

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

CCNY TODAY

2019
REPORT
FROM
THE
PRESIDENT

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City College President **Vince Boudreau** (far right) welcomes, from left, Chair of The City College 21st Century Foundation **Martin Cohen ('70)** and honorary degree recipients **Edward Plotkin ('53)** and **U.S. Representative John Lewis** to the College's 173rd Commencement.



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It is my pleasure to present The City College of New York President's Report for the academic year 2018/2019. This document showcases some of the most exciting developments on our campus, and I'm thrilled to show it to you.

We take great pride in the extraordinary accomplishments of our students, both as individuals and in the aggregate. Each spring, our Great Grads publication tells the stories of individual CCNY students who have distinguished themselves by their scholarship, their service ethic, and their research acumen. Collectively, these accomplishments are evident in CCNY's status as the single most successful US College at producing overall social mobility among our graduates. In this report, you'll find ample evidence of our students' extraordinary achievements, validating, yet again, CCNY's original and continuing proposition: that by educating the whole people we will discover and refine troves of talent that might otherwise, to our great national detriment, be squandered. Year in and year out, CCNY students demonstrate how vital our continuing mission is to the prosperity and stability of our society.

But I hope as you read this report, you'll see that it speaks to some larger issues as well. Why do our students achieve such lofty levels of success? Why have CCNY graduates gone on to invent some of our most useful and innovative technology, to serve at the very highest levels in corporate America, or to occupy some of the most responsible positions in government? The mere opportunity to study is no guarantee of a successful college career, or of a productive and dynamic future. Rather, our students come to an extraordinary place where they are surrounded by opportunities to engage in research, to serve the public good, to explore the world, and to learn from one another. The very fabric of our college, its commitment to addressing some of the most important problems confronting humanity, provides the essential and dynamic environment for student success. So in this report, we endeavor to tell the whole story of what makes CCNY so special.

I'll start with one huge development for us this year. In January, the Carnegie Corporation changed CCNY's classification from "regional, MA granting" to "PhD Granting, research intensive." These classifications establish the college's peer group, and also determine the range of research grants for which we are eligible to apply. And we just got a big upgrade, publicly acknowledging the extraordinary research taking place on our campus.

But we're no run of the mill research operation. In laboratories, studios and archives across the campus, our researchers are rolling up their sleeves and delving into a range of problems that specifically affect the populations that attend CCNY. If we are

marked by our achievements in the area of social mobility, we are also distinguished by a brand of research that contributes to the general advancement of the whole people outside of our campus. You'll see, as you read this report, stories of that research, and how it benefits humanity as a whole.

This year, we also embarked upon a project to embed the work of CCNY more firmly in the public sphere. We established partnerships with community organizations, mobilized the expertise of our students, faculty and staff into efforts to confront issues like cyber security threats and opioid addiction, and, most ambitiously, launched a bold project to infuse education and teaching on campus with a mission driven, problem-based ethic that will both prepare our students for leadership and ensure that the campus remains a vital New York institution.

Finally, we spent the year building the foundation apparatus that will secure the college's future. We have a new strategic plan that will guide our work, a revitalized research apparatus and a reconfigured student success operation. In July, we received word that the Middle States Accreditation Commission has accredited the college for the next 10 years. A merged development apparatus, a revamped approach to communications, a restructured and renewed administrative leadership all came on line this year, and all promise to make the college a stronger and more effective institution. And this year, we will launch a long-range economic impact study, in partnership with EMSI, to look at the contributions we make as a college— through our faculty, staff, student and alumni, to the greater New York State area.

One thing is clear, and has been clear for several years. In the changing, and often increasingly hostile climate for public educational institutions, efforts to strengthen and preserve great colleges like CCNY require new and ambitious strategies. I hope, as you read this report, you will discern the strategic framework that we've put in place to make sure that the City College of New York remains an essential, democratic and academically extraordinary institution.

Sincerely,

Vincent Boudreau,
President

LESLEY LOKKO IS NEW SPITZER DEAN

Lesley Lokko, a UK-trained, Scottish-Ghanaian architect, academic and best-selling novelist, has been named the Dean of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture at The City College of New York. Lokko's appointment is effective December 2019.

"It's an exciting and challenging time to be joining the school's conversations around architecture, urbanism and landscape architecture," said Lokko. "CCNY's diverse staff and student communities, its location in one of the world's greatest urban environments and its commitment to architecture as a tool for social change place it firmly at the center of global conversations about the role, scope and responsibilities of architects worldwide."

Currently the director of the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Johannesburg, Lokko has taught and practiced architecture for the past twenty-five years in schools across the U.K., U.S. and South Africa. She is best known for her work on the relationship among race, cultural identity and the speculative nature of African architectural space, and she has lectured widely in Europe, the U.S., Australia and across Africa.

"Lesley Lokko brings a global perspective on architecture to a school with a scholarly and creative tradition that grounds New York's international influences in local community dynamics," said City College President Vince Boudreau. "The Spitzer School's distinctive perspective on urbanism, combining as it does classic approaches to architecture with a deep concern for the lived experience of the whole people, makes it the perfect home for someone with Dean Lokko's abiding civic commitments."

Lokko is the editor of "White Papers, Black Marks: Race, Culture, Architecture" (University of Minnesota Press, 2000); editor-in-chief of "FOLIO: Journal of Contemporary African Architecture" and is on the editorial board of Architecture Research Quarterly (Cambridge University Press). In 2004, she made the successful transition from academic to novelist with the publication of her first novel, "Sundowners," a UK-Guardian best-seller, and has since then followed with eleven best-sellers, translated into fifteen languages.



ANDREW RICH IS NEW COLIN POWELL DEAN, FOSTER IN AS ASSOCIATE DEAN



Andrew Rich, CEO of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation and visiting professor at The City College of New York, was named the Dean of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership and Professor of Political Science in January.

"The Colin Powell School has a distinctive mission — to promote and support leadership development and a service ethic among the students working towards degrees in the social sciences," said President Vince Boudreau. "Andy Rich spent his entire career thinking about service promotion among young people; as the deputy director of the Colin Powell Center, he introduced and championed our service-learning program. After he left CCNY, he built service programs into the Roosevelt Institute and then assumed the leadership of America's premier national service fellowship."

Since 2011, Rich has been executive secretary and CEO of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, an independent federal agency that provides merit-based Truman Scholarships to college students who plan to attend graduate school in preparation for careers as public service leaders. While at the Truman Foundation, Rich has also served in a part-time capacity at CCNY's Colin Powell School as executive director of the Skadden, Arps Honors Program in Legal Studies and academic director of the Semester in Washington, DC Program.

From 2009-2011, Rich was president and CEO of the Roosevelt Institute. At Roosevelt, Rich launched the Institute's think tank and oversaw efforts to expand and strengthen the Institute Campus Network. Rich was previously an associate professor and chairman of the Political Science Department at City College, as well as deputy director and director of programs at CCNY's Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies.

Rich is the author of "Think Tanks, Public Policy, and the Politics of Expertise", and he has written extensively about think tanks, interest groups, foundations, individual donors and the role of experts and ideas in the American policy process. He is a graduate of the University of Richmond (B.A.), where he received a Truman Scholarship. He earned his Ph.D. at Yale University in political science.



Kevin R. Foster will serve as Associate Interim Dean of the Colin Powell School. In 2016, Foster stepped in as Interim Dean of the Colin Powell School following Founding Dean Vince Boudreau's naming as Interim President of City College. Foster has served as chair of the Colin Powell School's department of Economics and Business, where he has taught since joining City College in 1998.



Dr. Erica Friedman has taken on the position of Interim Dean of the CUNY School of Medicine at City College. Dr. Friedman joined the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education in 2013 as Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, and Professor in the Department of Community Health and Social Medicine. She currently serves as Chair of the Department of Medical Education. Prior to her arrival at City College, she had a long medical school career at Downstate, NYU, New York Medical College and Mount Sinai.



Dee Dee Mozeleski will continue in her role as Vice President and Executive Director, the Combined Foundations for CCNY on a permanent basis, President Boudreau announced early this year. Mozeleski has spent two years in this role as interim Executive Director, following four years in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, where she was brought on to help build the School and establish some of its most enduring programs, including projects related to human rights awareness, social justice leadership development and a diversity and inclusion pipeline project with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Mozeleski also directs all communications for CCNY and serves as the Senior Advisor to the President.



Dr. Tony Liss, an internationally-known physicist with research experience at the world’s highest energy accelerators, is The City College of New York’s new provost. Liss had served as Interim Provost and senior vice president for academic affairs since March 2018. Liss joined CCNY in fall 2013 as the first Martin and Michele Cohen Dean of Science. During his tenure as Dean, he reinforced the Division of Science’s five departments with dynamic, research-active faculty; oversaw the opening of a new complex of science buildings on CCNY’s South Campus, and tirelessly championed faculty, student and staff success.



Literature professor, author and editor **Vanessa K. Valdés** is the new Director of The City College of New York’s Black Studies Program. An accomplished scholar who joined CCNY in 2007, Valdés holds the title of associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese in CCNY’s Division of Humanities and the Arts. Her research interests include comparative studies of Black cultural productions throughout the Americas, including the Caribbean and Brazil.

CCNY WELCOMES NEW CUNY CHANCELLOR

In February, President Boudreau released a statement welcoming Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, the new CUNY chancellor: “On behalf of The City College of New York, I would like to express great enthusiasm for the selection of Felix V. Matos Rodriguez as CUNY’s 8th Chancellor. Having worked with Chancellor Rodriguez as a colleague and friend, I am convinced that he has the vision and the commitment to bring our university into an era of unrivaled success. I look forward to working with him and serving under his leadership.”



David Covington is the Executive Director of the Alumni Association of CCNY. Previously, he was events manager for the College and prior to that was artistic director of the CCNY Center for the Arts.



Celia Lloyd, City College’s AVP for Student Momentum, will also serve as VP for Student Affairs and Enrollment, President Boudreau announced in July.

NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIRS
FOR FALL 2019

ANGEL ESTEVEZ
Classical and Modern Languages
and Literature

PENGFEI ZHANG
Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

VINOD MENON
Physics

JUNE WILLIAMSON
Architecture

ANN E. WITTIG
Civil Engineering



NSF GRANT TO ENHANCE
RESILIENCY IN ISLANDED
COMMUNITIES



As part of the \$2 million grant from the National Science Foundation, The City College of New York and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez will virtually recreate Hurricane Maria and its impact on Puerto Rico. The virtual creation of the hurricane will enable research focusing on the critical infrastructure that left the island and its people without power and water for months.

According to principal investigator Jorge E. Gonzalez of the Grove School of Engineering, there is an urgent need for a better understanding of the future risks and expected damage due to extreme climate and catastrophic events that will likely occur with more frequency and intensity, affecting most coastal tropical regions such as Puerto Rico and the Caribbean.

“Our research will integrate cutting-edge weather forecast models, data driven identification and characterization of damage to the physical infrastructure,” said Gonzalez. “It will also integrate advanced approaches for analysis of community generated data and creative solutions for planning and scoping of the rebuilding process to be used for the long-term recovery of Puerto Rico.”

CCNY RESEARCHERS PROJECT CLIMATE
CHANGE IN THE BIG APPLE



New Yorkers can brace for rising temperatures, increasing precipitation and rapidly rising sea levels in the years to come. That’s the finding by City College of New York experts in a study presented to the Mayor’s Office of Recovery & Resiliency for planning and investment purposes. CCNY’s contribution to the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC) 2019 report is based on nearly four years of research.

Jorge E. Gonzalez, NOAA CREST Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Naresh Devineni, associate professor, civil engineering; and James Booth, assistant professor, Earth & Atmospheric Science, were the lead authors of the report’s second chapter that focused primarily on climate science.

Their key findings include:

- NYC will experience more frequent and intense heatwaves with time
- The city is not only getting warmer, it’s also getting more humid
- NYC appears to be getting more intense rainfall events in short periods – particularly in summer
- The number of “extreme days” or cold snaps in the city are decreasing at dramatic rates

City College students mentored by Gonzalez and Devineni also participated in the study. They included Lea Rivera, Arun Ravindranath and Luis Ortiz, a recent PhD graduate.

LARGEST URBAN CLIMATE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY CCNY

In August 2018, the City College of New York hosted the 10th International Conference on Urban Climate (ICUC10), held for the first time in its 30-years of history in the U.S.

The theme of the 2018 conference, Sustainable and Resilient Urban Environments, significantly coincided with a time when accelerated urban development is challenged by the risks and consequences of extreme weather and climate events and by global socio-economic disparity. Resiliency and reduced vulnerability to all socio-economic sectors have become critical elements to the achievement of sustainable development.

ICUC10, a partnership between The American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC) is the premier meeting on the field of urban climate and weather. The conference, sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the US National Science Foundation (NSF), is organized by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Earth System Sciences & Remote Sensing Technologies Center (NOAA CCNY/NOAA-CREST), welcomed 600 delegates from around the world with more than 700 presentations.

YEAR OF SUSTAINABILITY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT CITY COLLEGE



CCNY and CUNY faculty and students research and promote sustainability in Senegal.

STUDENTS RESEARCH AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY INTERNATIONALLY

City College and CUNY students joined Hungarian students last summer in Kőszeg, Hungary, a small, historic northwest Hungary municipality, to undertake a month-long trans-disciplinary research and planning project, spearheaded by Professor Hillary Brown, director of the Sustainability in the Urban Environment master's program at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. The team included undergrad, graduate level and Ph.D. students from varying academic backgrounds—hydrology, engineering, sustainability, planning, economics, anthropology, civil engineering, forestry, agronomy and ecology.

Brown and the students worked with faculty from the Institute of Advanced Studies, Kőszeg (iASK), as well as with CCNY's Charles Vörösmarty, civil engineering professor and director of the Environmental Sciences Initiative at the Advanced Science Research Center, to research a circular economy model and its practical application for revitalizing the economy of Kőszeg and its bioregion.

Kőszeg has been losing population due to a stagnant economy and the ongoing outmigration of its young people to cities, and local labor to neighboring Austria. Along with identifying what

is valuable in the community—picturesque Kőszeg has tourism appeal—the team focused on closing-the-loop of, or circularizing, local resources. The plan promotes reciprocal exchanges of energy, water and material resources among economic and natural resource sectors to advance us beyond the inefficient practices of a linear take-make-waste economy.

The circularized strategy involved students using remote sensing to aggregate local data about crops, watersheds, forests. They then promoted best practices for forestry, water purification, clean energy and related workforce redevelopment. Waste flows are to be recovered for beneficial use in a repurposed industrial park proposed for closed-loop production of new products, (e.g. brewery waste to bakery, forest waste to traditional craft, and local food waste to energy).

Some of the students presented their findings to stakeholders in Kőszeg and, in February, the team produced a 140-page, illustrated final report detailing strategies and technologies that would support local and regional resilience. Brown has presented the project at sustainability conferences in Hungary, the U.K., and Portugal.



Top, Kőszeg, Hungary. Above, Professor Brown with CCNY students in front of iASK's Europa House

In January 2019, Professor Marie Nazon of the SEEK department traveled to Senegal with students from the Colin Powell School of Civic and Global Leadership to engage in a three-week course in sustainable development and the ecovillage movement. Undergraduates, many majoring in International and Black Studies, and some of Senegalese heritage, were joined by two graduate students from the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture.

Nazon partners with the NGO Network for Ecovillage Emergence and Development (REDES) in the Sahel region of Senegal, and designed the 4-credit service learning course based on her research experience in Senegal as a Fulbright grant recipient in 2010.

Students were paired with Senegalese students from Cheikh Anta Diop University, and traveled to the village of Bambe Serere outside Dakar, for action-research and service learning. Projects included greening the local high school and middle school; addressing plastic waste by organizing a cleanup involving 600 students; assisting in developing educational methods to improve oral English skills; weighing babies at the local health clinic; and proposing a digital birth records system to the mayor's office. The Spitzer students provided professional assistance to the design and construction of a high school community room.

The group explored indigenous spirituality and African culture, and took a close look at slavery in Africa and surviving historical trauma during a trip to the Gorée Island slave house. "They came out transformed," said Nazon, "finding themselves."

CCNY SCIENTIST LEADS VITAL LONG ISLAND SOUND ECOLOGICAL STUDY



Covering nearly 1,300 square miles, from the East River in Manhattan to New England, Long Island Sound is one of the most important estuaries in the nation with coastal communities of more than four million people. Helping protect and improve the management of this precious body of water with an asset value exceeding \$700 billion is the new assignment for oceanic and atmospheric scientist Maria Tzortziou of The City College of New York's Division of Science.

Over the next two years, Tzortziou will lead this multidisciplinary ecological project funded by the Sea Grant programs of New York (NYS), Connecticut (CTSG), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the Long Island Sound Study (LISS).



Tzortziou and her collaborators, Dianne Greenfield (CUNY Advanced Science Research Center) and Joaquim Goes (Columbia University/Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory), along with their group of students and postdoctoral researchers, will address the challenge of gathering and interpreting data from satellite images of Long Island Sound.

Two early career CCNY postdoctoral research scientists, Brice Grunert and Guoqing Wang, and more than 10 undergraduate and graduate CUNY students will be involved in the project. The team will collect new optical, biogeochemical and ecological measurements in the Sound and will develop satellite algorithms and products for improved monitoring, assessment, and management of estuarine water quality, ecological processes, and ecosystem stressors. This includes development of algal blooms, eutrophication, and hypoxia.

MODELING PROJECT MAPS CCNY GRADS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON CITY AND BEYOND



Since its founding in 1847, City College has had its shares of monumental “firsts.”

We are home to the country’s longest-serving alumni association, alma mater to the nation’s first African American meteorologist and first black station chief in the Signal Corps, two of the founders of the modern day Internet and home to graduates who have left the hallways of City College to build their own institutions of learning, traveled to the stars and developed scientific breakthroughs that have changed the world.

We count among our alumni those who provided the research that helped shape the Brown vs Board of Education decision in 1954, and who worked on the very first weather systems for the country. We know many of these stories because they have been written about, extensively, or because we have each met graduates who have been willing to share their stories. However, for decades there was no concrete way for the College to document this data and in turn, no way to share that data with the population at large.

In many ways, no one truly understood how knowing the true impact of our graduates, students, faculty and staff could make a difference. When tuition was free, many assumed that the College, and other public institutions like it, had all that they needed to thrive. In reality, as you begin to uncover the history of our institution, you begin to see that as early as the 1940s, there was a shift to reduce classes in the Humanities and social sciences due to lack of necessary funding. And, throughout the 1960s to the 1990s, with budget priorities shifting at the same time that higher education in the United States was changing, colleges all across the nation—including CCNY—couldn’t do large-scale outreach to their alumni to ask for their support at any level, including asking them to volunteer to mentor, to host internships and to support programs required for the students of today to compete with their peers at other institutions.

Years ago, we were told that if you took a map of New York City, and pinned a section wherever we knew a CCNY alumnus worked

in either city, state or federal positions, we could light up the City with graduates who have shaped public policy. And, three years ago, I was told the same thing about our engineers and architecture graduates. To map out the work that they have done after leaving CCNY showcases buildings, bridges, tunnels—every public and private space you can imagine.

It was with that in mind that we began a pilot project we call “The Dots Project”—we ask alumni to share their stories so we can add them to a digital map. We thought our stories would be focused in New York City, yet our very first reply came from an alumnus in Maryland who worked on the very first iteration of NIMBUS, and another alumnus who was on the founding team credited with the development of COMSAT. From there we found many more firsts and it is with that expansion in mind that we have started a project with Emsi, a leading expert in economic modeling. We begin this academic year with a 20-week research project, bringing together all of the campus’ data analytics to map out the beginning outlines of our story and how City College impacts the downstate New York area. There is a case to be made to both the City and to the State of New York in a way that we’ve never been able to do before. Emsi’s mission is to use data to drive economic prosperity, and bringing that together with our mission to provide outstanding academic and research activities to our campus, and to continue to be a leader in the area of the social mobility for our campus community means that for the first time since our founding, we will be able to make the case for City College in a way that is truly built on the current and projected needs of both New York and City College.

The project will take us through a three-year cycle, culminating in the public outreach we are planning for our 175th anniversary in 2022. This is a project that works because of the stories each of you so willingly shares about how City College plays a role in your life. We hope you will keep sharing your stories and keep helping us map out the future of City College.

CWE MAKES ELUSIVE DEGREE POSSIBLE FOR PERFORMER/EDUCATOR



For the past decade Alaudin Ullah has worked as a paraprofessional at Vanguard High School in Manhattan, helping at-risk students understand that college is within reach. His success in breaking through to teens is rooted in his candid approach—revealing his own aimless high school career and experiences growing up in public housing without guidance or mentorship.

While early attempts at college were not successful for Ullah, he discovered he had a passion for stand-up comedy in his late teens. He found success as a comic on the road until his mother’s failing health brought him back to New York, where he started working with the Department of Education.

When his students got accepted to college, they were surprised to learn that their advisor Alaudin was a college dropout. “Why don’t you return to college and practice what you preach?” they challenged him.

After his mom passed in 2016, he felt he owed it to her to pursue that college dream. She’d told him how she left Bangladesh so that her children could get the education that had eluded her.

“In 2017, I made a commitment not just to myself but to honor my mom as well as take up my students’ challenge.” Alaudin enrolled at CCNY’s Center for Worker Education (CWE), whose mission it is to provide an excellent education to working adults. Pursuing his BA in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences in CWE’s Division for Interdisciplinary Studies, he took classes while working full-time and developing an off-Broadway show, Dishwasher Dreams. He consistently made the Dean’s List.

“Going back to school at CWE made me feel like I was being born again,” Alaudin said. “It has given me the confidence as a writer but, more importantly, as a human being.”

Graduating in June, Alaudin spent the summer editing a documentary on the South Asian immigrant community in 20th century Harlem. He began graduate work at Columbia University’s MFA in Playwriting program in Fall 2019.

BROAD THEMES AND DIVERSE SCHOLARSHIP AT CCNY HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE



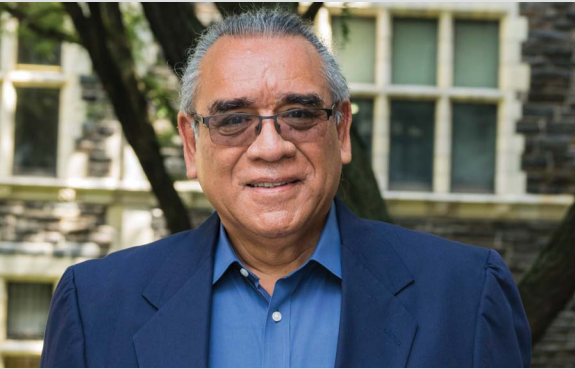
City College held a human rights conference in March, aimed at exploring the contested legacy of human rights in increasingly uncertain times.

The three-day event, Critical Perspectives on Human Rights, sought to foster dialogue and scholarship from a wide range of perspectives, inviting papers from scholars and activists who continue to view the human rights project as a moral and ethical challenge to power, as well as from those who see it as an enabler of political and economic domination.

Conference presenters meeting at CCNY’s Center for Worker Education had institutional affiliations representing nearly twenty countries. The gathering was part of a larger initiative at CCNY—shared among the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies, the Division of Humanities and the Arts, and the President’s Office—dedicated to human rights studies, public programming, and scholarship.

Presentations spanned broad thematic areas including historical and philosophical foundations of human rights, politics and ethics of human rights practice, human rights media in the digital age, women’s rights, health and migration.

GROVE SCHOOL RESEARCHERS
RECEIVE \$1.5M GRANT TO BUILD
SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM FOR STEM
STUDENTS



Joseph Barba, professor of electrical engineering at the Grove School of Engineering, is advancing the aims of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program by building a social media platform designed specifically for students entering, continuing, or transferring into STEM majors at The City College of New York.

The project is being realized due to a \$1.5 million grant over five years from the National Science Foundation. Principal investigator Barba along with co-principal investigators will develop the social media platform during the first year of funding, which supports community building and information sharing interventions assisting students during critical transitions early on.

“We want to address culture shock that the students are going through as they transition; students come here to a completely new environment, and they feel alienated, don’t know where resources are, and tend to be more isolated,” said Barba. “We are targeting Hispanic students to improve the retention and graduation rates of underrepresented minorities.”

Co-principal investigators include:

- Doris Cintron, Senior Associate Provost for the Office of Academic Affairs, Accreditation and Assessment
- Feridun Delale, Chair and Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Mechanical Engineering
- Jorge Gonzalez, NOAA-CREST Professor
- Millicent Roth, Director of the City College Academy for Professional Development and professor of psychology

CITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH NYC
TO INCREASE NUMBER OF TECH
GRADS



The City College of New York has partnered with the NYC Department of Small Business Services (SBS) on a new initiative targeted at increasing the number of students graduating with tech-related bachelor’s degrees.

In the fall of 2018, City College was awarded \$2.3 million for CUNY 2x Tech, a 5-year, multi-million-dollar program that brings together CUNY senior colleges and NYC tech employers to better align tech education and industry needs. The initiative, launched under Mayor Bill de Blasio’s administration, is part of the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline (TTP) and aims to double the number of tech-related bachelor’s degrees from CUNY schools by the year 2022 and prepare students to launch careers in the NYC tech ecosystem.

“The idea of expanding opportunities in tech fields aligns perfectly with CCNY’s core mission,” CCNY president Vince Boudreau said. “We are excited to be part of a program which prepares the students of today to take advantage of employment opportunities in New York City’s emerging technology economy.”

CUNY 2x Tech has enrolled over 600 CUNY students in courses taught by industry professionals on emerging skills, including artificial intelligence and software engineering. The initiative provides support for industry-aligned instruction, academic advisors who are knowledgeable of tech industry needs, and access to tech internships/co-op programs.

Unique to CCNY, the Computer Science co-op program is a 2-semester long program that is designed to deliver qualified tech talent to local employers, as well as short-term professional opportunities to competitive NYC undergraduates. Students who take advantage of co-op can earn up to 9 credits while interning, and the program gathers valuable feedback from host businesses to better align tech education with the workforce needs of city employers.

Recent City College Computer Science graduates have been hired full-time at high-profile companies including BNY Mellon, GrubHub, and Microsoft. CCNY’s participation in CUNY 2x Tech is expected to quickly expand on these successes as the partnership with the city moves forward.

CCNY’S STEM INSTITUTE RECEIVES \$1M BOOST FROM COUNCIL
MEMBER RODRIGUEZ WITH SUPPORT FROM MAYOR’S OFFICE



Council Member Rodriguez with President Vince Boudreau (center) and Professor Joseph Barba at the STEM Institute press conference in Marshak’s Bio-Mechatronics Lab.

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez ‘91, with the support of Mayor Bill de Blasio and Speaker Corey Johnson, secured a \$1 million grant to fund The City College of New York’s STEM Institute’s partnership with Northern Manhattan. The funding will be used to open an afterschool program at George Washington Educational Campus while expanding students’ opportunities to participate in summer and Saturday programs at CCNY’s campus. The goal of the Institute is to prepare high school students, particularly women and underrepresented minorities, to successfully pursue college majors in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

“In order for our city to grow, we need to expand the educational opportunities for all students. I am proud to have worked with Mayor Bill De Blasio and Speaker Cory Johnson, in order to secure the funding and support needed to expand this program,” said Rodriguez. “Our goal is to increase the number of college-ready graduates, create a pipeline to higher educational institutions, and expand the application pool for STEM jobs.”

CCNY Senior Associate Provost Doris Cintron, who leads a number of STEM educational efforts at the college, was instrumental in planning and implementing the STEM Institute expansion into Northern Manhattan schools. “The presence of the STEM Institute in Northern Manhattan schools will provide minority students

clearer pathways into STEM majors and careers and complement the work of other programs at the college that focus on retention and the graduation of these students,” said Cintron.

Joseph Barba, professor of electrical engineering at the Grove School of Engineering and director of the STEM Institute, is working with principals of local schools to build a robust and leveled STEM curriculum for the after-school program, some of which will be formatted for English-language learners (ELL), to allow offerings to expand to a more diverse community.

All high school students are eligible to apply to the Institute, which offers a free, intensive six-week summer program in math (advanced algebra to calculus), science (chemistry and physics), and critical writing and reading, and their admission is based on a math placement exam.

The STEM Institute is a collaborative initiative between the New York City Department of Education, the Grove School of Engineering, the CCNY department of Biomedical Engineering, Gateway to Higher Education—New York State Department of Education, NYS Department of Health and the Shippy Foundation with support from the Lincoln Fund and GSOE alumnus Allan Levine, Esq. S7’

CCNY + HARLEM CHAMBER COMMIT TO BATTLE COMMUNITY IMPACT ON OPIOID ADDICTION



CCNY is committed to playing a role in turning the tide of this health epidemic. Early this year, on his radio broadcast, From City to the World, President Boudreau dedicated an episode to the crisis, speaking to medical experts and community leaders about the impact on Harlem and the New York City area, steps toward prevention and education, and civic and ethical responsibilities for all stakeholders. This project is a joint initiative with the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, led by Lloyd Williams, President and CEO.

Dr. Howard Greller, Director of Research and Medical Toxicology in the Emergency Department at St. Barnabas Hospital Health Systems and professor of clinical medicine at CCNY's CUNY School of Medicine (CSOM), and Nancy Sohler, Associate Medical Professor at the CSOM, focused on the current opioid crisis impacting the city.

In the Harlem community, elderly individuals who have been managing an addiction for years are at huge risk of overdosing, according to Sohler. With the introduction of fentanyl into the drug supply, the heroin or cocaine they were used to handling is now 50-100 times more potent and extremely dangerous. Similarly for individuals who were using drugs prior to being incarcerated and who resume use when released, drugs are far more potent and response is different, often fatal, said Greller.

The goal, he pointed out, of remediating opioid addiction and preventing overdoses and ultimately preventing death gives each abuser a chance to live another day and beat the addiction. Broad education is called for including a practical and ethical conversation. In CSOM's Community Health and Social Medicine (CHASM) courses, students are taught to bring up substance abuse in a routine and practical way, so as not to stigmatize the patient, in the same way alcohol or tobacco use might be discussed.

City College is also partnering with St. Barnabas Hospital on intervention strategies, offering training to the college community and wider Harlem community in the use of overdose prevention drug naloxone, also known as Narcan. The drug reverses effects of opioid overdose. "It's not the solution

According to data from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in 2017 alone, **1,487 New Yorkers died from unintentional drug overdose.**

- **One New Yorker died every six hours from an overdose.**
- **More than eight in ten (82%) overdose deaths involved an opioid.**
- **Fentanyl, a potent opioid that is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine, was involved in 57% of the overdose deaths.**
- **By age group, the largest increase in the rate of overdose death was among New Yorkers 55 to 84.**

but a stopgap," said Greller. "It's a tool to help people not die."

Like CPR, naloxone offers the ability to intervene. People can be taught to recognize overdose, and take the correct steps: call 911, administer the drug, and help the person to recover after administration. "There is no downside," Greller noted. "If for some reason naloxone is given in error, there is no danger to the recipient beyond nasal irritation."

Training has already been held at City College, working with the NYC Department of Health, and students from all over the college attended the session. The plan is to have training available to the College and wider community on a regular basis.

Additionally, in December, the topic of CCNY's Mini-Medical School session was "Opioids Everywhere: A Practical Guide to Understanding and Combatting the Current Crisis." The CUNY School of Medicine hosts a series of free health information sessions for the Harlem community, providing an opportunity to explore various health topics, empowering community members with the knowledge to actively take part in their healthcare and that of their families.

DEMOCRATIZING THE OUTDOORS REVIVAL OF OUTDOORS CLUB

CCNY's student-led Outdoors Club is helping train a new generation of young conservationists in tandem with its principle partner the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), the oldest outdoor group in the United States. The students in turn share their knowledge with their peers.

The AMC was a factor in the club's renaissance when it originally paired with CCNY's Colin Powell School for Civic and Global leadership as part of a program to diversify its membership and ultimately "democratize the outdoors."

Revived three years ago by students Akasha Solis and Ashley Stein, CCNY Outdoors got off to a running start with numerous nature outings, including climbing expeditions up Mt. Washington in New Hampshire, hikes, leadership training sessions in Harriman State Park, and backpacking emergency preparedness in the wilderness.

Solis, who graduated in 2016, and Stein, class of 2017—both from the Colin Powell School—have been strong advocates for AMC trail conservation projects and have traveled to Costa Rica on behalf of the College and continue to lobby for more state funding for outdoor activities, including protection of the Land Water Conservation Act.

In recognition of their outstanding leadership, the women received Advocacy Ambassador Awards from the 143-year-old AMC.

"It's important for students to care about the mission of the AMC, because the environment and nature surround us all, and it provides us every day with unique beautiful experiences," said Solis. "It is a shame the way our government is handling every environmental issue, and it is up to us as a collective to gain momentum and fight for our earth."



CCNY alumni Ashley Stein (left) and Akasha Solis (right) celebrate their recognition with Nathan Baker, AMC NY/No-J Chapter Chair

CCNY/NYPIRG FOOD PANTRY GETS A NEW HOME



In an effort to bring attention to food security issues on campus and in the Harlem community, City College celebrated "CCNY Goes Healthy" on World Food Day. Opening a dialogue about healthy lifestyle changes and combating low food security issues, the inaugural event welcomed three culinary and nutritional experts to engage in a food talk with President Boudreau as moderator.

World Food Day, which took place on October 16, brings awareness to low food security issues that affect areas all over the world and strives to achieve a more sustainable future.

Panelists included Lyn Genet Recitas, nutritionist and bestselling author of *The Plan*; Tren'ness Woods-Black, vice president of Communications for Sylvia's Restaurant and founder of Tren'ness Woods-Black LLC; and Nabeel Alamgir, chief marketing officer of Bareburger.

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, The Office of the President, the the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, the FAO and Whole Foods Market sponsored the event. It fell under the year's Healthy CUNY initiative to jump-start Giving Tuesday.

The City College / NYPIRG Food Pantry accepts donations in the form of non-perishable food items. It is located near Bare Planet on the first floor of the NAC, and is open Monday-Friday.

SEAN CLORES NAMED CCNY HEAD MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH



City College Director of Athletics Lydia V. Travis announced in June that Sean Clores has been named head coach of CCNY's men's basketball program. Clores will also serve as the Director of Camps and Clinics.

Clores joins the Beavers after most recently spending one season as an assistant coach/recruiting coordinator at St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) in 2018-19. At STAC, he helped guide the program to an appearance in the East Coast Conference semifinals and a berth into the NCAA Division II Tournament, advancing to the Sweet 16. Prior to St. Thomas Aquinas, Clores spent three seasons at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, serving as an assistant coach for two seasons (2015-2017) before being promoted to associate head coach prior to the 2017-18 campaign.

Clores earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Fairfield University in 2010 and graduated with his master's degree in secondary education from Molloy College in 2015. A native of Long Island, he lives in Queens with his wife Danielle.

MICHAEL WILLIAMS IS CCNY HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH



Michael Williams is the next head coach of the CCNY women's basketball program, athletics director Lydia V. Travis announced in July. A native of Harlem, Williams returns to his hometown, bringing nearly 10 years of coaching experience to the program. Williams will also serve as the assistant strength and conditioning coach for the athletic department.

Williams spent the last three seasons (2016-19) as the head coach at Simmons University in Boston, Mass. In his first season at Simmons, he led the Sharks to their first postseason appearance since 2010, advancing to the GNAC quarterfinals. Prior to Simmons, he was at Pratt and Fairleigh Dickinson University.

He is also the founder of Elite Training 101, a company that trains athletes ranging from middle school to the professional level. Williams, a 2007 graduate of the Long Island University - Post, where he earned a BS degree in Health Education, is also an active member of the Women's Basketball Coaching Association (WBCA).

Williams traveled overseas to Ukraine this summer to take part in a cross-cultural athletics and leadership training with the Youth Leadership through Sport (YLS) Program. YLS is designed to foster greater cross-cultural understanding by providing youth athletes and their coaches with sports and cultural opportunities to learn about leadership, teamwork, mentorship, healthy living, and self-discipline in a multicultural setting.

STUDENT LONG JUMPER IS ALL AMERICAN ATHLETE

Following an outstanding sophomore season, CCNY women's track and field standout Avery Maillet was honored by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) for her academic success, earning All-Academic honors.

To qualify for USTFCCCA All-Academic honors, the student-athlete must have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 and must have met at least one of the following athletic standards:

- **Competed in an NCAA Indoor or Outdoor Championship.**
- **Finished the regular season ranked in the national top-50 in an individual event or ranked in the national top-35 in a relay event on the official NCAA Descending Order List.**

Maillet finished her sophomore season with a 3.501 cumulative GPA as a Psychology major. She made her second-straight NCAA Outdoor Championship appearance, earning All-American honors after placing eighth in the long jump while also competing in the 200-meter dash.

Maillet led CCNY at the CUNYAC Outdoor Championships, winning the conference crown in the long jump, 200m, and 400m dash. She also won the 200-meter dash at the ECAC Outdoor Championships and was the runner-up in the long jump.

In the indoor season, Maillet qualified for the NCAA Indoor Championship in the long jump, finishing 16th overall. At both the CUNYAC and ECAC Indoor championships, she was tabbed the long jump and 200-meter championships.

In addition to earning All-American honors, Maillet was selected to the USTFCCCA Atlantic All-Region team, voted as the CUNYAC Track Performer of the Year and selected as an All-Conference honoree.



City College has once again been selected as one of the 399 most environmentally responsible colleges for 2018 according to The Princeton Review Guide to 399 Green Colleges.

The Princeton Review chose the schools for this ninth annual edition of its "green guide" based on data from the company's 2017-18 survey of hundreds of four-year colleges concerning the schools' commitments to the environment and sustainability.

CCNY is an established leader in sustainability, with an expert faculty conducting groundbreaking research and providing innovative, interdisciplinary opportunities for students to engage in emerging approaches in architecture, engineering, science and the social sciences.

The College's response to a rapidly urbanizing global community consists of courses on climate response, resilient design, water resource management and energy, with engineering, science and architectural degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level that address the sustainability challenges of the 21st century.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM RANKS HIGH



The City College of New York's early childhood education bachelor's program is ranked in the top three percent nationally in the Bachelor's Degree Center's latest rankings. The degree is jointly offered by CCNY's Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education and the School of Education.

The CCNY program is #13 among the top 25 colleges and universities nationwide that made the cut from an initial pool of more than 500 schools.

Programs were then ranked according to five factors: Cost, Employment Rate, Graduation Rate, Reputation, and Salary Expectation.

CCNY's undergraduate early childhood degree meets the requirements set by the New York State Department of Education for certification as a teacher of children from birth through Grade 2. Upon successful completion of the bachelor's degree and performance on state-mandated tests, graduates are eligible for initial certification as a teacher.



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
Among top 100 Best Regional Universities in the North [2018]

One of the Nation's Most Diverse Institutions [2016, 2017, 2018]

One of the top schools globally [2019]

One of the Best Global Universities for Physics [2019]



THE PRINCETON REVIEW

Among the Nation's Best Colleges [2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2019]

One of the Best "colleges that pay you back"

Among the Country's Greenest Colleges [2016, 2018 & 2019]



FORBES

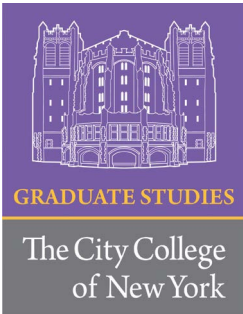
One of Top Colleges [2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018]



MILITARY FRIENDLY

Ranked No. 6 in the Nation by Victory Media [2018]

CCNY GRAD PROGRAMS AMONG THE BEST



The City College of New York has among the best graduate programs in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report’s latest rankings.

In a huge leap from last year, the physician assistant program at City College-based CUNY School of Medicine now ranks in the top 50 in the nation in U.S. News’s “Best Graduate Schools 2020” rankings. The

publication also lists five other CCNY programs among the nation’s best.

The PA program moved 87 places from #133 in the previous rankings to #46, tied with 15 other schools, including Pennsylvania State University, Medical University of South Carolina and Albany Medical College.

Fine Arts, offered by CCNY’s Division of Humanities and the Arts, ranks #59 nationwide in the survey of more than 2,054 programs by U.S. News, tied with, among others, Boston University, Tufts University and University of California—Santa Barbara.

Four other master’s programs at CCNY—three of them in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership—are listed among the best in the U.S:

- **Engineering #134 [Tie], Grove School of Engineering**
- **Clinical Psychology #113 [Tie], Colin Powell School**
- **Psychology #148 [Tie] Colin Powell School**
- **Public Affairs #139 [Tie] Colin Powell School**

In November 2018, the publication named CCNY one of the top schools globally in a survey of the world’s 1,372 elite institutions from 75 countries. U.S. News also ranked CCNY #471 [tied with Heriot Watt University of Britain] in its Best Global Universities for Physics. This category recognizes “well-regarded universities from around the world (that) have shown strength in producing research in a wide range of topics related to physics—the study of matter and energy.”

CARNEGIE CLASSIFIES CCNY “HIGH RESEARCH DOCTORAL UNIVERSITY”

In the latest distinction for the institution, The City College of New York is now classified in the “Doctoral Universities: High Research” category by The Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education®. The Carnegie Classification has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education for the past four and a half decades.

Highlights of recent research at CCNY include:

- Civil engineer Ardavan Yazdanbakhsh’s study of sustainable concrete—key to modern construction—which has earned him the American Concrete Institute’s Walter P. Moore, Jr. Faculty Achievement Award
- Biomedical engineering professor Jacek Dmochowski uses ultrasound and lasers to stimulate the brain treating mental disorders as well as physical and mental wellness during deep space exploration missions
- Physicist Vinod Menon’s research team uses engineered nanocomposite structures called metamaterials to measure a significant increase in the energy transfer between molecules

PRINCETON REVIEW NAMES CITY COLLEGE BEST VALUE COLLEGE

In January, City College was named to “The Best Value Colleges: 200 Schools with Exceptional ROI for your Tuition Investment” by The Princeton Review 2019 Edition.

The City College of New York is one of the nation’s best colleges for students seeking a superb education with great career preparation at an affordable price, according to The Princeton Review®. City College annually receives high rankings from the Princeton Review. In August of 2018, the education services company named CCNY, in its 2019 edition “The Best 384 Colleges” for the seventh consecutive year.

JACEK DMOCHOWSKI RECEIVES NIH AND TRISH GRANTS



The City College of New York’s biomedical engineering professor Jacek Dmochowski uses ultrasound and lasers to stimulate the brain treating mental disorders as well as physical and mental wellness during deep space exploration missions. His research was recognized with a two-year grant from the National Institutes of Health’s Brain Research Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative totalling \$300,000.

“The brain is sensitive to mechanical forces, and we think that we will be able to make the brain more or less active by sending in a wave of ultrasound applied to the head,” said Dmochowski about his NIH grant. “In particular, we are interested in altering the pattern of brain waves that have been shown to be modified during disorders such as schizophrenia, depression, and obsessive-compulsive disorder.”

By changing the abnormal patterns of brain oscillations through ultrasound, it will treat the symptoms and potentially the root of the disease.

Dmochowski also won a two-year \$800,000 Translational Research Institute for Space Health (TRISH) grant, in partnership with NASA. The TRISH grant will allow him to test the possibility of using lasers to increase energy metabolism in the brain. By stimulating the brain with lasers, it will accelerate energy metabolism and enhance cognitive function in spaceflight for astronauts.

DEAN GILDA BARABINO IS RECOGNIZED

Three months after her election to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), Gilda A. Barabino, dean of The City College of New York’s Grove School of Engineering, had another major honor: inclusion in Crain’s inaugural Notable Women in Tech list.

The list is part of a year-long series from the publication Crain’s New York Business to recognize and celebrate women in the workplace, across industries.

Last February, Barabino’s inclusion to the NAE, made her one of only six African-American women members. Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

Last June, Barabino earned the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science Foundation.

In the fall, Barabino received the Dr. Joseph N. Cannon Award for Excellence in Chemical Engineering from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.





CAREER AWARDS FOR AHMED MOHAMED AND ROBERT MESSINGER

Two Grove School engineers from City College are recipients of the National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career (NSF CAREER) Award, which supports early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in integrating research and education and to lead advances in the missions of their department and organization.

NSF CAREER awards provide five years of funding to help lay the foundation for a faculty member's future research. Dr. Ahmed Mohamed, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, will receive \$500,000 and Dr. Robert J. Messinger, assistant professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, will receive \$550,572 for their research proposals. Both are affiliated with the CUNY Energy Institute.

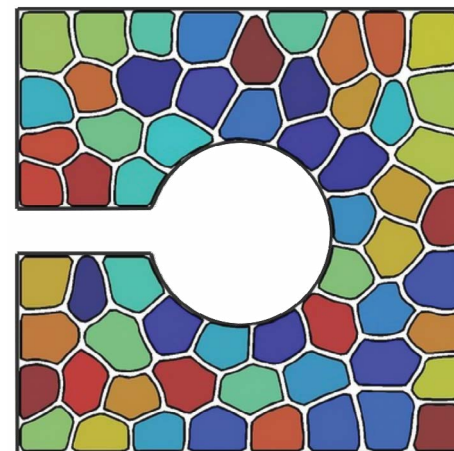


Mohamed's proposal, entitled "A Hybrid Physics-Based/Data-Driven Modeling and Mitigation Approach for Interdependencies Between the Electric Power, ICT, and Transportation Critical Infrastructures," will positively impact society by reducing the operational cost of infrastructures, decreasing the likelihood and impact of blackouts, and improve cities' responses to major disturbances. CUNY students and neighboring high schools will have the opportunity to participate in his research.



Messinger's proposal, entitled "Design and Understanding up from the Atomic Scale of Multivalent Intercalation Electrodes for High-Energy-Density Rechargeable Batteries," aims to establish and validate molecular-level design principles aimed at realizing next-generation aluminum-ion and zinc-ion battery electrodes, laying the scientific groundwork for researchers to develop high-energy-density, non-flammable rechargeable batteries composed of low-cost, earth abundant elements.

SCIENTISTS MAKE SHAPESHIFTING CELL BREAKTHROUGH



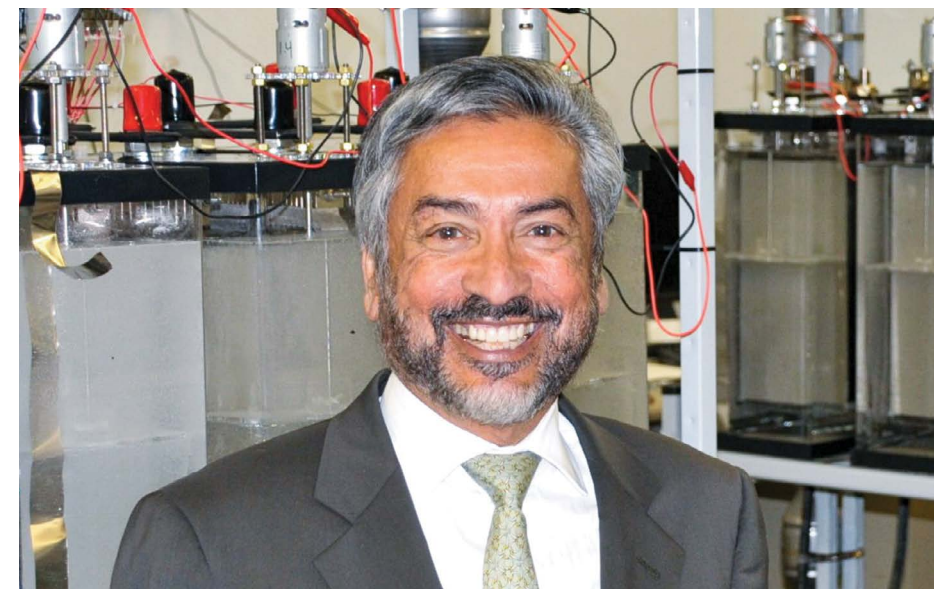
A new computational model developed by researchers from CCNY and Yale gives a clearer picture of the structure and mechanics of soft, shape-changing cells that could provide a better understanding of cancerous tumor growth, wound healing, and embryonic development.



Mark D. Shattuck, professor of physics at City College's Benjamin Levich Institute, and researchers at Yale University developed the new efficient

computational model that allows simulated particles to realistically change shape while conserving volume during interactions with other particles.

The computational model developed by Shattuck and lead investigator from Yale, Corey O'Hern, tracks points on the surfaces of polygonal cells. Each surface point moves independently, in accordance with its surroundings and neighboring particles, allowing the shape of the particle to change. Among other applications, this technology may give researchers a new tool to examine how cancerous tumors metastasize.



EPA GREEN CHEMISTRY AWARD FOR BANERJEE

Sanjoy Banerjee, Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering in the Grove School of Engineering, was the recipient in June of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2019 Green Chemistry Challenge Academic Award for his pioneering work developing "rechargeable Alkaline Zn-MnO₂ Batteries for Grid Storage Applications."



The Green Chemistry Awards promote the environmental and economic benefits of developing and using novel green chemistry. They recognize chemical technologies that incorporate the principles of green chemistry into chemical design, manufacture, and use.

Banerjee, who also directs the CCNY-based CUNY Energy Institute, and his partners were recognized by the EPA in Washington, D.C., for a significant breakthrough in green technology initiated at the Grove School. They developed large-scale zinc-manganese oxide batteries that can be recharged thousands of times without the typical decrease in the length of the battery's life-time. The batteries do not have the safety and environmental limitations of lithium-ion and lead-acid batteries, and use zinc and manganese, materials that are non-toxic and abundant.

Grove School researchers key to the success of the project included Dr. Nilesh Ingale, who together with research associate Michael Nyce built the early zinc-manganese dioxide prototype batteries in 2012; Dr. Gautam Yadav, who made the breakthrough discovery of how to access the full theoretical capacity of the manganese dioxide cathode in 2015- solving a hundred-year old problem; and Dr. Jinchao Huang, who in 2017 conceived the separators that blocked the anode materials from diffusing to the cathode and degrading its performance.

The technology has now been commercialized for use in grid stabilization, renewable energy storage, and in households. The batteries are available through Urban Energy Power, Inc., a spinoff of the CUNY Energy Institute with a manufacturing plant in Pearl River, New York.



WOODARD IS NEH AWARD RECIPIENT

City College of New York historian Laurie Woodard received a 2018 National Endowment for the Humanities faculty award for her book project on famed actress and civil rights activist Fredi Washington's role in the Harlem Renaissance.

Woodard is the fourth faculty member from City College's Division of Humanities and the Arts to receive an NEH award—all for writing projects—since 2016. Recent recipients include Václav Paris, Mikhal Dekel and Andras Kisery. In 2008, Woodard received the NEH Schomburg Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship.

In her current project, Woodard places an African American female performing artist (Washington) at the center of the narrative of the New Negro (or Harlem) Renaissance, the early 20th century movement for social, political, and economic justice led by black artists, intellectuals, and activists.

MITCH SCHAFFLER AWARDED MULTI-YEAR GRANT FROM NIH



Distinguished Professor Mitchell B. Schaffler, chair and Wallace H. Coulter Professor of Biomedical Engineering at City College's Grove School of Engineering, was awarded a five-year, \$3.2 million grant from the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin

Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Schaffler is researching the biomechanical and molecular mechanisms by which skeletal tissue, such as bones, grows strong or decays as people grow older. This new grant will fund his research into determining how changes in osteocytes—the cells that reside inside bones—contribute to the development of osteoporosis and bone fragility.

CCNY'S RAIL TRANSIT ENERGY RESEARCH RECEIVES \$320K BOOST



City College electrical engineer Ahmed Mohamed is the recipient of \$320,000 in funding over two years from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to advance his pioneering work in rail transit energy efficiency.

The funding brings to more than half a million dollars the support Mohamed, an assistant professor in CCNY's Grove School of Engineering, has received for the project since last year. He was awarded \$210,000 by ConEd in 2017.

Mohamed's quest is to develop technology that can capture the regenerative braking energy released by trains whenever they brake. The idea is to harness this energy and either store it or redirect it to the energy grid.

One benefit of recapturing this energy would be to allow trains to move to the nearest station in case of an outage. Other outcomes would be financial savings on energy by the New York City Transit system; and a reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in line with New York State requirements.

KATZ PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

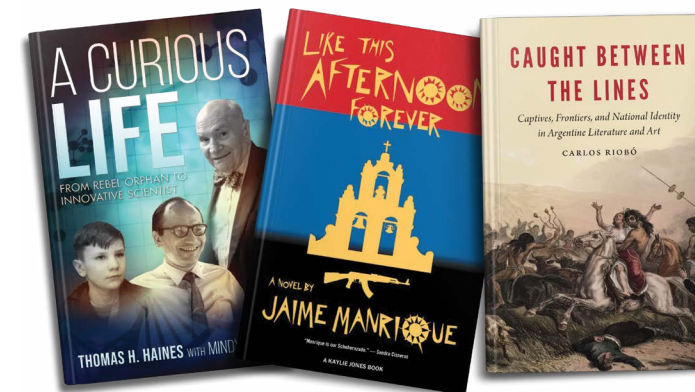
Media and Communication Arts professor Andrea Weiss has been named the 2019-20 Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities and the Arts, Dean Erec Koch announced in May.

Weiss is an internationally renowned scholar and documentary filmmaker whose monographs include *Vampires and Violets: Lesbians in the Cinema* (1993), *In the Shadow of the Magic Mountain* (2008), and *Paris Was a Woman: Portraits from the Left Bank* (2013). Her documentary films run chronologically from highly acclaimed *Before Stonewall* (1985) to the most recently lionized *Bones of Contention* (2017).

Weiss has been the principal animator of CCNY's Documentary Forum, which brings distinguished filmmakers to the college to work with members of the academic community and the broader community. Professor Weiss's current documentary project, *Flying Lessons*, lies at the crossroad of the personal and the historical, examining the Berlin Airlift via the mediation of her father's service as a volunteer cargo pilot.

Established in 2017 by a generous gift from Mr. Stuart Z. Katz, the endowment supports one outstanding professorial faculty member in the Division of Humanities & the Arts for an academic year. The professorship provides up to two months of summer salary plus \$10,000 to support research and creative activity.

NEW FACULTY BOOKS



LIKE THIS AFTERNOON FOREVER

By **Jaime Manrique**. A Distinguished Lecturer in City College's Division of Humanities and the Arts, Manrique is the 2019 recipient of the Bill Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement. His previous books include "Colombian Gold," "Latin Moon in Manhattan," "Twilight at the Equator," "Our Lives Are the Rivers" and "Cervantes Street." His work has been translated into 15 languages.

A CURIOUS LIFE: FROM REBEL ORPHAN TO INNOVATIVE SCIENTIST

By **Thomas H. Haines**, Professor Emeritus, chemistry and biochemistry, Division of Science; and Mindy Lewis

CAUGHT BETWEEN THE LINES: CAPTIVES, FRONTIERS, AND NATIONAL IDENTITY IN ARGENTINE LITERATURE AND ART

By **Carlos Riobo**, chair and professor of Spanish and comparative literature, Classical and Modern Languages & Literatures

CONTRADICTIONS OF DEMOCRACY: VIGILANTISM AND RIGHTS IN POST-APARTHEID SOUTH AFRICA

By Nicholas Rush Smith, assistant professor, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership

DRAWING FROM THE MODEL: FUNDAMENTALS OF DIGITAL DRAWING, 3D MODELING, AND VISUAL PROGRAMMING IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

By **Frank Melendez**, assistant professor, The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

NAVIGATING THE MAZE

By Michael Lubell, Mark W. Zemansky Professor of Physics, Division of Science

NORTHERN LIGHTS

by **Raymond Strom**, Division of Humanities & the Arts

TEACHER EDUCATION IN THE TRUMP ERA AND BEYOND: PREPARING NEW TEACHERS IN A CONTENTIOUS POLITICAL CLIMATE

Edited by Laura Baecher, Megan Blumenreich, professor and Shira Eve Epstein, associate professor (both School of Education); and Julie R. Horwitz

VISITING POET WINS ROME PRIZE



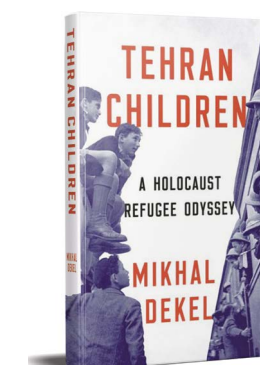
City College visiting poet Nicole Sealey has been awarded the Rome Prize for Literature by the American Academy in Rome, which seeks to support advanced independent work and research in the arts and humanities.

Sealey, the 2018-2019 Doris Lippman Visiting Poet at CCNY, will receive a stipend, workspace, and room and board for a period of five to eleven months at the Academy's eleven-acre campus in Rome.

Sealey is the author of "Ordinary Beast", finalist for the PEN Open Book and Hurston/Wright Legacy Awards, and *The Animal After Whom Other Animals Are Named*, winner of the Drinking Gourd Chapbook Poetry Prize. She is also the recipient of the Stanley Kunitz Memorial Prize from The American Poetry Review, the Poetry International Prize and a Daniel Varoujan Award, grants from the Elizabeth George and Jerome Foundations, as well as fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, CantoMundo, Cave Canem, MacDowell Colony and the Poetry Project.

The Doris Lippman Visiting Poet is a guest faculty position in the CCNY MFA program that is generously funded by the Lippman and Himmelfarb family.

NEW RELEASE



TEHRAN CHILDREN: A HOLOCAUST REFUGEE ODYSSEY
by **Mikhal Dekel**, professor of English and director, Rifkind Center for the Humanities & the Arts.



SHANKAR REMEMBERED FOR HIS MUSIC AND SCHOLARSHIP

In April 2018, CCNY Libraries presented The Concert for Ravi Shankar, celebrating the life and work of iconic sitarist Ravi Shankar.

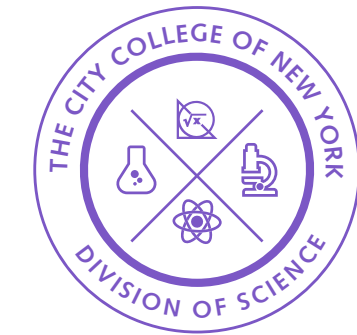
Shankar (1920-2012) taught at City College in the fall of 1967, and most recently, CCNY Music Librarian Michael Crowley and the Ravi Shankar Foundation with the support of the Grammy Foundation and East Meets West Music completed the digitization of Shankar’s CCNY lecture recordings. During the concert, Crowley showcased highlights from these rare, unreleased recordings.

“In the lectures, Shankar explains the origins of North Indian classical music as well as the music theory behind it; he leads the students in singing exercises and teaches them devotional songs,” said Crowley. “There are also some remarkable musical demonstrations by sarodist Aashish Khan, tabla-player Alla Rakha as well as a performance with Shankar on sitar.”

Sitarist Ikhlaz Hussain, who studied with Shankar, performed a selection of North Indian classical music.

The digitized recordings and scanned course documents are now accessible at the CCNY Archives and Special Collections on campus. The digitization process was made possible by funding from the Ravi Shankar Foundation, the East Meets West Music Label and the Grammy Foundation with the work facilitated by CCNY Libraries and Steve Addabbo, transfer engineer at Shelter Island Sound.

DIVISION OF SCIENCE INAUGURATES ANNUAL “DAY OF SCIENCE”



In its most recent annual rankings, U.S. News & World Report lists The City College of New York among the “Best Global Universities for Physics.” The category recognizes institutions around the world that have shown strength in producing research in a wide range of topics related to physics, including the study of matter and energy. On April 11, City College provided a glimpse of its advances in that and other scientific fields when it presented its inaugural Day of Science.

Demonstrations, presentations and lab tours highlighting the diverse research by faculty in the Division of Science were part of the program at three campus locations, including The Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC), The Center for Discovery and Innovation, and The Marshak Science Building.

CCNY President Vincent Boudreau and Interim Provost Tony Liss, an internationally known physicist with research experience at the world’s highest energy accelerators, offered welcome remarks, followed by six sessions led by science faculty:

- “Beauty and Order: in Nature and in the Abstract”
- “Hurricanes, Volcanoes and Stars”
- “Environmental Change and Life on the Edge”
- “Infections, Genomes and Medicinal Chemistry”
- “Quantum Walks and Harvesting Light”
- “Listen and Learn: Auditory Circuits and Neural Networks”

“This is a celebration of our faculty and the role of CCNY in the world of science,” said V.P. Nair, Interim Dean of Science. Nair noted that in addition to CCNY’s U.S. News & World Report ranking as one of the best global universities for physics, its high quality scientific research has also been recognized elsewhere. “We are listed in the ‘Doctoral Universities: High Research’ category of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, so our inaugural Day of Science provides an opportunity for us to showcase our best in research.”

City College’s science tradition spans generations. Since 1970 its Division of Science has produced nine of CCNY’s 10 Nobel Prize Laureates. They are:

- Julius Axelrod ’33 (Medicine 1970)
- Robert Hofstadter ’35 (Physics 1961)
- Jerome Karle ’37 (Chemistry 1985)
- Herbert A. Hauptman ’37 (Chemistry 1985)
- Arthur Kornberg ’37 (Medicine 1959)
- Kenneth Arrow ’40 (Economics 1972)
- Leon M. Lederman ’43 (Physics 1988)
- Arno A. Penzias ’54 (Physics 1978)
- Robert J. Aumann ’50 B.Sc. mathematics (Economics 2005)

John O’ Keefe, who graduated in 1963 with a BA in psychology, is our tenth Nobel Laureate (Physiology or Medicine 2014).

Next year’s Day of Science will take place on April 23, 2020.

THE YEAR OF FILM CELEBRATES NATION’S FIRST DOCUMENTARY FILM SCHOOL



One of the best kept secrets in the history of film is the fact that The City College of New York (CCNY) is the birthplace of the first documentary film school in the United States. As early as 1934, student members of the aptly named Film and Sprockets Society were rolling out motion pictures at CCNY. However, it was in 1941, with the arrival of pioneering Dadaist and filmmaker Hans Richter that the Institute of Film Techniques, CCNY’s first formal filmmaking program founded by Irving Jacoby, became a film school. Honoring Richter’s legacy, City College presented the world premiere of “Cinema and Sanctuary,” a documentary by independent filmmaker and media educator Dave Davidson in June at Lincoln Center.

“Cinema and Sanctuary” traces the tumultuous twenty-five-year history of The Institute of Film Techniques at CCNY, much of the time under the unlikely, yet inspired leadership of the Dadaist, radical thinker and pioneering experimental filmmaker, Hans Richter. His influence over generations of American filmmakers was immense. He opened their eyes to documentary, experimental and European films, the likes of which working-class students from New York City had never seen. Under his charismatic leadership thousands of aspiring filmmakers passed through the doors of the CCNY Film Institute, from Academy Award winners such as Stanley Kubrick, editor Alan Heim (All that Jazz), cinematographer Nestor Almendros (Days of Heaven) and Woody Allen to groundbreaking experimenters like Jonas Mekas and Shirley Clarke.

“I was drawn to this story by the sheer improbability of an aristocratic, Avant Garde artist from the European elite being thrown in the same room as a bunch of working class kids from New York City,” said director Davidson. “It seemed like such a random DADA encounter. I just knew there had to be story there. As soon as the alums started recounting their life-changing experiences with Hans Richter, I knew my instincts were right.”

City College President Vincent Boudreau hailed the school’s Year of Film declaration. “We’re delighted to commemorate CCNY’s sometimes forgotten legacy in film. Founded in the spirit of anti-fascist activism during World War II, the study and production of film at CCNY has consistently allowed CCNY students to frame visions of the world that are imbued with a critical social conscience,” he said. “We hope that anyone interested in the history of New York film will join us for this extraordinary review of CCNY’s role in it.”

In recent years, BFA in Film and Video and MFA Program in Film majors have kept CCNY’s lofty film tradition going. The college has garnered seven Student Oscars and three Student Emmy awards. CCNY has also had three Sundance Film selections and a Cannes Film Festival selection.



“SCAREFEST” ESTABLISHES NEW HALLOWEEN TRADITION

On October 31, campus and community members joined the fun at City College’s Second Annual Scarefest. The spooky event, inaugurated in 2018, drew hundreds of Halloween fans eager to experience a guided tour through the secret tunnels of CCNY’s creepy gothic buildings.

The labyrinthine underground walk featured cobweb covered gargoyles, foggy corridors and creaky sounds everywhere. Visitors never knew when a zombie or scary clown would appear amidst body parts and bats! Screams and giggles were heard near and far!

Now a Halloween tradition, Scarefest stars City College’s own theatre students as terrifying tour guides and escaped victims of a mysterious virus!

The Office of Student Life, the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, Undergraduate Student Government and Facilities worked together to organize a carved pumpkin contest, a silent disco dance party, face painting and potion mixing activities for kids, and candy treats for all!

The event was free and open to the public and is expected to grow more popular with the college and neighborhood communities every year!

DAVID LOHMAN LEADS STUDENTS IN THAILAND



City College biologist David Lohman returned in January from the winter session's Tropical Ecology and Thailand course—the first of its kind. The 19-day voyage is the only Study Abroad & International Programs' biology course ever taught by a CCNY faculty member as a CCNY course.

"The course is taught in collaboration with Prince of Songkhla University, and about half of the students will be from that institution," said Lohman. "I definitely hope to offer this course again—either as a winter or summer term course."

Students learned about functioning tropical ecosystems including forests, streams, mangrove swamps, coral reefs and a large subterranean cave. They also got to investigate challenges to biodiversity conservation in developing tropical countries with visits to a shrimp farm and tropical tree plantations, including rubber and oil palm.

MEDICAL STUDENTS PRESENT TANZANIA RESEARCH



Students in the CUNY School of Medicine at The City College of New York presented their research at the 6th Annual Conference of the NYC Epidemiology Forum. Their presentations stemmed from research conducted at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute in Dar es Salaam—the only cancer treatment center in Tanzania. The students' research was made possible by Medical Professor Amr Soliman's National Institutes of Health grant for Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CEESP).

Kristen Yang presented her research entitled "Patient and Health System Factors Related to Early and Late Presentations of Breast Cancer in Tanzania." She looked into patient and health system factors and compared them to early diagnosed breast cancer patients and late diagnosed breast cancer patients.

Elizabeth Yim focused on cervical cancer, the most common cancer and most common cause of death from cancer among women in Tanzania. She sought to understand why women being referred for further care and management from local health centers to the treatment center were not following up for treatment.

CCNY FORGES PARTNERSHIP AT ARGENTINIAN UNIVERSITY



Long a magnet for students from all corners of the globe – with up to 93 % of the world's sovereign states represented on its campus—The City College of New York continues to pursue ties with schools abroad for collaborative research, scholarship and training. Argentina's 70,000-student Universidad Nacional de Tucumán (UNT) is CCNY's latest partner.

Early fruits of the CCNY-UNT partnership established last fall include online and hybrid training of government employees in Tucumán, in creative thinking and development of new strategies on social and institutional communication. It was provided by City College's Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education (CWE).

The collaboration is set to expand. On a trip to Tucumán province in northwest Argentina, a CCNY delegation led by College President Vincent Boudreau outlined plans to increase online classes.

"We're planning two more classes this semester for the banking sector, and also plan online education in the areas of communication, film, remote sensing, radars and other fields," said Juan Carlos Mercado, dean of the CWE, and a member of the CCNY delegation.

The remote sensing collaboration discussed by Boudreau and his counterpart, UNT President Jose Ramon Garcia, involves the CCNY-based NOAA-CREST. It's a consortium that conducts cutting edge research, educates, and trains a diverse group of students, early career scientists, and engineers, in NOAA-related science missions.

The Argentines are interested in mobility for their researchers and students to gain expertise regarding techniques and tools to assess data problems like space weather monitoring, Mercado pointed out. "They have young students committed to learning about remote sensing, signal processing, design and deployment of remote sensing based technology."

An impetus for scientists in Tucumán to increasing the number of sensors in the province to monitor weather is that the region is a leading exporter of lemons in the world, and a major producer of sugarcane and other fruits. More remote sensing would enable more accurate forecasts of flooding and drought.

TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE GRAD STUDENTS WIN COMPETITION

The Master's in Translational Medicine (MTM) program at The City College of New York (CCNY) is an exciting collaboration between The Grove School of Engineering and The CUNY School of Medicine. A new kind of graduate degree program, MTM is gaining traction in the rapidly growing New York City healthcare landscape, educating the next generation of leaders in medical technology innovation.

In November, an MTM alumni Biodesign team won the Nestlé Skin Health SHIELD "Journey to Innovation in Skin Health" Pitch Event. MenoPal, a team comprised of 2017-2018 MTM graduates, is working on a "Wearable Medical Device for Menopause Management." The team will receive \$25,000 in project funding and, importantly, the opportunity to work with SHIELD on further development of their product. MenoPal was also recently awarded a National Science Foundation I-Corps™ grant to conduct customer discovery around their product.

SkInsight, a second team comprised of MTM alumni, won an honorable mention for their software application that aimed to help individuals dealing with symptoms associated with atopic dermatitis.

MTM's 3-semester Biodesign course sequence and project teach students a hands-on approach to developing a new medical technology that addresses an unmet clinical need. Students have the opportunity to interact with outstanding faculty, thought leaders and cutting edge experts in the medical technology industry who provide up-to-date advice and training in the quickly developing field of translational medicine.



FULBRIGHT HONORS FOR TWO SCHOLARS



Albert Connolly, a Spanish language major in the Macaulay Honors Program at City College, is the winner of a 2019-2020 Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) award to Colombia. The competitive national award is administered by the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

A senior, Connolly returns to the South American country this fall after spending fall 2018 studying Spanish literature at Universidad Central, Bogotá, in the capital city.

The Brooklyn native, who graduated in June with a BA degree, returns to the South American country this fall after spending fall 2018 studying Spanish literature at Universidad Central, Bogotá, in the capital city. He plans a career as an ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) teacher.

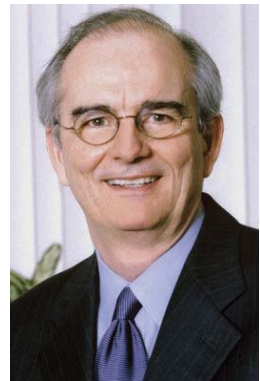
David S. Rumschitzki, a chemical engineering professor in CCNY's Grove School of Engineering, is the recipient of a 2019-2020 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Grant for his proposal "Theory & experiment for breast cancer dormancy & recurrence."

The Fulbright will support Rumschitzki's work at the Rappaport Faculty of Medicine at the Technion in Haifa, Israel.

"Two human cancers that are known to recur are skin (melanoma) and breast cancer, both major issues worldwide and disproportionately present in Israel," noted Rumschitzki. "Israel has the second highest melanoma rate in the world and its most common cancer is breast—Israeli women have a 1/8 lifetime chance of developing it."

This is Rumschitzki's second major award from the U.S. government in less than a year. He received a U.S. Department of Education Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need grant of more than \$1million last fall to train seven chemical engineering PhDs in sub-areas of the field.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS



Gregory H. Williams, CCNY's 11th president, and award-winning NBC 4 "Today in New York" meteorologist Chris Cimino were the 2018 John H. Finley Award recipients. The award is given out by the Alumni Association of The City College of New York for exemplary and dedicated service to the City of New York.

In addition, the alumni association honored six City College alumni for outstanding post-graduate achievement. They received the Townsend Harris Medal at CCNY's 138th annual alumni dinner in CCNY's Great Hall in November.

President of City College from 2001 to 2009, Williams is a nationally recognized leader in higher education. He's also the best-selling author of "Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He Was Black."



Cimino, from CCNY's Class of 1983, has worked at NBC since December 1995, winning awards for his professional excellence and humanitarianism. The latter includes honors from the United Cerebral Palsy and Holy Name Medical Center.

CLINTON FELLOWS TACKLE EDUCATION



The Clinton Global Initiative University meeting, at the University of Chicago in October, attracted more than 1,000 innovative student leaders from around the world for a conference themed "Turning Ideas into Action." Eight City College participants—all but one from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership—were invited to attend after earning Clinton Fellowships in the spring.

The CCNY cohort chose to focus on education at the meeting. Khandker Ahamed (a BA candidate from CCNY's Division of Humanities and the Arts), Danny Tsoi and Mahmoud Khedr talked about their Zahn Innovation Center award-winning mental health

HILTON ALS WINS LANGSTON HUGHES MEDAL



Hilton Als, author and Pulitzer Prize-winning cultural critic with *The New Yorker*, added another honor to his name when he received CCNY's Langston Hughes Medal in November.

The medal is awarded to highly distinguished writers from throughout the African American diaspora at CCNY's annual Langston Hughes Festival, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. It recognizes honorees for their impressive works of poetry, fiction, drama, autobiography and critical essays that help to celebrate the memory and tradition of Langston Hughes. Past award winners include: James Baldwin; Gwendolyn Brooks; Toni Morrison; August Wilson; Maya Angelou; and Octavia Butler.

Als, who's written for *The New Yorker* since 1989, is the author of "The Women." His most recent book, "White Girls," won the Lambda Literary Award in 2014 and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

Als won the Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 2017. His other accolades include a Guggenheim for creative writing (2000) and the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism (2002-03). In 2016, he received Lambda Literary's Trustee Award for Excellence in Literature.

A symposium on Als' work, kicked off the award program. The talk featured Thelma Golden, head of The Studio Museum in Harlem; Pulitzer winning critic and author Margo Jefferson, and CCNY faculty members Boukary Sawadogo and Salar Abdoh. Vanessa K. Valdés, author and Black Studies program director, moderated the discussion on the significance of Als' work.

education curriculum for high school students developed by their student start-up FloraMind. It is designed to promote self-care and break the stigma around mental health. It won the \$25,000 Zahn Social Impact Prize.

Raneem Elsayed discussed how she teaches design thinking to high school students. The goal is for them to pass the concept on to elementary students.

Jessica Jorge introduced "Uxakah Learn," an afterschool program for girls to empower them to speak about social justice issues in their communities.

Nancy Larcher, Swathi Mettela and Faria Tasnim shared research on their oral history program at CCNY to explore the lives of students at the diverse campus.



Suzanne Borderies

B Arch, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture

Suzanne Borderies moved with her family from France to the U.S. when she was three-years old and has been travelling between the two countries ever since. This transatlantic existence "made her agile as a student, intellect and designer," said Sean Weiss, architectural history professor at CCNY's Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture.

Majoring in the visual arts as a student of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, Suzanne took an architecture course that inspired her to apply to the Spitzer School.

"I chose CCNY for the hands-on and artistic approach to architecture, as well as the location. Studying architecture in New York allows one to be immersed in the environment of the city," she said.

Through her participation in City College's chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS), Borderies was awarded the prestigious AIA Queens Merit Scholarship and the Spitzer School of Architecture's 2016 award for the best hand-drawings in the school's History of Architecture courses.

During free time, she enjoys taking on freelance work in graphic design and art. Since 2010, Borderies has volunteered with her mother at the Chiaroscuro Theater bringing shadow puppetry to numerous schools. As an intern at interior design firm Studio Sofield, she is learning more about the various scales of architectural design and the materials used.

After graduation in May, Borderies set out to find a job at an architectural firm or interior design firm and pursue a master's degree in urban design at Columbia University in the future.

"I would have to say that the studio culture in the architecture school and the close relationships I developed with most of my professors due to the small size of the program are some of the highlights of my CCNY experience."



Flavio Perez

BA, Political Science, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership SEEK Program

First-generation college student, Flavio Perez is the first of three siblings to receive his bachelor's degree; however, his college journey has been far from straightforward.

"My family has come to the United States from Mexico in search of a better life for themselves and their children. My mother wants us to get the best education since she was not able to get one when she was young," said the 23-year-old about his mother who inspires him to achieve more.

As a freshman, he struggled to maintain a passing GPA, but with the help of faculty and staff decided to major in political science, which changed his trajectory garnering a higher GPA as well as a focus. His involvement in the SEEK Program gave him an added boost as an inductee of Chi Alpha Epsilon, a national honor society for students admitted to colleges and universities through non-traditional criteria.

Throughout his college journey, Perez has shared his successes with those around him as a mentor for the Urban Mentoring and Achievement Network, a CUNY Black Male Initiative program on City College's campus. He recently got to share his college experience with a group of 14-year-old male high school students from the Urban Assembly School for the Performing Arts.

"One of the students found out I was Mexican like him and got excited," he said. "Now, he wants to pursue his degree at City College."

Perez has volunteered for the 63rd Session of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women at the United Nations as well as served as treasurer for City College's Chess Club. He is currently pursuing photography as a hobby and has plans to pursue his master's degree in public administration or the study of the Americas.



Naomie Jean-Pierre

MA, English Literature, Division of Humanities and the Arts

Haitian native Naomie Jean-Pierre left Haiti with her parents in the wake of political unrest when she was 11-months old. She was raised in Atlanta, Georgia where she was introduced to literature at an early age.

“My mother, being a natural storyteller, filled our home with books and with reverence for education,” said Jean-Pierre who received her bachelor’s degree in English from Howard University graduating magna cum laude.

As a graduate student at The City College of New York, her interest in non-dominant language varieties such as Haitian Creole has shaped her focus and thesis on the black body in poetry.

“I thought it was important to investigate what kinds of narratives emerge concerning Haiti from other parts of the world, thinking about how I can write from the margins to investigate meaning,” she said.

Jean-Pierre had the opportunity to spend a semester at the University of Paris where she gathered a corpus made from photos of black bodies from European and Native English speakers around the world. She then toured Europe and collected images of black bodies, which will be used as a critical-creative project with the black body and terrain, as well as to further her creative writing in poetry, fiction, nonfiction and children’s books.

During her time at City College, she was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and won The Graduate Children’s Book Award, The David Dortort Prize in Creative Writing (Non-Fiction), and The Jerome Lowell DeJur Prize in Poetry. She is currently preparing for a doctoral degree in cultural studies.

“CCNY has been home, a fertile soil for my dreams: dreams of being published; dreams of being intentional about my writing in a way that challenges dominant narratives of oppression; and dreams of extending myself beyond my previous social and academic boundaries,” said Jean-Pierre.



Yinelly Rodriguez

BSEd Bilingual Childhood Education, School of Education

Yinelly Rodriguez came to the US from the Dominican Republic at age 8, unable to speak English. Early years at school were difficult. “There weren’t many Spanish speakers so I was put in a mainstream classroom.” Bilingual programs were eventually introduced in middle and high school, and she was getting good grades. But in tenth grade, Rodriguez had to drop out in order to help her struggling parents support her five siblings.

Then, at 19, Rodriguez became pregnant. “After my son was born, I had twin girls and then another daughter, all in six years.” Raising four kids and working in low paying jobs, Rodriguez knew that the only way to make it out of poverty was going back to school. The decision meant making sacrifices including leaving her kids at a babysitter’s in order to take GED classes.

“I passed the GED exam on my first try and that made me realize that I’m smart and I have it in me.” She enrolled in Borough of Manhattan Community College and began studying Bilingual childhood education.

Emboldened by her success as the first of her siblings to attend and graduate from a college program, she applied to CCNY and worked to earn her bachelor’s in Bilingual childhood education, supported by essential scholarships and awards from the School of Education and the SEEK department.

“My goal is to inspire many other young women with children. It is never too late to go back to school because, if I did it, others can do it, too.” She is graduating with a 3.96 grade point average.

Since September, Rodriguez has been working with first grade students through CCNY’s Bilingual Pupil Services, partnering with teachers in a dual language setting.

Rodriguez credits her husband and kids with giving her the strength to continue through all the challenges. “That kept me going. The degree is not only mine, it’s theirs.”

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Keep up with the news, faculty and student achievements, new programs, and upcoming events at The City College of New York as they break.

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