



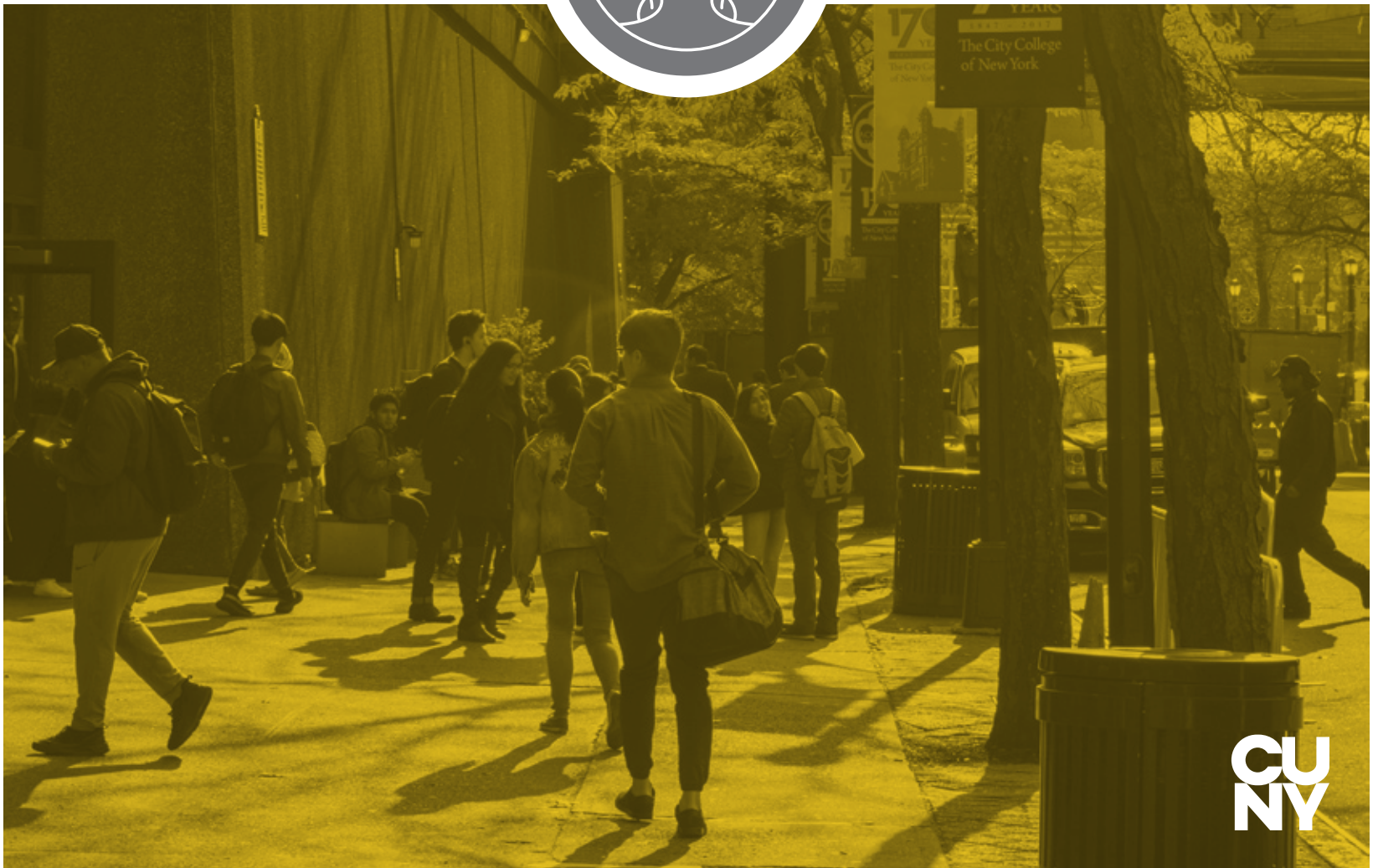
The City College
of New York



FY23-24
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT



**ON RESEARCH AND
CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP**



CUNY

2

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT
VINCENT BOUDREAU

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GRANTS

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THE FOUNDATION FOR
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MESSAGE FROM **PRESIDENT VINCENT BOUDREAU**

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I'm truly proud to present the CCNY report on our annual activity, and hope that you enjoy reading about our work. In these pages, you'll read about the success of our students, the research and creative activity of our faculty, and the college's plans to build new and exciting programs to meet the needs of our ever-changing society.

As I read through the different elements of this report, I was struck by the relationship between our consistent fidelity to our founding mission, on the one hand, the myriad ways in which the execution of that mission has contended with new and unique challenges, on the other. In the last several years alone, we have dealt with the pandemic itself, and the subsequent and corrosive legacy of pandemic-imposed isolation on our social fabric. As an institution, we successfully navigated a crushing budget deficit even as cash-strapped colleges all around us have shuttered their doors. More recently still, we have contended with a range of societal tensions arising from our polarized politics, the devastating impact of climate uncertainty on young minds, and the transmogrification of distant military conflicts into campus disputes.



We are an institution created not merely to extend opportunity to individual students, but to extend to society the fruits of what these students will do, the questions they will ask and answer, and the difficulties they will help us navigate.



And yet—as I hope you will clearly see—the basic mission of the college shines through. For our decades of work establish nothing so clearly as this: CCNY is most vital not when America sails through the calm waters of relative social peace, but precisely when we are deeply, even fundamentally challenged. We are an institution created not merely to extend opportunity to individual students, but to extend to society the fruits of what these students will do, the questions they will ask and answer, and the difficulties they will help us navigate.

So, when you examine these pages, I hope you will perceive in them something unique. In program after program, we have worked to find moments to align our undertakings with specific needs in our society. As climate change has evolved from a projected threat to increasingly frequent natural disasters, we have drawn together the threads of our research and teaching in the engineering school, in our sustainability program, in architecture and in the Colin Powell School to equip society with the tools to fight back—especially where marginalized and under-resourced populations confront that threat. An entire range of initiatives in both our degree and non-degree granting programs aim to help prepare our communities to benefit from federal legislation like the infrastructure act and the inflation reduction act. Specific programs to promote career tracking and early exposure to professional environments align with the stated needs of industries like finance, healthcare and public relations to diversify both the ranks of people working in them, and the perspectives and values that they champion.

In other ways, we are preparing our students for reliance in the face of difficult times. We have consistently devoted resources and attention to wellness support for our students, including programs that address their emergency needs, or provide pantry resources when they experience food insecurity. This year, the college made a concerted effort to pilot programs that would strengthen student persistence and retention and track them earlier into career pathways. And, in association with every one of these efforts, we have expanded the resources, especially the philanthropic resources, that directly benefit our students.

In these ways we are meeting the challenges of today to defend and elevate our founding values and allow us to carry forth the sacred educational mission of the college. I hope, as you read these pages, that you will see some measure of your support reflected in the accomplishments of the college and the students, faculty and staff who work here.

On behalf of CCNY and in my personal capacity, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to all of you who have partnered with us in support of CCNY. I encourage you to learn more about the college, involve yourself in our work, and find ways to support our extraordinary students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Boudreau'.

Vincent Boudreau
President



Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

It is the beginning of another academic year and today is a beautiful late-summer day in the 70s. It is Club Hours, that 90-minute stretch on Thursdays when there are no classes and, on a beautiful day like this, everyone is outside – in front of the NAC, in the Quad, or sitting on the grass by Shepard. It’s a reminder, before the cold winter months send everyone back indoors, of who we are here for and the crucial role this college plays for New Yorkers and, by extension, for the entire country.

Last year I wrote to you about our progress in enrollment and retention, and this year I’m happy to report that the progress is continuing. For the second year in a row, our overall enrollment is up, and we are now almost back to pre-pandemic levels. The increase comes this year despite a drop in first-time freshman of about 125 students. The reason for the drop is not completely clear, but we suspect it is related to the campus protests that, for CUNY, were centered on our campus and brought a tumultuous end to the spring semester last year. We therefore expect this to be a moment in time and not a trend. Despite the drop in new freshman, overall enrollment is up because of our multiple efforts at retention of existing students and an increase in transfer students.

We have a new department in the Division of Humanities & the Arts this fall. I might more accurately say that we have brought back an old department. A few years ago, the president and I committed to returning our very vibrant Black Studies Program to department status. The department was originally established in the aftermath of the 1969 campus takeover (now immortalized in the documentary “The Five Demands” by CCNY faculty Andrea Weiss and CCNY alum Greta Schiller) and then moved to program status in 1996. Over the ensuing 28 years, Black Studies became a strong, interdisciplinary program with a solid base of undergraduate majors, and it became clear to Vince and me that The City College of New York, in Harlem, needed to have a Black Studies Department. In 2022, we launched a nationwide search for a director of the Black Studies Program and, last fall, we hired Jervette Ward with a mandate to begin the process of moving the “Program” back to “Department” status. This past June, the Board of Trustees



This amazing institution is always changing and adapting, and yet remains fundamentally the same and true to its mission of serving the whole people. Your support is one of the constants that makes it possible.



passed a resolution (re)creating the Black Studies Department at City College.

Speaking of new academic offerings, we are in the final stages of creating a new major in Digital Game Development. In 2022, CCNY alum and visiting professor (from Baruch) Stan Altman secured a \$2 million grant from the Mayor’s Office for Media and Entertainment to create a bachelor’s degree in digital game development at City College. With the grant, we were able to hire Nick Fortugno as a distinguished lecturer, and Nick immediately began creating and teaching courses in game development. We are now in the final stages of creating the major, which we hope to have approved by the Board of Trustees this fall. When approved, this will be the only public option in New York City for undergraduates interested in a four-year degree in digital game development as a career. Hostos Community College, with whom we have been working closely on the design of the program, offers an associate’s degree in game design and we anticipate a strong transfer-student interest in the four-year degree as well as robust enrollment from New York City high schools. The digital game industry in New York City already provides 7,600 jobs and \$2 billion in economic output, according to a 2021 study, and is a key piece of the mayor’s post-pandemic economic recovery plan for New York City.

There’s always more to tell you than I can fit in an annual letter. This amazing institution is always changing and adapting, and yet remains fundamentally the same and true to its mission of serving the whole people. Your support is one of the constants that makes it possible. Thank you.

Tony Liss
Provost



MESSAGE FROM **SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEE DEE MOZELESKI**

Dear Friends and CCNY Family,

Years ago, as part of my interview process to join the Colin Powell Center, President Boudreau (then director of the center) shared something with me that has stayed at the forefront of my work for more than a decade: He wanted to build a welcoming place where people who were external to the campus would know that the work we do here is also for them; that the greatest challenges can be solved in partnership with our faculty, staff and students and that, together, we could ensure that the voices of our community would continue to play a vital role in sustaining the uniqueness of our democracy.

I think about that vision every day. I imagine the ways in which the world would be different if not for The City College of New York. Each day, I find a renewed sense of purpose, but also excitement for what is possible.

This past year has been one of tremendous change—and it was in that call for change that our founding principles were called upon time and time again.

There was a time when there was no City College. There was no place explicitly designed to bring together the children who knew their destinies would have no bounds to study with the children who had not yet learned that their futures were just



I imagine the ways in which the world would be different if not for The City College of New York. Each day, I find a renewed sense of purpose, but also excitement for what is possible.



as limitless. There was also a time, not even one year after the launch of the ‘Free Academy’ when New York City questioned if this was a wise use of city funds. The truth was (and continues today) that the city would change - would become better, more fair, more expansive - because City College existed.

City College graduates went on to build our most important bridges and landmarks; sent the earliest space-related technologies to the heavens; cured intractable diseases and changed how we imagine every area of society from law, medicine, and education to creative arts and architecture. That type of impact continues today, with City College graduates representing every field of expertise, across seven continents.

For much of the first 100+ years, the College did so without the benefit of the kind of philanthropic support that so many other institutions were already receiving. Today, as I write this letter, I have the profound joy of representing the Foundation for City College and the work it does on behalf of the College.

This past year we said goodbye to our long-serving Board Chair, Marty Cohen '70, who retired at the end of June. Cohen served the original 21st Century Foundation as a long-standing board member and chair and led the Foundation through its greatest change in 2019 when the 21st Century and City College Fund merged to create our new Foundation. On July 1, we welcomed Frank J. Sciamè '74. Sciamè brings with him a deep love for City and has served as president of the Alumni Association for City College and the former City College Fund.

Together, as we look to the future of the College, we do so with the benefit of understanding not just our history, but also our projected future. We know that we are the number one college in the country in terms of the social mobility of our students; we can celebrate the fact that as a college, we drive more than \$3.2 billion to the local economy, and we know that thousands of industry leaders come to campus each year to partner with our students and faculty; our professional staff is unmatched and the Foundation, as part of our “Doing Remarkable Things Together” campaign will continue to serve as a true partner in ensuring the philanthropic support for the College keeps pace with our vision for the future.

Every year college campuses see tremendous change—and we are not immune from both the domestic and global issues affecting everyone. But what continues to drive us each day is the knowledge that City College changes lives—the impact of our research, the knowledge our graduates take out to the world and the work done every day, right here in Harlem, goes beyond our city streets and reaches into every corner of society.

Your friendship and your partnership are what continues to make that work possible and we remain grateful to each of you.

Sincerely,

Dee Dee Mozeleski

Senior Vice President and Executive Director

CCNY FAST FACTS

14,930

TOTAL STUDENTS
(AS OF FALL 2023)

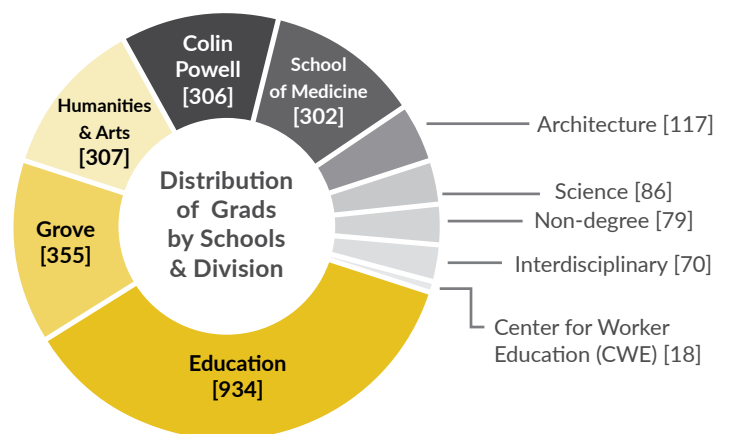
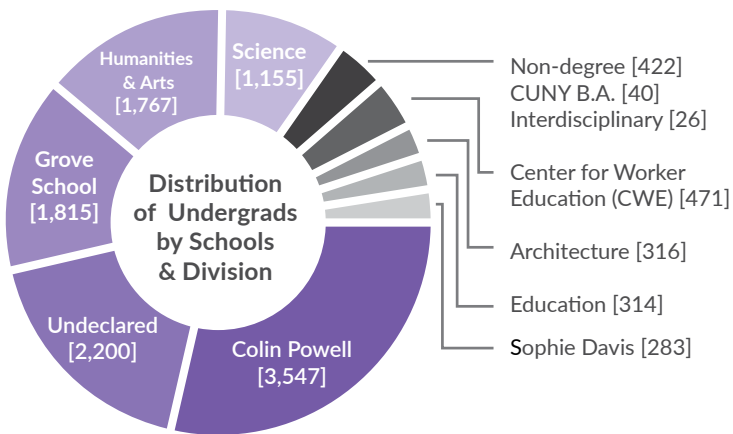
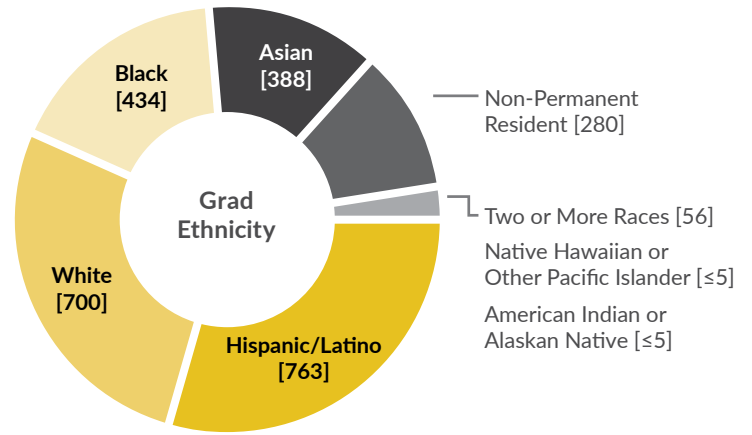
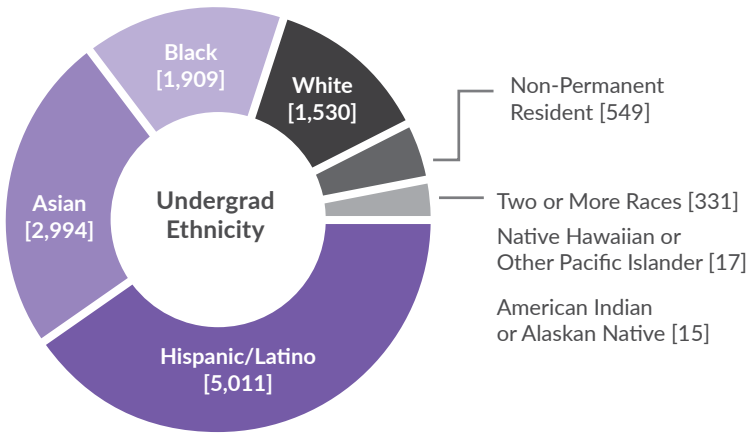
12,356

UNDERGRADUATE

2,574

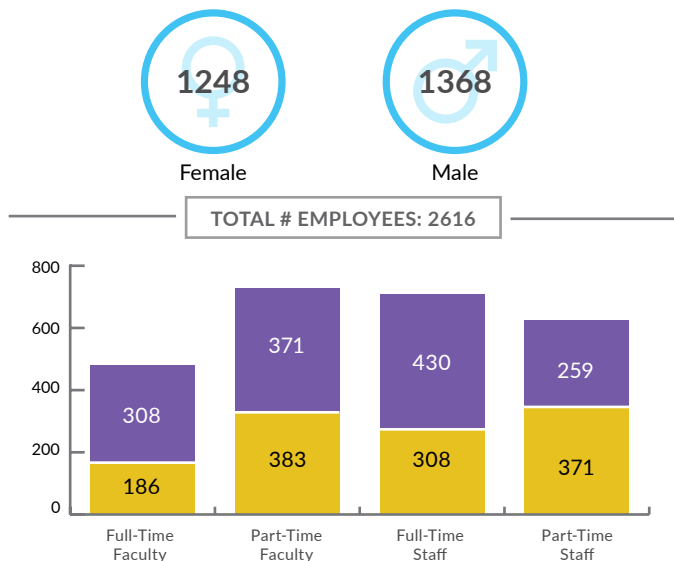
GRADUATE

1,811 MASTERS | 223 PH.D. | 285 M.D. | 17 M.S.
238 NON-DEGREE/ADVANCED CERTIFICATE

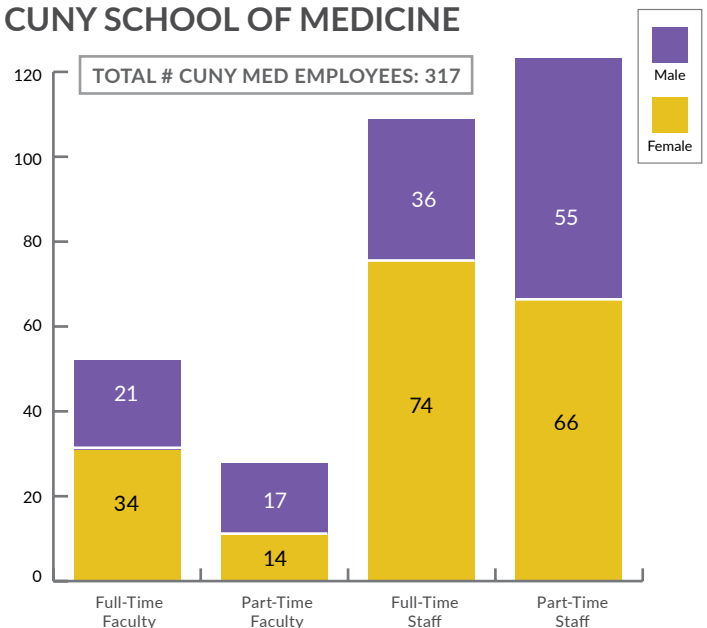


Source: CUNY Census data. Headcount represents all degree-seeking students enrolled in the Fall 2023 semester.

EMPLOYEE BREAKDOWN



CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Source: Data are from the IPEDS Human Resources Submission and include faculty and staff active as of November 1 of the given year.



CCNY's \$3.2 Billion Impact on New York's Economy

A staggering \$3.2 billion. That was The City College of New York's economic impact on 10 counties in the New York region in fiscal year 2021-22, according to the latest study by labor analytics firm Lightcast. The figure almost doubles the FY 2017-18 tally of \$1.9 billion numerated by Lightcast (formerly EMSI) four years ago.

The study measures the economic impact of City College on the business community and the benefits it generates in return for the investments made by its key stakeholder groups: students, taxpayers, and society.

Lightcast focuses on 10 counties: the Bronx, Kings, Nassau, New York, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester.

According to the report, "CCNY promotes economic growth... through its direct expenditures and the resulting expenditures of visitors, students, and regional businesses. CCNY is a primary source of higher education to residents and a supplier of trained workers to regional industries, enhancing overall productivity in the regional workforce."

Lightcast calculated the impacts created in the region by CCNY in FY 2021-22, when it served 17,491 students, as \$365.8 million in operations spending impact; \$46.7 million in research spending impact; \$62.4 million in visitor spending impact; \$36.7 million in student spending impact; and \$2.7 billion in alumni impact.

A total of \$3.2 billion, or equivalent to 25,121 jobs, are supported by CCNY. Total taxpayer benefits amount to \$757.5 million, the present value sum of the added tax revenue and public sector savings. For every dollar of public money invested in CCNY, taxpayers will receive \$1.70 in return over the course of students' working lives. The average annual rate of return for taxpayers is 3.0 percent.

From the social perspective, New York invested \$797.1 million to support CCNY in FY 2021-22. In turn, the New York economy will grow by \$6.5 billion, over the course of students' working lives. Society will also benefit from \$270.0 million of public and private sector savings. Overall, for every dollar invested in CCNY in FY 2021-22, people in New York will receive \$8.50 in return, for as long as CCNY's FY 2021-22 students remain active in the state workforce.

CCNY students, in return for their investment, will receive a cumulative present value of \$1.7 billion in increased earnings over their working lives. This translates to a return of \$8.30 in higher future earnings for every dollar students invest in their education. Students' average annual rate of return is 23.2 percent.

"When we say that CUNY's 25 colleges and professional schools play a vital role in lifting New York, these are some of the impacts we are talking about," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.

"The Lightcast Economic Impact Study has given an empirically grounded and verifiable account of our contributions to economic development. This study demonstrates unequivocally that the mission animating the founding of the Free Academy in 1847 is alive and well at today's City College," said President Boudreau.

The firm used data including CCNY's FY 2021-22 academic and financial reports, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Census Bureau, outputs of Lightcast's Multi-Regional Social Accounting Matrix model, and a variety of studies and surveys relating education to social behavior, applying a conservative methodology using only the most recognized indicators of economic impact and investment effectiveness.



PRINCETON REVIEW RANKINGS

CCNY on List of Best Value Colleges

“The schools we chose as our Best Value Colleges for 2024 are a select group: they comprise only about eight percent of the nation’s four-year undergraduate institutions,” said Rob Franek, editor-in-chief of The Princeton Review.

Data was reviewed from surveys of administrators at more than 650 colleges, crunching more than 40 data points to tally ROI (Return on Investment) ratings of the colleges that were the basis for the Best Value Colleges school selections.

The Princeton Review gave CCNY an ROI rating score of 88/99. In its profile of CCNY, the company’s editors praised the school for its “quality and challenging education,” and quoted CCNY students surveyed by the company. The students hailed CCNY’s “broad curriculum,” with special mention for its “rigorous sciences” and an engineering school that is “one of the best public schools.” Another student noted how CCNY “draws people of incredible intellect who are maybe economically challenged and allows them to excel.”

CCNY Named One of “The 389 Best Colleges”

The City College of New York is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduates, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company profiles and recommends CCNY in the new edition of its annual college guide, “The Best 389 Colleges: 2024 Edition.” Notably, CCNY is listed among the best in the Northeast.

Only about 15 percent of America’s 2,600 four-year colleges are profiled in the book. The Princeton Review chooses the colleges based on data it collects annually from surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions’ academic offerings. The company also reviews data from its surveys of college students attending the schools, who report on their experiences.

“We salute The City College of New York for its outstanding academics, and its many other impressive offerings. We’re delight-

ed to recommend it as an ideal choice for students searching for their ‘best-fit’ college,” said Franek.

Princeton Review editors praise the school for its “quality and challenging education,” and quote CCNY students surveyed by the company. The students hailed CCNY’s “broad curriculum,” with special mention for its “rigorous sciences” and an engineering school that is “one of the best public schools.”

The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges in the book hierarchically, from 1 to 389. However, the book has 50 categories of ranking lists. Each list names the top 25 schools (of those in the book) in its category. The ranking lists are entirely based on The Princeton Review’s surveys of 165,000 students at the 389 schools in the book. The company’s 85-question student survey asked students to rate their colleges on dozens of topics and report on their campus experiences.

The Best 389 Colleges is one of more than 150 Princeton Review books in a line published by Penguin Random House. The annual book and its rankings have been featured on NBC TODAY more than two dozen times and referenced by many other media from NPR to The Wall Street Journal and The Chronicle of Higher Education.

The Princeton Review is an education services company known for its tutoring, test-prep, admission services, books, and other learning resources. Headquartered in New York, it is not affiliated with Princeton University.

Green Ratings Drive College Choices for Applicants

For the sixth straight year, The City College of New York ranks among the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges, according to The Princeton Review. The education services company features CCNY in its online resource, “The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2024 Edition.”

“With increasing concern about climate change, particularly among younger people who will be most affected by its long-

term impact, we are seeing increasing interest among college applicants in attending green colleges,” said Franek.

Of the 8,800 applicants the company polled for its 2023 College Hopes & Worries Survey, 69 percent said having information about a college’s commitment to the environment would affect their decision to apply to or attend the school. Of that cohort, 28 percent said such information would contribute “very much” or “strongly” to such a decision.



CWUR Ranks CCNY Among Top 2 Percent of Global Universities

The City College of New York maintains its lofty position among the top 2 percent out of 20,966 degree-granting universities worldwide at #412. This is according to the 2024 edition of the outcome-based Global 2000 list published by the Center for World University Rankings (CWUR). CWUR also ranked CCNY #112 in the U.S. and #127 regionally (U.S. and Canada).

CCNY’s other placings on the CWUR list this year include: #22 for Quality of Education, #528 for Alumni Employment and #872 for Research Performance. These amounted to an overall score of 75.3.

CWUR publishes the largest academic rankings of global universities. The rankings are unique in that:

- Objective indicators are used for all four key pillars underlying the methodology of the ranking (education, employability, faculty, and research) with no reliance on surveys and university data submissions;
- Equal emphasis is put on student-related and faculty-related indicators;
- 62 million outcome-based data points are used for this year’s rankings; and
- 20,966 universities are ranked according to their academic performance.

CWUR uses seven objective and robust outcome-based indicators grouped into four areas to rank the world’s universities:

- Education - based on the academic success of a university’s alumni, measured relative to the university’s size (25 percent);

The Princeton Review profiled 522 schools in the Guide. CCNY’s ‘Green Rating’ is 83/99, and is cited for offering a sustainability-focused degree and having a public GHG (greenhouse gas) inventory plan, as well as bike share and car sharing programs. Published annually since 2010, City College has appeared in the Guide every year since 2018. Based primarily on the company’s surveys of administrators at 683 colleges in 2022–23 and its analyses of more than 25 survey data points.

- Employability - based on the professional success of a university’s alumni, measured relative to the university’s size (25 percent);
- Faculty - measured by the number of faculty members who have received top academic distinctions (10 percent);
- Research output - measured by the total number of research articles (10 percent);
- High-quality publications - measured by the number of research articles appearing in top-tier journals (10 percent);
- Influence - measured by the number of research articles appearing in highly-influential journals (10 percent); and
- Citations - measured by the number of highly-cited research articles (10 percent).

The CWUR is a leading consulting organization providing policy advice, strategic insights, and consulting services to governments and universities to improve educational and research outcomes. CWUR publishes authoritative global university rankings, known for objectivity, transparency, and consistency, which are trusted by students, academics, university administrators, and governments from around the world.



Grove School of Engineering Makes “Money Magazine’s” New Best Graduate School Rankings

The Grove School of Engineering is listed among the nation’s finest in “Money Magazine’s” inaugural ranking of the best graduate school programs.

(continued on next page)

The online publication partnered with College Factual to find the country’s top-value programs. With a focus on annual costs, typical debt burdens, employment rates and recent graduate salaries, they graded programs on a five-star scale.

The Grove School excels in the “Best Engineering Master’s Programs for Your Money 2024” category.

“Money” notes that “typical earnings for engineers vary based on specialty, but in general, a master’s degree in the field leads to higher salaries and more job opportunities.” It then lists the 50 top engineering colleges that blend affordability with high-quality results.

The Grove School earned four stars out of five for its estimated annual cost (\$36,170), average student debt (\$22,580); its 100% employment rate for graduates, and average early career salaries of \$73,950.

Its peers in the Best Engineering Master’s Programs category include:

- Morgan State University
- The Ohio State University
- Purdue University
- University of California, Irvine
- University of Connecticut

Grove School of Engineering Graduate Programs Ranked Highly by U.S. News & World Report

The Grove School of Engineering, the only public school of engineering in the metropolitan area, has once again been ranked among the 2024 Best Graduate Schools by U.S. News & World Report. The Grove School ranked **#109** in the overall **Best Engineering School** category.

Other Grove programs ranked nationally by U.S. News are:

- Best **Biomedical Engineering/Bioengineering** Programs **#69***
- Best **Chemical Engineering** Programs **#59***
- Best **Civil Engineering** Programs **#97***
- Best **Electrical/Electronic/Communications Engineering** Programs **#102***
- Best **Mechanical Engineering** Programs **#106***

By collecting graduate school data annually, U.S. News is able to present the latest enrollment numbers, job placement rates, faculty statistics and other essential quality indicators that help prospective students make informed decisions. The ratings are designed for prospective students looking to advance their education post-college and evaluate programs in a variety of disciplines, including business, education, engineering, law, medicine and nursing.

*tied



Major Rise in Rankings for CCNY in U.S. News & World Report

The City College of New York rose in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings. The College leapt 45 places compared to 2023 to achieve the distinction of being ranked **#105 overall** among all national universities out of 443 national universities.

Two new categories were ranked for CCNY: **#69 in Best Colleges for Veterans**, National Universities, and **#161 in Undergraduate Psychology Programs**, National Universities.

There was a jump to #51 from #72 in Top Public Schools among national universities, to #146 in Best Value Schools from #159, and to #11 from #12 in Top Performers on Social Mobility.

The following is a list of all CCNY’s rankings:

- **#11 Top Performers in Social Mobility** - National Universities*
- **#39 Undergraduate Teaching Programs** - National Universities*
- **#51 Top Public Schools** - National Universities*
- **#69 Best Colleges for Veterans** - National Universities*
- **#104 Undergraduate Engineering Programs (Doctorate)***
- **#105 National Universities***
- **#120 Undergraduate Engineering Programs (Doctorate)***
- **#146 Best Value Schools** - National Universities*
- **#161 Best Undergraduate Psychology Programs***
- **#167 Best Undergraduate Computer Science Programs***

U.S. State Department Names CCNY Fulbright HSI Leader Again

For the third year running, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs is proclaiming CCNY a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Leader. The College was also highlighted in 2022 and 2021.

The distinction is in recognition of the strong engagement of select HSIs with the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program.

Fulbright HSI Leaders demonstrate noteworthy support for Fulbright exchange participants and promote Fulbright program opportunities on campus. The initiative encourages administrators, faculty and students at HSIs to engage with Fulbright and highlights the strength of HSIs as destinations for international students and scholars.

Lee Satterfield, assistant secretary of state for ECA, commended the institutions receiving the Fulbright HSI Leader designation this year. "Representation matters and pairing the world-class educational opportunities that Hispanic-Serving Institutions provide with the power of Fulbright further enriches the experience and educational opportunities for students and scholars both at home and abroad," said Satterfield.

President Vincent Boudreau said college education today no longer can exist within the confines of a series of classrooms and laboratories. "The development of a dynamic problem solving workforce, able to navigate a complex and diversified world, demands an educational experience that links on campus learning with deep engagement outside the classroom," Boudreau noted. "Service learning, internship opportunities, study abroad and community-based participatory research all help educators develop the engaged graduates we so desperately need. These opportunities must also be extended to the whole people, and in this light, CCNY's record as an HSI that successfully and regularly secures Fulbright awards for its students represents critical evidence that we are advancing our core educational mission," said Boudreau.

Jennifer C. Lutton, the director of the City College Honors Center and National Scholarships, is the College's Fulbright Program advisor.

Since its inception 75 years ago, each year, the U.S. Congress appropriates funds to the U.S. Department of State to sponsor the Fulbright Program. Many foreign governments contribute substantially as well. Additional funding and in-kind support is provided by U.S. and foreign host institutions, non-governmental organizations, private organizations, corporate partnerships, and individual donors. The Fulbright Program has designed and implemented a wide range of initiatives to increase the diversity of its participants and promote their inclusion and belonging.

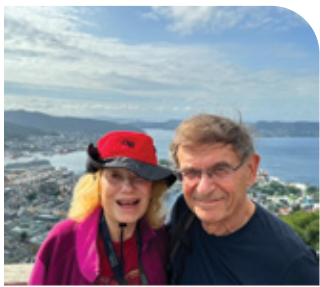


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Service learning, internship opportunities, study abroad and community based participatory research all help educators develop the engaged graduates we so desperately need.

President Vincent Boudreau

”



Sharon and Alan Levy

Alan Levy '58 Creates Scholarship Fund in the Division of Science

Alan Levy became the first in his family to graduate from college when he received his B.S. in chemistry from CCNY in 1958. The free tuition at the time made pursuing a degree possible, and now he wants to pay it forward with a \$100,000 gift to create the Alan and Sharon Levy Scholarship Fund.

The scholarships will support women and minority students in CCNY's Division of Science and will be based on financial need. It will support all education-related expenses.

"I was able to obtain a B.S. from CCNY and a Ph.D. from Purdue University without incurring any debt," said Levy. "I had a very interesting and rewarding career, and consider myself extremely fortunate. I want to give back to CCNY and Purdue so that others can have similar opportunities."

After obtaining his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Purdue in 1962, Levy worked at Central Research Laboratory of Allied Chemical, conducting basic research in polymer chemistry, resulting in multiple patents. He later joined Ethicon, Inc., the wound closure division of Johnson & Johnson, where he developed the Vicryl suture, which holds surgery wounds together and is the most widely used FDA-approved suture in the world. He eventually became the vice president of research and development and a member of the management board of Ethicon where he was head of the company's Surgical Stapling Division. Later, he was given responsibility for business development for the Medical Device Sector of Johnson & Johnson.

In 1989, he became president of an early-stage interventional cardiology company in Seattle. The company developed an alternative to balloon angioplasty to treat coronary artery disease.

In the 30 years he lived in Seattle, he was the CEO of five early-stage healthcare companies. One of the companies, Heartstream, developed the first automatic external defibrillator, a device used to bring people back from almost certain death who have suffered a sudden cardiac arrest.

He is retired, but teaches, writes and is still on the boards of 10 healthcare companies that address autoimmune disorders, anal fistulas, pain and improved diagnostics. He lives in Alexandria, Va. with his wife of more than 60 years. He has two children and four grandchildren.

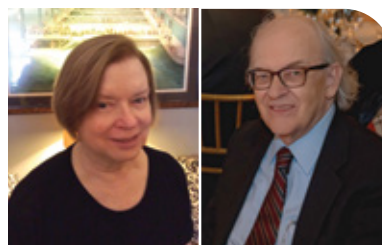


I had a very interesting and rewarding career and consider myself extremely fortunate. I want to give back to CCNY so that others can have similar opportunities.

Alan Levy '58



Colin Powell School Receives Major Gift to Support New Program in Neuroscience



Helen M. Teclaw (1944-2020) and Eugene J. Surowitz

The Colin Powell School has established the Eugene J. Surowitz and Helen M. Teclaw Program in Neuroscience, made possible with a generous gift from Eugene J. Surowitz '68.

"City College provided me with the opportunity to get an excellent education, which has served me well all my life," said Surowitz, who spent almost three decades at IBM, where his work in algebraic computation for general relativity led to an interest in artificial intelligence technologies.

This major long-term research and training initiative aims to understand the basic structure and function of the brain by focusing on the interconnectedness within it and the abstract functions of the mind. The advancement of new knowledge and understanding in this research field portends implications for a range of disciplines from analytic intelligence to computer science to psychology to physics.

This gift will enable the creation of the Eugene J. Surowitz and Helen M. Teclaw Professorship of Neuroscience. This position is to be filled by a world-class neuroscientist to lead theoretical and empirical research efforts among scientists at CCNY to investigate neural structure and function. Two faculty positions at the rank of assistant professor will be filled by neuroscientists who use innovative techniques to research and understand how the brain gives rise to cognitive phenomena.

One of these positions is currently being funded by the donor, with the other to be supported by this initiative.

Along with the faculty positions, an Eugene J. Surowitz and Helen M. Teclaw post-doctoral fellow is to be recruited. The

fellowship will be filled by a neuroscientist to work alongside the faculty members in their quest to understand these phenomena. In addition, a speaker series will invite nationally and internationally recognized researchers to present their research on functional brain organization.

The gift also provides for a research fund to faculty members who mentor both graduate and undergraduate students in laboratory research, as well as an internship fund.

“Gene Surowitz is a visionary who cares deeply about science and his alma mater. I am grateful that he brings the two together in supporting this major new initiative to understand the brain at CCNY,” said Andrew Rich, the Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean of the Colin Powell School.



Mark A. Willis, Carol A. Willis and Michael Sorkin

Mark and Carol Willis Donate to Michael Sorkin Lecturer Fund

Mark A. Willis and Carol A. Willis donated \$25,000 to the Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer fund at the Bernard & Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. The new position will allow a distinguished senior designer or scholar with expertise in urbanism to spend a semester at the Spitzer School and teach a seminar or studio. The lectureship is in keeping with the vision of Michael Sorkin, who passed away in March 2020.

The donors' pledge was offered as a match to inspire contributions of \$10,000 or less, as smaller gifts are important and welcome.

An author, activist, architecture critic, urbanist, and the head of Michael Sorkin Studios, Sorkin joined the Spitzer School as a professor of architecture and director of the Graduate Program in Urban Design in 2000, and built a competitive program with top academics specializing in urban issues. He founded the

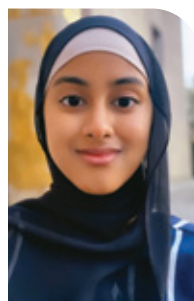
annual Mumford Lecture series, which boasted stellar speakers, and, in 2008, he was made a distinguished professor.

The intent of the new lectureship is to encourage conversations about the history of urbanism and the current problems and potentials of urban environments and architecture. The lecturer will deliver the annual Mumford Lecture, continuing the series of distinguished urbanists whom Sorkin invited to speak freely and publicly about the future of cities and the social purposes of architecture.

Sorkin defended equity and justice and asked designers to imagine new ways of configuring urban space, making cities more equitable and conducive to fruitful exchange. The fund ensures that his dedication to equity and excellence thrives at the Spitzer School.

For more information and to show support, please visit <https://ssa.ccnycuny.edu/information-for/giving/>.

Flowers Estate Donates to Alpha Phi Omega Endowed Scholarship



Alpha Phi Omega Scholar
Safia Hossain

A gift of \$25,000 from the estate of Edward Flower '46 (1929-2022) has been accepted by The Foundation for City College on behalf of the Alpha Phi Omega Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The Fund currently provides an annual scholarship of \$2,500 to a Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership sophomore or a junior in economic need who possesses a minimum GPA of 3.0 and who demonstrates services to the College and/or the community. The annual scholarship can be divided into two separate awards.

“My father felt very strongly about the education he got, and that was reflected in part, by his leadership in this fraternity,” said Andrew Flower, the executor of his father's estate.

This year's Alpha Phi Omega Scholar is Safia Hossain, a psychology major with a double minor in English and international studies. Hossain aspires to work in human resources to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. Growing up as a Muslim-American South Asian Bangladeshi, she saw the mental health disparities and lack of resources in her community, and wants to advocate for underrepresented communities.

The Fund was originated by CCNY alumni of the Gamma Epsilon Chapter of the national service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega. The surviving members of the fraternity (among them: Sheldon Luskin '55; Don Rosenberg '53; Walter Rosenthal '52 MA; Ivan Samuels '53; Helen Sternheim '55; Herb Wall '53; Audrey Wilner, who attends in memory of her husband, Alfred Wilner '53; and Paul Zwilling '54) meet every first Sunday of the month via Zoom, as they care deeply about the values of the Alpha Phi Omega society and its commitment to community service.



Leon Dall, Class of 1951

Memory of Leon Dall '51 Honored with Ongoing Donations by Daughter

Alaina Dall has announced that she will make a monthly gift to the Bronx High School of Science Specialized High School Scholarship, building on previous annual donations she made in honor of her father, Leon Dall '51.

The Bronx High School of Science Specialized High School Scholarship is one of several scholarships that comprise the CCNY Specialized High Schools Scholarship Project, which originated in December 2001.

“Knowledge and education were very important to him,” said Alaina. “This ongoing donation is my way of honoring his memory, his New York roots, and the importance of education in his life. I think it would mean a lot to him to pass on opportunities in his name to students at Bronx Science, and to support their CCNY education.”

Born on Feb. 9, 1927 to Samuel and Gertrude Dall (née Berlin), Jewish immigrants from present-day Latvia and Lithuania, Dall attended New York City public schools, working nights and weekends at his father’s restaurant, Sam’s Deli on East 14th Street in Manhattan. The family lived in Washington Heights until moving to Morris Avenue in the Bronx in 1942.

Graduating from Bronx Science in January 1944, Dall entered CCNY a month later. During his time at the College, he trained six days a week as a member of the boxing team. Enlisting in the merchant marine in August 1944, a week after earning his commercial radio operator’s license, he spent his summers at sea.

After graduating with a degree in electrical engineering in June 1951, Dall worked in New York and Indiana, then moved to Los Angeles. Working as an electronics and computer components salesman for an engineering firm in West Los Angeles in 1960, he met a secretary named Sue Johnson. The couple eloped in Malibu in 1961 and later moved to Woodland Hills, Calif., where they raised their three children, Alaina, Laura and Stephen.

Dall remained busy after retiring in 1982 at age 65. His inquisitive nature always compelled him to read and to take adult education classes. The ham radio was one of his favorite hobbies. He was a member of a boat club, worked out at the gym, and tended to his vegetable garden until he passed away on July 7, 2009 at age 82.

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Each year, we work to create a comprehensive list of giving to the College. We are grateful to all of our supporters and work to ensure that our annual gifts list is accurate. If you see any errors, or would like a correction made to a future issue of this Report, please feel free to email us: give@ccny.cuny.edu

The list is from gifts received from fiscal year June 30, 2023 through July 1, 2024.



The TREAD project aims to propel CCNY into the highest rank of research universities.

\$5M DoE Grant to Increase CCNY's Research Activity and Doctoral Graduations

The City College of New York is the recipient of a \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to propel its advancement to the level of a doctoral university with very high research activity (R1), as defined by Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, through the Translational Research Excellence Across Disciplines (TREAD) project.

CCNY is currently classified as R2, a doctoral university with high research activity. Starting in 2025, criteria for classification as an R1 institution will be spending \$50 million on research, and awarding at least 70 doctorates, in any research field, in a year. The criteria for R2 classification are \$5 million in research expenditures and 20 doctorates.

TREAD's activities will include: building an ecosystem of support for Ph.D. student recruitment and success; fundraising to create sustainable fellowship programs; germinating translational research and training in partnership with industry and government; and developing a training and research program in convergence science.

TREAD will also include specific programming to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of the programs, in collaboration with faculty from the School of Education, examining a broad range of factors that impact student success.

TREAD also has the support of collaborating institutions, including Google, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

CCNY currently graduates 20 to 25 doctoral candidates each year, said Rosemarie Wesson, who served as the project team's principal investigator in her previous capacity as CCNY's associate provost for research. "This grant will enable us to recruit, retain and graduate Ph.D. students, particularly in the three areas of research excellence (green energy, cybersecurity, and nanobiotechnology) that will serve as organizing themes for the program," said Wesson, who is now CUNY's associate vice chancellor and university vice provost of research.

In addition to Wesson, the project team consisted of: Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Elizabeth Biddinger and Associate Professor Electrical Engineering Ahmed Mohamed as co-principal investigators; Professor of Computer Science Rosario Gennaro, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry Stephen O'Brien, and Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Robert Messinger as research module leads; Professor of Childhood Education and Educational Theatre Jan Valle as education inclusivity director; and Assistant Director of Proposal Development Jackie Weissman as Converge to Translate competition manager.



Hazel M. Carter

School of Education Wins Grant to Develop Leadership Diversity Pipeline

Researchers from five universities, including The City College of New York, will share a \$700,000 New York State Education Department grant to develop a diverse educational leadership pipeline. The City College component is headed by Associate Professor of Educational Leadership Hazel M. Carter, who also directs the School of Education's Educational Leadership Program.

This Diversity Leadership Initiative, as it is known, is a multi-pronged effort to address the shortage of diverse and well-prepared K-12 school leaders who are ready to support varied student learning needs. Based at Stony Brook University, the grant will enable the creation of an online leadership preparation program to provide support to educators through a number of programs. The Initiative is a collaboration among faculty at City College, Stony Brook University, Fordham University, Hofstra University, and St. John's University.

(continued on next page)

The initiative has NYSED grant funding to develop pathways for emerging school leaders, to conduct and disseminate research on the effective strategies being used in the field, and to offer free professional development training to foster leadership skills that integrate diversity and inclusion efforts deeply into school priorities, culture and operations.

“Once educators graduate, they receive very little support,” said Carter. “We want to provide professional development that is focused and embedded into their workday.”

There are two professional development components: Leadership Development Seminars and regional town halls.

The Leadership Development Seminars Series, which focuses on promising assistant principals or teacher leaders, consists of three distinct modules: Leadership Development for Continuous School Improvement, for aspiring leaders to work with a small team of teachers or other staff to examining real-life practice problems and solutions; Leadership Development for Success: How to Navigate and Thrive in Today’s Educational Landscape; and Leadership Development in Family and Community Engagement Planning, which Carter is also facilitating. This module is for aspiring leaders, working with their school teams, to become better acquainted with the community in which their school is located, and to develop strategies for engaging stakeholders in school improvement.

Town halls bring together school and district leaders, university faculty, and professional associations to discuss and strategize how districts and universities can develop and support a diverse leadership advancement pipeline locally. The New York City town hall, which Carter facilitated, took place on Oct. 12.



Office for
Experiential
Learning

SPOTLIGHT: Office for Experiential Learning
**A Big WELCOME from DoE:
OEL Secures \$7.3M Grant for
Colin Powell School; and a \$3M
Grant for Career Awareness**

The newly established Office for Experiential Learning has secured a four-year \$7.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support new student onboarding initiatives in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership.

The grant program, WELCOME: Welcoming Experiences and Learning Communities to Maximize Early Success, is modeled on the Opening Doors Learning Program at CUNY’s Kingsborough Community College. It is led by Senior Associate Provost

Doris Cintrón and also includes Andrew Rich, the Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean of the Colin Powell School; Francesca Anselmi, director of the Office for Experiential Learning; and the director of the Colin Powell School Office for Student Success, Dr. Debbie Cheng.

Students will participate in WELCOME cohorts of 25 students each that will work together as a learning community through existing but currently separate first year courses (Bridges to Success and Freshman Inquiry Writing Seminar), and on an additional course in their chosen major. By enhancing advising, tutoring and financial support services, the grant helps to overcome obstacles that may hinder student success.

WELCOME will use this model to restructure and expand existing programs for first-year students at the Colin Powell School, evaluating best practices through an experimental study approach in collaboration with the Center for Technology and School Change at Teachers College, Columbia University.

The program will serve 500 students in fall 2024. Once fully operational, WELCOME is expected to engage 2,600 students over four years. The program aims to improve and increase retention and graduation rates, particularly among students of color, and first generation and low-income students.

“The evidence about the return on an early investment in student success is overwhelming,” said Rich. “The WELCOME initiative will enable us to scale efforts in the Colin Powell School that have already been proven to equip students to take fuller advantage of the college experience, to develop a stronger sense of belonging and connection to one another, and to finish their degrees more quickly and at a higher rate. This investment has the potential to be transformative for the Colin Powell School student experience.”

**More DoE Funding for the OEL
Benefits CAPACity**

The OEL has received an additional grant from the DoE, a five-year grant of \$2,999,599 from the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program to support the Career Awareness and Pathways at City College (CAPACity) initiative and its associated activities. The OEL will work collaboratively with three divisions, the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, the Division of Humanities & the Arts, and the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, by bolstering a team of program and career advisors so that, upon graduation, students can attain opportunities often missed by first generation students and people of color. The pipeline will support more than 5,000 students over five years in these three divisions.

Senior Associate Provost for Academic Affairs and Assessment Doris Cintron is project director of the initiative and the OEL reports directly to her. OEL Executive Director Francesca Anselmi is co-project director.

“We are thrilled for this opportunity to work with three of the main Divisions on campus to cultivate and promote the talent of City College students. We look forward to implementing structural changes that will allow City College to support our Hispanic, first generation and low-income students so they can

enter the workforce as an important voice in shaping America's future economic and social fabric," said Cintron.

Benefits of the program will include improved retention, graduation, and post-graduation employment outcomes for Hispanic and low-income students. Integrating student services for social, academic and career needs from the earliest stage of a student's arrival at City College will create a streamlined approach that is inherent to the OEL's goals. Increased communication between students, alumni, and faculty will create a sense of belonging for students both to the College and their area of study. Mentoring and internships will foster career awareness and create clear pathways to post-graduation success for students.

CAPACity aims to integrate advising for 1,000 students, to enroll 2,300 participants in career workshops, to near-peer mentor 450 students and to professionally mentor and offer internships to 1,500 students. In addition, the creation of data tools and analytics will be used to track current students' usage of advising and alumni post-graduation outcomes.



Major Mellon Grant Creates Positive Outcomes for Humanities Students

A \$5 million grant from The Mellon Foundation will establish paid internship programs for students in the Division of Humanities & the Arts. The grant will be used to build on existing initiatives in career preparation and to establish a comprehensive humanities internship program that will enhance students' access to internship opportunities in the nonprofit and public sectors.

An online database will be developed to track internship and job placements of humanities majors. At least 250 internships will be funded by the grant over five years.

Dean of Humanities & the Arts Renata Kobetts Miller described the Mellon grant as "transformational" for the Division's academic programs. "This is an unprecedented opportunity for us, and we're excited to build a new program and secure additional sources of long-term support for it," she said.

The Mellon grant is to help combat the misconception that humanities study is disconnected from the working world. Reports from the American Academy of Arts & Sciences confirm that the employment and compensation rates of

humanities bachelor's degree holders are competitive with their counterparts in the behavioral, social, and life sciences.

"While it is obvious from the data that humanities majors regularly graduate into jobs that they find both emotionally and financially rewarding, that message has not reached students or their families," said Phillip Brian Harper, program director for Higher Learning at Mellon. "The internships funded through these grants will make it clear that humanities study leads not just to jobs, but to exciting career paths in a wide range of sectors."

By making internship participation more accessible to humanities majors, it will increase awareness that humanities study continues to offer viable career pathways to students.

"This real-world experience will provide our students with the tools they need, not just for the job market when they graduate, but to become cultural and social change-makers," said Provost Tony Liss.

CCNY is one of five public colleges and universities to receive a total of \$25 million to establish paid internships for humanities majors, and includes California State University at Fresno, Old Dominion University, University of Missouri at Kansas City and University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Luce Grant Funds Diverse Projects for the Creative Writing Graduate Program

Thanks to a two-year \$55,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to The Foundation for City College, Inc., three new and ongoing projects will be funded in the MFA Program in Creative Writing through December 31, 2025.

The grant will continue to support "Harlem as Muse: An Archives Storytelling Project," which mobilizes creative writers in Harlem and beyond to tell stories that influence public discourse. It will also fund a graduate archive course to teach writers how to use the CCNY archives as inspiration for their own stories, and a website of the archive projects.

"Our archives work continues to engage and welcome the Harlem community," said Michelle Valladares, assistant professor of English and the director of the MFA program.

The Luce grant also makes possible a compilation of poems to be published, titled "Whitman on Walls Anthology." The poems are by MFA poets who participated in the 2022 "Whitman on



James Baldwin

Walls: a Collaboration with Compagnia de' Colombari," a multimedia event directed and conceived by Karin Coonrad. The poems are in conversation with Whitman's "Leaves of Grass."

The third Luce-funded project is "Spotlight on the Interdisciplinary Pedagogy of James Baldwin: A Multimedia Curriculum," consisting of an exhibition and symposium.



Teresa Lopez-Castro

NIH Awards Psychologist Teresa López-Castro \$7M for PTSD Treatment Project

Associate Professor of Psychology

Teresa López-Castro is the recipient of a six-year, \$7 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The award, part of a National Institutes of Health-wide initiative, Helping End Addiction Long-Term, aims to address the trauma-related mental health needs of people with opioid use disorder.

Over the course of the six years, Lopez-Castro will collaborate with harm reduction organizations across New York state to adapt and test a post-traumatic stress disorder treatment for telehealth delivery at syringe services programs (SSPs). SSPs are community-based prevention programs that offer harm reduction services like access to and disposal of sterile syringes and injection equipment and treatment of infectious diseases. Many also offer low-barrier treatment of substance use disorders like same-day initiation of buprenorphine, a medication for opioid use disorder.

One of the aims of the project is to bring high-quality PTSD treatment to those for whom it is out of reach, such as the population that uses SSPs. Lopez-Castro and her collaborator, Associate Professor of Medicine Aaron Fox of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Montefiore Medical Center, will use the award to broaden the scope of SSP services to include an evidence-based PTSD treatment (cognitive processing therapy) tailored to the needs of highly marginalized individuals with opioid use disorders.

In this context, “highly marginalized” refers to those who, for reasons such as the stigma related to injection drug use, trauma histories or housing instability, are inadequately served by traditional health care systems, causing them to rely mainly on emergency services if or when they seek mental health care at all.

“Low barrier harm reduction care is about meeting the individual where they are – a kind of defiant hospitality for folks who have often been let down by the medical system,” Lopez-Castro said. “Ending the opioid crisis will require equitable and sustainable collaborations with organizations like SSPs—non-traditional places of contact that provide non-judgmental, person-centered interventions.”

López-Castro’s investigative team also includes Nancy Sohler, associate professor of epidemiology at CUNY School of Medicine; Aimee Campbell, associate professor of clinical psychiatric social work at Columbia University Irving Medical Center; and Debra Lee Kaysen, chief of the Division of Public Mental Health & Population Sciences at Stanford University’s Department of Psychiatry.



Ramona Hernandez

CUNY Dominican Studies Institute Receives Historic \$1.5M NSF Grant

Backed by a \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute is going beyond its core mission of research and scholarship and now aims to improve the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of Latino/a/x students in STEM programs.

The grant from the NSF’s Hispanic Serving Institution Program is part of a \$3 million largesse to be shared equally between CUNY DSI and the Institute for Study of “Race” & Social Justice at the University of New Mexico. The funding will support the creation of resource hubs at both CCNY and UNM to serve HSIs across the nation under the leadership of CUNY and UNM.

“Over the next five years, CUNY DSI will work to advance equity and student success in STEM by creating a hub centering intersectionality as inquiry and praxis and serving as a connector, and a resource for all who are interested in advancing equity and student success in STEM,” said Ramona Hernandez, director of CUNY DSI. “Our proposal calls for the use of different lenses, different views to understand and to develop programs that are tailored to the specific needs of Latino/a/x students.”

She noted that the grant opens up a line of scientific research inquiry that departs from perceiving Latino/a/x students not as a homogenous group, but as a people who represent different national/ethnic origins and as such, embody specific life experience and historical legacy.

For this grant, Hernandez partnered with Yoel Rodriguez, of the Department of Natural Sciences at Hostos Community College and Maria-Isabel Roldos-Prosser, director of the CUNY Institute of Health Equity at Lehman College. The team will work in collaboration to address and dismantle the barriers that prevent Latino/a/x students from achieving higher success in the STEM fields. The project, entitled “Collaborative Research: HSI-Hubs: Intersectionality as Inquiry & Praxis: Race, Class, Gender & Ethnicity for Student Success in STEM” aims to:

- Examine institutional data across various partner sites to assess equity in admissions, enrollment, retention, degrees awarded, and post degree outcomes;
- Develop and convene communities of practice, consisting of faculty fellows and other stakeholders across project sites in order to share and learn about equity initiatives that have been implemented in other institutions and develop action plans for home institutions; and
- Center intersectionality as equity through narrative change, communication strategies, and publications.

In the end, researchers will develop a framework for how to advance equity in STEM education for all underserved student populations through a collaboration that examines the experience of students in colleges and universities in the two different geographic regions.



Maria Tzortziou

SPOTLIGHT: White House Panel Ocean Expert Maria Tzortziou
NASA Grants White House Panel Expert Maria Tzortziou \$15M for Arctic Coastal Mission

Professor Maria Tzortziou is the recipient of a \$15 million grant from NASA to lead a new mission that will study the changing Coastal Arctic and impacts on vulnerable ecosystems and communities. Tzortziou's project, "Arctic Coastlines—Frontlines of Rapidly Transforming Ecosystems (FORTE)," is one of six new NASA-funded airborne missions that will use novel, high-resolution observations from aircraft to complement what scientists can see from orbit, measure from the ground, and simulate in computer models.

Tzortziou was recently appointed to the newly formed Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP). She is the Martin and Michele Cohen Endowed Professor of Environmental Sciences at CCNY's Center for Discovery and Innovation. Her FORTE project entails observing changes in river systems on the North Slope of Alaska and is designed to provide opportunities to supplement satellite observations and make innovative measurements.

Deputy principal investigators on the mission are Antonio Mannino and Blake Clark from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. The study will combine optical and radar measurements from planes, helicopters, boats, and drones to measure water flows and chemistry and observe how ecosystems respond to the changing climate. The Tzortziou team has been working closely with local Indigenous communities who already experience enormous impacts on their livelihoods, culture, food security, physical safety, health, and social structure.

These collaborations will allow FORTE to integrate community-based monitoring in field activities, co-develop training and capacity-sharing programs, and inform this study based on local and traditional knowledge.

"Changes in the Arctic have both local and global environmental, economic, and social implications," said Tzortziou. "We are really excited we have been selected for this mission. FORTE will fill a critical gap in our understanding and modeling of climate change impacts on ecosystems, resources and communities, by targeting the transitional continuum of Alaska's northernmost ecosystems – rivers, deltas, lagoons, and estuaries – that connect land to sea: a dynamic continuum that can uniquely be captured from airborne platforms."

Her recent appointment was made through a public nomination process, and appointed by the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, who co-chair the Ocean Policy Committee. A total of 17 experts from industry, universities and civil society make up the panel.

"Formation of the Ocean Research Advisory Panel is a major milestone for U.S. ocean science and policy, and reinforces the President's historic commitments to tackle climate change while creating good jobs, embracing environmental justice and basing action on science and knowledge," said Jane Lubchenco, deputy director for climate and environment at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Tzortziou has served as an expert on numerous other inter-agency advisory and leadership boards relevant to ocean science, marine technology, and policy, including the Science Steering Committee for the Ocean Carbon Biogeochemistry Program and the National Ocean Research Advisory Panel that provides independent recommendations to the federal government on matters of ocean policy.

Tzortziou is director of Research and Applications at the CREST Remote Sensing Earth Institute, an affiliate professor with Columbia University/LDEO and University of Maryland/ESSIC, and Senior Research Scientist at NASA Goddard, where she serves as the deputy program applications Lead for NASA's PACE satellite mission and the applied science lead for GLIMR, NASA's first geostationary hyperspectral ocean color mission.

Tzortziou has led numerous field campaigns across a range of environments, from the tropics to the Arctic. Her research integrates advanced satellite remote sensing technologies with multidisciplinary datasets and models to assess human-ecosystem interactions, and the impact of multiple environmental stressors on the biogeochemistry, ecology, and biodiversity of inland and ocean ecosystems.



Life Science Cares New York Donates \$50K to CCNY's CiPASS Initiatives

The City College of New York's Initiative to Promote Academic Success in STEM (CiPASS) is the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from Life Science Cares New York to support student programming. In collaboration with the Division of Science's Biology Department, CiPASS will use the grant to create and deliver hands-on, project-based lab skills and training workshops to at least 40 City College students.

CiPASS's mission is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities studying STEM at CCNY by supporting them in their studies and providing resources and experiences to gain workplace skills that will help them reach their career goals.

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The curriculum focuses on teaching in-demand lab skills to prepare students for internships and employment in biotech and pharma industries in New York City. The workshop series will incorporate critical feedback from industry focus groups on the most in-demand skills. Site visits and guest speakers will also be included in the workshop series. Students will learn soft skills and receive post-program support through an existing mentoring program. CCNY's Career and Professional Development Institute will assist students to apply for Project OnRamp and other competitive internship placements.

Life Science Cares was founded in 2016 by a consortium of life science executives on a mission to give back beyond their 9-5 commitment to improving health. It is a collective effort of life science companies to eliminate the impacts of poverty and currently operates in Boston, Philadelphia, San Diego, the San Francisco Bay Area and New York.



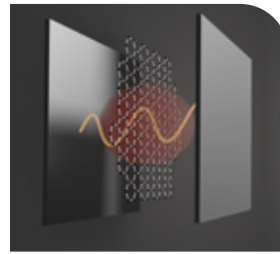
ExpandQISE program image courtesy of the National Science Foundation

Proposed CCNY Quantum Institute Awarded \$5M NSF Funding

The City College of New York is establishing a state-of-the-art quantum institute, funded by a five-year \$5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, to advance quantum research. Conceptualized by Division of Science physicist Alexander Khanikaev – recipient of the NSF's prestigious Special Creativity Award in 2021, and one of the most Highly Cited Researchers (HCR) worldwide in 2022 – The City College of New York Quantum Institute comprises leading experts in quantum at CCNY and scientific partners from Nokia Bell labs and the University of Central Florida College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL/UCF). The latter's Andrea Blanco-Redondo is co-principal investigator on the project.

The CCNY experts and other co-PIs include: Roger Dorsinville, chair of electrical engineering in the Grove School of Engineering; Carlos Meriles, professor of physics in the Division of Science; and Vinod Menon, professor of physics.

Two quantum-dedicated faculty in electrical engineering and physics will be hired for the Institute with plans to expand educational programs in quantum information sciences and applications. Khanikaev said the new program and the quality of its faculty would make CCNY one of the leading institutions in quantum research.



Coupling of atomically thin quantum materials in cavities to be explored under the Keck Foundation grant. Image credit: Edoardo Baldini

Physicist Vinod Menon Receives Shared Keck Foundation Grant for Quantum Materials Research

Physics Professor Vinod Menon of the Division of Science is part of a team that has received a highly competitive \$1.1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to explore exotic phases of matter in atomically thin quantum materials. Two physicists from the University of Texas at Austin are also on the team: Allan H. MacDonald, Sid W. Richardson Foundation Regents Chair in Physics, and Assistant Professor Edoardo Baldini.

The grant will support three years of research. Over this period, Menon will lead the design and implementation of advanced resonators operating in the infrared to engineer vacuum fluctuations. MacDonald will establish the theoretical framework for exploring atomically thin materials within quantum cavities, while Baldini will investigate the emergence of various phases of matter using state-of-the-art spectroscopy and microscopy tools.

Over the past decade, researchers have designed and built ultrathin materials that exhibit exotic quantum properties that could be useful in a range of applications from quantum computers to transmitting electricity without losing energy. But these quantum properties are often highly unstable, only lasting for very short timescales or at extremely low temperatures.

Baldini's lab will develop a new approach to possibly stabilize the useful properties of these materials for far longer and at higher temperatures. This approach involves creating an environment around the material – called a quantum cavity – that harnesses fluctuations in the vacuum electromagnetic field to stabilize the material's properties. These quantum cavities developed by Menon's lab will operate in the infrared range of the electromagnetic spectrum and integrate atomically thin materials that host exotic quantum phases. The researchers will specifically target superconductivity, a state in which electrons propagate without losing energy. They will also explore "fractional Chern insulator states," where electrons don't exhibit their usual electric charge—called the elementary charge—but instead some fraction of it.

Only four other grants were given out in the science and engineering category by the foundation this year. One of the nation's largest philanthropic organizations, the W. M. Keck Foundation supports scientific, engineering, and medical research in the U.S. It was started in 1954 by William Myron Keck, founder and president of Superior Oil Company (now part of ExxonMobil).

SPOTLIGHT: Grove School Trailblazer Xi Chen Chemical Engineer Xi Chen Wins NSF Clean Energy Award



Xi Chen

Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Xi Chen is the principal investigator for a \$650,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop evaporation-driven generators that can produce clean, renewable energy. The project is titled “Track M: Water-responsive Materials for Evaporation Energy Harvesting.”

Co-principal investigators are Grove School of Engineering chemical engineer Raymond Tu, Spitzer School of Architecture Associate Professor Ahu Aydogan, and Professor and Chair of Political Science Daniel Disalvo of the Colin Powell School. Chen is affiliated with the Nanoscience Initiative at CUNY’s Advanced Science Research Center. The team includes scientists from Hunter College, Columbia University, New York University’s Tandon School of Engineering, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s Strategic Energy Analysis Center.

Representing expertise from a wide variety of disciplines from across New York City, with participants from industry, including GE Research, Cannon, Ginkgo Bioworks, and ISEE Systems, the team aims to make transformative progress on a new evaporation energy harvesting technique based on water-responsive materials, making it efficient and practical for real world use. According to Tu, It requires a paradigm shift in which evaporation is thought of as an energy source.

The technique entails using generators to employ water-responsive materials, which deform rapidly and powerfully in response to humidity changes, a basic process in the global climate system. The ambitious research effort aims to produce prototypes within the next year and conduct product demonstrations for organizations and companies by the third year.

“Our aim of this one-year Phase 1 project is to establish platforms for the design and manufacturing of WR materials and to develop preliminary physical prototypes and simulation models of evaporation energy harvesting devices.” said Chen. “Though this technology is in its infancy, it holds the potential to revolutionize the clean energy sector by providing an efficient, abundant, and cost-effective alternative to fossil fuels.”

During Phase 1, the team will refine the proof of concept, identify team members and partners, and actively participate in the Convergence Accelerator’s Phase 1 innovation curriculum. This curriculum encompasses crucial fundamentals in human-centered design, team science, use-inspired research, early-state prototyping, and effective communication, storytelling and pitching. As Phase 1 concludes, the teams will participate in a formal Phase 2 proposal and pitch to demonstrate the viability of their solutions. Teams selected for Phase 2 will continue in the NSF Convergence Accelerator program.

Launched in 2019, the NSF’s Convergence Accelerator grants build upon basic research and discovery to accelerate solutions toward societal impact. The program funds teams to solve challenges through convergence research and innovation. To enhance its impact, the Accelerator also places teams together in cohorts, synergizing their work through facilitated collaboration.

Chen Wins NSF CAREER Award

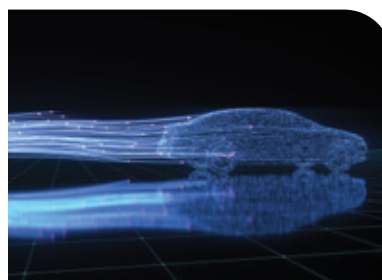
Chen is also the winner of a coveted NSF CAREER Award. Regarded as a leader in hygroscopic materials and evaporation energy harvesting, Chen’s current research focuses on deciphering powerful and efficient evaporation-induced mechanical deformations in biological systems and replicating these mechanisms outside the biological context for evaporation-powered locomotion, green chemistry, and electricity generation. For more information, visit XChenLab.com.

Raised in China, Chen earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Tsinghua University in Beijing, and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. He then did post-doctoral work in biological sciences at Columbia University.

In addition to the NSF, Chen received a Blavatnik National Award, which honors America’s young innovative scientists and engineers, and he serves as the World Economic Forum’s Expert in Future of Energy and Water.

Chen is the seventh CCNY faculty to receive an NSF CAREER Award since 2018, and the second from the chemical engineering department, after Robert Messinger.

NSF IRES Grant Sends Students Overseas for AI/CAV Research Experience



An international program to prepare students to master autonomous vehicles (AVs) and continuous AVs (CAVs) has been launched thanks to a \$300,000 National Science Foundation International Research Experience for Students grant.

The three-year project is in partnership with Turkey’s Istanbul
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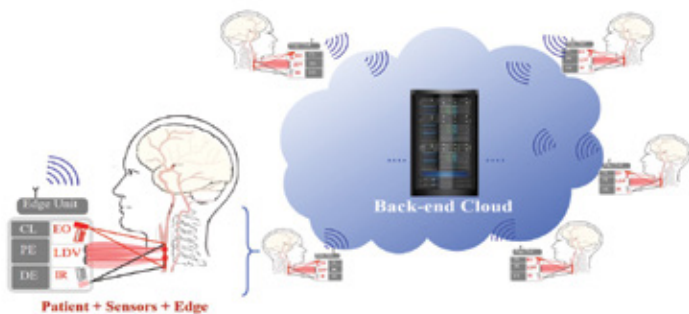
Technical University and California-based autonomous bus company ADASTEC Corp.

Professor Seta Bogosyan, a former NSF program director and a CCNY adjunct professor, is the principal investigator of the grant. In the academic year 2023-24, the Computer Science Department offered a senior design course focusing on AVs and CAVs with reinforcement learning techniques in the artificial intelligence and machine learning fields, specifically for computer science and computer engineering majors. Bogosyan taught the Spring 2024 semester and will teach in Fall 2024 to complete a Senior Design course sequence.

“Future societies will depend more and more on AI and networked systems, and, in turn, on AVs and CAVs for many services and operations,” said Akira Kawaguchi, chair of computer science in the Grove School of Engineering. “AVs and CAVs have strong potential to increase performance, safety, and efficiency, and as a result, to contribute to societal well-being and enhance economic growth. Reinforcement learning, an emerging branch of machine learning and control, has a lot to promise for autonomy with its capacity to address unpredictable changes in the system and environment.”

Three students participated in the internship program and trained at ITU in the academic year. Up to 16 undergraduate and Ph.D. students from CCNY and the CUNY Graduate Center may be selected.

“Each year, a different student cohort will be selected for this unique research and professional development opportunity, thereby contributing to the U.S. leadership in the future of vehicle technologies with a well-prepared workforce,” said Kawaguchi. “At the end of each research cycle, the modularly developed algorithms will be integrated on an actual vehicle and tested individually and in integration, first on the ITU vehicle-in-the-loop system, then on indoor RaceCars and finally, at the ITU Living Lab environment for shuttle service scenarios.”



Conceptual diagram of the project

Major Grant Funds Jie Wei's Research to Develop Affordable AI-powered Heart Disease Diagnostics

The Grove School of Engineering's Computer Science Professor Jie Wei is principal investigator in a project utilizing Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) technologies to develop a low-cost, easy-to-use, and high-precision system for

the early diagnosis of cardiovascular disease. The project, entitled "AI/ML-driven edge computing for cardiovascular disease diagnosis/mechanism study," is the recipient of a four-year \$2.8 million National Science Foundation grant. Partnering in the project is The Ohio State University-based, NSF-funded AI-EDGE Institute.

“Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, so early diagnosis is of critical importance,” said Wei. However, since conventional medical tests and monitoring techniques are typically very expensive and require qualified trained personnel, they are not practical for at-home use. This makes the need for an inexpensive, handy and highly accurate system imperative.

“This project will develop an innovative sensing and learning system for cardiovascular disease diagnosis, which takes measurements from subjects by light-weight and safe multimodal sensors,” said Wei. “It will analyze the data via cutting-edge AI and ML technologies, and monitor various cardiovascular parameters in real-time with personalized learning technologies for guaranteed accuracy.”

The success of the research will leverage the interdisciplinary expertise of CCNY and the AI-EDGE institute of Ohio State University on AI/ML edge computing, multimodal deep learning, medical computing, and computing-enabled disease mechanism study.

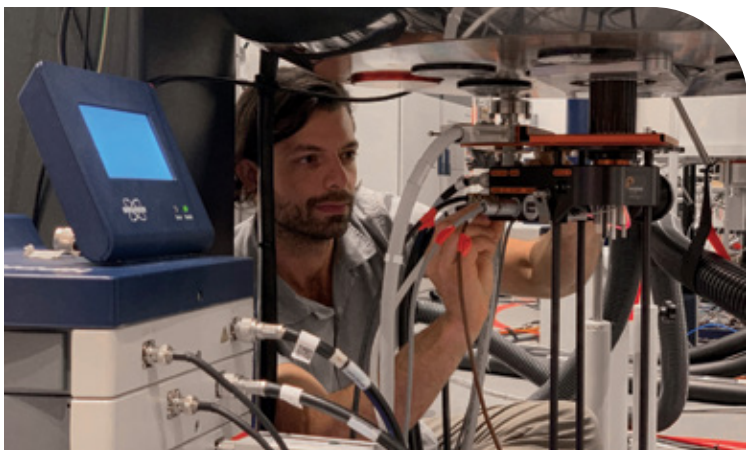
The overarching goal is an easy and affordable system that will have a high impact on cardiovascular disease diagnosis and demonstrate the powerful applications of AI/ML and edge computing techniques in medical sensing, healthcare, and basic scientific research of underlying molecular mechanisms of diseases. The findings and expertise gained from the project will significantly facilitate the dissemination of applications of AI/ML-enabled edge computing and distributed learning in healthcare. Undergraduates and post-doctorates will be involved in the project.

Wei's co-principal investigators include the Grove School's Bingmei Fu, professor of biomedical engineering, and Nicholas Madamopoulos, associate professor of electrical engineering, CUNY School of Medicine's Jun Yoshioka, and Yingbin Liang of Ohio State University.

Hunter-CCNY Space Energy Partnership with NASA JPL Receives \$5M NASA Funding

Home of a unique NASA center to develop batteries for deep space missions, The City College of New York is the beneficiary of a \$5 million cooperative agreement from the agency awarded to Hunter College for advanced research on storing energy for use in space.

Robert J. Messinger, associate professor and director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Chemical Engineering, is principal investigator of the CCNY subcontract. CCNY will receive \$1.5M of NASA funding over five years. Messinger is also the PI and founding director of the NASA-CCNY Center for Ad-



Professor Robert Messinger performing solid-state NMR measurements at the CUNY ASRC.

vanced Batteries for Space (CABS), a separate \$5 million award from NASA established on Oct. 1, 2019.

“The award will establish a collaborative research and education center between Hunter College, CCNY, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez, and CUNY’s Bronx, Queensborough, and Hostos Community Colleges,” said Messinger. “We are also excited to evolve and build upon NASA-CCNY CABS, which will end its five years on Sept. 30, 2024 and move into a brief period of no-cost extension.”

Messinger’s faculty collaborators at Hunter College include Hunter Distinguished Professor of Physics Steve G. Greenbaum, PI of the new center, and co-PIs Yuhang Ren, Godfrey Gumbs and Min Xu. The team will develop and characterize cutting-edge materials for advanced batteries and supercapacitors to enable new and ambitious planetary exploration missions. The project involves close collaboration with NASA’s JPL and a significant portion of the funding will support student research internships there.

The Hunter funding is part of approximately \$35 million in NASA support to seven higher education institutions, which aims to build institutional capacity for research and training a diverse cohort of students in areas of strategic interest to NASA.



Elizabeth J. Biddinger

SPOTLIGHT:
Award Winning Chemical Engineer Elizabeth Biddinger

Elizabeth Biddinger Aids in NSF-funded Hydrogen Research; Garners DoE Grant, too

Elizabeth J. Biddinger, award-winning chemical engineering professor, is a participant in a Lehigh University-led multi-institution project to develop a new class of molecules, chemistries, and chemical processes to better store and transport green energy across the globe. The effort is funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

The multidisciplinary team aims to improve current liquid organic hydrogen carriers and use artificial intelligence to identify novel approaches that could lay the groundwork for a global renewable energy supply chain. Biddinger will study analogous electrochemical approaches.

The team is led by Srinivas Rangarajan, associate professor of chemical and biological engineering in Lehigh’s P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science. “This is a convergent effort where we’re looking at this problem in a multiscale manner,” said Rangarajan, “from the atomic scale all the way up to global supply chains.”

Collaborators include Dharik Mallapragada, assistant professor of chemical and biomedical engineering at New York University; Daniel E. Resasco, Gallogly Chair in Engineering and professor of chemical engineering at the University of Oklahoma; and Steven P. Crossley, Sam A. Wilson Professor of Chemical Engineering at the University of Oklahoma.

Biddinger also leads CCNY’s participation in the U.S. Department of Energy initiative, in which the College is one of 44 “beneficiaries of \$37 million in funding to build research capacity, infrastructure, and expertise at Minority Serving Institutions and Emerging Research Institutions historically underrepresented in DoE’s Office of Science portfolio.

Biddinger is the recipient of \$562,500 over three years for her research group’s project, “Structural influences in electrochemical dehydrogenation of liquid organic hydrogen carriers.”

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory will receive \$187,500 over the same period to partner with CCNY.

The funding will expand the talent pool that will further the DoE’s missions, transform the understanding of nature, and catalyze scientific discoveries that can lead to technical breakthroughs. The projects were selected by competitive scientific peer review under the DOE Funding for Accelerated, Inclusive Research (FAIR) funding opportunity announcement.

“FAIR is an essential capacity-building initiative that will broaden the impact of DoE and the Office of Science in tackling critical and pressing scientific questions and challenges,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm in a statement. “To reach our scientific goals, we need all voices represented at the table, including those who have been historically excluded from critical scientific conversations. This funding will help academic institutions expand their research portfolios and spur future scientific discovery, creating a top-notch workforce to advance American competitiveness.”

Biddinger has earned recognition with a 2018 U.S. Department of Energy Early CAREER Award for her pioneering research in the emerging field of biomass electroreduction; the 2016-2017 Electrochemical Society - Toyota Young Investigator Fellowship for studying switchable electrolytes for battery safety; and the 2014 CUNY Junior Faculty Research Award in Science and Engineering (JFRASE) sponsored by the Sloan Foundation to study CO₂ electroreduction. Biddinger is also an associate editor of ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering and Deputy Director of the Center for Decarbonizing Chemical Manufacturing Using Sustainable Electrification (DC-MUSE).



Yang Liu

DoE Funds Yang Liu's Groundbreaking Plasma Research

Yang Liu, assistant professor in the Grove School of Engineering and an expert in experimental fluid mechanics, has received a three-year \$799,352 DoE Office of Science grant, to advance

fundamental understanding of the critical processes in plasma-based anti-/de-icing approaches and plasma-assisted additive manufacturing and coating technologies.

The project is entitled "Fundamental study of the dynamic and thermal behaviors of supercooled droplet interacting with plasma discharge."

Plasma-droplet interactions have been recognized as the fundamental mechanisms of many industrial and natural processes, including propulsion, material processing, health care, nanomaterial synthesis, water treatment, and lightning.

"These processes usually involve multiscale multi-physics such as evaporation, heat and mass transfer, charge transfer, interfacial instabilities, and chemical activations. Many molecular-scale reactions and transport processes of short-lived species occur in these mechanisms, for example, transport of O-H radicals from gas-phase plasma to liquid-phase droplet, contributing to the complexity of plasma-droplet interactions in different regimes," said Liu.

In recent years, along with the new advancement of plasma-based anti-/de-icing technologies and additive manufacturing (AM) and coating technologies, the micro-scale interactions between plasma discharge and supercooled droplets have gained significant attention due to their fundamental roles in determining the macro-scale multiphase phenomena in these processes. While many efforts have been made to reveal the fundamental physical and chemical processes in plasma-droplet interactions, they are limited in the transport and reaction behaviors between gas-phase plasma and thermally stable liquid-phase droplets.

However, Liu noted the lack of knowledge about the fundamental multi-state multiphase transport behaviors and thermal energy transfer during the complex interactions between plasma discharge and metastable supercooled droplets. "This poses a serious technical challenge and limits the further development of more efficient tools/systems in a wide range of engineering applications, including but not limited to anti-/de-icing technologies and additive manufacturing and coating processes," he explained.

The overarching goal of the project is to discover new fundamentals of the very complex multi-state inter-phase transport processes and thermal energy transfer during the mutual interactions between plasma discharge and supercooled droplets in two representative regimes. These are: in-flight supercooled droplet traveling through diffuse plasma discharge; and supercooled droplet impinging on surfaces modulated with dielectric barrier plasma discharge.

EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRANTS FOR FACULTY RESEARCH AND TRAINING GREATER THAN \$250,000 IN FY24

CITY SPONSORSHIP

Michael Bobker - CUNY Institute for Urban Systems, Grove School of Engineering
Building Supers Training for Small Facilities
\$317,362

Benchmarking Help Center FY20 / Sustainability Help Center FY24
\$591,047

Energy Data Lab Personnel
\$1,629,722

Energy Data Lab
\$8,116,366

Doris Cintron-Nabi - Operations, Office of the Provost
CUNY Career Launch City College STEM RA
\$376,613

John Fillos - Civil Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Interagency Agreement Between New York City's Dept. of Environmental Protection and CUNY R&D Projects To Optimize WWTP Operation
\$1,971,191

Ramona Hernandez - CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, Colin Powell School
Dominican Studies Institute
\$1,010,000

Edwin Lamboy - School of Education
Teaching Fellows Cohort
\$846,510

Katie Nailer - Student Affairs, Office of the Provost
CUNY Career Launch
\$275,859

Dominic Stellini - Office of the President
NYC/HRA/CUNY EDGE PROGRAM/CITY COLLEGE
\$347,814

FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP

Teresa Badosz - Chemistry, Division of Science
Multifunctional Active Fabrics of Enhanced Protection Against CWAs: Combining the Activity of Catalytic Phases and Modified Carbon Cloth
\$800,000

Elizabeth Biddinger - Chemical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Collaborative Research: Preliminary ECO-CBET: Multi-scale Design of Liquid Hydrogen Carriers for Spatio-temporal Balancing of Renewable Energy Systems
\$381,892

Marom Bikson - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
kHz Frequency Spinal Cord Stimulation: Novel Temperature-Based Mechanisms of Action
\$317,925

Mark Biscoe - Chemistry, Division of Science
Stereospecific Cross-coupling Reactions as a Tool for Three-dimensional Molecular Diversification
\$326,560

Stereospecific Cross-coupling Reactions as a Tool for Three-dimensional Molecular Diversification
\$248,060

Angelo Lampousis, Vincent Boudreau, and Dee Dee Mozeleski - Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations

Workforce Initiative for Infrastructure and Workforce Development (RIWI)
\$2,200,000

Vincent Boudreau - Office of the President

Child Care Access Means Parents In School Program
\$385,652

Ana Carnaval - Biology, Division of Science

REU Site: Interdisciplinary Training for Research and Outreach in Climate Science (IT-ROCS)
\$272,915

Hazel Carter - Learning, Leadership, & Culture, School of Education

Trio - Upward Bound
\$394,010

CCNY Trio Education Talent Search
\$288,470

Doris Cintron-Nabi - Operations, Office of the Provost

Cohort Learning Program
\$7,319,134

City College Initiative to Promote the Academic Success of STEM Students - Experiential Learning & Career Engagement Initiative (CiPASS-ExLCEI)
\$999,896

CiPASS-EXL TITLE V - Experiential Learning and Industry Engagement for Workforce Readiness
\$598,150

Career Awareness And Pathways At City College (CAPACity)
\$591,624

Ali H. Eltareb - Academic Affairs, Office of the Provost

Postdoctoral Fellowship: CREST-PRP: Exploring the Quantum Potential Energy Surface of Water and Aqueous Solutions
\$345,148

Mark Emerson - Biology, Division of Science

Transcriptional Regulation of Cone Photoreceptor Genesis
\$392,500

Ramona Hernandez - CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, Colin Powell School

City University of New York's Cultural/Historical Legacy Initiative (CUNY CHLI)
\$809,092

Collaborative Research: HSI-Hubs: Intersectionality as Inquiry & Praxis: Race, Class, Gender & Ethnicity for Student Success in STEM
\$466,325

Spencer A. Hill - Earth & Environmental Science, Division of Science

How Do Energy Fluxes Link Precipitation Variability Across the Tropical Weather-climate Continuum?
\$399,465

Karen Hubbard - Biology, Division of Science

CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research Training & Community, Administrative and Planning Core
\$493,796

CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research Training & Community, Partnership Scholars Program for DEIA ME
\$396,416

CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research Training & Community, Research Education Core
\$350,916

David Jeruzalmi - Chemistry

Telling Right from Wrong in the Genome: Molecular Machinery of the Bacterial Nucleotide Excision Repair Pathway
\$470,032

George John - Chemistry, Division of Science

Future Leaders in Bio-Derived Organic Energy Storage Materials (LOESM) -
\$400,000

Camille Kanga - Institute for Transportation Systems, Grove School of Engineering

University Transportation Research Center Program
\$842,936

University Transportation Research Center Program, UTRC-NYU
\$300,000

University Transportation Research Center Program, UTRC-RPI
\$300,000

Francine Katz - Chemistry, Division of Science

Exogenous Regulation Of Acute Lung Injury
\$478,282

Alexander Khanikaev - Electrical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Harnessing Structured Light for Integrated Quantum Photonics
\$3,947,702

Reza Khayat - Chemistry, Division of Science

Mechanism of Lipopolysaccharide Membrane Fusion
\$340,452

Taehun Lee - Mechanical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Exascale Simulation of Thermal-hydraulics Phenomena in Advanced Reactors and Validation Using High Resolution Experimental Data
\$1,299,999

Jonathan Levitt - Biology, Division of Science

U-Rise At City College Of New York
\$268,986

Yang Liu - Mechanical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Fundamental Study of the Dynamic and Thermal Behaviors of Supercooled Droplet Interacting with Plasma Discharge
\$266,048

Teresa Lopez-Castro - Psychology, Colin Powell School

Onsite PTSD Treatment to Improve MOUD Outcomes (OPTIMO): A Hybrid Type 1 Effectiveness-implementation Trial of Harm Reduction PTSD Care at Syringe Service Programs
\$915,814

Prabodhika Mallikaratchy - Molecular, Cellular Sciences, CUNY School of Medicine

Discovery And Development Of Artificial Nucleic Acid Ligands to Probe Cellular Interactions
\$352,142

Robert Melara - Psychology, Colin Powell School

City College Initiative to Improve Academic Success in STEM and the Social Sciences (CiPASS+)
\$388,878

City College Initiative to Improve Academic Success in STEM and the Social Sciences (CiPASS+)
\$318,000

Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program (T34) for Racial/Ethnic Minorities at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and the City College of New York (CCNY)
\$294,006

Carlos Meriles - Physics, Division of Science

Understanding And Controlling Rydberg Dynamics in Novel Solid-state Platforms
\$400,000

Robert Messinger - Chemical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

NASA-CCNY Center for Advanced Batteries for Space (ABS)
\$804,520

Fred Moshary - Electrical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

NOAA EPP/MSI Cooperative Science Center for Earth System Science and Remote Sensing Technologies
\$2,108,669

NOAA EPP/MSI Cooperative Science Center for Earth System Science and Remote Sensing Technologies
\$1,351,850

GRANTS

Parameswaran Nair - Physics, Division of Science

Collaborative Research: Entanglement, Geometry and the Physics of Fields, Strings and Gravity
\$254,999

Lucas Parra - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Machine Learning for Risk-Adjusted Breast MRI Screening
\$629,765

Interaction Of Motor Learning with Transcranial Direct

Current - Efficacy and Mechanisms
\$557,381

Research On The Role Of Attention in Improving Video-based Learning

\$429,995

Lesia Ruglass - Psychology, Colin Powell School

Translational Research Training on Addictions for Racial/Ethnic Minorities
\$315,742

Mitchell Schaffler - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Renewed Bone Remodeling After Pausing Long-term Bisphosphonate Use: Does It Replace Regions of Impaired Bone Quality and Restore Mechanical Integrity?
\$507,415

Amr Soliman - Community Health & Social Medicine, CUNY School of Medicine

Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CEESP) Program
\$379,655

Ruth Stark - Chemistry, Division of Science

G-RISE: Research Support for Biomedical Careers at The City College of New York
\$562,575

Nancy Stern - School of Education

Building Secondary English Learner Educator and Administrator Leadership (B-SEAL)
\$599,642

Yi Sun - Electrical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

CIF: Small: Developing Theory of Spatiotemporal Resolution and Spatiotemporal Localization Algorithms for Stochastic Optical Localization Nanoscopy
\$580,207

Maria Tamargo - Chemistry, Division of Science

Phase II-CREST Center for Interface Design and Engineered Assembly of Low-dimensional Systems (IDEALS II)
\$330,000

Jie Wei - Computer Science, Grove School of Engineering

Smart Edge Computing in Medical Applications
\$1,800,000

Rosemarie D. Wesson - Grove School of Engineering

Translational Research Excellence Across Disciplines (TREAD)
\$5,000,000

Ryan Williams - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Integrating Real-Time Multi-System Cytokine Signaling in Chronic Disease
\$392,500

Integrating Real-Time Multi-System Cytokine Signaling in Chronic Disease

\$249,578

Jun Yoshioka - Molecular, Cellular Sciences, CUNY School of Medicine

Arrestin Domain-containing Protein 4 as a Novel Regulator of Glucose Metabolism in the Ischemic Heart
\$392,500

Hyperglycemia-induced Regulatory Mechanism of ER Stress by Arrestin

Domain-containing Protein 4 in Diabetic Cardiomyopathy
\$392,500

PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP

Damon Bolhassani - Spitzer School of Architecture

High Performance Building Design With 3D-printed Carbon Absorbing Funicular Structures
\$306,687

Laura Brandt - Psychology, Colin Powell School

Towards a Framework for Algorithmic Bias and Fairness in Predicting Treatment Outcome for Opioid Use Disorder
\$464,516

George John - Chemistry, Division of Science

NSF Convergence Accelerator Track J: Aqua Steady, an Alginate-based Hydrogel for Sustainable Agriculture in a Changing Climate
\$234,669

Vinod Menon - Physics, Division of Science

Exploring Correlated Polaritons and Polariton Condensates in Optical Cavities
\$815,000

Engineering Symmetry Breaking in Cavity Quantum Materials

\$285,000

Carlos Meriles - Physics, Division of Science

Co-Design Center for Quantum Advantage (C2QA)
\$241,000

Lucas Parra - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering

Measuring and Analyzing Incidental Behaviors and Facial Expressions Across Development During Naturalistic Tasks
\$344,166

Maria Tzortziou - Earth and Environmental Science, Division of Science

Actionable Satellite Water-quality Data Products in LIS for Improved Management and Societal Benefits
\$357,730

STATE SPONSORSHIP

Angelo Lampousis, Vincent Boudreau, and Dee Dee Mozeleski - Office

of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations
Workforce Initiative for Infrastructure and Workforce Development (RIWI)
\$1,500,000

Doris Cintron-Nabi - Operations, Office of the Provost

Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)
\$580,500

Hazel Carter - Learning, Leadership, and Culture, School of Education

Liberty Partnerships Program
\$348,576

Tatyana Kleyn - Elementary/Early Childhood Education, School of Education

CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY - IIE)
\$840,000

CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY - IIE)

\$342,088

John Martin - Molecular, Cellular Sciences, CUNY School of Medicine

Leveraging LTP to Promote CST Axon Sprouting in the Spinal Cord
\$330,000

Millicent Roth - Psychology, Colin Powell School

Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)
\$465,880



New B.A. in Urban Studies and the Built Environment Debuts

The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture has established a new undergraduate degree: the Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and the Built Environment. This four-year, 36-credit major will address unmet educational needs of enrolled undergraduate students and attract additional students to City College interested in the central role that the built environment of cities plays in civic life.

The program's basis within the Spitzer School distinguishes this course of study from other urban studies majors on other CUNY campuses, drawing on the faculty expertise and educational resources of the school's existing programs in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, and sustainability.

"City College and the Spitzer School are uniquely positioned to provide a wide and deep understanding of urban issues, developing educational opportunities that benefit the community and engage more thoughtfully with it," said Dean Marta Gutman.

The B.A.'s curriculum will combine hands-on, practice-based learning in New York City with an emphasis on justice, equity, and sustainability that will prepare graduates for mission-driven careers that respond to President Boudreau's call to envision new ways to foster a culture of urban stewardship and community engagement among CCNY students and alumni.

Graduates of this program will be prepared to enter a wide variety of careers in the built environment professions, including urban planning consultancies, city agencies, real estate development firms, social service and community-based non-profits, and non-design roles in the architecture, engineering, and construction sector.

The requirements for the urban studies and the built environment major are: 15 credits in the core curriculum (Introduction to Urban Studies; The City in History; Techniques of Urban Communication; Social Justice and the Built Environment; and Individual, Group, and Society - An Introduction to Sociology);

15 credits of elective seminars (with the number of courses dependent on the student's program); and six credits of capstone project (two courses).

The demand for this program is large, as evident in the growth of urban studies bachelor's degree programs nationwide over the past two decades. The initial cohort of students is expected to graduate in 2025.



SWANA Architecture and Identity Explored in Sciamé Lecture Series

"Crosscurrents: Architecture, Landscape, and Spatial Practices in Southwest Asia and North Africa" was the theme of the 2023 Fall Sciamé Lecture Series. The series assembled designers, scholars, practitioners, and activists who engage the territories of Southwest Asia and North Africa and probes the radical reimagining of the region compelled by the expression SWANA. In recent years, the acronym SWANA has gained currency among architects, landscape architects, urbanists, and historians who conceptualize the territories of the Middle East and North Africa through geography and place rather than colonial frameworks.

(continued on next page)

The term “Middle East” was a British invention. Groundbreaking designers, scholars, practitioners, and activists chart multiple—and sometimes competing—currents in the architecture of the region and its diasporas, while displacing essentializing colonial narratives.

In this series, speakers from across the area shed light on global, transnational, and diasporic human stories about design, space, landscape, and architecture in SWANA, and advance new ideas about territory, buildings, places, histories, and belonging.

The eight-part series was made possible by the Spitzer Architecture Fund and the generous support of Frank Sciame '74, CEO of Sciame Construction. The lectures included the following speakers and topics: The Civic Entrepreneur with Selva Gürdoğan; Gender, Space, and National Belonging: The Women’s Mosque of America with Tazeen M. Ali; Measuring Built Ecologies with Mohamed Aly Etman; Forms of Power and Mobility in a Bedouin Town with Noam Shoked; Spitzer Alumni Panel: Future Practice, Diaspora Narratives Hajar Alrifai '21, Hamees Gabr '22, Nadeen Hassan '20, and Benjamin Akhavan '20; Living Waste: The City in the Shadow of the Shantytown with Sheila Crane; and Nubian (Dis)places with Menna Agha.



Members of the winning architecture competition team Wyatt Scott Kuebler and Shiva Abbaszadeh presenting their model of the reimagined Kingsbridge Armory in the Bronx.

Kingsbridge Armory Gets a Makeover

Architecture students were invited to attend a celebration for the future redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory and to display the models they made for an architectural competition, “Kingsbridge Armory as a Vertical Farming Facility,” to reimagine the space, in the Armory parking lot on Sept. 17.

The Armory is up for redevelopment thanks to an investment by the City and State of New York of \$200 million, a favorite project of Gov. Kathy Hochul, Mayor Eric Adams, and U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat. The New York City Economic Development Corporation and the Community Working Group recently released the “Together for Kingsbridge Vision Plan.” The Vision Plan is a crucial step towards making the Armory an economic engine for the Bronx and will inform a request for proposal, which is being released soon. To celebrate this milestone, a community celebration was hosted. The celebration was a

collaboration by the co-chairs of the Together for Kingsbridge Community Working Group, Council Member Pierina Sanchez and Sandra Lobo of the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition.

Spitzer 4th and 5th year BArch students took part in the competition as part of their Professor Fabian Llonch’s Spring 2023 semester design studio. The idea was to create designs for the adaptive reuse of the North Bronx Kingsbridge Armory, one of the largest armories in the world. The competition was sponsored by the Spitzer School, the American Institute of Architects, Bronx chapter, and Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson.

Four teams of students competed to showcase their proposed integration of vertical farming into the landmark structure. The winners (Team G1) were Shiva Abbaszadeh, Kingsley Chong and Wyatt Scott Kuebler, and received a prize of \$1,200 from the Bronx chapter. A \$600 prize went to the runner-up (Team G3) Marxell Mejia Vargas, Mahomudur Rahman and Shara Um.

The other participating students were (Team G2) Minyao Chen, Wei Qing Lin, Manfei Shi and (Team G4) Rustam Domullojonov, Mateo Sebastian Penafiel and Florjan Plepi.

The student-made models from the competition were on display at the Sunday community celebration with the students on hand to answer questions and talk about their inventive use of the space. In addition to the students, President Boudreau and Dean Gutman attended the event.



Ifeoma Ebo

Ifeoma Ebo Wins Prestigious Placement in Climate Change Workshop

Assistant Professor Ifeoma Ebo was selected to be a member of the 2024 cohort for the Academy for Public Scholarship on the Built Environment: CLIMATE ACTION. The honor comes from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the ACSA Research & Scholarship Committee, in partnership with The OpEd Project and the University of Southern California’s Annenberg Center for Climate Journalism and Communication.

Ebo, who joined the faculty in 2023, was chosen for her research reflecting climate change and climate justice. She teaches a Design and Spatial Justice course exploring cultural, climate, and environmental justice. Her research explores how the just transition can be accomplished through regenerative practice in the built environment industry. Regenerative practice in the design/planning field is a critical component of climate action. Exploring the extent to which our built environment supports a regenerative economy, ecologies, and energy has the potential to encourage transdisciplinary engagement. This exploration regenerative practice is rooted in the intersection of climate and cultural justice, more specifically cul-

ture-based approaches to climate action particularly in BIPOC/immigrant communities.

She and 11 other academics will participate in The OpEd Project's virtual "Write to Change the World" workshops, as well as a series of climate training modules led by the USC, Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, focusing on storytelling, media, terminology, and offering extended training to expand the impact of research and scholarship beyond academia.

Ebo holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University and a Master of City Design and Development degree from MIT. The Brooklyn-based Ebo is a principal of Creative Urban Alchemy, LLC, an award-winning urban design and planning studio. In the past, she has partnered with prestigious institutions like the U.N., FIFA, and the New York City Mayor's Office. Ebo has served on advisory boards for the mayor of Helsingborg, Sweden H22 Smart City Initiative, New York State Energy and Research Development Authority, the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and is a member of Dark Matter University, a design justice network of BIPOC academics. She has received awards and fellowships from the Black Artists + Designers Guild, New York State Council on the Arts, the Architectural League, and United States Artists.



Professor Jerome Haferd's award-winning design "In the Wake" took first place in the Africatown International Design Idea Competition for site number two.

Jerome Haferd Wins First Place in Africatown International Design Idea Competition

Professor Jerome Haferd and his architectural firm JEROME HAFERD / BRANDT : HAFERD won first place in the Africatown International Design Idea Competition for site number two at the former Josephine Allen public housing area in Mobile, Ala. with his proposal "In the Wake." The Design Idea Competition is a way to create a vision for the Africatown

Cultural Mile, 16 venues of cultural heritage to form a destination system, in the greater Mobile region.

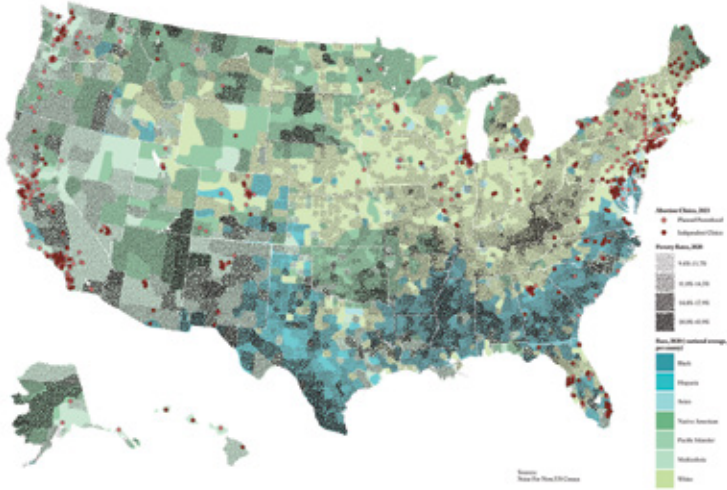
Africatown is the only 19th-century settlement created by a group of Africans who were among the 110 persons pirated to Mobile from Dahomey (present day Benin) as human cargo aboard Clotilda, the last known ship that sailed to Africa in 1860 during the Transatlantic slave trade. Africatown became well-known with the May 2019 discovery of the sunken Clotilda, which landed on the shores of the Mobile River Delta, bringing the captive West Africans into the country illegally. In 1865, after a short enslavement, and unable to return home, 32 of the Africans formed and governed their own community. Though their descendants exist today, the site of Africatown suffered from generations of neglect and industrial encroachment.

The Design Idea Competition leveraged the find of the Clotilda to give multi-disciplinary design teams an opportunity to imagine a revived Africatown, with 16 land and water-edged venues on four sites across three cities that interpret and honor its history. A network of well-designed cultural amenities—welcome center and museums, Clotilda boathouse, performing arts venues, signature spa hotel, water taxis, boutique retail, restaurants, and community amenities such as housing, school building redevelopment, and green spaces are connected by Africatown's unique history.

Haferd's proposal, "In The Wake," synthesized months of research into a conceptual urban design outline for the entire site, as well as design proposals for the Africatown Museum, Clotilda Boathouse and archive, 300 units of maritime housing, and a Gateway of Baptism plaza. "In The Wake" embraces the multi-layered inbetween of water and land and taps into the inter-woven histories of native and african stewardship of the site, while celebrating solid (earth) and flowing (woven) design elements that encourage the remediation and co-existence with the natural floodplain ecology. The design concept invokes the "doubleness" of Cudjo Lewis and the Africatown descendants' identity in both ancestral and futuristic ways through a doubling of ground and building envelope surfaces, literal layers that define a new relationship to earth and water.

CCNY alumni and students worked on the project, including Sidnie Ancion (MArch, 2022); Violet Greenberg (BArch, 2022); Gabriel Moyer-Perez (BArch, current student); Tiffany Gonzalez (BArch, 2022); Shadeen Dixon (MArch, 3rd year); and Suraya Babb (MArch, 3rd year).





The "Spatializing Reproductive Justice" traveling exhibition features Spitzer School of Architecture student-designed work and is co-curated by Professor Lindsay Harkema.

Architect Lindsay Harkema Co-curates "Spatializing Reproductive Justice" Exhibition and Panel

A traveling exhibition co-curated by Adjunct Associate Professor Lindsay Harkema, "Spatializing Reproductive Justice," featured work by Spitzer School students. The exhibit at the AIA New York Center for Architecture, which ran from May 2 to Sept. 3, explored the spatial, legal, and social logistics of reproductive healthcare access in the U.S. after the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which eliminated the federal right to an abortion.

The exhibit built on the work of the SSA Fall 2022 advanced design studio, entitled "National Care: Abortion Access, Reproductive Justice on Federal Land," taught by Harkema. It is the result of an inter-institutional collaboration with similar studios taught at Syracuse University and The Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, with coordination support from FLUFFFF studio. The work was featured in "The Architect's Newspaper."

The exhibition presents researched and analysis of reproductive healthcare networks and their histories, as well as architectural strategies for countering threats to bodily autonomy. Students investigated the changing landscape of reproductive healthcare access across the U.S. since the overturn of the Court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*. The studios produced a robust body of research and design work that utilized the tools of architecture to convey the spatial realities and logistical complexity created by state laws that have severely restricted

care access and responded through design proposals for future architectures of care and social justice.

Some of the considerations they explored include the possibility of reproductive healthcare access on federally owned lands that are not subject to local state laws.

Looking beyond the design of clinics, students' architectural proposals explored themes of care, site, affect, malleability, and programmatic hybridization. The studio's work and the forthcoming exhibition aimed to make visible social justice issues that are often private, unseen, and under-acknowledged within the architectural discipline.

The work of students Valeska Abarca, Abbas Ali, Arifa Ali, Nathaly Castillo, Samantha Ehrman, Gabriela Gonjon, Mauricio Guidos, Guadalupe Hernandez-Sosa, Kedishia Joseph, Anamaria Jovel, Joseph Lo, Labiba Nazrul, Katherine Quito, and Leora Santoriello were in the exhibition.

A panel discussion about the inequities of reproductive care in the U.S. and the agency of the design fields to expand access was held at Syracuse University School of Architecture on March 19, at which Spitzer School students Abarca and Castillo spoke.

Harkema's co-curators are Lori Brown (Syracuse University), Bryony Roberts (Columbia GSAPP), and Sadie Imae and Natalya Dikhanov of FLUFFFF. The exhibit received a 2023 Graham Foundation Grant. The organization is also sponsored by ArchiteXX and WIP Collaborative, of which Harkema is a founder and co-founding member.

Expanding the discourse across institutions, the exhibition will travel to safe and restrictive states, fostering dialogue between designers, students, experts, and advocates, and gathering more research and design work as it travels. The exhibit opened at the School of Architecture & Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in October 2024.



Spitzer School students get insight into CUNY Roadmap and CCNY Master Plan.

CUNY Facilities Department Offers Spitzer Career Development Internship Program

Eight Spitzer students were awarded paid internships by CUNY's Department of Facilities Planning, Construction and Management. The new Career Development Internship Pro-

gram hired the interns primarily to assist with a CUNY-Wide occupancy and utilization study, part of the CUNY Strategic Roadmap, and CCNY's Master Plan process. City College is the first CUNY campus for which the FPCM and the interns will implement the Master Plan together.

CUNY has 300 buildings located in all five boroughs of New York City, comprising 29 million square feet of classrooms, research labs, computer centers, theaters, athletic and recreational facilities, administrative offices, and other spaces that support the CUNY mission. Maintaining and improving the University's infrastructure through recapturing underutilized spaces, improving technology, and providing for campus expansions through upgrading the facilities portfolio ensures student success.

The Master Plan is a document and guide designed to help form a vision for the future and guides the College in decision making and planning processes for decades to come. Four undergraduates were in the program: Wyatt Kuebler, Juan Isaza, Cemile Koseoglu, and Aliya Washwell; and four graduate students: Dehaan Rahman, Diego Madera, Angelica Morales Juarez, and Anshuman Khandelwal.

In addition to performing space needs analyses, programming, and feasibility studies, they managed and updated the space inventory system, worked with facilities life cycle assessment, provided database and report development support for all FPCM departments through the updating and optimizing of space records and management in Archibus (Integrated Workplace Management System).

"Working with FPCM has revealed to me the 'Mechanical room' of CUNY, which only a few people are aware of, but is crucial for maintaining everything efficiently. I'm thrilled to see our group of architecture students working within this system, with the hope that the work we are doing here enables CUNY to continuously and dynamically adapt to the ever-changing needs of the many communities that make us who we are," said Kuebler.

Interns were able to use this as an opportunity to gain credit in categories of NCARB's Architectural Experience Program (AXP) program – a requirement in the process of achieving licensure as an architect.



David Gissen

Mumford Lecture on Disability and the Built Environment

David Gissen, the renowned architect, historian, and theorist, delivered the Lewis Mumford Lecture on March 28, entitled "The Architecture and Urbanism of Disability." The New York City-

based author and designer drew upon his book "The Architecture of Disability: Buildings, Cities and Landscapes Beyond Access" for the talk, which explains the conceptual underpin-

nings of accessible design and its limitations. The pursuit of architectural access and urban accessibility have defined, if not over-defined, the politics of disabled people's engagements with the built environment. As a complement to the pursuit of equal access, Gissen proposes a more comprehensive way in which disabled people can reimagine their cities and the buildings within them. This latter agenda includes disability critiques of property and development, infrastructural management, public space, and commemoration, as well as the possibility of an "anti-eugenic" urbanism.

Gissen also wrote "Subnature" (2009) and "Manhattan Atmospheres" (2013). He held several distinguished faculty appointments, including Eero Saarinen Visiting Professor of Architecture at Yale University; Dean's Visiting Professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation (Columbia GSAPP), and University Professor at the Academy of Art in Vienna. He is currently professor of architecture and urban history at Parsons School of Design/The New School.

The lecture tied in with the theme of the spring 2024 Sciame Lecture series, "Access and Beyond: Architecture and Disability." The topic answered the call for disability justice in our time via architects, designers, and scholars inspired by critical disability studies and who situate disability, ability, and access in pointed, specific critiques of design, culture, and power.





Liz Weikes

J.P. Morgan Executive Liz Weikes Joins Board of Visitors

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership appointed J.P. Morgan Wealth Management Managing Director and Wealth Partner Liz Weikes to its Board of Visitors.

With more than 17 years of experience helping clients navigate complex wealth planning, Weikes has earned a reputation for excellence with her clients, who comprise ultra-high net worth families, C-suite executives, and foundations. She is a member of the J.P. Morgan Wealth Management Portfolio Manager Program and manages her clients' assets holistically with a family office-style model. She offers comprehensive investment strategies and active portfolio management, and the capabilities of JPMorgan Chase important to her clients, including philanthropic advisory, estate planning, banking and lending.

Dedicated to supporting financial literacy and educational opportunities in her industry, Weikes aligns her charitable and mentorship support alongside diversity and inclusion efforts to empower youth. She gifted the Liz Weikes Scholarship for Women in Finance to the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University to raise opportunities for women in wealth management.

"Liz Weikes came to know the Colin Powell School through her mentorship of one of our students in JPMorgan Chase's Advancing Black Pathways Initiative," said Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich. "She was drawn to our mission and has quickly become a leader in new initiatives to provide our students with support, advice, and mentorship."

"I look forward to working with Liz Weikes as a member of our Board of Visitors," said Linda Powell, the chair of the Colin

Powell School Board of Visitors. "Her mentorship and support of our students fulfills my father's ambition for the Colin Powell School, that we do everything possible to get our students south of 59th Street, and into internships and jobs that will lead them to professional success,"

"The students at the Colin Powell School inspire me with the energy they bring to the classroom and workplace," said Weikes. "I look forward to working with my fellow board members to provide greater programming, fundraising and awareness to the School's absolutely essential work in higher education here in New York City."



The 2024 recipient of the Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award, Marc Benioff, was interviewed by Robin Roberts of ABC News at the award ceremony.

2024 Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award Presented to Marc Benioff

Marc Benioff, chair and CEO of Salesforce, is the 2024 recipient of the Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award.

The award recognizes individuals who have reached the highest level in their fields, and who embody the leadership values that Gen. Powell, a 1958 graduate of City College, demonstrated throughout his career: integrity, humility, humor, pragmatism, and common sense. These values were articulated

most famously in Powell's Thirteen Rules of Leadership, which culminate with "Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier." These words are memorialized on the award medallion.

In presenting the award, Linda Powell, chair of the Colin Powell School's Board of Visitors, and the daughter of the late general, national security advisor, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and secretary of state, cited Benioff as a pioneer and trailblazer in both business and philanthropy.

The award citation, presented by Powell and by last year's inaugural recipient, Cesar Conde, chairman of NBCUniversal News Group, read in part: "Marc Benioff is a visionary and innovative leader who has dedicated his career to shaping the future of technology and business, while at the same time advocating for equality and environmental sustainability. Marc has also been a vocal advocate for ethical business practices and the equality of every person. He and his wife, Lynne, have donated more than \$1 billion over the years to causes including children's health, the environment, public education, and homelessness."

"It's an incredible honor to receive this award named for Colin Powell, an extraordinary person whose friendship and mentorship meant so much to me," said Benioff. "Nearly 30 years ago, General Powell told me that business had a purpose beyond profits. We had to be a force for good and a platform for change. It was the best advice I've ever heard, and it inspired us to focus on our obligations to our communities and all of our stakeholders."

The Distinguished Leadership Award event was conceived by Colin Powell School Board member Marco Antonio Achón, global head of corporate banking at Santander Corporate & Investment Banking, and made possible through the generous support of Santander.



Colin Powell School and Commonwealth Ventures Launch Venture Fellows Program

The Colin Powell School partnered with Commonwealth Ventures to launch a Venture Fellows Program to recruit and train the next generation of venture investors.

The Commonwealth Ventures & Colin Powell School Venture Fellows program integrates students into the Commonwealth Ventures team, exposing them to the full range of investment activities. Fellows will participate in research, deal sourcing, due diligence, and investment decisions. They will also be exposed to Commonwealth's Advisory Board, which is composed of former White House officials, U.S. cabinet secretaries, mayors, members of Congress, entrepreneurs and industry executives.

"The City College Venture Fellows Program reflects Commonwealth's commitment to fostering a diverse pipeline of leaders into the venture capital industry, starting right here in our hometown," said Nate Loewentheil, founder and managing partner of Commonwealth Ventures, a New York City-based venture capital firm that focuses on sectors in which government investment creates venture-scale opportunities, such as clean energy, healthcare, and manufacturing. "But this is not just about diversity. We see a competitive advantage in tapping into the best and brightest of an institution such as City College. We are committed to building this program for the long term and fostering the next generation of leaders in the New York City venture community."

"We believe in the power of hands-on learning, and we're thrilled that Commonwealth Ventures is providing a substantive entry point into the venture capital industry for City College students," said Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich.

The venture capital industry is among the least diverse professions in the United States. This challenge is acute in New York City, as the New York City Economic Development Corporation recently highlighted in a white paper, "Diversity in Venture Capital."

Responding to this opportunity, Commonwealth Ventures recently joined the city's Venture Access Alliance in addition to partnering with CCNY on this fellowship program.



The Hebrew Free Loan Society has provided more than \$400 million in interest-free loans to more than 900,000 borrowers since its founding in 1892.

New Program Launched with Hebrew Free Loan Society

The Colin Powell School partnered with the Hebrew Free Loan Society to provide interest-free emergency loans of up to \$2,000 to currently-enrolled low and moderate-income students.

This first of its kind partnership between HFLS and a college will supplement the Colin Powell School's existing Student Emergency Fund, which was created to assist enrolled students unable to cover living expenses such as food, housing, and utilities. This Fund has been supported over the years by the generous support of the Viola Foundation, and has been bolstered by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, and the generous donations of many individuals.

(continued on next page)

The partnership began with a meeting between Associate Professor of Psychology Glen Milstein and HFLS's president and CEO, Rabbi David Rosenn, that was arranged by an HFLS Board member. Milstein came away from that encounter with the idea of a potential partnership with the Society, which advances economic stability and opportunity for lower-income New Yorkers within and beyond the Jewish community by making safe, affordable interest-free loans. After Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich enthusiastically embraced the idea, discussions ensued, and an agreement was concluded in October.

"For many students, the precarious state of their personal finances is the biggest risk factor for staying in school," said Dean Rich. "The partnership with HFLS is an exciting opportunity to expand financial support available for our students."

"This partnership with the Colin Powell School is a perfect way for HFLS to help students stay on track to complete a college degree and reap all the benefits of that education, including greater financial stability over their lifetime," said Rabbi Rosenn. "Every loan repayment goes right back into the pool for loans to other students, making this a renewable resource of support for years on end."

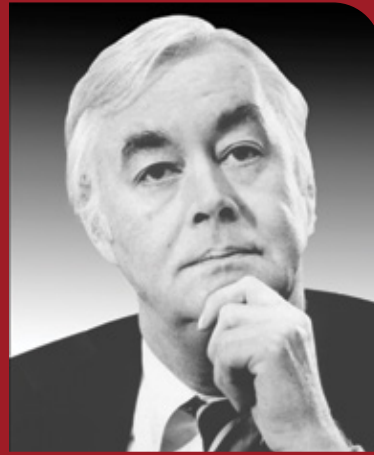


Alumni and Student Receive Colin Powell School's Inaugural Urvashi Vaid Award

Left to right: Shantal Rodriguez, CCNY student & 2023 Urvashi Vaid LGBTQ+ Advocacy Award student winner, Laverne Cox, Julian Corrales, Baruch student & 2024 Urvashi Vaid LGBTQ+ Advocacy Award student winner, Blaze Levario, CCNY graduate and 2023 Urvashi Vaid LGBTQ+ Advocacy Award student winner.

Blaze Levario '23 received the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership's inaugural Urvashi Vaid Award for LGBTQ+ Advocacy, along with CCNY student Shantal Rodriguez on May 7 at an event at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies, sponsored by CCNY and The Stonewall National Museum and Archives.

The late Vaid was an Indian-born American LGBTQ+ activist, writer and author. A short documentary film by Mike Syers, "There are Things to Do," about Vaid and her partner Kate Clinton, was screened. After the award presentation, Levario joined a panel discussion with Syers and special guest LGBTQ+ activist and actress Laverne Cox. Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean of the Colin Powell School Andrew Rich, and Robert Kesten, executive director of the Stonewall National Museum and Archives, delivered remarks at the award ceremony. Levario graduated with a B.A. in psychology and is currently pursuing an M.A. in psychology at NYU. The award presentation was part of the CCNY and the Stonewall Museum's joint exhibition, "Standing on the Shoulders of Heroes," held concurrently. The exhibition told the LGBTQ+ stories that tied the past to the present, of those brave individuals' contributions so that everyone might live openly today and in the future.



Daniel Patrick Moynihan (1927-2003)

'Moynihan Alumni' Celebrate His Life and Career at Inauguration of Namesake Center

Tributes were paid to diplomat, statesman, professor and public intellectual Daniel Patrick Moynihan by some of his famous disciples as the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Center was formally inaugurated at the Great Hall on Sept. 7.

Launched in February 2023, the Moynihan Center supports new leaders to make a difference in public affairs. Through two signature fellowship programs and a rich slate of public events, the Center ensures that the next generation of public scholars and public servants reflects the diversity of viewpoints and lived experiences represented at City College.

The Center takes its name and inspiration from the long-serving senator's celebrated career, which began when he attended CCNY as an undergraduate in 1943, before joining the U.S. Navy. He subsequently earned a doctorate in history from Tufts University, taught at Harvard University, and served in four presidential administrations (Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford), including ambassadorships to the United Nations and to India, before being elected in 1976 to the first of four terms in the U.S. Senate.

Speakers at the inauguration included: CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez; U.S. Rep. Adriano Espillat (D-N.Y.), who noted the presence of his predecessor in Congress, former U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.), for whom the College's Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative is named; New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D), who served on the Senator's staff in the 1980s before seeking elective office herself; and U.S. Department of Transportation Deputy Secretary and Acting Federal Aviation Administrator Polly Trottenberg, a former Moynihan transportation and public works legislative aide, and a former NYC transportation commissioner, who reflected on the late senator's love of cities.

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Lawrence O'Donnell, host of MSNBC's "The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell," who started as the senator's 1988 re-election campaign's communications director before becoming a senior adviser. He then proceeded to become chief of staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Environment and Public Works, and chief of staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.

Moynihan Center Introduces 2024-25 Public Scholars Fellows

The Moynihan Center's second cohort of the Public Scholars Fellowship consists of nine individuals, who are academic researchers, public service practitioners, and journalists committed to interrogating ideas in service of the public good.

THE CLASS OF 2024-25



Emefa Addo Agawu, an independent writer and editor, who will work on *AT/TENSION*, a book-length series of essays about the unusual choices people make with their attention in an age of hyper-connectedness.



Michael Beckley, associate professor of political science at Tufts University, who explores how the two imminent trends of rapid automation and population aging are likely to decrease the United States' strategic dependence on the rest of the world in "Rogue Superpower: An Illiberal American Century."



Stephen Eide, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, whose research into comparative mental health policy will interrogate whether European mental health systems are more accountable with respect to serious mental illness than their American counterparts.



Nicolas Guilhot, professor of intellectual history at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, whose "A Story One Tells: Conspiracy Theories, Liberalism, and the End of History" considers the idea of conspiracy as a symptom of liberal culture's current malaise.



Roya Hakakian, an independent journalist, who will tell the story of Hajj Sayyah (The Traveler), the first Iranian to become a naturalized US citizen and how he became deeply transformed in the process.



Clara Mattei, professor of economics at the University of Tulsa, who will work on her book, "The Golden Hour: Booming Markets, False Narratives, and the Decades That Made Modern Society."



Angela Saini, journalist and lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, whose book project, "OTHER: Sex, Race, and Why Putting People in Boxes Doesn't Work," seeks to understand and interrogate the act of human classification.



Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins, assistant professor of history at Wesleyan University, whose "Impossible Peace, Improbable War: Raymond Aron and World Order," will offer the first account of the origins and evolution of the French sociologist and public intellectual's thinking on World Order.

(continued on next page)



From L to R: Klaus Welle, Sayu Bhojwani, Charles Nathan, and Avery Williams.

Moynihan Center's Inaugural Leaders-in-Residence and Postdoc Fellows

Klaus Welle and Sayu Bhojwani are the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Center's inaugural cohort of Moynihan Leaders-in-Residence.

Welle is the former secretary-general of the European Parliament, the current chair of Martens Centre for European Studies' Academic Council, a guest professor in practice at the London School of Economics, and a visiting professor at KU Leuven, Belgium.

Bhojwani was New York City's first commissioner of Immigrant Affairs (2002-04) and is an activist, speaker and writer.

Welle and Bhojwani will give lectures, mentor students, and broaden and deepen the network of people and ideas that interface with the Moynihan Center community.

Avery Williams and Charles Nathan are the 2023-24 Moynihan Postdoctoral Fellows.

Williams received his Ph.D. in government in 2023 from the University of Texas, Austin, where he teaches political theory and American political thought. His dissertation examined the political psychology of tyrants in the thought of the early Socratics. His current research attempts to bring classical understandings of tyranny into dialogue with later perspectives.

Nathan received his Ph.D. in political science from Duke University in 2023. His work examines the politics of nostalgia, memory, and the urban/rural divide in the history of political thought. He is currently working on a book project about the concept of the golden age in ancient political thought.

The residency at CCNY is for up to two years. Williams and Avery will conduct research, teach undergraduates, organize public events and speaker series, and contribute to an intellectual community that features Moynihan Public Scholars and Moynihan Undergraduate Fellows, and extends to the broader NYC academic community.

The Moynihan Center is made possible by an anchor grant from the Leon Levy Foundation and generous support from the Achelis & Bodman Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The Moynihan Postdoctoral Fellowships are made possible with generous support from the Jerome Levy Foundation and the Thomas W. Smith Foundation.



Mark Vandeveld, the U.S. private capital correspondent at the “Financial Times,” who will write the definitive work about private equity, “the business of buying and selling entire companies using other people’s money.”

Each Moynihan Public Scholar receives robust unrestricted awards and spends up to one year at CCNY writing, teaching, and engaging in public conversations on critical issues in public affairs.

The Fellowship is administered by the Moynihan Center, which was established in 2023 with the purpose of supporting new leaders to make a difference in public affairs. The Moynihan Public Scholars program is made possible with generous support from the Leon Levy Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and the Achelis & Bodman Foundation.



The 2024-25 Moynihan Public Service Fellows

22 Undergraduates Fill Class of 2024-25 Public Service Fellows

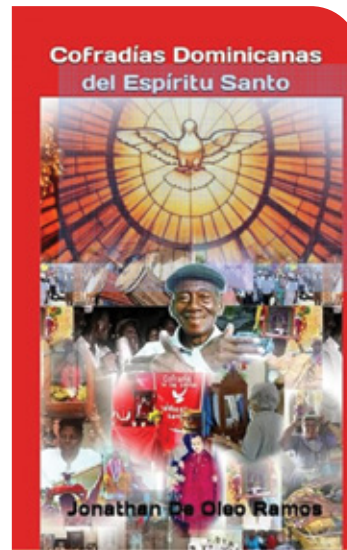
The Moynihan Public Service Fellowship has been awarded to 22 promising undergraduate students pursuing innovative careers in public service. Fellows receive awards totaling \$10,000, take two elective courses dedicated to professional development and public service, and participate in a paid summer internship in city government or in another public service institution.

Fellows become members of a dynamic intellectual and civic community that includes: guest visits by active leaders in civic affairs; regular interaction with yearly cohorts of Moynihan senior fellows and affiliated CCNY faculty; and opportunities for mentorship by a growing network that includes former staffers of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and will, in the future, include alumni of the Moynihan Public Service Fellowship.

The 2024 Fellows were selected from a pool of more than 100 highly competitive, diverse applicants.

The Moynihan Public Service Fellowship is made possible with generous support from the Leon Levy Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Teagle Foundation, the Charles H. Revson Foundation, and the Achelis & Bodman Foundation.

Social Scientist, Cultural Activist Jonathan De Oleo Ramos is CUNY DSI's Second Threatened Scholar Fellow



Jonathan De Oleo Ramos, a social scientist, educator, cultural activist, and researcher focusing on social justice and Afro-Dominican culture in the Dominican Republic is the 2024 Threatened Scholars Fellow at the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.

Funded by the Mellon Foundation, the Threatened Scholars Fellowship Program was launched in 2023. It seeks to broaden the scope of current conversations on censorship and suppression of civil liberties by examining the limits on people’s freedom to think and speak in established and long-lasting democracies such as the Dominican Republic.

De Oleo Ramos is the second Threatened Scholar to join CUNY DSI after Ruth Pion Vizcaino. He spent the summer at CCNY, benefitting from a collaborative space where he continued promoting inclusiveness and pride in public places about Afro-Dominican music and culture in the public sphere in the Dominican Republic.

He has produced original and vital work on Dominican Gaga, a forbidden folkloric music and dance with African roots, which has been the target of municipal-level prohibition. He will teach a class on Dominican Gaga as part of the Latin American and Latino/a Studies program.

De Oleo Ramos will also spend time at other universities where the Mellon Foundation supports Threatened Scholars Fellowship programs. These include the University of Illinois, Chicago, Florida International University, and the University of Texas, Austin. De Oleo Ramos’ experience as a fellow will be recorded as part of a documentary series about threatened scholars, and intellectual and academic freedom more broadly.

His publications include the book, “Cofradías Dominicanas del Espíritu Santo.”

His publications include the book, “Cofradías Dominicanas del Espíritu Santo.”



One of the historic structures in Washington Heights at 540 W. 165th St.

CUNY DSI-backed Washington Heights Makes HDC's 2024 "Six to Celebrate" List

Parts of Washington Heights, in what's still the most populous Dominican neighborhood in the nation, are on the path to recognition as historic areas by the National Register of Historic Places. The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute proposed the designation, which is now backed by the Heights' inclusion by the Historic Districts Council in its annual "Six to Celebrate" program, a listing of historic New York City neighborhoods that merit preservation attention.

The other five neighborhoods to make HDC's "Six to Celebrate" lineup, New York's only citywide list of preservation priorities, are: Rose Hill/Kips Bay and the Garment District (both Manhattan); Bayside, Queens; Pelham Parkway and Allerton, The Bronx; and Downtown Brooklyn. HDC is New York City's sole advocate for historic buildings and neighborhoods.

"The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute sought to have parts of Washington Heights listed as a historically and culturally Dominican district in the National Register of Historic Places, overseen by the National Park Service," said Ramona Hernández, CUNY DSI's director and a professor of sociology at the Colin Powell School. "The Dominican presence in New York City goes as far back as 1613 with the arrival of Juan Rodriguez, and today northern Manhattan is known as the oldest cultural heartland of the Dominican people in the U.S."

CUNY DSI and HDC will work together to set and reach preservation goals through strategic planning, advocacy, outreach, programs, and building public awareness. In addition, HDC awarded a \$1,000 grant to CUNY DSI.

The "Six to Celebrate" projects, including CUNY DSI's, were chosen on the basis of architectural, cultural, and historic merit, the presence and level of threats to the area, the strength and willingness of local advocates, and an assessment of where HDC's citywide preservation perspective and assistance could be the most meaningful.

In preparing its submission to the National Register of Historic Places, CUNY DSI created an interactive digital map that shows a high level of incidence of things Dominican in Washington Heights and that is already available for public use.

Volume 56 Number 1 June 2023

Review 106

Literature and Arts of the Americas



Contemporary Dominican Writing and Art

Routledge
Taylor & Francis Group

The City College
of New York

Volume 56 of *Review 106: Literature and Arts of the Americas* was published in June. The theme of the issue, guest-edited by Néstor E. Rodríguez (University of Toronto), was Contemporary Dominican Writing and Art. The journal compiled articles by leading scholars and texts by writers residing in and outside the Dominican Republic.

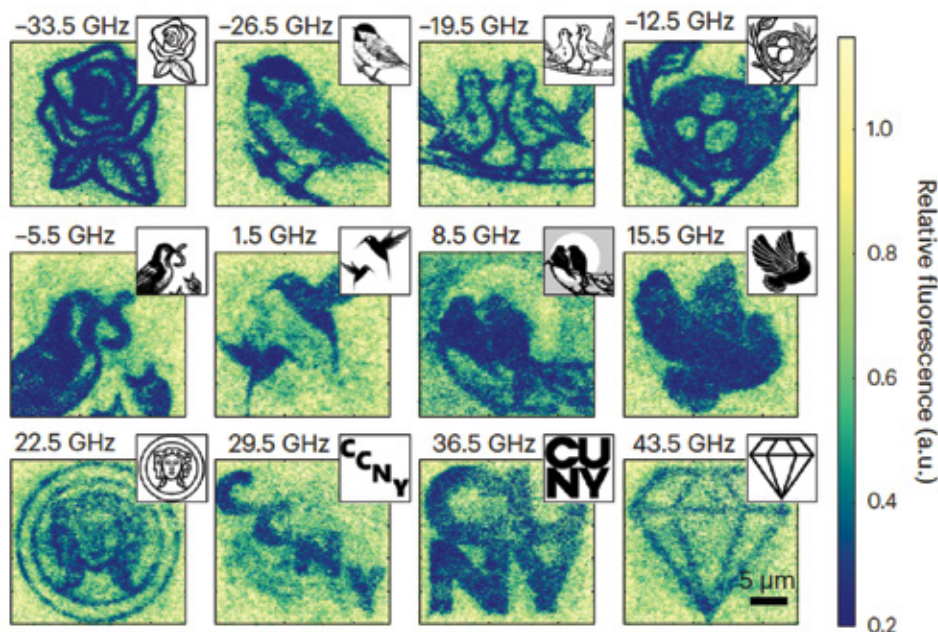
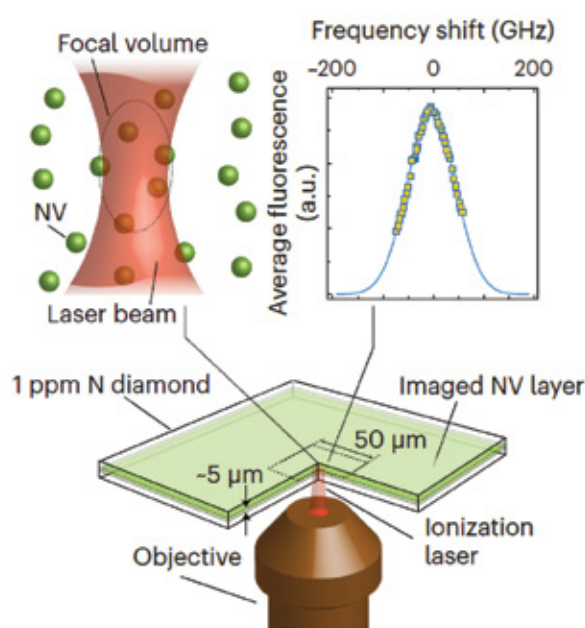
Cover image: *Ensayo y error* (Trial and Error, 2020), Jorge Pineda. Photo: Mariano Hernández. Courtesy of Alejandra Peláez Pineda. Cover design: Daimys García.



Today northern Manhattan is known as the oldest cultural heartland of the Dominican people in the U.S.

Ramona Hernández, CUNY DSI director and professor of sociology at the Colin Powell School





Protocol for charge state control of color centers in a high-density sample. CCNY researchers address sub-ensembles of atoms at the same spot but at different frequencies to imprint 12 images at the same location. Credit: Nature Nanotechnology

Researchers Publish Optical Data Storage Breakthrough in “Nature Nanotechnology”

Physicists Richard G. Monge and Tom Delord, members of the Meriles Group, have developed a technique with the potential to enhance optical data storage capacity in diamonds. This is possible by multiplexing the storage in the spectral domain. Entitled “Reversible optical data storage below the diffraction limit,” it appeared in the journal “Nature Nanotechnology.”

“It means that we can store many different images at the same place in the diamond by using a laser of a slightly different color to store different information into different atoms in the same microscopic spots,” said Delord, a postdoctoral research associate. “If this method can be applied to other materials or at room temperature, it could find its way to computing applications requiring high-capacity storage.”

The research focused on a tiny element in diamonds and similar materials, known as “color centers.” These, basically, are atomic defects that can absorb light and serve as a platform for what are termed quantum technologies.

“What we did was control the electrical charge of these color centers very precisely using a narrow-band laser and cryogenic conditions,” said Delord. “This new approach allowed us to essentially write and read tiny bits of data at a much finer level than previously possible, down to a single atom.”

Optical memory technologies have a resolution defined by what’s called the “diffraction limit,” that is, the minimum diameter that a beam can be focused to, which approximately scales as half the light beam wavelength (for example, green light would have a diffraction limit of 270 nm). “So, you cannot use a beam like this to write with resolution smaller than the diffraction limit because if you displace the beam less than that, you would impact what you already wrote. So normally, optical

memories increase storage capacity by making the wavelength shorter (shifting to the blue), which is why we have “Blu-ray” technology,” said Delord.

What differentiates the CCNY optical storage approach from others is that it circumvents the diffraction limit by exploiting the slight color (wavelength) changes existing between color centers separated by less than the diffraction limit. “By tuning the beam to slightly shifted wavelengths, it can be kept at the same physical location but interact with different color centers to selectively change their charges – that is to write data with sub-diffraction resolution,” said Monge, a postdoctoral fellow who was involved in the study as a Ph.D. student at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Another unique aspect of this approach is that it’s reversible. “One can write, erase, and rewrite an infinite number of times,” said Monge. “While there are some other optical storage technologies also able to do this, this is not the typical case, especially when it comes to high spatial resolution. A Blu-ray disc is again a good reference example – you can write a movie in it but you cannot erase it and write another one.”

“Nature” Publishes Vinod Menon’s Research that Traps Light Inside a Magnet

A new study led by Professor of Physics Vinod M. Menon and his research group shows that trapping light inside magnetic materials may dramatically enhance their intrinsic properties. Strong optical responses of magnets are important for the development of magnetic lasers and magneto-optical memory devices, as well as for emerging quantum transduction applications.

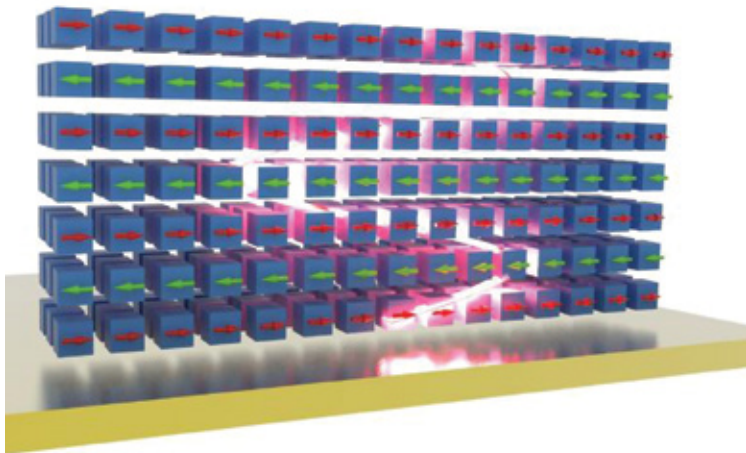
In their article in the journal “Nature,” Menon and his team reported the properties of a layered magnet that hosts strongly

bound excitons, quasiparticles with particularly strong optical interactions. Because of that, the material is capable of trapping light, all by itself. As their experiments showed, the optical responses of this material to magnetic phenomena are orders of magnitude stronger than those in typical magnets.

“Since the light bounces back and forth inside the magnet, interactions are genuinely enhanced,” said Florian Dirnberger, a physicist at the Technical University of Dresden and lead author of the study. “To give an example, when we apply an external magnetic field the near-infrared reflection of light is altered so much, the material basically changes its color. That’s a pretty strong magneto-optic response.”

“Ordinarily, light does not respond so strongly to magnetism,” said Menon. “This is why technological applications based on magneto-optic effects often require the implementation of sensitive optical detection schemes.”

On how the advances can benefit ordinary people, study co-author Jiamin Quan, a post-doctoral fellow at CUNY’s Advanced Science Research Center, said: “Technological applications of magnetic materials today are mostly related to magneto-electric phenomena. Given such strong interactions between magnetism and light, we can now hope to one day create magnetic lasers and may reconsider old concepts of optically controlled magnetic memory.”



Light trapped inside a magnetic crystal can strongly enhance its magneto-optical interactions. Image created by Rezlind Bushati.

Rezlind Bushati, a graduate student in the Menon group, also contributed to the experimental work.

The study conducted in close collaboration with Andrea Alù and his group at CUNY Advanced Science Research Center is the result of a major international collaboration. Experiments conducted at CCNY and ASRC were complemented by measurements taken at the University of Washington in the group of Xiaodong Xu by Geoffrey Diederich. Theoretical support was provided by Akashdeep Kamra and Francisco J. Garcia-Vidal from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and Matthias Florian from the University of Michigan. The materials were grown by Zdenek Sofer and Kseniia Mosina at the UCT Prague and the project was further supported by Julian Klein at MIT. The work at CCNY was supported through the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, the National Science Foundation – Division of Materials Research, the NSF CREST IDEALS center, DARPA and the German Research Foundation.



Carlos Meriles

Optica Elects Physicist Carlos Meriles 2024 Fellow

Carlos A. Meriles, the Martin and Michele Cohen Professor of Physics, is one of 129 leading physicists globally elected 2024 Optica Fellows. Meriles’s recognition is “for fundamental contributions to sensing, spin physics, and optoelectronics using color centers in diamond.”

“Congratulations to the 2024 class of Optica Fellows,” said Michal Lipson, the 2023 Optica president. “It is a pleasure to honor these members who are advancing our field and society. We are grateful for their exceptional work and dedication.”

The new Fellows, from as far away as Australia, China, Britain, Hong Kong, Germany, Israel and Spain, will be honored at Optica conferences and events throughout 2024.

The Optica Fellowship adds to Meriles’s several distinctions. They include the NSF-CAREER award (2006), the Wegman Brothers faculty fellowship (2006), and the Cottrell Scholar Award (2007). He is a 2011 Alexander von Humboldt Scholar, a 2015 Fellow of the American Physical Society, and the 2016 recipient of the Frontiers in Research Excellence and Discovery (FRED) Award by Research Corporation.

Meriles is the second pioneering physicist elected an Optica Fellow at CCNY in four years; Vinod M. Menon was elected in fall 2019. Menon, whose research in light-matter interaction at the nanoscale level has advanced the field of photonics, received another distinction recently when he was named a 2023 American Physical Society Fellow.

Founded in 1916, Optica is the leading organization for scientists, engineers, business professionals, students and others interested in the science of light. Optica is dedicated to promoting the generation, application, archiving and dissemination of knowledge in the field.

Fellows are Optica members who have served with distinction in the advancement of optics and photonics. The Fellow Members Committee, led by Chair Ofer Levi of the University of Toronto, reviewed 216 nominations submitted by current Fellows. As Fellows can account for no more than 10 percent of the total membership, the election process is highly competitive. Candidates are recommended by the Fellow Members Committee and approved by the Awards Council and Board of Directors.

Election as a Fellow is by the Board of Directors of Optica (formerly OSA), Advancing Optics and Photonics Worldwide, and is based on several factors, including outstanding contributions to research, business, education, engineering and service to Optica and its community.



Sriram Ganeshan

Sriram Ganeshan Receives Feliks Gross Award for Outstanding Research

Sriram Ganeshan, assistant professor of physics, is a recipient of the Feliks Gross

Award for Outstanding Research for Assistant Professors in the City University of New York.

The award will be conferred in the upcoming academic year 2024-25 as part of the Feliks Gross and Henry Wasser Lecture series, in which awardees present their research. The award is accompanied by a small stipend that will be transferred to CCNY to be distributed to Ganeshan, and an awards plaque.

Ganeshan came to CCNY in spring 2018 after three years at the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at Stony Brook University. He studies condensed matter physics which he describes as “the study of collective behavior within many degrees of freedom. For example, how a flock of birds move together as opposed to the movement of an individual entity.” Ganeshan explains that electrons behave in similar ways, their collective movement through a material, such as graphene, mathematically resembles the movement of water in a pipe.

Although trained as a theoretical physicist, Ganeshan is interested in unlikely connections between elements on an astronomical/planetary scales and those occurring at the microscopic or atomic scale, underpinned by a common hydrodynamical framework.

Ganeshan’s most recent work connects the occurrence of Kelvin waves closely related to the El Niño event mathematically, and relates it to the study of quantum systems, where such equations arise again albeit constrained by the quantum rules.

“In quantum Hall systems, the physics happens at a micron scale. The equatorial Kelvin system happens at a planetary scale. So, the physical systems are totally disconnected, but the mathematical model is very similar,” he said. “It’s not like one explains the other, it’s like an analogy to help understand the mathematical language of both systems.”

One of Ganeshan’s goals is to make complex systems simpler to understand. “I like to write papers in a self-contained way so you don’t have to refer to 10 papers in order to understand the basic message,” he said.

In 2020, Ganeshan received a five-year National Science Foundation CAREER Award, which provided more than \$500,000 for his research project: “Quantum Hydrodynamics: From Electron Fluids to Active Matter,” which could help develop new technologies based on the collective behavior of quantum systems.

Ganeshan teaches courses in mathematical methods for physicists from undergraduate to graduate level.

The Feliks Gross Endowment Awards are named after two of the CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences’ founding members, Feliks Gross and Henry Wasser. Every year awardees are selected from a large group of highly qualified, academically impressive assistant professors across CUNY campuses. The awards are partially supported by the Feliks Gross memorial fund and sponsored by the University Faculty Senate and the CUNY Office of Academic Affairs.



New B.S. in Digital Game Development Expected for Fall 2025

In exciting news for the Gaming Pathways program, the College is in the final stages of creating a new major, a B.S. in Digital Game Development. This will be the first public bachelor’s degree program in this field in New York City, providing an affordable option for students interested in careers in the digital game industry, particularly students from low-income communities.

The program continues to be a popular one. From fall 2022 through fall 2024, 432 unique CUNY students have taken one or more gaming classes at CCNY, according to Professor Stan Altman, director of the Gaming Pathways Program, a collaboration between CCNY, and non-profit organizations Urban Arts and the Harlem Gallery of Science.

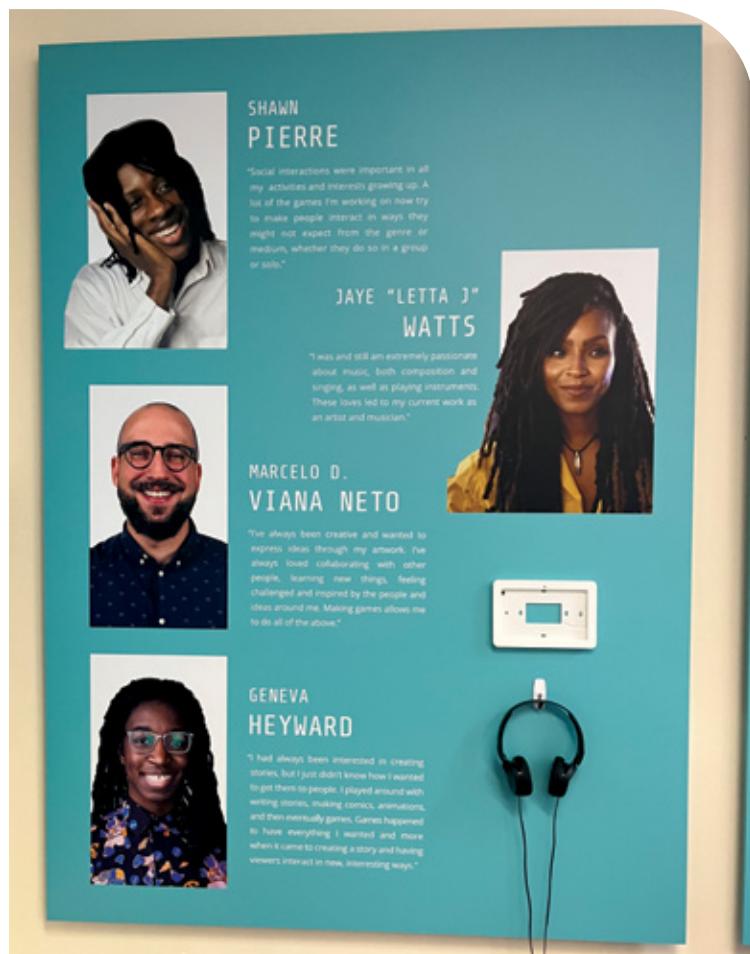
In 2022, Altman, who is a visiting professor from Baruch College and a CCNY alumni, secured a \$2 million grant from the Mayor’s Office for Media and Entertainment to create a bachelor’s degree in digital game development at City College, build pathways from high school to the college and, eventually, to careers in the digital game industry and related creative fields.

With the grant, Nick Fortugno was hired as the director of the CCNY Program in Digital Game Development and began creating the program and teaching. Two new faculty members have been added to the program this fall.

The New York State Department of Education is responsible for final approval of the degree program, and CCNY hopes to have the major approved by the fall 2025 semester.

Currently, Hostos Community College offers an associate’s degree in game design. A strong transfer student rate from HCC is anticipated to a four-year degree program, as well as enrollment from New York City high schools.

The digital game industry in New York City already provides 7,600 jobs and \$2 billion in economic output, according to a 2021 study, and is a key piece of the mayor’s post-pandemic economic recovery plan for the city.



Catt Small, a Bronx native who started coding at 10, developed SweetXheart, a game that follows a week in the life of a modern Black woman.

Diverse Creators Highlighted in Gaming Exhibition

The Harlem Gallery of Science, a partnership between Science and Arts Engagement New York and CCNY, launched the pop-up exhibition, “Video Games: The Great Connector,” from Feb. 3 to March 30 at the Harlem School of the Arts.

The goal of the exhibit was to inspire Black and Latinx youth to explore the academic and career opportunities in the rapidly expanding global digital gaming industry. The exhibit was part of a city initiative from the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment that founded the Gaming Pathways program at City College.

“When industries aren’t diverse, especially industries and entertainment or storytelling, they end up telling stories to the same people and that ignores whole markets of storytellers and whole kinds of stories,” said Nick Fortugno, director of the Gaming Pathways program at CCNY and the co-founder of Playmatics.

New York City teachers and administrators were able to reserve time slots at the exhibition for class trips. The website provided educational materials, including original interactive and video content that featured games and their Black and Latinx designers.

The exhibit was organized into three sections:

CONNECTING WITH SELF, which allowed visitors to examine how youth use games to shape their identity, manage their emotions, and acquire skills;

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY, which let visitors investigate how youth use games to foster community and enhance their awareness of the world around them; and

CONNECTING WITH FUTURE, which gave visitors a chance to explore how youth use their interests in games to connect with careers in the gaming industry.

Throughout the exhibit, visitors played games, met historic and contemporary figures in game design and engineering, and uncovered the invisible design behind their gaming experience. The exhibition was made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York state Legislature, the Harlem Community Development Corporation, government grants and other philanthropic foundations, industry and individual donors.



When industries aren’t diverse, especially industries and entertainment or storytelling, they end up telling stories to the same people and that ignores whole markets of storytellers and whole kinds of stories

Nick Fortugno, director of the Gaming Pathways program at CCNY and the co-founder of Playmatics





Eric N. Olson

Pioneering molecular biologist Eric Olson Gave Levine-de Beer Lecture

Eric N. Olson, who led the discovery of the key transcription factors and mechanisms that control development and disease of cardiac and skeletal muscles, delivered the 2024 Louis Levine-Gabriella de Beer Lecture in Genetics on April 9. His talk, “Correction of Muscle and Heart Disease by Gene Editing,” in the Great Hall was free and open to the public. The aim of these annual lectures is to perpetuate Professor Louis Levine’s lifelong interest in the ever-expanding field of genetics.

Olson is the founding chair of the Department of Molecular Biology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. He holds the Robert A. Welch Distinguished Chair, the Annie and Willie Nelson Professorship in Stem Cell Research, and the Pogue Distinguished Chair in Research on Cardiac Birth Defects. He also serves as director of the Hamon Center for Regenerative Science & Medicine and the Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Clinical Research Center.

Olson and his trainees discovered the key transcription factors and mechanisms that control development and disease of cardiac and skeletal muscles. These discoveries, at the interface of basic science and medicine, have profoundly influenced the understanding of the development and dysfunction of the cardiovascular and muscular systems. They have also provided new targets for therapeutic developments.

More recently, Olson has turned his attention to Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a lethal degenerative disease of skeletal muscles and the heart, that has defied all therapies. His team conceived a gene editing method to correct a majority of DMD mutations and demonstrated the effectiveness of this method in human muscle cells and in mice and dogs with DMD.

He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He sits on the advisory boards of numerous organizations and has founded multiple biotechnology companies to translate the discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic.

The Louis Levine-Gabriella de Beer Lecture in Genetics was established by Gabriella de Beer in memory of her husband, Professor Louis Levine. A graduate of CCNY, he earned his Ph.D. in population genetics under the late great evolutionary geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky at Columbia University. Levine’s research centered on population studies of *Drosophila* and behavior genetics of mice. Human genetics and forensic genetics were among other areas to which he was devoted. Professor Levine taught in the Department of Biology and in the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, participated in bi-national research studies in Mexico, was visiting professor at the Technion (the Israel Institute of Technology). In later years, he served as a consultant and expert witness in criminal cases involving DNA evidence.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



The Immigrant Student Center for Resources and Research officially opened on April 15 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Resources and Research Center for Immigrant Students Opens

Eight years in the making, the Immigrant Student Center for Resources and Research officially opened on April 15, making it the third CUNY campus, after Brooklyn and John Jay Colleges, to have a dedicated immigrant student center.

Located in NAC 6/204, where it shares space with the CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education and the CCNY Dream Team, the Center supports and guides immigrant students by providing them with the necessary resources to enroll in and to navigate college, and to complete their degrees. It serves students who are undocumented, have precarious immigration status, and are first-generation immigrants.

For example, many immigrant students have issues accessing higher education, said the Center’s interim director, Daniela Alulema. They may get intimidated by the process of applying for New York state residency and qualifying for in-state tuition and financial assistance.

“We need to make sure that undocumented students understand that higher education is a possibility for them,” she said.

“The work to be done in this center aligns perfectly with the School of Ed’s mission and the emphasis we place on preparing educators who are qualified and committed to teaching and leading diverse



CUNY-IIE Premieres Video Series on Immigration in Schools

The CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education premiered its new video series, featuring school-wide projects produced by three elementary schools in New York state, at Aaron Davis Hall in December.

“Not Too Young: Immigration in Elementary Schools” illustrated the ways in which schools can be responsive to their immigrant communities, and prioritize immigrant students and families at their schools.

The projects were: “Welcoming New Students: A Guide for Teachers, Created by Students” (P.S. 212Q, Jackson Heights); “My Story and Our Story,” a collaboration with CUNY-IIE and the Tenement Museum (P.S. 340X, the Bronx); and “Family Literacy Program,” in which families from Burundi, Costa Rica and Mexico shared their stories about schooling in their countries of origin and learned about the education system in the U.S. (The Children’s School of Rochester).

“These videos highlight how schools can and must center immigration, even for our youngest students. We hope these videos will serve as examples of what’s possible and encourage other schools to create relevant approaches to serve their immigrant communities,” said the series director, CUNY-IIE Principal Investigator Tatyana Kleyn, professor of bilingual education and TESOL programs.

communities,” said Dean Edwin M. Lamboy. He pointed out that, while this may be the third such center in the CUNY system, it is the first with a research component.

Professor of Bilingual Education & TESOL Tatyana Kleyn, the co-founder of the Center, said that its impetus began in 2012 with an email from undergraduate student Yatziri Tovar, a co-founder of the new Dream Team student club. She asked Kleyn to be the club’s faculty advisor.

The group “had the support of the New York state Youth Leadership Council and [they] began building the Dream Team from the ground up a dozen years ago,” said Kleyn. “They created a flyer and a presence on social media, and they were on a mission. And here we are, 12 years later, because of them.”

President Vincent Boudreau noted the tenacity of those who advocated for the Center to become a reality.

“When the students and faculty presented the idea of this center to me, it was clearly a passion project for them, and great projects need impassioned, dedicated architects and advocates. They connected our core mission—social mobility and economic impact—to the work of supporting immigrant students,” he said. “You don’t get social mobility without providing a path forward for new Americans. You don’t get the kind of economic impact we achieve without opening doors to new Americans.”

The data provided by Cynthia Carvajal, CUNY’s director of Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs, allowed for the administration to see the need for undocumented students at CCNY to receive targeted support to access financial aid, scholarships, in-state tuition rate, and internships available to them, said Kleyn.



P.S. 212Q teacher Kellie Griffith Tanaka, who is also an adjunct lecturer of learning, leadership, and culture, with one of her students.

“

You don’t get the kind of economic impact we achieve without opening doors to new Americans.

President Vincent Boudreau

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Representatives of various organizations discussed their careers and potential opportunities in the science education field at a Feb. 29 career panel.

Science Educators Offer Advice and Wisdom at Career Panel

Professionals from a variety of scientific and educational organizations shared their insights and experiences on a Science Learning and Public Engagement Career Panel coordinated by the School's new Science Education and Public Engagement major.

Co-sponsored with the City College Initiative to Promote Academic Success in STEM (CiPASS), the Division of Science and the Grove School of Engineering, the event brought together five panelists, each of whom gave her unique perspective on career opportunities for those interested in science education that includes, but can go beyond, teaching.

The panelists were: Christina Carrero, urban waters ambassador - Bronx and Harlem Rivers at the Hudson River Foundation; Necia Clarke, associate director of Youth Development for the City Parks Foundation; Abby Perez, senior manager of Youth and Workforce Development at the American Museum of Natural History; Gabi Rodriguez, director of STEM Education for the Green Design Lab; and Laycca Umer, manager of the Research, Exhibits, and Programs division at the New York Hall of Science, and a two-time graduate of the City College (B.S., Childhood Education Psychology; M.S., Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

Each panelist gave an overview of her current position and career journey, and provided career advice.

Umer spoke of how her early experience as an explainer at the Hall of Science was a turning point in her career, as it compelled her to learn more about science in preparation for a career as an elementary school educator.

"Another turning point was doing research on how people learn, and I got involved in developing technology tools for education," she said. "I followed that path."

Perez told the attendees that, while they may not yet know or feel what their passion is, "when you do, let that motivate you to do great work."

Carrero agreed, noting that she is interested in the applications of biology with community and politics. Her current job, "connecting people with the waterways," allows her to explore those applications, she said.

"Try to balance something you like with the financial reward," said Clarke. She and Rodriguez urged attendees to take advantage of internship opportunities.

"The courses needed to fulfill this new major in Science Learning and Public Engagement can lead to a wide variety of career options," said the program's director, Associate Professor of Teaching & Learning/Biology Yael Wyner. "The diversity of experiences represented by this panel offered attendees a chance to learn about opportunities that they may not have considered."



Sustainability Brings Together Interdisciplinary Network

The Sustainability Public Service Announcement Project, based in the School's Science Learning and Public Engagement program, is a campus messaging campaign on sustainability topics. SPSA features digital content created by more than 1,100 CCNY students in 58 courses and shown continually on the public display screens throughout campus. The SPSA Project aims to amplify sustainability-related teaching, learning, communication, messaging, activism, community engagement and career development on campus, as well as community service throughout New York City. Sponsored by the Campus Engagement Network, this interdisciplinary project is led by faculty members Stephanie Rose of the School of Education and Pamela Stemberg of the Division of Humanities & the Arts. It brought together 29 instructors from schools, divisions, and departments across CCNY to participate in the SPSA Faculty Learning Community. In the past academic year, participating instructors incorporated the SPSA Common Assignment into their 58 courses.



Dean Carmen Renée Green

Full Accreditation for CUNY School of Medicine

CUNY announced that the CUNY School of Medicine received its full accreditation, a rigorous process, from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education. Dean Carmen Renée Green, M.D. received

the news and proudly shared this achievement with the entire CUNY Med community saying, “I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the accreditation process, as this is truly a team effort. I thank every individual who provided guidance to our team during each stage of the accreditation process and express my gratitude to the dedicated faculty, staff, students, clinical partners, donors, and alumni for their support.”

The CUNY School of Medicine achieved preliminary accreditation in 2015 and welcomed its charter class in the fall of 2016. President Boudreau added his thoughts about the meaningful accomplishment for the school. “Many people on this campus have worked for years to build and establish this school to be a place dedicated to diversifying the medical profession, particularly to provide primary health care to underserved communities,” he said.

NIH Chief Diversity Officer Addresses B.S. Graduates Who Will Be Class of 2027

At the CUNY School of Medicine’s 2023 B.S. Commencement and White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 3, the graduating class was addressed by Marie A. Bernard, chief officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity at the National Institutes of Health. Bernard promotes scientific creativity, diversity, inclusiveness, and equity throughout the NIH.

The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 75 medical doctor candidates’ undergraduate education. It also formally welcomed them to their first year of medical school and to the medical profession as student doctors, the CUNY School of Medicine Class of 2027.

Green praised Bernard for her inspirational story from “physician to geriatrician to researcher to chief officer at the NIH” and her insights from “leading and promoting diversity and equity efforts for one of the world’s largest and most prominent research organizations.” She proudly spoke of the graduating class as being healers, leaders, and scholars who are “changing the face and the future of medicine.”

Bernard spoke of the need for the scientific and medical communities to reflect those it serves. “It is vital that we continue to strive for a diverse, inclusive workforce that allows individuals to contribute the breadth of their talents to help scientific organizations solve the world’s most critical issues,” said Bernard. “CUNY Med is not just training excellent medical students, but empowering leaders with a curriculum and clinical training that educates our future doctors and researchers in fully understanding and helping to change health disparities and healthcare inequities.”

The ceremony included a special address from CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, who has focused his tenure on championing educational equity across the CUNY system.



CUNY Med Dean Carmen Renée Green and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez with B.S. graduates



CUNY Med Class of 2025 Receives White Coats at Commencement Ceremony

The CUNY School of Medicine 2025 B.S. Commencement and White Coat ceremony, which took place on Aug. 10, was the first one in which the CUNY Med third year medical students (M3s) participated. This ceremony celebrated the completion of their undergraduate education and formally welcomed them to the medical profession as student doctors.

“As chair of the Pediatrics Department at Wayne State University, I strive to ensure that medical students understand and advocate for the needs of diverse children and families and that they work to help end healthcare inequities,” keynote speaker Herman B. Gray told the graduates. “I applaud the CUNY School of Medicine and Dean Green for their shared commitment and continued mission to address healthcare inequities in New York City, especially for children and the most vulnerable, and to increase diversity and representation in medicine.”

“We are honored to have such a tremendous advocate for children, families, and healthcare equity who has done legendary work and led humanitarian efforts supporting pediatric health care and specialty care for children with special needs,” said Green. “As the former chief medical consultant for the Michigan Department of Community Health – Children’s Special Health Services, and as vice president and medical director of clinical affairs for Blue Care Network, Dr. Gray understands the myriad of challenges that are facing health care systems and the clinical training required to educate our future doctors and researchers in fully understanding and helping to change health disparities and healthcare inequities. For his efforts, he will receive the CUNY School of Medicine Social Mission Award.”

Marina Frimer, president of the Sophie Davis/CUNY School of Medicine Alumni Association, was the alumni speaker at the ceremony. A gynecologic oncologist and the associate chief of research and academic development at Northwell Health, she and her husband, Michael Weiler, generously donated the white coats for the students.

The Class of 2025’s formal White Coat ceremony that was scheduled in 2020 was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

High Residency Placement Rates at Match Day 2024

Continuing to place at rates higher than the national average, students at the CUNY School of Medicine have earned residency placements at medical institutions in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Ohio, South Carolina and Florida.

On Match Day 2024, CUNY Medicine students had a 96.5 percent match, which this year was higher than the U.S. average of 93.5 percent. The 55 future physicians from CCNY will be training in 13 specialty areas.

The specialty areas and number of student matches are:

- Internal Medicine (14)
- Pediatrics (11)
- Emergency Medicine (6)
- Anesthesiology (4)
- Psychiatry (4)
- Family Medicine (3)
- Surgery-Preliminary (3)
- Obstetrics-Gynecology (2)
- General Surgery (2)
- Transitional (2)
- Orthopaedic Surgery (2)
- Primary Care Internal Medicine (1)
- Emergency Medicine-Family Medicine (1)

Green said that Match Day was the culmination of the students’ intense commitment to their medical education and the reward for their hard work the past seven years. “More than ever, we need healers, leaders, and scholars who—like our students—reflect the diversity and lived experiences of the people in our communities and in our country,” she said.

Green also shared congratulations on behalf of CUNY Chancellor Félix Matos-Rodríguez, who conveyed “a collective sense of pride in CUNY Medicine’s students, and best wishes for the continued success on their next leg of their professional journey.”

Among the Match Day students who self-identified by race, 30 percent are Asian, 28 percent are Black, 23 percent are Latinx, and 10 percent are white.

CUNY Medicine offers an accelerated seven-year BS/MD degree that relies on a holistic application process and has never used the MCAT in its admission process. Dean Green credited this approach with achieving the school’s unusually diverse medical student population.



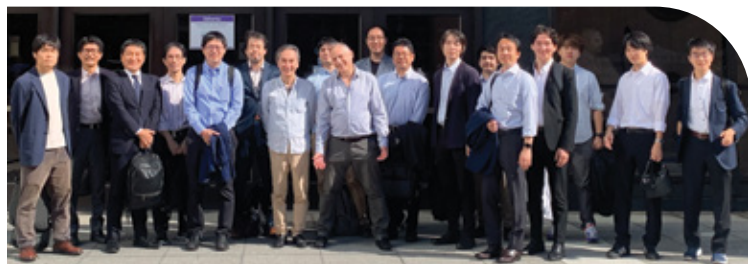
CUNY Med Dean Carmen Renée Green and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez with B.S. graduates



Partnership with Japanese institutions and Columbia in 6G Development

The Grove School is partnering with three leading Japanese institutes and Columbia University on a mission to innovate 5G/6G communications by developing a Floating Cyber Physical System (F-CPS).

Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech), KDDI Research, Inc., and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology are CCNY's Japanese collaborators in the project funded by a grant of nearly \$1 million by NICT.



Akira Kawaguchi (seventh from left) and participants in a recent workshop at the Grove School featuring the partners in the 6G project. Fifth from left is Kyutech Professor Daiki Nobayashi.

"The project aims to process spatial and temporal data for the applications by allowing the flexible transfer of functions among connected devices, thereby accelerating the near-future smart-city implementations," said Akira Kawaguchi, chair and professor of computer science at Grove, one of the U.S. advisors.

Two other Grove School professors, electrical engineers Tarek Saadawi and Myung Lee, also serve on the U.S. advisory board.

All the collaborators attended a two-day workshop at the Grove School this fall organized by Kawaguchi and Kyutech Professor Daiki Nobayashi. The participants reviewed the progress made and worked on different tasks required. In addition, CCNY students gave presentations and lab demos, Columbia offered a site visit for its COSMOS installation, and Kyutech students held a poster session focusing on technical aspects.

Interlude from Wartime Learning Brings Gifted Ukrainian H.S. Students to CCNY

Summer school at The City College of New York for 36 outstanding students from two of war-torn Ukraine's top specialized high schools for physics and mathematics began with a 12-hour bus ride from the capital Kyiv to the Polish border on the west. It would take another six hours to get to Warsaw, Poland's main city, from where the weary travelers caught a 10-hour flight to JFK Airport.

Conflict has a way of complicating the simplest of things in life. For three weeks in August, however, normalcy returned to the lives of these young, gifted minds from the Kyiv's Ukrainian Physics and Mathematics Lyceum (UPML) and the Kharkiv Physics and Mathematics Lyceum (KPML) No. 27, as they participated in a research camp at City College.

Dubbed "Science For Ukraine," it's the brainchild of Grove School of Engineering Professor Alexander Khanikaev, a pioneer of topological photonics and one of the world's Highly Cited Researchers. Originally from South Ossetia, another war-torn region in the former Soviet Union, Khanikaev heard about the predicament of UPML's talented students when approached to help raise funds for bomb shelters there.

"This school is really famous and is comparable to that of the Bronx High School of Science in terms of its contribution to training outstanding scientists in the former Soviet Union, and in the post-Soviet times," said Khanikaev. "In some respects, this school has the same mission as CCNY in uplifting students from poverty by creating opportunities for them in various fields including STEM. I thought that it would be great to organize a summer school for these students so that they could escape reality, at least for a short period of time, and reinforce their interest in the sciences."

(continued on next page)



"Science for Ukraine" participants from two specialized Ukrainian high schools for gifted students at the Advanced Science Research Center at CCNY

Khanikaev's initiative was supported by the Simons Foundation and the Office of Naval Research, which co-founded the summer school, as well as by City College and the CUNY Graduate Center.

The cohort engaged in research ranging from photonics to creating materials for nanotechnology with world class scientists and researchers at CCNY and the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, a branch of the CUNY Graduate Center on the CCNY campus.

In addition to Khanikaev and his state-of-the-art photonics lab, other mentors included Andrea Alù, Einstein Professor of Physics at the CUNY Graduate Center, with affiliation to CCNY, and a reputation as an internationally renowned metamaterials expert.

The young visitors, mostly eighth and ninth graders, grabbed the opportunity with open arms. Fourteen-year-old Zakhar Cherniak, a ninth grader at UPML, nurtured his interest in metamaterials and nanostructures under Alù's tutelage. As well as returning to the U.S. for college, possibly at City College. "Why not? After this trip, I'll have lots of contacts at CCNY," he said.

Sofia Siedlovska and Daria Ruban, ninth grade classmates at KMPL and both chemistry enthusiasts, were awed by their project in the lab of Maria Tamargo, a member of the National Academy of Engineering hailed for her contributions to molecular-beam epitaxy of semiconductor materials.

"We are working with the professor on creating materials for nanotechnology. It's really interesting research that will continue without us when we leave," said Siedlovska. The 14-year-old aspires to be a surgeon who could, in the future, apply nanotechnology to her work.

Cherniak, Siedlovska, and Ruban were inspired by their early research to return stateside for college.

Doctoral Degrees Without Borders Program Gives Access Minus Fees

Doctoral students at nine New York City-area graduate engineering programs, including the Grove School, will soon be able to take courses at each other's institutions without any additional tuition, as part of a new multi-school agreement.

The Inter-University Engineering Doctoral Consortium (IUEDC), led by NYU Tandon School of Engineering, encourages Ph.D. students to complement their primary program by taking courses of interest offered at different schools, providing access to specialty instruction and expertise that may not be available at their home universities. Enrollment began in fall 2024.

To participate, students must have completed at least one year at their primary institution, must be in good academic standing and must get written approval from home and host institutions. The only costs students incur are lab fees.

"As engineers, we have long known the importance of collaborating across departments and disciplines, in order to most effectively address the challenges facing our world," said NYU Tandon Dean Jelena Kovačević. "This consortium signals the collective dedication of the institutions to remove barriers to advanced learning and rigorous scholarship, helping unleash the full potential of all our students while enrolled and in their post-graduate pursuits."

The other IUEDC participants are: Columbia Engineering; Cornell Tech; New York Institute of Technology College of Engineering and Computing Sciences; Princeton University School of Engineering and Applied Science; Rutgers University School of Engineering; Stevens Institute of Technology Charles V. Schaefer Jr. School of Engineering and Science; and Stony Brook University College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

NYU Tandon began assembling the consortium earlier this year, taking cues from a similar arrangement between the NYU Graduate School of Arts & Science and eight other area universities.

Grove School Dean Alexander Couzis said: "At the Grove School of Engineering, we value academic excellence, champion accessibility, and are committed to every student's success— and this is precisely what this consortium offers."

"Doctoral students are exceptionally focused and have often chosen their field of study in order to work with a specific faculty member," said Peter Voltz, NYU Tandon's vice dean for academics and an associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, who serves as consortium coordinator. "The consortium allows them to have access to a broader swath of courses across multiple universities."



Engineering doctoral students at Grove can now take courses at eight other top institutions without paying extra.



Cybersecurity M.A. Designated a Center of Academic Excellence

CCNY has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense (CAE-CD) by the National Security Agency for the Grove School's master of science degree program in cybersecurity. The designation runs through 2028.

The NSA awards CAE-C designations to institutions that commit to producing cybersecurity professionals that will reduce vulnerabilities in the national infrastructure. While the NSA does not provide funding to CAE-C designated institutions, once a school obtains a designation, it can compete for grants like the U.S. Department of Defense Cybersecurity Scholarship Program and can apply for the National Science Foundation's Scholarship for Service program.

"This validation by the National Security Agency affirms CCNY's commitment for offering this Cybersecurity Master's Degree Program as a standard of cybersecurity curriculum and academic excellence, and its pursuit to integrate cybersecurity practice within the institution across academic disciplines," said Professor of Electrical Engineering Tarek Saadawi, co-founder of the Cybersecurity Master's Degree Program and director of the Center for Information Networking and Telecommunications.

Through seed funding from the New York City Economic Development Corporation, City College built the Cybersecurity M.A. program in collaboration with private sector and government partners. The master's program is part of a broader initiative designed to stimulate the cybersecurity ecosystem and to establish New York City as the global leader in cybersecurity.

The goal of the program is to develop an industry-informed curriculum providing students with the practical skills required for professional success, and to integrate classroom learning with internships and other industry-supported events. The curriculum has been validated by the NSA as part of its National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity program.

This past summer, City College collaborated with the New York City Economic Development Corporation to pilot the Cyber NYC Internship Program linking students to paid internships offering hands-on training, networking, and real world experience with the goal of converting the opportunities into full-time jobs. CCNY has partnered with Cyber NYC since 2018.

Faculty Join \$12M Google Cybersecurity Research Project

CCNY is a participant in a \$12 million Google initiative to stimulate the cybersecurity ecosystem and establish New York City

as the global leader in cybersecurity. Three faculty from Grove – Rosario Gennaro, Nelly Fazio (both computer science) and Samah Saeed (electrical engineering) – are among the beneficiaries of the \$12 million grant that will go toward cutting-edge research. In addition to their research, they will help expand educational opportunities for students seeking advanced degrees in cybersecurity.

The Google funding will support 90 collaborative research projects by 2025 in areas where further research could encourage the development of more secure digital ecosystems and inspire innovation. The funding will also be used by the universities to help grow their cybersecurity degree programs, bolster the upcoming workforce and champion underrepresented groups in cybersecurity.

CUNY, Columbia University, Cornell, and New York University are the other institutions involved in the Google Cyber NYC Institutional Research Program.

"This CUNY-wide grant will be used to support cybersecurity education at all the campuses, and in particular it will help us generate a common platform across CUNY to share curricula,



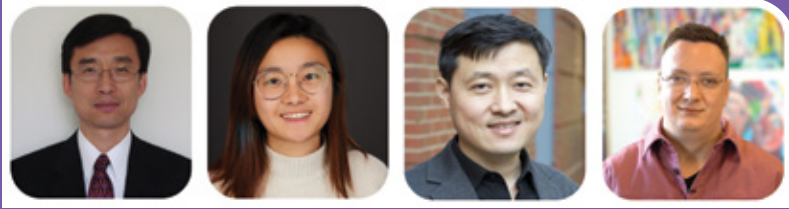
Grove School experts participating in Google's \$12 million cybersecurity research program, from left: Rosario Gennaro, Nelly Fazio and Samah Saeed.

projects, etc. across all the colleges," said Gennaro, director of the Grove School's Center for Algorithms and Interactive Scientific Software. "Moreover, in cooperation with all the other New York City academic institutions that are part of the Google effort, we will build a city-wide 'Research Experience for Undergraduates' program, where undergraduates from all the NYC universities will be matched with mentors across all NYC campuses to work on research projects sponsored by Google."

Gennaro and Fazio are engaged in joint research to "work on building new and more efficient Zero-Knowledge Proofs, which are tools used to protect privacy and integrity of computations performed over data which is distributed over networks," said Gennaro.

"Insights from these analyses will inform the development of a lightweight security application to prevent illegal distribution of quantum circuits at low cost by leveraging information hiding," said Saeed, whose research entails identifying new methods for hiding information/gates in quantum circuits. "It will also explore how to co-design security and reliability features of the quantum architectures using advanced deep learning."

Another goal is to address diversity gaps in the cybersecurity industry by focusing on recruiting and developing workers from underrepresented groups.



From left: Zhigang Zhu, Jin Chen, Hao Tang, Arber Ruci

Pioneering Indoor Navigation System Developed

In a major stride toward revolutionizing indoor navigation, a CCNY-led team has developed groundbreaking technology that could chart real-time paths, delivering users—both sighted and low vision—a seamless and accurate indoor navigation experience complete with turn-by-turn guidance. The invention has earned a U.S. patent titled, “System and Method for Real-time Indoor Navigation.”

The innovation is the brainchild of the CUNY Computational Vision and Convergence Laboratory, headed by Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Computer Science Zhigang Zhu, and its partners.

The partners, all of whom are CCNY alumni, are: Jin Chen, Class of 2020 (B.S.) and 2022 (M.S.), a data scientist, and co-founder and chief technology officer of neARabl Technology; Arber Ruci, Class of 2012 (B.S.), CCVCL member, CEO and co-founder of neARabl, and Entrepreneur In Residence at the National Science Foundation’s New York I-Corps Hub; and Hao Tang, Class of 2003 (M.S.), CVCL member and professor of computer information systems at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

An entity born out of CCVCL, neARabl was officially established in October 2021. It holds exclusive licensing rights for the cutting-edge technology and partners with Bentley Systems Inc.

This advanced indoor navigation system features a meticulous modeling subsystem that intricately processes multimodal locational data, autonomously creating models for overlapping local regions. Subsequently, the navigation system harnesses these models to dynamically chart real-time paths to the benefit of users.

Work on the technology can be traced back to the CUNY-Rutgers-Lighthouse Guild-Bentley Systems joint project, Smart and Accessible Transportation Hub. Envisioned as a transformative initiative, it sought to transform a large transportation hub into a smart and accessible hub. The outcome was an augmented reality (AR)-based mobile system tailored for assistive indoor navigation, offering turn-by-turn guidance over expansive indoor spaces without the need for costly infrastructure.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul lauded the technology at the New York State Innovation Summit after the CCNY team leveraged the state’s innovation ecosystem, particularly NYSTAR and FuzeHub, to complete 70 pilots throughout the state, engaging over 6,000 users. They continue to refine the technology, committed to producing additional intellectual property, including 3D reconstruction and 2D blueprint to 3D conversion.

Funding was provided by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES & THE ARTS



Emmy-award-winning journalist Barbara Nevins Taylor is the Journalism Program director and helped spearhead the new B.A. in Communications.

New Communications B.A. Debuted Fall 2024

Students have the opportunity to enroll in new concentrations of journalism or advertising and public relations toward a B.A. in Communications, as of the fall 2024 semester. Housed in the Media and Communications Arts Department, both majors consist of 42 credits and begin with the Introduction to Media Studies course.

For journalism, the major begins with MCA 2300 Introduction to Journalism and culminates with a capstone class where students work in teams to cover a big story or a series of stories. It is an immersive journalism experience that gives students the chance to use their communities and New York City as their laboratory. Stories will be published regularly on “Harlem View,” the journalism website. An 18-credit minor in journalism will still be available.

According to Emmy-award winning journalist and Journalism Program Director Barbara Nevins Taylor, the new B.A. reflects increased student demand and interest. “Many in our diverse student community want to learn how to cover and report stories that often go untold. The knowledge and skills they gain in the program will prepare them to bring their unique insight into newsrooms and other institutions that prize journalistic analysis and craft,” said Nevins Taylor, who has won 22 Emmy Awards, more than 50 journalism awards and honors, and was recently featured in an ABC News documentary and a Netflix docuseries.

Two new courses available in the fall semester are Creative Thinking for Communication Arts and Journalism & Society: Covering Power. Students will be encouraged to take classes in history, philosophy, the arts, political science, economics, and computer science to provide a foundation for understanding communities and the world at large.

A new course, Media Planning, will be available for Ad/PR students in fall 2024. Associate Professor Edward Keller is the program director. Faculty, lecturers, and workshop leaders are working journalists from “The New York Times,” “The Wall Street Journal,” “The New York Daily News,” National Public Radio, ABC News, CBS News, NBCU, WPIX, CNN, and other major news organizations.

Journalism at The City College of New York has a storied history that goes back more than 100 years. CCNY graduates have won top journalism awards and honors, including Pulitzer Prizes, Emmy Awards, Webby Awards, and others.

New CCNY Black Studies Chair Jervette R. Ward Ushers in New Goals



Jervette R. Ward

Within 11 months of hiring Professor Jervette R. Ward to lead the Black Studies Department, the goal of reestablishing the program as a department has been accomplished. That is just one in a long list of goals that under her leadership have been met and exceeded. After a national search, Ward was appointed as director of the Black Studies Program in August 2023 in the Division of Humanities & the Arts, and she now serves as the chair of the new department.

Black Studies organized and led the 45th Annual Langston Hughes Festival honoring Colson Whitehead, as well as the “Legacy Igniting the Movement: The 55th Anniversary of the CCNY Student Takeover.” These efforts were supported by the Black Studies Chief of Staff Jodi-Ann Francis, the guidance of the Black Studies Executive Committee, and the direction of the Langston Hughes Festival Advisory Committee.

As president of the College Language Association, Ward oversees the annual convention, the peer-reviewed academic journal, and the leadership team. Recognizing the importance



The award-winning documentary “The Five Demands,” co-directed and co-produced by Professor Andrea Weiss and alumna Greta Schiller, made its national television debut on PBS.

of HBCUs in the narrative of Black Studies, she leads strategic partnerships such as establishing the new CLA headquarters on the campus of LeMoyne-Owen College, a private HBCU and the founding location of CLA in 1937, and strengthening ties with the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library.

This role has allowed Ward to continue to facilitate partnerships for Black Studies with the Modern Language Association and other major academic organizations through work on a joint task force addressing AI concerns in higher education. One of the major goals of the new department is to help prepare students for future careers and educational advancement.

Goals for the upcoming academic year include establishing an office suite in historic Shepard Hall; hiring new tenure track faculty to meet the required number of faculty lines; updating curriculum, bylaws, mission, and vision; drafting a Strategic Plan in alignment with the College’s Strategic Plan; supporting faculty research, teaching, and service innovations; revamping the cross-listing course structure; continuing strategic partnerships; and hosting the 46th Annual Langston Hughes Festival honoring Roxane Gay.

Ward recently appeared on an episode of Black America, the award-winning CUNY TV show that profiles prominent Black people in the community. The episode focused on the reestablishment of the Black Studies Department, how Five Demands led to change at CCNY, and the documentary, “The Five Demands,” which made its PBS debut.

Ward came to CCNY from Mississippi State University, where she was a professor of English. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Memphis. She writes, teaches, and speaks on the power of language and popular culture as avenues for social change.

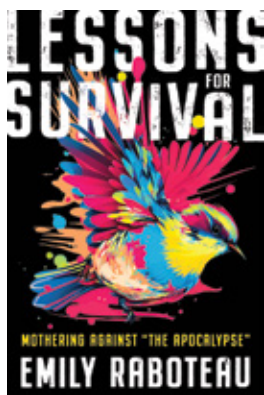
New Book by Emily Raboteau Blends Motherhood and Justice



Emily Raboteau
Photo credit: Rachel Eliza Griffiths

Professor, author and thought leader Emily Raboteau published a new book of essays, “Lessons for Survival: Mothering Against the Apocalypse” (Henry Holt & Co., 2024), in March. A book launch was held at the Center for Fiction in Brooklyn, during which Raboteau and MIT Professor and essayist Garnette Cadogan discussed her new nonfiction work. Raboteau (“The Professor’s Daughter,”

“Searching for Zion”) offered her perspective as a mother raising children during protracted crises and existential threats, such as climate collapse and the over-policing of Black bodies. Provocative and innovative, Raboteau’s writing confronts the myriad, multiplying dangers that constitute life in the 21st century, at the intersections of social, racial, and environmental justice, through the lens of motherhood. Her book is a moving exploration of what it takes to raise thriving children in a world



of inequities, without coming undone yourself. During the discussion, Raboteau shared photographs from the book, and afterward signed books. This was the first event of a major book tour for Raboteau. “Lessons for Survival” was very well-received by critics, and covered extensively in the press, including “The Atlantic,” “The New York Times,” and the “L.A. Review of Books.”

Colson Whitehead Awarded 2024 Langston Hughes Medal



Colson Whitehead. Photo by Chris Close.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Colson Whitehead was presented with the Langston Hughes Medal at a ceremony on Feb. 1 in Aaron Davis Hall, kicking off both Black History Month and the 45th Annual Langston Hughes Festival.

Whitehead won his first Pulitzer Prize in 2017 for his novel “The Underground Railroad.” A “New York Times” #1 bestseller, it also

earned him the National Book Award and the Carnegie Medal for Fiction. In 2019, he won his second Pulitzer for “The Nickel Boys,” a novel inspired by the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys in Florida, and won the Kirkus Prize and the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction.

Other notable books of his include his first novel, “The Intuitionist,” a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award and winner of the Quality Paperback Book Club’s New Voices Award; “John Henry Days,” finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, the “Los Angeles Times” Fiction Award, and the Pulitzer Prize. It won the Young Lions Fiction Award and the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award; “Apex Hides the Hurt,” PEN/Oakland Award winner; “Sag Harbor,” finalist PEN/Faulkner award and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award; and more recently, “Harlem Shuffle,” and “Crook Manifesto,” the first two books in his Harlem Trilogy.

Whitehead’s reviews, essays, and fiction have appeared in a number of publications, such as “The New York Times,” “The New Yorker,” “New York magazine,” “Harper’s” and “Granta.” His honors include a MacArthur Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Whiting Writers Award, the Dos Passos Prize, and a fellowship at the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. In 2018, New York State named him its New York State Author, and in 2020 the Library of Congress awarded him its Prize for American Fiction.

The festive event was hosted by master of ceremonies Jervette Ward, associate professor and chair of Black Studies, and included musical performances by Ariel Reign, Memphis music ambassador. Whitehead read his work, as well as signed books.

Talent Pipeline Established for Future Communications Leaders



From left: Tracey Wood Mendelsohn, president and CEO, BPRS-NY; Lynne Scott Jackson, CCNY Ad/PR director; and Alicia Evans, president, Total Image Communications.

The Black Public Relations Society of New York and The City College of New York Advertising and Public Relations Program launched Generation ALL IN, a multi-year initiative to empower the next generation of communications leaders. Gen ALL IN will provide training and mentorship to Ad/PR scholars, preparing them for early career positions in today’s evolving media landscape.

The mentoring component is open to the 200 Ad/PR students in CCNY’s Media & Communication Arts Department, as well as undergraduates specializing in journalism and film. Gen ALL IN offers leadership training through panels, workshops, and webinars, enhancing skills for the Public Relations Student Society of America and American Advertising Federation campus chapters.

Gen ALL IN establishes vital connections between tri-state professionals and Ad/PR students, with a focus on supporting men of color, traditionally underrepresented in various communication sectors.

The initiative seeks to increase the number of Black male communication professionals; offer scholarships; provide internship opportunities; and serve as a premier mentoring association during CCNY's annual Building Bridges Career Fair and Networking Mixer.

The program's impact will be showcased at the early Fall '24 PR Summit for PR-Preneurs™, featuring keynote speakers and highlighting success stories.

Gen ALL IN aims to place a percentage of communications talent in entry-level positions by 2025 and support ambitious freelancers in starting or scaling consultancies. BPRS-NY members, working with faculty, will enhance the Ad/PR Program's practical approach, reinforcing business etiquette, interpersonal skills, and integrated marketing communication techniques for the digital age.

The initiative encourages an "each one - teach one" philosophy, encouraging students to join professional associations and understand the role of vital networks like the CCNY Communications Alumni Group. BPRS-NY members will extend opportunities for students to volunteer, intern, and serve as Gen ALL IN Fellows at NYC leadership events, fostering strategic campaign development and project management skills.

BPRS-NY is a knowledge, resource and opportunity network for African American communications professionals, entrepreneurs and students. Founded in 1991, BPRS-NY is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization, affiliated with the National Black Public Relations Society, established in 1987 by Pat Tobin of Los Angeles.

Link Discovered Between Increased Stress and Fatal Car Crashes During Pandemic



Keith Gandal

New research led by English Professor Keith Gandal reveals that road fatalities spiked during the COVID-19 pandemic despite a significant decrease in driving due to lockdowns. Gandal and his brother Neil, a professor of economics at Tel Aviv University, along with Maya Fuks, an M.A. student at Tel Aviv University, investigated the relationship between the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S.

and fatal car crashes. Road fatalities were a lesser-known category of excess deaths during the pandemic, going up despite a significant decrease in driving due to lockdowns.

As is known, in 2020, compared to 2019, the total miles traveled by car decreased by 11 percent yet there was an increase of 6.8 percent in fatal crashes. The fatality rate per vehicle miles traveled increased by 21 percent from 2019 to 2020.

According to the research by Gandals and Fuks, the increase, however, was not uniform. Blue states that voted for Biden in 2020 experienced a larger percentage increase in fatal car acci-

dents per miles driven during the first four months of the pandemic (March through June 2020) relative to the same period in 2019. In the case of states that voted for Biden, the average percentage increase in fatal car accidents per miles driven per state was 45 percent while the increase was just 22 percent in states that voted for Trump. Interestingly, this partisan distress gap mirrors the fact that Democrats by and large experienced more intense lockdowns and more apprehensive media coverage of COVID-19 than Republicans did.

During the next four months of the pandemic (July – October 2020), when COVID-19 was less prominent in the news and lockdowns had eased, the difference in the percentage increase in fatal car accidents per miles driven between Biden and Trump states was statistically insignificant: 29 percent for Biden states versus 25 percent for states that voted for Trump.

The research, which appeared in the February issue of "European Society of Medicine," showed a "shocking correspondence," according to Keith Gandal. "In New York state, there was a 37 percent increase in fatal car accidents per miles traveled in the first four months of the pandemic."

This is the second research study conducted by the Gandal brothers about the pandemic. Their previous research found lower death tolls on the weekend during the height of the pandemic.



President Boudreau, Division of Humanities & the Arts Dean Renata K. Miller and Brazilian Consul-General Adalnio Senna Ganem signed a cooperation agreement to support study of Portuguese in the diaspora and the Portuguese language.

Support for Portuguese Studies Key Feature of CCNY and Brazilian Signing Agreement

The City College of New York and the Consulate of Brazil in New York signed an official cooperation agreement for further supporting and promoting Portuguese language and Brazilian culture at the college. The Consulate of Brazil has already been a strong financial supporter of conferences, talks and cultural events regularly organized by the minor in Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures.

(continued on next page)



The agreement now signed with Brazil comes to reinforce these two countries' commitment to support the studying of Portuguese in the diaspora, as well as CCNY's position as the only one of CUNY's 25 colleges to offer a minor in Portuguese Language and Lusophone Cultures. Created in 2014, the minor is directed by Lecturer Regina Castro McGowan of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures.

In attendance to celebrate the moment were government representatives and school officials, including Ambassador Adalnio Senna Ganem, the Brazilian consul-general in New York, along with the Consulate's head of Culture and Education Thiago Oliveira, its head of Social Media and Cultural Affairs Wesley Pedroso, and President Boudreau, Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement, Communications, and External Relations Dee Dee Mozeleski, Division of Humanities & the Arts Dean Renata K. Miller, Chair and Assistant Professor of Classical & Modern Languages & Literatures Angel Estevez, and Castro McGowan.

Before the signing, Boudreau thanked the ambassador and the Brazilian diplomats for Brazil's financial support of Portuguese classes. Ganem spoke of his delight about coming to CCNY, making clear that this signing is just the beginning of more cooperation in general. Miller thanked the Consulate and Castro McGowan for spearheading the arrangement.

Following the introductions, students from Castro McGowan's class performed for the audience. Nelson Chak played Brazil's national anthem on the flute, and Jack Kelly sang and played a popular Brazilian song.

The signing of the cooperation agreement by Boudreau, Mozeleski and Senna Ganem took place afterwards.

In 2019, CCNY signed a similar cooperation agreement with the Consulate of Portugal in New York. Portugal renewed its commitment last year.



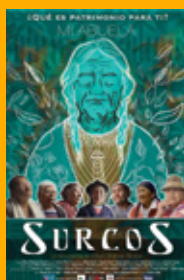
TAFFNY Celebrates a Theme of Resilience for the Festival's 11th Birthday

The 11th edition of The Americas Film Festival New York opened on June 13 with the New York premiere of Martino Zaidelis's "La Extorsion" ("The Extortion") at the Instituto Cervantes New York. TAFFNY closed on June 21 with its awards ceremony for short films in competition at the National Museum of the American Indian, followed by a special presentation of "Frybread Face and Me" by Navajo/Hopi/Laguna Pueblo filmmaker Billy Luther.

A cultural initiative of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes New York and the National Museum of the American Indian, TAFFNY presented eight feature films and more than 25 shorts that celebrated the rich diversity of the stories, languages and cultures of the Americas.

"As we marked our 11th year, we proudly affirmed our status as a beacon of artistry amid the rich cultural tapestry of the city," said Juan Carlos Mercado, dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and TAFFNY's founder. "By selecting these films, we aimed to highlight stories often overlooked in mainstream media and to showcase

WINNERS OF THE AMERICAS AWARDS:



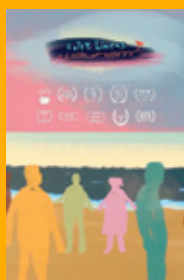
Best Documentary Short, "Creases," César Cárdenas, Ecuador, 14 min.



Best Experimental Short, "Arena," Khalil Charif, Brazil, 3 min.



Best Fiction Short, "Mermaids in the Mist," Daniela Narvaez, Colombia, 16 min.



Best Animation Short, "In Between the Lines," Juan Paulin, Mexico, 9 min.



Special Jury Mention, Documentary, "Sonidos From Bushwick," Alvaro Nieto, U.S., 11 min.



Special Jury Mention, Experimental, "Symphonic Distress," Marco Joubert, Canada, 10 min.

THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION

countries rarely featured in major festival lineups, aligning with the mission of CUNY and City College.”

The Americas Short Film Competition is dedicated to promoting and exhibiting short audiovisual works by emerging filmmakers that portray the contemporary concerns of filmmakers living in the region.

The jurors of the Documentary and Animation categories included director Catalina Santamaria, professor and radio host David Little, and Fairfield University Professor Sergio Adrada-Rafael. The jury consisted of screenwriter and author Andres Lopera-Sanchez, filmmaker Marina Fernandez, and film critic Armando Russi in the Fiction and Experimental categories.

“Every year, the filmmakers and their films reflect the endeavors and concerns of their societies,” said Diana Vargas, TAFFNY’s artistic director. “This time, we wanted to emphasize issues such as women’s stories of resilience, the power of art as a catalyst for change, and the increasingly powerful voices of native communities demanding visibility. The Americas are home to fascinating and enlightening people and cultures, and TAFFNY’s mission is to bring these to the forefront for New Yorkers to experience—all for free and fun.”



“Paghilom Children” by Filipino photographer Raffy Lerma | IG @raffylerma

Third Critical Perspective in Human Rights Conference Considers Varying Perspectives

The Critical Perspective in Human Rights Conference in April explored the contested legacy of human rights in increasingly uncertain times, and fostering dialogue and scholarship from a wide range of perspectives. Some conference presenters were scholars and activists who continue to view the human rights project as a moral and ethical challenge to power; others see it as an enabler of political and economic domination. CPHRC participants sought to reassess the origins, foundations, and contemporary forms of human rights discourse, ideas, and practice.



Poets from all over the world gathered at the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site and Interpretive Center in Huntington Station, N.Y. on the third day of The Americas Poetry Festival of New York in October.

TAPFNY Celebrates Its First Decade

The Americas Poetry Festival of New York held its tenth multilingual poetry festival from Oct. 11 through Oct. 13, 2023, in New York City. The event, organized by the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies in collaboration with the Walt Whitman Birthplace Association and the Instituto Cervantes New York, was curated by professors and writers Carlos Aguasaco, Yrene Santos, and Carlos Velásquez Torres.

During the closing ceremony at the Instituto Cervantes New York, curators and organizers presented distinguished Guatemalan Kaqchikel Maya poet Miguel Angel Oxlej Cúmez won the 2023 Poet of the Year Award “in recognition for his poetry that reflects the quest for freedom and the right to exist of the Native American nations; furthermore, for his brave and poetic deconstruction of neocolonial hegemonic discourses and resistance to new and emergent forms of cultural appropriation and displacement.”



CWE Takes a Road Trip Across the Atlantic

The IX International Conference on the Links between Spain and North America (LINKS) took place in Alcalá de Henares, Spain in April at the historic Universidad de Alcalá. This year’s conference was attended by almost 200 people, according to Dean Juan Carlos Mercado. The theme for the conference was “A Round Trip Across the Atlantic” and focused on Atlantic perspectives on how the new geostrategic order imposed by the war in Ukraine, the emergency of climate change, or the new Asia-Pacific relations related to the relationship of Spain and North America, and the Caribbean islands. CCNY Professor Ramona Hernandez gave the keynote address. Hernandez is the director of the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.



Rangel and Espaillat Headline “Future of New York” Discussion



Retired U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel and current U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat

Retired U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel and his successor in Congress, U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.), led a roster of distinguished speakers in “The Future of New York: The Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative,” part of a webinar series focusing on major issues facing New York City businesses and organizations, on Sept. 25. Featuring thought leaders across the public and private sectors, the series is an initiative of urban strategy firm Capalino to address critical challenges and solutions to drive New York’s economic recovery and spearhead inclusive growth.

In this webinar, Rangel and the other participants discussed the challenges facing New York and other cities throughout

the 21st century, and the impact that a skilled workforce can make in their modernization. Topics included: Rangel’s legacy, his partnership with City College, and his leadership in RIWI; prioritizing underrepresented communities in infrastructure industries; and private and public sector collaboration in creating a relevant and site-specific curriculum.

Moderated by Capalino Managing Director Susan Hinkson-Carling, the panel also included Carlo A. Scissura, president and CEO of the New York Building Congress, and President Boudreau.

RIWI was established to create a pipeline of skilled workers for the rapidly evolving urban landscape. Its innovative curricula includes analytical and operational skills, simulation-based training, and experiential learning. The Initiative prioritizes traditionally underrepresented communities in jobs spanning transportation, energy, buildings, water, food, waste, and digital infrastructures.



U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat

Congressman Secures \$4M More in Funding for RIWI

U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.) secured \$4,116,279 in Fiscal Year 2024 federal funding to establish a headquarters for the CCNY-based

Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Development Initiative (RIWI) program. The funding, which further addressed the lack of modern infrastructure jobs in the city, came on the heels of the \$1.5 million delivered to RIWI by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) to expand skills-based training at CCNY for low-income New Yorkers.

Rep. Espaillat provided a letter of support for the Senate application.

“I am proud to deliver \$4 million in federal funding to secure a headquarters for the Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative and its mission to help the CUNY and Harlem communities thrive,” said Espaillat, a longtime supporter, funder, and advocate of RIWI, which is in his congressional district. “This is the first step to expanding skills-based development programs for the most in-demand occupations amid nationwide threatening shortages. When we invest in better infrastructure training for our workforce, we invest in a better New York City for all.”

Applauding Espaillat’s appropriation, President Boudreau said: “Congressman Espaillat has been a foundational advocate for and supporter of the Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative. This year, recognizing that the program already had outgrown its space, he has secured a visionary appropriation allowing us to build out our physical facilities. The existence and future of this crucial initiative owes a tremendous debt to the Congressman, and we are deeply grateful.”

Espaillat’s latest funding brings to more than \$10.8 million in

support that he has procured for RIWI. In addition to the \$1.5 million in the Senate for labor, operation, and program expenses, he secured \$2.2 million in Fiscal Year 2023, and \$1.5 million in FY 2022 (which New York Gov. Kathy Hochul matched for an additional \$1.5 million in state investment).

RIWI is the brainchild of Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering Robert E. Paaswell in response to former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.)'s desire for modern infrastructure jobs in the 13th Congressional District.

Angelo Lampousis is RIWI's inaugural executive director.



U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand

New York Senators Schumer and Gillibrand deliver \$1.5M to RIWI

U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) have secured \$1.5 million in the Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations package to boost skills-based workforce development at the Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Development Initiative. The funding will support expansion of skills-based training on campus for low-income New Yorkers in the form of increased access to computer labs, instruments, trainers, and career opportunities.

"I'm proud to deliver \$1.5 million for CCNY's Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Development Initiative, a vital job-training program that helps economically disadvantaged New Yorkers overcome barriers to career advancement," said Schumer, the Senate's majority leader. "This federal funding will help expand the program, named after my friend and colleague, the great former Representative from Harlem, Charlie Rangel, to enhance New York's infrastructure workforce as well as continue CCNY's long tradition of propelling social mobility."

President Boudreau hailed the support, saying: "I am deeply grateful for Sen. Schumer's leadership and initiative in securing the \$1.5 million appropriation to support the operation of RIWI. This money will ensure that the Rangel Center continues to fulfill its crucial mission of preparing a diversified and democratically constituted workforce for the crucial, patriotic work of rebuilding America's infrastructure. Not only is this support crucial to the functioning and expansion of the Rangel Center, it's a moving testimony to our elected officials' attention to the welfare of our community and our educational institutions."

The federal funding will further enhance CCNY's reputation as a leading driver of social mobility. For example, it will raise the annual household income of families with one or more members who will receive the training at the College and land employment critical to improving the city's infrastructure as a result. In addition, the project's importance to the city is linked to its potential to enable low-income New Yorkers to become highly skilled in the most in-demand occupations.

The new funding will also enable an increase in the local workforce hiring pool for employers, enabling them to scale up operations and create even more jobs in the process. It promises to empower the economically disadvantaged, including minorities, women, veterans, the formerly incarcerated, and recent high school graduates, by improving equity of opportunity in a historically unequal infrastructure labor market.

U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.), a longtime supporter, funder, and advocate of the RIWI, which is in his 13th Congressional District, endorsed the funding proposal in a letter of support to help fortify the Senate application.



"City in Your City" Events Draw Far-flung CCNY Alumni

President Boudreau's "City In Your City" tours have afforded hundreds of alumni outside of New York with a chance to learn about the College's latest developments, advancements and initiatives over the past two and a half years.

In 2024, the president and his team visited alumni in Austin, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans and Los Angeles in January, San Francisco in February, Boston in May, Washington in June, and Chicago in October.

In the nation's capitol, 100 people gathered at the restaurant Gypsy Kitchen with special guest CCNY alumnus Alan M. Hantman B.S. '64, B Arch '66. Thirty Windy City alumni attended the event at Shaw's Crab House.

"These tours, which have become an annual tradition, give me opportunities to engage our worldwide alumni base and to strengthen their bonds with the College as we look ahead to the next 175 years. I am always seeking ways to listen to and learn from these alumni and friends of the College," said Boudreau.

For more information, visit www.ccny.cuny.edu/giving/city-events.



Alumna Vivian Gornick.
Photo by Mitchell Bach.

Writer Vivian Gornick '57 2024 Commencement Speaker and Honoree

Journalist, essayist, critic and memoirist Vivian Gornick '57 was the keynote speaker at the 171st Commencement ceremony on May 31. She also received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

Gornick achieved renown and garnered many accolades for her work since she graduated from CCNY. A prominent feminist, she has written 11 books, including 1987's "Fierce Attachments: A Memoir," which was selected in 2019 as "The New York Times" Best #1 Memoir of the Past 50 Years. The book was widely acclaimed for its emotional honesty and vivid portrayal of tenement life in the Bronx of the 1950s. She has also published numerous essays and works of criticism.

She has been honored for her work, has been a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University, and has served as the Bedell Distinguished Visiting Professor in the University of Iowa's Nonfiction Writing Program.

Gornick completed her M.A. in literature at New York University in 1960 and subsequently pursued doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

Being the child of parents she called "urban peasants," Gornick believes that she and thousands of others like her attended The City College of New York during a "golden age" in which one "lived with a strong sense of the life of the mind." Her attachment to CCNY remains deep after so many decades; she is currently at work on a memoir about her years at the College.



Valedictorian Viren Sehgal and Salutatorian Hannah Khanshali

Viren Sehgal Named Valedictorian and Hannah Khanshali Named Salutatorian

Viren S. Sehgal, a CUNY School of Medicine student who completed his undergraduate degree in biomedical science with a 4.0 GPA, was Class of 2024 Valedictorian. Hannah Khanshali, who graduated with a B.S. in biology and 4.0 GPA from the Macaulay Honors College in the Division of Science, was the Salutatorian. Both were members of The City College's first COVID-19 pandemic-era freshman class.

Born in Queens of Indian immigrant parents, Sehgal had been a CCNY student for two and half years before he first set foot on campus. Along with his freshman classmates, remote learning during those unprecedented times was the order of the day. It proved no hurdle, however, as he consistently excelled in his classes. He'd complete the Sophie Davis Biomedical Education program's three-year biomedical science degree in September

2023 with a perfect 4.0 GPA and transition to the CCNY-based CUNY Med, where he's now a first-year medical student. He's scheduled to earn his medical degree in 2027.

A second generation CUNY graduate – her mother is a College of Staten Island alumna – Khanshali was set on pursuing a veterinary career. She worked in the ER and ICU units of The Animal Medical Center, New York City's only Level 1 veterinary trauma center, and the world's largest veterinary teaching hospital. That's until her junior year, when she decided that her intrinsic creativity and curiosity were more suited to research surrounding molecular biology. She leaves CCNY with a B.S. in biology, a minor in chemistry and a perfect 4.0 GPA. She is mulling a future in immunology or cell molecular biology in the realm of cancer research.



Dream audaciously, strive relentlessly, and never forget – every goal achieved is a testament to the prolific power and potential that resides within each of you.

Valedictorian Viren Sehgal





Melina Giakoumis Publishes Research in “Molecular Ecology” About Asterias Sea Stars



Melina Giakoumis

Hybridization occurs when two species cross breed to successfully make offspring. Two species of North Atlantic sea stars, the North American *Asterias forbesi* and European *Asterias rubens*, known to cross breed in laboratory settings, were long suspected of hybridizing in their natural habitat.

Using genomic data and environmental niche modeling, Melina Giakoumis Ph.D. '23, biology, associate director of the

Institute for Comparative Genomics at the American Museum of Natural History, documented hybridization occurring along the coast from New England to the southern Canadian Maritimes. She then studied how environmental differences could have driven natural selection within and between species. The study appeared in the journal “Molecular Ecology.”

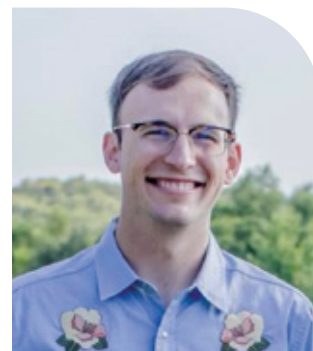
Sea stars such as *A. rubens* and *A. forbesi* are crucial to the health of intertidal ecosystems. As keystone species, their survival has a disproportionate impact on the fate of other species in their communities. “If their population crashes, other species follow,” said Giakoumis. However, the ecosystems where these sea stars once flourished are rapidly changing. “The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99 percent of the global ocean.” Sea stars in the western North Atlantic ecosystem have been in serious decline since the 1970s.

Giakoumis found certain genomic variations in both species

were driven by temperature. In the North American *A. forbesi* this genomic variation was statistically associated with long-term minimum temperatures. Conversely, long-term maximum temperatures were a factor for *A. rubens*, whose distribution extends along the North Atlantic intertidal zone well into the Arctic along the Norwegian coast.

For both species, nitrate concentration in their environment was highly associated with allelic variation, which may be important for a population’s potential for adaptability and survival.

“Will the hybrids’ movements follow the changes in sea surface temperatures so that eventually one species replaces the other?” said Giakoumis’s advisor, Biology Professor Michael Hickerson. Equally possible, hybridization could save the two species by generating a beneficial source of adaptive genetic variation. Understanding these species’ adaptations to the environment will have implications for wildlife management and conservation in the North Atlantic intertidal region.

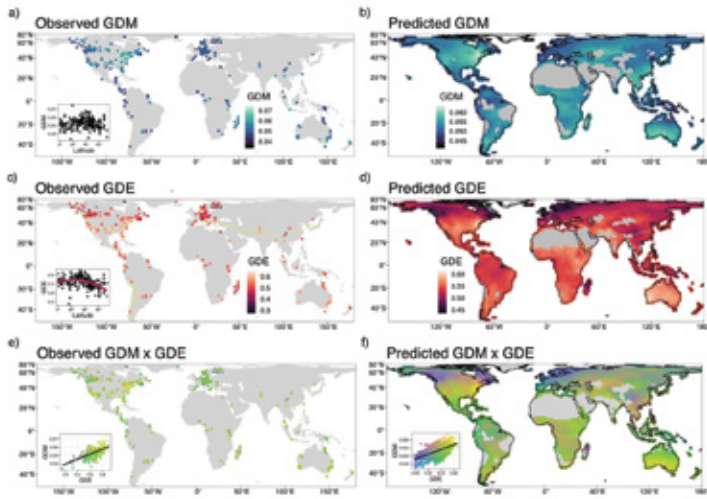


Connor French

Connor French Constructs First Global Map of Insect Mitochondrial Genetic Diversity

Understanding global patterns of species genetic diversity is an integral part of monitoring and preserving life on Earth. To date, however, scientists have mapped macrogenetic patterns in vertebrates exclusively. Macrogenetics use publicly-available data to identify global drivers of genetic diversity. Only five percent of all known living animal species are vertebrates while

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95 percent are invertebrates. More than half of invertebrates are insects.

A landmark study by biology graduate student Connor French and his collaborators, which appeared in “Nature Communications,” shows how they constructed the first global map of insect genetic diversity using data from the Barcode of Life database. It is a first step in uncovering fundamental processes that drive global patterns of genetic diversity.

“Insects are the most diverse group of organisms on the planet, but their species diversity is vastly under-described,” said French. For animals, including insects, a measurement of genetic diversity within any species can be calculated using a 650 base pair region on the mitochondrial genome.

“This study uses the largest global genetic dataset ever assembled [to study genetic diversity],” said French’s advisor and senior principal author on the paper, Biology Professor Michael Hickerson.

French compiled and analyzed 2,415,425 globally distributed and georeferenced mitochondrial DNA sequences to determine the genetic diversities for 98,417 species defined by “operational taxonomic units”—groups of individuals organized by genetic similarity.

The first global map of insect genetic variation was generated by assessing the average genetic diversity among sampled species in an area, genetic diversity mean (GDM), and genetic diversity evenness, (GDE) the degree of uniformity of genetic diversity among individuals sampled in the same area.

Calculating the two measures across all the taxa studied revealed how GDM and GDE correlate with global environmental and geographic variables.

Regions with high GDM and high GDE (above the 90th percentile) were found in eastern North America, southern South America, southern Africa and southwestern Australia. Areas with the lowest values were located in northern North America and Europe. However, not all values were uniform. Significantly higher GDE values were observed in areas that do not freeze, a finding that did not hold with GDM. Both measurements were lower in the colder regions of the world.



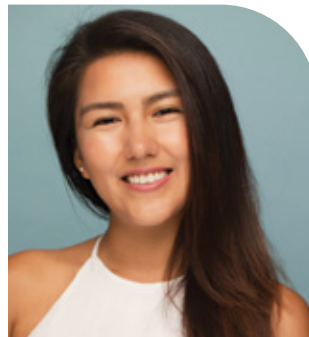
Jillian Springer

BIC Student Jillian Springer Selected for 2024 MAIP Fellowship Program

Jillian Springer, a master’s student in the Branding and Communications program, was chosen by the 4A’s / American Association of Advertising Agencies Foundation to take part in the highly selective 2024 Multicultural Advertising Internship Program (MAIP).

Springer, who graduates in 2025, joined Pereira O’Dell, a New York-based independent creative agency founded by past BIC Lecturer P.J. Pereira, as a design intern. At POD, Springer will have the opportunity to work on accounts such as IHOP, Zelle and Adobe, as well as several brands under the General Mills umbrella. MAIP also hosts professional development workshops, activities, and networking events for its Fellowship cohort.

A native New Yorker, Springer is a graphic designer in the creative track at BIC. She currently works at Baruch College, where she completed her undergraduate degree. She previously studied at the School of Visual Arts.



Sisa Quispe

MFA Film Student Sisa Quispe Wins New York Women in Film Scholarship

Sisa Quispe, an MFA student in Film, Cinema, and Video Studies, was awarded a 2023 New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) scholarship. Quispe received a scholarship and became a member of NYWIF Next Wave program for emerging professionals.

“NYWIFT’s mission is to build a more inclusive, welcoming, and sustainable working environment, and we accomplish that in no small part by cultivating new opportunities for networking and raising up the next generation of women industry leaders,” said NYWIFT CEO Cynthia Lopez.

Quispe is an indigenous Quechua-Aymara (South American person). She is a writer, director, producer, and host, who seeks to inspire the preservation of native ways while sharing a decolonizing message through her work. She hopes to bring more representation of indigenous perspectives to the screen and hopes to continue cultivating a path for other indigenous youth to develop their voice. She wrote, produced, and directed “Uрпи: Her Last Wish,” which was filmed in the Sacred Valley

of the Incas with the collaboration of indigenous Quechua communities in front of and behind the camera.

In Quispe's popular TEDx talk, "Re-thinking Who We Are Through a Decolonizing Lens," she shares her personal decolonization journey. She hosted the Instagram series "Native Voices," in which she interviewed indigenous people from Abya Yala/Turtle Island, and produced "Vive el Quechua (Living Quechua)," an episodic YouTube series preserving and sharing the indigenous language and culture.

Quispe was one of seven students from New York-area schools to win an award as part of the organization's ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation of women in media. Other awardees attended Brooklyn College's Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema, Hunter College, New York University, and Stony Brook University.

Spitzer School's Alejandro Estevez Wins 2024 HOK Diversity by Design Scholarship



Architecture student Alejandro Estevez (right) received his HOK award from Spitzer School Chair Sean Weiss.

Alejandro Estevez, a fifth-year student in the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture was one of 10 outstanding students nationally awarded \$10,000 HOK scholarships. A global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm, HOK presents the scholarships to reinforce its commitment to fostering greater diversity within the architectural profession.

The 2024 scholarship presentation marks the fourth year of the Diversity by Design program, which has consistently grown since its inception in 2021. HOK has now invested a cumulative total of \$370,000 into the initiative since launching the scholarship program.

"Supporting these exceptional students is a key part of our mission to create a more inclusive and representative architectural profession," said Ami Shah, HOK's Atlanta-based health education practice leader and a member of the firm's Diversity Advisory Council, which oversees the scholarship program. "By providing resources and opportunities, we want to break down barriers and empower the next generation of diverse design leaders."

Estevez, Class of 2025, said, "My education at City College has fostered this interest in justice through architecture and has framed a view that supplemented and supported my initial interests in the existing inequalities in the architecture of New York City."

Born and raised in the Bronx, Estevez was the recipient of the CCNY AAG - Robert E. Markinson Memorial Architecture Award, the Wittes '66 Scholarship Fund Award, and has been on the Dean's List since January 2021.

The scholarships, sponsored by HOK's U.S. regional practices, are awarded through a competitive selection process to upper-level and graduate students enrolled in National Architectural Accrediting Board accredited design programs.



Dana Ladd and Musa Matiwane

New Hollander Design Awards Go to Spitzer School First-year Students

Dana Ladd and Musa Matiwane won the 2023 Hollander Design Fellowship awards presented to students in the Master of Landscape Architecture Program in the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. Ladd was awarded the Fellowship, which includes \$4,000 for each of the three years of the program, and Matiwane was awarded a one-time scholarship of \$4,000. The students are in their first years, as the fellowship is meant to support incoming students.

Hollander Design Landscape Architects was cofounded by Edmund Hollander, FASLA, president of the firm. While Hollander has committed to a Fellowship per year since 2020, the additional one-time awards are due to the firm's generosity, the belief in its mission to diversify the industry, and the strength of the applicant pool. Hollander Design is one of few landscape architecture firms on Architectural Digest's AD100 list.

"Spitzer is indebted to Edmund Hollander and his colleagues at the Hollander Design Landscape Architects for renewing the Hollander Design Fellowship at the architecture school," said Dean Marta Gutman. "The firm's generosity sustains landscape architecture students, recognizing their design intelligence and alleviating their needs."

Hollander Design Landscape Architects established the fellowship in 2020 to encourage and support New York City students from demographics and communities that are historically underrepresented in landscape architecture to pursue the field. Matthew Brown Velasquez MLA '23 was the first recipient

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to graduate with the assistance of the Fellowship's full three years. Gaël Oriol MLA '24 was the second.

"As a Puerto Rican and Chinese individual," said Ladd, "I've developed a profound sensitivity to cultural diversity. This sensitivity has instilled in me the importance of respecting and incorporating various cultural elements into landscape design. I firmly believe that landscapes should reflect the communities they serve, celebrating their cultural richness and promoting inclusivity." Ladd received her B.A. in Urban Studies and Public Policy with minors in Spanish and Sustainability from Rutgers University in 2020.

Matiwane received his degree from Oberlin College in Environmental Studies and Urban Sustainability in 2019. Until recently, he worked in Brooklyn as an environmental educator and led the 2023 Urban Heat Island summer research fellowship. Born and bred in Brooklyn, Matiwane is "South African-American." He said that while at Oberlin, he "became interested in the composition of cities" and the fascinating transformation that they undertake.

Innovative Student Ventures Sweep \$80K in Prizes During Zahn Center Demo Week



Biomedical engineering senior Asala Ahmad is a member of the AutoTENS venture in the Standard Chartered Women+Tech track.

Eight student-led CCNY and CUNY startup ventures won \$80,000 in prizes during the Zahn Innovation Center and Standard Chartered Women in Tech Incubator Competition.

The Zahn Center's 2024 Demo Week provided 14 with finalists the opportunity to pitch to panels of expert judges and

compete for prizes to continue the development of their startups. Demo Week was the culmination of a semester-long extra-curricular incubator program, serving more than 55 CCNY and CUNY undergraduate and graduate students as well as community colleagues.

The event also marked the 10th anniversary of the Standard Chartered-Zahn Center partnership at CCNY, a collaboration that has driven innovation and gender equality forward.

"The WiT Incubator Competition and our longstanding partnership with Standard Chartered have been instrumental in fostering the entrepreneurial mindset among our students," said Kesia Hudson, managing director of the Zahn Center's Standard Chartered Women in Tech Program.

"The teams in this year's cohort reflect the Zahn Innovation Center's reach across campus and the CUNY system, with many of the finalist teams coming out of earlier programs," said Chris Bobko, executive director of the Zahn Innovation Center. "These include CiPASS, Biomedical Engineering Society Bio-design Challenge, Blackstone LaunchPad, and CUNY Startups or through ongoing partnerships with capstone engineering design courses."

After a series of in-person events hosted at Standard Chartered Bank and Dechert LLP, a panel of judges awarded four \$15,000 grand prizes and four \$5,000 second place prizes:

KAYLIE HARDWARE GRAND PRIZE:

CarbonCLAIR — Fares Al-lahabi (sophomore, mechanical engineering, Manhattan College); Elsa Cobaj (sophomore, mechanical engineering); Dominick Gordon (junior, computer science); Naeema Haque (graduating senior, environmental earth systems science), and Jeremie Laveau (junior, mechanical engineering). CarbonCLAIR is a carbon-capturing system that sustainably filters particulate matter, improving air quality and livelihood in urban cities for vulnerable populations with greater respiratory needs while meeting building standard demands.

ZoneCast (Second Place) — Karim Toufiq (2023 CCNY alumnus, economics) and Miguel Carpio (2023 College of Saint Rose alumnus). ZoneCast is a camera system designed to bring a professional and forward-thinking style of play to amateur baseball.

STANDARD CHARTERED WOMEN+TECH GRAND PRIZE:

Easy Meets — Marwah Alzandani (senior, business, College of Staten Island); Basmalla Attia (senior, business and political science, Baruch); and Adam Kostandy (senior, computer science, CSI). Easy Meets is a marketplace that simplifies planning hangouts and trips for groups or individuals and provides businesses with valuable information about potential customers.

AutoTENS (Second Place) — Rachel Ioffe (sophomore), Matthew Saw (junior), Asala Ahmad and Tejaswini Sudhakar (seniors), (all biomedical engineering majors); and Arihant Tiwari (computer science sophomore). AutoTENS is a biotech startup focusing on automating lower back pain relief.

ZAHN SOCIAL GRAND PRIZE:

Inclusify — Najia Jahan, Myesha Mahazabeen and Bryan Martinez, all seniors majoring in computer science. Inclusify is an inclusive video resume web application designed to help job seekers, especially those with ASD and developmental disabilities, to effectively showcase their unique stories and strengths through creating personalized video resumes.

EmployAble (Second Place) — Kazi Sadman and James Zou (computer science seniors). EmployAble is a performance observation platform used in vocational rehabilitation programs.

ZAHN SOFTWARE GRAND PRIZE:

ArenaUnity — Samin Chowdhury (sophomore, computer science), Daniel Shmir (sophomore, financial mathematics, Baruch), and Daniel Ukolov (junior, statistics and quantitative modeling). ArenaUnity is an app connecting players to impromptu sport matches and compatible teammates.

Savvy (Second Place) — Melody Lew (freshman, operations management and analytics, Baruch); Ryan Lau and Kevin Wang (both CCNY computer science freshman). Savvy is an AI-powered website that gives personalized tech product recommendations to online shoppers.

The final pitch judging panel consisted of Evelina Bonfim, senior treasury analyst at Booking Holdings; Natasha Kwakwa, global head of community impact, corporate affairs, brand and marketing at Standard Chartered Bank; and Peter Zahn, co-founder and vice president of strategy at Local Policy Lab.



Team GSOE Winds, which competed in the 2024 Collegiate Wind Competition, in the newly-refurbished Aerodynamics Lab at CCNY.

Team GSOE Garner Success at Wind Competition

In its debut appearance in the U.S. Department of Energy sponsored event, a team of mostly Grove School of Engineering undergraduates was among 12 winners in Phase 2 of the 2024 Collegiate Wind Competition. The team, GSOE Winds, was awarded a cash prize of \$15,000 and a place in the final round of competition in Minneapolis in May.

The CWC, which launched in 2014, prepares the future wind energy workforce by inviting college students from a range of disciplines to design, build, and test a prototype wind turbine; develop a site plan and cost-of-energy analysis for a hypothetical wind farm; and conduct outreach with the wind energy industry, their communities, and local media outlets. The CWC is funded by DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office and managed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

Winners were selected based on evaluation of deliverables that 32 Phase 1 winners created last fall. These deliverables included a report and video on the team's turbine prototype fabrication and testing, preliminary design report for a hypothetical offshore wind farm site, and a report on the team's story and their strategy for outreach to their local communities, students, and the wind industry.

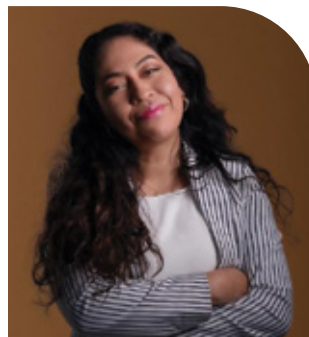
Assistant Professor of Engineering Yang Liu, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering Panayiotis (Panos) Moutis, and Professor of Mechanical Engineering Ali Sadegh were the team's faculty advisors. Attentive Energy was GSOE Winds primary industry partner.

The CCNY team (all seniors unless indicated): **Turbine Design and Testing / Mechanical Engineering:** Daniel Blough, Natalia Nieto-Wire, Jooi Albano, Jaimie Zhao, Laiba Laisee, and Yubai Liang. **Electrical Engineering:** Jackaria Hossain, Bryant Yang, Anferny Nunez, Saad Salam, and Stephen B. Vixama.

Project Development: Raphael Langer, mechanical engineering; JK Goongoon, environmental engineering; Keanu Stowe, mechanical engineering; Ryan S. Fong, mechanical engineering; Ciania Mejia, junior, biology; Wyatt Kuebler, architecture; Naeema Haque, environmental earth systems science; Nadia Ben Slima, junior, computer engineering; Charles Lee-Georges-cu, mechanical engineering; Consuelo Rodriguez, mechanical engineering; Elsa Cobaj, junior, mechanical engineering; and Peter Friedman, mechanical engineering.

California Maritime Academy went on to win the overall competition in May. Other phase 2 participants included: Johns

Hopkins University; Rice University; The Pennsylvania State University; University of Colorado Boulder; University of Texas at Dallas; and University of Wisconsin; California Polytechnic University; Kansas State University; Texas Tech University with South Plains College; and Virginia Tech University with James Madison University.



Lucero Saavedra Huerta

Scholarship Relieved Financial Burden for Mature Student Lucero Saavedra Huerta

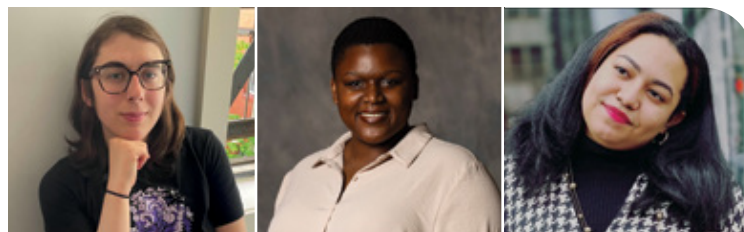
Lucero Saavedra Huerta, a student in the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, received the Women's Forum Education Fund Award. The Women's Forum of New York created the award in 1987 to recognize and support women over the age of 35 who have overcome extreme adversity to resume their education.

The unrestricted \$10,000 grant went towards Huerta's tuition and other academic expenses, and allowed her to focus on classes without the stress of financial burden. Huerta was an early childhood education major and graduated in fall 2024.

Huerta arrived in New York as a teenager from Mexico. As a single mother raising two children, she continued to pursue her studies, graduating from high school and obtaining her associate's degree. While at CWE, she received a Dreamers Scholarship.

She works as a paraprofessional in the New York City Department of Education. Her goal is to become a special education teacher.

"I love working with children, and for me it is very important and rewarding to give back to my community [...] to make the world a better place," she said.



2024 Gilman Scholars [from left]: Amber Raine McCandless, Deborah Cobourne and Marlyn Santos-De La Rosa

Gilman Scholarships Go to Three Students to Study Abroad

Three undergraduates received Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships to study in Asia and South America. Seniors Deborah Cobourne and Marlyn Santos-De La Rosa, and sophomore (continued on next page)

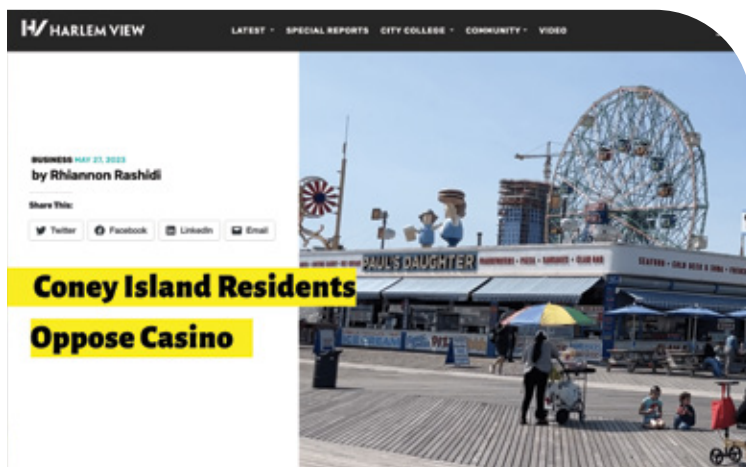
STUDENT SUCCESS

more Amber Raine McCandless were recipients of the competitive national scholarships that provide support for overseas travel and research.

Cobourne, who is a psychology major in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, is spending the 2024-2025 academic year in South Korea studying sociology. She is a Jeannette K. Watson Fellow and a NIH MARC/U-RISE Fellow. Cobourne plans to pursue a nursing and research career.

Santos-De La Rosa, a theatre and speech major, plans to attend the Portuguese Language and Culture program in São Pedro da Aldeia, Brazil in January 2025. With minors in Portuguese Language & Lusophone Cultures and Black Studies, Santos-De La Rosa will study the arts, culture, history, and literature of São Pedro da Aldeia and the Lake Region of Brazil. Santos-De La Rosa, Class of 2025, was the recipient of the Downer Language Scholarship in Portuguese from the CCNY Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature.

McCandless is an international relations and history double major. She is spending the 2024-2025 academic year in Japan studying the language and politics. The award she received is in the “Critical Needs Language Award” category, and adds to her other academic honors: a Certificate of Achievement from the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literature, and the Dean’s List. A member of the Class of 2026, McCandless sees diplomacy in her future.



Student Publication “Harlem View” Wins Society of Professional Journalists Award Again

Online publication “Harlem View” won the News Videography category of the 2023 Mark of Excellence Awards from the Society of Professional Journalists for the best collegiate journalism in the northeast region. Comparative Literature student and graduating senior Rhiannon Rashidi was the winner for her story “Coney Island residents oppose Casino.” This is the fourth year that CCNY dominated in the online videography category, having won in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Othniel Cassie, Jr., a junior, is a finalist in the Arts/Entertainment/Fashion Journalism category for his story, “Jah Fiinnesse goes lyrical.” Students from Harvard were the category winner and a finalist.

Rashidi and Cassie minored in Journalism in the Media and Communication Arts Department.

Alumna Astra Montanez, Class of ‘23, who is now studying at CUNY’s Craig Newmark School of Journalism, was a finalist in the General News Reporting (Large, 10k+ students) category for her story “New wave of asylum seekers needs bilingual education.” The winner was from Harvard University and another finalist was from Columbia University.



Victoria Lu and Fuhad Khan

Colin Powell School’s Victoria Lu and Fuhad Khan Win Watson Fellowships

Victoria Lu and Fuhad Khan, both from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, are 2026 Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship recipients. They were among 15 promising undergraduates from New York City colleges and universities selected for the highly competitive awards.

Created in 1999 and supported by the Thomas J. Watson Foundation, the program provides fellows with three years of personal, professional and cultural immersions in the U.S. and abroad. Fellows are provided with annual funding of \$7,500, \$9,000 and \$10,000, in addition to a \$2,500 Discovery Fund to develop their personal, professional, and cultural potential. The Watson Foundation was created as a charitable trust in the name of Thomas J. Watson Sr., best known for building IBM, in 1961.

Born and raised in Queens by her Korean-Chinese father and Chinese mother, sophomore Lu is a Macaulay Honors student pursuing a double major in sociology and political science. She’s on the Dean’s List, a Social Change Fellow with the Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice, and an incoming Moynihan Public Service Fellow. Lu aspires to work internationally as a social justice attorney.

Khan, who emigrated from Bangladesh in 2016, is a freshman majoring in political science. He’s dedicated to public service and driven to uplift marginalized communities through organizing and advocacy, and is a recipient of the Colin Powell Fellowship in Leadership and Public Service, which supports promising undergraduate students pursuing careers in public service. Fellows receive awards of up to \$21,500. Khan also received the Moynihan Public Service Fellowship and was nominated for the Ryan Thoresen Carson Award for Student Leadership by the New York Public Interest Group.



ABRCMS winners with CCNY senior leadership. From left: Science Dean Susan Perkins, Provost Tony Liss, Amy Thomas, Cayla Cruz, Ginika Agwu, Steven Shafeek, Deputy Dean of Science for Undergraduates Millicent Roth, and President Boudreau.

Undergrads Triumph at National STEM Conference

Maintaining The City College of New York's excellence at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists, four undergraduates majoring in biomedical science emerged winners at the 2023 event in Phoenix. The conference attracted more than 5,000 participants—including graduate students, researchers and scientists—in what was ABRCMS's largest gathering in its 23-year history.

All four CCNY winners participated in The City College of New York-Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Partnership's PURT program in the summer. Karen Hubbard and Bao Vuong, faculty in the biology department, head up PURT (Partnership Undergraduate Research Training).

The triumphant ABRCMS quartet consisted of:

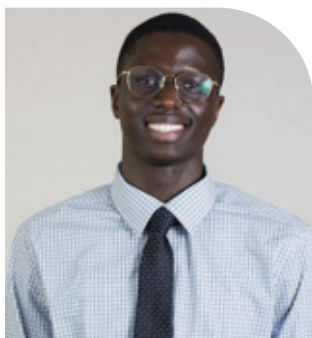
Ginika Agwu, senior; physiology and pharmacology, "Effects of Systemic Anticancer Treatment on Determinants of Cardiorespiratory Fitness: A Systematic Review;"

Cayla Cruz, senior; social and behavioral sciences, "Geospatial Analysis Identifying Hot-Spots of Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Associated with Air Pollution in the Northeast US;"

Steven Shafeek, sophomore; social and behavioral Sciences, "Improving Access to Clinical Trials and Adherence to Cancer Care in Underserved Patients with Central Nervous System Tumors;"

Amy Thomas, junior; social and behavioral sciences, "Enhancing Knowledge in Clinical Ethics: An Evaluation of MSK's Bioethics Ambassador Program (BAP)."

ABRCMS is one of the largest professional conferences for underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced professional development skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. It offers students the opportunity to present their research, explore graduate schools, and network.



Ibrahima Fall

TRB Minority Student Fellowship Awarded to Ibrahima Fall

Ibrahima Fall, a student in civil engineering, was awarded a 2024 Transportation Research Board Minority Student Fellowship. The program seeks to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the transportation field and in Transportation Research Board activities.

Fall, who graduates in 2025 and hopes to pursue a master's degree in civil engineering, welcomes the opportunity as it will provide him with real-world insights into transportation by fostering a valuable professional network, offering

hands-on experience and boosting his confidence for future endeavors.

The Transportation Research Board established the Minority Student Fellows Program in 2010 to ensure that solutions to the nation's transportation problems address people from a variety of backgrounds, and that research, ideas and solutions are explored from diverse perspectives.

Fall is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the National Society of Black Engineers, the Structural Engineer Association of New York City and the African Student Union. He is also associated with the Institute for Responsible Citizenship and The S Jay Levy Fellowship for Future Leaders.

"Professor Naresh Devineni, my mentor, has been a guiding light throughout, consistently propelling me in my research endeavors," said Fall. "I must also extend my gratitude to Professor Alison Conway for her nomination and support."



Frank J. Sciamè '74

Frank J. Sciamè '74 Receives 2023 Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal

Distinguished architect and 1974 CCNY alumnus Frank J. Sciamè was a recipient of the 2023 Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal from the Municipal Art Society. The honor was for his making a lasting contribution to New York City through his vision, leadership, and his philanthropy.

The medal was established in 1994 to honor Kennedy Onassis and her passionate efforts to preserve great architecture in New York City, and her remarkable partnership with the Municipal Art Society over nearly two decades.

The other awardees were Patricia Cruz, CEO and artistic director of Harlem Stage, and Jeffrey Gural, chairman and principal of GFP Real Estate.

Sciamè studied architecture at CCNY and, soon after graduation, started F.J. Sciamè Construction Co., Inc. In the almost five decades since he established the company, he built a leading construction management firm in the tri-state area. He is a board member of the Association for Lower Manhattan and a former chairman of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, as well as the former chairman of the South Street Seaport Museum. He is also the former chairman of the New York Building Congress.

His devotion to CCNY has never flagged. Sciamè received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from CCNY in 2004, and is a former president and current board member of the CCNY Architecture Alumni Group.

“Frank Sciamè represents the very best of CCNY: throughout his decades of professional accomplishment, he’s demonstrated a dedication to the traditions and artistry of his profession and a commitment to turn his skills to the public good,” said President Boudreau. “Today, when the denizens of New York entrust someone to preserve and restore or construct our cityscape, they seek out Frank. He is a living testimony to the importance of those public contributions by which we measure the very greatest of our CCNY alumni.”

In 2006, Sciamè was appointed by Gov. Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg to lead the effort to ensure a buildable World Trade Center Memorial. Tasked to stay within the memorial’s spiraling budget, and to work with the families of the victims and other stakeholders, he made the project viable for New York and the nation.



Jalen Crespo, Fabliha Hussain and Ekene Onwubiko

Trio Wins 2024 Salk Scholarships for Med School

Recent CCNY graduates Jalen Crespo, Fabliha Hussain and Ekene Onwubiko were recipients of Jonas E. Salk Scholarships awarded by CUNY. The scholarships recognize exceptional students who plan careers in medicine and the biological sciences.

As Salk Scholars, Crespo, Hussain and Onwubiko will each receive a stipend of \$8,000 to be allocated over three or four years of medical studies.

Brooklyn native Jalen Crespo '23 graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in biology. He aspires to be a surgeon and

researcher, and is considering specialties such as neuroscience, internal medicine, global medicine, general surgery, and aerospace medicine. He will attend the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx.

Queens-born and raised Fabliha Hussain '22 graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in biology. Her goal is to become a pediatrician for underserved populations. She also plans to attend the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Nigerian-born Harlem resident Ekene Onwubiko '23 graduated summa cum laude with honors in biology and as Division of Science valedictorian. Her career goal is to become an oncologist involved in medical innovation and policy work. She received a master's in law at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law between graduation and medical school matriculation to achieve this. Onwubiko will attend Weill Cornell Medical School in Manhattan.

The Jonas Salk Scholarships are awarded annually to eight graduates of CUNY senior colleges who have been accepted by, and plan to attend, U.S. medical or graduate schools. They are named for Dr. Jonas Salk, a 1934 graduate of CCNY who developed the first polio vaccine in 1955. He turned down a ticker tape parade in honor of his discovery, requesting that the money be used for scholarships instead. New York City provided initial funding for the scholarships that year.



Shalini Kantayya MFA '05

Alumna Shalini Kantayya, Award-Winning Filmmaker, Delivers Dortort Lecture

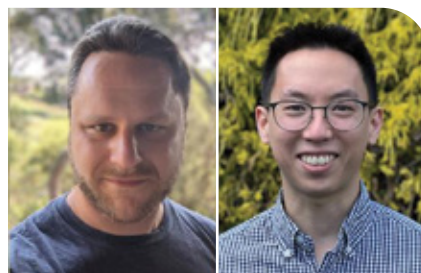
Award-winning film director and producer Shalini Kantayya, a 2005 graduate of CCNY's MFA Film Program, delivered the 2023 David Dortort Lecture in the Dramatic Arts on "What happens to human rights when we let technology encroach on our social systems?" at Aaron Davis Hall on Oct. 4.

Kantayya's latest film, "TikTok, Boom," was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the 2022 Sundance Film Festival. The film investigates TikTok's algorithm and users to paint a picture of the world's most downloaded app, and how it can be wielded more safely and ethically.

Her critically-acclaimed 2020 Sundance film, "Coded Bias," was broadcast nationally on PBS's Independent Lens and globally on Netflix in April 2021. It was nominated for a Critics' Choice Award, and an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Documentary. The film won Best Director at the Social Impact Media Awards, and the Visionary Filmmaker Award at GlobeDocs.

Kantayya's debut feature, "Catching the Sun," released globally on Netflix on Earth Day 2016 with Leonardo DiCaprio as executive producer, was named a New York Times Critics' Pick.

She is a Sundance Fellow, a William J. Fulbright Scholar, a TED Fellow and a Concordia Studios Artist Fellow. She is an associate of the University of California at Berkeley School of Journalism and has received recognition from the Sundance Documentary Program, IFP Spotlight on Documentary, New York Women in Film and Television, and the Jerome Hill Centennial.



Gennady Khirich '07 and Stephen Ma '11

Alumni Return for Merck Info Session and Networking Event

Alumni Gennady Khirich '07 and Stephen Ma '11 returned to CCNY for the Merck Info Session and Networking Event, hosted by the Office for Experiential Learning's Career & Professional Development Institute.

A small team of Merck scientists, half of whom were CCNY alumni, also attended the event, to discuss the diversity of career paths at the company with the students.

"Our alumni are an integral part of helping CCNY students gain access to career opportunities with industry leaders, a win for the company and the college," said Rhea D. Faniel, senior associate director for diversity recruitment and employer relations at the Career & Professional Development Institute.

Physics major Khirich is a nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopist in the Digital & NMR Sciences Group within the Analytical Enabling Capabilities Organization. He believes that going to CCNY for his undergraduate degree was one of the best decisions he has ever made.

"Not only did I receive a thorough and world-class foundational education in the physical sciences for a fraction of the cost of private universities, but I was also exposed to cutting edge research in computational biophysics in Professor Marilyn Gunner's group," he said. "This experience played a pivotal role in my subsequent decision to pursue a Ph.D. in biophysical chemistry and represented the first steps towards realizing my goal of becoming a professional NMR spectroscopist."

Ma, an associate principal scientist at Merck with a chemical engineering degree, credits CCNY with setting the tone for his career. He appreciated the strong mentorship from the professors and graduate students, which provided him with opportunities to develop his research skill set.

"As a freshman, I remember approaching Professor Kretzschmar to develop inverse structures for dye-sensitized solar cell applications. Through her guidance, I obtained a summer REU in China working on surface-enhanced Raman Spectroscopy through a collaboration with Professor Lombardi in the chemistry department," he said. "Ultimately, it set me on a path to pursue my Ph.D. and my subsequent career working in R&D, first at Intel, and now at Merck."



“Art as a Business” Exhibition Envisioned by Alumna Linda Li

The 2024 Spring Art Gallery, themed “Art as a Business,” marked the inaugural exhibition curated by the Business & Economics Alumni Society and students. It served as a distinctive platform for fostering networking and celebrating the connection between art and business. The reception took place on April 15 in the NAC Ballroom.

Linda Li ‘24, of the Business & Economic Alumni Society and Art Alumni Association of CCNY, presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony that kicked off this event that illustrated the innovative spirit. Li contributed seven paintings that reflect her artistic career and passion.

The exhibition investigated how these different realms are inextricably linked. While art allows unrestricted creativity, business provides the foundations to sustain a creative career. The exhibition provided artists with a place to promote their work and receive visibility among entrepreneurial-minded visitors, and it was an opportunity for artists to learn how to effectively create their brand, market themselves, and convert their passion into a profitable company. The artists learned how galleries run, the valuation and sale of art, and how to develop engaging visitor experiences centered around creative works.

Twelve student curators worked on the exhibit. Many other artists shared their inspiration and creative process with them, including: Chun Hua Li, president of the Chinese Cultural Art Association of N.Y.; Randy Brozen, president of the CCNY Art Alumni Affiliate Group; Ebe De Leon, administrative assistant at the CCNY Cohen Library; Onika Gregory, architecture student; Mohammed Hasan, political science and international studies student; Nymul Islam, economics student; Genesis Espinal, digital design and Jewish studies student, and alumnus Stefan Insang.

Distinguished guests who participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony included President Boudreau, Alumni Association Executive Director David Covington, and Dee Dee Mozeleski, senior vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations.

Other guests included: Kevin Foster, associate dean of the Colin Powell School; Prabal K. De, chair of the Department of Economics and Business; Charles Ranieri, president of the Business & Economic Alumni Affiliate Group; Alejandro Sanchez, newly-elected president of the Business & Economic Alumni Affiliate Group; Deonna McWilliams of J.P. Morgan Private Bank; Mario Ramirez, associate dean and chief librarian; Matthew Dineiro, assistant professor of Cohen Library’s cataloging team, Xinpei Qu, second vice president of the Alumni Association of The City College of New York and Nina Ferrell, liaison and program coordinator of the Alumni Association of The City College of New York.



Six Rwandan students are currently studying at the Grove School of Engineering.

Rwandan Students Prepare to Serve Their Country

Yves Ngabonziza, professor and director of the engineering science program at LaGuardia Community College, is a proud CCNY graduate and a proud Rwandan. He is so proud that he wanted young Rwandans to avail themselves of the superior education such as the one that he received at the Grove School of Engineering, from which he graduated with a mechanical engineering degree in 2008.

An active member of the tiny but close-knit Rwandan community in the New York metropolitan area, Ngabonziza initiated a conversation with the country’s United Nations Permanent Mission in 2021 about a prospective partnership with prominent STEM schools in the U.S. Such a partnership would entail establishing a government-funded scholarship for five to 10 Rwandan undergraduates to study science or engineering, then return home to enter the country’s public service.

Ngabonziza developed his proposal further with Lt.-Col. Deo Mutabazi, the defense and military advisor to the Rwandan mission. With the proposal approved and funded, Ngabonziza presented it to President Boudreau and Senior Vice President Dee Dee Mozeleski, who enthusiastically accepted it.

“We are grateful to him, to Lt.-Col. Mutabazi, and to the Rwandan Mission for their enthusiastic support of this initiative,” said Mozeleski, noting that the current enrollment includes students from more than 150 countries.

While Mutabazi’s official role is coordinating his country’s participation in peacekeeping operations around the world, he gave himself another task.

“I am using my time here to help the Ministry of Defence to find the next generation of leaders to help this country,” he said.

Ten inaugural applicants were selected from a pool of 80, each of whom had to pass a series of exams in math and English to qualify. Of the six students who accepted, two started at Grove in August 2023: Hirwa Divin Iradukunda and Ivan Muhizi, graduates of the same high school in Kigali. The rest enrolled in Fall 2024.



Sebastian Bush Makes Honor Roll of 30 Under 30

Assistant Director of Athletics for Communications and Sports Information Sebastian Bush was named to the 2023 College Sports Communicators' 30 Under 30 Class.

The recognition honors up-and-coming strategic,

creative, and digital athletics communications professionals throughout CSC's more than 4,100 membership across the U.S. and Canada. Candidates are selected based on achievement in areas, such as professional success, impact on their athletic department/conference office, and service to CSC.

"The class of 2023 is an outstanding representation of the tremendous young and diverse, strategic and creative talent we have in our organization at all levels of college sports," said 2023-24 CSC President John Paquett. "The 30 Under 30 is among the most popular member recognition programs CSC offers because it is special recognition by peers."

Bush, in his seventh academic year with CCNY's Beavers, oversees all communications, media relations, social media, creativity and assists with leading external affairs for the CCNY athletic department.

"Being one of the 30 young professionals across America and Canada recognized is a huge achievement and milestone in my career," said Bush.

In 2019, Bush was selected to participate in the NCAA Division III Institute for Administrative Advancement, and in 2021, he was chosen to attend the Learfield EDGE Academy (Empowering Diversity Growth & Equity). He was also a Fellow in the 2022-23 CSC Diversity & Inclusion Program.

He is active with CSC and serves on its Young Professionals Committee. He also serves on the Minority Opportunities Athletics Association's (MOAA) External Relations and Creative Services Committee.

Bush began his career as a sports information assistant at his alma mater, Monroe College, earning his bachelor's degree in business administration with a minor in sports management in 2016.



President Boudreau Made Honorary Dominican

On Sunday, Aug. 13, the 41st Dominican Day Parade marched down Sixth Avenue from 37th to 52nd Street with President Boudreau taking pride of place as the Manhattan Borough Adopted Dominican Honoree. The Friday prior to the parade, Boudreau attended a VIP Reception and awards gala. The parade's theme was "Our History, Our People/Nuestra Historia, Nuestra Gente" and honored community members who exemplify the vibrant culture of the Dominican Republic and its people and who have made significant contributions in their respective fields. For the first time in the parade's history, the Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader was in attendance and served as the Grand Marshal. The parade included performances and cultural exhibitions, vibrant floats and costumes, and traditional music and food.

APPOINTMENTS



Naomi Nwosu-Stewart

Naomi Nwosu-Stewart Joins Enrollment Management as AVP

Naomi Nwosu-Stewart, a higher education professional and science educator, joined as assistant vice president of Enrollment Management. A leader in breaking down barriers to promote student success, her extensive experience and leadership in developing enrollment management programming to support the holistic needs of students is a testament to her capabilities.

Before joining CCNY, Nwosu-Stewart served as the director of Enrollment Management Services (One Stop Student Services Center) and Call Center at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. In this role, she restructured and expanded the One-Stop Student Service Center to enable students to address their administrative needs across campus in one location.

Nwosu-Stewart earned a Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center, an M.S.Ed. from New York University, an M.A. from Baruch College, and a B.S. from SUNY Purchase.

Nwosu-Stewart is deeply committed to promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to K-16 education for all. She has served on independent school boards and currently sits on the board of a non-profit organization, and co-facilitates diversity and inclusion initiatives. She believes that removing barriers for underserved students is crucial for supporting access and student retention.



Ramón De Los Santos

Ramón De Los Santos Appointed Assistant VP of Student Affairs

Ramón De Los Santos, a veteran administrator with expertise in increasing student enrollment, retention and success, is CCNY's new assistant vice president of student affairs. He joins from

LaGuardia Community College, where he served as director of Accelerated Study in Associate Programs and, later, as assistant dean of academic affairs.

De Los Santos has worked in higher education for 20 years.

"This opportunity at CCNY provides a new platform to align his life's mission of nurturing student success with comprehensive support services throughout their college career," said Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Celia P. Lloyd. "As director of ASAP, Dr. De Los Santos was, within the first three years, able to increase the three-year graduation rate of this population, as well as to expand the program from 800 students to over 3,600," said Lloyd.

Prior to his near decade-long service at LaGuardia, he was a founding member of Guttman Community College, where he spent close to three years as associate director of the Academic Achievement Office. In that role he was responsible for coordinating educational support, counseling assistance and academic/transfer advisement for students. Before Guttman, De Los Santos worked at Hostos Community College for 11 years in various capacities, including facilitator at the Academic Learning Center, executive assistant for the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, and lastly, as assistant director for new student advisement and retention services.

His professional affiliations include membership in the National Academic Advising Association, the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and the Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education.

De Los Santos is a graduate of Hostos Community College/CUNY (A.A.S., liberal arts); Baruch College (B.A., business administration); Queens College (M.A., urban affairs); and St. John Fisher University (Ed.D., executive leadership).



Jennifer Lavayen

Ichigo Foundation Funds New Colin Powell School Financial Aid Adviser Position

To help students with financial challenges stay enrolled, the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership created the position of financial aid adviser and first year experience coordinator thanks to a three-year grant from the Ichigo Foundation. Jennifer Lavayen, a CCNY academic advisor, is the first appointee.

Lavayen's primary focus will be on assisting student problems related to covering the costs of college. While her support is available to all Colin Powell School students, her role will have a specific emphasis on providing assistance to freshman and new transfer students, who may be particularly vulnerable in their first two semesters to academic disruptions caused by financial aid challenges.

Based in the Office of Academic Advising, Lavayen will serve as a dedicated one-on-one adviser and mentor for students. She will actively participate in the planning and coordination of programs and initiatives designed to enhance the first-year experience, collaborating closely with the Office of Student Success.

"As a CUNY graduate, I know first-hand that paying for college is one of the most difficult obstacles our students face," she said. "In this new role, I hope to help students alleviate the stress of paying for college by guiding them to use all available resources."

"At the Ichigo Foundation, we look for ways to support college success for first-generation and low-income students," said the Foundation's co-founder and CEO, Janel Callon.

"Upwards of 20 percent of CCNY students enrolled in any given semester do not re-enroll for the following semester. Much of this has to do with challenges around paying for college," said Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich. "My sincere thanks to the Ichigo Foundation for making this new initiative possible."

Through a more intensive system of advising and mentorship, the Colin Powell School has already been able to decrease that percentage of so-called "stop outs" to less than 15 percent.



As a CUNY graduate, I know first-hand that paying for college is one of the most difficult obstacles our students face. In this new role, I hope to help students alleviate the stress of paying for college by guiding them to use all available resources.

**Jennifer Lavayen, Colin Powell School
financial aid advisor**



Araceli Tinajero. Photo credit: Mario Vega

Multilingual Expert Araceli Tinajero Appointed Stuart Katz Professorship

Professor and author Araceli Tinajero was appointed the 2023-24 Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities & the Arts. A professor of Spanish at CCNY who has taught Japanese in the past, Tinajero's recent research, on the Caribbean in Asia and Asia in the Caribbean, exemplifies how CCNY, located in Harlem, is in so many ways a global crossroads.

Born and raised in Mexico City, Tinajero earned her Ph.D. from Rutgers University. Before joining CCNY, she taught Japanese at the University of Wales in Cardiff, and Spanish at Middlebury College in Vermont and at Yale University. She also teaches at the CUNY Graduate Center.

As Katz Professor, Tinajero worked on her latest book, "Asia in the Caribbean/El Caribe in Asia." It focuses on the work of contemporary Caribbean writers and artists that represent elements of the Far East (China, India, and Japan) and in the cultural production of writers and artists based in Asia.

Her other books include "El lector de tabaquería (El Lector: A History of the Cigar Factory Reader); "Kokoro, una mexicana en Japón (Kokoro: A Mexican Woman in Japan); and "Historia cultural de los hispanohablantes en Japón (A Cultural History of Spanish Speakers in Japan).

Tinajero is the editor of the journals "Cultura y letras cubanas en el siglo XXI," "Exilio y cosmopolitismo en el arte y la literatura hispánica," and "Orientalisms of the Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian World." She's also the book review editor of the journal "Asia/América Latina."

The Stuart Z. Katz Professorship in the Humanities & the Arts was established in 2017 by a \$1 million gift from Stuart Z. Katz, a 1964 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of CCNY. The endowment supports one outstanding professorial faculty member in the Division of Humanities & the Arts for an academic year, providing the professor up to two months of summer salary plus \$10,000 to support research and creative activity. A retired attorney, Katz established the gift as an opportunity for faculty to integrate the study of humanities and the arts into their life.



CCNY Student Athletes Place Third in CUNYAC Honor Roll

The City College of New York placed 74 student athletes on the 2023-24 CUNY Athletic Conference Winter/Spring Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll, the third highest number of CUNY honorees. Forty-two of the Beavers' student-athletes earned 3.5 grade-point averages or higher.

The CUNYAC Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll is made up of student-athletes across 13 member campuses who participate in a varsity-level sport who own a 3.2 GPA or better on a 4.0 scale. The list includes sports that conducted their championship in the winter and spring seasons (men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track & field, men's volleyball, baseball, and softball). Overall, CUNY issued 544 citations for academic excellence.

Hunter College produced a conference-leading 122 honorees among the senior colleges, followed by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice with 78. After CCNY came Baruch (70), Brooklyn (57), Lehman (53), Medgar Evers (23) and York (14) Colleges.



Four Beavers Named 2024 CUNYAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Honorable Mention

Four CCNY student-athletes earned Honorable Mention recognition for their academic and athletic achievements at the CUNY Athletic Conference's 37th Annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner in May.

A three-sport student-athlete (women's basketball, track & field, and volleyball), **Leondra Craig** produced a 3.715 GPA, majoring in biology and minoring in psychology, part of CUNY's Macaulay Honors College. A CUNYAC All-Star, Sportsmanship Award winner, and a College Sports Communicators Academic All-District honoree, Craig has participated in several academic programs and initiatives at the college and university. She also volunteered for several non-profit organizations, such as NYC Parks Stewardship, Hoop Camp, West Harlem Food Distribution Center, and Project Hospitality, and she currently works as an emergency medical technician at SCEMS Brooklyn.

As a team captain and a three-year member of the women's soccer program, **Charlotte Foberg** has a 3.7 GPA and majors in advertising and public relations with a minor in art. With the women's soccer program, she earned three CUNYAC All-Star recognitions, helping lead the Program to consecutive conference final appearances, capturing the league championship in 2023. Off the field, she creates opportunities by volunteering as a youth soccer coach, tutoring high school students, and driving the importance and value of education through sports.

A four-year member of the CCNY baseball program, **Michael Kessler** majors in business administration and management and minors in Psychology with a 3.765 GPA. Kessler helped the team capture the CUNYAC championship in 2022. He was also named to the conference's Sportsmanship Team in 2024. He is CCNY Athletics' Student Athletic Advisory Committee representative, serves as an Athletics gameday ambassador, is a member of the College's Economic, Business, and Finance Society, and is an Eagle Scout.

Men's basketball team captain **Yassine Sakhi** has a 3.52 GPA and is a psychology major with a sociology minor. This season, he made history by becoming the CCNY men's basketball program's all-time leading scorer, closing out his career with 1822 career points, and is tied as the CUNY Athletic Conference's sixth all-time leading scorer. He has been named a CUNYAC First-Team honors twice, earned both CUNYAC and D3Hoops.com Rookie of the Year, and has been recognized by the All-Met Basketball Writers Association twice. Off the court, Sakhi is a CUNYAC Winter/Spring Scholar-Athlete and Dean's List honoree. He also landed a spot on the National Association of Basketball Coaches Academic Honors Court and has been named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team. Off the court, Sakhi has interned and volunteered with the local Harlem community, training and mentoring youth basketball programs.



CCNY Baseball Earns ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award for Third-Straight Year

The City College of New York baseball program earned the American Baseball Coaches Association's Team Academic Excellence Award for the third straight year for its achievements in the classroom during the 2023-24 academic year.

Presented by Sports Attack, nearly 800 teams from every level of college and high school baseball were honored with this year's award, which highlights programs coached by ABCA members that posted a GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for the entire 2023-24 academic year.

During the 2023-24 academic year, the Beavers posted a 3.02 team grade-point average. In all, 18 student-athletes tallied

a 3.0 or higher, 13 earned a GPA of 3.2 or higher, and six attained a 3.5 GPA or higher. CCNY was one of 181 NCAA Division III teams recognized and the only team from the CUNY Athletic Conference to earn the award.

The Beavers' success in the classroom accompanied success on the field during the 2024 campaign, as the program captured the CUNYAC Regular Season title for the second straight season and advanced to the CUNYAC Baseball Championship Series for the third consecutive year.

Thank you to alumnus Robert Adler '59 for his support of the year-end championship celebration. Go Beavers!

Three CCNY Men's Basketball Student-Athletes Named to NABC Honors Court



Three CCNY students were named to the 2023-24 National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the classroom by men's college basketball student athletes.

The NABC Honors Court consists of junior, senior, and graduate men's basketball student-athletes who finished the 2023-24 academic year with a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher. CCNY's Honors Court recipients were: business management and administration major Edward Beqiri of Yonkers, N.Y.; psychology major Yassine Sakhi of New York; and economics major Jordan Williams of Brooklyn, N.Y.



Myriam Sarachik (1933-2021) and Sheldon Weinbaum, professor emeritus in The Grove School of Engineering, pictured here with President Biden, are 2024 National Medal of Science recipients. Photo credit: Ryan K. Morris.

White House Honors Professors Myriam Sarachik and Sheldon Weinbaum

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. awarded the National Medal of Science to Myriam Sarachik (posthumously) and Sheldon Weinbaum, two of the most distinguished researchers and educators of their generation who, collectively, spent more than a century on faculty at CCNY. They were among nine recipients of the medal who were honored at the White House on Oct. 24.

A trailblazer in her field, Sarachik was professor emerita when she passed away at age 88. She joined the college as an assistant professor in 1964 and left a remarkable legacy after more than 50 years of teaching and conducting groundbreaking research. Among her numerous awards was the Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research from the American Physical Society in 2020 for “fundamental contributions to the physics of electronic transport in solids and molecular magnetism.”

Sarachik was a rarity in experimental physics because of her gender. In addition to overcoming bias against women in science, she became a mentor to generations of younger women in the field and was a lifelong advocate for the human rights of all scientists.

Before her passing, she left a \$1.5 million pledge to establish the Myriam Sarachik Professorship Fund for a visiting physics professor in the Division of Science.

In 2020, Weinbaum received his first recognition from the White House with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM). The White House awards are America’s highest honor for mentors who work with underrepresented groups in STEM.

Weinbaum was also the recipient of a 2022 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Biomedical Engineering from The Franklin Institute. Weinbaum is one of a few people that belong to all three National Academies: Engineering (NAE), Medicine (IOM), and Sciences (NAS). In 2002, he was elected to the NAS and the IOM, and the same year named a Guggenheim Fellow recipient in molecular and cellular biology. He was the first engineer to ever receive a Guggenheim in this category. He was elected to the NAE in 1996.



Benjamin Steinberg, Maria Tamargo, and Margaret Rosario

Three CCNY Faculty Made CUNY Distinguished Professors

Benjamin Steinberg and Maria C. Tamargo of the Division of Science, and Margaret Rosario of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, are among 12 outstanding CUNY scholars elevated to the rank of distinguished professor during the 2022-23 academic year. They join 145 other CUNY faculty holding that distinction.

An algebraist, Steinberg is professor of mathematics and a faculty member at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Tamargo, a chemist, also serves on the doctoral faculty of chemistry, physics and electrical engineering, the latter in Grove School of Engineering.

Rosario, who also teaches at the CUNY Graduate Center, is a psychologist noted for her research on identity, its development and implications for health, and other adaptive outcomes.

The title of distinguished professor is the highest academic honor that CUNY can offer its faculty. It is conferred by the CUNY Board of Trustees in recognition of exceptional scholarly achievement. Distinguished professorships are reserved for faculty with records of exceptional performance



Robert Paaswell
Photo credit: Eugene Chiu

President’s Medal Awarded to Renowned Transportation Guru and Educator Robert Paaswell

Robert E. “Buz” Paaswell, the internationally recognized expert in public transportation issues and consulting, is The City College of New York’s 2023 President’s Medal recipient. A distinguished professor of civil engineering emeritus, Paaswell received the medal from President Boudreau at the annual President’s Circle dinner in Manhattan.

The President’s Medal, which is awarded for distinguished achievement and public service, is the latest of Paaswell’s

numerous honors, which include the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary's Award for Superior Service, the Council of University Centers Award for Distinguished Leadership and the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials Award for Service. The latter is presented by COMTO, the leading national advocate for employment diversity, inclusion and contracting opportunities in the multi-modal, multi-billion-dollar transportation industry.

"Giving this award to Buz Paaswell is a true joy," said President Boudreau. "Professor Paaswell is a lifelong public servant, having devoted his entire life not just to transportation and civil engineering, but to alleviating the burdens on underserved, under-resourced communities. Moreover, his love of our students and CCNY is virtually a defining aspect of his personality. He richly deserves this recognition."

Paaswell credited the generations of students he has taught and mentored at CCNY, and his tremendous colleagues, for the prestigious accolade.

"Incredible and engaged students, many of whom have gone on to positions of leadership," said Paaswell. "Terrific colleagues of many disciplines, and the problems and rewards of New York City – these have been the driving forces of a rewarding career centered at CCNY. How fortunate I have been to spend the last 33 years here."



Sanjoy Banerjee

National Academy of Inventors Elects Sanjoy Banerjee to Cohort of Fellows

Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering Sanjoy Banerjee, the director of the CUNY Energy

Institute, has been elected to the National Academy of Inventors' Class of 2023 Fellows. Election to the Academy is the highest professional distinction awarded solely to inventors.

Banerjee and 161 other academic inventors were inducted as NAI Fellows at the Academy's 13th annual meeting on June 18 in Raleigh, N.C.

The 2023 class of Fellows represents NAI's foundational and continuing commitment to diversifying innovation on all levels, with underrepresented inventors comprising 33% of this year's class. It also showcases regional diversity with Fellows representing 35 U.S. states and 10 countries, exemplifying the Academy's belief that great innovators can be found everywhere. The new Fellows hail from 118 research universities, governmental and non-profit research institutions worldwide, and, collectively, hold more than 4,600 U.S. patents.

Banerjee is also the founder and chairman of Urban Electric Power, spun out of the CUNY Energy Institute to develop 'beyond lithium' batteries. Banerjee joined CCNY from U.C. Santa Barbara, where he had been department chair and previously taught at Berkeley, McMaster University, and worked at the Atomic Energy of Canada as director of its Applied Science Division. He has also served as Mitsubishi Professor at the University of Tokyo, the Burgers Professor at TU Delft, and at ETH Zurich.



Robert Anderson (left) and Jeff Morris

AAAS Honors Researchers Robert Anderson and Jeff Morris as Lifetime Fellows

Faculty members Robert P. Anderson and Jeff Morris were elected 2023 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. They are among 502 scientists, engineers and innovators recognized for their scientifically and socially distinguished achievements by the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the "Science" family of journals.

Anderson is professor of biology and member of the biodiversity group in the Division of Science.

Morris is professor and director of the Levich Institute in the Grove School of Engineering.

A tradition dating back to 1874, election as an AAAS Fellow is a lifetime honor. Joining the ranks of Fellows last year were mathematician and STEM education policy expert Talitha Washington, marine biologist Jorge Cortes Nunez, and radiologist and former National Institutes of Health director Elias Zerhouni.

IN MEMORIAM

Professor Richard B. Bernstein

Richard B. Bernstein, who died on June 26 at age 67, was a member of the City College's Department of Political Science since 2011. He was an author, historian, and a thoroughly committed professor. He was also an active contributor to the NYU Legal History Colloquium and the American Society for Legal History. Before coming to City College, he taught at New York Law School, Brooklyn College, and Rutgers. Born in New York City, Bernstein graduated from Stuyvesant High School, Amherst College, and Harvard Law School.

Dr. Thomas H. Haines, B.S., Chemistry, '57, M.S., Chemistry, '59

Thomas H. Haines died peacefully on May 24, 2023, at the side of his family. He was the distinguished alumnus and genius behind the CUNY School of Medicine. After being raised in an orphanage, Haines went on to become an influential scientist, activist, and educator. Haines earned both his B.A. and his M.A. from City College. While attending CCNY, he also taught elementary school science at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School and would later teach biochemistry at City College for more than three decades. During his time teaching, students often voted him the most popular professor. Throughout his life, Haines dedicated time to public policy interests. From 1994 to 2001, he chaired the Partnership for Responsible Drug Information, which focused on exploring alternatives to the "War on Drugs." His legacy lives on at the Convent Avenue campus today. The CUNY medical school exists because of Dr. Haines's contributions, for which he was honored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for helping disadvantaged students access a top-of-the-line education. He is survived by his wife Polly and his daughter Avril.

Architect Robert Kalish, B.S. '69 Architecture

Robert Kalish died on Jan. 18, 2024, at 78. Kalish originally entered Queens College but transferred to City College after a year. He studied architecture when the subject was an unaccredited program within the School of Engineering and Architecture. He wrote for the architecture-centered Tech News (now The Paper), reporting on architecture students' desire for an accredited program and for the rapid redevelopment of the campus infrastructure. Kalish rallied his fellow architecture cohorts and created The Folio, an architectural journal, for which he served as editor.

His promotion of students' desire for an accredited School of Architecture succeeded in 1969. He preserved his writings in a scrapbook that he donated to the CCNY Archives to be of use to future scholars. Kalish received the Alumni Service Award in 2021 and was awarded a medal by the CCNY Architecture Alumni Group for his work and his contributions to the school.

Nobel Laureate in Physics Arno A. Penzias, B.S. '54 Physics

Arno Penzias died on Jan. 22, 2024, at 90 in San Francisco. Penzias shared one-half of the 1978 Nobel Prize in physics with Robert Woodrow Wilson for their 1964 discovery of what is known as the Big Bang -- cosmic microwave background radiation, remnants of an explosion that gave birth to the universe some 14 billion years ago. That explosion is now the widely accepted explanation for the origin and evolution of the universe.

Born on April 26, 1933, in Munich -- the same day and place as the establishment of the Gestapo -- Penzias and his family were arrested and put on a train for deportation to Poland in the fall of 1938, but the train was refused entry and the family returned to Munich. In late spring 1939, six-year-old Arno and his five-year-old brother were put on a train as part of the Kindertransport, the British rescue effort that brought some 10,000 children to England.

Their parents managed to leave Germany for England, arriving in New York City in 1940. Penzias attended Brooklyn Technical High School and "sort of drifted into chemistry," he told The New Yorker in 1984. Entering CCNY in 1951 intending to study chemistry, he found that he had already learned much of the material. After one of his profes-

sors assured him that he could make a living as a physicist, he switched majors, graduating in 1954.

After two years as a radar officer in the Army Signal Corps, Penzias earned both his master's and doctoral degrees in physics at Columbia University.

Replying to a congratulatory telegram from President Jimmy Carter after the announcement of the Nobel Prize, Penzias wrote, "I came to the United States 39 years ago as a penniless refugee from Nazi Germany...America has meant a haven of safety as well as a land of freedom and opportunity."

Emeritus Professor of Chemistry Stanley Radel

Stanley Radel died on March 27, 2024, at 91. After graduating from high school at an early age, Radel earned his Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry at NYU, working as an analytical chemist in industry and teaching part-time at NYU. He joined CCNY's chemistry faculty in 1964 and spent the rest of his professional life here.

Starting as an instructor, he eventually became a full professor and the department chair, retiring as an emeritus professor in 2003. Among his many contributions to the College are: the Workshop/Peer Leader program, in which advanced undergraduate peer leaders helped train beginning students in various chemistry courses, a program that is now nationwide thanks to an NSF grant; active participation in the formation of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education; and the development of textual material for its first-year chemistry program, which included many biologically related concepts traditionally taught in third-year physical chemistry courses, and was expanded into a first-year textbook.

Radel also served on various committees and was a full-time doctoral faculty member at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Artist Faith Ringgold, B.S. '55, M.A. '59 Visual Art

Iconic artist Faith Ringgold, resident of Englewood, N.J. and California, died at age 93 on April 13, 2024. Her work was exhibited at the White House and in permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the American Craft Museum in New York, and many other institutions.

The multimedia artist's work ranged in medium, quilts, soft sculptures and masks, depicting the African American experience through pictorial quilts, as well as a second career as a writer and illustrator of children's books.

The Harlem native taught art in the New York City public school system, in Harlem and the Bronx, from 1955 to 1973, while trying to establish a career as a painter. Her style "included the integration of craft materials like fabric, beads and thread with fine-art materials like paint and canvas; vibrant, saturated colors; a flattened perspective that deliberately evoked the work of naïve painters; and a keen, often tender focus on ordinary Black people and the visual minutiae of their daily lives," The New York Times wrote in its obituary of her.

Her struggles to get fair representation in presenting her work were folded into her choices of materials, subject matter, and protests.

Her 1991 book, "Tar Beach," won many awards, including the Library of Congress, School Library Journal, Caldecott, and Coretta Scott King. The book is based on a story quilt of the same title from her "The Woman on a Bridge" series in 1988. She has since published and illustrated 20 children's books. Her autobiography, "We Flew Over the Bridge: The Memoirs of Faith Ringgold," was published in 1995 and reprinted in paperback in 2005.

Ringgold received more than 100 awards and honors, including CCNY's Townsend Harris Medal in 1995. She received CCNY's first Cultural Arts Award, for her substantial contributions to visual, literary, music

or performance-based arts, in 2011. She also received 23 honorary doctorates.

At the time of her death, Ringgold was professor emerita of art at the University of California, San Diego, where she split her time between New Jersey and California. She is survived by her daughters Barbara and Michele, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Her husband, Burdette Ringgold, died in 2020.

Poet, Translator and Anthologist Jerome Rothenberg, B.A. '52 English

If Jim Morrison is really dead, then he is probably buried with a copy of Rothenberg's 1967 book, "Technicians of the Sacred: A Range of Poetries From Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania." The Lizard King was not the only one infatuated with this "wide-ranging anthology that introduced readers to ancient Egyptian coronation events, Comanche peyote songs and Gabonese death rites," as The New York Times put it. The book "became a core text for poets and musicians looking to explore ritual and meaning beyond the conventions of their genres," said The Times. Warren Zevon relied on its hundreds of entries for ideas; Nick Cave called them "an incredible resource...for someone always looking for inspiration."

Growing up in the Bronx, the child of Polish immigrants who ran a dry goods store, Rothenberg spoke Yiddish at home. He received his B.A. in literature from CCNY in 1952 and his master's in the same subject from the University of Michigan a year later.

After two years in Germany with the Army, he returned to New York, where he began writing poetry and continued translating. In 1959, he published "New Young German Poets," his first book and the first time the work of Günter Grass, Paul Celan and others appeared in English. He was also a part of the New York scene of the 1960s, which included writers in the Language, Deep Image and Fluxus movements.

In addition to his teaching career, mostly at the University of California, San Diego, he lived on the Seneca Nation reservation from 1972 to 1974, where his anthropologist wife was conducting research.

Over the course of his career, Rothenberg wrote more than 80 books and recorded more than a dozen spoken-word albums.

Jerome Rothenberg died on April 22, 2024, at 92 at his home in Encinitas, Calif.

Herbert Rubin, B.A., History, '38

Herbert Rubin died peacefully at home surrounded by family at the age of 105. Through his actions over a rich lifetime more than by any pronouncements, he taught us how to live a humane life of commitment to others. Born of immigrant parents, he often walked to class from his home in the South Bronx to save the nickel carfare.

Rubin was proud of his CCNY pedigree and was a recent recipient of the school's Townsend Harris award. Rubin attended the evening division at NYU Law School, while maintaining a full-time day job. Number one in his class, Rubin became the only evening student ever named editor-in-chief of the NYU Law Review. He remained an enthusiastic supporter of NYU Law, establishing the Judge Rose Rubin and Herbert Rubin International Law Symposium and Professorship.

Following Army service in WWII, Rubin became a founding partner of the law firm Herzfeld & Rubin. He was renowned as an appellate practitioner. In addition to the New York trial and appellate courts, He argued in virtually all the federal Circuit Courts of Appeal, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court, where he helped set precedent about jurisdictional law that still holds.

He continued active litigation beyond his 102nd birthday and was stymied only by the 2020 pandemic. Rubin was a member of the New York City Housing Court Advisory Council, the New York State Banking Commission, the New York City Commission to Revise the City Charter, served as president of the Queens County Bar Association

and in many other civic capacities. Rubin played an active role in shaping New York's judiciary. He was a member of Sen. Schumer's and Sen. Moynihan's judicial screening committees for federal judicial appointments and the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary for 25 years. He was especially gratified to promote equitable representation of women on the bench. Rubin was a great supporter of Jewish life as a benefactor to UJA and as a 50-year member of the Conservative Synagogue of Fifth Avenue. He shared more than 75 years of marriage with his law school sweetheart, Justice Rose Luttan Rubin, who predeceased him. Rubin was the beloved father of Barbara Brown Cooper (Peter), Caroline Temlock Teichman (Marc), and Don Rubin (Carol). He was the grandfather of eight and great grandfather of 11 children.

Professor David Rumschitzki

Professor David Rumschitzki died in early November 2023. He spent his last moments in his office, perpetually committed to helping students in their engineering aspirations. Rumschitzki came to City College in 1938 and worked in the chemical engineering department. He graduated from Cooper Union in 1978. He was planning to run the New York City Marathon and was deeply interested in biking and health.

Professor Asha Margarita Samad-Matias

Senior Lecturer in Anthropology Asha Margarita Samad-Matias passed away in September at the age of 80. Samad-Matias came to CCNY in 1973 and, over the course of her half-century at the college, she transformed the lives of five generations of students. She taught across a range of programs and departments from black studies to anthropology; she once served as director of the Women's Studies Program. Her signature courses focused on medical anthropology, and she always placed human rights at the core of social sciences. An expert on immigrant and refugee rights, she spent years conducting human rights work within and outside the academy. She spoke five languages and brought an enormous wealth of personal and professional experience to the classroom. A memorial service was held in Shepard Hall on May 8, 2024.

Professor of French Eve Sourian

Eve Jeanne Pocquet Sourian died on Dec. 26, 2024, at 91 in her home on the Upper East Side. She was an acclaimed author, editor and professor who specialized in 19th century French literature.

Though born in New York City, Sourian spent much of her early interwar childhood in France and Germany before achieving degrees from the Sorbonne and Bucknell University. At the University of Colorado, from which she earned her Ph.D., she nurtured her deepening passion for French literature, then returned to New York to embark on a career of scholarship and teaching,

She began at CCNY in 1965, followed by a graduate teaching position for 19th century French literature at CUNY, where she served as director of the University's Women Studies Program from 1985 to 1989.

As both author and editor, Sourian's many scholarly writings included the comparative literary study, "Madame de Stael et Henri Heine: Les Deux Allemagnes," along with four critical editions of the writings of French Romantic novelist and proto-feminist George Sand: "Les Nouvelles" (1986), "Isidora" (1990), "Impressions et souvenirs" (2005), and "Nouvelles lettres d'un voyageur" (2005).

In addition to numerous other academic honors, Sourian was bestowed the "Chevalier de L'Ordre des Palmes Academiques" by the French Republic in 2006.

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