci, M.Ed. '07, School of Education**, executive director of the New York City Bar Association's Office for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, was profiled in the January 2026 issue of Practical Law The Journal,

the award-winning magazine companion to Reuters's Practical Law services.



**Ari Fontecchio, M.A. '06, Teaching English (7-12), School of Education**, a former New York City Teaching Fellow, is Executive Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, overseeing the Administrative Division.



**Jorge Tua, B.E. '00, Civil Engineering; M.E. '04, Civil Engineering, Grove School of Engineering**, is the deputy assistant commissioner of the New York City Department of Design and Construction, one of

the city's most diverse municipal agencies. Tua came to the U.S. from Ecuador in 1977.

## '10s

**Starr Davis, M.F.A. '18, Creative Writing, Division of Humanities and the Arts**, was one of eight creative writing Torch Fellows who read from their major works in progress at the George Washington Carver Museum in Austin, Texas.

**Anita Chan, B.A. '15, Business Administration and Management, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership**, is a program associate with the New York City Housing Authority's Asset and Capital Management Sustainability Programs Waste Team. She

provides administrative, procedural and operational support for a portfolio of initiatives that advance waste management and resilience best practices.



**Tai-Danae Bradley, B.S. '14, Physics, Division of Science**, was interviewed by Quanta Magazine about her use of category theory to try to understand both human and AI-generated language.



**Cristine Espinosa, B.S./M.D. '10, Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education**, joined the Clifton Park (N.Y.) Family Practice of St. Peter's Health Partners Medical Associates. She was previously chief medical officer and practicing physician at Hometown Health Centers in Schenectady, N.Y.

## '20s



**Walter Mejia, B.A. '20, Political Science, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership**, director of the New York State Republican Assembly Conference's Office of Community Affairs, was

named one of City & State New York's 2025 Power of Diversity: Latino 100. Mejia founded and leads New York Republican Latinos, which aims to expand conservative Republican Latino representation in government.



**Kazi Tejwar, B.A. '24, Political Science, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership**, is a community organizer and the former Muslim and South Asian political director on

Justin Brannan's campaign for New York City comptroller. He published an op-ed, "Organizing Is Key to Zohran Mamdani's Success," in the New York Daily News in November.

## NEW YORK POST LEGEND AND HOCKEY HALL OF FAME WRITER LARRY BROOKS (1950-2025)



“The Post has to be not just a first-read, but the must-read,” Larry Brooks often said. “We all do what we can to make it so. And this is my small part of that.”

“Brooksie,” as he was known, was larger than that, as indicated by the accolades that poured in after it was announced that he had died on Nov. 13 at 75.

“For the last three decades, no one covered a sports beat in this city better than Larry did on the Rangers,” Post Executive Sports Editor Chris Shaw said. “Well before the Hockey Hall of Fame enshrined him [in 2018], Larry had already earned a place among the legends who have graced the pages of The Best Sports in Town.”

“I like to think that I was a guy who could change the momentum of a game when I came on the ice,” said Sean Avery, who played parts of six seasons for the Rangers. “Brooksie could do that with the swipe of his pen. The guys that really understood playing for the Rangers all had a good relationship with Brooksie because he loves hockey players.”

Brooks covered Wayne Gretzky’s playing career beginning to end, capped by The Great One’s final three seasons with the Rangers.

“As a player, it was unique to see a writer who knew every bit as much about the game and cared about the game as we did,” Gretzky said. “Nobody knew more than Larry. Nobody cared more than Larry. He stood alone.”

Growing up on Manhattan’s Upper West Side as a Rangers fan, Brooks regularly reminded readers that he was one of them, that he’d spent hundreds of nights in the balcony seats at the old Garden and the blue seats at the new one.

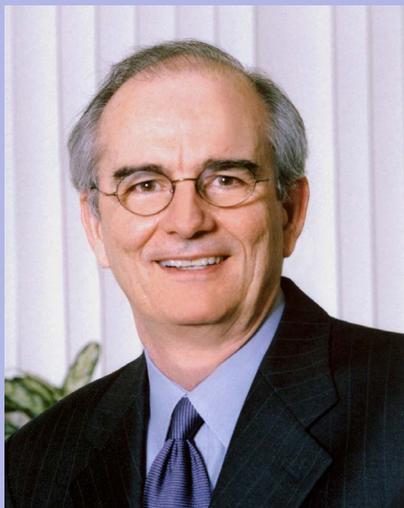
Brooks was also an advocate for the players and issues he cared most about. He fought in his column for years to push the Rangers to retire Brad Park’s jersey and let it hang in the Garden rafters alongside that of Brian Leetch, a fellow No. 2. He constantly hammered the NHL on matters of player safety, especially when he felt the league failed to properly punish cheap shots.

In 1982, he became the New Jersey Devils’ vice president of communications, a job he held for 10 years. Five years later, Lou Lamoriello arrived as general manager and thus began a 38-year friendship.

“One thing you always knew about Larry was that he’d tell it like it is,” said Lamoriello, who sat at the Brooks family table in Toronto the night Brooks was honored by the Hall of Fame with its Elmer Ferguson Award, awarded annually by the Hockey Hall of Fame in recognition of distinguished members of the hockey-writing profession whose words have brought honor to both journalism and the sport.

“I think that the mainstream media, the mainstream beat writer, provides an invaluable service to the fans. I’m very happy to be here as a mainstream newspaper man,” Brooks said in his acceptance speech. “I’m not a member of the media, I’m a member of the press. I think in this era, the importance of the press, the importance of the press knowing how to ask hard questions, being persistent in getting answers, has never been more important.”

## FORMER CCNY PRESIDENT GREGORY H. WILLIAMS (1943-2025)



Gregory H. Williams, scholar, award-winning author and the 11th President of The City College of New York, passed away in August at the age of 81.

Under his leadership, from 2001 to 2009, CCNY gained in national recognition. Williams's many accomplishments included opening the first residence hall built for a CUNY campus, and completing a new home for The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. In addition, he led the first capital campaign in CCNY history up to then, raising more than \$310 million during his tenure. Major gifts received during his tenure as president included \$26 million from alumnus and Intel Corp. co-founder Andrew Grove for The Grove School of Engineering, and \$25 million from the Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust for the Spitzer School of Architecture.

The son of a mixed-race black father and a white mother, Williams found that race was a defining issue of his childhood and much of his adult life. He recounted his personal story in his autobiographical memoir, "Life on the Color Line," which received the 1995 Los Angeles Times Prize for Book of the Year.

After earning a B.A. from Ball State University, supporting himself by working full time as a deputy sheriff, he earned an M.A. in government and politics from the University of Maryland and a J.D. and Ph.D. from George Washington University. During law school, he worked as a teacher of government at George Mason Junior-Senior High School. He later worked as a legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Vance Harkte (D-Ind.) and as a coordinator for the National Law Center at George Washington University.

He moved across the country in the summer of 1977 to become a law professor at the University of Iowa, fulfilling a longtime dream and beginning his academic career. He achieved a full professorship and also served as dean of admissions, increasing minority enrollment from 2 percent to 18 percent, one of his proudest accomplishments.

Williams was named dean of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law in 1993. After setting fund-raising records and leading OSU law to a top ten public school ranking, he was named president of CCNY, where he led the College's renaissance. In 2009, he became president of the University of Cincinnati, leading a \$1 billion giving campaign and serving on the executive committee of the Big East Conference.

Williams spent his semiretirement years serving on the boards of Urban America, Franklin Templeton Investments, and Mercy University, from which he earned an M.B.A. in 2014.

Williams was a sought-after speaker on diversity, leadership and education, delivering more than 100 speeches at universities and corporations and being interviewed on legal, racial and academic issues on network radio and television.

"The City College is proud and privileged to have known and to have worked with Dr. Williams," said President Boudreau. "Our hearts and condolences go out to his family."



### DAVID GREENE

Business and Economics Alumni Society Board member David Greene '63 passed away recently. The definition of service, Greene served on the board for 61 years, holding every officer position including president. In May 2024, the Business and Economics Alumni Board of Directors renamed its service award for him and made him the first recipient. The second annual award was presented to former BEAS President Charles Ranieri '13 at the BEAS's year-end event on May 16. Students Emiliano Venicio, Mymona Tansmin, Sanjida Sanju and Ayubur Bhuyia each received a \$3,000 Mark and Rose Friedman Scholarship that evening.

## LEGENDARY ENGLISH PROFESSOR MARK JAY MIRSKY (1939-2025)



Professor Emeritus of American Literature Mark Jay Mirsky, a novelist and the founding editor of the influential literary magazine *Fiction*, whose five decades of teaching at CCNY inspired generations of writers, died on Dec. 5, a few hours after teaching his graduate class “Bible, Myth and Contemporary Literature.” He was 86.

Mirsky was the author of five novels, including “Thou Worm Jacob” (Macmillan, 1967), “The Secret Table” (NY Fiction Collective, 1983) and “The Red Adam” (Sun & Moon Press, 1990). He also wrote “The Absent Shakespeare” (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1994), edited “Diaries: Robert Musil 1899–1942” (Basic Books, 1998) and co-edited “Rabbinic Fantasies: Imaginative Narratives from Classical Hebrew Literature” (Yale University Press, 1998).

“Mark was such a prolific writer that his oeuvre defies succinct characterization,” said Division of Humanities and the Arts Dean Renata Kobetts Miller. “The author of over a dozen booklength works of fiction, memoir and literary criticism, and dozens of shorter works, he also edited the two-volume “The Jews of Pinsk.” Dante, Shakespeare and classical Hebrew literature were among the subjects of his scholarship, and he engaged with the theater as both an actor and a playwright.”

In addition to founding CCNY’s graduate program in creative writing and directing it for a number of years, Mirsky directed the Jewish Studies program and served as chair of the English department.

“Mark’s career was expansive and influential, and he was a generous and generative colleague,” said Miller. “We are better as individuals and as an institution because of the time we had with him.”

“Mark was one of the first directors of our program when it was an M.A. in Creative Writing,” wrote the program’s current director, Assistant Professor of English Michelle Y. Valladares, in an e-mail to Mirsky’s students. “He was the strongest advocate for creative writing at CCNY and an inspiration to many faculty and students. Many of his students went on to work on *Fiction*, the journal he founded and edited. He was an incredible support and advocate to our M.F.A. faculty, and especially to me, sharing his insights and wisdom. As a member of the creative writing community at City College, he carried the stories of our history, and for those of you lucky enough to spend a semester or even an hour with Mark; he always had a story about a writer that you loved. He had either met them or visited them on his motorcycle!”

Calling Mirsky’s passing “a devastating loss for our program and English department,” Valladares concluded her note with an excerpt from an interview Mirsky gave to independent arts publication *Brooklyn Rail* in May 2005, after the publication of his final book, “Dante, Eros, and Kabbalah” (Syracuse University Press, 2004), an academic detective story that finds Dante’s clues in medieval philosophy and the secret text of Jewish mysticism.

**Brooklyn:** Do you have any advice for young writers?

**Mark:** The most important thing is to believe in yourself and to find a way to get your stuff published. I also think it is important to get to know older writers whom you think are important. I’ve always admired the way the poets group together, and I wish fiction writers would do the same. I really fell in love with Paley and Barthelme, and I followed them around.

**Brooklyn:** I thought you were going to say that they should read.

**Mark:** That’s like saying “you should breathe” to a human being. I mean, if they don’t know that, then they’re not writers.

*CCNY started a fund in Professor Mirsky’s memory to support the work that was important to him. To make a gift, please go to <https://giving.cuny.cuny.edu/donate-now?designation=38> and enter “In Memory of Mark Mirsky” in the comments field, or contact Dean Miller at [remiller@ccny.cuny.edu](mailto:remiller@ccny.cuny.edu) or 212-650-8153*

## FORMER AACCNW WASHINGTON, D.C. CHAPTER PRESIDENT REGINALD C. GRIER, B.A. '65 (1928-2025)



The life of soldier, educator, mentor and family man Col. Reginald C. Grier, U.S. Army (Ret.), who died in February 2025, was a testament to faith, service and the joy of living fully. A veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, Grier honorably served 30 years in the U.S. Army, commanding the 82nd Signal Battalion (Fort Bragg, 1967) and the 127th Signal Battalion (Korea, 1969). His exemplary service earned him the Legion of Merit Bronze Star Medal (Vietnam), the Meritorious Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Master Parachutist Badge Korean War President Park Award (1970) and the Silver Order of Mercury (1994) for exceptional contributions to the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

After retiring, he served as a casualty assistance officer for Joint Base Fort Myer-Henderson Hall and as a board member of the 11th Airborne Division Association, the 18th Airborne Corps Association and the Korean War Veterans Association.

A lifelong scholar, Grier earned a B.A. in cinematography from CCNY and three advanced degrees from George Washington University: an Ed.D. in human resource development (1979), an M.Sc. in management science (1973) and an M.P.A. in telecommunications (1989). His alumni honors include The

George Washington University Alumni Service Award (1989) and Distinguished Alumni Award (1993), The City College of New York Alumni Service Medal (1992) and the DeWitt Clinton High School Distinguished Alumni Award (1985).

He served CCNY as the president of its Washington, D.C. chapter in the early 1980s and continued to be active after stepping down, closing each meeting by leading the singing of “Lavender, My Lavender.”

A pillar of the Boy Scouts of America, Grier was Scoutmaster of the Year in 1967 and was awarded the St. George Emblem in 1975 for outstanding service to Catholic Scouting and the Father Fuller Recognition in 2000 for 25 years of service to Catholic Scouting. He chaired the National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s Multicultural Committee, Religious Awards Committee and Religious Activities Committee.

A devout Catholic, he served as lector, eucharistic minister and chief usher at the Church of the Holy Spirit in District Heights, Md., delivering communion to the sick and homebound for decades. His unwavering commitment to justice and advocacy extended into affordable housing and social concerns, making a lasting impact in his community.

Grier was a devoted husband to Dorothy and a proud “girl dad” to their two daughters. A natural teacher, he instilled independence and resilience in his family, fixing things, tackling challenges or embracing life’s lessons. He also made life an adventure; from taking his family on unforgettable journeys to perfecting his campfire peach cobbler, he turned every moment into a lesson or a memory. Whether attending his daughters’ concerts with pride, rescuing his granddaughter from a near-drowning, pulling pranks on unsuspecting houseguests or singing and dancing to Stevie Wonder in his home office, he filled his family’s lives with love, laughter and joy. A true adventurer, he with his wife explored all seven continents, collecting stories and memories from every corner of the world.

Never one to shy away from fun, he became a legend on cruise ships, winning costume contests with elaborate, award-winning ensembles. Into his nineties, he competed and won in the Senior Olympics, stayed active in the gym and led with the same determination, joy and resilience that defined his extraordinary life.



**50s | Joseph Morguessa, B.A. '58, Psychology; M.S.Ed. '60, Clinical School Psychology, School of Education (1937-2025)**

grew up on East 166th Street, across the street from P.S. 90, where he attended elementary school and where he played baseball on the concrete playground while his mother watched from the window of their fourth-story apartment. After graduating from CCNY with degrees in psychology and clinical school psychology, he spent 34 years working in the New York City public schools, including 27 as a clinical school psychologist. After retiring in 1993, he moved to Tamarac, Fla., serving as a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family and County Mediator, a member of the Broward County Consumer Protection Board, and as a popular columnist for the Tamarac and Coral Springs Forums and later TamaracTalk and other local publications. An active member of the Kings Point community in Tamarac, he hosted a current events group and was a founding member of the Democratic Club.

**Jerry Goodman, B.A. '57, Political Science, Center for Worker Education (1932-2025)**

founded the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, describing it as a "coalition of 54 national organizations and over 300 local Jewish community councils and federations" in 1971, leading the group until 1989. He was one of the organizers of Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews, which drew an estimated 250,000 people to the National Mall in Washington on Dec. 6, 1987. He earned a bachelor's degree in political sociology at CCNY, where he wrote for The Campus, the student newspaper. He also earned graduate degrees in international relations and public administration from CUNY and from New York University. In addition to his work with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, he was European affairs director at the American Jewish Committee from 1964 to 1971, founder and senior adviser at the Archive of the American Soviet Jewry Movement at the American Jewish Historical Society from 2006 to 2011, and subsequently a senior adviser at Strategy XXI-Partners and president and CEO at Phoenix Ventures.



**Edward Kravitz, B.S. '54, Biology and Chemistry, Division of Science (1932-2025)**

joined the Harvard University faculty in 1960 and was a founding member of the world's first department of neurobiology in 1966. By the time he retired at age 91, he and other members of the Kravitz lab published more than 100 papers in top-tier journals. Throughout his career, he made foundational contributions to our understanding of the brain, and is also widely recognized for his innovative studies on neuronal architecture and the neurobiology of behavior. He and his colleagues developed techniques for visualizing neuronal structures using intracellular dyes, opening new paths for anatomical studies of the nervous system. In 1968, he and eight other faculty members formed an ad hoc committee to advocate for increased inclusion of racially and ethnically diverse applicants to Harvard Medical School. Their recommendations were accepted by the faculty, resulting in significant growth in enrollments by students from underrepresented populations. Among his many awards and honors, he was especially proud of his Lifetime Achievement in Mentoring Award from Harvard Medical School and the Education Award from the Association of Neuroscience Departments and Programs.



**Harold Sanders, B.M.E. '53, School of Engineering (1940-2024)**

moved to Brooklyn from Ohio with his family at age seven. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School before earning his engineering degree from CCNY. After serving as an engineer in the U.S. Army, he completed his master's degree at Columbia University. He began his career in high-energy physics at the Princeton-Pennsylvania Accelerator Laboratory, which operated on Princeton University's Forrestal Campus from 1957 to 1971. He flourished at the University of Chicago, where he led the Electronics Development Group. His work contributed to landmark discoveries, including the top quark and the Higgs boson. He remained at the University of Chicago until his retirement at age 77.



Otolaryngologist, tinnitus researcher and educator **Abraham Shulman, B.S. '50, Biology (1929-2025)** was a pioneering figure in the clinical study and treatment of tinnitus, recognized internationally for his groundbreaking research and leadership in the field. He founded the first tinnitus clinic on the East Coast and

organized the inaugural International Tinnitus Seminar in 1979, a series that continues today. He was the founding editor of the International Tinnitus Journal and authored the first comprehensive textbook on the condition, "Tinnitus: Diagnosis and Treatment" (1991). Over the course of his career, he published more than 250 scientific articles and chapters. In his nineties, he continued to work on a new edition of his textbook that includes updates in neuroimmunology, cutting-edge technologies and even cosmological concepts such as acoustic resonance in the early universe. The work will be completed posthumously by his collaborators and family.



**60s | Ezra Stieglitz, B.A. '66, Elementary Education (1944-2025)**

leaves behind a legacy of kindness, wisdom and unwavering dedication to his family, students and community. After graduation from CCNY, he earned his Ph.D. at the University of Pittsburgh and built a distinguished career as a professor of education and Holocaust studies at Rhode Island College. He published numerous academic articles and books in literacy education and developed a student and faculty exchange program between Rhode Island College and universities abroad. He also proudly helped develop Holocaust and genocide education curriculum across the entire state of Rhode Island, ensuring future generations would learn, remember and understand. He served as a senior board member and vice president of the Bureau of Jewish Education and held additional leadership roles at Providence Hebrew Day School and Congregation Beth Shalom..

**70s | John James Dunleavy, B.A. '70, Arts and Sciences, M.S.Ed. '75, School of Education (1949-2025)**

was raised in the Highbridge section of the Bronx. He received a master's degree in education from CCNY, then taught mathematics at John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx for more than 30 years. He was a well-loved fixture at Yankee Stadium, where he also worked as a souvenir vendor for almost six decades.

**80s | Sandra Lowe, B.A. '86 (1942-2025)**

may have described herself as "just a regular Jewish girl of color," but she was much more than that. The daughter of a shop steward for the Garment Workers Union and a tailor who fought in the Spanish Civil War, she was Black, Jewish, Cuban and Chinese. Active in the civil rights and antiwar movements as a teenager, she learned to weave and opened a weaving and fabric arts store in Greenwich Village, then worked with survivors of domestic violence at the National Congress of Neighborhood Women. One day on the subway, she met the internationally recognized human rights attorney and civil rights leader Haywood Burns, the director of CCNY's Urban Legal Studies program. He persuaded her to go back to school at 38 for her college degree. She then attended CUNY Law School, where she was a member of the second graduating class, and became a civil rights attorney. She started at the Philadelphia Defenders Association as a criminal defense attorney before being recruited to join Lambda Legal Defense Fund as associate attorney. She then served as Gov. Mario Cuomo's liaison to gay and lesbian concerns, on the board of Gay Men's Health Crisis, as co-executive director of Housing Works, and as deputy director for program services and community relations manager of Community Access for 21 years, retiring in 2016. Throughout her career, she was recognized with numerous accolades.



**00s | Paul Sweeney, M.S.Ed. '07, School of Education (1950-2025)**

was a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Suffolk University Law School who spent 30 years of his career in the telecommunications industry, beginning in Boston with New England Telephone and later with Nynex in New York. After many successful years in the field, he embarked on a second career, attaining his graduate degree in teaching from CCNY. Teaching high school mathematics in the Bronx as part of the New York City public school system brought him profound fulfillment.

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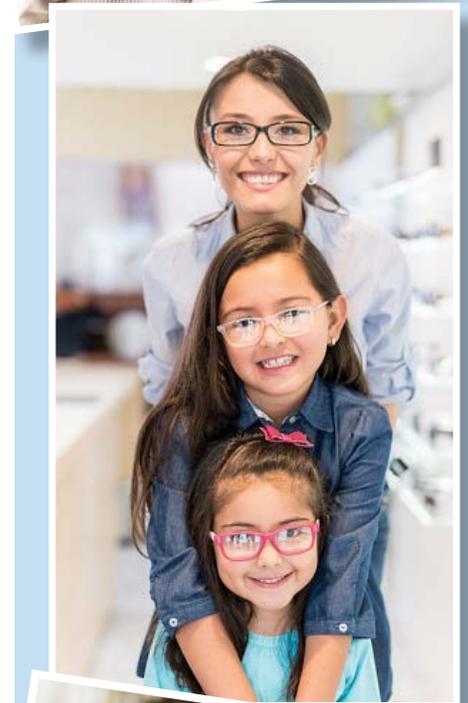
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