



## New Plaque Marks CCNY Time Capsule in Quadrangle

*I'm indebted to the Alumni Association's historian, Walter A. Rifkin '44, '50EE, for the following update about CCNY's Time Capsule.*

When the College celebrated its Centennial in 1947 a convocation was held in The Great Hall on Charter Day (May 7), followed by a ceremony in the Quadrangle at which a Time Capsule was buried, to be opened in 100 years. Among the dignitaries in attendance were U. S. Senator Robert F. Wagner, Class of 1898, and Dr. Harry N. Wright, CCNY's sixth President. The capsule, an air tight cylinder built by Chemistry Department technicians, contained photographs, publications, and other CCNY memorabilia. It even included a specially designed "100th Anniversary" package of Smith Brothers cough drops! A plaque was placed to mark the spot where the capsule was buried. Time and weather took their toll on the plaque, however, and its Latin inscription became almost illegible. However, thanks to the efforts of CCNY's Archivist, Professor Sydney Van Nort '05MA; Professor Jennifer T. Roberts (Foreign Languages and Literature); George Varian (Physical Plant Services), and others, the original Latin inscription was deciphered and a new plaque was installed on August 30, 2007.

The plaque's Latin inscription means:

**Protected for the ages  
Here hidden in friendship  
On May 7 in the year  
1947, a hundred years  
After the foundation  
Of the City College of New York  
To be opened on May 7  
In the year 2047.**

The third line includes the Greek letters Alpha Phi Omega (APO), which was CCNY's service organization at the time.

## City College Pledges to Go Green

President Williams has signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, making The City College of New York a charter signatory to this important compact. "This action is far more than a statement of our deep concern about the scale and speed of global warming and its potential consequences," he said in a statement. "It is a pledge, on our part, to not only take positive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also an initiative to exercise leadership in the community and society through the example we set." As a signatory to the Climate Commitment, CCNY pledges to develop a comprehensive plan for achieving climate neutrality as rapidly as possible. Michael Rogovin, Deputy to the President, is organizing a steering committee that will be charged with guiding the development and implementation of the plan. "We recognize that this effort will result in short-term challenges," President Williams added. "However, exercising leadership in addressing climate change will not only help us to stabilize and reduce our long-term energy costs, but also help us attract excellent students and faculty, identify new sources of funding and increase support from alumni and the community."



**President Gregory H. Williams**

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## Nobel Laureate Arthur Kornberg Dies

Members of the Alumni Association and the City College community were deeply saddened to learn of the passing, on October 26, 2007, of Dr. Arthur Kornberg '37, one of nine Nobel Laureates who are graduates of CCNY. Dr. Kornberg, who was 89, was also one of three Nobel Prize winners from the class of 1937, including Dr. Herbert A. Hauptman and Dr. Jerome Karle. He received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1959 for his studies of how genetic information is transferred from one DNA-molecule to another, a discovery that helped to spark a revolution in biotechnology. In 2006 his son, Dr. Roger D. Kornberg, received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering how the genetic information is copied from DNA into what is called messenger-RNA. It was only the sixth time that a father and son became Nobel Laureates (see *Alumnus* article, Summer 2007, page 9). On behalf of the Alumni Association, I wish to extend my condolences to Dr. Kornberg's family.



**Roger and Arthur Kornberg**

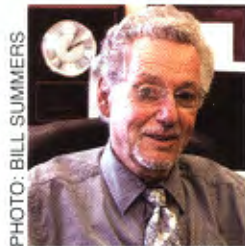


PHOTO: BILL SUMMERS

**Sheldon Weinbaum**

## Sheldon Weinbaum Honored on 70th Birthday

Collaborators, former and current students, family, friends and colleagues gathered on October 5, 2007 to celebrate the 70th birthday of Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biomedical Engineering Sheldon Weinbaum. The all-day event included presentations by students and collaborators, a luncheon, reception, dinner and remarks by Professor Weinbaum, who joined the faculty in 1967 and retired from teaching at the beginning of the Fall 2007 semester. However, he continues to advise students and conduct research at the College, supported by five grants from the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health. Professor Weinbaum and a colleague, Distinguished Professor Stephen Cowin, established CCNY's biomedical engineering department, which has become a "national urban model for minority biomedical engineering education." He also has the distinction of being just one of six living Americans holding memberships in the Academy of Science, Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine. During the celebration his collaborators from CCNY and other institutions discussed their work in wide-ranging fields where Professor Weinbaum has helped advance