“We are, every one of us, on the front lines of a struggle for the future and the soul of our nation. What we do every day, at City College and at places like City College, is this: we set ourselves against the proposition that the American dream is small, or restricted, or ungenerous. We defy the idea that where you come from, or how you got here, or where you pray, or what you look like, or who you love has any bearing on your place in our society. We reject the idea that the circumstances of your birth define the pathways of your life. We work in the understanding that we do not now live in the world we were meant to inhabit—we build it, every day, and defend what we build when we must. And on this campus, I promise you, we will make that defense.

Vincent Boudreau, President
The City College of New York
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We stand at a moment when we can clearly see the misshapen fruits of a societal retreat from the ideals of public higher education as a collective good that is utterly vital to the fabric of our democracy. Where once we accepted that the whole people would benefit when the whole people were educated—where once we were unambiguous in our willingness to define an educated population as a societal strength and a public good, we are now too often asked to see public education as an discrete benefit for individuals who have acquired, or will acquire, their degree in a place like CCNY.

But when society refuses to see how everyone benefits when everyone has a path to education, it begins to ask why this student, or that, deserves particular support—why any one of us should agree to allocate resources to support some unnamed other. When the whole people were educated—we build it, every day, and defend what we build when we must. And on our campus, I promise you, we will make that defense.

We embrace our role at the forefront of social change, recently ranked #1 in promoting social mobility in our student body by the Harvard-based Opportunity Insights out of 369 selective U.S. public colleges. And we are proud to be a part of a university system that’s leading the country in this regard.

We must redeeducate ourselves to social mobility and in that redeeducation, broaden our conception of what it means on our campus. We live in a time when social mobility, the great engine that drove our public life through the middle years of the last century, has become, in the words of Joseph Stiglitz, a statistical anomaly; and we cannot tolerate such a state of affairs.

We—The City College of New York—are an institution filled with writers and researchers: professors who, in their different departments, in their differed fields of endeavor, are identifying and attacking the barriers to social mobility. We are not working in Harlem merely because our campus happens to be here. We have been drawn, with our particular commitments to justice and equity; to this special spot, to undertake very specific kinds of work. And it is that work, and this place, that keep us close. Together, we are an institution dedicated to an all-out assault on the barriers to social mobility, and it’s time we started to say that.

This puts us, every one of us, on the front lines of a struggle for the future and the soul of our nation. What we do every day, at City College and at places like City College, is this: we set ourselves against the proposition that the American dream is small, or restricted, or ungenerous. We defy the idea that the circumstances of your birth define the pathways of your life. We work in the understanding that we do not now live in the world we were meant to inhabit—we build it, every day, and defend what we build when we must. And on our campus, I promise you, we will make that defense.

No democracy has long survived without a robust mechanism for educating the whole people. When educational opportunities grow more restricted, or educational institutions weaken, a hollow space opens up in the fabric of our public lives. And out of that void come all manner of ugly things: intolerance, superstition, closed mindedness. The void exudes a climate for violence. It encourages disaffection, and societal rifts and governments that lean toward repression.

It’s time to act. It’s time to rededicate ourselves to our shared goods, to the old dream of a country in which everyone gets a chance; where one’s success is not measured by the color of one’s skin or the place of one’s birth; where a young person’s education is not determined by the ZIP code of one’s home; where we see a country in which the whole people are educated. And then, and only then, will America begin to live up to its promise.

I know now, mere fodder for

Vincent Boudreau, President

Aims to extract that which is useful.
“This celebration of what our diversity adds to us all has never been more important. Or more fun!”

Juan Carlos Mercado
Dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Affairs

For a week in June, the fifth edition of The Americas Film Festival of New York (TAFFNY) lit up downtown with the celebration of the vibrant cinema of Spain and the Spanish diaspora.

A cultural project of the City College Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education in collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indian, TAFFNY gives New Yorkers—including the 290+ New Yorkers of Hispanic heritage—a unique opportunity to see award-winning films from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Honduras, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Spain, and the United States.

“The Americas Film Festival of New York aims to create a new culture of cinematography appreciation by providing a dynamic space for the public and artists to meet and reflect on multiculturalism and diversity in our society, while promoting the work of new and emerging filmmakers,” explains Dean Juan Carlos Mercado. “This celebration of what our diversity adds to us all has never been more important. Or more fun!”

Curated by Dina Vargas, Emmy-award winning artistic director of the Havana Film Festival in New York, and coordinated by Professor Carlos Aguasco, TAFFNY opened with the New York premiere of “Habla” by Spanish directors Jon Gaztano and Aitor Arregi. The title, which means “giant” in the Basque language, is a touching drama about the tough life of mid-19th century traveling circus “freaks.” It portrays “an uneasy universe with complexity, subtlety, emotion and truth,” according to Carlos Boyero of the Spanish newspaper El País, winning ten 2018 Goya awards—the national annual film awards of Spain. The festival closed with the New York premiere of “Out of State” by Native Hawaiian filmmaker Ciara Lacy — a character-driven documentary that chronicles the experience of two men who discover their cultural identity while held as inmates in a private prison, thousands of miles away from their island home of Hawaii. Closing activities also included a special celebration of City College’s MFA in Media and Film featuring a selection of award-winning short fiction and documentary films produced by CCNY film students.

Event venues included the CCNY Center for Worker Education, the General Consulate of Argentina, the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU, the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center at the CUNY Graduate Center, Instituto Cervantes New York, and the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

DOWNTOWN FILM FESTIVAL SHOWCASES RICH CULTURES OF THE AMERICAS

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SHAKESPEARE AND THE GLOBAL DOMINANCE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN CULTURE

Shakespeare scholar András Kiséry has had a very good year. In January his proposal for a study of the dissemination and consumption of English literature between the 16th and 18th centuries—“Forming English Literature in the Early Modern World”—won a coveted grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for research leading to a new book. Only 10% of the proposals made the cut.

Kiséry explains, “In 1600, no one cared for English writing outside of England. By 1800, English was among the most influential, most widely known literatures globally, and certainly in the Atlantic world. How did this happen? Through what agents: printers, publishers, translators and of course readers; through what connections and networks of trade and culture did English books enter into European and global circulation? And why does this matter? This is part of the history of how English became the global language of the 21st century—and the global dominance of Anglo-American culture…a story of our own world.”

The author also sees his personal story in this larger narrative—the life-altering story of how “a not particularly disciplined student in late-20th century Hungary” became an English major, almost by default. The Hungarian school system required two majors; Kiséry was fortunate enough to have some great teachers of Shakespeare in both Hungary and in the UK, and so his accidental major became his passion.

“My interest in literature was always driven by an interest in history—what I wanted to understand was not just the texts, but also, what people made of them, how people understood them or used them, what their role in the culture was.” This confluence of history, literature, and culture is where Kiséry has lived ever since. And now with the NEH grant, Kiséry will spend the next year conducting research in U.S. libraries, and abroad at research libraries in Germany and the United Kingdom, as preparation for his next work, Books, Space and English Literature.

Kiséry’s year got even better in May, when his 2016 book, Hamlet’s Moment: Drama and Political Knowledge in Early Modern England, now also out in paperback, was shortlisted for the 2018 Shakespeare’s Globe Book Award—the most prestigious literary award to a scholar whose first monograph has made an outstanding contribution to our understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Hamlet’s Moment identifies a turning point in the history of English drama and early modern political culture: the moment when the business of politics became a matter of dramatic representation.

Teaching at CCNY is especially fascinating to this popular professor because of the wide variety of perspectives our diverse students bring to the literary text. Kiséry believes that trying to bring these different perspectives into conversation also reveals a lot about the texts themselves—frequently teaching him about the specific ways in which something intended for a different age and culture can work in completely new contexts.

Kiséry is a 1994 graduate of Hungary’s Eötvös University (BA, English), University of Bristol in England (MA in Shakespeare and English Literature, 1995) and Columbia University (PhD in English and Comparative Literature, 2008). He has taught at CCNY since 2009.

This is the third year running that CCNY faculty members have won an NEH grant; Mikhal Dekel (2017) and Victor Paris (2016) are also recipients.
FILM PIONEER HANS RICHTER’S LEGACY OF INNOVATIVE FILMMAKING AT CCNY

Hans Richter fled Europe in 1941 to avoid being imprisoned by the Nazis for his anti-fascist ideas. Not long after he arrived in the U.S., he was invited to teach a class in the newly formed Institute of Film Techniques at City College.

Richter was soon named the Director of the Institute—the first college-level film program in the country—a post he would hold for fifteen years. This year we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Hans Richter’s taking the helm. With a reputation as an international artist, educator and outspoken critic of oppression of all forms, Richter’s Institute epitomized the mission of City College, giving underrepresented, talented students full access to the best education available.

At the Institute, film students were taught by world-famous professors, many of whom were also refugees. According to Dave Davidson, a professor in the CCNY film department who is an outspoken critic of oppression of all forms, Richter was clearly ahead of his time in recognizing that films like "Triumph of the Will"—a chilling but artful piece of propaganda which cast Hitler in a heroic light, are what we now call "alternative facts."

In addition to being an anti-fascist, Richter was also a DADAist and a radical theorist/practitioner. After the war, some of the Institute’s students went on to become Oscar-winning Hollywood feature filmmakers. Others became noted documentarians. Many of the Institute’s filmmakers were influenced by Richter’s belief in film as a unique art form divorced from all theatrical conventions—especially his experimental art films of the 1920s. Inspired by such radical notions, they went on to become the pioneers of the New American Cinema movement of the late 50s and early 60s.

Under Richter, the Institute started as a part-time non-degree program in documentary filmmaking. Within six years of its founding, the school won its first Oscar. By the time Richter left in 1957, the film school was a full-time course of study leading to a BA.

One goal Richter was not able to accomplish was to start a graduate program in film production. In 1997, CUNY finally approved an MFA program—the first such program at an affordable public college in the number one media market in the world.

Today, Richter remains synonymous with Modernism in film and documentary art in America, and continues to influence generations of emerging filmmakers. His independent spirit lives on in CCNY’s production programs where students are encouraged to make thoughtful, visually inventive films on tight budgets.

CCNY’s film school is still the only program of its kind, taught by practicing filmmakers of international reputation who receive major grant funding for their own work. These faculty members share their knowledge and expertise with students directly from the field and are passionate about treating them as emerging visual storytellers who make films that matter.

Led by program co-directors Antonio Tibaldi and Andrea Weiss, the film school gives students access to the finest talent, locations, and production facilities of New York City in the hopes they will become the next generation of original voices in independent film. Faculty routinely win awards at film festivals. In 2017, two faculty members had critically acclaimed feature films in theatrical release; another received two Emmys.

CCNY student films have been official selections at Cannes, Sundance, Tribeca, Berlin, and Venice (Biosnale) Film Festivals. Students have also won numerous student Oscars (including 2017) and Emmys.

NUMEROUS AWARDS, INCLUDING:

Rituparna Das Datta and Sarah Wemy each received a New York Women in Film & Television (NYWIFT) Hs Phuong Scholarship. Rituparna, Class of 2018, received the scholarship in recognition of her short fiction thesis film “Canvas,” and Sarah (’19) will use the scholarship toward the production of her thesis documentary, “Once in a Lifetime.”

Cyprien Kodjio (’18) won the Bronze Award for Best Documentary Short at the Independent Short Awards—Los Angeles, with his thesis “Not Rich Yet.”

Fatima Matousse (’18) received an Honorable Mention for Best Documentary Short at the Independent Short Awards—Los Angeles, for her thesis “Family in Exile.”

Emmanuel Adu Poku (’19) and Rafael Samanzer (’19) are the recipients of this year’s British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) New York Media Studies Scholarship program. Emmanuel received a BBC America Scholarship; Rafael received a BAFTA New York Documentary Scholarship in Honor of John Grist.


Jiage Tong (’18) received a National Board of Review (NBR) Student Grant for her fiction thesis film “Seventy,” set in a remote Chinese village. Through the Student Grant Program, the National Board of Review promotes the cinematic future by helping young filmmakers finish their projects.
LEADERSHIP IN THE SERVICE OF DEMOCRACY:
SCHOLARSHIP IN ACTION

“If you ask John Krinsky for a definition of engaged scholarship, he’ll tell you, ‘Scholarship explains the world. Engaged scholarship changes the world.’”

John Krinsky
Professor of Political Science
Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership

By the time City College students move from graduation to the world of work and career, the Career and Professional Development Institute has had their backs in a relationship built long before Commencement.

“We build a personal relationship with the students who come to CPDI,” says Rhea Faniel, Senior Associate Director for Diversity Recruitment and Employer Relations at City College. “CCNY students are smart and ambitious, but many of them come from different cultures and traditions, and haven’t had any experience with American business or corporate etiquette.”

In some religious traditions, for example, women and men do not shake hands. Career staff members may coach students on how to react gracefully when a recruiter or interviewer offers a hand in greeting to a Muslim or an Orthodox Jew, without compromising their religious beliefs. Many students don’t know what the unspoken dress codes are for interviews and receptions. Although many CCNY students work, few have had experience in writing a résumé that reflects the critical competencies that employers are seeking for even entry-level positions—and very few have practiced for a formal interview.

Faniel concludes, “Most of our students have little experience with the professional culture of a large company, government agency, or non-profit. We want to prepare these students to present themselves professionally and with confidence to the professionals in their chosen field.”

CPDI works with students at all levels at CCNY—and the most successful take advantage of the services it offers throughout their college career. The Institutes Explorer Program helps new students find a major that fits their interests and abilities. The Internship Program places undergrads in internships that help them hone their skills for the careers they chose, and provides the internship experience increasingly required for so many careers. The Senior Recruitment Program helps seniors find the career-focused job opportunities they are seeking when they graduate.

Over the course of the academic year, CPDI offers more than 240 professional development workshops open to all students. Subjects range from writing a winning résumé and a compelling cover letter, to mastering the interview, to managing the graduate school application process and finding funding.

In addition, career fairs offer students and recent alumni the opportunity to meet prospective employers and get their résumés to the people who manage the hiring process. CPDI hosts five career fairs each year: in business and social services, STEM careers, architecture, and education, as well as the Spring Job and Internship Fair in March, open to all. Last year more than 2,400 students attended these fairs—which hosted 229 major employers. The Institute also maintains a database of more than 800 screened jobs that CCNY students can apply for online.

In all, last year 3,781 students took advantage of the career coaching services offered by the Career and Professional Development Institute at City College.

Increasingly, employers in both the private and the public sector know that they need a diverse, inclusive workforce to succeed. They need City College students. The Career and Development Professional Institute is making that connection happen.
Snow Days: Remote Sensing in Caribou, Maine

In 2010, The Grove School of Engineering’s NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies established the Snow Field Experiment, or CREST SAFE, in remote Caribou, Maine. This million-dollar ground-based instrumentation facility enables innovative research in support of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s mission of extreme weather forecasting. That it engages not only CCNY’s top engineers, scientists and graduate students, particularly from underrepresented minority communities, and provides previously unheard-of opportunities for Native American high school students to see science in action and perhaps pursue careers in STEM disciplines—well, that’s what CCNY does.

Reza Khanbilvardi, a water resources engineer who has been the director of NOAA-CREST since its inception, explains that SAFE was designed first and foremost to help meteorologists, emergency managers and government officials in the Northeast to provide early warning of dangerous flooding conditions—particularly along the Aroostook River, an important natural resource for the local and Native American residents in Aroostook County. Drones help the CREST-SAFE team explore innovative and cost-effective methods for mapping the snow distribution that can be used for commercial and civilian applications.

SAFE data is already used in simulations using the HUT model, and compared with the snow-water equivalence; and an infrared thermometer and net radiation sensors to measure the changing temperature at every 5cm of depth, among other equipment. With this data, SAFE engineers are able to analyze the snow pillow on top, and understand the interactivity of the layers below. Working with the National Weather Service Forecast Office, located in Caribou, SAFE research helps meteorologists, emergency managers and the U.S. Coast Guard provide early warning of dangerous flooding conditions—particularly along the Aroostook River, an important natural resource for the local and Native American residents in Aroostook County.

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SAFE’s potential is even greater, however. The Maine facility collects important local data. But what do measurements from Caribou say, for example, about the snow mass in the Sierra Nevada Mountains? Real-time data and an accurate estimation of the amount and morphology of snowfields are vital to all mountain communities, and to global natural resources management—particularly water management. Engineers and scientists back at CREST at CCNY are calibrating SAFE’s data with the satellite data received from NOAA, working to develop an algorithm that could be broadly applicable to other snowfields. SAFE data is already used in simulations using the multi-layer emission model developed by the Helsinki University of Technology, known as the HUT model, and compared with the data from several satellites. It is bringing scientists one step closer to a Global Snow Product—the ability to accurately estimate the total amount of water world-wide available in the form of snow.

One of NOAA-CREST’s highest priorities is to train the next generation of STEM scientists, particularly from underrepresented communities, and each year a group of NOAA-CREST funded students participates in the SAFE experiments in Maine as part of their graduate/doctoral research and training. (Many of these students come from tropical Puerto Rico to research the snow!) Students from the University of Maine in Presque Isle also participate. They are given hands-on training on how to operate the drones, and plan and process the rich photogrammetric data that they gather.

Perhaps SAFE’s most unique outreach, however, is the partnership it began in 2017 with the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, whose headquarters are also in Presque Isle. Like many Native Americans, Micmac youth face economic hardship and academic disadvantage, and they have rarely been engaged in hands on science. SAFE is providing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to the young people of the Micmac nation, enabling middle and high school students to learn about their environment and sustainable development.

Members of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs help with the drone fly-overs that make sure that everything is in working order—after all, even the most sophisticated equipment won’t work if a small animal is obscuring its sensors—and this fall and winter they will be able to participate in a range of field experiments.

Unmanned aerial vehicles—drones—provide a cost and time efficient research technology that produces high-resolution images and maps that complement satellite-based data; they are particularly useful in remote regions like Aroostook County. Drones help the CREST-SAFE team understand snowpack properties in the County, and help explore innovative and cost-effective methods for mapping the snow distribution that can be used for commercial and civilian applications.

The NOAA Center for Earth System Sciences & Remote Sensing Technologies—NOAA-CREST—is a multidisciplinary CUNY consortium led by City College and headquartered in the Grove School of Engineering. Established in 2001 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which has provided approximately $45 million in support to date, NOAA-CREST is one of only four NOAA Cooperative Science Centers in the country and the lead NOAA institute to remote sensing and technology.
When Linda Villarosa was a small child growing up in Chicago, long before she went to school, her great aunt May told Linda that she knew the little girl would become a writer. Aunt May taught Linda to read before she entered kindergarten—and what a writer she has become!

On April 15, 2018, the cover of The New York Times Magazine was given over to Villarosa’s “Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis,” featuring this painful and surprising question and answer: “Why are black mothers and babies in the United States dying at more than double the rate of white mothers and babies? The answer has everything to do with the lived experience of being a black woman in America.”

“The issues I write about are those that aren’t rising to the surface, but should be.” Villarosa explains, “Actually, I’m a numbers geek—and as I tell my classes—I always start with the numbers. When I see statistics that look wrong or unfair, I look at the research. I look for connections that haven’t been made explicit. And then I look for the people on the ground who are living these numbers, and try to tell their stories. I am at heart a story-teller.”

The product of eight months of concentrated research, Villarosa’s piece is the latest result of her intrepid curiosity on behalf of social justice. It is a rare example of lucid science writing, interspersed with luminous story-telling about the experiences of one woman of color, Simone Landrum, two of her children, one who died, and one who lived, and the doula who helped her.

The racial disparity in infant mortality has been tracked for more than a century and a half. Today black infants in the United States are more than twice as likely to die as white infants. Received wisdom outside of the scientific community usually attributes this terrible fact to some combination of poverty, lack of education, lack of access to health care, and unfairly, a perceived absence of personal responsibility.

Less widely known is the fact that today the United States is the only developed country in the world where the number of women who die in childbirth is rising—a heartbreaking distinction almost completely due to maternal mortality in the African American community, which is three to four times the rate of white mothers. In fact, according to the Centers for Disease Control—and contrary to the easier argument about class — a black mother with a college degree has a greater risk of dying that a white woman with an eighth grade education. “Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life- or-Death Crisis” is Villarosa’s deep dive into the research that painstakingly and overwhelmingly rebuts the idea that African American women are to blame for the crisis in their health and the health of their children through their actions or inheritance. She explains what Arline Geronimus of the University of Michigan calls “weathering”—at its worst a kind of constant, toxic stress as a consequence of repeated exposure to a climate of discrimination and insults that trigger the premature deterioration of the bodies of African American women, the way that a storm wears down rocks, but also builds a kind of resilience, like a house that weather a storm. Villarosa lays out what experts in the field now understand: the lived experience of race in America, along with deeply rooted racism in the health care system, dramatically affect who lives and who dies.

The overwhelming power of the story that Villarosa tells is grounded in her warm description of the most painful chapter of Simone Landrum’s life, the loss of her child Harmony, and finally the triumphant birth of Kingston Blessed Landrum—with the extraordinary assistance, knowledge and love of doula Latona Giwa. At every turn, Landrum’s story is the human face of the research that Villarosa explains so well. It is also ultimately a story of hope.

“Why America’s Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis” was one of the most highly responded to and emailed for the year for the Times magazine, receiving 1200 comments and social media amplification by Dan Rather, Senator Cory Booker, gubernatorial candidate Cynthia Nixon and rapper and actor Common.

Citing Villarosa’s article, the Times editorial board followed the article five days later with an editorial about the shameful details of how we have failed to protect the lives of black women in pregnancy and childbirth. Shortly after, Governor Andrew Cuomo expanded Medicaid payments to cover doula to help reduce childbirth related deaths in black women. (In Louisiana, Latona Giwa earned only $600 for many months of service.) And in early July, Senator Patty Murray secured $50 million in initiatives to address maternal mortality, citing the disproportionate risk faced by women of color.

This is journalism at its most powerful. It changes things.
STUDENT ACTIVISTS OPPOSE GUN VIOLENCE

The roots of activism run deep at City College. Over the years, students have protested, marched, held sit-ins, and occupied buildings. They have resisted fascists, racists and elitists who tried to deny them an affordable education.

Today, CCNY remains a hub of activism. Students continue to struggle for their rights and the rights of others. Most recently, they’ve fought hard to hold the line on tuition costs, to support their fellow DACA students, make MTA fares fair, and to end gun violence.

On Friday, April 20th, in response to the Parkland shooting, an ad-hoc committee of City College students and educators organized a rally to provide a safe space for students to voice their concerns about gun violence and ask community stakeholders to take action.

More than 100 CCNY and local middle school students spoke, cried, sang, and recommended ways forward. Through it all, one message came through loud and clear: no child should be in danger in their community, their home, or in their school.

The event was co-moderated by a student, Haris Khan, President of the Undergraduate Student Government, and an educator, Johanna Garcia, Executive Director of The City College School of Education Professor Tatiana Kleyn.

“AGENTS OF ACTION/AGENTS OF CHANGE

WEATHERING THE STORM: TEACHING AFTER MARIA

Irving Mota was on a Skype call for a class in CCNY’s Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program in his home near San Juan, Puerto Rico, when Hurricane Maria hit and changed life for everyone. Mota had moved to the island with his husband in 2015 to teach first grade and pursue his master’s degree as an independent study, working with City College School of Education Professor Tatiana Kleyn.

“The challenges to the entire community were huge,” recalls Mota. “Even though most residents would be without power for months, we all pitched in and managed to get the school up and running on generators. We welcomed back eager students ready to learn and return to their daily routines, offering a break from the reality the island was facing. School became a sort of sanctuary.”

Hurricane Maria was not the first storm that Mota has weathered. Born in Mexico, he grew up in New York’s Hudson Valley, undocumented and with an uncertain future. In 2012, while completing a bachelor’s at City College in bilingual childhood education with cum laude honors, Mota was unsure if he would be able to work as a teacher due to his immigration status.

He spoke to Professor Kleyn, opening up about being undocumented. Kleyn, along with the faculty and administration at CCNY, worked with Mota to give him confidence. “They told me, ‘You are at the right place. We’ve never dealt with this before but we will find a way, we will figure it out.’ They knew I was passionate about teaching and that I wanted this.”

Fortunately, shortly after graduation, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was announced and Mota became a bilingual teacher in Manhattan. He shared his story in Kleyn’s 2012 documentary, “Living Undocumented: High School, College and Beyond.” He also participated in her follow up film, “Still Living Undocumented,” which followed the impact of DACA on young people five years later.

In Spring 2018, Mota received his master’s in TESOL from the School of Education, having persevered in the face of governmental challenges and natural disasters. “I love being a part of the education process and contributing to children’s growth—and I’m so glad that I’m here, now, in Puerto Rico. This is what I’m meant to be doing.”

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Irving Mota, MS (TESOL)
2018, Primary School Teacher

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Irving Mota, MS (TESOL)
2018, Primary School Teacher

“The challenges to the entire community were huge,” recalls Mota. “Even though most residents would be without power for months, we all pitched in and managed to get the school up and running on generators. We welcomed back eager students ready to learn and return to their daily routines, offering a break from the reality the island was facing. School became a sort of sanctuary.”

Hurricane Maria was not the first storm that Mota has weathered. Born in Mexico, he grew up in New York’s Hudson Valley, undocumented and with an uncertain future. In 2012, while completing a bachelor’s at City College in bilingual childhood education with cum laude honors, Mota was unsure if he would be able to work as a teacher due to his immigration status.

He spoke to Professor Kleyn, opening up about being undocumented. Kleyn, along with the faculty and administration at CCNY, worked with Mota to give him confidence. “They told me, ‘You are at the right place. We’ve never dealt with this before but we will find a way, we will figure it out.’ They knew I was passionate about teaching and that I wanted this.”

Fortunately, shortly after graduation, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was announced and Mota became a bilingual teacher in Manhattan. He shared his story in Kleyn’s 2012 documentary, “Living Undocumented: High School, College and Beyond.” He also participated in her follow up film, “Still Living Undocumented,” which followed the impact of DACA on young people five years later.

In Spring 2018, Mota received his master’s in TESOL from the School of Education, having persevered in the face of governmental challenges and natural disasters. “I love being a part of the education process and contributing to children’s growth—and I’m so glad that I’m here, now, in Puerto Rico. This is what I’m meant to be doing.”

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“This is what I’m meant to be doing.”
WOMEN DETERMINED TO ALTER REAL ESTATE LANDSCAPE

The development and commercial real estate industry remains a tough profession for women to crack: a recent study of top commercial firms by California’s Commercial Café found that women held only 14% of the senior executive jobs nationally, and even here in New York City Women make up only 27% of executive level managers, according to the real estate magazine The Real Deal.

But City College and the WX New York Women Executives in Real Estate are determined to change that. In June, four female architecture students from The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at City College were recognized for their achievements and potential when they received WX scholarships designed to encourage and support bright and talented young women pursuing careers in real estate and related professions in the New York metropolitan area.

WX, an association of executive-level women actively engaged in the commercial real estate industry in New York, promotes the advancement of women in commercial real estate and enhances public perception about the role of women in the industry.

Through educational seminars, breakfasts with industry leaders, mentoring programs, scholarships, and special events, WX provides opportunities to construct an understanding of how the city is impacted and can be improved by the intersection of development, real estate, and landscape architecture.

“I’m really interested in acquiring an understanding of how the city is impacted and can be improved by the intersection of development, real estate, and landscape architecture.”

Robynne Heymans
MLA degree recipient and two-time WX scholarship honoree

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED MENTOR FOCUSES ON DIVERSIFYING ENGINEERING

On June 25, City College’s own dean of engineering, Gilda Barabino, was one of twenty-seven university educators around the country to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring, the nation’s highest honor bestowed upon mentors who work to expand talent in STEM.

Barabino, one of only four African American women deans of engineering in the country, is acutely aware of the need for mentoring and its impact on developing the next generation of underrepresented students and faculty in STEM. She’s spent the better part of the past three decades helping to launch and sustain a wide variety of initiatives that have encouraged and supported the progression of underrepresented minorities in STEM while also enabling the institutions that serve them. She’s used her positions of leadership—as president of the Biomedical Engineering Society; president of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering; founder of the National Institute for Faculty Equity; and, as dean of the Grove School of Engineering—to advocate for equity that primarily focuses on developing and retaining role models and mentors that mirror the diverse individuals who are most in need of mentors.

At the heart of Barabino’s motivation is her desire to not lose talent. After all, she says, “The best science is conducted when we have the most inclusive group of people involved. You can’t possibly have the best minds at the table if you exclude certain groups.” Having had no mentors to help her navigate her path, she wants to change that dynamic for the next generations. “Now, as a mentor to both students and faculty”, she explains, “I want to create a sense of community in an educational environment that elicits and values everyone’s voice.”

It’s no surprise Barabino gravitated toward City College for its legacy and long-standing mission of access to excellence. At the Grove School, she and her faculty are developing a new model of STEM education—one that transforms the way these disciplines are taught by making them relevant to a truly diverse student body whose talents and contributions the nation cannot afford to lose. The model addresses the academic disadvantages that some of these students bring to college, but equally important, it builds on the correlation between subject matter and their own lives—and provides opportunities to construct an understanding of what it means, within their lived experience, to be an engineer.
**Biodiversity** is extraordinarily complex, however. Its distribution patterns and ecosystem services are regulated by processes that operate across multiple hierarchical levels of organization, temporal dimensions, and spatial scales. The diversity of life on Earth is seemingly endless, yet climate change and habitat loss—so much of it driven by anthropogenic activity—presents an existential threat. Scientists working to understand and protect biodiversity are in a race against time.

Grounded in the pioneering work of a core group of six biodiversity scientists at CCNY and their myriad partners on campus and around the world, City College has launched a $10 million campaign to establish the multidisciplinary CCNY Center for Biodiversity under Environmental Change, devoted to the study of the multiple causal links between biological diversity and environmental changes at the local, regional, and global level.

The campaign was kicked off with a generous $1 million donation from Shelby Katz Cohen, an alumna of Hunter College ’46 and New York City math teacher for 35 years. Her strong connection to City College is both longstanding and current: her three brothers, Jerome, Mortimer and Irving Cohen graduated from CCNY in 1934, ’40 and ’45 respectively, and today her great nephew, Dr. Alvin Cohen, is a respected researcher in the College’s physics department. Katz Cohen is passionate about the transformative power of public education, and about the urgent need for biodiversity research.

We share our increasingly fragile planet with approximately ten million species—the legacy of billions of years of evolution. As CCNY biodiversity expert Ana Carnaval explains, “Biodiversity provides crucial services to the planet, to all of life, and to humans. Because it is so relevant to the health of our planet and to human societies, science has a crucial role to play in understanding how it is generated, maintained and lost.”

Biodiversity under Environmental Change, a companion study by Kyle McDonald and Terry Elkes Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Kyle McDonald are partnering with the American Museum of Natural History to understand Amazonia’s evolutionary and ecological history over the last ten million years by integrating systematic biology, population biology, ecosystem structure and function, geology, Earth systems modeling and remote sensing, and paleoenvironmental history. Their research represents the most comprehensive examination of Amazonian biodiversity and its history to date. Together they are establishing a methodological template that can be used by scientists around the world to analyze the history of biotic and environmental change across large, ecologically complex landscapes.

**INNOVATIVE BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK**

The City College core team of biodiversity specialists boasts strong and varied disciplinary and interdisciplinary research interests, proven funding success, and a robust track record of training students. Over the past five years, they have brought in more than $7.15 million in research. Their on going contributions to the field span several labs at CCNY as well as institutions and countries around the world, on every continent but Antarctica. They work at different scales of organization—from a single species, to its ecosystem, to the biosphere—partnering with experts in remote sensing, machine learning, modeling and mathematics. What follows are brief, selected examples of the reach and consequence of their research.

Amazonia—home to the highest species diversity and largest freshwater ecosystem on the planet—plays a critical role in shaping the Earth’s atmospheric gasses and oceans and consequently its climate; the loss of plants and trees in the Amazon can contribute to extreme weather events like hurricane Sandy. Carnaval and Terry Elkes Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Kyle McDonald are partnering with the American Museum of Natural History to understand Amazonia’s evolutionary and ecological history over the last ten million years by integrating systematic biology, population biology, ecosystem structure and function, geology, Earth systems modeling and remote sensing, and paleoenvironmental history. Their research represents the most comprehensive examination of Amazonian biodiversity and its history to date. Together they are establishing a methodological template that can be used by scientists around the world to analyze the history of biotic and environmental change across large, ecologically complex landscapes.

A companion study by Carnaval and Professor of Biology Michael Hickerson is developing a framework for predicting spatial patterns of biodiversity in the Brazilian Atlantic Forest, reconstructing the historical factors that influence current dimensions of genetic, taxonomic and functional biodiversity. This scientific history will permit scientists to predict the future of biodiversity in the Atlantic forest over a range of climate change scenarios.

The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet. That rate of change is expected to continue and intensify in the future, with increasingly profound implications for human health and safety, whole industries and economies that depend on the ice, and the supply of food and other biologic resources around the world. Associate Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Science Maria Troitzkiou works closely with other research universities and NASA collaborators to characterize changes in the cycle in which chemical elements and simple substances are transferred between biochemical fluxes and the continuum of Arctic rivers, estuaries and the ocean. Her work will develop new remote sensing algorithms that will improve our ability to monitor Arctic degradation from space.

Tropical forests sequester large amounts of carbon, and the fate of that carbon—whether it will be released into the atmosphere to contribute to global warming or changed into a more climate-neutral form—depends on the fate of those trees. The answer may lie with the primary colonists of moribund wood, saproxylle beetles, poorly known but exceptionally species-rich organisms that initiate the transformation of plant biomass into microbial and animal biomass. In the lowland neotropical forests of Middle America and northern South America, Associate Professor of Biology Amy Berkov and her international collaborators study the resilience of these tiny but important actors in the drama of carbon capture and release so critical to our warming environment.

For the past 50 years, Professor of Biology Robert Rockwell has spent almost every summer in the Canadian Arctic. Over time, he and his international partners in the Hudson Bay Project have traced the explosive growth of the Arctic...
population of snow geese and, more recently, one of the fastest
ces rates of climate change in the northern hemisphere. Rockwell
examines the interplay of feeding and nutrition levels in this
coastal ninda system, primarily to understand control and
feedback between the grass-like plants, the snow geese and
caribou who consume them, and, at the top of the food chain, the
polar bears looking to supplement their diet with snow geese as
the ice melts and seal hunting becomes more and more difficult.

Despite the fact that more than 60% of all described species are
insects, few if any entomological studies relate insect diversity to
climate, ecology and evolution at continental or global scales—
primarily because the data are either lacking or published in
hundreds of obscure references. Leading a consortium of five
global institutions, entomologist and Professor of Biology David
Lohmann’s ButterflyNet aggregates information about the biology
and distribution of each species, effectively inferring a “family
tree” of all 18,500 butterfly species—resulting in the first large-
scale studies of insect macro-ecology and comparative biology.

Yet how can the thousands of scientists and conservationists
around the world keep up with the massive amount of research
and discovery in the broad field of biodiversity? The WALLACE
software developed by Professor of Biology Robert Anderson
and his collaborators fills a critical gap in technologies designed
to meet this challenge. A modular, open-source platform for
reproducible modeling of species niches and distributions
that provides access to some of the largest public online
biodiversity databases, WALLACE is an example of an
innovative way to make new scientific methods accessible to a
broad audience of researchers, far beyond the specialists of a
particular sub-field.

Finally, Professors Anderson, Carnaval (the Co-PI) and
Hickerson are part of an interdisciplinary, multi-university
team that received an inaugural National Science Foundation
“Growing Convergent Research Award” for their project, RCN:
Cross-Scale Processes Impacting Biodiversity. The team is
only of one 22 to receive this grant for a new kind of
research. “NSF has supported cross-disciplinary collaboration for
decades,” according to NSF Director Franci Córdova. “Convergence is a deeper, more intentional approach to the
integration of knowledge, techniques, and expertise from
multiple disciplines in order to address the most compelling
scientific and societal challenges.”

That’s an excellent description of the kind of work that will be
done in the new Center for Biodiversity under Environmental
Change. By working to understand Earth’s gorgeous, fragile
biodiversity in all its subtle and complex connectivity, scientists and others at The City College of New York will
help humanity preserve and protect it itself—and its home
planet in the balance.

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and
Social Affairs, more than two-thirds of the world’s population
will live in cities by 2050, posing unprecedented quality of life
challenges to the next generation. The CUNY flagship school is not
only proudly one of the most environmentally responsible colleges
according to “The Princeton Review Guide to 375 Green Colleges,”
CCNY is also a recognized leader in educating and training the next
generation of innovators in urban sustainability.

With the College’s unique strengths in the Grove School of
Engineering, the Spitzer School of Architecture, the Division of
Sciences and the Colin Powell School, CCNY is perfectly
positioned to offer an approach to the challenges of urban
sustainability that is as multifaceted and interconnected as cities
themselves are. The result: CCNY’s Interdisciplinary Sustainability
in the Urban Environment graduate program.

CCNY’s response to a rapidly urbanizing global community
includes expert faculty conducting groundbreaking research and
providing modern, interdisciplinary opportunities for students
to engage in emerging approaches in architecture, engineering,
science and the social sciences. They offer courses on industrial
ecology, environmental economics, resilient design, water resource
management and renewable energy that address the sustainability
challenges of the 21st century.

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS IN
URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

“Contemplating the growing influence and global authority
of cities, how do we rein in humanity’s footprint to live within
planetary means while ensuring
greater social equity?”

To that point, Professor Brown worked with students and the
Haitian Ministry of Commerce and Industry to spur economic
development in a rural seaside town still coping with the influx of
people who abandoned Port-au-Prince after the 2010 earthquake.
An eco-industrial park is planned for the region which is currently
plagued by extreme poverty, absence of critical infrastructure,
arid conditions and widespread deforestation that has resulted in
flooding, loss of topsoil and the depletion of aquifers. The project
offers students the opportunity to witness sustainability in practice
and to apply the learnings to larger urban systems in the future.

Similarly, students in advanced architecture studios in the Spitzer
School recently received recognition for their work concerning
modular affordable housing to combat urban sprawl and spatial
solutions for refugee populations that consider intangibles such as
human dignity and empowerment.

Following a unique immersion in interdisciplinary degree tracks
in engineering, architecture and the sciences, graduates of the
Sustainability Program put their distinctive learning experiences to
work in public, private and civil sector positions that are vigorously
addressing the climate-related initiatives of cities and states. Recent
graduates now serve in such key roles as Planning and Resilience
Officer for the City of Hoboken, Director of Green Infrastructure
for the New York City Department of Transportation, and in other
positions in the NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and at the
Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

“Our rising urbanists become problem-solvers and policy makers,”
says Brown. “They are inclined to seek out potential collaborations
in pursuit of a much more sustainable future.”

Hillary Brown
Director of CCNY’s Interdisciplinary Master’s Program in
Sustainability in the Urban Environment
Spitzer School of Architecture

“Students investigate urban sustainability as a cluster of concerns,”
says Hillary Brown, professor of architecture in the Bernard and
Anne Spitzer School of Architecture and director of CCNY’s
Sustainability graduate program. “Contemplating the growing
influence and global authority of cities, how do we rein in
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From CCNY to the Planet, With Love

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MINI-MEDICAL SCHOOL: WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER HARLEM

Where you live, learn, work, and play has a huge impact on your health. If you feel safer inside watching TV and eating fast food than outside getting exercise or shopping for healthy ingredients, you’re at higher risk of diabetes, heart disease, mental illness and more. It’s as simple as that. Such social determinants cannot be erased—even with access to the best doctors. But their impact can be reduced.

The CUNY School of Medicine trains future doctors to take an approach to medicine that isn’t just community placed but community based. CSOM recruits the best students from underrepresented communities and prepares them to return to practice in those very same areas.

But one CSOM second-year student, Hazeezat Shittu, didn’t want to wait until she became a doctor to start having an impact. She wanted to understand and meet the health challenges of the surrounding Harlem community while she was still in school. The best way to do that? Ask members of the community what they needed most.

Shittu explains: “I realized that I don’t have to be a doctor yet to start impacting my community’s health. CUNY School of Medicine has knowledge and tools that can help people make better health decisions for themselves and their loved ones. Why not share those resources?”

What started as Shittu’s school project quickly turned into something bigger. The project goal was to have eyes and ears wide open to serve the Harlem community. Shittu and five other medical school students spent months creating a bilingual (English/Spanish) survey and placing it in multiple Harlem locations—including the YMCA, a police precinct, a local restaurant, and the Boys & Girls Club. It asked community members what their main health concerns were and whether they’d like to share those resources?

This data also helped inform sessions moving forward. The Mini-Medical School program has already had a positive impact—on Harlem residents, who have been empowered to manage their own health; on CSON medical students who have received training that cannot be taught in a classroom; and on community: Diet, Physical Activity and Health.

In March, Shawn L. Rickenbacker was named director of the J. Max Bond Center for Urban Futures, City College’s research and design center focused on cities. The Bond Center honors the legacy of J. Max Bond, renowned African American architect and former architecture dean at CCNY, and his extraordinary accomplishments of integrating urban innovation with societal and cultural concerns.

As a trained architect, urbanist and systems technologist, Rickenbacker’s work has focused on the convergence of physical space and digital systems within the built environment, how we can learn from it and its relationship to the human experience.

The Center, established in 2009, will build on transdisciplinary research and design with world-class researchers throughout the City University of New York and beyond as well as strategic public and private partnerships.

A major focus underway for the Bond Center is providing design and actionable strategies based on interdisciplinary research conducted at the Center. Working with associated faculty from the Spitzer School of Architecture and departments from across the CCNY network, the Center is researching and will propose to the community and City agencies a development model for the 135th Street corridor in upper Manhattan that runs west from the J. Max Bond designed Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture to the City College campus. Working with the Harlem Chamber of Commerce President Lloyd Williams, its membership and other community partners, Rickenbacker and the College are delving into how this important and historical urban corridor can continue to evolve and serve its diverse community.

“Physical structures have an effect on other structures,” said Rickenbacker. “Social structures, economic structures, cultural structures. The Harlem community has a sense of ownership, an understanding of the rich history and a vision of what’s possible. Providing the community with a sense of agency in the process is absolutely critical.”

At the time of Rickenbacker’s appointment, President Boudreau said, “Professor Rickenbacker thinks about the built environment in terms that engage structural aspects, ideas about technology and social questions of race, gender, opportunity and disparity. In this most public of architectural centers, he is an emphatically public architect and will be a superlative director.”

Rickenbacker takes the helm at the Bond Center following his most recent academic appointments at Cornell University, Tulane University, and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Design.

“I owe much to Max Bond,” said Rickenbacker. “He was such an inspiration to me and others with his championing of CCNY’s intellectual life in the city through research and design. I am honored to help build upon his legacy.”

 Hazeezat Shittu
CUNY School of Medicine student
CCNY BRINGS THE JOY OF THEATRE TO HARLEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Launched in 2010, City College’s Graduate Program in Educational Theatre has developed a unique partnership with PS161, a local Harlem public school just blocks away from the College’s campus. The relationship grew out of necessity on both sides. “PS 161 had no theatre program at that time,” said Ed Theatre program founder and program director Dr. Jennifer Katona, “and we were a brand new program with grad students learning how to be theatre teachers and so it was a great fit. Through the partnership, our candidates received hands-on experience and PS 161 gained an after-school theatre program.”

Katona’s philosophy (based on her experience) is to start small. “It’s okay to have only ten kids performing in T-shirts and jeans. It doesn’t need to be a 2-hour full production musical.” So it makes sense that the PS 161 after-school drama program began with just 15 kids. CCNY graduate candidates ran the initial program and directed the middle school children in a 30-minute staged reading. In the seven years since the program has been in PS 161, the after-school drama group has grown from 25 kids on stage and 25 people in the audience to a sold out 400-seat theatre and successful annual community potluck dinner. And last year, the Ed Theatre students collaborated with the school on that full production musical, “Annie Jr.”

PS 161 now has a full-time theatre teacher—a graduate of the educational theatre program—and four other dedicated teachers attached to the after-school drama program. “The program intensified and changed the face of a school,” said Katona. “Through this partnership the program is able to model for the graduate students real change through theatre and has become a model to them on how they too can start theatre programs.”

The program’s successes include partnerships with the Roundabout Theatre Company and multiple other New York City cultural organizations. CCNY Ed Theatre students also have begun working with eighth graders to help prepare them for their auditions at select arts high schools in New York City. And every spring, they produce the Harlem Children’s Theatre Festival with free theatre and activities for the community.

INSPIRING YOUNG MINDS IN NICARAGUA

Charles Ramirez is a finance and economics major in the Colin Powell School who has excelled in his studies and was recently accepted into the CASE Summer Internship Institute to learn about the field of development and fundraising. Clearly Ramirez’ future is bright. But every time he visits his family in Granada, Nicaragua, the contrast between what is possible in the U.S. and what is possible in Nicaragua is stark.

In New York, his education gives him the opportunity to make a better life for himself and his mother. In Nicaragua, families struggle to provide their children with the education they need to get ahead. In grammar schools like Escuela Benito Juarez and Escuela Jose Estrada, the infrastructure is weak and resources scarce. Textbooks are hard to come by—not to mention running water. Students walk on dirt roads to get to school. It’s no wonder a third of all students in the region drop out.

In years past, Ramirez volunteered alongside his aunt to help the needy in the region, bringing toys and clothes. “While the children were always delighted by the gifts, I wanted to do something that would have a more lasting impact,” he said.

He realized that without an education, the children of Granada would never be able to help move themselves and their families forward. Back in New York, he brainstormed with friends on how best to help. The answer: give each child a backpack of their own to make carrying toys and clothes a model for the community.

Thus InspiraBag was born. The premise of InspiraBag is simple. Get a community involved that values education—City College. Ask members of that community to donate gently used backpacks for Nicaraguan children 4-16 years old. Distribute them at schools. Document the difference the backpacks make; each backpack gives each child a sense of security that their right to education is valued. Share pictures of the happy children with the donors. Repeat.

The organization, which just celebrated its one-year anniversary, has four volunteer members and has just filed for official 501(c)3 status. New goals have been set: to attract more InspiraBag ambassadors, connect with more community leaders, and increase the number of donation sites.
Plastics have proven to be a great material for many consumer products. However, plastic waste is overwhelmingly going into landfills—the worst option, based on the sustainable waste management hierarchy. In fact, the World Economic Forum predicts that if current production and waste management trends continue, by 2050 there could be more plastic than fish in the ocean. Why is this happening when there are processes and technologies that can effectively recycle, convert to valuable products and extract the embedded energy from these waste plastics?

A recent study by Castaldi and Associate Director Demetra Tsiamis published by the American Chemistry Council shows transforming plastic waste to energy and fuels. One of nature’s most spectacular molecular architectures is found in the highly efficient solar light harvesting apparatus of photosynthetic plants and bacteria. While they have been studied extensively, the origin of their tremendous energy transport efficiency has remained a mystery. The problem is challenging. The light harvesting complex’s structure is not rigid, and the molecular components are continually moving. The role that this motion plays in facilitating (or impeding) energy transport is unclear.

With support from the National Science Foundation, Associate Professor of Chemistry Dorothy Eisele is synthesizing and investigating bio-inspired nanomaterials that mimic the interesting features of natural light harvesting complexes. She and her team aim to watch the flow of energy through these new molecular assemblies using super-high-resolution microscopy, with the goal of understanding how structural fluctuations affect energy transport.

Hao Su, an Assistant Professor in the department of mechanical engineering and director of the Grove School of Engineering’s Biomechatronics and Intelligent Robotics Lab, leads the interdisciplinary team that includes researchers from the University of Texas Medical School and TIRR Memorial Hermann—one of America’s top rehabilitation centers.

‘Their entry in the challenge, “Physiology-Adaptive and Computer Vision-Assisted Soft Exoskeletons to Support Independent Living across the Continuum of Rehabilitation,” placed in the top 10 among 96 entries globally in the first round. Stripped around the disabled limb, the exoskeleton is described as “lightweight, comfortable, and intelligent and able to support independent living across the continuum of rehabilitation.” It can be used for both gait rehabilitation and personal mobility assistance.

“We are also exploring ways to design softer, smarter, and safer assistive devices by leveraging our innovation of high-torque density motors, which significantly reduce the weight of exoskeletons, and enable soft-sensor-based physiologically-adaptive control,” said Su.

Su and his collaborators, who include several City College students from undergraduate to PhD level, are now perfecting their device for the second round, which will be announced in January of 2019, and offers a $500,000 prize. The five finalist teams will then have until September of 2020 to perfect their entries, at which time the winning team will receive a million-dollar prize.

Fingers—and knees—crossed.
FACULTY WHO BROUGHT IN MORE THAN $750,000 IN NEW EXTERNALLY FUNDED RESEARCH IN FY18

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<td>A renewal grant over five years to continue research and development projects to optimize the waste water treatment plants</td>
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<td>MARK PEZZANO</td>
<td>Associate Professor of Biology / Deputy Director of the Research Center in Minority Institutions at City College</td>
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Please note that many grants are multi-year grants—i.e., an award of $15.5 million over a five year period. The total dollar amount of a multi-year grant is attributed to the reporting year in which it was awarded, rather than distributed over its duration. This means that many of our faculty not listed here are working on large multi-year grants listed in previous years. In addition, most of these totals represent multiple grants under one PI.
**PERFORMANCES / EXHIBITIONS**

**HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN RELATIONS**
Co-authored by Jacqueline Anne Braveboy-Wagner, Professor of Political Science, the book examines the often troubled, sometimes supportive economic, political and security relationships between the world’s largest superpower and the small nations of the Caribbean.

**LATINOS IN NEW YORK: COMMUNITIES IN TRANSITION (2ND EDITION)**
Co-edited by professors of political science Sherrie Baver, Gabriel HaIsh-Viera (Emeritus), and the late Anglo Falcón, co-founder of the National Institute for Latino Policy, this follows up on the comprehensive study of the city's Latino population published in 1996, capturing the most significant changes and continuities of the last two decades.

**MISSING PERSONS, ANIMALS, AND ARTISTS, BY ROBERTO RANSOM**
Daniel Shapiro, Distinguished Lecturer, translates the elegant prose and imaginative ironies of this compelling collection of short stories by Mexican author Roberto Ransom.

**QUÉBEC N’EXISTE PAS**
This colorful reflection by Maxime Blanchard, Associate Professor of French, the Division of Humanities & the Arts, examines the historical, cultural and linguistic sources of Quebec’s uneasy place in Canada.

**REZA ABDOH: RADICAL VISIONS**
The major U.S. forum for contemporary Latin American and Caribbean writing in English and English translation, including key productions, extraordinary work, and ultimately terrifying title is a wickedly funny and ultimately terrifying story set during Ireland’s “Troubles.”

**SALVADOR**
Nonfiction for its searing recent history of El Salvador. It is now published in Spanish.

**BONES OF CONTENTION**
New York City premiere of a documentary that focuses on the brutal Franco dictatorship, during whose reign up to 120,000 opponents of fascism were buried in unmarked graves, by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and Professor of Film Andrea Weiss.

**DOMESTIC ECONOMIES, WOMEN, WORK AND THE AMERICAN DREAM IN LOS ANGELES**
Susanna Rosenbaum, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, examines how two groups of women—Mexican and Central American domestic workers and the predominantly white, middle class women who employ them—seek to achieve the “American Dream.”

**EROTISM AND OTHER LITERARY CONVENTIONS IN CHINESE LITERATURE: INTERTEXTUALITY IN THE STORY OF THE STONE**
Hsien-Wu, Associate Professor of Asian Studies, examines how one of the most beloved and celebrated works of prose fiction in China’s literature dramatizes human experience by responding to previous literature.

**THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND HEALTH CARE (6TH EDITION)**
Co-editor João Nunes, Medical Professor, provides trainers in every area of health care with foundational concepts of behavioral science as applied to individual and population health and disease.

**BROADWAY: A HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY IN THIRTEEN MILES**
The New York Times calls this book by Fran Leadon, Associate Professor of Architecture, “meticulously researched—an invigorating stroll along the 13 miles that are the thoroughfare’s Manhattan portion,” and deems Leadon “graced with a wry wit.”

**BUGSPLAT: THE POLITICS OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN WESTERN ARMED CONFLICTS**
Bruce Cronin, Professor of Political Science, gives us an in-depth examination of five conflicts fought by the Western powers since 1989 and their civilian casualties, and offers a new theory about why this “collateral damage” occurs in such large numbers.

**DON’T LET GO**
Mike Holober, musician and Associate Professor of Jazz Composition and Performance, wrote this jazz octet for his former MFA student Alex Lora. The New York City premiere of a play, and had several pieces of his own in the exhibition.

**THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY**
It’s about our exciting destiny in space, about colonizing Mars, the solar system, and eventually the stars,” says well-known physicist Michio Kaku, Henry Semat Professor of Physics.

**THE LONG WET GRASS**
The film adaptation of Center for Urban Education librarian Seamus Scallon’s award winning play of the same title is a wickedly funny and ultimately terrifying story set during Ireland’s “Troubles.”

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**NUEVA YORK WINS THREE EMMYS AT ANNUAL NEW YORK EMMY AWARDS CEREMONY**
This CCNY TV-Spanish-language cultural series is created and produced by CCNY Professor of Film Jerry Carlson—and wins these awards year after year.

**REVIEW: LITERATURE AND ARTS OF THE AMERICAS**
The major U.S. forum for contemporary Latin American and Caribbean writing in English and English translation, the Review is now edited by Daniel Shapiro, Distinguished Lecturer in the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures.

**WHAT GOES UP: THE RIGHT AND WRONGS TO THE CITY**
Sorkin, Distinguished Professor of Architecture, takes to task the larger world outside.

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**2018**

**THEORY OF ARCHITECTURAL DIFFERENTIALS**
Sorkin, Distinguished Professor of Architecture, takes to task the larger world outside.

**WHEN THE ROUTE GOES RIGHT**
Sorkin, Distinguished Professor of Architecture, takes to task the larger world outside.

**WOMEN AND MOBILITY ON SHAKESPEARE’S STAGE: MIGRANT MOTHERS AND BROKEN HOMES**
Elizabeth Mazzola, Professor of English, investigates the ways Shakespeare’s plays link female characters’ agency with their mobility and thus represent women’s ties to the household as less important than their connections to the larger world outside.
LEADING THE CONVERSATION

A CALENDAR OF SELECTED PUBLIC EVENTS

Over the past year, City College has hosted hundreds of public events that celebrate our rich cultural heritage and address some of the greatest challenges facing us today. Here are just a few.

**OCTOBER**
- **The Americas Poetry Festival of New York 2017**
  - The fourth multilingual poetry festival and writers’ conference organized by poets and professors Carlos Aguasain, Yrene Santos and Carlos Velasquez Torres of CVM features sixty poets representing twenty-two countries and five languages.

**November**
- **Thinking Plural, a Talk By Siri Hustvedt**
  - Hustvedt, author of six novels as well as several books of essays and works of non-fiction (The Blazing World was long-listed for the 2014 Man Booker Prize) addresses the intersections among philosophy, psychoanalysis, and neuroscience.

**December**
- **The Puzzle That Spawned 100 Philosophy Papers**
  - Peter Wenker of Dartmouth College explains the philosophical puzzle proposed 17 years ago: “Sleeping Beauty” seems to be a simple question about probability. Is it? If so, why does it incite such passion?

**2017**
- **Bench to Bedside**
  - Part II: Accelerating the Medical Innovation Conversation
  - A panel of inventors and innovators highlights challenges to and opportunities for building medical device technologies in the New York City technology community.

**2018**
- **The 4th Annual Sternberg Family Lecture in Public Scholarship: Democratizing the Outdoors**
  - John D. Judge, President and CEO of America’s oldest conservation organization, the Appalachian Mountain Club, discusses efforts to get more people active outdoors and in conservation stewardship.

**February**
- **The City as Primary Document: The Case of Dakar**
  - Professor Barbara Syrakos talks about how historians use primary source material and presents her own work about colonialism, independence, and constitutions in West Africa using primary sources.

- **Comparing Songs Without Listening: From Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science to Music and Back Again**
  - Experts discuss the multidisciplinary field of music information retrieval (MIR), which uses algorithms to make these musical comparisons in the same manner that a human being would, but on a much larger scale.

**March**
- **The Concert for Ravi Shankar**
  - Music journalist Michael Crowley briefly showcases unparalleled digitizations of Shankar’s CCNY lecture recordings, and speaks with Shankar about his work over the years.

- **Celebrating the Scholarship of Dell Upton**
  - Award-winning historian of architecture, cultural landscapes and cities Dell Upton discusses his pioneering career linking social and architectural history, and his interest in the history of African American architecture and material culture.

**April**
- **Knowledge For All, the 2018 Robert Kahn and Patrice Lyons Lecture**
  - Facebook CSO Alex Stamos talks about designing the online infrastructure that ensures the safety and privacy of personal information while bringing more openness and collaboration to the security community.

**May**
- **Voices of Trauma**
  - CCNY Professor of English and Director of the RShanti Center for the Humanities and the Arts, Mikhal Dekel, discusses his creative experiment with process, habitat typology and construction techniques.

**2017**
- **George Lois Archive Exhibition Kick-off**
  - Lois the renowned photographer Platon discuss the importance of their pioneering work addressing civil rights, war, feminism and the role of art — at the crossroads of creativity, commerce and morality.

- **The Sciame Lecture Series: Carl Fredrik Svenstedt**
  - In the first of 15 annual architecture lectures sponsored by alumnus Fredrik Svenstedt, Sciame Lecturer, Svenstedt discusses his studio’s construction techniques.

- **State of Disaster: Puerto Rico and U.S. Relations in the Aftermath of Hurricanes**
  - An interdisciplinary panel provides a critical look at the historical relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States and examines the social, economic and political conditions as the island struggles to survive and move past the devastation.

- **George Lois Archive Exhibition**
  - A multilingual exhibition of Lois’s work for building medical devices.

- **Hiatus: Portraits of Immigrants**
  - An exhibition of portraits in the enduring tradition of Robert Frank that speak to the humanity of immigrants that resist and xenophobic assaults seek to deny them.

- **The 2017 Nobel Prize in Physics: The Observation of Gravitational Waves**
  - Professor Alexios Dell Upton discusses his groundbreaking career linking social and architectural history, and his interest in the history of African American architecture and material culture.

- **The Richard Branson Lecture**
  - Professor Alexios Dell Upton discusses his pioneering career linking social and architectural history, and his interest in the history of African American architecture and material culture.

- **The 10th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival**
  - An exhibition of portraits in the enduring tradition of Robert Frank that speak to the humanity of immigrants that resist and xenophobic assaults seek to deny them.

- **The Puzzle That Spawned 100 Philosophy Papers**
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- **4th Annual Sternberg Family Lecture in Public Scholarship: Democratizing the Outdoors**
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THE COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

TOTAL # STUDENTS 16,516
(AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2017)

UNDERGRAD 13,906
GRAD 2,610
MASTERS : 2,530
PHD : 80

FACULTY
575 FULL-TIME FACULTY
1,294 ADJUNCT FACULTY
21 NEW HIRES IN FY18
1:5 FACULTY TO STUDENT RATIO

SOCIAL MOBILITY
36% OF CCNY STUDENTS WHO MOVE TWO OR MORE QUANTILES OF THE INCOME DISTRIBUTION
12% OF CCNY STUDENTS WHO COME FROM FAMILIES WHOSE INCOME IS IN THE BOTTOM FIFTH RISE TO THE TOP FIFTH AS ADULTS

NATIONAL / GLOBAL RANKINGS
U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

THE PRINCETON REVIEW
Among the country’s greatest colleges (2016 & 2018)

FORBES

MILITARY FRIENDLY
Rated No. 6 in the nation by Victory Media (2018)

MOXIE FOUNDATION GIFT INVESTS IN THE SPIRIT OF CREATIVITY AND CHANGE AT CCNY

Just how do you prepare for success in a world where the pace of change is rapidly evolving and your future jobs don’t yet exist? As necessary as it is to master the accumulated subject matter of a given discipline, now more than ever, all students need to gain a mindset and skills set for change-making.

On May 10 President Boudreau announced a major gift from the Moxie Foundation that will strengthen the College’s capacity to prepare students for creative problem solving in the 21st century. The $2.73 million gift launches the Moxie Initiative, designed to support out-of-the-box thinking, experiential learning, and academic innovation throughout every discipline at the College. The gift’s vision is that every student in every major will realize her or his capability to create significant, positive change in the world.

One of President Boudreau’s fondest ambitions is for City College to become more fully and deeply engaged with, and responsive to the needs of our society, particularly those needs within our local Harlem community. His vision is that this experience would resonate with every CCNY student. “The Moxie Initiative provides us with the resources and encouragement to take some big steps in this direction,” he says, adding that the Moxie Foundation’s vision for higher education is utterly progressive, deeply humanistic, and entirely in tune with the historic mission of City College.

The Moxie Initiative will support faculty, staff, and students with several new programs designed to promote engaged, cross-disciplinary approaches to teaching and research; and to enable new courses within every major that utilize hands-on, problem-based learning to teach critical competencies for effective change-making.

“The world is changing rapidly. City College students must be prepared to lead change in an economy of jobs that don’t yet exist…”

Irwin Zahn ’48 ME
Chairman and CEO of the Moxie Foundation

Moxie Foundation Founder and a 1948 CCNY alumnus.
“We believe deeply in the power of collaboration and innovation, and we are delighted to support President Boudreau’s vision for the future of this incredible institution.”

The Moxie Foundation, a family foundation based in San Diego, California, is dedicated to enriching communities and empowering change-makers across the world through the spirit of innovation. It works closely with partner organizations to advance education, the environment, health and international development. Moxie has been a significant supporter of City College since it helped establish the Zahn Innovation Center, an on-campus incubator, in 2012.

“...and ingenuity— an entrepreneurial spirit that they can tap into to succeed in any endeavor, career or industry” added Irwin Zahn, the...
PHILANTHROPY FOR RENEWAL

BUILDING A SINGLE FOUNDATION TO OVERSEE PHILANTHROPY AT CCNY

Fundraising—impelled by a mission-driven, overarching strategy and coordinated effort to serve our students and live up to our best promise—has never been more important to City College. President Vince Boudreau was pleased to announce in January of 2018 that the 21st Century Foundation and the City College Fund have agreed to consolidate and form a new entity—temporarily named The Foundation for The City College of New York—to advance the shared vision for the College’s future prosperity.

The new Foundation will build on the historic legacies of both organizations, each of which have worked for decades to strengthen and advance the mission of the City College of New York. Both organizations are led by CCNY alumni with strong track records of supporting the College. Both manage vast resources that have supported student scholarships, endowed named professorships, underwritten academic and co-curricular programs, and in many other ways ensured that CCNY is able to offer the very best educational opportunities to our students and a strong foundation of research support for our faculty, as well as support for the staff programs that enhance our mission. Their leadership has enabled City College to remain a vital institution.

Both boards agreed that a single entity would be more nimble, efficient, powerful, and capable of executing a strategic growth and development plan than either foundation could achieve operating on its own. The new Foundation will preserve and cherish the legacy of generosity that marked the foundations’ previous work, and advance that work in new and robust ways.

Accomplishing this merger of course requires time and work, as the College combines the databases as well as the financial infrastructure of the two foundations, establishes an investment strategy, assures that every donation has a clear and complete set of records, and organizes those records into a single database. In addition, CCNY must apply for approval from the New York State Attorney General’s office, and then we must seek IRS approval as well.

The new Foundation is a work in progress, but the progress is good, and we are confident that the work is well worth it. The new Foundation will elevate the City College of New York in ways only dreamt of before. Everyone who works with the College does so for one reason—because the historic mission of CCNY is vital to our students, our city and to our nation. That ethos, embraced by the men and women of the City College Fund and the 21st Century Foundation, is certain to invigorate the activity of the new Foundation. Supported by the combined strengths of both boards, we have every faith that the Foundation for The City College of New York will help to guide future years of dynamic and stable growth at the College.