# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LETTER FROM PRESIDENT VINCE BOUDREAU</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETTER FROM PROVOST TONY LISS</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LETTER FROM VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEE DEE MOZELESKI</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANKINGS</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIFTS</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRANTS</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUNY DSI</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROVE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL OF EDUCATION</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIVISION OF SCIENCE</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND ARTS</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW PROGRAMS</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMENCEMENT</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMINISTRATION &amp; FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPOINTMENTS</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATHLETICS YEAR-IN-REVIEW</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOUNDATION UPDATE</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILESTONES</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

The report you hold in your hand describes the work and accomplishments of The City College of New York in this, our 175th anniversary year. As I think of those origins, and what we’ve done with the decades since, I can’t help but feel that our founders would have been proud. Recalling the initial “experiment” of educating the whole people, could they have imagined that we’d now consistently be topping national rankings in areas like social mobility? In fact, as more and more evaluations of higher education begin to take greater account of the impact college makes on the lives of students, we rise steadily in the rankings.

Even as we look back over our last 175 years, it’s hard not to take in a more proximate field, and review the College’s work over these painful pandemic years. Last spring, we inched closer toward being a more open, more traditional-looking campus. Although we still entered the semester with significant restrictions around lectures, social gatherings and athletic events, our classes were more in-person than they had been since the start of the pandemic, and we had a glorious Graduation Week, blessed with good weather and joyful crowds.

A new academic year truly provides the opportunity to set a new tone, and at CCNY, we’ve done that. Every full-time faculty member is in the classroom for at least some of their classes, and while we retain robust numbers of online classes, these are more and more frequently strategic decisions on how to deliver the curriculum rather than retreats in the face of health threats.

We’ve used these past few years as an opportunity to reflect on and renew our mission. I’ve frequently thought that the pandemic underscored the necessity of our college—founded upon the fervent belief that especially in challenging times, we must rely on and develop the talent of the whole people. Over these past years, in every corner of our campus, we’ve drawn strength from that foundation, and have emerged from months of near isolation renewed in our mission.

Where do we see it? In new programs to train a more representative workforce in infrastructure. In an innovative approach to workforce development that seeks not just to develop new technologies via our advanced research, but to mobilize a workforce prepared to deploy those technologies. In new centers and training programs dedicated to fostering debate in our public sphere and promoting service and leadership. Our School of Education has risen to the challenge of fostering stronger and more resilient leadership in public schools, and the Grove School of Engineering has embraced a unifying mission of decarbonizing the grid for a sustainable future. In department after department, as you’ll see in this report, we have endeavored to connect the education and research activities of the College to the greatest needs of our society, particularly as we emerge from the pandemic.

It’s a fitting orientation for our college. We’ve always provisioned New York City, and our nation, with the ideas and the individuals to take on the toughest challenges in society. That work is reflected in the trajectories of our graduates, in the kinds of research and public programming we produce, and in the way that intellectual capital moves beyond our campus to benefit society. I hope, as you review the accomplishments and initiatives of CCNY, you will see a bright thread uniting them: our effort to harness the talents of our community into the service of building a more prosperous, sustainable and just society.

I look forward to seeing you on campus someday soon, and thank you for your interest in and support of our work.

Sincerely,

Vincent Boudreau
President
Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

Last year, I began my letter with the word “resiliency,” a word that summed up how the College had bounced back from a pandemic year. This year’s word is “perseverance.” As one pandemic year has transitioned into another, the College has kept going, rolling with the punches, doing what we are so dedicated and proud to do: serving our amazing student body. We have learned to manage the changed circumstances and settled into a college routine that is feeling mostly, if not completely, normal.

It is wonderful to see students, faculty and staff on campus again. It is easy to forget how important sharing a campus is to our community, and the simple pleasure of running into a colleague while crossing Convent Avenue. Some of our campus community were understandably nervous about being back on campus, in classrooms, and on the subway, but the great majority are absolutely thrilled to be back. And, because of the important health and safety measures that the University is taking, the return is proving to be remarkably safe and successful. For all the progress we have made in learning how to teach effectively online, there is nothing like being in a classroom with your students.

Along with all the enthusiasm about campus life returning to normal, we do face some serious challenges. Many of our students have “stopped-out,” that is, enrolled at City College but then not finished their degree, often after attending for only a short time or not at all. The reasons for this include the list of challenges that our students have always faced, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. We are reaching out to these students to find ways to help them re-enroll; because we know the long-term cost to them of delaying their degree is significant.

At the same time, most of our entering freshman class spent formative high school semesters with sub-par online instruction and we need to make sure that appropriate academic supports are in place for them so they can be successful college students. To that end, I am exceptionally grateful to the Foundation for City College for supporting the hiring of 10 new academic advisors for the College this year. This will help reduce the number of students managed by each advisor.

As important as advisors are, the most important factor in promoting student success is classroom pedagogy. For the past year we have been engaged in discussions with chairs and others in some key departments that teach large numbers of freshmen about alternative pedagogical models that can help promote student success.

Some new ideas were tried during the summer session with encouraging results. We will continue to focus our energies on alternative pedagogies as we analyze student outcomes.

After a couple of years with significant turnover in the dean ranks, I am happy to say that not only was there no turnover since I last wrote to you, but two of our interim deans have been promoted to permanent deans, each after a nationwide search. Alex Couzis is now the dean of the Grove School of Engineering, and Marta Gutman is now the dean of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. It is a testament to their terrific work in interim capacities that they have now shed the interim part of their titles.

We have recently launched a search for a permanent dean of Humanities and the Arts, a role currently held by Interim Dean Renata Miller, and we continue our search for a permanent chief librarian, a role currently held by Interim Chief Librarian Loren Mendelsohn.

I continue to be immensely proud of the dedication our faculty and staff have to our awesome students, to their well-being, their dreams and their futures. It is a privilege for me to be a part of The City College of New York.

Sincerely,

Tony Liss
Provost

“I continue to be immensely proud of the dedication our faculty and staff have to our awesome students, to their well-being, their dreams and their futures. It is a privilege for me to be a part of The City College of New York.”

Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

I am often asked what the Foundation for City College does to support and share the historic mission of the College. The answer to that question becomes much more complex each year.

A few years ago, the Foundation’s role on campus was limited, with much of the earliest private philanthropic support going directly to students in need. As financial aid guidelines have changed, and as state funding models for universities have shifted away from direct aid to campuses, our Foundation also needed to change.

In our first year of reorganizing the Foundation’s operations, we spent a lot of time reviewing how scholarship awards were made. By our second year, Princeton Review recognized us for increasing aid to students by more than 30 percent. That is the work of a team dedicated to each person on campus and each of our donors, alumni and supporters from around the world. It is gratifying work, and it’s done by a team that is made up, in large part, by CCNY graduates, parents of graduates, children of graduates and current CCNY students.

The role of the Foundation, along with our board of directors and President Boudreau, is to manage more than $360 million in total assets. This past May, we announced the “Campaign for City College: Doing Remarkable Things Together” to raise the Foundation’s assets to a billion dollars. That long-term goal is how we will focus our energies over the next decade.

As for our social mission to the campus community, at the height of the pandemic the Foundation’s support allowed us to both keep our campus food pantry, Benny’s, open seven days a week, while also affording us the opportunity to expand its services to our entire CUNY community. We didn’t stop there. Last year, our team of volunteers distributed more than 20,000 pounds of food to community members in need.

Support from the Foundation also allowed us to expand our student emergency services. We prevented evictions, we helped students out of precarious personal situations, provided child care support, and helped students cover tuition balances when financial aid delays would have demanded they leave school.

With the leadership provided from the Foundation, we are supporting the expansion of the College’s teaching, advising and student support services personnel—this during a set of fiscal challenges facing all of higher education across the nation. These are positions that provide students with the guidance, wellness support, academic leadership and career preparation they need to thrive while on campus and achieve post graduation success in fields as varied as medicine, theater, anthropology, civil engineering and architecture. These are just some of the ongoing projects that signify the partnership between the Foundation for City College and City College which allow us to think beyond the confines of Convent Avenue.

Our new initiative to build a world-class life sciences hub will bring companies across New York City to Harlem. Also, our Charles B. Rangel Workforce Development Initiative, funded in part by private, federal and state monies, will see tens of thousands of newly trained professionals move into well-paid careers maintaining our city’s grid infrastructure.

Those are just some of the initiatives that, together, constitute entirely new directions for the Foundation and the College. Today, because the Foundation is incorporated into the very fabric of our campus, and because it is intentionally situated within our Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications & External Relations, we have a new vantage point with which to see the real needs of our community.

We are grateful to you, our supporters, and to your commitment to City College. Your partnership in this work we share, your vision for New York City, remains a constant in our motivation for everything we do.

Sincerely,

Dee Dee Mozelieski
Senior Advisor to the President & Vice President and Executive Director
The Foundation for City College

"The Foundation is incorporated into the very fabric of our campus, and because it is intentionally situated within our Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications & External Relations, we have a new vantage point with which to see the real needs of our community."
More Students Concerned About the Environment Drives Green Designation

Once again, City College is included among the 420 listed colleges in "The Princeton Review Guide to Colleges: 2022 Edition." The designation is one to which students are giving more weight every year. According to the Princeton Review, CCNY is one of the nation’s most environmentally responsible colleges.

"We strongly recommend The City College to students who care about the environment, want to study and live at a green college," said Rob Franek, The Princeton Review’s editor-in-chief. "CCNY offers excellent academics and demonstrates a commitment to sustainability that is exemplary on many counts."

Franek noted that The Princeton Review has seen an increasing level of interest among students in attending colleges with green practices, programs, and offerings. Seventy-eight percent of the more than 11,000 college applicants that participated in The Princeton Review’s 2021 College Hopes & Worries Survey said that having information about a college’s commitment to the environment would affect their decision to apply to or attend a school. It was a significant increase compared with the 66 percent in the 2020 survey. The Princeton Review has published its “Guide to Green Colleges” annually since 2010.

The Princeton Review cites City College’s sustainability program. "CCNY Green" is the name of City College’s campaign to "rethink the way we teach, learn, conduct research, operate, and live." A Sustainability Task Force was created to “place sustainability at the forefront in all operations, outreach, and educational missions.” Other initiatives include new hydration stations being installed in several buildings to reduce bottled water waste, by providing chilled, filtered tap water free of charge for use with refillable containers.

In addition, CCNY is home to “The Urban Gardens at City College,” a patch of land on the more than 35-acre lush campus where produce is cultivated for the school’s food pantry.

The City College of New York is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduates according to The Princeton Review. The education services company profiles and recommends CCNY in the new edition of its annual college guide, "The Best 388 Colleges: 2023 Edition."

The Princeton Review chose the colleges for the book based on data it annually collects from surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions’ academic offerings. For its selection of profiled schools for the book, the company also reviews data from its surveys of college students attending the schools. Only about 14 percent of America’s 2,700 four-year colleges are profiled in the book.

"We salute The City College for its outstanding academics, and its many other impressive offerings. We’re delighted to recommend it as an ideal choice for students searching for their best-fit college," said Rob Franek, The Princeton Review’s editor-in-chief and lead author of “The Best 388 Colleges.”

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

The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges in the book hierarchically, from 1 to 388. However, the book has 50 categories of ranking lists. Each list names the top 25 schools of those in the book) in its category. Information on the survey process and methodology for the ranking lists is available on The Princeton Review’s website.

CCNY Featured in The Princeton Review's "Best 387 Colleges" Guide for 2023

The City College of New York is one of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduates according to The Princeton Review. The education services company profiles and recommends CCNY in the new edition of its annual college guide, "The Best 388 Colleges: 2023 Edition."

The Princeton Review chose the colleges for the book based on data it annually collects from surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions’ academic offerings. For its selection of profiled schools for the book, the company also reviews data from its surveys of college students attending the schools. Only about 14 percent of America’s 2,700 four-year colleges are profiled in the book.

"We salute The City College for its outstanding academics, and its many other impressive offerings. We’re delighted to recommend it as an ideal choice for students searching for their best-fit college," said Rob Franek, The Princeton Review’s editor-in-chief and lead author of “The Best 388 Colleges.”

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

The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges in the book hierarchically, from 1 to 388. However, the book has 50 categories of ranking lists. Each list names the top 25 schools of those in the book) in its category. Information on the survey process and methodology for the ranking lists is available on The Princeton Review’s website.
OnlineU Ranks CCNY Among Top 10 Colleges for Post-grad Salary

Jumping 12 places from last year’s position, CCNY is now #9 nationally in OnlineU’s 2022 Best Colleges for a Master’s Degree by Salary Score rankings. MIT and Stanford University remain #1 and #2, respectively.

Salary Score is based on median alumni earnings in the year after graduating. This overall score is calculated based on the median alumni salary for each program at a school compared to the median alumni salary for the same program at other schools. Data are sourced from the U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard.

CCNY’s massive leap from #21 to #9 is thanks in part to an increase of more than 2 points in Salary Score since 2021. Its annual tuition of $20,832 translates into a Salary Score of 93.57. In comparison, first place MIT, with alumni salary data from 99.62, while second place Stanford, annual tuition $53,131 scores at 98.3.

“We evaluated graduate schools based on median earnings for master’s alumni to find out which have the highest salary outcomes across programs. This list highlights schools whose graduates earn the highest starting salaries for their major, no matter what they studied,” said OnlineU.

OnlineU has been helping students accomplish their educational goals by finding the online degree with the best value since 2004. By providing manually researched tuition and salary data from alumni in its college rankings, as well as collecting over 13,000 reviews from online students, OnlineU hopes to empower more Americans to go to college while lowering the overall cost of earning a degree. Its rankings have been recognized by over 475 colleges.

It cited CCNY for the popularity and value of its graduate degrees in the School of Education—teacher education, special education, bilingual and TESOL programs—and in Sustainability Studies.

OnlineU Ranks CCNY Among Top 10 Colleges for Post-grad Salary

More U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Chemical Engineering Graduate Program In Top 50 of U.S. News & World Report Elite Schools

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs proclaimed The City College of New York a Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institution Leader in the “Doctoral Institutions” category. The designation, along with 17 other colleges and universities nationally, was in celebration of the Fulbright Program’s 75th Anniversary. An additional 17 institutions earned the distinction in the categories of “Associate and Baccalaureate” and “Master’s.”

Some of CCNY’s peers as HSI Leaders in the Doctoral Institutions category include:

- University of Houston
- Rutgers University-Newark
- University of Arizona
- University of California-Irvine

“Fulbright HSI Leader status has been conferred on this group of 35 HSIs, including The City College, because they have demonstrated noteworthy engagement with Fulbright exchange participants during the 2019-2021 academic years and have promoted Fulbright Program opportunities on campus,” the ECA said in a statement.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program, and the HSI Leader initiative, in its inaugural year, is part of the State Department’s commitment to build diversity and inclusion within the Fulbright Program and within all the ECAs’ international exchange programs.

Speaking on behalf of ECA, which sponsors the Fulbright Program, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs Ethan Rosenzweig congratulated each of the 35 HSIs and thanked the leadership of the designated institutions for recognizing the impact of the Fulbright Program.

“Thank you for creating a campus culture that celebrates the mission of Fulbright and international exchanges,” said Rosenzweig. “Thank you for epitomizing the principle that mutual understanding between peoples of the United States and other countries will lead to a more just and peaceful society at home.” He also praised the faculty, staff, and administrators on campus who recruit, advise and support future “Fulbrighters” throughout the application process.

Jennifer Lutton is Fulbright program advisor at CCNY in addition to her position as coordinator of National Scholarships/Fellowship. In 2015, CCNY was named a top producer of Fulbright Scholars by ECA.

Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the Fulbright program’s purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. Scholars are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Overall, the Grove School, which celebrated its centennial in 2019, is ranked #140 in the nation. U.S. News analyzed more than 10,000 graduate programs and specialties in its 2023 ranking process. U.S. News’ Best Engineering Schools rankings compare schools on their research activity, faculty resources, academic achievements of entering students and assessments by other engineering schools and employers.
Colin Powell Legacy Inspires $2.5M Gift for New Fellowship Program

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership has received a $2.5 million gift from an admirer and long-time friend of the late Gen. Colin L. Powell, ’58. The transformative gift by the donor, who prefers to remain anonymous, establishes the Colin Powell Career Fellowship Program, which will fund internships and other student support services in the Colin Powell School.

Over time, the competitive program will be opened to all City College students, both undergrad and graduate, and later to the more than 250,000 students at the 25 campuses of the City University of New York system. The Colin Powell School’s goal is to position the program as a national model and to join in partnership and coalition with other initiatives across the country that aim to diversify the workforce through the availability of paid internships and intensive mentoring and cohort-based programming.

One of CCNY’s most distinguished alumni, Powell died in October 2021. He was 84. He devoted more than 50 years of his life to public service in senior military and diplomatic positions across four presidential administrations.

“I’m incredibly moved by this gift,” said his daughter Linda Powell, who chairs the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors. “My father was steadfast in his faith that when the education provided by City College is coupled with equality of opportunity, our students will go on to contribute great things to their communities and the world. This generous support fits perfectly with that vision. What a beautiful way to honor his legacy.”

“This transformative gift will provide significant financial support to our students,” said Colin Powell School Dean Andrew Rich. “Through the Colin Powell Career Fellows Program, we will scale our efforts to empower students, working with them to build their skills, grow their networks, navigate internship opportunities, and graduate with career-starting jobs.”

After Gen. Powell’s passing last fall, his family encouraged those who wanted to honor his memory to support the Colin Powell School. The program’s donor reached out to Dean Rich to offer CPS students the opportunity to apply for the fellowship program at his company. By the end of their first conversation, he was inspired to make this transformative gift of $2.5 million over 10 years. This will translate into between 50 and 80 additional paid internship opportunities every year for a decade. The donor will also help the CPS identify employer-partners who can offer mentoring and internships to students and alumni.

Beginning this summer, the program will offer Colin Powell Career Fellows selected through a competitive process an internship stipend of up to $5,000. In addition, they will receive mentorship and participate in workshops and discussions that will enhance their abilities to engage with their work place in meaningful ways and provide opportunities for leadership development, reflection, and engaged learning. Career Fellows will be integrated into cohorts, and will benefit from the Colin Powell School’s track record of developing successful, substantively-focused fellowship programs that educate individuals for professional development. This includes the School’s Honors Program in Legal Studies and its Climate Policy Fellows Program.

In addition to being the headquarters of the CUNY-wide ROTC, CCNY’s military-friendly traditions go back generations. In 1917, soldiers headed to Europe after the United States’ entry in World War I were billeted in the Great Hall located in Shepard Hall. Powell, one of CCNY’s most distinguished alumni, participated in the ROTC program and received a commission as an Army second lieutenant upon graduation in June 1958. He served 35 years in the military, rising to the rank of four-star general from 1989 to 1993, and serving as the 12th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest military position in the Department of Defense.

There are more than 100 student veterans at CCNY whose interests are served by the Office of Veteran Affairs. It connects them to all benefits and services they have earned while serving the country.

“Our primary goal is to ensure that our student veterans succeed in the paths they’ve chosen, and we achieve this goal by focusing on all their needs,” said OVA Director Christopher Gorman. “We do our best to ensure they have housing, access to VA-related services and the most recent information regarding their benefits.”

The City College of New York, alma mater of the late Gen. Colin L. Powell, the first African American chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, maintains its tradition as a military friendly school. CCNY is among the top schools nationally to earn this designation in the 2022-2023 survey by Military Friendly®. It is one of almost 40 Tier One Research Institutions with the designation. The school has also been designated with a Silver Award for Excellence.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey. Over 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-2023 survey with 665 schools earning the designation. Of these, almost 300 were selected for the Silver Award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs. Military Friendly® is owned and operated by VIQTORY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business. The list was published in “G.I. Jobs” magazine’s May issue. Several programs offered by City College and New York State help lighten the financial load for veterans attending CCNY. They include the New York State Veterans Tuition Awards for eligible veterans matriculated full-time or part-time in an approved program.

CCNY also runs a veteran club, officially the City College Veterans Association, that serves as an outlet for the public service spirit instilled in members while in uniform.

On October 18, 2021, the CCNY community lost alumni and supporter Gen. Colin Powell. Powell will be remembered as a man of extraordinary accomplishment: a trailblazer, a role model, and an inspiration. The son of Jamaican immigrants, born in Harlem and raised in the South Bronx, it was CCNY or nowhere when it came to college, as he often reminded us. Here, he found ROTC, discovering his purpose and direction, and going on to greatness.

He never missed a Colin Powell School graduation, and he took the time to shake the hand of every student earning a degree. The School reflects his vision, his passion, and his never-ending belief in the essential nature of this place. Powell would listen to students’ stories and tell them his own, encouraging them to work hard and pursue their dreams. He always reminded them—and all of us—that “they’re just like I was” some 65 years ago now.

Powell’s family expressed the desire that gifts in his memory be made to the school that bears his name, an extraordinary public declaration of what CCNY meant to him. Many of his friends, peers, and admirers responded to this call. As of June 2022, the School had received nearly $8 million in new gifts in his memory.

To listen to a tribute by President Vincent Boudreau, go to the link: www.ccny.cuny.edu/ powelltribute
Myriam Sarachik Professorship Fund Established for Physics Visiting Professor

The trailblazing physicist Myriam P. Sarachik pledged prior to her passing, at age 88 in October 2021, a $1.5 million gift to City College for the establishment of an endowed visiting professorship in physics. Her remarkable legacy at City College, where she spent more than 50 years teaching and conducting groundbreaking research, is set to continue thanks to her endowment. It establishes the Myriam Sarachik Professorship Fund for a visiting physics professor in the Division of Science.

The endowed visiting professorship shall remain in perpetuity, in accordance with Sarachik’s wishes. Additional estate distributions, along with further donations from family, colleagues, and friends are expected.

City College’s senior leadership and faculty applauded the late physicist and her generosity. “Myriam Sarachik embodied the very best values of our college,” said President Vincent Boudreau. “She had a joyful and inquisitive curiosity, an eagerness to teach what she learned, and a deep concern for the people around her; a concern that encompassed students, faculty and staff. Before she left us, she chose to advance the work of the College via this generous gift, ensuring that science, a field in which she made significant contributions to the physics of electronic transport in solids and achievement of the Research from the American Physical Society in 2020 for “fundamental contributions to the physics of electronic transport in solids and molecular magnetism.”

Chair of Physics Vivo Mosen said Sarachik’s gift truly reflected her generosity, commitment to the Physics Department, CCNY, and her lifelong passion for science. “This gift will help us continue her legacy by attracting world class physicists who will contribute to our department’s excellence. We are extremely grateful to Myriam and her family for this generous gift which will have a lasting impact,” he said.

The $1.5 million gift will be distributed through The Foundation for City College. Dee Dee Mozeleski, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president, said of Sarachik: “Her gift to the Foundation, in support of a campus she knew well and loved deeply, will reverberate for decades to come and we are grateful to her and her husband, Philip, and daughter, Karen, for their commitment to generously welcome each new generation of students and colleagues who come to City.”

World renowned for her phenomenal contributions to the physics of electronic transport in solids and molecular magnetism, Sarachik was professor emerita at CCNY when she died last fall. She previously served as a mentor to generations of younger women in the field and was a lifelong advocate for the human rights of all scientists.

Among her numerous awards was the Medal for Exceptional Achievement in Research from the American Physical Society in 2020 for “fundamental contributions to the physics of electronic transport in solids and molecular magnetism.”

Sarachik was a rarity in experimental physics because of her gender. In addition to overcoming bias against women in science she would become a mentor to generations of younger women in the field and was a lifelong advocate for the human rights of all scientists.

Bob Tuschman Launches $1M Scholarship for Economically Disadvantaged Students

A new four-year scholarship, the Tuschman Family Scholarship, was implemented in fall 2022. Established by former television executive and producer Bob Tuschman on behalf of his parents and siblings, the Scholarship aims to assist students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds with fewer options to pursue higher education, fostering career development and academic support.

Each scholarship covers more than tuition for an annual cohort of five incoming freshmen for four years, with a total of 10 cohorts supported by this $1 million gift. Additionally, an alumni mentoring program is available to the students to strengthen the contacts to the campus and to the networks available to them now and after they graduate.

Students that are the first in their family to attend college, and who are part of the Scholars of Promise Program, which focuses on assisting first-generation high school students in the South Bronx and Northern Manhattan, are the major demographic for the Scholarship. The Tuschman Family Scholarship will partly support the Scholars of Promise Program. Eligible students will be recruited by their principals, and then chosen for the scholarship through the completion of a short essay that outlines, in their own words, their visions for themselves, their college and their futures, as well as their proudest achievements.

“I believe a college education can be the single most transformative experience of a young person’s life,” said Bob Tuschman. “It can determine career options and financial futures, while teaching the critical skills and knowledge needed to impact the world. This scholarship was created in loving memory of my parents, Preston and Carol Tuschman, who sacrificed to give my siblings and me the gift of a college education. The fund also honors my sister Kathy Gelfand and brother Richard Tuschman.”

President Vincent Boudreau applauded the Tuschman family’s generosity. “Mr. Tuschman’s commitment to supporting the academic careers of under-resourced students is in line with the finest traditions of CCNY. His generosity will allow generations of students who didn’t imagine a college education was within their grasp to build a new future for themselves and their families at CCNY,” he said.

Tuschman is an assistant adjunct professor in the Entertainment, Media and Technology Program at New York University’s Stern School of Business. Before teaching, Tuschman spent 17 years as senior vice president of programming, and eventually general manager, for cable television’s Food Network. He was responsible for all programming, development, and scheduling at the network. Earlier in his career, he was a producer for ABC News, including “Good Morning America.” Prior to that, he was an agent for actors and directors in the theater. Tuschman began his career as the assistant to legendary singer Diana Ross. Tuschman earned his B.A. at Princeton University.

Norman Klein Graduate Scholarship in Mechanical Engineering Established

Harriet and Norman Klein, B.S. ’58 and M.A. ’61, have established the Norman Klein Scholarship to support graduate students in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The Scholarship will provide expenses for recipients, which may include tuition and fees, as well as support for students to participate in national project competitions.

“We have always believed that education enhances opportunities in life. We are 83 and 86. We want to start this while we are both still here,” said Norman Klein.

Born in Brooklyn in 1935, Klein spent the summer following his sophomore year at CCNY working as a busboy at a resort in the Catskill Mountains. There he met Harriet Sarokoi. Three years later they married. Harriet was a graduate of Brooklyn College, class of 1961. Born in 1938, she spent many years after her mother’s death in foster care. Her story was the impetus for the couple’s lifelong dedication to social justice and child welfare.

Initially unable to have a child of their own, the couple adopted their first daughter in 1961 while living in southern California, where Klein worked for a large aerospace company. They adopted five children, three of them inter-racial. Eventually, Harriet gave birth to two more children. For the Kleins, when it came to children, too much was never enough.

With their “army of little kids,” the family relocated to the Seattle area in 1971, said Klein. They joined the Interacial Family Association. Norman became president, and the Association hosted a National Conference on interracial adoption in Seattle.

Over time, the Kleins housed more than 20 foster children. They have also exchanged students, from countries such as Japan and Costa Rica, even hosting a family of five from Ethiopia until they could settle permanently in the U.S.
Andrew Damas Receives First Annual Sheldon Horing Scholarship

The Sheldon Horing (1957) Scholarship, a new endowed scholarship at The Grove School of Engineering, will support a first-generation Grove School student by providing $2,000 annually for tuition. The fund was established in honor of alumnus Sheldon Horing, a 1957 electrical engineering graduate, by his sons David and Jeff Horing for his birthday last year.

“I am a first-generation student, and the CCNY School of Engineering (now the Grove School of Engineering) allowed me to pursue my passion for engineering education, which served as the foundation for what was a long and successful career,” said Horing. “The scholarship is my way of paying it forward.”

After graduating in 1957, Horing continued his education and received advanced degrees, including a master’s and doctorate degree in electrical engineering. He had a long career at Bell Labs in various technical and managerial capacities followed by a period where he led Cincinnati Bell Information Systems.

This year’s scholarship recipient, Andrew Damas, a mechanical engineering major, is a first-generation college student also minoring in liberal arts in the City College’s 9+2 program. Damas is 23-year-old is currently interning at the NYC School Construction Authority as a construction management intern with the goal to transition to associate construction manager after graduation.

Damas is part of the National Society for Black Engineers and also received The Grove School of Engineering Scholarship in 2020 and the NAMC NY Tri-State Chapter Scholarship. Damas competed for the RPSI Nassau Program Logo Design Competition in 2021.

Milton Stern Scholgs Fund Available in 2023 for Students of Financial Advice

A major gift has established the Milton Stern Scholars Fund in the field of financial advising. Named for the late Milton Stern, ’57, co-founder of Bridgewater Advisors, Inc., the fund was created by the family to honor his life, and to continue the legacy of his commitment to independent financial advisory work. The Fund will support workshops, scholarships and internships to students interested in the field of financial advising. Recipients must demonstrate financial need, value academic excellence, exhibit personal integrity, and show an interest in the field of investment advice and related professions.

The only child of eastern European immigrants, Stern was born in 1935 to a family of modest means. Growing up in a housing project on East 57th and Queens, he attended New York City public schools and developed a love of literature and the arts. He graduated from Stuyvesant High School, then took advantage of free tuition by studying chemical engineering at City College, participating in the city’s cultural offerings whenever he could. Upon graduation, he earned a master’s degree in chemical engineering from New York University and an MBA from Rutgers University.

Stern’s successful and varied business career included positions with large public companies such as Mobil Oil before moving to Wall Street, where he worked as a wealth management executive at L.F. Rothschild and Paine Webber. He then founded Bridgewater Advisors Inc., as an independent investment advisor. He was later joined by fellow advisor Leo V. Marzen, who now serves as Bridgewater’s managing partner. Stern went on to earn his Certified Financial Analyst credential shortly before his 60th birthday. He died in 2015.

“Although his degrees were in chemical engineering, Milton highly valued his liberal arts courses and was a true believer in a well-rounded education,” said Marzen. “He would be extremely proud to support the pursuits of today’s CCNY students.”

Stern’s wife, Rosalie, said, “Milt felt that education was the means to a better life for himself, his family, and his community. He was committed to lifelong learning and encouraged others to do the same. A proud alumnus of City College, he recognized that paying forward educational opportunities to others was the best way to say thank you.”

In Fall 2023, three scholarships will be awarded, for two $2,500 and one for $2,000, to students who attend at least one Fund-sponsored workshop. The workshops take place each semester and feature experts from the financial advising and financial services sector across the New York City region. In Summer 2023, two students will receive $2,500 internship stipends.

A working committee made up of academic staff from both CCNY campuses will guide and support students interested in applying for the opportunities made available through the gift.

“Working with the team at Bridgewater and the Stern family has already made a tremendous impact on how City College develops the forward-looking programs our students need to succeed after graduation,” said Dee Dee Mozolecki, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president. “We are grateful for their leadership, their friendship, and their continuing dedication to the advancement of financial advice as an industry that welcomes our students.”

New York City Leaders Fellowship Funded by The Teagle Foundation

The Teagle Foundation and the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership introduced a new fellowship program, the New York City Leaders Fellowship, for undergraduate students to provide the tools and support for education, internships and mentorship opportunities for students to learn from low-income backgrounds under their Education for American Civic life initiative.

“For many students, the pathways to career-starting jobs in public service in New York City are confusing or opaque,” said Colin Powell School Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich. “We need stronger systems of support to help young people from diverse backgrounds find their way to public service leadership in our city, and the New York City Leaders Fellowship provides just that—developing a new pipeline to prepare the next generation of civic leaders for our great city.”

Through the Fellowship, students will enrol in two liberal arts courses to learn about local political systems ahead of beginning an internship program in public sector. The courses will provide a comprehensive overview of the history and operations of New York City’s government public service ecosystem. Additionally, students will read works by authors, such as Aristotle and Machiavelli, to discuss ethical dilemmas that are central to living in and governing a city.

After completing the liberal arts courses, the undergraduate students will participate in a fully-funded summer internship program in New York City government public service organizations.

“New York City is dynamic, diverse, and constantly evolving, and we are thrilled to support emerging leaders who seek to transform our community,” said Andrew Delbanco, president of the Teagle Foundation and the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. “The New York City Leaders Fellowship pairs career and professional development with a liberal arts education. We are excited to have the opportunity to engage with transformative texts to sharpen their knowledge and decision making skills to participate in political systems; students will read works by authors, such as Aristotle and Machiavelli, to discuss ethical dilemmas that are central to living in and governing a city.”

In its first year, the fellowship will award 10 fellowships to outstanding undergraduate students; it will support 20 students annually in subsequent years. The New York City Leaders Fellowship will be directed by Rich, as well as Professor of Political Science Carlo Invernizzi Accetta, and Maya Gutierrez, director of the Colin Powell School’s Public Service Career Hub.

New Endowed Professorship to Advance Student Leadership Established

Seymour (Sy) Sternberg, ‘65, ’10 (hon.) and Laurie Sternberg endowed the Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership in honor of the late Gen. Colin Powell. The Sternbergs originally established The Sternberg Lecture in Public Service at the Colin Powell School in 2014, and designed it to foster conversations about relevant public and policy related discussions.

Under the auspices of this new endowed professorship, it will continue. In addition, the Sternberg Professorship will be held by a distinguished practitioner and scholar. The person hired will play a critical role in the development of a new leadership Studies Program at the CPS and in the scaling of a range of student leadership development initiatives across the School and the College, fulfilling a key goal of the benefactors.

Sternberg said, “It was my privilege to work closely with Gen. Powell for so many years in the creation and growth of the School that bears his name. Like General Powell, I owe much of my success to the great foundation I received at City College. It all started here for me, so I am pleased to be able to provide opportunities for students to develop and enhance their leadership skills, and to get the fabulous education that I got.”

Sy Sternberg was the longest-serving chairman of the board of New York Life Insurance Company, the largest mutual life insurance company in the U.S. and one of the largest life insurers in the world. He was appointed chairman in 1997 and retired in 2009. He served concurrently as chief executive officer until 2008.

“I am extraordinarily grateful to Sy and Laurie Sternberg for investing in the potential for leadership studies at the Colin Powell School,” said Andrew Rich, the Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean of the CPS. “The new Sternberg Family Professorship transforms our potential to scale efforts to serve students interested in leadership, and Sy Sternberg’s remarkable career provides a roadmap for how to turn a CCNY education into a successful career at the highest levels of leadership. My thanks to Sy and Laurie for their generosity, vision, and leadership.”

A member of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors since the School’s inception, Sternberg has been generous to his alma mater, having facilitated one of the first, and still one of the largest, investments ever at CCNY: $10 million for The New York Life Endowment for Emerging African American Issues in 2010. He has also directed Sy and Laurie Sternberg’s creation of The Sternberg Family Professorship, which supports a faculty position in the College’s School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

In its first year, the fellowship will award 10 fellowships to outstanding undergraduate students; it will support 20 students annually in subsequent years. The New York City Leaders Fellowship will be directed by Rich, as well as Professor of Political Science Carlo Invernizzi Accetta, and Maya Gutierrez, director of the Colin Powell School’s Public Service Career Hub.

Funded by The Teagle Foundation
A scholarship was established for Dr. Robindra Nath Khaund, who passed away in 2015, by his sons, Razib and Sandy, and his daughter-in-law, Cherise. The endowed Robindra Nath Khaund Scholarship is available to immigrant students, or students who are the children of immigrants. The $4,000 annual award will commence spring semester of 2023.

President Vincent Boudreau lauded the Khaund family for remembering its patriarch in such a fine way that perpetuates his memory and ideals. “Dr. Robindra Nath Khaund was deeply committed to the idea of accessible education as a pathway to a better and more fair society, and his life is replete with examples of how he put those ideals into action. I am personally gratified that his family chose to commemorate that commitment with a scholarship to support the academic progress of New Americans at CCNY. It is a wonderful tribute to a great man,” said Boudreau.

“We are grateful to Sandy Khaund and the Khaund family for this generous gift to City College,” said Dee Dee Mozeleski, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president. “It is such an honor to partner with donors who understand the impact a City College education has on our students. It is also wonderful to help ensure that Dr. Khaund’s legacy continues to inspire future generations of CCNY students.”

Khaund was born in Assam, India in 1929. He earned his undergraduate degree at Cotton College in India. He left India to attend graduate school at the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, working in the Department of Biochemistry.

In 1972, Khaund moved his family to New York City and took a position at Texas A&M University, where he earned both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Biochemistry. He eventually moved to a similar role in Manhattan.

Khaund was a tireless proponent of education. Both his sons have advanced degrees: one is a doctor and the other is an engineer and entrepreneur.

“My father mentored a lot of people who worked at the hospital,” said his son, Sandy Khaund. “They gravitated to my father and he gravitated toward them. School was important for our family and he made it important to this extended family.”

“This award serves as our father’s legacy,” Khaund added. “He worked in New York City for nearly 40 years and his love for the city was rivaled only by the importance he placed on education. Many of his mentees would go on to CCNY to earn their degrees. With the award, we honor his legacy by encouraging more young people to pursue their education in the greatest city in the world.”

The Robindra Nath Khaund Scholarship is available to immigrant students, or students who are the children of immigrants.
American Chemistry Council $47,000.00
Michael C. Mark $42,183.34
Amos A. Avrian $40,000.00
American Chemistry Council $40,000.00
Coming Incorporated Foundation $40,000.00
Theodore Cross Family Charitable Foundation $40,000.00
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP $39,000.00
Milbank LLP $39,000.00
BASF Corporation $28,000.00
Peter Sugarman $13,750.00
Merck Foundation $14,000.00
HOK $10,000.00
NYC Comptroller’s Office $10,000.00
American Chemistry Council $10,000.00
Blinn Foundation $10,000.00
American Chemistry Council $10,000.00
Blinn Foundation $10,000.00
Each year, we create a comprehensive list of giving to the College. We are grateful to all of our supporters and work to ensure that our annual gifts list is accurate. If you see any errors, or would like a correction made to a future annual gifts list, please feel free to email us: give@cnyc.edu.
## EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRANTS FOR FACULTY RESEARCH AND TRAINING GREATER THAN $250K IN FY22.

### Name | Department | Project Details | Amount |
--- | --- | --- | --- |
**CITY SPONSORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honey Berk</td>
<td>Building Performance Lab</td>
<td>Energy Data Lab</td>
<td>$11,278,640.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Bobker</td>
<td>Building Performance Lab</td>
<td>Sustainability Help Center</td>
<td>$606,739.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dee Dee Mazzilez</td>
<td>Vice President, OIACER</td>
<td>Living Redemption Youth Opportunity Hub</td>
<td>$1,577,583.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramena Hernandez</td>
<td>CUNY Dominican Studies Institute</td>
<td>Dominican Studies Institute</td>
<td>$1,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bras</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment</td>
<td>$286,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Boudreau</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>The Center for Co-Innovation and Medical Technology: A New Product, Venture, and Workforce Development Engine for Greater Harlem</td>
<td>$750,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent Boudreau, Dee Dee Mazzilez &amp; Angelo Laponis</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative</td>
<td>$1,500,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimel Bu</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Collaborative Research: Nanoscale structure and dynamics of a cell-cell adhesion complex</td>
<td>$774,036.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marco Castaldi</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Graphene &amp; Clay-based Additives to MSW for Pre-combustion Enhancement of SynGas and Solid Residue Improvement</td>
<td>$1,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Emerson</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Transcriptional Regulation of Cone Photoreceptor Genesis</td>
<td>$426,238.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Fry</td>
<td>Community Health &amp; Social Medicine</td>
<td>Estimating the Impact of a Multilevel, Multicomponent Intervention to Increase Uptake of HIV Testing and Biomedical HIV Prevention among African-American/Black Gay, Bisexual and Same-gender Loving Men</td>
<td>$732,984.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jorge Gonzalez</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>CRASSP-EC: City College Initiative to Promote the Academic Success of Students - Experimental Learning and Industry Engagement for Workforce Readiness</td>
<td>$1,599,286.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Gunner</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Studies of Photosynthetic Reaction Center and Biomimetic Systems</td>
<td>$251,029.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen Hubbard</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>1/2 CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research, Education and Community Outreach</td>
<td>$1,517,001.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anuradha Janakiraman</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Maintenance of Escherichia Coli Cell Envelope Integrity Under Stress</td>
<td>$997,716.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yuri Job</td>
<td>Provost Operations</td>
<td>Upward Bound</td>
<td>$378,856.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masahiro Kawaji</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>PRE Investigation of Multi-Scale, Multi-Phase Phenomena in Complex Fluids for the Energy Industries</td>
<td>$1,091,127.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Khanievich</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>Topological Phononics for Robust Light-Matter Interactions</td>
<td>$271,411.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reza Khayati</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mechanism of Membrane Fusion Involving the Gram-Negative Bacteria Outer Membrane</td>
<td>$378,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taesun Lee</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>Nuclear Energy Fellowship Program at City College of New York and Hunter College</td>
<td>$399,168.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhenghao Luo</td>
<td>Earth &amp; Environment Science</td>
<td>A Unified Cloud-Defined Weather State Database for Process-Resolving Data Analysis and Model Evaluation</td>
<td>$314,788.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anika Lüder</td>
<td>OIACER</td>
<td>Child Care Access Means Parents in School</td>
<td>$593,309.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Martin</td>
<td>Molecular, Cellular Sciences</td>
<td>Lesion and Activity Dependent Corticospinal Tract Plasticity</td>
<td>$286,391.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vishal Mehta</td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Strain Engineering of Exciton-Polaritons in 2D Semiconductors</td>
<td>$449,997.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Messinger</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>19-MRROG-0007, NASA-CCNY Center for Advanced Batteries for Space Missions</td>
<td>$998,541.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renata Miller</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Building Partnerships with Cultural Institutions to Study and Preserve New York City’s Black and Latinx Cultural Heritage</td>
<td>$498,175.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fred Moshary</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>CSC-Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies - ESSRST</td>
<td>$1,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP (CONTINUED)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hyssil Oviedo</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Development of Hemispheric Specializations During Auditory Cortex Critical Periods</td>
<td>$308,462.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas Parra</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Research on the Role of Attention in Improving Video-Based Learning</td>
<td>$842,488.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Romanov</td>
<td>NOAA-CREST Center</td>
<td>A New Global 4-km Multi-Diacle/Snow Cover Extent/Snow Water Equivalent/ Snow Depth Dataset from Blended In-situ and Satellite Observations</td>
<td>$217,666.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitchell Schaeffer</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Structural, Molecular and Functional Specialization in Osteocyte Mechanosensing</td>
<td>$628,236.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Soliman</td>
<td>Community Health &amp; Social Medicine</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CESEP)</td>
<td>$280,368.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Stark</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>MRI Acquisition of Advanced Solid-State NMR Instrumentation to Investigate Novel Biological and Engineered Materials at CCNY</td>
<td>$833,284.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Tamargo</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Phase II CREST Center for Interface Design and Engineered Assembly of Low-dimensional Systems (IDEALS II)</td>
<td>$5,000,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzalo Torres</td>
<td>Molecular, Cellular Sciences</td>
<td>Center for Underrepresented Research in Addiction (CURA)</td>
<td>$268,218.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byun Vuong</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity Scholars</td>
<td>$268,218.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marla Toetzlou</td>
<td>Earth &amp; Environment Science</td>
<td>Arctic Deltas and Coastal Margins as Buffers and Transformers of Carbon Along a Rapidly Changing Land-Ocean Continuum</td>
<td>$327,120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosemarie D. Wessos</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>Game Theory and Real Time Artificial Intelligence for Knowledgeable Electronic Warfare (GRANGE)</td>
<td>$255,644.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan Williams</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Integrating Real-Time Multi-System Cytokine Signaling in Chronic Disease</td>
<td>$392,500.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex Giglser</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering</td>
<td>CISESS: CCNY-Validation of Ocean Color VIBRIS SNTP and VIBRIS NOAA-20 Satellite Sensors on the Coastal LISCO AERONET Site and in Ocean Cruises</td>
<td>$450,679.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STATE SPONSORSHIP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Project Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greskin</td>
<td>Provost Operations</td>
<td>$495,432.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tatyana Kley</td>
<td>CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY 1IE)</td>
<td>$2,753,156.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millicent Ruth</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>$450,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RESEARCH AND TRAINING GRANTS MAY REPRESENT MULTIPLE AWARDS FROM VARIOUS AGENCIES. THIS IS A PARTIAL LIST OF ALL ACTIVE AWARDS MANAGED BY THE GSP OFFICE. TOTAL FUNDS MANAGED FOR FY22 IS: $72,918,958.67

### SPONSOR | PROJECT COUNT | BUDGET AMOUNT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$15,232,517.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>$36,433,928.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>$17,053,547.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$4,198,954.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>$72,918,958.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL AWARDS REFLECTED, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.CCNY.CUNY.EDU/GIVING
The Division of Science is one of several national recipients of a Research and Mentoring for Post-baccalaureates in Biological Sciences program grant from the National Science Foundation. The four-year $2,999,169 award went to a team led by Distinguished Professor and Director, CUNY Institute for Macromolecular Assemblies Ruth E. Stark and Professor David Jeruzalmi. It enables CCNY to establish a regional network to support full-time research, mentoring, and professional training for recent college graduates who have had few or no research or training opportunities during college in research fields typically supported by the NSF’s Directorate of Biological Sciences.

CCNY’s winning RAmp proposal, "On-Ramp to the Molecular Machine Shop: Postbaccalaureate Training in Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Biodesign," enables growth of a globally competitive and diverse research workforce and build up our nation’s innovative scientific skills, advancing a strategic objective of the NSF. The proposal devised strong evidence-based and inclusive mentorship programs that will advance the goal of creating a competitive and highly representative science, technology, engineering, and mathematics workforce in the U.S. Transitions into the STEM workforce could include pathways into research-focused M.S. or Ph.D. programs, industry, federal or state agencies, education and research centers, and other STEM-empowered careers.

Individuals from groups underrepresented in STEM, first generation college students, and students at under-resourced institutions frequently have limited opportunities to participate in the undergraduate research experiences that are necessary to be competitive for graduate programs or other STEM career pathways. This situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, further slowing efforts to ensure diversity and inclusion in these fields. CCNY’s proposal will provide postbaccalaureate research experiences for three cohorts of trainees, either in ongoing research programs and existing networks, or in new research projects designed specifically for the RAmp network.

It follows a $3 million NSF Research Training grant awarded recently to the CCNY-based CUNY Advanced Science Research Center to launch Nanoscience Connected to Life, an initiative that will increase the training of diverse Ph.D. students for careers that integrate aspects of life sciences with nanoscience. Stark and Professor Stephen O’Brien are two of that project’s four Co-Principal Investigators (PIs): the PI is Rein Ulijn, Director of the ARC’s Nanoscience Initiative under the umbrella of the CCNY Graduate Center. This five-year $3 million grant encompasses seven CUNY campuses. In addition to Stark and O’Brien, other CCNY core participants include Physics Professor Ronald Koder.

The mission to train diverse Ph.D. students for careers that integrate aspects of life sciences with nanoscience is connected to Understanding the Rules of Life (one of 10 NSF "big ideas"). The program will promote the investigation, understanding, directing and repurposing of biological concepts to improve human and environmental well-being through nanoscience. It will provide CCNY Graduate Center students who are enrolled in biochemistry, chemistry, and physics Ph.D. programs and conducting bio-nanotechnology research with stipends, research training, mentorship, and professional-development internships at industry and government labs.

The Nanoscience Connected to Life training program will expand research in bio-nanotechnology by providing direct funding to 25 Ph.D. students and by involving an additional 125 biochemistry, chemistry, and physics students in its events and opportunities. The trainees will benefit from dissertation research mentoring by faculty from multiple disciplines, helping students gain experience in interdisciplinary and team-based research. Cross-disciplinary teams will collaborate to address urgent societal challenges related to environmental instabilities and health crises.

This exciting project will comprehensively upgrade our research infrastructure for solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (ssNMR) spectroscopy, resulting in new state-of-the-art capabilities at City College that will enable us to unravel the molecular mysteries of complicated natural and engineered materials," said Robert J. Messinger, project co-leader, chemical engineering assistant professor, and director of the NASA-CCNY Center for Advanced Batteries for Space in the Grove School.

Highlights of the project titled "MRI: Acquisition of Advanced Solid-State NMR Instrumentation to Investigate Novel Biological & Engineered Materials at CCNY" include:

- An advanced Bruker AVANCE NEO solid-state NMR console, resulting in a comprehensive upgrade to the existing Varian/Agilent electronic console interfaced to the existing 14.1 T NMR magnet.
- A high-gradient broadband probe for pulsed-field-gradient NMR measurements to quantify diffusion coefficients of slow-diffusing and/or fast-relaxing species.
- Three re-engineered triple resonance magic-angle spinning (MAS) NMR probes for characterization of the molecular architectures of biopolymers, proteins, and engineered materials.

Project co-leader Ruth E. Stark, who directs CUNY’s Institute for Macromolecular Assemblies and is a CUNY distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry in the Division of Science, said, "This project includes educational and outreach activities to share technical expertise, seed partnerships, and disseminate our scientific advances, both within the Metro New York solid-state NMR community and more broadly to our peers in science and engineering."

The National Science Foundation is funding a new endeavor to bring atomic-level precision to the devices and technologies that underpin much of modern life, and will transform fields like information technology in the decades to come. The five-year, $25 million Science and Technology Center grant will be used to found the Center for Integration of Modern Optoelectronic Materials on Demand (IMOD)—a collaboration of scientists and engineers at 11 universities led by the University of Washington. The City College of New York is a partner.

IMOD research will center on new semiconductor materials and scalable manufacturing processes for new optoelectronic devices for applications ranging from displays and sensors to a technological revolution, under development today, that’s based on harnessing the principles of quantum mechanics.

Optoelectronics is a field that enables much of modern information technology, clean energy, sensing and security. Optoelectronic devices are driven by the interaction of light with electronic materials, typically semiconductors. Devices based on optoelectronics include light-emitting diodes, semiconductor lasers, image sensors and the building blocks of quantum communication and computing technologies such as single-photon sources. Their applications today include sensors, displays and data transmission, and optoelectronics is poised to play a critical role in the development of quantum information systems.

"It’s exciting to be part of this Center which brings together world renowned experts in nanoscience, photonics and quantum devices," said Chair of Physics Vinod Menon with the Division of Science. "Menon, whose pioneering research in light-matter interaction at the nanoscale level has advanced the field of photonics, is one of the experts tapped to participate in IMOD."
The Alzheimer’s Foundation of America Awards $250K Grant for Research Led by Biologist Li

Alzheimer’s disease (a form of Alzheimer’s disease which is linked to genes and affects at least two generations of a family), suggesting that disruption of APP can lead to Alzheimer’s disease. The APP gene family is essential for viability in mammals, but its function is unclear. Mutations in the genes for APP and in the enzymes that interact with APP have been found in familial Alzheimer’s disease (a form of Alzheimer’s disease which is linked to genes and affects at least two generations of a family), suggesting that disruption of APP can lead to Alzheimer’s disease. “CCNY’s research has the potential to unlock some of the mysteries surrounding Alzheimer’s disease and hopefully facilitate new treatments, which would be a game-changer in the fight against Alzheimer’s. AFA is proud to support their efforts,” said AFA President and CEO Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.

“We are immensely grateful to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America and its donors for their support of our research,” said Li.

$1.5M NSF Grant Funds New Sustainable Tech Research Center

City College is partnering with the University of Colorado Boulder in an innovative National Science Foundation-funded research center for sustainable building technology. A $1.5 million NSF grant, matched by industry associates for a minimum of $3 million over five years, will establish the Building Energy Smart Technologies Center in Boulder.

BEST’s mission will be to advance sustainable buildings and cities ranging from HVAC manufacturing, to smart glazing for windows, smart building controls, advanced insulation materials, new energy storage systems, and improved air quality systems. It will also seek to promote the integration of renewables such as solar systems.

The project aims to identify the role that APP plays in brain health and Alzheimer’s disease using the C. elegans model system. This research can then be translated into discoveries in mammals that could potentially lead to the development of new medications to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

“The APP gene family is essential for viability in mammals, but its function is unclear. Mutations in the genes for APP and in the enzymes that interact with APP have been found in familial Alzheimer’s disease (a form of Alzheimer’s disease which is linked to genes and affects at least two generations of a family), suggesting that disruption of APP can lead to Alzheimer’s disease.

“CCNY’s research has the potential to unlock some of the mysteries surrounding Alzheimer’s disease and hopefully facilitate new treatments, which would be a game-changer in the fight against Alzheimer’s. AFA is proud to support their efforts,” said AFA President and CEO Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr.

“We are immensely grateful to the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America and its donors for their support of our research,” said Li.

$1.5M NIH Grant Creates Manhattan-Bridge for REM Science Students

The City College of New York is the recipient of a $1.5 million National Institutes of Health grant to boost the number of racial/ethnic minority students in biomedical and behavioral sciences research. The funding will support a five-year project, Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program, or “Manhattan-Bridge,” whose goal is to bridge the path for students in those fields transferring from the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

The other two co-leaders on the project are BMCC Science Professor Alexander Gosslau and CCNY Psychology Professor Lesia M. Ruglass, Hawai Kwok is Manhattan-Bridge’s program director.

Manhattan-Bridge program will help CCUNY students enter biomedical and behavioral sciences research using a coordinated system of faculty mentoring, peer mentoring, peer support, diversity training, STEM coursework, laboratory training, tutoring, and supplemental instruction to address and overcome the obstacles known to impede students from success in completing their bachelor’s degrees and launching their careers in biomedical fields.

Manhattan-Bridge expands on a highly successful CCUNY onboarding program—aptly named Student Success—developed in the Psychology Department in 2016 to improve the retention of transferring community college students. It provided students in their first semester with course credit for weekly in-class meetings to address and overcome obstacles to success. This included discussion of empirical and theoretical papers, peer support and mentoring, awareness of campus resources, and networking practices.

The latest grant is in partnership with New Visions for Public Schools, was in 2016 and totaled more than $2.6 million. It evokes the Seal of Biliteracy, a NYS award given by schools in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in more than one language by high school graduation.

B-SEAL will provide teachers the opportunity to earn New York State certification, in either TESOL or a Bilingual Extension, free of charge.

The two bilingual education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages experts in the School of Education.

Nancy Stern and Tatyana Kleyne Receive $3M to Serve Needs of Multilingual Students

From left: Educators Tatyana Kleyne and Nancy Stern.

A new $3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of English Language Acquisition to CCNY Associate Professors Nancy Stern and Tatyana Kleyne continues their mission to advance the preparation of teachers to serve the needs of multilingual students in New York City. The funding brings to more than $5.5 million in OELA support since 2016 to the two bilingual education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages experts in the School of Education.

Their project, entitled Building Secondary English Learner Educator for Multilingual Learners, will prepare school-based teams of middle and high school teachers, along with an administrator from each school, to support the academic and socioemotional needs of multilingual learners. B-SEAL also evokes the Seal of Biliteracy, a NYS award given by schools in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in more than one language by high school graduation. B-SEAL will provide teachers the opportunity to earn New York State certification, in either TESOL or a Bilingual Extension, free of charge.

The latest grant is in partnership with New Visions for Public Schools. The Multilingual Learner Project, Stern and Kleyne’s first OELA grant, also in partnership with New Visions for Public Schools, was in 2016 and totaled more than $2.6 million. It enabled them to prepare certified subject-area high school teachers in NYC to better support their students. Some 80 teachers completed CCNY courses to earn New York State TESOL certification through MLP while participating in an extensive year-long professional development and coaching program.
NIH Awards Ryan Williams $2M to Engineer Nanosensor

In a boost for the development of nanomedicines to study and diagnose inflammatory diseases, biomedical engineer Ryan M. Williams is the recipient of a $1.96 million grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a division of the National Institute of Health.

The funding, over five years, is part of the Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award for Early Stage Investigators (MIRA ESI) program that supports the nation’s most highly talented and promising young investigators. Williams’ award is titled: “Investigating real-time multi-system cytokine signaling in chronic disease.”

“The main goals of the grant are to engineer implantable novel fluorescent nanosensors to be used as tools to study pro-inflammatory proteins (cytokines) in chronic diseases, such as cardiovascular development, hypertension, cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s,” said Williams.

An assistant professor in the Grove School of Engineering, Williams will work with his biomedical engineering colleague Professor Steven Niclo, whose lab is collaborating in the design of the implantable nanosensors.

Research will also take place in The Williams Immune Nanomedicine Lab whose mission is to design and translate nanomedicines relating to targets in inflammatory diseases. Specifically, it is developing kidney-targeted polymeric nanoparticles as therapeutic tools for renal diseases, and implantable optical nanosensor devices as diagnostic and research tools for cancer and other inflammation-driven diseases.

New Center For Advancing Medical Technologies Wins $750K EDA Grant

A unique City College of New York venture to develop medical technologies and create STEM jobs for the Greater Harlem community is closer to fruition with the receipt of a $750,000 “Build to Scale” grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. The proposed Center for Co-Innovation and Medical Technology (CCMT) was among those selected for funding in the competitive Build to Scale Venture Challenge category from more than 225 proposals. All aim to further technology-based economic development initiatives that accelerate high-quality job growth, create economic opportunity, and support the next generation of industry-leading companies.

In addition to the federal grant, CCMT will receive $750,000 in local matching funds from City College and a philanthropic donor.

CCMT builds on City College’s successful Master’s in Translational Medicine program, jointly housed in the Grove School of Engineering and the CUNY School of Medicine at CCNY, whose mission is to educate the next generation of leaders in medical technology innovation.

The new center will bring together medical technologies being created by CCNY researchers and their partners, with workers being trained by the MTM to form a new medical technology accelerator. “CCMT will develop products that are responsive to the needs of the surrounding underserved community by drawing on the substantial capacity for research and innovation at CCNY,” said Andrew Wooten, senior director of innovation management and business development in the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications.

He added that using a co-innovation consortium model, CCMT will address a gap in the region’s development in the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications.

Elite $1M HFSP Grant for Bone Mineral Transport Research

Alessandra Carriero, assistant professor of biomedical engineering in the Grove School of Engineering, is the recipient of more than $1 million from the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) — one of 28 grants awarded for top class research after a rigorous year-long global selection process. The funding will support her study of the role of bone cellular and subcellular porosity in calcium homeostasis.

Carriero heads the City College arm of a three-year international grant awarded from the HFSP, which promotes new intercontinental collaborations in risky, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research focused on elucidating the complex mechanisms of living organisms. The research program is highly competitive and only the top four percent of all HFSP grant applications were funded this year.

“The grant will allow us to investigate the role of the bone cellular and sub-cellular porosity network on its mineral transport. This knowledge may revolutionize the way we conceive bone physiology and eventually transform treatment strategies promoting bone health,” said Carriero.

Carriero’s collaborators include Kathryn Grandfield at MacMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, and Aurelien Gourrier at CNRS, Université Grenoble Alpes in France.

Grandfield is using a plasma focused-ion beam microscope to identify the cell network and the smaller pore network. These images will then be used by Carriero’s team to develop a computational model of fluid flow within bone to determine whether the osteocyte network alone can account for the massive change in bone minerals, or whether a subcellular network plays a role in this process. In France, Gourrier will apply artificial intelligence and machine learning to compare local bone architecture acquired at high resolution with an electron microscope by Grandfield’s team to large portions of bone collected with an optical microscope by his group at Grenoble. They will analyze the porosity network characteristics at its multiscale and determine the parameters to consider as a function of mineralization.

“Our collaborative work will provide a level of understanding of fluid transport in bone never achieved before, critical for calcium exchange and homeostasis,” said Carriero. “Our research may change paradigms of how we currently know bone functions.”

Brittle Bone Birth Cure Possible with NIH Grant

Among the remaining incurable conditions that affect children is osteogenesis imperfecta or brittle bone disease, a genetic bone disorder that is present at birth. Biomedical Engineering Assistant Professor Alessandra Carriero is engaged in a groundbreaking study on improving treatment for children with this rare disease that is characterized by fragile bones that break easily.

Carriero’s research in the Grove School of Engineering is supported by a two-year $419,606 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) through its Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

According to Carriero, the “high-risk high-growth” grant is enabling her and her Italian collaborators in Dr. Antonella Farlin’s lab at the University of Pavia, to study novel bone-targeted specific pharmacological treatment for osteogenesis imperfecta using zeolithic models of the disease.

Osteogenesis imperfecta is caused by defective genes. These genes affect how the body makes collagen, a protein that helps toughen bones. The condition can be mild, with only a few fractures during a person’s lifetime. In more severe cases, it can involve hundreds of fractures that occur without any apparent cause.

Currently, treatment for osteogenesis imperfecta involves five years of which fewer than 20,000 cases are reported in the United States every year, include bone-strengthening medical therapies, physical therapy, and orthopedic surgery.

“These children get extremely disabled as their disease is due to modification of collagen — the most abundant protein in our body,” said Carriero. “With this NIH grant we will investigate the efficacy of a novel 4-phenyl butyrate, a bivalent drug to reduce endoplasmic reticulum stress and improve bone-related genes in cells thus improving bone quality. We will also examine the ability of a synthetic collagen-bone hybridizing peptide as a carrier to deliver the drug directly to the bone cells. This therapy may transform treatment strategies for bone fragility in brittle bone disease.”

Elite $1M HFSP Grant for Bone Mineral Transport Research
GRANTS: SCIENTIST MARIO TAMARGO EARNS ACCOLADE AND GRANT

FY2021-2022 PRESIDENT’S ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS

SACNAS Distinguished Scientist Award

Maria C. Tamargo, professor of chemistry and a recent member of the National Academy of Engineering, is the 2021 SACNAS Distinguished Scientist Award recipient.

Tamargo is cited by the Society for Advancement of Chicano/Hispanic and Native Americans in Science for exemplifying its mission by showing unparalleled dedication to excellence in science, mentoring, and teaching. She was honored at the 2021 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Digital Conference in October 2021.

Since the SACNAS Distinguished Awards program was initiated in 1997, the Society has honored over 80 scientists, educators, and program directors for their commitment to and personalization of the spirit of the SACNAS mission: to foster the success of Chicano/Hispanic and Native American scientists, from college students to professionals, in obtaining advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership in STEM.

“It is a great honor to be recognized by a distinguished society such as SACNAS,” said Tamargo. “This recognition will enable me to connect to a much wider audience for promoting and supporting the participation of young scholars and students from underrepresented groups in the fields of STEM. I hope to be able to contribute to the mission of this wonderful and dynamic organization.”

The SACNAS award comes a year after Tamargo, whose affiliation includes the Graduate Center, CUNY, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. She was recognized for forging the way toward an inclusive science and engineering research community and for contributions to molecular-beam epitaxy of semiconductor materials.

Maria Tamargo obtained a BS in chemistry at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez in 1982. She earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Johns Hopkins University. She worked for AT&T Bell Labs, in later Bellcore, where she began her research in epitaxial growth of compound semiconductors for applications in photonic devices. At Bellcore, she established a research program on the Microcavity Beam-Epilayer of graded bandgap II-VI compounds, with emphasis on the development of visible light emitters. She moved her MBE research effort to CCNY in 1992, where she conducts research and makes crucial advances in the innovative and groundbreaking research being conducted by our team, and make long-lasting inroads towards diversity and inclusivity in the STEM professions,” said Maria Tamargo, CREST Center IDEALS Director/Principal Investigator and professor in CCNY’s Division of Science.

CCNY CREST works with outside institutions including Lehman College, the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, and Virginia Tech to build collaborations and share research and recruit students.

“It is incredibly important for everyone to make the STEM professions more inclusive. We never know where the new life-changing discoveries will come from,” said Tamargo.

The CREST Center is currently conducting research in three major areas of materials science: materials sensing and quantum computing, bio-inspired materials for biomedical and energy applications, and novel analytical methods and novel materials. The aim of the new grant is to continue to make crucial advances in the growth of nanostructures of II-VI and III-V semiconductors. She also investigates a class of materials known as topological insulators, which have important applications in spintronics and quantum computing.

Tamargo has published more than 300 papers, several book chapters, and is the editor of the book: “II-VI Semiconductor Materials and Their Applications.” She chaired the National American Conference on MBE (2009) and the International Conference on II-VI Semiconductors (2003). Tamargo’s other honors include: the Marshall Award in Chemical Physics; the North American Conference on MBE in 2017. She is also a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

City College of New York’s CREST Center for Interface Design and Engineered Assembly of Low Dimensional Systems is the recipient of a $5 million Phase 2 grant from the National Science Foundation. The funding is from the NSF’s Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology program that is devoted to enhancing the research capabilities of minority-serving institutions.

Since 2016, CCREST’s mission has been to design, discover, and explore new and improved materials, while recruiting, training, and inspiring students from diverse backgrounds.

“This is an exciting opportunity to build on our accomplishments from Phase 1 of the new grant,” said Francisco A. Fernandez, the principal investigator in the Shen Group for the advancement of nanotechnology. “The new grant will provide support for a second phase, which will build on and grow the Center’s research and recruitment goals for the next five years.

Tamargo hopes that in this second phase, the center will increase its faculty involvement, continue to prepare its students for professional and academic careers, and diversify the CCNY faculty through recruiting post-doctoral fellows.

“This project is a large team effort shared with my colleagues Professors Swapan Ganguly, Lia Vlasses, Ilona Kretzschmar, and Gustavo Lopez, and about 20 more faculty researchers from several CUNY campuses and beyond CCNY,” added Tamargo.

NSF CCNY CREST Center for IDEALS Receives $5M

Mayor Bill de Blasio announced today that the National Science Foundation has awarded the City College of New York ($5.2 million) and the State University of New York at Stony Brook ($0.2 million) a five-year grant to create two new Experiential Learning Programs in Materials Science.

The funding, which also establishes an endowment for the CCNY Makerspace, brings close to $10 million in DOE investment over the past two years in experiential learning at City College.

Experimental learning in the sciences and engineering at The City College of New York is set for a significant expansion encompassing several CUNY community colleges and 77 other institutions.

Experimental learning is an engaged learning process wherein students “learn by doing” and by reflecting on the experience. It provides opportunities for students to engage intellectually, creatively, emotionally, socially, or physically. The Makerspace is a hub for training students in prototyping, assembly, testing, and debugging of devices and systems. The space is open to all CCNY students, staff, and faculty.

“This is new DOE funding that allows us to expand what we have been doing in infusing experimental learning for our students,” said Jorge E. González, presidential professor in the Grove School of Engineering. “Our new goal is to target all STEM students early in their careers and maximize use of existing and new facilities such as Makerspace for project-based learning, while engaging industry and employers in the process.”

Phase 1 of the center began in 2016 with a similar NSF grant. This new grant will provide support for a second phase, which will build on and grow the Center’s research and recruitment goals for the next five years.

What changes, González added, is that CCNY is partnering with LaSalle University and the Borough of Manhattan Community College to target transfer STEM students as well as students in community college, and not necessarily once they transfer to CCNY. “This provides continuity to all our STEM population, close to 50 percent of whom originate in a community college,” he added.

In addition to González, other key participants in the project at City College include: Associate Provost Doris Conron; Herbert G. Kaysor Professor of Mechanical Engineering Feridun Delale; Allison J. Conway, civil engineering; scientists Millicent Roth; David Schung, chemistry; students Karin A. Block, earth and atmospheric science; Program Administrator Christa Banks Calderon; and Makerspace Director Mohamed Haroun.

$5M DOE Grant Boosts CCNY Experiential Learning Program and Endows Makerspace

As part of City College of New York’s efforts to provide students in the STEM fields with hands-on learning experiences, the City College of New York has received a $5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The Foundation for City College, Inc. is also a partner in the project.

The funding, which also establishes an endowment for the CCNY Makerspace, brings close to $10 million in DOE investment over the past two years in experiential learning at City College.

The funding, which also establishes an endowment for the CCNY Makerspace, brings close to $10 million in DOE investment over the past two years in experiential learning at City College.

“We thank the DOE for recognizing the importance of providing hands-on learning experiences for our students. We are deeply grateful and truly excited at what this support will allow us to accomplish,” said Jorge E. González, presidential professor in the Grove School of Engineering. “Our new goal is to target all STEM students early in their careers and maximize use of existing and new facilities such as Makerspace for project-based learning, while engaging industry and employers in the process.”

What changes, González added, is that CCNY is partnering with LaSalle University and the Borough of Manhattan Community College to target transfer STEM students as well as students in community college, and not necessarily once they transfer to CCNY. “This provides continuity to all our STEM population, close to 50 percent of whom originate in a community college,” he added.

In addition to González, other key participants in the project at City College include: Associate Provost Doris Conron; Herbert G. Kaysor Professor of Mechanical Engineering Feridun Delale; Allison J. Conway, civil engineering; scientists Millicent Roth; David Schung, chemistry; students Karin A. Block, earth and atmospheric science; Program Administrator Christa Banks Calderon; and Makerspace Director Mohamed Haroun.

Entrepreneurial Skills a LaunchPad to Success

Cathalina López, an environmental engineering graduate student in CCNY’s Makerspace.

The Colin Powell School’s new course focuses on social equity and entrepreneurship, engages students to solve real world problems through project work supported by mentors—with a background in finance, marketing, capital markets, nonprofits and entrepreneurship—who provide insight to the scope of their operations and expertise. 

A grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation has allowed CCNY to partner with the Blackstone LaunchPad Program, the goals of which are to make entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills accessible and relevant to students, and to help them build thriving companies and careers. The partnership will expand and strengthen three initiatives, already underway, through intense mentorship, community engagement and hands-on entrepreneurship.

The initiatives will include the Zahn Innovation Center at CCNY, the new Center for Innovation in Medical Technology—which builds on the existing Master’s in Translational Medicine, and a new course in social equity that the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership has developed for the spring 2021 semester.

“In making this grant, Blackstone clearly recognizes that a lot of entrepreneurship and innovation work on campuses like ours tend towards balkanization, because they often derive from the grant making efforts of individuals who are unconnected to one another,” said President Vincent Boudreau. “CCNY has many generously funded initiatives, but we’ve lacked the means to pull them together into a true innovation ecosystem. Blackstone gives us the support, and the impetus, to undertake that coordination work, and I expect our innovation activity to truly take off in consequence. We are deeply grateful and truly excited at what this support will allow us to accomplish.”

The Colin Powell School’s new course focuses on social equity and entrepreneurship, engages students to solve real world problems through project work supported by mentors—with a background in finance, marketing, capital markets, nonprofits and entrepreneurship—who provide insight to the scope of their operations and expertise.
June Williamson Co-authors Award Winning Book


Presented by the Environmental Design Research Association, in partnership with Project for Public Spaces, the Great Places Awards uniquely recognize work that combines expertise in design, research, and practice, and contributes to the creation of dynamic, humane places that capture the public imagination. These projects reflect an interdisciplinary approach that is enduring, human-centered, sustainable, and concerned with the experiential relationship between people and their environment (built and natural) over time.

In selecting "Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia," co-written by Williamson and Georgia Tech urban design program director Ellen Dunham-Jones, the book award jury cited the impressive range of problem identification and geographic distribution within the extensive list of relevant case studies. "This research is a solid follower of the authors’ first book, Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs, and offers indispensable approaches for an interdisciplinary design audience," said the jurors.

The book features dozens of newly documented case studies describing how suburban places and suburban placemaking strategies are being retrofitted to address the most urgent challenges of today.

Based on decades of tracking changes to suburban form in a unique database, "Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia" spells out newly emergent challenges and what urban designers can do to address them: disrupt automobile dependence; improve public health; support an aging population; leverage social capital for equity; compete for jobs; and add water and energy resilience.

$2.4M Energy Grant Awarded to Bolhassani Team

Assistant Professor Mohammad Bolhassani is a member of a team selected to receive $2.4 million in funding from the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy of the U.S. Department of Energy. The objective of the research project, part of HESTIA (Harnessing Emissions into Structures Taking Input from the Atmosphere), is to investigate technologies for the transformation of traditional structures into net carbon storage structures. This is to mirror President Biden’s plan to reach zero emissions by 2050 and increase the total amount of carbon stored in buildings to create carbon sinks, which absorb more carbon from the atmosphere than released during the construction process.

CCNY, in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, Texas A&M University, architecture firm Kieran Timberlake, and Sika Switzerland will design a carbon-negative, medium-sized building structure by developing a high-performance floor system with maximized surface area for carbon absorption, using a novel carbon-absorbing concrete mixture as building material, 3D printing the parts with a novel concrete mixture and additional bio-based carbon-storing materials.

"The right geometry produces the efficiency of the structures by reducing the amount of material—concrete, in this case—used, and consequently carbon emissions," said Bolhassani, director of the Advanced Masonry Center at the Spitzer School of Architecture. "Coupling the right form of structure and material will also help to absorb more carbon from the atmosphere."

Professor Mohammad Bolhassani Decodes Da Vinci’s Bridge Design

Architecture student Ahmed Helal examines a scale model of Leonardo Da Vinci’s unbuilt Galata bridge.

For centuries, experts have pondered over one of Leonardo Da Vinci’s most intriguing and yet unconsummated projects: the Galata bridge whose double-curvature arch design, circa 1502-1503, was so futuristic it was rejected as risky.

Enter Mohammad Bolhassani, Spitzer School of Architecture assistant professor and masonry structures specialist. While MIT researchers have proven the structural feasibility of the design, Bolhassani and his team attempt—more than 500 years later—to deconstruct the great inventor and artist’s mind in designing what, at 240 meters (790 feet), would have been the world’s longest bridge then. Their research yields unique findings.

Did the Renaissance polymath have uncanny knowledge of creating stable and efficient forms, knowledge only recently developed using a computational framework based on the principle of geometrical equilibrium in 3D? Was his sketch of the bridge drawn free hand, something he had done in seconds, or did Da Vinci possess an intuition more than five centuries ahead of his time?

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

Da Vinci’s double-curvature arch design was a radical departure from the semi-circular arches that were conventional for bridges then. He described his planned bridge as being as tall as a building so that it would have allowed ships to sail underneath it without obstruction.

Commissioned by an Ottoman Sultan, the bridge would have connected Istanbul to the neighboring city of Galata. The Ottoman Emperor ultimately rejected Da Vinci’s design, calling it a “risky endeavor!”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”

"Although most historians believe he had no mathematical or geometrical calculation in his design, our study proves otherwise!" said Bolhassani. "Through rigorous analysis of Da Vinci’s design, we have found that he had intuitively drawn his sketch according to the principles of geometric design that was developed in 2D almost 400 years after his time and just recently in a three-dimensional manner with the help of computational frameworks.”
Study of Psychosocial Treatments for Black Cocaine Users

Lesia M. Ruglass and Adriana Espinosa.

Among a national opioid overdose crisis that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates cost nearly 50,000 lives in 2019, The City College of New York and its partners are embarking on a study to evaluate the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatments for Black people who use cocaine. Hailed as innovative, the two-year project is supported by a $334,300 grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse Clinical Trials Network for Drug Abuse Treatment.

Lesia M. Ruglass and Adriana Espinosa, professors in the Department of Psychology, are co-principal investigator (co-PI) and co-investigator (co-I), respectively, of the project entitled, “Integrated Data Analysis of CTN Studies to Examine the Impact of Psychosocial Treatments for Black People who Use Cocaine.”

CCNY’s partners include the University of Cincinnati (co-PI: Ann Kathleen Burlew, Ph.D.), Yale University (co-I: Angela Haeny, Ph.D.), NYU (co-I: Ayana Jordan, MD, Ph.D.), and RTI International (co-I: Antonio A. Morgan-Lopez, Ph.D.), with four designated CTN nodes for feedback—Western States, New England, New York, and Ohio Valley.

In their funding proposal to NINDA, the partners noted that recent reports reveal that the acceleration of opioid-involved overdose deaths for Black people now outpace that of white people. This increase is at least partly attributable to the presence of synthetic opioids (fentanyl) in the cocaine supply in approximately one third of opioid overdose deaths. The CTN provides a unique but underexplored collection of studies that can improve knowledge on effective psychosocial treatments for Black people who use cocaine.

The study will combine data from seven CTN treatment studies that in combination will yield on effective psychosocial treatments for Black people who use cocaine.

The 12 most promising students from each cohort will help change that. We look forward to deepening financial and societal constraints. Santander’s investment needed to tackle society’s challenges, to be tomorrow’s leaders” said Colin Powell School Dean Andrew Rich. “The Santander Fellows program launched in September 2021, Santander Finance Boot Camp is an intensive, credit-bearing experiential education program, created the Santander Fellows program and Santander Bank, N.A., through its Santander Universities Leadership in Finance.

Santander Bank Partners to Create Diverse Leaders in Finance

A partnership between the Colin Powell School and Santander Bank, N.A., through its Santander Fellows program, created the Santander Finance Boot Camp and the Santander Fellows program launched in September 2021.

The three-year, $300,000 initiative, fully supported by Santander, is designed to prepare students for careers in banking and finance by providing them with the tools they need to apply for analyst and internship experiences in their junior years. The initiative will also contribute to the diversification of the financial sector by supplying it with historically underrepresented groups, including racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, and first-generation students.

“First, the results will be critical in clarifying which types of treatments are most beneficial for various subgroups of Black people who use cocaine, and the social-contextual factors that influence treatment outcomes,” said Ruglass.

Next, “The proposed project will contribute substantially to the information available to providers searching for the most appropriate treatments for Black people who use cocaine,” said Burlew.

Third, it will contribute to the training of early career investigators from underrepresented groups through linkage with the Learning for Early Careers in Addiction & Diversity program at the University of California—San Francisco.
Launch of LGBTQ+ Student Center

CCNY’s LGBTQ+ Student Center was launched in September 2021, with support and guidance from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. Planning efforts for the Center began in the summer of 2021, with a series of student and faculty/staff town halls.

Jake Nill ‘19, a graduate of the Colin Powell School, is the Center’s inaugural program coordinator.

“We’re open to all ideas, connections, and collaborations in a way that we are not afraid to try something new or make mistakes along the way,” he said. “There are so many LGBTQ+ students, staff, faculty and allies that we have connected with in our first year of operation which includes many familiar faces from my time as a student and several new folks. There are so many more people within CCNY who can both contribute to and benefit from the LGBTQ+ Student Center.”

Hill majored in political science and minored in both community change studies, and women and gender studies. He also earned an M.A. in urban affairs from Queens College. His thesis, “Hidden Rainbows: The Starting Point in Contextualizing and Articulating the Demands of NYC’s LGBTQ+ Homeless and Street-Involves Youths,” was a call-to-action toolkit for New York City’s elected officials to understand and act upon issues affecting the studied population. Throughout his academic career, Jake interned with Queerocracy at VOCAL-NY, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights: Young Leaders and the Hetrick-Martin Institute.

Meet the New Members of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors

This past November, Linda Powell stepped into the role of chair of the Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors, following the untimely death of her father, Gen. Colin Powell. Powell began her relationship with City College serving alongside Gen. Powell in the early days of the Colin Powell Center, and she has been a member since the School’s founding. As board chair, she is proud to carry on Gen. Powell’s commitment to providing an excellent education and professional development opportunities to the school’s unique student body. After graduating from the College of William and Mary, Powell moved to New York to work as an actress. She appears regularly on New York stages on and off Broadway, and has appeared in high profile television projects such as “Dopesick,” “House of Cards,” and “Modest Love.” She is a national board member of SAG-AFTRA, vice president of its New York local, and has been active in efforts to negotiate fair wages and benefits for members amidst the shifting digital landscape.

Margaret “Peggy” Haberstroh Cifrino was one of Gen. Colin Powell’s closest and longtime aides for almost 30 years. Cifrino joined Powell on every campus visit. Cifrino graduated from West Virginia University and dedicated her career to public service, first on Capitol Hill and later in the Department of Defense and Department of State, where she began her tenure as a principal aide to Powell. She was the primary liaison between the general and the government, corporate and nonprofit sectors, and she assisted him in researching and editing his best-selling books, “My American Journey” and “It Worked for Me.”

Manan (Mike) Shah ’94 is a partner in the New York office of law firm Milbank LLP, and a member of the firm’s Executive Compensation Group and Corporate Governance Practice. While at CCNY, he participated in a legal studies program that was the precursor to the current Honors Program in Legal Studies. Mike’s legal practice focuses on all facets of executive compensation matters: advising compensation committees and boards of directors on corporate governance and executive compensation matters; advising public and private companies on executive compensation and employee benefits issues, including mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructurings and bankruptcies, friendly and hostile tender offers, diversitues, and public offerings; and advising clients on the compensation and benefits issues that arise during corporate restructuring.

Partnership with University of Rochester Aims to Diversify the Neuroscience Professions

For the past two summers, CCNY’s Psychology Department and the Ernest J. Del Monte Institute for Neuroscience at the University of Rochester have collaborated in a program designed to encourage underrepresented minorities to explore and experience the field of neuroscience.

The 10-week “Neurocity” research program gives students access to state-of-the-art research labs and provides mentorship from faculty and graduate students at both schools. The participants conduct lab research, attend educational seminars, and receive guidance on graduate school application preparation. At the conclusion of the 10 weeks, students present posters displaying their work. Bi-weekly dinner seminars and one-on-one coffees with faculty are some of the special activities for students.

When asked about her career trajectory, participant Chen Li had this to say about her experience: “CPS allowed me to find a group of supportive professors and staff who helped guide me on my journey to finding the right path, gain hands-on laboratory experience in cognitive neuroscience research, study a side passion I had in economics, and graduate in three years.”

John J. Foe, a former CCNY psychology professor who is now professor and chair of neuroscience at the University of Rochester Medical Center, and the research director of the Del Monte Institute, initiated this partnership.
Almost 100 students attended the relaunch of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership’s Office of Student Success in March, meeting the OSS team, learning about professional development opportunities, and networking with one another.

OSS prepares students for career-starting jobs or further academic study by helping them to connect with peer and alumni mentors, obtain paid internships, and pursue fellowships.

OSS incorporates some programs that have been in place since the early days of the Colin Powell Center, including the flagship Colin Powell Fellowship in Leadership and Public Service, which has provided intellectual and financial support for dozens of fellows over the last two decades. Other initiatives include the Public Service Career Hub, a clearinghouse for organizations and students, offering paid internships and entry-level positions; a peer-mentoring Student Success Guide program; and various private sector opportunities at companies such as JP Morgan Chase and Santander Bank.

“There is a great deal of interest and enthusiasm among Colin Powell School students for paid internships and professional development,” said OSS Director Deborah Cheng. “There is nothing more rewarding to us than seeing a student thrive in an internship or further academic study by helping them to connect with peer and alumni mentors, obtain paid internships, and pursue fellowships.”

The Honors Program in Legal Studies at the Colin Powell School entered its 12th year in 2021-22. The Program prepares students from backgrounds underrepresented in the law, especially lower-income people of color, to thrive in law school and legal careers.

For the first decade of its existence, the Program was underwritten entirely by a partnership with Skadden, Arps. Current supporting named fellows include Fried Frank; Milbank; Paul Weiss; Reed Smith; Ropes & Gray; and Skadden, Arps.

Students entering the Program have an average GPA of 3.6. Over the past three years, almost 90 percent of students in the Program have been non-white. By contrast, only three percent of partner and associate respondents identified as Black and only 3.6 percent identified as Hispanic, according to a recent American Bar Association survey of law firms.

More than 130 graduates of the Honors Program have gone on to law school over the past decade, most to top 50 law schools. Overall, the program’s recruitment and support mechanisms produce a roughly two-thirds yield to law school—far higher than most legal honors programs.

Alumni are hired by top law firms as well as by government and public interest firms. Three of the Program’s graduates received their degrees from Yale Law School this past spring. Two of them, Shariful Khan and Paula Garcia-Salazar, were chosen for the prestigious Skadden Fellows program.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gave the Eighth Annual Sternberg Family Lecture in May. At the first post-pandemic in-person talk and luncheon following the lecture, Professor Jean Krauso of the Colin Powell School unveiled the digital project “The Collected Papers of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.” The collection can be viewed at https://ccnydigitalscholarship.org/banki-moon.

This multi-year project was developed under Krauso’s leadership, a renowned scholar on the history of the U.N. and director of the M.A. program in International Relations in the Department of Political Science. The collection includes speeches, interviews, memos, press conferences, code cables, reports to the Security Council and General Assembly, and photographs, and offers an organized, historic record of how former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon managed his leadership role within the constraints and opportunities of the office.

For the digital project, Krauso and her team of researchers reviewed 900,000 documents provided by the U.N. to select the nearly 6,000 documents featured in the JSTOR andARTstor databases. Of the 6,000 documents, 128 were highlighted in the digital exhibition based on Omeka, an open-source platform for digital collections. The Digital Scholarship Services staff of CCHNY Libraries worked closely to build the digital databases and exhibition with Krauso’s team, who produced expert, in-depth metadata for the 6,000 records.

It has always been the mission of the Colin Powell School to equip students with the tools necessary to exercise leadership. For almost a decade, the School’s “Semester in Washington” program has served as a key program to achieving this end. Thanks to the generous support of Dan and Debby McGinn, the School was able to send 10 students to the nation’s capital in Spring 2022—the first time in two years that students were able to participate in-person. They were able to witness work done on Capitol Hill, in NGOs, and with other national policy organizations.

The Semester in Washington is a partnership between the Colin Powell School and the Joseph R. Biden School of Public Policy at the University of Delaware. Students from both programs take two classes together. Jon Cardinal, director of economic development for U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), taught a class on Power, Inequality, and Social Policy, as he has done in past years. Philip Barnes, assistant professor and faculty director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Ithaca Initiative at the Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy at the University of Delaware, joined the program this year and taught a policy practicum.

This year’s students found the Semester in Washington program to be transformative. One, senior Darleny Suriel, participated in the highly selective Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, which allowed her to intern with U.S. Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-N.Y.), in whose district she lives. Following what she called a “life-changing experience,” Darleny began a full-time position as a program assistant at the Carnegie Corporation after graduating in the Spring.

The Honors Program in Legal Studies Celebrates Twelfth Year

Semester in Washington Program Expands
Dominican Republic President Inaugurates “1961: Year of Freedom” Exhibit

President Vincent Boudreau (left) meets with the Dominican Republic President Luis Abinader; and The “Year of Freedom” outdoor photography exhibit on campus.

In New York City for the United Nations General Assembly, Luis Abinader, president of the Dominican Republic, took time off to visit the College and inaugurate the 1961 Year of Freedom photography exhibit that commemorated the end of the Rafael Trujillo dictatorship on the Caribbean Island 60 years ago. Abinader was joined at the ceremony by President Vincent Boudreau.

A free and open-to-the-public photography exhibit held at the CCNY campus, “The Year of Freedom” ran from September 21 through November 30, 2021. It was organized by the Dominican Ministries of Culture and Education and curated by Patricia Solano and Juan November 30, 2021. It was organized by the Dominican Ministries of Culture and Education and curated by Patricia Solano and Juan

Study Finds U.S.-born Dominicans and Dominican Immigrants More Compliant with Pandemic Recommendations

U.S.-born Dominicans and Dominican immigrants in the U.S. are highly likely to comply with public health recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, a study from the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute and the CUNY School of Medicine at CCNY found. The research study, “Understanding COVID-19 among People of Dominican Descent in the U.S.: A Comparison of New York, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Connecticut” is the first of its kind to examine the experience of people of Dominican origin residing in the U.S. amidst the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2. It highlighted the need to understand how COVID-19 has affected the U.S. Dominican community.

Among its key findings were:

- 24 percent of respondents reported having contracted COVID-19 themselves, with 90 percent reported that they isolated at home away from other household members and 11 percent said they had been hospitalized
- 77 percent of those interviewed reported they had been vaccinated at the time of the survey, and only 4.2 percent of respondents reported that they did not plan to vaccinate
- 79 percent of Dominicans reported that they always or almost always were a mask in indoor public settings at the height of the first wave of the pandemic. The percentage of mask use was high especially in states where COVID-19 was more prevalent, such as New Jersey (86 percent) and New York (82 percent). In Florida, three-quarters of Dominicans wore masks
- 52 percent of Dominicans interviewed said they felt nervous, anxious or on edge the week before the interview.
- The study illustrated that U.S.-born Dominicans and Dominican immigrants are both likely to follow public health recommendations related to the pandemic. Additionally, the study found that in comparison to U.S.-born Dominicans, Dominican immigrants were more likely to follow the protocols in place to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Dominican Employment and Income Study, Findings

Dominicans in the United States have made a substantial leap forward in socioeconomic progress over the last two decades, concludes a new research report by CUNY Dominican Studies Institute.

The average household income per person among Dominicans in 2019, the study finds, was 43 percent higher than in 1999, when adjusted by inflation. This caused a sharp drop of poverty rates as well. In 1999, as much as 37.5 percent of all Dominicans in the U.S. lived in poverty. By 2019 this had dropped to 19.0 percent. Although still unacceptably high, the decline in poverty rates among Dominicans over the last 20 years is significant among the various racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

The big change, according to the study, centers on labor force participation that boosted the employment rates and income gains of Dominicans nationally.

"For both men and women, the labor force participation rates among Dominicans have been climbing rapidly during the last two decades," said co-author Ramona Hernández, director of the CUNY DSI. "Back in 2000, the labor force participation rates among Dominicans were substantially lower than those prevailing in the overall American population. Today, they are significantly above those for the overall population of the U.S."

She noted that the proportion of Dominican men in the labor force in 2019 was 74.4 percent, higher than the overall male national labor force participation rate of 68.6 percent. Among Dominican women, 64.7 percent were counted in the labor market as of 2019, above the overall national rate for women of 58.8 percent.

"In fact, Dominican women have the highest female labor force participation rate in the country, higher than the average for any other major racial and ethnic group," said Hernández.

Education is the key driver in this Dominican success story, propelled by the increased schooling of Dominicans born in the United States. According to the study, U.S.-born Dominicans have now surpassed the overall U.S. population in educational attainment. For women, in the period of 2015-2019, as much as 34.6 percent of U.S.-born Dominicans had received a college degree and 31.6 percent had completed some college education (but not a college degree), which adds up to 66.2 percent who had some college education or more. For the overall female population in the U.S., the equivalent proportions are 32.5 percent for college graduates and 23.5 percent for those with some college education, adding up to 56 percent.

For U.S.-born Dominican men, 23 percent had a college degree and 29.2 percent had completed some college education (but not a college degree), adding up to 52.2 percent with some college education or more. This is approximately the same as for the U.S. male population overall, with 53.2 percent having some college education or more.

U.S.-born Dominicans have significantly higher enrollment rates in school or universities than U.S.-born Hispanics in general and all the major Hispanic subgroups except Cubans.

The study was co-authored by Hernández, Columbia University economist Francisco L. Rivera-Balti, and CUNY DSI researcher Suki Stays. Using recently released U.S. Census Bureau data, it is the first, up-to-date detailed study of the socioeconomic status of Dominicans in the U.S.

The Dominican population in the U.S. increased from 1,041,910 in 2000 to 2,216,258 in 2020, making them the fifth-largest Hispanic/Latino group in the nation after Mexican Americans/Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Salvadorians and Cubans. U.S.-born Dominicans now account for 42.2 percent of all Dominicans in the U.S. The largest concentration of Dominicans continues to be in the state of New York, home of an estimated 897,584 Dominicans in 2000.
Research on India’s Risk of Groundwater Depletion Published in “Nature Communications”

A new study led by associate professor and civil engineer Naresh Devineni finds that substantial groundwater depletion in regions of India where grains are acquired for public distribution is a principal sustainability challenge for the country of 1.4 billion. The study, “Solving groundwater depletion in India while achieving food security,” appeared in “Nature Communications” (June 2022) and provides a novel perspective on how to achieve food security, as well as how to realign and increase crop production in India and potentially elsewhere.

The study identifies specific adjustments in the Indian government’s procurement and distribution system to rectify this issue, particularly concerning irrigation systems that utilize groundwater, which is facilitated by subsidized electricity. This irrigation mechanism has long been seen as vital for India’s food security goals.

“Electricity for farmers in India was heavily subsidized, so they had no incentive to save their water,” said Devineni, lead author of the paper. “Instead, they tried to maximize produce at the expense of the groundwater. This is not sustainable.”

The researchers used over 100 years of daily climate data, along with economic, crop yield, and other related variables to demonstrate that crop revenue can be optimized by changing where crops are procured and grown. The study also found that the Indian government’s procurement targets can be met without irrigation. This, in turn, can increase farm income, while also stopping groundwater depletion.

However, more sustainable irrigation practice could potentially grow the average farm income by 30 percent.

Additionally, the study noted that decreasing electricity subsidies in areas with groundwater depletion can assist in reducing the need to redistribute farm income, which remains a key impediment to political changes required to change the procurement system.

“This is not the end of the study,” Devineni added, whose affiliation includes the Columbia Water Center at Columbia University. “We can now start the conversation with policymakers, and see if the model from the paper can be modified by new proposed solutions. We have shown that this solution is possible, but we still have more work to do.”

Shama Perveen from the non-profit sustainability advocacy organization Ceres, and Upanu Lal from the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, Columbia University, co-authored the paper.

Groundwater pumping in Punjab, India; and Professor Naresh Devineni.

Jeff Morris is First Non-European to Win Top Rheology Award

Jeff Morris, director of the Benjamin Levich Institute for Physico-Chemical Hydrodynamics in the Grove School of Engineering, is the 2022 recipient of the Weisenberg Award from the European Society of Rheology. He’s the first non-European to win the award and joins an elite group of rheologists who have been recognized in previous years.

The award was created to commemorate the scientific achievements of Austrian physicist Karl Weisenberg for outstanding, long-term achievements in the field of rheology, the branch of physics that deals with the deformation and flow of matter, especially the non-Newtonian flow of liquids and the plastic flow of solids.

The Society cited Morris, a professor of chemical engineering, for “ground-breaking work on the particle-pressure and the underlying mechanism of suspension flow and discontinuous shear thickening, for novel work on the rheology of hydrate-forming emulsions, and for outstanding service to the rheology and fluid mechanics community.”

Morris received the award in April at the Annual European Rheology Conference in Seville, Spain, where he also delivered a plenary lecture. He became a member of the Weisenberg Committee for a three-year term ending in 2026.

Morris, whose research group in the Levich Institute has conducted significant research on rheologically induced phenomena unique to mixtures, including bulk particle migration received the American Physical Society’s Stanley Corrsin Award which recognizes an achievement of especially high impact and significance, a particular discovery, or an innovation in the field. In 2019. The American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ Shell Thomas Barron Award went to Morris in 2017.

Associate Professor of Civil Engineering Nir Krakauer and his father and collaborator, endocrinologist Jesse Krakauer of Berkley, Michigan, introduced body shape index (ABSI) as a new anthropometric measure of obesity based on adjusting waist circumference to body mass index. ABSI is statistically independent from BMI and height. High ABSI correlates with greater risk of cancer, heart disease, and premature death from any cause.

Body measurements (anthropometrics) including height, weight and waist circumference are basic components in a medical examination. They predict mortality as well as a variety of health conditions including heart disease, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes. A commonly-used anthropometric expression is weight adjusted for height or BMI. Dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry imaging technology gauges bone mineral density to identify people at risk for fractures. Additionally, DEXA provides fat and lean body composition and distribution. Determining the value of this information for health assessment has proven elusive.

The Krakauers’ most recent research brought together DEXA and anthropometrics to lend more insight into ascertaining health risks. They studied data collected from 10,000 subjects by the U.S. National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1996 and 2006. They analyzed the NHANES data to assess the relationship between simple anthropometrics and DEXA-based whole-body fat measurements, as well as specific regional mass distribution in the limbs and trunk (torso). They adjusted the DEXA-measured fat and fat-free masses for BMI and ABSI, using the same power-law approach underlying ABSI, to isolate the information added by DEXA scans from that provided by anthropometrics.

They found high trunk fat percentage alone did not predict mortality. They also found that high fat-free mass in the trunk—rather than high fat mass—identified risk. This finding was unexpected, since trunk fat mass is usually considered to be of more concern.

“For the trunk fat-free mass group [with low ABSI], people who might not be considered high risk [by clinicians] based on existing conventional measurements, appear actually to be at elevated risk,” said Krakauer.

While high ABSI was shown to be the best single mortality predictor, DEXA imaging data revealed how regional fat free mass can also be a sign of significant health risks.

Whole-body DEXA scan showing bones (left) and soft tissue (right).
But the studies show more is at play than physiology. "The brain is part of the body and not an isolated computer. We want to know how physiology interacts with the brain," said Parra.

Correlated with that of healthy volunteers listening to the same stories. One patient with a coma condition improved after six months. A final audio experiment measured heart rates of patients suffering from disorders of consciousness. Heart rate changes of two patients, when sounds were inserted, their heart rates were less synchronized, and their recall diminished.

When participants viewed the videos a second time while distracted—heart rate patterns fluctuate under many conditions. Meditation reduces heart rate while being surprised increases it. Listening to stories also affects heart rate. These changes occur synchronously among people listening individually, not only in groups, indicating cognitive processing of the story affects us on a physiological level separate from relational dynamics. Conversely, narratives do not seem to affect respiratory rate. Heart rate pattern changes also occur in patients suffering from disorders of consciousness when audio narratives are played. These fluctuations could be effective indicators of level of consciousness and provide tools for determining prognosis.

When participants viewed the videos a second time while distracted—they were asked to count backwards—heart rate patterns did not correlate. A third experiment offered children’s stories after which participants were asked to recall character names. When distracting sounds were inserted, their heart rates were less synchronized, and their recall diminished. A final audio experiment measured heart rates of patients suffering from disorders of consciousness. Heart rate changes of two patients correlated with that of healthy volunteers listening to the same stories. One patient with a coma condition improved after six months.

The brain is part of the body and not an isolated computer. We want to know how physiology interacts with the brain," said Parra. But the studies show more is at play than physiology.

"People think they react to the world in their particular way. [But] even our hearts react in a very similar way when we listen to short stories. That makes me smile. We’re all human," said Madsen.
Alexander Khanikaev Leads Photon-phonon Breakthrough in “Science” Journal

New research by a Grove School team led by physicist and Professor Alexander Khanikaev has uncovered a novel way to combine two different states of matter. For one of the first times, topological photonics, otherwise known as light, have been combined with lattice vibrations, or phonons, to manipulate their propagation in a robust and controllable way. Entitled “Topological phonon-polariton funneling in midinfrared metasurfaces,” the study appeared in the journal “Science” (Oct. 2021).

“Topologically distinct photonic crystals (orange and blue) with a layer of hexagonal boron nitride on top. Image credit: Filippo Komissarenko and Srimat Guddula. Professor Alexander Khanikaev.

“We coupled helical photons with lattice vibrations in hexagonal boron nitride, creating a new hybrid matter referred to as phonon-polaritons,” said Khanikaev. “It is half light and half vibrations. Since infrared light and lattice vibrations are associated with heat, we created new channels for propagation of light and heat together. Typically, lattice vibrations are very hard to control, and guiding them around defects and sharp corners was impossible before.”

The study utilized topological photonics, an emergent direction in photonics which leverages fundamental ideas of the mathematical field of topology about conserved quantities—topological invariants—that remain constant when altering parts of a geometric object under continuous deformations. One of the simplest examples of such invariants is number of holes, which, for instance, makes donut and mug equivalent from the topological point of view. The topological properties endow photons with helicity, when photons spin as they propagate, leading to unique and unexpected characteristics, such as robustness to defects and unidirectional propagation along interfaces between topologically distinct materials. Thanks to interactions with vibrations in crystals, these helical photons can then be used to channel infrared light along with vibrations.

The new methodology can also implement directional radiative heat transfer, a form of energy transfer during which heat is dissipated through electromagnetic waves.

“We can create channels of arbitrary shape for this form of hybrid light and matter excitations to be guided along within a two-dimensional material we created,” said Dr. Srimat Guddula, postdoctoral researcher in Khanikaev’s group, and the first author of the manuscript. “This method also allows us to switch the direction of propagation of vibrations along these channels, forward or backward, simply by switching polarizations handedness of the incident laser beam. Interestingly, as the phonon-polaritons propagate, the vibrations also rotate along with the electric field. This is an entirely novel way of guiding and rotating lattice vibrations, which also makes them helical.”

The implications of this work are broad, in particular allowing researchers to advance Raman spectroscopy, which is used to determine vibrational modes of molecules. The research also holds potential for infrared spectroscopy—also known as midinfrared spectroscopy—which measures the interaction of infrared radiation with matter through absorption, emission, or reflection. This can then be utilized to study and identify and characterize chemical substances.

David C. Banks, who as chancellor of the New York City Department of Education heads the largest school system in the nation, spoke at City College in April. The chancellor presented his vision for the city’s more than 1.7 million students in a talk entitled: “A Conversation with David Banks: The Vision for NYC Public Schools.” The invitation-only event took place in the Great Hall and Provost Tony Lis moderated.

Banks assumed the office of chancellor on Jan. 1, 2021, becoming the 32nd person to head the city’s school system since James Wilson Jr. in 1875. He returned to CCNY where he earned his certificate in School Leadership from the School of Education’s Program for Educational Leadership. The School celebrated its centennial last year.

In addition to CCNY, Banks is a graduate of Rutgers University and received his Juris Doctorate from St. John’s University School of Law. In 2003, Banks participated in the Clinton Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals at the Teachers College of Columbia University. In May 2014, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in education from Wheeler College.

The School of Education’s new Science Learning and Public Engagement program is a major designed to develop expertise in STEM education for non-formal environments, curriculum and instruction design, communications media and non-profit program management. Students in this major can work in a variety of fields, including zoos, city parks, museums, botanical gardens, environmental centers and health and nutrition outreach.

To inspire current students pursuing careers in non-formal science, the School of Education hosted a career panel featuring professionals and CCNY alumni who spoke about their non-formal science career journeys. Panelists included Adriana Caminero, Mariza Dannang, Artiola Islam, Jaleen Jaquez and Malika Khalsa.

“When I was younger it was either you’re a doctor or an engineer, and people are really showing that there’s more to that,” said Islami, who interned at both the New York Academy of Sciences and the New York Aquarium. She hopes to pursue a career in educational programming at the Wildlife Conservation Society, headquartered at the Bronx Zoo, and create a non-profit that teaches kids about the variety of science-related careers aside from doctors and engineers.

Caminero, after her undergraduate studies at Westminster University, worked as an urban park ranger for the New York City Parks Department. She led workshops for public speaking at the NYC Parks Public Programming Summit and at the 2018 New York State Outdoor Educators Association Conference. She served as sergeant for the Bronx Rangers for three years.

“Don’t be afraid to try new things,” Islami advises students. “I was shown that I could do something else besides being a veterinarian.”

Panelist Khalsa graduated from St. John’s University with a bachelor’s degree in childhood education. As the education director for Salvadori Center, Khalsa leads development of curricula, collaborative, hands-on and project-based STEAM residencies, and after-school programs.

Alumnus Jaquez worked as an outdoor educator at Wave Hill and as a substitute teacher for the Browning School. At the American Museum of Natural History, she worked as the middle school programs coordinator in the Department for Youth Initiatives and is currently the program manager at Black Girls Code.

“I’m kind of fingaling sitting next to Adriana [Caminero] because I’ve been wanting to work with parks for so long,” said Dannang, who began at CCNY in the engineering program, but, as her interests changed, she switched to the science learning and public engagement major. Dannang was a Green Girls College intern at The City Parks Foundation, working with students in Queens. Upon graduation, her plans are to pursue a career in environmental education.
The sample size—the largest of its type analyzed to date—allowed researchers to identify which individual and case characteristics were correlated with outcomes. The applicants’ age, continent of origin, whether they were fleeing from sexual and gender-based violence, gang violence, or persecution related to sexual orientation, and whether the applicants were detained in U.S. immigration detention facilities at the time of the forensic medical evaluation were all statistically significant correlates of case outcomes. The data pool was not a nationally representative sample and, instead, comprised only applicants who had access to legal counsel, forensic medical evaluations, and who were screened by PHR to assess whether an evaluation would aid their case.

While the study cannot explain why certain factors were more likely to lead to positive or negative case outcomes, the researchers—with decades of combined experience in asylum representation, forensic medical evaluations, and asylum case management—offer potential interpretations of trends in the data. For example, applicants who fled persecution related to sexual and gender-based violence or their sexual orientation were also more likely to experience positive outcomes, potentially due to U.S. policy and legal developments before and during the 2008–2018 period, which created greater opportunities for survivors of gender-based violence or persecution based on sexual orientation to seek refuge through reformed United States asylum policy.

“While U.S. law states that an immigrant’s credible, persuasive, and specific testimony alone is sufficient to justify an asylum grant, our study illustrates that adjudicators have come to expect asylum-seekers to furnish forensic medical evaluations. Yet most applicants ensnared in the U.S. immigration system do not have access to an attorney, much less a forensic medical evaluator,” said Nirmee Arastu, co-principal investigator and professor of law at the CUNY School of Law, where she co-leads the Immigrant Non-Citizens Rights Clinic. “By requiring individuals to furnish such in-silico evidence, the U.S. government has created greater disparities in grant rates along race and economic lines, setting up the most marginalized a paradigm to fail.”

For example, among the cohort studied, applicants from Africa were more likely to experience a positive outcome compared to South Americans—though this finding masks the substantial and well-documented challenges that Black asylum seekers face due to systemic racism in the U.S. immigration system. The findings reflect how U.S. adjudicators are less likely to find Black asylum seekers credible in their narratives and are less likely to get legal counsel and supporting documentation like forensic medical evaluations to corroborate their testimonies. The differences in outcomes can stem from different continents having less bias influenced by the reasons they are seeking asylum, as those escaping ongoing persecution have lower grant rates than those fleeing sexual and gender-based violence.

PHR is the largest referral source for pro bono evaluations in the U.S., arranging approximately 700 forensic medical evaluations with clinicians across the country each year. However, access to legal counsel of immigration and medical evaluations remains a rarity for most asylum seekers, with some 287,000 asylum applications submitted in FY2020 alone.

As chief academic and administrative officer who leads education, research, and clinical operations at the CUNY School of Medicine, New York City’s only public medical school, Dean Carmen Renée Green, M.D. is positioning CUNY Med as the leader in increasing the numbers of those who have been traditionally underrepresented in medicine and in addressing healthcare inequities. As an award-winning anesthesiologist, and a pain medicine physician, Green has worked at the intersection of health and race, revealing inequities, disparities, and diminished health care quality and access for women, minorities, and low-income people.

Bringing CUNY Med to a national platform, Green appeared on CNN’s podcast “Chasing Life with Dr. Sanjay Gupta.” In the Oct. 18, 2022 episode “Pain is a Four-Letter Word,” she explained how to treat a disease in which the cause is unknown, and symptoms exhibit differently in every patient. “Pain is like a thief in the night that has stolen the health and well-being of millions of Americans for far too long,” she said. “It is a disease that deserves high-quality care research. People living with pain deserve to be treated with compassion and respect.”

Starting in October 2023, Green will usher the School into its 50th anniversary year. CUNY Med was founded as the Sophie Davis Biomedical Education undergraduate program before becoming a fully accredited medical school in 2016.

“Our education model focuses on narrative medicine and fosters a dedication to compassion, collaborative, and scientifically excellent care, that places the interests, values, and dignity of diverse people at the core of our medical education and practice,” said Green. “We are creating the next generation of healers, leaders, scholars who help place CUNY School of Medicine at the forefront of developing strategies to eliminate educational and health inequities for all New Yorkers.”

CUNY Med’s holistic admissions approach bypasses the MCAT requirement, removing the stress of the traditional medical school admissions process, and allowing the School to focus on other factors and indicators of success. “We have never used the MCAT for admissions and never will because the MCAT is a structural institutional barrier,” said Green.

During her first year as dean, 2021-2022, she implemented a wide range of strategic initiatives to help fulfill the School’s mission and remain true to its legacy of access, opportunity, and community transformation. In December 2021, she testified before the New York City Council Committee on Education about the implicit bias in healthcare, and how CUNY Med addresses and combats it in the classroom, and in New York City hospitals.

Green is revamping CUNY Med’s accelerated seven-year B.S./M.D. program, a 28-month physician assistant master’s degree program that trains more than 540 medical students. Since 1973, more than 2,400 B.S./M.D. students and 1,000 physician assistant graduates have graduated from the School’s medical education programs.

A fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine, Green is also the Bert Brodsky Chair at CUNY School of Medicine, the Medical Professor of Community Health and Social Medicine, and a professor at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership.

HISPANIC HEALTH FOUNDATION GIVES TOP AWARD TO ERICA FRIEDMAN

Erica Friedman is a recipient of the 2021 Hispanic Health Leadership Award from the National Hispanic Health Foundation. The award is presented to outstanding individuals who have served in significant leadership roles and have helped improve the health of Hispanics and other underserved populations.

Friedman was specifically cited by the NHHF for her “leadership in ensuring the longevity of the Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program mission in leading its transformation into the seven-year B.S./M.D. CUNY School of Medicine.”

“The goal of NHHF is to improve the health of Hispanics and the underserved, to eliminate health disparities, to support Hispanic researchers and research, and to advance culturally competent quality health care and diversity in the workforce,” said Elena Rios, M.D., NHHF president. “We are proud to acknowledge your leadership and vision and would like to recognize you as a top leader.”

She served as interim dean of CSOM from May 2017 to Sept. 2019. She recently joined the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education and Health Professions in 2013 as deputy dean for academic affairs, and medical professor.

At the time of this publication, Erica Friedman is part of the CCNY community.
Luo Helped Develop $177M NASA Mission to Study Tropical Thunderstorms

CCNY’s latest NASA collaboration is a $177 million earth science mission to study the behavior of tropical storms and thunderstorms, including their impact on weather and climate models. The mission will be a collection of three SmallSats flying in a tight formation in low ocean—two, called Investigative of Convective Updrafts, and scheduled for launch in 2022 as part of NASA’s Earth Venture Program. CCNY atmospheric scientist Z. Johnny Luo helped develop the concept.

“The novelty of the INCUS mission is that it will provide the first global observation and investigation of the vertical transport of water by convective storm systems, one of the most influential, yet unmeasured process of the Earth’s atmospheric system,” said Luo, professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. “This will be achieved through a unique measurement strategy using three identical cloud radars flying in close formation being separated by only a few minutes.”

Luo’s 2014 publication, “Convective vertical velocity and cloud internal vertical structure,” provided insight among others, demonstrated the feasibility of this new measurement strategy. Although the launch date is six years away, the project begins in March 2022 with the construction of the three miniature satellites. Between 2022 and 2027, Luo and his co-project leaders will use simulations to develop prototypical “products” or geophysical variables such as storm mass flux and storm intensity.

“As a co-leader, I will be in charge of developing satellite data products to measure convective mass flux and convective cloud liquid water—two key products of the mission,” explained Luo. “Eventually, these novel measurements will help improve global climate modeling, which will lead to more accurate predictions of future climate change and extreme weather events such as Hurricane Sandy.”

Most of the Colorado State University-led project’s $177 million budget will go to developing the hardware, including the three satellites. Approximately, $1 million will come to CCNY for Luo and his team, comprising a postdoc and two graduate students that he will recruit, to develop the satellite data products.

Stony Brook University and Texas A&M are the other university partners involved in the project.

Robert Alfano Discovers First Evidence of Quantum Events in Plants

Polariton mediated funneling of excitation energies between molecular isomers in a microcavity. Image by: Sitakanta Sapatah.

Distinguished Professor of Science and Engineering Robert R. Alfano and his team at the CUNY Institute for Ultrafast Spectroscopy and Lasers continue their groundbreaking work in spectroscopy by discovering evidence that quantum events occur in plants.

“It has been theorized that quantum events occur in nature, but it hasn’t been measured until now. These are the first steps in understanding that quantum effects occur in nature and biology,” Alfano said.

His team’s findings, published in the Sept. 2022 issue of the journal “Photochemistry and Photobiology,” offer scientists a glimpse into a very small world.

Using time-resolved fluorescence spectroscopy, Alfano’s team studied the primary events behind photosynthesis. These primary events are what start photosynthesis and occur on the nanoscale, or one-billionth of a meter.

His team devised a technique using a streak camera to measure the pulse of a laser in a piece of spinach. The laser excites the electrons directly into the chlorophyll pigments in the spinach leaf at 475 nm in nanometer size photons 1 and 2. According to Alfano, taking measurements of this kind hadn’t been done before.

The experiment showed that the molecules inside the chlorophyll pigments are confined in a defined space, or quantized, and that the electrons are working together in nanometer size photons at PS1 and PS2 emitting at 730nm and 695nm, respectively.

“The confinement of the molecules demonstrates that the primary event of photosynthesis is a quantum mechanical process,” said Alfano.

Measuring the structure of these quantum molecules is key to understanding how other biological processes occur on the nanoscale.

“This is a significant advance in our understanding of the primary events of photosynthesis,” Alfano added.

This research will enable Alfano and his team to further study how the quantum effect occurs in other biological areas, such as additional plant pigments, in the microtubules of the brain, and the properties of photons.

The research was partially funded by grants from the U.S. Army Research Office Marc Ulrich (ARO) and Daniel Nolan (Corning). Alfano’s team includes Laura Sorillo and Yuri Budansky (CUNY IUSL).

Biochemist Finds E.coli and Bacteriophage XP DNA Evolved Similar Helicase Loaders Despite Divergent Evolution

DNA replication is the foundation of all life. During its first stage, an initiator protein binds to double-stranded DNA at an AT-rich site, where the base pairs are melted and the double helix separates into two single strands. A single DNA strand is shepherded into a hexameric ring shaped protein, or helicase, which operates as a molecular motor. The helicase relies on specialized proteins, helicase loaders, which effectively hook the helicase at points on the source DNA. One of their key roles in bacterial DNA replication is opening the helicase for DNA loading.

The bacterial helicase protein, DnaB, is the same across most bacteria. This is not true for the loaders. In E. coli and Phage λ, both DnaC and XP perform two essential loading functions: ring binding, in which the DnaB hexamers are opened, and shepherding DNA into the opened ring. They are key for DNA replication in their respective organisms, and both bind to single-strand DNA.

“Think of these proteins as both needing to open a door. If they didn’t have a common ancestor, they had to separately evolve ways to turn the handle,” said Jeruzalmi. “Because there is only one site on DnaB where the door can be opened, like a spring latch, both proteins are constrained to open the DnaB helicase in the same way,” he said.

Although these functions may point to a common origin, DnaC and XP are unrelated in DNA sequence and enzymatic functions. Rather than evolving from a common ancestor they converged over time because of a physical requirement: opening the DnaB helicase to permit the entrance of the DNA strand.

The implications for this discovery are far reaching. Every bacterium uses the DnaB protein helicase structure during its life cycle to replicate DNA. The loader opens the DnaB helicase as needed.

“If we developed a molecule that forces [the helicase] to stay open, the cell can’t replicate. That’s a new antibiotic,” said Jeruzalmi.

Ronald Koder-led Team Creates First Ever Selective VX Neurotoxin Detector

A VX detecting protein designed by the Koder Lab at CCNY.

Physics Associate Professor Ronald Koder and his team at the Koder Lab are advancing the field of molecular detection by developing the first proteins that can detect a deadly nerve agent called VX in real-time and without false positives from insecticides. VX is classified as a neurotoxin and an incredibly deadly chemical warfare agent that has been used in assassinations by some nations. It can cause permanent brain damage in those who survive exposure.

These potentially life-saving findings are published in the July 2022 edition of “Science Advances,” with lab member Jim McCann serving as the paper’s primary author. It outlines the design of two proteins that detect the neurotoxin by changing their shape in the presence of VX.

In collaboration with Douglas Pike and Vikas Nanda at Rutgers University, the CCNY team used a protein design program called ProtCAD to design 20 different proteins. According to Koder, the computer code was new and unlike anything the team had previously worked with, so it came as a bit of a surprise that two of their protein designs worked rather quickly.

“Having the first thing we tried with a small molecule actually just work was pretty great,” Koder said.

This new design can help prevent misleading results, like false positives, by sensing the entire molecular surface down to one hundred-millionth of a centimeter. “We get this remarkable specificity because we’re making contact with the whole molecule,” said Koder. This work adds to a rapidly advancing field of biosensing technology used to detect the presence of incredibly small molecules called biomarkers.

The project was funded by the Air Force Civil Engineering Center/Defense Threat Reduction Agency in collaboration with The City University of New York, Clarkson University and Rutgers University.
Physicists Master Defects in Semiconductors

Physicist Carlos Meriles and his team have discovered a novel way to manipulate defects in diamond crystals. Their study holds promising opportunities for novel forms of precision sensing, or the transfer of quantum information between physically separate qubits, as well as for improving the fundamental understanding of charge transport in semiconductors. Entitled “Optical activation and detection of charge transport between individual colour centres in diamond” it appeared in the journal “Nature Electronics,” and involved collaborators at Sandia National Laboratory, the Flatiron Institute in New York, and the Australian National University in Canberra.

Using laser optics and confocal microscopy, the researchers demonstrated that they could make one defect eject charges—holes—under laser illumination allowing the other defect several micrometers away to catch them. The charge state of the latter defect is then altered from a negative into a neutral one via a charge capture.

The study utilized a special type of point defect—nitrogen-vacancy center in diamond. These color centers exhibit a spin—an inherent form of angular momentum carried by elementary particles—making them attractive for quantum sensing and quantum information processing. The researchers used a specific protocol to filter out the charges originating solely from the nitrogen vacancy based on its spin projection.

“The key was isolating the source defect, with only the nitrogen vacancy being present, which we achieved by making charge ejection conditional on the defects in the first place,” said Arthur Lozovik, physics postdoctoral researcher and the paper’s lead author. “Another crucial aspect was having a ‘clean’ diamond with as few defects as possible. Then, the long-range attractive Coulombic interaction between a defect and a hole substantially increases the probability of the charge transferring from one to the other, which ultimately made our observations possible.”

The present study uncovered that in the clean material the charge transport efficiency is a thousand times higher than observed in previous experiments, a phenomenon characterized by the researchers as a “giant capture cross-section.” This discovery could pave the way towards establishing a quantum information bus between color center qubits in semiconductors.

This process of a charge capture by an individual defect has only been described theoretically before, added Lozovik. “There is now an experimental platform that enables us to look into how these defects interact with free charges in crystals and how we can use it for quantum information processing.”

Schematic representation of a mechanism of hole capture by a carrier defect in the diamond crystal. This discovery could pave the way towards establishing a quantum information bus between color center qubits in semiconductors.

Hydrogen-tuned Topological Insulators by Krusin-Elbaum Team May Lead to New Platforms in Sustainable Quantum Electronics

Physicist Lia Krusin-Elbaum is behind breakthrough research that could open a breadth of new quantum device platforms for harnessing emerging topological states for nano-spintronics and fault-tolerant quantum computing.

The group of physicists and chemists has invented a new facile and powerful technique that uses hydrogen to reduce charge density in the surface of topological insulators and magnets. The result is that robust non-disruptive surface or edge quantum conduction channels can be accessed for manipulation and control. Their research, “Topological surface currents accessed through reversible hydrogenation of the three-dimensional bulk,” appeared in the journal “Nature Communications” in April.

The novel hydrogen-tuning technique of chalcogen-based topological materials and nanostructures implemented in a laboratory chamber uses insertion and extraction ofionic hydrogen from dilute aqueous hydrochloric acid solution, which leaves the layered topological crystal structure as well as electronic bands intact and has an extra benefit of removing native oxide surface while passivating surfaces. In this process—which the team tests in the Krusin Lab for two-dimensional electronic transport—electrons are donated by a reversible binding of H+ ions to chalcogens, such as Se or S, and bulk carrier densities are reduced by orders of magnitude to achieve access to topological surface states without altering carrier mobility or the bandstructure.

“The main advance of this work is that the new hydrogenation process is fully reversible, as hydrogen-chalcogen moiety can be disassociated by a low-temperature annealing protocol under which hydrogen is easily removed,” said Krusin-Elbaum, physics professor in the Division of Science. “It also is multiple-oxidizable and reproducible, thereby rendering it possible to apply this key functionality of magnetic and non-magnetic topological insulators and can be applied not only post-growth to materials but also to fully fabricated micro- and nanodevices.”

The research in the Krusin Lab centers on exploring novel quantum phenomena such as Quantum Anomalous Hall effect, which describes an insulator that conducts dissipationless current in discrete channels on its surface, 2D superconductivity, and axion state phenomena featuring a quantized thermal transport, all with the potential if industrialized to advance nanoelectronics technologies.

Krusin-Elbaum and her team said that the technique they have demonstrated is very general and ultimately may advance the potential of intrinsic topological magnets to transform future quantum electronics.

The CCNY-based Harlem Center for Quantum Materials is a partner in described research. It strives to understand the consequences of defects in novel functional materials systems that have vital scientific and technological importance. The research is supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

Physicists Use Optical Cavities to Light Dark Molecular Isomers

In chemistry, molecules are manipulated by changing the constituent atoms, or their arrangements. Now a group of physicists and chemists from the Division of Science and partners in Spain can demonstrate how the use of an optical cavity (where light is trapped) is also able to change the molecular properties of photo-isomerization—a light-activated process that modifies the optical response. Entitled “Selective isomer emission via funneling of excited polaritons,” their study appears in “Science Advances” in October 2021.

CCNY researchers were led by physicist Vinod M. Menon and chemist George John, and the Spanish scientists by Francisco J. Garcia-Vidal and Johannes Feist. The research was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy and the European Research Council.

While the photophysical properties of isomers are of great significance in organic optoelectronics and many biochemical events, it is the correct choice and purity of the isomer luminescence that plays a decisive role in being favored or disfavored for a particular application. However, the inhomogeneous disorder in an organic molecular solid can almost completely suppress the photophysical properties of one isomer over the other, making it challenging to access in thin film states.

Using the concept of strong light-matter coupling, the international team managed to create a funnel of hybrid light-matter states (polaritons) that can control the flow of excitation from a strongly emitting non-planar isomer to a completely dark twisted isomer, which is of great potential significance in the field of organic optoelectronics.

The idea is put into practice an optical Fabry–Perot cavity by strong coupling to derivatives of trans-stilbene, which present two isomers in different amounts. Thanks to the new relaxation pathway provided by the polaritons, the photoexcitation that is first shared by the common “polaritonic” mode is then selectively funneled to the excited states of one of the isomers, recognizing pure emission from the isomeric states that are otherwise dark under normal conditions.

“The strategy offers flexibility to significantly modify the emission wavelength of molecular isomers in thin films,” said Sitakanta Satapathy, a post-doctoral fellow in Menon’s research group and lead author of the study.

“Direct polariton energy harvesting offers promise to access desirable excited state confirmations of potential importance in the field of organic photovoltaics, optoelectronics and photobiological reactions. A particularly useful feature, through judicious choice of molecules and stable cavity systems, this strategy can be translated to other excited state processes, such as Excited State Induced Proton Transfer, Electron Transfer and Photooxidation reactions without any light-induced damage,” added Satapathy.

Breakthrough of One-dimensional Channel for Excitons by World-wide Team of Physicists

Topography of the two-dimensional crystal on top of the microscopically small wire indicated by dashed lines. Excitons freely move along the wire-induced but, cannot escape it in the perpendicular direction. Image Credit: Florian Dirnberger.

From a team of CCNY physicists and their collaborators in Japan and Germany comes another advancement in the study of excitons—electrically neutral quasiparticles that exist in insulators, semiconductors and some liquids. The researchers are announcing the creation of an “excitonic” wire, or one-dimensional channel for excitons. This in turn could result in innovative devices that could one day replace certain tasks that are now performed by standard transistor technology.

Florian Dirnberger, a post-doctoral fellow in Vinod Menon’s research group in CCNY’s Center for Discovery and Innovation, and one of the lead authors of the study that appears in the journal “Science Advances,” detailed the team’s breakthrough in Oct. 2021.

“Our main achievement was to manage to create these excitonic wires, essentially one-dimensional channels for excitons, in what is otherwise a two-dimensional semiconductor,” he said. “Since charge neutral excitons are not simply controlled by external voltages, we had to rely on a different approach. By depositing the atomically thin 2D crystal on top of a microscopically small wire, a thousand times thinner than a human hair, we created a small, elongated exciton in the two-dimensional material, slightly pulling apart the atoms in the two-dimensional crystal and inducing strain in the material. For this reason, this device looks like a small wire, but when we trap excitons inside, they are bound to move along the pipe, realizing quasi one-dimensional transport of excitons.”

This advancement holds possibilities for new devices.

“Manipulating the motion of excitons at the nanoscale realizes an important step towards excitonic devices, in what is otherwise a two-dimensional semiconductor,” he said. “This in turn could result in innovative devices that could one day replace certain tasks that are now performed by standard transistor technology.”

In addition to Dirnberger and other members of Menon’s lab at CCNY, researchers led by Alexey Chernikov at Germany’s Dresden University of Technology, and at the University of Regensburg, Germany, each shared in the study, along with researchers from Japan’s National Institute for Materials Science.
Filmmaker Campbell Dalglish’s “Savage Land” Wins Top Awards at European Film Festival

Adding to its growing list of accolades, “Savage Land,” by award-winning CCNY filmmaker Campbell Dalglish, is the winner of the top two awards—Best Story and Best Film—at the European Fusion Film Festival in the United Kingdom.

Since its premiere at The Americas Film Festival of New York in June 2021, the documentary has raked in a steady stream of awards. Thus far, “Savage Land,” which examines the fatal police shooting of 18-year-old Cheyenne Arapaho Mah-hi-vist Red Bird Goodblanket in his family’s kitchen in Clinton, Oklahoma in 2013, has won four “Best Feature Documentary” awards:

- The Americas Film Festival of NY
- The Lake Placid Film Festival
- The 46th American Indian Film Festival
- The Europe Film Festival (London, Valencia and Warsaw)

In addition, “Savage Land” is under a two-year exclusive distribution with Executive Program Services TV/PBS. It began its run on the PBS channel in November 2021 in commemoration of Native American Heritage Month.

"Savage Land began with a City College SEED grant back in 2012 to explore on camera how to build bridges between cultures in Oklahoma through indigenous media," said Dalglish, associate professor of film in the Division of Humanities and the Arts. "Then on December 21, 2013, Mah-hi-vist Red Bird Goodblanket was shot down in his parent’s kitchen in Clinton, where we had been filming, by Custer County Police, who were responding to a 911 call. Instead of arriving to talk to this troubled youth who suffered from Opposition Defiant Disorder, they arrived heavily armed."

The documentary is a reconstruction by Dalglish and his co-director, Native American studies scholar Henrietta Mann, of the events leading up to and culminating in the tragic shooting. It includes actual footage and audio of the shooting, as well as interviews with witnesses, Goodblanket family members, and other activists. In doing so, “Savage Land”, provides historical context for the discrimination and racism experienced by Native Americans to the present day. It explores the deeper issues affecting Native Americans that stem from the forced relocation of 39 tribes to what is now the state of Oklahoma more than a century ago.

“Film Focus” magazine describes the documentary as “a powerful and thought provoking film.”

Echoing this, Bridget Neconie of The American Indian Film Festival, hails “Savage Land” as a “…strong, poignant, powerful and yet fragile film.” She adds: “this film stayed with me long after I had seen it…the story that was told for me was an American horror story and it was like a gut punch…the history that you brought in and weaved into the film of Sand Creek and Washita—the connection—was very real and there were many triggers…and it did leave a haunting feeling…"

"Savage Land" is the latest film by Dalglish, who’s won numerous awards and accolades for socially-conscious films such as “Roadkill” and “Charade of a Fly.”

The documentary’s crew included 13 CCNY film students that had participated in an Ethnographic Filmmaking course Dalglish taught for two summers at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Colleges. They were joined there by filmmaking students from the tribal nations of Oklahoma.

Polish Honor Goes to Film Director Andrzej Krakowski

Professor of Film and Digital Media Andrzej Krakowski has received many accolades over his nearly six decade career. The latest is recognition as an Outstanding Pole Abroad, one of Poland’s most prestigious non-governmental awards.

The world-famous director was given the honor by the Poland Now Foundation in recognition for his research in film history highlighting the Polish roots of the American film industry. The ceremony took place at the Consulate of the Republic of Poland in New York.

Recently Krakowski has also been elected to the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Development of the Polish National Film School (PWSFTviT) in Lodz. Among the past directors of the Foundation, which was created in 1970 and has the leading role in the future direction of the School’s expansion, are such great directors as Andrzej Wajda and Wojciech Jerzy Has.

Krakowski’s election was “recognition for your competence and professional achievements, as well as your involvement in the activities of the Polish National Film School,” said Dr. Hab Miełienia Fiedler, the School’s director.

A PWSFTviT alumnus, Krakowski was stripped of his Polish citizenship and barred from returning to the country for alleged anti-government activities after accepting an American film scholarship in 1948. He returned to his native land after the fall of communism and earned his Ph.D. from PWSFTviT, considered one of the top five film schools in the world, in 2014.

“I’m very humbled by this honor. To the best of my knowledge, I will be the first board member residing abroad and definitely the first CUNY faculty member,” said Krakowski. “I must admit that I find it amazing that the country that expelled me in 1968 now embraces me in such a warm way.”

Jamaica Kincaid Awarded 2021 CCNY Langston Hughes Medal

Award-winning author and scholar Jamaica Kincaid received the 2021 Langston Hughes Medal from CCNY in a virtual ceremony in November.

The medal is awarded to highly distinguished writers from throughout the African American diaspora at CCNY’s annual Langston Hughes Festival, which celebrated its 43rd anniversary. It recognizes honoraries for their impressive works of poetry, fiction, drama, autobiography and critical essays that help to celebrate the memory and tradition of Langston Hughes. Past awardees include: James Baldwin; Gwendolyn Brooks; Toni Morrison; August Wilson; Maya Angelou; Octavia Butler; Zadie Smith; Michael Eric Dyson; and Rita Dove.


Further novels followed. “Lucy” (1990), is the story of a teenage girl from the Caribbean who comes to North America to work as an au pair for a wealthy family. “The Autobiography of My Mother” (1996), is a story set in Dominica and told by a 70-year-old woman looking back on her life; and “My Brother” (2007), follows the life of an itinerate taxi chauffeur.

Kincaid released “A Small Place” in 1988, a short, powerful book about the effects of colonization, and “My Brother” in 1997, a chronicle of her brother’s battle with AIDS. Her love of gardening has also led to several books on the subject, including “My Garden” (2000) and “Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya” (2005), a memoir about a seed-gathering trek with three botanist friends. “Among Flowers” was re-released in late 2020 with a new introduction by the author. Her novel “See Now Then” (2013) won the Before Columbus Foundation America Book Award in 2014. Her numerous other awards include the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the Dos Passos Prize for Literature, the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund Award, a Guggenheim Foundation award, and the Prix Femina Etranger Award.

Kincaid teaches in the English, African and African American Studies departments at Harvard University.
Jazz Ace Mike Holober Wins American Academy of Arts and Letters Music Award

Mike Holober, the renowned music professor and Grammy Award nominee, is the recipient of the 2022 Andrew Imrie Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

The award, which comes with a $10,000 cash prize, recognizes "a composer of demonstrated artistic merit in mid-career," Holober and 17 other noted recipients of various music awards from the Academy of Arts and Letters were honored at the Academy’s Ceremonial in May 2022.

A long-time faculty member in CCNY’s music department, Holober is an internationally acclaimed composer, arranger, pianist and bandleader. He was a 2020 Grammy Award nominee for “Hiding Out,” his Gotham Jazz Orchestra’s double album. The collection was a nominee in the Best Large Jazz Ensemble category.

Highly in demand by high-caliber ensembles, Holober has served as artistic director for New York’s Westchester Jazz Orchestra (2007-2013). He spent four years as associate guest conductor of the HR Big Band in Frankfurt, Germany; and has written and conducted a number of projects for the WDR Big Band in Cologne among other orchestras.

Assistant Professor of Art History Joshua I. Cohen is the recipient of a fellowship from the New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. He joins 12 talented academics, creative writers, and independent scholars as 2022-2023 Fellows in Schomburg’s acclaimed Scholars-in-Residence Program.

Cohen’s research is for a book project entitled: “Art of the Opaque: African Modernisms, Decolonization, and the Cold War.” He will examine African modernism (c. 1940-1990) in relation to troubling dimensions of decolonization that seldom surface in art scholarship. Whereas liberation narratives have rightly underpinned most previous accounts of African modernism, the book investigates, without indulging in Afrocentricity, how Cold War politics drew African artists into a succeeding imperial age.

The book’s four main chapters—on South African painter Gerard Sekoto, Guinean polymath Fodeba Keita, major independence-era festivals, and the Ivorian Voiho-Voiho painters—seek to locate African modernists’ extraordinary work within decolonization’s tumultuous histories, lest their output appear as straightforwardly emblematic of an independence that in fact never fully arrived.

During the 2022-23 term, which runs from September to July, Cohen and the other Scholars-in-Residence Fellows will have access to the renowned research collections and resources of the Schomburg, the pre-eminent repository for materials related to the history and cultures of peoples of African descent, with the expert assistance of its curatorial and reference staff. Scholars-in-Residence Fellows receive a stipend and the use of a private office in the Scholars Center, located at the heart of the Schomburg Center.

Hochlapponts Historian Laurie Woodard to 400 Years of African-American History Commission

Governor Kathy Hochul to the 400 Years of African-American History Commission. The body serves to highlight contributions by African-Americans to both the nation and the State.

An assistant professor of history and of Black studies, Woodard researches the intersection of cultural and political realms. She employs interdisciplinary methodologies, drawing from performance studies, critical race theory, and women and gender studies.

New York State’s 400 Years of African-American History Commission is tasked with determining what the state should do to mark the 400+ years of time since the first slave ship arrived in America. The role of the commission is to explore the best means of ensuring that the impact of slavery is not only recognized as an historic tragedy, but remembered and addressed as a tragedy that continues to shape our lives today. Recognition and acknowledgement might take the form of events, structures, memorials, or programs.

Woodard is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Humanities awards: the Schomburg Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship and the NEH Humanities Faculty Award for her book project on famed actress and civil rights activist Fredi Washington’s role in the Harlem Renaissance. Her work has appeared in “The New York Times” and “American Quarterly.”

Design Firm Pentagram Enriches Student Portfolio Program at EDM

A program initiated by design firm Pentagram’s senior partner Paula Scher began Fall 2021 in the Electronic Design and Multimedia program. Few design houses have more widespread identity recognition than Pentagram with its diverse clientele of the National Gallery of Art, The Wellcome Trust, and Shake Shack. The Pentagram Portfolio Program offers 27 current students and recent alumni the opportunity to develop their portfolios for careers in the design industry, offering students the opportunity to experience affiliation with an elite firm.

Scher, whose landmark projects for institutions such as The Public Theater have made her an internationally-renowned figure in the design world, approached EDM after giving a lecture at CCNY. “I’d done a logo for an entrepreneur who wanted to show business students [they could] work with design,” said Scher. Members of the design department showed up too. The event coincided with the beginning of the Black Lives Matter movement. The experience caused Scher to have a personal revelation: the private art school where she taught for decades didn’t give any scholarships. “That meant I was not getting a diverse population. I had four Black students in 37 years of teaching,” she said. With the Portfolio program, Scher’s professional clan will inspire a new, racially-diverse generation of previously under-represented talent.

The Portfolio program classes, held at the Pentagram studios, are taught by Scher and three other Pentagram partners. The program is tuition-free as Pentagram partners donate their time with students.

“The program prepares students for the working world,” said Mark Addison Smith, program director for EDM and assistant professor in the Division of Humanities and the Arts. Suf’Vin Liang, a recent CCNY graduate, said her portfolio has evolved greatly from participation in the Program. “I tended to design a lot of work in the center [of a work] and nothing in the corners. Now I’m more conscious of how to occupy a rectangle—or a triangle—efficiently.”

The Portfolio program isn’t only about teaching design techniques. “[Designers] create a condition for clients where they can express themselves, while at the same time elevating the client’s expectation of what a design can be,” said Scher. “They’re not just doing what the client tells them. Students learn this as part of the class.”

The symposium “Archives as Muse: A Harlem Storytelling Project” is a three-year project from the MFA in Creative Writing program, which was made possible by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. The goal of the project is to encourage students to understand and celebrate the Harlem community while enhancing the community’s own tools for memory, research and creativity.

The firstsymposium, “Archives as Muse Symposium: How Creatives Use the Archives,” was held in December 2021, and considered how creatives use the archives with a special focus on the work of award-winning writer, journalist and educator, and project collaborator Herb Boyd. Panelists included Boyd, archivist and Professor William Gibbons, photographer and Professor Emeritus Lewis Watts, and novelist and Professor Nelly Rosario, who was moderator.

The storytelling project, directed by Michelle Valladares, lecturer and director of the MFA in Creative Writing, aims to include symposia, interviews, online workshops and exhibits as well as a resource section with links to public archives. Students explore Harlem stories and neighborhoods and participate through a series of graduate and undergraduate archival classes while they train to collect stories; work with librarians and archivists to study and archive the materials; and share findings via gallery exhibits, digital programs and symposia.

Collaborators of the “Archives as Muse: A Harlem Storytelling Project” include The Hurston/Wright Foundation, The Cohen Library, CCNY Libraries, the Langston Hughes Archives of The City College Black Studies Program and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
Latinx/a/o Delegation Offers Exchange Links and Collaboration

A visiting delegation of New York City-based consuls general from Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Chile, Costa Rica and Brazil met with President Vincent Boudreau and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. The meeting was organized and facilitated by Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and head of the Study Abroad and International programs.

CCNY holds both Hispanic Serving Institution and Minority Serving Institution designations from the U.S. Department of Education. A lot of the countries represented are also represented at CCNY, which is ranked by the “Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education” magazine among the top 100 colleges and universities in the nation for students that identify as Latinx/a/o. “Thirty-nine percent of our population comes from somewhere south of the United States,” Boudreau said. “That means we would like to build exchange relationships with universities in your countries. We would like for our students to experience the cultures that exist in your countries, and we’d like to launch research collaboratives with your universities.”

The diplomas heard how CCNY, CUNY’s founding institution, invented the idea that everyone had the capability to have a college education.

"When CCNY was founded in 1847, they used this phrase that we use all time, the ‘whole people’—the people that are not divided by income, not divided by where they came from, how they got to the United States, whether they are men or women; and we’ve been working for 175 years to maintain this legacy,” said Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. The meeting was organized and facilitated by Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and head of the Study Abroad and International programs.

From left: President Vincent Boudreau and Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez meeting with the Latinx/a/o delegation.

Carlos Aguasaco Wins Esteemed Poetry Prize

“Cardenal en mi ventana con una máscara en el rostro / Cardinal in My Window with a Mask on its Beak,” a poetry manuscript by Carlos Aguasaco, professor of Latin American studies, won the Academy of American Poets’ acclaimed Ambroggio Prize. Established in 2017, the Ambroggio Prize is the only annual award of its kind in the United States that honors American poets whose first language is Spanish. It recognizes an outstanding book-length poetry manuscript originally written in Spanish and with an English translation. It comes with a $1,000 cash prize.

“Cardenal en mi ventana” was translated by Jennifer Rathiun, chair of the department of Modern Languages and Classics at Ball State University. The book was published by the University of Arizona Press, which is nationally recognized for its commitment to publishing the award-winning works of emerging and established voices in Latinx and Indigenous literature, as well as groundbreaking scholarship in Latinx and Indigenous studies, in March 2022. Aguasaco responded by writing on his Twitter account, @aguasaco_carlos, that he dedicated the award to the more than 45 million Spanish speakers in the U.S. “especially to all the migrant workers, dreamers, & refugees, many of whom attend CCNY.”

Author of “The New York City Subway Poems,” Aguasaco has edited 11 literary anthologies and, in addition to “The New York City Subway Poems,” has published six books of poetry. His poems have been translated into English, French, Portuguese, Romanian, Galician and Arabic.

In the account, @aguasaco_carlos, that he dedicated the award to the more than 45 million Spanish speakers in the U.S. “especially to all the migrant workers, dreamers, & refugees, many of whom attend CCNY.”

From left: President Vincent Boudreau and Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez meeting with the Latinx/a/o delegation.

A cultural initiative of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, this year’s TAFFNY presented seven award-winning fiction and documentary feature films, and more than 30 shorts, celebrating the rich diversity of the stories, languages and cultures of the Americas. Apart from opening night, all of the screenings were free to the public.

The 2022 Americas Awards Winners

Best Animated Short
“Tio / Uncle” by Juan Jose Medina, Mexico, 2021, 13 min.

Best Documentary Short
“Selo / Seal” by Alessandro Correa, Brazil, 2021, 5 min.

Best Experimental Short
“Tio / Uncle” by Juan Jose Medina, Mexico, 2021, 13 min.

Best Narrative Feature
“The Land of Azaba”; and Carmen Vidal, director, “Exiles.”

Best Narrative Feature
“Recuerdas / Remember?” by David Moncada Varela, Cuba, 2020, 13 min.

Best Narrative Feature
“American Poets Poetry Festival of New York, and coordinator of The Americas Film Festival of New York. Ninth CCNY TAFFNY Welcomes Back In-person Viewers with Lineup of Female Filmmakers

In person for the first time in three years, The Americas Film Festival New York (TAFFNY) opened on June 17 with the New York premiere of “The King of all the World” by legendary Spanish filmmaker Carlos Saura at the Instituto Cervantes New York. TAFFNY ended on June 24 with an awards ceremony at the National Museum of the American Indian followed by a special presentation of “Bootlegger” by Arishnabae-French director-Caroline Monnet.

A cultural initiative of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, this year’s TAFFNY presented seven award-winning fiction and documentary feature films, and more than 30 shorts, celebrating the rich diversity of the stories, languages and cultures of the Americas. Apart from opening night, all of the screenings were free to the public.

The 2022 Americas Awards Winners

Best Animated Short
“Tio / Uncle” by Juan Jose Medina, Mexico, 2021, 13 min.

Best Documentary Short
“Selo / Seal” by Alessandro Correa, Brazil, 2021, 5 min.

Best Experimental Short
“Tio / Uncle” by Juan Jose Medina, Mexico, 2021, 13 min.

Best Narrative Feature
“The Land of Azaba”; and Carmen Vidal, director, “Exiles.”

Two Special Jury Mentions
“Valedicista El Despertar de un Ciudadano” by Juan Jose Murallez, Guatemala, 2021, 14 min.

“Recordas / Remember?” by David Moncada Varela, Colombia, 2020, 13 min.

From left: President Vincent Boudreau and Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez meeting with the Latinx/a/o delegation.
The Continuing and Professional Studies Program is in the process of expanding previously established programs and courses, as well as implementing new ones and partnerships. The move follows President Vincent Boudreau’s vision of creating an education model by which students can fully immerse themselves in high-demand careers, while also forging innovative solutions to achieve this goal.

Google and Cisco have partnered with CPS, to offer courses for the Cisco Academy Certificate, including CyberOps Certification and CCNA Networking Certification, which includes an entry-level introduction to networking, switching, routing, wireless essentials, and cybersecurity. Partnering with Google, CUNY offers an IT Support Professional Certificate.

“We decided to explore a different kind of partnership with Cisco and Google, one where we could work to transform our certificate programs with highly-regarded organizations,” said Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, who became involved in the program in July 2021. “We will help students find work in fields that will only grow.”

CUNY has already established a partnership with District Council 37 Educational Fund (DC 37) to start offering computer classes to DC 37 members, and to non-members alike. Additionally, in association with Great Courses and QBS, CCNY has created a course in Big Data as a pilot, which will be launched in the next three months. These courses are both innovative for the CPS program, as well as a pragmatic solution to creating a pathway for students to immerse themselves in sought after careers.

“CUNY has always situated its educational programs in the mission to provision New York City, and our society more generally, with a workforce skilled to confront some of the most daunting challenges we face,” said Boudreau. “Expanding expertise in technology fields, particularly when these extend into areas of cybersecurity, is consistent with that tradition. As we grow our continuing education programs, you’ll see a consistent connection between the courses we offer and the needs of our communities.”

In collaboration with the civil engineering department and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, CCNY is also working to create a number of environmental engineering courses that would support the needs of their engineers and those of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. These offerings would also be available to engineers in the private sector. Development of the courses will be funded from an existing contract with DSGP, with the program launch scheduled for Spring 2022.

CCNY is also dedicated to work with a new grant Professor Angelo Lampousis, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Lecturer, received from the EPA, offering training related to the CCNY+HBG Associates Program includes a financial stipend to ease the transition of expenses from college student to employee, as well as career counseling, recruitment and one-on-one guidance from HBG employees—both in their areas of interest and in the job search and interview process.

In addition, HBG will continue their longstanding CCNY internship placement program, hosting one to two interns per year with mentorship and career development.

“I am absolutely thrilled with the creation of the CCNY+HBG Associates Program,” said David Unger, director of the Publishing Certificate Program. “The kind of support that HBG is offering PCP graduates feels transformative: competitive starting salary; bonus for the purchase of incidentals; a rotational program; and dedicated mentoring. This is threading the needle.”

Hachette Partnership Provides Grads with Work Experience

In collaboration with The Colin Powell School, the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies have launched the Leadership for Democracy and Social Justice Institute. The Institute is a response to a growing demand for programs focused on achieving social change through power.

“The Institute’s national-level programming is based on extensive research about leadership development and needs across dozens of organizations and movements. It is staffed by long-time social justice leaders and its advisory board represents a cross section of leaders in labor organizing, civil rights, racial justice, environmental protection, and local and national-level organizing, including the executive directors and founders of more than a dozen leading national advocacy and campaign organizations.”

We’re facing a series of interconnected crises, from climate change to economic inequality and assaults on civil and human rights,” said Deepak Bhardava, a distinguished lecturer at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies who co-chairs the advisory board with Gara LaMarche, senior fellow and instructor at the Colin Powell School and the former president of The Atlantic Philanthropies and the Democracy Alliance.

“Advancing social justice and democracy means building up diverse leaders who represent the communities on the front lines of these struggles, particularly women, people of color and people from low-income and working-class backgrounds.”

The Institute focuses on early and mid-career leaders in social justice movements who want to build power across disciplines and with communities at the forefront of social change. The initiative was created to fill a gap in current leadership training in social justice movements and provide a long-term home for training and research in social justice leadership. So far, it has secured more than $7 million in funding and has held its first trainings for 24 early-career Social Change Fellows and 24 mid-career Movement Leader Fellows.

“The new Institute serves an essential role in our society,” said President Vincent Boudreau. “It recognizes that our city and nation become stronger if we invest in young leaders who are organizers and movement builders.”

Over the next five years, the plan is to reach nearly 10,000 emerging leaders through expanded programs such as online courses and regional workshops.

National Institute for Social Justice Leadership Launched

CUNY’s First Online B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences debuts in the fall at the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Dean Juan Carlos Mercado said that the new B.A. will substantially increase enrollment in the Division, which produces 150 graduates annually, due to out-of-state and global students.

“This distance education program delivers a balanced mixture of synchronous and asynchronous learning,” he said. “We provide working adults and transfer students with a framework that allows them to connect their learning in relevant ways to the workplace and the world.”

In development before the COVID-19 outbreak, the pandemic and the remote learning it ushered in accelerated CUNY’s plans to finalize and implement the program.

A concentration is offered in a variety of areas which are designed to cultivate intellectual growth and the professional skills necessary to succeed in today’s competitive, global economy.

Concentration areas are:

- Childhood Studies
- Disabilities Studies
- History, Politics and Society
- Literary, Media Visual Arts
- Social Welfare
- The Americas
- Urban Studies and Public Administration
- Global Labor Studies

“Our interdisciplinary concentrations represent a flexible, creative, challenging, and innovative approach to education, and one that draws on multiple disciplines to interpret a set of related issues, topics, and problems,” said Mercado.

“The concentrations allow students to hone in on a particular subject areas and examine them through multiple lenses.”
NEW PROGRAMS

BIC's Media Track Inspires a New Generation of Communications Leaders

The City College of New York’s Branding + Integrated Communications graduate program has added a Media track to its Master of Professional Studies curriculum. The first cohort was admitted in fall 2022.

BIC MPS students specialize in one of four new tracks, including Media, Creative, Management/Strategy, or Public Relations. At the same time, students study marketing communications in a unique integrated background.

Three courses of specialization for the Media track are available. They are:

- Data Analytics & Optimization: Students will examine primary and syndicated data to learn about brand and media usage, the competition, the consumer, and influencers to understand where along the purchase journey communications can have a meaningful impact on the business.
- Integrated Media Planning: Students will learn to appreciate the complexities of the rapidly changing media landscape on brand media and marketing strategies, comprehending how paid, earned and owned media fits within the larger ecosystem of marketing options.
- Media Investment Strategies: Students will examine the many buying strategies from timing the market to integrated platform negotiations that align with brand investment decisions and meet business goals.

BIC Professor and Founding Director Nancy R. Tag said, “no other master’s program elevates media planning, activation, and analytics within an integrated framework as a discipline worthy of graduate study.”

By taking a collaborative, project-based approach, BIC’s new Media track delivers the latest strategic thinking, analysis, tools, and skills to create actionable communications solutions for today’s brands. Media is not only examined on its own terms and within an integrated model, but as the backbone for the next wave of technologies that will drive communications, commerce, and culture. BIC will help establish leadership practices in responsible data use, multicultural inclusivity, and ethical media investment strategies.

NYC MOMIE Funds New B.A. in Game Design at CCNY with $2M Investment

A new bachelor’s degree program in Game Design is to be created and funded by the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment and the New York City Department of Education. The $2 million investment in this Career Pathway Program will be used in a variety of the latest research and innovation to reach youth interested in pursuing gaming careers.

The funds will be used to create the curriculum for the degree program, and provide students in Hostos Community College’s associate degree program in Digital Game Design the opportunity to pursue a bachelor’s degree at CCNY.

This holistic program creates a pathway from high school to the digital gaming industry through a collaboration with the Urban Arts Partnership, using its curricula and its pedagogical approach, and the Harlem Gallery of Science. This new funding will expand outreach to Title I high school students for post-secondary programs and careers in game design and other tech fields.

“It’s time to take advantage of all the talent we have here in New York by investing in the future of gaming,” said Mayor Eric Adams. “This $2 million investment will help us reach more than 1,000 students over the next three years and diversify the gaming field.”

By cultivating local talent at City College and working with industry leaders to identify growth opportunities in this sector, we are making strides to establish New York City as a hub for digital games development that builds on the strength of our city’s creativity, education, and technology;” said MOMIE Commissioner Anne del Castillo.

City College was founded in 1847 by the City of New York to provide a public option for providing a college education to the youth of NYC independent of means, providing New York City the talent and workforce needed to grow the city’s economy. (This) reaffirms the mission and role City College and the City University continuously strives to play 139 years later in growing and sustaining a vibrant city economy,” says City College Professor-Shawn Altman, the project leader and member of New York City’s Game Development Industry Council.

The program will work closely with the Council which was set up to advise the city’s production policies and programs in the digital games sector and is made up of various leaders of New York City’s digital games sector. The Council will help inform industry career readiness standards for entry-level jobs, and will partner with educators to create pathways from classrooms to careers in digital game design.

Members of the Council may encourage companies to create internships and hiring managers to include Game Design badges in the hiring process.

“We’re grateful that the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment is supporting the development of a digital games program at CCNY,” said President Vincent Boudreau. “Moving from gaming competitions to technology-driven aspects of design and game development, this program would introduce whole communities of young people to one of our most dynamic economic sectors.”

The digital games industry is anticipated to make a $180 billion in global sales revenue, according to the Digital Games Industry Economic Impact Report revealed the digital game industry’s importance to New York City’s economy, which has created $176 million in wages, 7,600 jobs, and $2 billion in economic output. Further signifying the need for CCNY and affiliated organizations to engage in this field.

“By cultivating local talent at City College and working with industry leaders to identify growth opportunities in this sector, we are making strides to establish New York City as a hub for digital games development that builds on the strength of our city’s creativity, education, and technology,” said MOMIE Commissioner Anne del Castillo.

City College was founded in 1847 by the City of New York to provide a public option for providing a college education to the youth of NYC independent of means, providing New York City the talent and workforce needed to grow the city’s economy. (This) reaffirms the mission and role City College and the City University continuously strives to play 139 years later in growing and sustaining a vibrant city economy,” says City College Professor-Shawn Altman, the project leader and member of New York City’s Game Development Industry Council.

The program will work closely with the Council which was set up to advise the city’s production policies and programs in the digital games sector and is made up of various leaders of New York City’s digital games sector. The Council will help inform industry career readiness standards for entry-level jobs, and will partner with educators to create pathways from classrooms to careers in digital game design.

Members of the Council may encourage companies to create internships and hiring managers to include Game Design badges in the hiring process.

“We’re grateful that the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment is supporting the development of a digital games program at CCNY,” said President Vincent Boudreau. “Moving from gaming competitions to technology-driven aspects of design and game development, this program would introduce whole communities of young people to one of our most dynamic economic sectors.”

The digital games industry is anticipated to make a $180 billion in global sales revenue, according to the Digital Games Industry Economic Impact Report revealed the digital game industry’s importance to New York City’s economy, which has created $176 million in wages, 7,600 jobs, and $2 billion in economic output. Further signifying the need for CCNY and affiliated organizations to engage in this field.

Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative Kicks Off with $1.5M in Fed Support

The Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative has received $1.5 million in federal funding to address the lack of modern infrastructure jobs in New York’s 13th Congressional District, comprising Upper Manhattan and parts of the West Bronx. Architect Rangel represented for 46 years from 1971 to 2017.

RIWI, which was officially launched in April 2022 with a $400,000 grant from the City University of New York, will be a transportation and infrastructure training institute at the College. It could become a template for localized, minority-focused, accredited skills training in an academic setting, with ambitions to develop it nationally.

The federal funding was part of the $31.5 million package in community project funding secured last month by U.S. Rep. Adriano Espallat (D-N.Y.), Rangel’s successor.

“These investments provide a much-needed boost to economic development in these targeted communities, and will make a real difference in the lives of the thousands of people who will benefit from this initiative,” said Rangel.

RIWI is the invention of Robert E. Paswell, distinguished professor of Civil Engineering in the Grove School of Engineering, in response to Rangel’s desire for modern infrastructure jobs in the district. It will equip historically underserved communities with analytical and operational skills through innovative curricula, simulator-based training, and experiential learning to help them pursue career paths in the urban infrastructure sector.

Michael Bobker, director of the CCNY-based CUNY Institute for Urban Systems’ Building Performance Lab, co-developed RIWI’s strategy and content.

“Achieving sustainability, equity, and resilience across the nation’s broad infrastructure will require not only substantial capital investments but investments in human skills and knowledge at a local level,” said Paswell. “RIWI will train historically underserved communities with adaptive 21st century skills and, through partnerships with trade organizations and industry, develop new pipelines to good, green jobs.”

President Vincent Boudreau agreed.

“From our very first meeting, Congressman Rangel impressed on me the need to develop a more representative workforce in the infrastructure field,” he said. “He framed this initiative, long before the historic 2021 infrastructure law was drafted, as one of the great patriotic projects of our time, and an historic opportunity for economic development in communities of color,” said Boudreau.

Rangel stressed the need for underprivileged communities to secure equity in massive transportation and infrastructure projects.

“The first step in doing that is two-fold: bridging the skills gap and increasing access to professional placement services,” he said. “The Center will educate a diverse workforce with the skills essential to creating tomorrow’s transportation infrastructure and provide the untapped, overlooked folks in the community – and surrounding region – with an affordable academic option to attain the requisite training that these lucrative transportation and infrastructure jobs require.”
Honors for Dr. Anthony Fauci, Filmmaker Stanley Nelson '76 at CCNY’s 169th Commencement

Dr. Anthony S. Fauci was the keynote speaker at the City College of New York’s 169th Commencement on June 3, 2022. The former director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and chief medical advisor to the President, was conferred the degree, Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

The commencement exercises returned to an in-person format at CCNY’s South Campus Great Lawn after two years of virtual salutes due to the Covid pandemic. It was also webcast.

The Brooklyn-born Fauci, whose Italian immigrant grandparents arrived in the U.S. not speaking a word of English, affectionately called CCNY a “Beacon of Light” and a “visionary” at the forefront of social change.

Fauci praised the class of 2022 for their “extraordinary resilience, resolve and character” to complete their studies during the two years of the pandemic. “We cannot escape the fact that the pandemic has profoundly upended your college experience,” said Fauci. “Together, your class faced one of the most traumatic public health crises in human history.”

It was with great urgency that Fauci called upon the graduating class to take up the mantle of responsibility, leadership and public service. “We need you,” he said, “to face society’s challenges, such as healthcare inequity, racism, violence, poverty, and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. He appealed to them to use the critical thinking skills they learned at City College to fight the normalization of untruths that has swamped the populace. “This is how a society declines,” he warned them.

Fauci, who stepped down as NIAID director at the U.S. National Institutes of Health in August, was in the position since 1984. He oversaw an extensive research portfolio focused on infectious and immune-mediated diseases. The long-time chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation made many seminal contributions in basic and clinical research, and remains one of the world’s most-cited biomedical scientists.

Fauci crafted the U.S. response to infectious diseases for more than 30 years, including AIDS, Ebola, the Zika virus, SARS and the recent pandemic of COVID-19.

Also lauded was Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker Stanley Nelson, a 1976 alumnus, with the honorary degree Doctor of Fine Arts. Nelson is the leading contemporary documentarist of the African American experience. His films, many of which have aired on PBS, combine compelling narratives with rich historical detail to illuminate the under-explored American past.

He is a MacArthur “Genius” Fellow and received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama in 2013. He has received numerous honors over the course of his career, including the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts Sciences. He was also awarded a Peabody for his body of work that same year.

His latest film, for SHOWTIME Documentary Films, is the Oscar-nominated “Attica,” with Tariq A. Curry, on the 1971 prison uprising. It earned him the DGA Award for Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Documentary.

2022 Class Valedictorian and Salutatorian Provide Inspiration

ROSE MARY BIJU
Class of 2022 Valedictorian

Rose Mary Biju earned her B.S. in biomedical science. She’s currently in the CUNY School of Medicine’s Class of 2025 and plans a career as an emergency medicine physician among underserved populations.

Biju was the recipient of numerous honors as an undergraduate. She was on the Dean’s List from her freshman year. Her accolades include the LCU Housing Grant Award, the Rita and Howard Shapiro Memorial Award, the Deans Medal for Academic Excellence and, for her volunteerism, the Empress EMT Sergeant Award for Zeal.

In addition to her service with Empress EMT, Biju gained clinical experience as a volunteer in summer 2019 at Samaritan Hospital in her native Kerala, India, where she worked in the emergency room tending to injured patients and shadowing physicians.

Speaking about her academic accomplishments, Biju said, “My efforts are not innate talent or intellect, but rather, they are more a product of discipline, a discipline inspired by my faith, by faculty at City College and loved ones.”

ALI KHALIL
Class of 2022 Salutatorian

When Ali Khalil landed at JFK six years ago, he was determined to become a doctor. The biggest challenge he faced as a new immigrant from lower Egypt was language. He could hardly speak English. During his high school junior year, he took more than the required English classes in a few short years, he was remarkably fluent.

“Ali is the kind of smart, engaged student that makes teaching fun, and his academic record is probably in the top 3 percent I have ever seen at City College,” said David J. Lohman, associate professor of biology. “He is intelligent, engaging, hard working, and selfless. These are qualities that embody the ideals of The City College of New York.”

Khalil’s academic honors include Dean’s Honors List, the Ira & Cecille Weber Scholarship from the Division of Science, and the S Jay Levy Fellowship. The latter is a year-long professional development experience for academically accomplished and career focused students. It culminates in a summer internship or research experience.

With an interest in both oncology and cardiology, Khalil’s main goal once a medical practitioner will be “bridging the gap between research and healthcare.”

ROSE MARY BIJU

Class of 2022 Salutatorian

Rose Mary Biju earned her B.S. in biomedical science. She’s currently in the CUNY School of Medicine’s Class of 2025 and plans a career as an emergency medicine physician among underserved populations.

Biju was the recipient of numerous honors as an undergraduate. She was on the Dean’s List from her freshman year. Her accolades include the LCU Housing Grant Award, the Rita and Howard Shapiro Memorial Award, the Deans Medal for Academic Excellence and, for her volunteerism, the Empress EMT Sergeant Award for Zeal.

In addition to her service with Empress EMT, Biju gained clinical experience as a volunteer in summer 2019 at Samaritan Hospital in her native Kerala, India, where she worked in the emergency room tending to injured patients and shadowing physicians.

Speaking about her academic accomplishments, Biju said, “My efforts are not innate talent or intellect, but rather, they are more a product of discipline, a discipline inspired by my faith, by faculty at City College and loved ones.”

ALI KHALIL

Class of 2022 Salutatorian

When Ali Khalil landed at JFK six years ago, he was determined to become a doctor. The biggest challenge he faced as a new immigrant from lower Egypt was language. He could hardly speak English. During his high school junior year, he took more than the required English classes in a few short years, he was remarkably fluent.

“Ali is the kind of smart, engaged student that makes teaching fun, and his academic record is probably in the top 3 percent I have ever seen at City College,” said David J. Lohman, associate professor of biology. “He is intelligent, engaging, hard working, and selfless. These are qualities that embody the ideals of The City College of New York.”

Khalil’s academic honors include Dean’s Honors List, the Ira & Cecille Weber Scholarship from the Division of Science, and the S Jay Levy Fellowship. The latter is a year-long professional development experience for academically accomplished and career focused students. It culminates in a summer internship or research experience.

With an interest in both oncology and cardiology, Khalil’s main goal once a medical practitioner will be “bridging the gap between research and healthcare.”

ROSE MARY BIJU

Class of 2022 Valedictorian

Rose Mary Biju earned her B.S. in biomedical science. She’s currently in the CUNY School of Medicine’s Class of 2025 and plans a career as an emergency medicine physician among underserved populations.

Biju was the recipient of numerous honors as an undergraduate. She was on the Dean’s List from her freshman year. Her accolades include the LCU Housing Grant Award, the Rita and Howard Shapiro Memorial Award, the Deans Medal for Academic Excellence and, for her volunteerism, the Empress EMT Sergeant Award for Zeal.

In addition to her service with Empress EMT, Biju gained clinical experience as a volunteer in summer 2019 at Samaritan Hospital in her native Kerala, India, where she worked in the emergency room tending to injured patients and shadowing physicians.

Speaking about her academic accomplishments, Biju said, “My efforts are not innate talent or intellect, but rather, they are more a product of discipline, a discipline inspired by my faith, by faculty at City College and loved ones.”

ALI KHALIL

Class of 2022 Salutatorian

When Ali Khalil landed at JFK six years ago, he was determined to become a doctor. The biggest challenge he faced as a new immigrant from lower Egypt was language. He could hardly speak English. During his high school junior year, he took more than the required English classes in a few short years, he was remarkably fluent.

“Ali is the kind of smart, engaged student that makes teaching fun, and his academic record is probably in the top 3 percent I have ever seen at City College,” said David J. Lohman, associate professor of biology. “He is intelligent, engaging, hard working, and selfless. These are qualities that embody the ideals of The City College of New York.”

Khalil’s academic honors include Dean’s Honors List, the Ira & Cecille Weber Scholarship from the Division of Science, and the S Jay Levy Fellowship. The latter is a year-long professional development experience for academically accomplished and career focused students. It culminates in a summer internship or research experience.

With an interest in both oncology and cardiology, Khalil’s main goal once a medical practitioner will be “bridging the gap between research and healthcare.”
The 11 CCNY winners, their disciplines and project titles are:

- Adeola Aademola, sophomore, biomedical science; physiology, "Opioids on the Verge of Cancellation/ Discharge from Ambulatory Elimination after Ambulatory Breast Surgery"
- Goodness Nkouk, senior, biology; social and behavioral sciences and public health, "Factors Associated with Poor Outcomes of Childhood Cancer in Africa"
- Mykel Barrett, senior, biology; developmental biology, "Bioinformatic and Experimental Evaluation of Transcription Factor Binding Site Mnemonics Within the Context of the Developing Retina"
- Scarlet Nazareth, Marta Barroso, senior, chemical engineering; computational and systems biology category, "In Silico Discovery of Neutralizing Targets of SAR-CoV-2 Spike Glycoprotein"
- Jaya Grant, sophomore, social and behavioral sciences and public health, "Barriers to Uptake of Immunotherapy for Breast Cancer from the Perspective of Oncology Nurses: A Qualitative Analysis"
- Abigail Montalman, senior, biomedical sciences; social and behavioral sciences and public health, "Missing Beats: Who’s Left Out of Music Therapy Trials and Why This Matters"

Honors Student Norwin Nias Stars at National Science Research Conference

Norwin Nias, an Honors student majoring in psychology, was a winner at the 2021 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Digital Conference with her presentation on Covid-19.

MFA DIAP Student Alethea Pace Receives Harkness Promise Award

Alethea Pace, a student in the MFA program in Digital and Interdisciplinary Art Practice, is one of two recipients of the Harkness Promise Award by “Dance Magazine.”

Pace is a multidisciplinary choreographer and performer committed to creating work in and with her community that is rooted in social justice. She strives to help her community overcome challenges facing people of color.

The Harkness Promise Award is funded by net proceeds from the Dance Magazine Awards ceremony. The award offers a $5,000 grant and 40 hours of rehearsal space for outstanding choreographers to use within their first decade of professional work. The Guggenheim Museum honored the recipients in a ceremony in December 2021.

Studying in contemporary modern dance and dances of the African diaspora, Pace’s work incorporates an interdisciplinary approach that includes experimentation with text, video, projection mapping, sound design, creative coding, ors, scientific, and participatory-based practices. She believes in using these artistic tools to unite people from underrepresented communities so that their cultures and histories are validated and shared.

Currently, Pace is working on "here goes the neighborhood…," a performance created in collaboration with Bronx community members, to dignify stories of Bronx residents and Black and brown communities.

As a performer, she trained at the Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center in the bronx and has a B.A. in urban design from NYU, where she studied the history of Bronx housing. Pace is currently in her third semester in the MFA DIAP program, which invites students with wide ranging interests to encourage the use of technology with contemporary art to create digital media art.

Pace was also a member of Arthur Aviles Typical Theatre for eight years, and collaborated with various multimedia community-centered organizations, such as Angel’s Pulse and the Laundromat Project. She received support for her work from companies like Dancing While Black, Bronx Theater, New Dance Alliance, New York Live Arts and 92Y Harkness Dance. Additionally, she received the BRIDG award and CUNY Dance Initiative in 2019, and is currently BAAD!’s Muse Artist-in-Residence.

AAUW Awards Career Grant to Grad Student Claire Balani

Claire Balani, a Language and Literacy graduate student, is the recipient of a 2021–22 Career Development Grant from the American Association of University Women. The grant allows Balani, a Jersey City, N.J., resident, to continue her research work in refugee youth and adult education, towarding their integration through language learning.

“Thanks to this grant from AAUW, I’m able to continue my journey toward helping others and making a real impact in my career,” said Balani. “Now I’ll be able to complete my coursework with the freedom to pursue my research interests in adult English as a Second Language teaching.”

AAUW Career Development Grants provide funding to women who hold a bachelor’s degree and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education, health and medical sciences or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields.

“We are pleased, especially during these challenging times, to be able to provide support to so many deserving women,” said Gloria Blackwell, AAUW’s executive vice president and chief program officer. “Throughout the years, our fellows and grantees have changed the face of leadership nationally and globally, and we know that this year’s awardees will continue in that esteemed tradition.”

For the 2021-22 academic year, AAUW awarded a total of $5 million through seven fellowships and grants programs to more than 260 scholars, research projects and programs promoting undergraduate and graduate student support to women and girls. Despite the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, this year’s awards are at a record-high level.

AAUW is one of the world’s leading supporters of graduate women’s education. It has, over the past 133 years, provided more than $115 million in fellowships, grants and awards to 13,000 women from 150 countries. AAUW is proud to be one of the nation’s largest educational funders for women of color.
Spitzer School Students Win International Landscape Prize in Barcelona

The City Stabile by Hana Georg. One of the Spitzer School’s winning projects at the 11th International Biennial of Landscape Architecture in Barcelona.

The Master of Landscape Architecture program clinched the International Landscape School’s Prize at the 11th International Biennial of Landscape Architecture in Barcelona. Work by Spitzer School of Architecture students was submitted to represent the program’s approach to the Biennial’s theme, “Climate Change Again.” The award was delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic rules, but the school’s work was presented as finalists at the Escola Tecnica Superior d’Arquitectura de Barcelona.

Former Director and Spitzer Professor Denise Hoffman Brandt presented the work to the jury, framing the program’s pedagogical structure and emphasis on addressing the climate emergency. She also shared a video of the work to the jury, allowing the program’s approach to the Biennial’s theme to be understood.

The designers and their prize-winning submissions are:

- Quorum Canopy, by Abigail Stein ‘22
- New Jersey Meadowlands: A Field Guide to Participatory Landscape, by Anna McKeigue ‘20
- Watery Ground: Activating the Lost Mangroves of Mumbai, by Rujuta Narirngrek ‘20
- The City Stabile: A Framework Beyond the Streets, by Hana Georg ‘19


double major Max Sehaumpai Wins 2022 Barry Goldwater Scholarship

Max Sehaumpai, a junior pursuing a double major in applied mathematics and computer science, is the recipient of a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. He is the sixth City College undergraduate in seven years to be recognized nationally by the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation. Sehaumpai will receive an annual stipend of up to $7,500 for tuition, room and board, books and other expenses. Sehaumpai hopes to attend graduate school after CCNY and become an active researcher and scientific advisor to climate policy makers.

“City College has very welcoming faculty and staff who have supported me throughout my research and undergraduate career. I would like to thank Professors Asohan Amarasingham, James Booth, Jennifer Lutton, and Dr. Michael Wijaya, my encouraging high school teacher, for supporting my Goldwater application,” he said.

The federally funded scholarship is America’s premier award for undergraduates majoring in math, science and engineering. Its goal is to provide a continuing source of highly qualified scientists, mathematicians, and engineers by awarding scholarships to college students who intend to pursue research careers in these fields. Goldwater Scholars have gone on to win impressive array of prestigious post-graduate fellowships, among which are the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship, Rhodes Scholarship, Marshall Scholarship.

Born in Queens to Thai immigrant parents, Sehaumpai, lauded as “CNV faculty and staff for honoring his interdisciplinary interests and shaping his academic experience. Inspired by his high school teacher, he began his undergraduate career as a math major. He is thrilled to have been doing research with James Booth, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, since 2020. They use statistics and computer science techniques to study storms and coastal flooding on the U.S. east coast.

Later, Sehaumpai decided to pursue computer science as a second major. “Just like my experience at the math department, I felt extremely welcomed by the computer science advisor who helped guide me through the application process for the major,” he said.

Sehaumpai is a City College Fellow, a fellowship program directed by Isabel Estrada that supports students interested in research and college teaching. He received a Climate Policy Fellowship led by CCNY alumnus Trevor Houser. ‘16, a partner in the Rhodium Group.

Engineering Student Caroline Schwab Wins Hollings Scholarship

Caroline Schwab, a junior and Macaulay Honors student majoring in environmental engineering, is the winner of an Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship for study and an internship with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Supported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the scholarship program provides successful undergraduate applicants with awards that include academic assistance (up to $9,500 per year) for two years of full-time study and a 10-week, full-time paid ($700/week) internship at a NOAA facility during the summer.

Among its goals, the program is designed to:

- Increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education and foster multidisciplinary training opportunities
- Recruit and prepare students for public service careers with NOAA and other natural resource and science agencies at the federal, state and local levels of government
- Recruit and prepare students for careers as teachers and educators in oceanic and atmospheric science and to improve scientific and environmental education in the U.S.

From Nassau County, N.Y., Schwab has been a NOAA-CESSRST EPP/MSI undergraduate scholar in the Grove School of Engineering since August, 2019. She cited her research experience and “incredible mentorship” as key in her earning the Hollings Scholarship.

“Through the NOAA-CESSRST program, I’ve conducted a study under Associate Professor Naresh Devineni, for which I was invited to give an oral presentation at the American Geophysical Union’s annual conference in December 2020,” said Schwab.

In addition to her research in the program, Schwab has mentored high school students completing summer projects for NOAA-CESSRST. This has inspired her to pursue a Ph.D. in environmental engineering — with a focus on water resources and an emphasis on policy and environmental justice. “After that, I hope to be a research professor,” she added.

A Colin Powell Fellow for Leadership and Civic Service from August 2019 to May 2021, she was recently accepted into the National Center for Atmospheric Research Leaders’ Program.

Computer Science Students Place 3rd in International Overhead Imagery Hackathon

Four computer science undergraduate students and one graduate student took third place in the Overhead Imagery Hackathon. The virtual hackathon was organized by the U.S. Air Force, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago.

Dubbied CCNY + AFOSR to acknowledge the presence of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research’s Erik Blasch as an advisor, the team comprised graduate student Bilal Abdurahman, and undergraduate students Billy Davila, Shuoxin Liu, Ling Fang and Jed Magraca. It finished behind second place University of Wisconsin-Madison and the winners, a combined University of British Columbia + University of Mississippi Medical Center team.

The international competition entailed utilizing Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning methods to classify different types of building damage caused by natural disasters, such as hurricane, flood, earthquake and fire. Participants were presented with aerial images of disaster areas taken by aircraft or satellites and asked to survey the impact. “Instead of manually assessing the damage to come up with the most appropriate disaster relief plans, government agencies would like to exploit AI/ML techniques to effectively speed up the relief process,” said Jie Wei, CCNY computer science professor and the team’s co-advisor.

Zhigang Zhu, Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Computer Science at City College who is also on the faculty of the Computer Science Ph.D. Program at the Graduate Center, CCNY, was the team’s other co-advisor.

Using cutting-edge deep learning techniques, the team was able to reduce the data and computational complexity in the analysis of the overhead images by order of magnitude.

According to Wei, they were, among other things, “able to develop two pi2pNet Generative Adversarial Networks with novel architectures to augment data with desired size and nature, a contrastive deep learning network that can learn from both pre- and post-disaster images, and a transfer learning network by use of information fusion that can transfer and fuse knowledge from larger data sets, resulting in a system dubbed CLIFGAN (Contrastive Learning Information Fusion GAN).”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS
Colin Powell School Alum Michael Cruz Earns Top U.S. State Dept. fellowship; Simone Jones is Alternate

Michael Cruz, CCNY’s Rangel Fellow, and Simone Jones, CCNY’s Pickering Fellowship alternate.

A second Colin Powell School graduate, Simone Jones ’19, is an alternate for a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship. This program is also State Department-funded and administered by Howard University to attract and prepare outstanding young candidates for Foreign Service careers.

Cruz was raised in the Highbridge Section of the Bronx, for decades one of the poorest communities in America. His experience at CCNY, and afterwards, prepared him well for the Foreign Service track upon which he embarked. Before receiving his bachelor’s degree in political science from the CPS, he traveled twice to Brazil and once to South Korea on study tours. He also participated in a service-learning program in the Dominican Republic. Cruz joined the Peace Corps after CCNY and spent 2016-2018 in Peru as a youth development volunteer. He’s currently a Placement Officer at Peace Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

As Rangel Fellows, Cruz and his peers will undergo two years of graduate study, internships, mentoring, and professional development activities. They will enter the Foreign Service as Foreign Service Officers upon graduation. Foreign Service Officers have an option to choose career tracks of their interest, and Cruz’s includes consular affairs, economic affairs, management affairs, political affairs, and public diplomacy. “I am interested in researching the root causes of migration and aim to inform policies that will strengthen the U.S. economy and the economies of our global partners,” he said.

Cruz’s honors at CCNY included the Dean’s List, the Korea Foundation Scholarship; Scholar in the Skadden, Arps Legal Studies Honors Program; membership in the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, and recipient of the Latin Trends Magazine Scholarship. In addition to outstanding leadership skills and academic achievement, applicants for the Rangel Fellowship must demonstrate financial need.

Simone Jones was a double major at CCNY and graduated with a B.A. in international studies and Black studies. The Manhattan resident served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin, West Africa, after graduation but was evacuated back to the U.S. at the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. As a Pickering alternate, Jones is eligible to replace any first pick who is unable to start the program. She is currently a program associate at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice in Manhattan.

Lawrence Tabak ’72, Heads NIH

Dr. Lawrence A. Tabak, a 1972 City College of New York graduate, became the National Health Institutes’ acting director in December 2021. Tabak’s appointment was announced by Human and Services Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Tabak has been the principal deputy director and the deputy ethics counselor of the NIH, the nation’s medical research agency, since 2010. He also previously served as acting principal deputy director of the NIH in 2009, and was the director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research from 2000-2010. A dentist and biomedical scientist, Tabak has also worked as the senior associate dean for research and professor of dentistry and biochemistry & biophysics in the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester. His research has primarily focused on the structure, biosynthesis and function of glycoproteins, a type of large biomolecules and macromolecules that act in the structure, reproduction, immune system, hormones, and protection of cells and organisms.

In addition to the B.S. degree in biology from CCNY, Tabak earned his D.D.S. from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Buffalo.

Oldest Engineering Honor Society Inducts Dorothy Schnabel ’54

Sixty-eight years after her graduation as one of the few women in her field, CCNY alumna Dorothy Schnabel is celebrating induction into Tau Beta Pi (TBP), the oldest engineering honor society in the country.

A cum laude graduate of the class of 1954, Schnabel earned her bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering at a time when women rarely applied to or were accepted into engineering schools.

During her time in what’s now the Grove School of Engineering, Schnabel was active in the Society of Women Engineers, elected to Eta Kappa Nu—the electrical engineering honor society—and was awarded the Women’s Badge of TBP. However, at the same time of this award, women were not allowed to be full members of TBP.

“I was admitted to CCNY in February of 1952 when very few engineering schools admitted women,” Schnabel said. “Graduate women engineers in the U.S. were estimated to be less than one half percent.”

Schnabel praises her education at CCNY for giving her the tools to succeed professionally, including courses in electrical engineering that focused on early computer design. After graduation, Schnabel stayed on at CCNY as a lecturer, while simultaneously pursuing a master’s degree in electrical engineering at Columbia University.

She then spent much of her career at IBM Corporation, where she designed logic for mainframe computers, including an early machine that was devised for code cracking. She also worked as an engineer and a program manager, supervising engineers across several disciplines, in turn supporting the development and manufacturing of large high-performance mainframe computers.

In tribute to her time at CCNY, Schnabel established an endowed scholarship in the Grove School of Engineering for students who are studying either electrical engineering or computer science. In 2015, she received the Townsend Harris Medal—the highest recognition of The City College Alumni Association for outstanding alumni achievement.

An active volunteer in her church and community, Schnabel also tutored children in mathematics, and encouraged many girls to consider the STEM profession.
Lucas Koehler Joins Foundation for City College as CFO and Senior Finance Director

The City College of New York-welcome Lucas Koehler as its first chief financial officer/senior director of finance. “We are thrilled to welcome Lucas Koehler as our first chief financial officer/senior director of finance, a position designed to focus solely on the stewardship and growth of the Foundation,” said Dee Dee Mozeleski, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president. “The Foundation was established to ensure the important work of the College can be achieved through dedicated philanthropic support and Lucas’ passion and experience as a public service leader will allow for its continued growth and that of the teams who support its work. I am grateful to welcome him not only to the team, but into an important strategic partnership on behalf of our students, faculty, staff and donors.”

As CFO of the Foundation for City College Koehler reports to Mozeleski. He manages all Foundation assets ($265 million), builds and strengthens relationships with prospective donors and nine financial professionals, and serves as the Foundation’s strategic administrative partner and its financial officer and a trusted team member.

“I’m so excited about the work ahead and the opportunity to support the Foundation’s growth,” said Koehler.

Koehler joined the Foundation from the New York City Department of Education Division of Early Childhood, where he served as the senior executive director of finance and operations. While there, he used his data and analytics skills to develop the data and technology infrastructure for the Pre-K for All Initiative. He also oversaw all financial functions of the early care and education system of New York City, including financial planning, forecasting, analysis and reporting for the $2 billion early childhood budget.

Koehler is an alumnus of Pomona College and holds graduate degrees in secondary mathematics education from City College, and public administration from New York University.

Dr. Simone K. Tarver is a 2022 Grain’s Notable in Advertising, Marketing and PR

Simone K. Tarver, D.Sc., associate executive director of marketing and communications of The Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations is a Grain’s New York Business 2022 Notable in Advertising, Marketing and PR.

“Being nominated by such a wonderful boss and colleague, Dee Dee Mozeleski, and selected as a member of an elite 45-person class of talented, dynamic, accomplished and driven professionals is an honor,” said Tarver. “This acknowledgement is as much about my career path, experience, and expertise—as it is about representing The City College of New York—its legacy, mission and vision.”

At City College, Tarver launched the new CNNY website, rebranded City College, and created advertising campaigns of exciting institutions, audiences.

Prior to City College, she held positions at Metaplan USA as a management strategy consultant for global luxury and pharmaceutical brands such as Botox, Latisse, Louis Vuitton, Pfizer, and Merck. She also oversaw all financial functions of the early care and education system of New York City, including financial planning, forecasting, analysis and reporting for the $2 billion early childhood budget.

Tarver earned a doctorate in cultural studies in “worker. Cultural workers use art and the face of science and academia,” said RCSA Senior Program Director Silvia Ronco. “We look forward to seeing these latest awards leave their mark on the face of science and academia throughout their careers.”

Cottrell Scholars, as their careers advance, become eligible to compete for a three-year $300K Innovation Award funding through the Cottrell Plus Awards.

Biochemist Daniel Keedy Wins $100K Cottrell Award for Outstanding Teacher-Scholars

Daniel A. Keedy, assistant professor in the Division of Science at CCNY, is among 24 outstanding teacher-scholars in chemistry, physics, and astronomy named recipients of Research Corporation for Science Advancement’s 2022 Cottrell Scholar Awards. Each award is $100,000.

“These exceptional teacher-scholars are chosen not just for their research and educational programs but for their potential to become academic leaders at their institutions and beyond,” said RCSA President & CEO Daniel Linzer.

Keedy is a biochemist who is affiliated with the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center’s Structural Biology Initiative and the Center’s programmatic footprint,” said Dee Dee Mozeleski, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president.

“In his previous position, Bobko was responsible for developing technological plans, managing collaborative projects and providing opportunities for all CCNY students to develop great ideas, bring them into practice, and serve the local and global community.”

Keedy is an alumnus of the University of Rochester and the University of Pennsylvania. He holds Ph.D. in organic chemistry. His research on organic material flexibility, temperature-dependent X-ray crystallography, and allosteric regulation has led to over 15 publications in leading scientific journals and over 10 presentations at national conferences.

In July, Scholars met in Arizona at the annual Cottrell Scholar Conference to network, exchange ideas, and develop collaborative projects with potential national impact.

“The class of 2022 joins an innovative and impactful community,” said RCSA Senior Program Director Silvia Ronco. “We look forward to seeing these latest awards leave their mark on the face of science and academia throughout their careers.”

Cottrell Scholars, as their careers advance, become eligible to compete for a three-year $300K Innovation Award funding through the Cottrell Plus Awards.

Adjunct Professor of Black Studies Mariposa Fernandez is among the initial cohort of 20 Puerto Rican writers awarded Mellon fellowships by the Flamboyant Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Each award includes a $25,000 grant.

An award-winning poet, writer, activist and scholar, Fernandez has been a CUNY faculty member since January 2018. She teaches AfroLatina/o History and Culture, and AfroLatina/o Literature, a course she developed. She is also a member of the African and African American Studies Department and the Women Studies Department at Lehman College.

A first-of-its-kind fellowship, Letras Boricuas is created to identify, elevate, and amplify voices of color and establishes Puerto Rican writers on the island as future leaders of the United States diaspora. “This is an unprecedented fellowship,” she said. “I am overjoyed to be in the inaugural cohort of such amazing Puerto Rican writers,” said Fernandez.

Fernandez’s many influences include the pioneers of the Nuyorican and Black Arts Movement, including poets Pedro Pietri, Ntozake Shange, Sandra Maria Estevez, Tato Laviera, Louis Reyes Rivera, Cenen Moreno and others.

Fernandez believes that her work as a writer, scholar and activist goes hand in hand. “We need bodies of work to tell the stories of who we are, to inspire them to write their own stories,” she said. “But we also need to do more than write. We need to be able to think critically and take action.”

In addition, she hopes to help young people of color “to see us as leaders.” “I hope I can continue to do the work of being a bridge,” she said. “I am a cultural worker. Cultural workers use art and culture as organizing tools.”

Engineer and Educator Chris Bobko Joins CCNY’s Zahn Innovation Center as Director

The Zahn Innovation Center has named Chris Bobko, former chief engineering officer of Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, as its new director. The Zahn Innovation Center serves as a think tank about entrepreneurship and expand their knowledge about business, technology and engineering. The center supports students through funding, mentorships, legal services, and provides access to prototyping facilities, such as 3D printing and laser cutting.

“No one can succeed alone. Our team of experts at the Zahn Innovation Center have a unique ability to bring together resources that will help students bring their ideas into fruition.”
Global Climate Scientist Kaveh Madani Joins CUNY CREST as Research Professor

Kaveh Madani, the renowned environmental scientist, activist and former vice president of the United Nations Economic and Social Assembly Bureau, has joined the City College of New York-based CUNY Remote Serving Early Uranus Institute as a research professor.

"Dr. Madani brings to CUNY CREST, a unique combination of experience in high-level policymaking, prominent practice-relevant research, and high-impact societal interactions," said Reza Khabibardi, CUNY CREST director and professor of civil engineering in the Grove School of Engineering. "He's an international authority on modeling and managing complex human-nature systems who’s also served as deputy head of Iran's Department of Environment."

Khabibardi hailed Madani's outstanding record in bridging the gap between academic theory and practice by addressing progressive and socially significant problems. He's also communicated his findings not only to other researchers and policy makers, but to the public in order to raise awareness around key environmental issues globally.

"Dr. Madani brings a very unique strength and capability to CUNY-CREST," added Khabibardi. "And we are extremely excited that he is joining our Institute at a time that climate change, its impact on society, and efforts to integrate environmental justice into our scientific outputs are at the top of the national agenda to protect vulnerable communities to extreme events."

Madani's research portfolio spans engineering, natural sciences, systems analysis, economics, public policy, politics and behavior. He works at the interface of science, policy and society on complex human-nature problems involving water, energy, food, climate change and development. His research in North America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Middle East covers issues such as water management, environmental policy, diplomacy and justice, energy systems, food security, climate change, urban impacts and adaptation, sustainable development, green recovery and transboundary conflicts and negotiations.

In addition, he has been involved in global climate change negotiations. Madani has been a consultant to the United Nations on inclusive and just green recovery.

Madani is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the Environmental and Water Resources Institute. He has received numerous awards including the New Face of Civil Engineering (ASCE), Hydrologic Sciences Early Career Scientist Award (AGU), the Anne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists (EGU), the Walter Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (ASCE), and the Ambassador Award (AOGU). Reuters profiled Madani in its 2021 Hot List of Climate Scientists.

Mikhail Dekel Named Distinguished Professor

Professor Mikhail Dekel, noted academic and award-winning author, was named the CUNY Distinguished Professor of English by the City University of New York Board of Trustees. They praised his "internationally renowned career, scholarship and teaching of the highest caliber." The Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities and the Arts at City College and current chair of the English Department; Dekel is an internationally recognized scholar of comparative literature with a focus on 20th century English and Hebrew, Jewish studies and cultural history.

She also launched an expanded paperback edition of her award-winning book "Jewish Children," which follows the story of her father and a quarter million Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust and forced labor camps in the Soviet Union by fleeing to the Middle East and Central Asia. Rettilet "In the East: How My Father and a Quarter Million Polish Jews Survived the Holocaust" the new edition of the book has over 500 pages than the first edition hardcover version. It was heralded by the New York Times Book Review as "not simply another detail of the Holocaust but a matter of enduring existential, psychological and moral reflection." The German-language edition, "Die Kindheit der Menschheit" was published in April 2021, and the Hebrew translation in September 2022. A documentary film based on the book was produced by Iran Wire and released in March 2021.

Dekel's first two books, "The Universal Jew: Modernity, Masculinity and the Zionist Moment," and "Oedipus in Kishinev," respectively, established her as a leading scholar in gender and cultural studies with a focus on Jewish studies. Her scholarship and teaching have earned her a National Foundation for the Humanities Faculty-Research Fellowship, and a Lady Davis Fellowship from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dekel joined City College's professorial ranks as an assistant professor in 2003, was promoted to associate professor in 2010 and to full professor in 2015. She has served as the director of CCNY's Rikfled Center for the Humanities and the Arts since 2016.

Dekel earned an M.A. in English Literature from CCNY and her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, with distinction, from Columbia University. She also holds a B.A. in law from Tel Aviv University’s Buchman School of Law.

New Dean of Engineering Alexander Couzis

After serving in an interim capacity, Alexander Couzis was appointed to the permanent deanship of the Grove School of Engineering after a nationwide search, Provost Thomas Campbell announced.

Dr. Alex Couzis is a distinguished expert in interfacial engineering, materials engineering, nanomaterials, energy storage, and scale-up processes. He came to CCNY in 1994 as an assistant professor of chemical engineering. He rose through the ranks to full professor in 2004, when he became the Herbert G. Kayer Professor of Chemical Engineering. He served as department chair from 2006-2013. In January of 2013, Couzis took leave from CCNY to assume the role of chief technical officer of Urban Electric Power, a clean energy company start-up that spun off from CCNY. He was appointed CEO of UEP in 2014.

Couzis returned to CCNY in January of 2018 after setting up UEP on a strong path. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, UEP turned its production to hand sanitizer. On July 1, 2020, Couzis was appointed interim dean of the Grove School.

"It has been my great pleasure to work closely with Dean Couzis," said Liu. He has "shown great leadership, important strategic thinking about how best to deploy our scarce resources, and fresh ideas."

Marta Gutman Appointed Deane Professor of Spitzer School of Architecture

CCNY Provost Tony Liss announced the appointment of Marta Gutman to the permanent deanship of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. After a nationwide search, Gutman was given the position she had been serving in an interim capacity since August 2021.

An award-winning author, historian and licensed architect, Gutman has been at CCNY since 2004. She teaches architectural and urban history at both the Spitzer School and the CCNY Graduate Center. Gutman is a prolific author, and the 2021 recipient of the Catholic W. Bishir Prize which is awarded to the scholarly article that has made the most significant contribution to the study of vernacular architecture and cultural landscapes.

In addition to her teaching and scholarship, Gutman is dedicated to CCNY’s mission, serving on numerous committees and in the Spitzer School, where most recently she chaired the School’s committee on Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. She is the president of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History and a founding editor of PLATFORM, the online forum for conversations about buildings, landscapes, and spaces.

Liss said: "It’s been a pleasure working with her while she served as interim dean, and that her new ideas will advance the schools’"
ATHLETICS YEAR-IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS & COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE

- Senior Nicholas Karkut was named the 2022 CUNYAC Senior College Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. In addition, CCNY had three student-athletes earned Honorable Mention recognition, with seniors Sardar Khambilvardi, Michelle Hu, and Claudia Serna receiving honors.

- The CCNY baseball program earned the 2021-22 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award, boasting a 3.41 grade-point average.

- The CCNY Men’s Basketball program earned the NABC Team Academic Excellence Award; Five student-athletes were named to the NABC Honors Court.

- Eleven student-athletes were named to the 2021-22 Vice Chancellor’s Honor Roll, honoring senior scholar-athletes with a grade-point average of 3.2 or higher.

- All 14 Varsity Athletic programs qualified for the postseason competition.

- Men’s Indoor Track & Field won their 11th straight CUNYAC Championship.

- Women’s Cross Country placed second at the CUNYAC XC Championships, the program’s highest finish since 1996.

- Baseball had an exciting postseason run, advancing CUNYAC Baseball Championship Game Series.

- The men’s Outdoor Track & Field team placed second at the CUNYAC Outdoor Championships.

- Women’s Soccer, Men’s Soccer, and Men’s Volleyball all advanced to the semfinals of the CUNYAC Championship Tournaments.

- Women’s Volleyball, Men’s Basketball, and Men’s Basketball advanced to the quarterfinals of the CUNYAC Championship Tournaments.

- Women’s Fencing placed tenth at the EWFC Championships.

3.17 48 99 72% 50 10

Departmental GPA  
Student-athletes named to Fall CUNYAC Honor Roll  
Student-athletes named to Winter/Spring CUNYAC Honor Roll  
of all student-athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or Higher  
All-Conference Recipients  
Major Award Winners CUNYAC

FOUNDATION UPDATE

Nicolas Roc joins Foundation for City College Board

The City College of New York is pleased to announce the appointment of financial services executive Nicolas Roc to the Foundation for City College Inc. Board. He joins 12 other distinguished Board members.

Roc is head of U.S. Equity Trading for Securities Lending at global investment manager BlackRock. He has spent his entire professional life in financial services, having worked for Societe Generale and Deutsche Bank before coming to BlackRock in 2011. Since then, he has held increasingly responsible positions with the company in London, Hong Kong and New York.

A native of Paris, Roc is the son of a Cambodian immigrant mother who fled the Khmer Rouge and a French father, neither of whom had the chance to attain a formal education. Both parents instilled in their two sons the importance of education as a means of social mobility and social equity.

“I feel that, through education, I was able to do something that my parents are proud of,” he said.

Roc learned of the opportunity to serve on the Board through BoardLead, a service that partners with companies to recruit professionals to serve on nonprofit boards. BlackRock is a partner of BoardLead, which alerted him to the Foundation Board opening.

“The mission of City College, providing people with access to education, really resonated with me,” he said. “I have always been keen on helping people through education, and I have experienced the power that higher education has to change the lives of people and to help with social mobility and social equity.”

“Nicolas is the kind of person who can help to bolster the Foundation as it seeks to enhance its mission,” said Dee Dee Mozeleski, vice president of the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications, executive director of the Foundation for City College and senior advisor to the president. “We are pleased to be able to attract such passionate, accomplished professionals from the private sector who understand and value public higher education.”

BOARD MEMBERS

Edward Blank ’57  
Vivien R. Clark  
Martin Cohen ’70  
John M. Dionisio ’71  
Joseph Fleischer ’66  
Leonard Kleinrock ’57  
Maureen Mitchell ’73  
Nicolas Roc  
Sy Sternberg ’65  
Michael Sutton  
Lev A. Sviridov ’05  
John Weston ’50  
Peter Zahn
The City College of New York kicked off its 175th anniversary celebration at the Presidential Awards Gala in May 5, 2022 with the launch of a campaign to triple its endowment to $1 billion over the next 10 years.

"The Campaign for City College: Doing Remarkable Things Together" was announced by President Vincent Boudreau before an audience of more than 200 people gathered in the Great Hall of Shepard Hall for the College's 16th annual Gala.

"In commemorating the 175th anniversary of CCNY's founding, we rededicate ourselves to serving the historic vision bequeathed to us, and to embark on a new challenge to secure our future," said Boudreau, who has been president of the founding college of what is now the City University of New York since November 2016. "The idea of 'Doing Remarkable Things Together' is to ensure that people from all walks of life, whatever their economic or social circumstances, will have access to a college dedicated to the idea that a democratic society begins with educational opportunity for the whole people."

Increasing the existing endowment will lay the foundation for continuing success by supporting creative scholarships, internships, fellowships, and entrepreneurship initiatives, and upgrading physical facilities. These ambitions will also help to expand the College's world-class research profile.

"Two key elements of this campaign are to enhance academic excellence and to improve the student experience," said Martin Cohen '70, chairman and co-founder of investment firm Cohen & Steers, Inc. and the board chair of the Foundation for City College, Inc., which oversees the campaign. "City College already provides the best education that one can get; we need to ensure that future generations of students are assured of having the same opportunity to obtain that education."