

# REAR REALES



The City College of New York



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# 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

"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."

# 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 successful and safe. 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 longterm 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 subpar 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 wellbeing, 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 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,

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Dee Dee Mozeleski 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."



All data are from the CUNY IRDB. Fiscal year 2021-22 total students includes the unduplicated headcount of students enrolled in Fall 2021.

# More Students Concerned About the Environment Drives Green Designation



Princeton Review Designates CCNY one of the Best Colleges in the Northeast

CCNY appears in the Princeton Review's "2023 Best Colleges: Region by Region." It is one of 224 colleges in the Northeast that is included in the list. Of the five zones,—Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West, and International (outside of the United States)—CCNY is one of 655 colleges recognized as "academically outstanding and well worth consideration in your college search," according to the Princeton Review's recommendation. Schools are not ranked.

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 Princeton Review chose schools based on its survey of administrators at 835 colleges in 2020-21 about their institutions' commitments to the environment and sustainability. The company's editors analyzed more than 25 survey data points to select the schools.

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



Source: CCNY HR data are extracted from IPEDS on Aug. 2022

Full-Time

Part-Time





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.

Part-Time Faculty

Full-Time

Once again, City College is included among the 420 listed colleges in "The Princeton Review Guide to Green 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.

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."

# 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, annual tuition \$57,059 has a Salary Score of 99.62, while second place Stanford, annual tuition \$53,151 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.

( City College York (NY)	ANNUAL TUITION (2) \$20,832	SALARY S	CORE (9) 3.57
om previous year	s thanks in part to	o an increase	of more
NY City College also saw a big jump, rising 12 sp ints in Salary Score since 2021. City College is pop lucation, bilingual and TESOL programs, and sustai	ular for degrees i inability studies. Popular Programs ()	)	
Salary Scores for Muse	MEDIAN	SALARY	PREVIO
PROGRAM	\$69,172	• 98.96	1
Teacher Education and Professioner Specific Subject Areas	\$68,077	● 90.86	
Teaching English or French as a con-	\$71,049	<b>9</b> 99.64	
Special Education and Teaching	\$57,487	• 92.52	
- Drotessionar			
Teacher Education and Flores Specific Levels and Methods			

# ONLINEU RANKINGS OF CCNY PROGRAMS

Median Salary	Salary Score	Change from 2021	
Teacher Educa	ition and Profession	al Development	
\$69,172	98.96	1.48	
Teaching English or	French as a Second	or Foreign Language	
\$68,077	90.86	-0.18	
Spec	ial Education and Te	aching	
\$71,049	99.64	-0.09	
Teacher Education and Professional Development, Specific Levels and Methods			
\$57,487	92.52	9.63	
:	Sustainability Studi	es	
\$55,692	55.72	-15.57	

# U.S. State Dept. Declares CCNY a Fulbright Hispanic– Serving Institution Leader

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 ECA's international exchange programs.

Speaking on behalf of ECA, which sponsors the Fulbright Program, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Academic Programs Ethan Rosenzweig congratulated 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.

# More U.S. News & World Report Rankings

Other CCNY graduate programs ranked highly by U.S. News & World Report includes the Physician Assistant program (#46) in the CUNY School of Medicine at City College; Fine Arts (#64) in the Division of Humanities and the Arts; Clinical Psychology (#101) and Psychology (#111), both in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership; and Earth Sciences (#140), in the Division of Science.

"The Best Graduate Schools rankings evaluate schools across nearly 200 different areas, such as law, business and nursing," said Robert Morse, chief data strategist at U.S. News & World Report . "We regularly update the methodology and add new programs to keep the rankings relevant and valuable for prospective students."

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

The 2023 U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools ranks six of the Grove School of Engineering programs as top tier in the country. The Chemical Engineering program ranked #48 out of 214 that grant doctoral degrees. Grove is the only public school of engineering in the metropolitan area. The other programs listed were:

- Biomedical Engineering #74
- Mechanical Engineering #89
- Civil Engineering #107
- Electrical Engineering #113
- Computer Science #115

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.

**CCNY Earns Silver Award and Military Friendly® Designation** 



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.

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."

### 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 longtime 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 careerstarting 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 employerpartners 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 organized into cohorts, and will benefit from the Colin Powell School's track record of developing successful substantively-focused fellowship programs that tie education to professional development. This includes the School's Honors Program in Legal Studies and its Climate Policy Fellows Program.

### On the Passing of Gen. Colin Powell and His **Enduring** Legacy

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 neverending 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 to 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/ powellradiotribute

### 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 insatiable 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 education and research would continue at CCNY as it has for these past decades: encouraged and advanced in the benediction of her expansive and warm support."

Chair of Physics Vinod Menon 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 ensuring her vision lives on."

Mozeleski added that Sarachik was tremendously impactful as a scientist, a researcher and teacher. "And in those areas, where she especially pulled in women from across the academic and non-academic universes, and reminded us that there is a place for each of us and that place reminds us 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 distinguished professor of physics.

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 give them a strong introduction 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 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 Sorocki. 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. Harriet's 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 interracial. 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 Interracial 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 and exchange 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'm a first-generation student, and the CCNY School of Engineering (now the Grove School) provided me with a free, high-quality 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 business management. The 23-year-old is currently interning at the NYC School Construction Authority as a construction management intern and plans 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 Award in 2019. He competed in the RPSSI Nassau Program Logo Design Competition in 2021.

### Milton Stern Scholars Fund Available in 2023 for Students of Financial Advisement



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 firm and his family to honor his life, and to continue the legacy of his commitment to independent financial advisory work. The Fund will support workshops, advising, 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 the housing projects of Brooklyn 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, Milt 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 CUNY 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, two for \$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 professionals 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 students need to be successful after graduation," 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 grateful for their leadership, their friendship, and their continuing dedication to the advancement of financial advisement 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 hands-on experience they need to become the next generation of civic leaders in New York City. A two-year investment of \$200,000 will expand the efforts of the Foundation to enhance educational opportunities to students from low-income backgrounds under their Education for American Civic Life initiative.

"For many students, the pathways to careerstarting 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 enroll in two liberal arts courses to learn about local political systems ahead of beginning an internship program in public service in New York City. 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 pursue a fully-funded summer internship program in New York City government or non-governmental 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. "The New York Leaders Fellowship pairs career and professional development with a liberal arts education to give students the opportunity to engage with transformative texts to sharpen their knowledge and decision making skills to participate in political systems."

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 Accetti, 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 central 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 served City College and City University as a member of the City College 21st Century Foundation Board and the Colin Powell Center for Policy Studies Advisory Council, and as chair of the CUNY Business Leadership Council. The Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership reflects combined donations of \$2 million from Sy and Laurie Sternberg. In addition, Sy Sternberg created the Sy Sternberg President's Fund for Excellence, which allows CCNY to support significant projects of benefit to the College and the larger community. He was also an early supporter of the Macaulay Honors College, providing a \$2 million donation in 2006.

### **Robindra Nath Khaund Scholarship Established for Immigrant Students**



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 tremendous 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 Texas A&M University, where he earned both an M.A. and Ph.D. in biochemistry.

In 1972, Khaund moved his family to New York City and took a position at the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, working in the Department of Pathology as director of the Immunology and Endocrinology Laboratory. 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."

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### EXTERNALLY FUNDED GRANTS FOR FACULTY RESEARCH AND TRAINING GREATER THAN \$250K IN FY22.

Name	Department	Project Details	Amount
CITY SPONSORSHIP			

Honey Berk	Building Performance Lab	Energy Data Lab	\$11,278,640.00
Micheal Bobker	Building Performance Lab	Sustainability Help Center	\$606,739.47
Dee Dee Mozeleski	Vice President, OIACER	Living Redemption Youth Opportunity Hub	\$1,577,583.00
Ramona Hernandez	CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at City College	Dominican Studies Institute	\$1,000,000.00

### FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP

Peter Brass	Computer Science	Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment	\$280,900.00
Vincent Boudreau	President	The Center for Co-Innovation and Medical Technology: A New Product, Venture, and Workforce Development Engine for Greater Harlem	\$750,000.00
Vincent Boudreau, Dee Dee Mozeleski & Angelo Lampousis	President	Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative	\$1,500,000.00
Zimei Bu	Chemistry	Collaborative Research: Nanoscale structure and dynamics of a cell-cell adhesion complex	\$774,036.00
Marco Castaldi	Chemical Engineering	Gypsum & Clay-based Additives to MSW for Pre-combustion Enhancement of Syngas and Solid Residue Improvement	\$1,000,000.00
Mark Emerson	Biology	Transcriptional Regulation of Cone Photoreceptor Genesis	\$426,258.00
Victoria Frye	Community Health & Social Medicine	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	\$723,984.00
Jorge Gonzalez	Mechanical Engineering	CiPASS-ExL: City College Initiative to Promote the Academic Success of Students - Experimental Learning and Industry Engagement for Workforce Readiness	\$1, 599,286.00
		Collaborative Research: The Hispanic AGEP Alliance for the Environmental Science and Engineering Professoriate in Community Colleges and Associate Degree Programs	\$454,743.00
Marilyn Gunner	Physics	Studies of Photosynthetic Reaction Center and Biomimetic Systems	\$251,025.00
		Proton Loading Clusters and Complex Proton Pathways in Proton Pumping Proteins	\$705,102.00
Karen Hubbard	Biology	1/2 CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research, Education and Commu- nity Outreach	\$1,517,001.00
Anuradha Janakiraman	Biology	Maintenance of Escherichia Coli Cell Envelope Integrity Under Stress	\$997,716.00
Yuri Job	Provost Operations	Upward Bound	\$378,856.00
		CCNY TRIO Education Talent Search	\$277,375.00
Masahiro Kawaji	Mechanical Engineering	PIRE Investigation of Multi-Scale, Multi-Phase Phenomena in Complex Fluids for the Energy Industries	\$1,091,127.00
Alexander Khanikaev	Electrical Engineering	Topological Photonics for Robust Light-Matter Interactions	\$271,411.00
Reza Khayat	Chemistry	Mechanism of Membrane Fusion Involving the Gram-Negative Bacteria Outer Membrane	\$378,250.00
Taehun Lee	Mechanical Engineering	Nuclear Energy Fellowship Program at City College of New York and Hunter College	\$399,168.00
Zhengzhao Luo	Earth & Environment Science	A Unified Cloud-Defined Weather State Dataset for Process-Resolving Data Analysis and Model Evaluation	\$314,788.00
Annika Lüdke	OIACER	Child Care Access Means Parents in School	\$593,309.00
John Martin	Molecular, Cellular Sciences	Lesion and Activity Dependent Corticospinal Tract Plasticity	\$386,391.00
Vinod Menon	Physics	Strain Engineering of Exciton-Polaritons in 2D Semiconductors	\$449,997.00
Robert Messinger	Chemical Engineering	19-MIROG-0057, NASA-CCNY Center for Advanced Batteries for Space (ABS)	\$998,541.00
Renata Miller	English	Building Partnerships with Cultural Institutions to Study and Preserve New York City's Black and Latinx Cultural Heritage	\$498,171.00
Fred Moshary	Electrical Engineering	CSC-Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies - ESSRST	\$1,000,000.00

Name	Department	Project Details	Amount
FEDERAL SPONSOR	SHIP (CONTINUED)		
Hysell Oviedo	Biology	Development of Hemispheric Specializations During Auditory Cortex Critical Periods	\$308,462.00
Lucas Parra	Biomedical Engineering	Research on the Role of Attention in Improving Video-Based Learning	\$842,488.00
		Machine Learning for Risk-Adjusted Breast MRI Screening	\$581,565.00
Stefan U. Pukatzki	Biology	The Role of Type VI Secretion in Cholera Pathogenesis	\$263,869.24
Prathap Ramamurthy	Mechanical Engineering	Convective Cloud Urban Boundary-layer Experiment	\$663,301.00
Lesia Ruglass	Psychology	Translational Research Training on Addictions for Racial/Ethnic Minorities	\$327,199.00
Peter Romanov	NOAA CREST Center	A New Global 4-km Multi-Decadal Snow Cover Extent/Snow Water Equivalent/ Snow Depth Dataset from Blended In-situ and Satellite Observations	\$277,666.00
Mitchell Schaffler	Biomedical Engineering	Structural, Molecular and Functional Specialization in Osteocyte Mechanosensing	\$628,236.00
Amr Soliman	Community Health & Social Medicine	Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CEESP)	\$280,368.00
Ruth Stark	Chemistry	MRI: Acquisition of Advanced Solid-State NMR Instrumentation to Investigate Novel Biological and Engineered Materials at CCNY	\$833,284.00
		An Integrated Genetic and Biophysical Approach to Tomato Crop Protection	\$650,000.00
		G-RISE at The City College of New York	\$693,159.00
Nancy Stern	Education	Building Secondary English Learner Educator and Administrator Leadership (B-SEAL)	\$595,052.00
Maria Tamargo	Chemistry	Phase II CREST Center for Interface Design and Engineered Assembly of Low-dimensional Systems (IDEALS II)	\$5,000,000.00
Gonzalo Torres	Molecular, Cellular Sciences	Center for Underrepresented Research in Addiction (CURA)	\$268,218.00
		Mentoring Institute for Neuroscience Diversity Scholars	\$268,218.00
Maria Tzortziou	Earth & Environment Science	Arctic Deltas and Coastal Margins as Buffers and Transformers of Carbon Along a Rapidly Changing Land-Ocean Continuum	\$327,120.00
Bao Vuong	Biology	Molecular Mechanisms Regulating Immunoglobulin Diversification	\$353,250.00
Muharrem Umit Uyar	Electrical Engineering	Game Theory and Real Time Artificial Intelligence for Knowledgeable Electronic Warfare (GRANGE)	\$255,644.00
Rosemarie D. Wesson	Dean Of Engineering	2022 NSF ENG CAREER Workshop	\$289,497.00
Ryan Williams	<b>Biomedical Engineering</b>	Integrating Real-Time Multi-System Cytokine Signaling in Chronic Disease	\$392,500.00

### PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP

Alex Gilerson	Electrical Engineering	CI Sa

### STATE SPONSORSHIP

Doris Cintron-Nabi	Provost Operations	Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)	\$495,482.00
Tatyana Kleyn	Elementary/Early Childhood Education	CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY- IIE)	\$2,753,516.93
Millicent Roth	Psychology	City College Academy for Professional Preparation	\$450,000.00

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FOR FY22 IS: \$72,918,958.67	T

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SESS: CUNY-Validation of Ocean Color VIIRS SNPP and VIIRS NOAA-20	\$450,679.00
tellite Sensors on the Coastal LISCO AERONET Site and in Ocean Cruises	

PONSOR	PROJECT COUNT	BUDGET AMOUNT
ty	12	\$15,232,517.46
deral	101	\$36,433,938.67
ivate	141	\$17,053,547.61
ate	10	\$4,198,954.93
DTAL	264	\$72,918,958.67

### FOR A COMPLETE LISTING ALL OF AWARDS REFLECTED, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.CCNY.CUNY.EDU/GIVING

### NSF Awards \$6M to CCNY and Partners to Boost STEM Research, Mentoring and Training of **Diverse Ph.D.s**



From left: NSF RaMP and NRT leaders David Jeruzalmi, Stephen O'Brien and Ruth Stark.

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 our nation's innovative scientific skills, advancing a strategic objective of the NSF. The proposal devised strong evidencebased 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 STEMenabled 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 ASRC's Nanoscience Initiative under the umbrella of the CUNY 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 CUNY 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.

### **\$800K NSF Grant Funds Major Research** Equipment Upgrade



Setting the stage for more groundbreaking inquiry in the sciences and engineering, a major upgrade to research instruments for solidstate nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy is underway. Funded by a \$833,284 grant from the National Science Foundation, the award is from the NSF's Major Research Instrumentation program. Over three years it will enable six faculty-led CCNY teams to pursue forefront research that ranges from engineering science to the biology of animals, plants and fungi. The console, along with the MAS and diffusion probes, will provide CCNY researchers with unique access to molecular environments, structures, and motional processes that underlie the functions of solid materials.

"This exciting project will comprehensively upgrade our research infrastructure for advanced 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 slowdiffusing 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."

City College Partners in Center for **Optoelectronic**, Quantum Technologies with \$25M Funded by NSF



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 -or 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 is exciting to be part of this Center which brings together world renowned experts in nanoscience, photonics and guantum 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.

### **\$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 CUNY 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 CCNY onboarding program— aptly named Student Successdeveloped 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.

### Alzheimer's Foundation of America Awards \$250K Grant for **Research Led by Biologist Li**



From left: Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA president and CEO; Bert E. Brodsky, B.A., '64, AFA founder and board chair; Dr. Christine Li, principal investigator and CCNY professor; and Vincent Boudreau, CCNY president.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America has awarded a \$250,000 research grant to fund new Alzheimer's disease research which could potentially lead to the development of new medications to treat the disease. The project aims to learn more about the role that disrupting the amyloid precursor protein plays in causing Alzheimer's.

Led by Christine Li, principal investigator and a professor in the Department of Biology, 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 that do not interfere with APP function.

"Scientists have been working hard and making progress, but there is still more we need to learn and discover about Alzheimer's disease," said AFA Founder and Board Chair Bert E. Brodsky. "We are pleased to support CCNY's research and are hopeful that it will lead to the breakthrough all of us are hoping and praying for."

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.

Jorge E. González, presidential professor in the Grove School of Engineering and BEST project leader in New York, said: "This is a major milestone and opportunity, as it validates our longterm efforts in research and education on building systems as supporting activity to our city. We will be providing engineering and technology solutions to connect the outdoors environment to the indoors of buildings to enable smart and sustainable responses."

BEST will operate under the NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers model. This setup is designed to help startups, large corporate partners and government agencies connect directly with university researchers to solve common research obstacles in a low-risk environment. The aim is to develop new technology faster and build out the U.S. workforce in critical areas. Ten industry partners are onboard with the initiative.

"This will be a long-term collaboration with industry partners of the building sector that will allow us to collectively identify emerging needs and opportunities, facilitate effective R&D roadmaps and executions, and most importantly provide opportunities for workforce development by training our undergraduate and graduate students with the needed skills to be employed by the industry partners," González said.

In addition to meeting emissions goals, new smart and adaptable technologies in the built environment will provide responses for increasingly frequent extreme weather events due to the rapidly changing climate. The work will also direct attention on emerging challenges in the building sector due to pandemics and health crises such as those caused by COVID-19.

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



From left: Educators Tatyana Kleyn 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 Kleyn 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 Kleyn'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 Rvan** 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 disease, 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 Nicoll, 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 inflammationdriven 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 235 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 innovation ecosystem by leveraging the substantial resources of CCNY's diverse institutional stakeholders.

"We are excited to expand on the successes of MTM and continue development of a pipeline of well-trained employees and practical medical technologies to the local communities where they are most needed," said Jeffrey Garanich, MTM director and incoming CCMT director. "Receipt of this federal funding in support of CCMT is an important step in making this vision a reality."

It is anticipated that CCMT will both increase economic prosperity and address important unmet medical needs of the Greater Harlem community. Expected outcomes over the first five years of operation include: acceleration of 40 new medical technology products, creation of 15 new ventures, deployment of \$150 million in seed/venture capital, training/employment of 275 fellows and interns, and the creation of over 800 desirable STEM jobs in Greater Harlem.

### 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 \$1.1 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 Aurélien 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 (de)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 Cure Research 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 twoyear \$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 reward" grant is enabling her and her Italian collaborators in Dr. Antonella Forlino's lab at the University of Pavia, to study a novel bone specific pharmacological treatment for osteogenesis imperfecta using zebrafish 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, of which fewer than 20,000 cases are reported in the United States every year, include bone-strengthening medications, physical therapy, and orthopedic surgery.

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

## 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 Chicanos/Hispanics 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 personification of the spirit of the SACNAS mission: to foster the success of Chicano/Hispanic and Native American scientists, from college students to professionals, in attaining 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 Rio. Piedras and a Ph.D. in chemistry from Johns Hopkins University. She worked for AT&T Bell Labs, and 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 Molecular Beam Epitaxy of wide bandgap II-VI compounds, with emphasis on the development of visible light emitters. She moved her MBE research effort to CCNY in 1993 where she has continued to work on the growth of nanostructures of II-VI and III-V semiconductors. She also investigates a class of materials known as topological insulators, which have potential 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 North American Conference on MBE (2009) and the International Conference on II-VI Semiconductors (2003). Tamargo's other honors include the MBE Innovator Award from the North American Conference on MBE in 2017. She is also a Fellow of the American Physical Society.

### NSF CCNY CREST Center for IDEALS Receives \$5M



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, CCNY CREST'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 IDEALS so that we can continue to make 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, numerical, and experimental techniques.

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.

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 Gayen, Lia Krusin-Elbaum, Ilona Kretzschmar, and Gustavo Lopez, and about 20 more faculty researchers from several CUNY campuses and beyond CUNY," added Tamargo.

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



Catalina López, an environmental engineering graduate student, in CCNY's Makerspace.

Experiential 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 Teachers College, Columbia University after a five-year, \$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.

Experiential learning is an engaged learning process whereby 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 experiential 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 new Makerspace for projectbased learning, while engaging industry and employers in the process."

What changes, González added, is that CCNY is partnering with LaGuardia Community College and the Borough of Manhattan Community College to target transfer STEM students as freshmen and sophomores 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 Cintron: Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Mechanical Engineering Feridun Delale; Alison J. Conway, civil engineering; scientist Millicent Roth; David Jeruzalmi, chemistry & biochemistry; Anna Carnaval, biology; Karin A. Block, earth and atmospheric science; Program Administrator Christine Banks Calderon; and Makerspace Director Mohamed Haroun.

### Entrepreneurial Skills a LaunchPad to Success



A grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation has allowed CCNY to partner with them for 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 Zahn Center is a startup incubator offering coworking space and an array of resources, including annual entrepreneurship competitions, a startup boot camp, mentorship and pro-bono services, networking opportunities and rapid prototyping facilities. Students nurture and strategically develop solutions to enhance their critical thinking through mentorship and support across all eight City College divisions and schools.

The Center for Innovation in Medical Technology is conceived as a product accelerator where teams of fellows and interns, under the supervision of product development professionals, gain real world work experience in developing solutions for important unmet biomedical needs. The primary feeder program for CIMT Fellows will be the existing Master's in Translational Medicine, an academic program in which students learn fundamental product development skills.

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



"Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Strategies for Urgent Challenges," the recent publication co-authored by June Williamson, is the 2021 winner of the Great Places Award for books.

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



A novel carbon-absorbing concrete mixture is 3D-printed.

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 carbonnegative, medium-sized building structure by developing a high-performance floor system with maximized surface area for carbon absorption, using a novel carbonabsorbing concrete mixture as building material, 3D printing the parts with a novel concrete mixture and additional biobased 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.





**Professor Mohammad Bolhassani; and** a 3D-modelled rendition of the Galata bridge

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 threedimensional 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."

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.

### Tobacco Use by White and Black Youth Studied

Adriana Espinosa, assistant professor of psychology, in the Colin Powell School, is the principal investigator of a \$467,205 grant from the National Institutes of Health for an innovative study of tobacco use and its varying impact on white and Black adolescents.

Entitled "An intersectional examination of early tobacco use among white and Black adolescents," the two-year study involves co-investigators: clinical psychologist and PTSD and substance use disorder researcher Lesia M. Ruglass from CPS; Fiona Conway, University of Texas at Austin, who also studies substance use disorders; bio-behavioral health, and technology-assisted health interventions; and Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center's Professor of Oncology Christine Sheffer, whose specialities include the treatment of tobacco dependence and health behavior change.

"The project will identify differences in the types and accumulation of multiple risk and protective factors for tobacco use between white and Black adolescents over time," said Espinosa, whose research expertise includes health disparities and health behaviors. "The purpose is to understand factors explaining differences in early tobacco use between white and Black youth with the long-term goal of developing interventions that reduce tobacco-related health disparities among Black individuals. This developmental project is the first step in this direction because it will identify groups of Black adolescents who face the highest risks of tobacco-related illnesses.'

Future projects will create interventions to prevent and mitigate tobacco use and related consequences among those who face the highest risks.

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### Study of Psychosocial Treatments for Black Cocaine Users



Lesia M. Ruglass and Adriana Espinosa.

Amid 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, "Integrative 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 NIDA, 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 a larger database of Black participants (N = 1,442) than typically available in clinical trials. Using multiple novel measurement/data analysis frameworks, including integrative data analysis, meta-analysis of individual patient data, and causal moderation analysis, the study will evaluate the effectiveness of substance use disorder treatments for Black people who use cocaine.

Experts consider the project critical and innovative for three reasons. 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.

And secondly, "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.

### Santander Bank Partners to Create Diverse Leaders in Finance



A partnership between the Colin Powell School and Santander Bank, N.A., through its Santander Universities 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.

"The central mission of the Colin Powell School is to prepare some of the nation's most talented students, representing the diversity of background and experience needed to tackle society's challenges, to be tomorrow's leaders" said Colin Powell School Dean Andrew Rich. "All too often, that talent goes undiscovered because of financial and societal constraints. Santander's investment will help change that. We look forward to deepening our partnership, with Santander employees serving as speakers and mentors to our students."

The Santander Finance Boot Camp is an intensive, creditbearing experience for sophomores and early juniors. The approximately 30-student cohorts will receive special instruction, mentoring, and professional development. The 12 most promising students from each cohort will proceed to the Santander Fellows program, which includes more substantial mentoring, custom designed courses, and guidance on securing internships and jobs. The Santander Fellows also receive stipends that can be used for tuition or living expenses.

Santander Bank, N.A. is one of the country's largest retail and commercial banks with \$89.5 billion in assets.

### **Study Reveals REM Students Flourish**



New research from the Colin Powell School suggests that racial/ ethnic minority students thrive in environments with no-racial/ethnic majority, producing higher graduation rates, even through adverse factors such as low household income and low parental education.

Generally, research has found that REM students graduate from colleges and universities at lower rates than white students. National graduation rates of Black (27.62 percent) and Latinx (19.81 percent) students remain considerably lower than white (43.87 percent) and Asian (59.35

percent) students. This comes despite increased enrollment by REM students in the past 50 years.

The study included all City College undergraduate students (12,960) enrolled in the fall semester of 2009, as well as 514 students in an introductory psychology class in 2009 who completed a 21-item survey of sociodemographic characteristics.

Of the full cohort, 74.71 percent graduated by the end of 2017, with 63.42 percent graduating from City College and another 11.29 percent graduating from a college or university they transferred to. Asian students (79 percent) graduated at a slightly higher rate, followed closely by white (74 percent), Latinx (73 percent), and Black (73 percent) students. Among students who began City College as freshmen in 2009 (4,226), 60.67 percent graduated from either City College or the college where they transferred. The graduation rates of Black (67 percent) and Latinx (68 percent) freshmen were substantially higher than the national averages. Survey data revealed that lower perceived stress as freshmen and full-time registration status best predicted the students' graduation eight years later.

"We found that Black and Latinx City College students graduate at a much higher rate than national averages, with little disparity among our racial/ethnic groups," said Robert D. Melara, one of the authors of the study and a professor in the School's Department of Psychology. "Interestingly, traditional predictors, such as household income, gender, and parental education, have no bearing on success at City College. What matters are the students' self-reported degree of psychological stress and their academic momentum."

The study, "College Completion in a No-Racial/Ethnic Majority Campus" was published in the Journal of College Student Retention: Research, Theory & Practice, and was co-authored by Namhee Stokvis, Rutgers University, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology; and Prabal K. De, of the Colin Powell School's Department of Economics, and the Graduate Center, CUNY.

"The big message from our findings is racial/ethnic minority students, whether at City College or elsewhere, thrive academically in educational settings where no single racial majority exists," added Melara.

### 75-Year-Old Graduate Makes Dream **Come True**



Nearly 60 years after he left his studies at CCNY in order to enter the workforce, Ciro Scala returned to earn both his B.A. and his M.A. in 2020. The remarkable story was covered by "The New York Times" in January 2022. According to "The Times," Scala was the son of southern Italian immigrants and the youngest of five children. Ciro, who lived on Staten Island, commuted to a clerical job in Times Square and attended City College at night. The threehour journey ultimately ground him down and forced him to stop attending classes, which he did with a sorrowful resignation. "I just never wanted to die without a diploma, I lived a life. I felt I was successful. But without that diploma I was not whole. I didn't want to leave that legacy for my grandchildren."

It is an inspiring story—and a quintessentially City College one. In addition to "The Times" profile, Ciro's story was featured on the CUNY podcast, "A Backpack at 75: Ciro Scala's Long Quest for a CCNY Degree."

In recognition of Scala's achievement and his passion for mentoring, his family provided support to create the new position of manager of Mentoring and Alumni Relations at the Colin Powell School, now held by Cynthia Guiterrez. In her first year on the job, Guiterrez developed a number of peer, alumni, and professional mentoring programs focused on freshmen, sophomores, and new transfer students.

Scala also led efforts to create The Colin Powell School's First Generation Empowerment Program, which focuses on professional development, civic literacy, and mentoring for CPS students. Workshop topics have included integrating into the college community, financial literacy, professional and career development, and overcoming imposter syndrome.

"Students who are the first in their family to attend college can face challenges that other students may not," he said. "We want students to achieve academic success and reach their full potential."

### Launch of LGBTO+ 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."

Nill 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 toolkit in Contextualizing and Articulating the Demands of NYC's LGBTQ+ Homeless and Street-involved Youth," 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.

### New Mixner LGBTQ+ Fellowship Program

The David Mixner Fellowship Program trains and supports the next generation of LGBTQ+ leaders and advocates by finding internships for them at local, regional and national organizations. The Program includes stipends, and professional development and mentoring, for participating students.

Launched at the Colin Powell School in 2021, the fellowship is named for author and political activist David Mixner, known for his work to end the Vietnam War, pass civil rights legislation, achieve nuclear disarmament, and create a humane, stigma-free, educationbased and treatment-focused approach to the AIDS epidemic.

### 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 "Modern 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, divestitures, 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. Foxe, 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.

**Office of Student Success** Relaunched



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, and we're excited to continue supporting students as they hone in on their career goals," said OSS Director Deborah Cheng. "There is nothing more rewarding to us than seeing a student thrive in an internship or fellowship and gain the confidence to pursue even more opportunities."

This past summer, OSS supported 70 paid internships through partnerships with public service organizations and private sector companies.

Honors Program in Legal Studies Celebrates Twelfth Year



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 nonwhite. 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 twothirds 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 UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon Gives Lecture and Collection



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 Krasno 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/ bankimoon.

This multi-year project was developed under Krasno'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, Krasno 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 and Artstor 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 CCNY Libraries worked closely to build the digital databases and exhibition with Krasno's team, who produced expert, in-depth metadata for the 6,000 records.

Semester in Washington Program Expands



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 and Administration 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.



### **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 on 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 Miguel Perez. The CCNY-based CUNY DSI was the host.

The exhibit centered around the popular uprising against autocratic ruler Rafael Trujillo who was in office from 1930-1961. Nationally, 1961 was made an official date in the Dominican Republic to celebrate the year of freedom. The exhibit featured many neverbefore-seen photographs that chronologically depicted resistance.

The exhibit welcomed visits by NYC public schools and professors teaching Dominican/Latino studies courses in CUNY and other institutions.

City College has been the alma mater of generations of graduates born in the Dominican Republic or of Dominican heritage.

### 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 origins 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" wore 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.

"Despite their substantial heterogeneity, Latina/o/x populations living in the U.S. are frequently treated as a single group in health research. The needs of these populations cannot be addressed if adequate data does not exist to inform policy decisions. This study gives an important voice to people of Dominican descent in the U.S. regarding COVID-19," said Nancy Sohler, associate professor of epidemiology at CSOM.

"At a moment when the scientific community is determining how frequently people will need to vaccinate in the future to undermine COVID-19's harmful effects, this study is integral to understanding the likelihood of compliance among a sizable minoritized group. It provides insight into how Dominicans, one of the largest and fastest growing Latino subgroups in the U.S., have responded to the directives in place to deal with the virus." said Ramona Hernández, director of CUNY-DSI and professor of sociology at CCNY.

Surveys were administered to 794 adults, online and via telephone by a specialized company, across seven states New York, New Jersey, Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Connecticut in October and November 2021. These seven states were selected because the majority (85 percent) of Dominicans living in the U.S. reside in these states.

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 27.5 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 the largest of 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 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, 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-Batiz, and CUNY-DSI researcher Sidie Sisay. 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.



### Dominican Employment and Income Surge, Study Finds



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, Salvadoreans 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 2020.

### Research on India's Risk of Groundwater Depletion Published in "Nature Communications"



A: Current vs. optimal national agricultural revenue.



B: Current vs. optimal national production levels.



C: Current vs. optimal nutritional value for energy and folates.



D: Current vs. optimal nutritional value for proteins, fats, iron, and niacin



Groundwater pumping in Punjab, India; and Professor Naresh Devineni

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 Upmanu Lall from the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, Columbia University, co-authored the paper.

### 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 Weissenberg 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 Weissenberg 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 Weissenberg Committee for a three-year term ending in 2026.

Morris, whose research group in the Levich Institute has conducted significant research on rheologicallyinduced 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 Baron Award went to Morris in 2017.

### Nir Krakauer Finds Link Between Trunk Fat-free Mass and Increased Adult Mortality



Whole-body DEXA scan showing bones (left) and soft tissue (right).

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 DEXAmeasured fat and fat-free masses for BMI and ABSI, using the same powerlaw 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.

### Lucas Parra and Jens Madsen Find Listening to Recorded Narratives Synchronizes Heart Rates



Heart rate naturally fluctuates over time. These fluctuations of heart rate synchronize when individuals listen to the same story.

Biomedical engineers Lucas Parra and Jens Madsen, in collaboration with investigators in Paris and Birmingham, analyzed electrocardiogram data from four experiments where subjects listened to audio recordings or watched videos. Respiratory patterns were measured in two of the experiments. The study appeared in the journal "Cell Reports" (Sept. 2021).

In the first experiment, study participants listened to one-minute segments of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" to test whether the narrative affected heart rate fluctuation. In the second experiment, they watched three-to five-minute instructional videos. In both experiments, heart rates were synchronized between individuals.

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.

### **Boeing Expert Henry Calle Inspires Students at Career Fair**



Electrical engineer Henry Calle '04 gave a talk at the CCNY Career Fair in March 2022 about his 16 years at Boeing. Calle spoke about his

career trajectory, from the years before CCNY when he was deciding what to do with his life to his current high-level position of electrical engineering manager for Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Environmental Control Systems Design Center.

"My role at Boeing requires the ability to be very adaptable and be able to learn new technical skills and systems, have strong communication skills and be a leader, innovator and collaborator," said Calle, who received a master's degree in technical management from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. "My education at CCNY prepared me for a career at Boeing by teaching me how to be adaptable and be a quick learner; the electrical engineering curriculum at CCNY gave me the opportunity to work on practical projects and assignments, and I learned how to communicate effectively as well as used tools to solve engineering problems."

Calle's love for aviation began when his father gave him a remote-controlled toy airplane as a boy. At age 16, he journeyed from Ecuador to the U.S. with a dream to pursue higher education but had to work to help his parents. A chance meeting with supermarket owner Paul Fernandez led Calle to enroll at CCNY to pursue a degree in electrical engineering.

"He told me to register for school and start working part-time at his Mulberry Street supermarket," said Calle, who continued to work for the supermarket owner throughout his CCNY college career.

That advice was a major turning point in Calle's life. He hoped that his story of resilience and determination would inspire others who face similar obstacles and challenges. His 16 years at Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners, defense, space and security systems and service provider of aftermarket support, is a model for graduates who aspire to a career in aerospace engineering.

### **CCNY Plugged into Opportunities and** COSMOS beyond-5G testbed Fiber Network

The City College of New York is now directly connected to the COSMOS beyond-5G testbed, which is supported by multimillion-dollar investment from the National Science Foundation. The testbed was created to help U.S. researchers experiment with new methods that will shape

and revolutionize the future of wireless networks in smart cities and communities.

COSMOS, in New York City, was one of the first two testbeds to receive funding under the NSF's Platforms for Advanced Wireless Research initiative. The project is aimed at design, development, and deployment of a city-scale advanced wireless testbed to support realworld experimentation on next-generation wireless technologies and applications.

Designed with a focus on ultra-high bandwidth and low-latency wireless communications, COSMOS is led by researchers at Rutgers, Columbia and NYU, and in partnership with The City College of New York, New York City, Silicon Harlem, IBM and the University of Arizona.

"CCNY faculty, staff and partner companies who have interests in 5G, Internet of Things (IoT), Edge Cloud, Smart City, V2X (Vehicle to Everything) and others can work with our lab and the COSMOS team to experiment their ideas," said Myung Lee, co-principal investigator and electrical and computer engineering professor at CCNY. "Currently, several students are working on theories that can be experimented on the COSMOS and COSM-IC (COSMOS Interconnecting Continents) testbeds. For students and the Harlem community, the testbed can be a learning experience for future wireless and high-speed communications."

The Federal Communications Commission designated the testbed envisioned coverage area (one square mile in West Harlem, with City College to the north, Columbia University's Morningside Heights campus to the south, and the Hudson River to the west) as one of the nation's first innovation zones, thereby enabling research institutions and the wireless industry to test new advanced technologies within the designated zone.

One of the projects that CCNY lab students are currently working on is to secure vehicular communication, which will help ensure safety for pedestrians by informing vehicle's presence to them and allowing the vehicle to automatically control its speed while avoiding collision with people and other vehicles using V2X communication.

Through the COSMOS initiative, CCNY will help transform wireless networks to support future wireless services such as extreme broadband wireless systems, massive connected IoT devices, local emergency systems, and other smart-city applications.

The connection to the testbed is enabled by a generous in-kind contribution of dark fiber by Crown Castle that directly connects the testbed facilities at CCNY and Columbia.

Alexander Khanikaev Leads Photon-phonon Breakthrough in "Science" Journal



Topologically distinct photonic crystals (orange and blue) with a layer of hexagonal boron nitride on top. Image credit: Filipp Komissarenko and Sriram Guddala. Professor Alexander Khanikaev.

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 photons, 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).

"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. Sriram Guddala, 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 promise for vibrational spectroscopy—also known as infrared 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.

### **Alumnus David Banks Speaks About his Vision** for NYC Public Schools



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 1,700 million students in a talk entitled: "A Conversation with David Schools." The invitation-only event Provost Tony Liss moderated.

becoming the 32nd person to earned his certificate in School School celebrated its centennial last year.

on the guiding principles of academic excellence, leadership, and character development. With the Eagle Academy Foundation, he set out to prove that a high-quality college preparatory education for

# young men of color can be provided in a public-school

In 2004, Banks led the establishment of the first Eagle Academy for Young Men in partnership with 100 Black City boroughs and Newark,

Scholastic, Banks helped curate the Rising Voices nonfiction, biographical, and fiction books celebrating Black K-5 with high-interest, culturally-relevant texts that give context to what they're around them. He also authored the book "SOAR: How Boys Character," published in 2015.

Banks is a co-founder of Black EdFluencers United. influencing and developing the capacity of Black educators systemic challenges within education. He has also served Directors for the International Boys' Schools Coalition, co-chair of New York City Young Men's Initiative, and founding board member of the Coalition of Schools Educating Boys of Color.

In addition to CCNY, Banks is a graduate of Rutgers University and received his Juris Doctorate from St. John's 2003, Banks participated in the Cahn Fellows Program for Distinguished Principals at the Teachers College, Columbia University. In May 2014, he doctorate degree in education from Wheelock College.



From left: Science Learning and Public Engagement career panelists Mariza Dannang, Adriana Caminero, Malika Khalsa, Jaileen Jaguez and Artiola Islami.

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, curricular and instructional 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 Islami, Jaileen 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 Binghamton 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.

Alumnae 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 fangirling 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.

### Students and Professionals Discuss Career Opportunities for New Science Learning and Public Engagement Major

### Research Shows Asylum Seekers With Forensic Medical Evaluations Offered Protection More Often



According to a new study by the CUNY School of Medicine Physicians for Human Rights, the CUNY School of Law and the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy, asylum seekers and other immigrants who obtained forensic medical evaluations were granted protection in the United States in 81.6 percent of cases facilitated by PHR between 2008 and 2018, nearly twice the national asylum grant rate of 42.4 percent during the same period.

A forensic medical evaluation performed by an independent clinician can document the physical or psychological consequences of the harms that asylum seekers and other immigrants endured or will endure if deported. This can bolster applicants' claims to the U.S. government that they face a "well-founded fear of persecution" on account of their race, religion, nationality, political affiliation, or membership in a social group if forced to return to their countries of origin - a criterion for being granted asylum or other forms of protection in the United States.

Impact of forensic medical evaluations on immigration relief grant rates and correlates of outcomes in the U.S., published in the "Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine's" November 2021 issue, highlights the impacts of forensic medical evaluations on immigration relief cases, as well as the need for a more humane, trauma-informed U.S. asylum system.

"Forensic medical evaluations can provide scientific evidence that a person has suffered persecution and harm, improving the likelihood that those who seek refuge in the United States will be granted asylum or other forms of life-saving immigration relief." said Holly G. Atkinson, M.D., lead author, affiliate clinical professor at the CUNY School of Medicine, and an expert medical advisor at PHR. "But we face a dire shortage of trained clinicians who can provide trauma-informed evaluations and care to people fleeing persecution and pursuing safety in the United States. Our research paper should serve as a rallying cry to the medical community to better serve traumatized people who seek protections in the United States and to educate attorneys, adjudicators, and policymakers about the life-altering physical and psychological impacts of trauma that many applicants experience."

Investigators analyzed 2,584 cases of applicants who received forensic medical evaluations through the PHR Asylum Network between 2008 and 2018, and for whom case outcomes were known. Among those who experienced positive outcomes, 73.7 percent were granted asylum and 26.3 percent received other forms of immigration relief, such as withholding of removal (deportation), U-visas (granted to victims of certain crimes and abuse in the U.S.) or convention against torture relief (torturerelated protections).

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 genderbased 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 asylumseekers 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 Nermeen Arastu, co-principal investigator and professor of law at the CUNY School of Law, where she co-leads the Immigrant Non-Citizen Rights Clinic. "By requiring individuals to furnish such inaccessible evidence, the U.S. government has created greater disparities in grant rates along race and economic lines, setting up the most marginalized people 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 unless they obtain hard-to-get legal counsel and supporting documentation like forensic medical evaluations to corroborate their testimonies. The differences in outcomes for applicants from different continents may also be influenced by the reasons they are seeking asylum, as those escaping gang 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 and forensic medical evaluations remains a rarity for most asylum seekers, with some 287,000 asylum applications submitted in FY2020 alone.

### Dean Carmen Renée Green Promotes CUNY Med Locally and Nationally



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. 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 and 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

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, 2021-22, 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 Higher Education about 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 and 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 assistants 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.

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 compassionate, 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."

### **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 Feb. 2019-Sept. 2021, having joined the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education in 2013 as deputy dean for academic affairs, and medical professor.

At the time of this publication, Erica Friedman is no longer 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 tight coordination, called

Investigation of Convective Updrafts, and scheduled for launching in 2027 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: An A-Train perspective," 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 life stage-two key products of the mission," explained Luo. "Eventually, these novel measurements will help improve global climate modeling, which will lead to more accurate prediction 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 Ouantum Events in Plants**



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

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 starts 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 675 nm in nanometer size photounits 1 and 2. According to Alfano, taking measurements of this kind hasn'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 photosynthesis units of PS1 and PS2 emitting at 730nml and 695nml, 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 in 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 Yury Budansky (CUNY IUSL).

### Biochemist Finds E.coli and Bacteriophage $\lambda P$ **DNA Evolved Similar Helicase Loaders Despite Divergent Evolution**



Two structurally unrelated bacterial helicase loaders (light blue: DnaC and green:  $\lambda P$ ) converged on the same helicase opening strategy by positioning a single alpha helix (blue and green transparent cylinders) in virtually the same spot on the helicase to open it.

Biologist David Jeruzalmi and colleagues studied the mechanism by which two genetically distinct helicase loaders evolved convergently to perform the same function. The study appeared in the journal "Trends in Biochemical Sciences" in July.

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  $\lambda$ , both DnaC and  $\lambda P$  perform two essential loading functions: ring breaking, 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  $\lambda P$ 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. The loaders open and close 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 scanning 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



Schematic representation of a mechanism of hole capture by a charged defect where a carrier gets weakly bound and eventually captured due to Coulombic attraction. Image by: Carlos Meriles.

Physicist Carlos Meriles and his team have discovered a novel way to manipulate defects in semiconductors. The 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—nitrogenvacancy center in diamond. These color centers possess 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 defect's spin state" said Artur Lozovoi, 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 going towards the target, 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 Lozovoi. "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."

### 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 emergent 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 ionic hydrogen to reduce charge carrier density in the bulk of topological insulators and magnets. The result is that robust non-dissipative 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 of ionic 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 surface oxide while passivating surfaces. In this process —which the team tests in the Krusin Lab for two-dimensional electrical transport—electrons are donated by a reversible binding of H+ ions to chalcogens, such as Te or Se, and bulk carrier densities are reduced by orders of magnitude to achieve access to robust 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 is also multiply-cyclable and reproducible, thereby resolving one of the key limitations of magnetic and nonmagnetic topological insulators and can be applied not only post-growth to materials but also to fully fabricated 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 surfaces, 2D superconductivity, and axion state phenomena featuring a quantized thermal transport, all with the potential if industrialized to advance energy-efficient 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 the research. It strives to solve fundamental problems in novel functional materials systems that have vital scientific and technological importance. The research is supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

### Scientists 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 property of photo-isomerization—a light activated process that modifies the optical response. Entitled unneling of exciton polaritons," Advances" in October 2021.

"Selective isomer emission via funneling of exciton 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 state.

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-desirable 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–Pérot 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-doc 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. Furthermore, through judicious choice of molecules and smart 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 dent, 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 dent in the two-dimensional material, slightly pulling apart the atoms in the two-dimensional crystal and inducing strain in the material. For excitons, this dent is much like a pipe for water and once trapped inside, they are bound to move along the pipe, realizing quasi onedimensional 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," noted Dirnberger. "Platforms based on two-dimensional semiconductor transitionmetal dichalcogenides offer an interesting new approach called straintronics."

Possible outcomes include innovative devices based on excitons that operate at room temperature and could replace certain tasks performed by contemporary 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, participated 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 College. 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 nongovernmental 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 vour involvement in the activities of the Polish National Film School," said Dr. Hab Milenia 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 1968. 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 honorees for their impressive

works of poetry, fiction, drama, autobiography and critical essays that help to celebrate the memory and tradition of Langston Hughes. Past awardees include: James Baldwin; Gwendolyn Brooks; Toni Morrison; August Wilson; Maya Angelou; Octavia Butler; Zadie Smith; Michael Eric Dyson; and Rita Dove.

Born in St. John's, Antigua, Kincaid was a staff writer for "The New Yorker" magazine from 1974 to 1996 when she published her first book, a collection of short stories titled "At the Bottom of the River," in 1983. Her first novel, "Annie John," followed in 1985, and is the story of a wilful 10-year-old growing up on the Caribbean Island of Antigua.

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-yearold woman looking back on her life; and "Mr. Potter" (2007), follows the life of an illiterate taxi chauffeur.

Kincaid released "A Small Place" in 1988, a short, powerful book about the effects of colonialism, 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 Dan David 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 Imbrie 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 Album 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.

In addition to his teaching position at CCNY, Holober is the director of the popular CUNY Jazz Festival. The annual spring event attracts major performers and both student and faculty ensembles from the City University of New York.

Art Historian Joshua Cohen Earns Schomburg Center Fellowship

> 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 modernisms (c 1940-1990) in relation to troubling dimensions of decolonization that seldom surface in art scholarship. Whereas liberation narratives have rightly underlain most previous accounts of African modernism, the book investigates, without indulging in Afropessimism, 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 Vohou-Vohou painters-seek to locate African modernists' extraordinary work within decolonization's tumultuous histories, lest their output appear too 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.

Hochul Appoints Historian Laurie Woodard to 400 Years of African American **History Commission** 



winning historian Laurie Woodard is one of seven notable academics and leaders appointed by New York

Governor Kathy Hochul to the 400 Years of African-American History Commission. The body serves to highlight contributions by Africans and 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 senior partner 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 élan will inspire a new, raciallydiverse 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.

SuYin Liang, a recent CCNY graduate, said her portfolio has evolved since her 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."

initiated by design firm Pentagram's Paula Scher began Fall 2021 in the Electronic Design and Multimedia

### Three-year Project Created by MFA in Creative Writing Honors Harlem **Storytelling and Archives**



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 connect with, serve, understand and celebrate the Harlem community while enhancing the community's own tools for memory, research and creativity.

The first symposium, "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



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

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.

Boudreau told the delegation of 20 diplomats from 12 nations that the majority of its students identify as Latinx/a/o. "Thirty-nine percent of our population come from somewhere south of the United States," Boudreau said. "That means that 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 countries."

The diplomats 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 Boudreau.

Rodríguez echoed Boudreau's call to create opportunities for collaboration between CUNY and universities in Latin America.

"I think there's a lot that can be achieved," said the Chancellor, mentioning academic exchanges, scientific research, and cultural and artistic activities. He assured the consul generals of his support as Chancellor.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Ambassador Santiago Villalba, Consul General of Argentina, said they had chosen CUNY as their first stop because of its prestige and its emphasis on accessibility. The Consul Generals are members of CLACNY, a coalition of Latin American consulates that provides a platform for dialogue and the exchange of ideas and good practices for consulates.

After meeting Boudreau, Rodríguez and other senior CCNY leaders, the diplomats toured the labs of noted physicist Carlos Meriles, biophysicist Ronald Koder and neurophysiologist Hysell V. Oviedo.

### **Carlos Aguasaco Wins Esteemed Poetry Prize**



"Cardenal en mi ventana con una máscara en el pico / Cardinal in My Window with a Mask on its Beak," a poetry manuscript by Carlos Aguasaco, professor of Latin American cultural 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 Rathbun, 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 #CUNY."

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.

Aguasaco chairs the Department of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences in the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education and is the editor of "Transatlantic Gazes: Studies on the Historical Links between Spain and North America."

His other activities include founder and director of Artepoetica Press, director of The Americas Poetry Festival of New York, and coordinator of The Americas Film Festival of New York.





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

Anishinaabe/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.

TAFFNY's Americas Short Film Competition included 28 short films competing for the Americas Award in the categories of animation, documentary, experimental and fiction. The competition is dedicated to the promotion and exhibition of short audiovisual works by emerging filmmakers that portray the contemporary concerns of filmmakers living in the region.

The jurors in the documentary and animation categories were director Catalina Santamaria, producer Wilson Reyes and film Professor Alvaro Baquero-Pecino. Actress Jely Reategui, artist Alexis Mendoza and Professor James Lowry made up the jury in fiction and experimental film categories.

Special guests, who engaged in Q&A sessions after their respective films were screened, included Alexandra Fierro, producer, "The King of all the World"; Caroline Monnet, director, "Bootlegger"; Greta Schiller, director, "The Land of Azaba"; and Carmen Vidal, director, "Exiles."

Juan Carlos Mercado, dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and TAFFNY's founder, said of this year's festival: "In addition to highlighting the importance of presenting films from established filmmakers, we promote new talents with The Americas Award for short films in competition. We would also like to honor the students and faculty of City College's MFA Program in Film, one of the oldest film schools in the U.S. and the only public institution in New York City to offer a BFA in film."

Diana Vargas, TAFFNY's artistic director, noted that this year's films, mostly directed by women, "explore the complexities of their societies, review their past and question social and personal positions on pressing issues such as reproductive rights, sustainability, motherhood and the legacy of ancestral laws."



Screenshot from legendary Spanish filmmaker Carlos Saura's 2021 movie "The King of all the World," that premiered opening night of TAFFNY 2022 in NYC.

### The 2022 Americas Awards Winners

### **Best Animated Short**

"Tio / Uncle" by Juan Jose Medina, Mexico, 2021, 13 min.

### **Best Documentary Short**

"Sheraton, The Trace of Memory/ Sheraton, La Huella de la Memoria," by Margarita Poseck Menz, Chile, 2021, 14 min.

### **Best Experimental Short**

"Selo / Seal" by Alessandro Correa, Brazil, 2021, 5 min.

### **Best Fiction Short**

"Teo / Theo" by Eduardo Bunster and Belen Abarza, Chile, 2021, 18 min.

### **Two Special Jury Mentions**

"Volcanista: El Despertar de un Ciudadano" by Juan Jose Miuralles, Guatemala, 2021, 14 min.

"Recuerdas / Remember?" by David Moncada Varela, Columbia, 2020, 13 min.

### Partnerships with Tech Giants Expand Professional Studies Program



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 entrylevel 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."

CCNY 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.

"CCNY 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 DEP, 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 government agency.

CCNY plans to offer courses developed by the Charles Rangel Initiative in the near future, and to identify potential grants through the workforce development programs, led by 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 addition, work to increase enrollment in regular non-degree programs is underway.

These programs hold promise for the future of the Continuing and Professional Studies Programs, creating new avenues for students to learn valuable skills, and helping them launch new careers.

Hachette Partnership Provides Grads with Work Experience



CCNY and publishing company Hachette Book Group partner for the CCNY+HBG Associates Program to further improve recruiting, training, mentorship and support for diverse individuals with a passion for writing and publishing.

The new CCNY+HBG Associates Program will be a salaried, fulltime, full-year work experience at HBG for a recent graduate of CCNY's Publishing Certificate Program, which was established in 1998 by best-selling author and CCNY graduate Walter Mosley.

The newly launched CCNY+HBG Associates Program includes a financial stipend to ease the transition of expenses from college student to employee, as well as career counseling, mentorship and one-on-one guidance from HBG employeesboth 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 support.

"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."

National Institute for Social Justice Leadership Launched



The Colin Powell School's 2022 Leadership Institute Fellows. Photo by: Laila Stevens.

The Colin Powell School and 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 Bhargava, 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 lowincome 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.

### CUNY's First Online B.A. at CCNY's **Division of Interdisciplinary Studies**



CUNY's first online B.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences debuted 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 outof-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 CCNY'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 particular subject areas and examine them through multiple lenses."

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



CCNY BIC students hard at work.

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 now four 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 Analysis & 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 stated, "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 basis 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 MOME Funds New B.A. in Game Design at CCNY with \$2M Investment



Game Design students will now be able to receive a B.A in their major.

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 Pathways Program will be used in a variety of ways 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 MOME 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 continue to play 175 years later in growing and sustaining a vibrant city economy" says City College Professor Stan 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 host internships and hiring managers to include Game Design badges in the hiring process.

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

The digital games industry is anticipated to make a record \$180 billion in global sales revenues. The 2021 NYC Digital Games Industry Economic Impact Report revealed the digital game industry's importance to New York City's economy, which has created \$762 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.

RIWI is the invention of Robert E. Paaswell, 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, simulation-based training, and experiential learning to help them pursue career paths in the urban infrastructure sector.

"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 Paaswell. "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.

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



Former Congressman Charles B. Rangel.

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, which 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 \$11.5 million package in community project funding secured last month by U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (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.

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

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 diversified 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 Zikra 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 documentarian 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 Traci 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."

### Student Winners Excel at ABRCMS National STEM Research Conference

Eleven CCNY undergraduates from the CUNY School of Medicine, the Division of Science, and the Grove School of Engineering were winners at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students 2021: The Virtual Experience. ABRCMS is one of the largest, professional conferences for underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced professional development skills in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The students were among 4,000 participants in the ABRCMS event that attracts undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, scientists, program directors and administrators from more than 350 U.S. colleges and universities. Students are given the opportunity to present their research, explore graduate schools, and network with other students and researchers to expand their connections and opportunities.

The 11 CCNY winners, their disciplines and project titles are:



### ADEBOLA ADEMOLA,

sophomore, biomedical science; physiology, "Opioids on the Verge of Cancellation! **Discharge Opioid Elimination** after Ambulatory Breast Surgery"



### **GOODNESS NJOKU**

AUSTIN, 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 Specificity Within the Context of the Developing Retina"



### SCARLET NAZARETH MARTINEZ CARDOZE.

senior, chemical engineering; computational and systems biology category. "In Silico Discovery of Neutralizing Agents Targeting SARS-CoV-2 Spike Glycoprotein"



social and behavioral sciences and public health, "Barriers to Uptake of Immunotherapy for Breast Cancer from the Perspective of Oncology Nurses: A Qualitative Analysis"



JAYDA GRANT, sophomore,



**EKENE ONWUBIKO**, senior, biology; social and behavioral sciences and public health category, "Pathologists' Perception about Access to Immunotherapy for Breast Cancer: A Qualitative Analysis"

CHIZURUOKE ONUOHA,

science; social and behavioral

sophomore, biomedical



### ANNA SOLOMON.

senior. biomedical science; social and behavioral sciences and public health. "Ethical Challenges in **Oncology: Dilemmas and** Consequences"



ABIGAIL MONTALMANT, 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** Nowrin Nisa Stars at National Science **Research Conference**



Nisa, an Honors student majoring in psychology, was a

Nowrin

winner at the 2021 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Digital Conference with her presentation on Covid-19.

Mentored by Associate Medical Professor Erica Lubetkin of the CUNY School of Medicine, Nisa was recognized for her research and paper entitled: "Exploring the Effects of COVID-19 on Employees at Community-Based Organizations Serving Upper Manhattan." She was awarded the 2021 SACNAS National Diversity in STEM **Conference Presentation** Award.

Nisa, a senior, is pursuing a double minor in chemistry and biology (premed). She's also in the City College Academy for Professional Preparation program. CCAPP is sponsored by the New York State Department of Education to support talented under-represented students pursuing STEM and healthrelated fields, to address the critical shortage of these students in those disciplines.

The SACNAS conference attracts more than 4.000 students and professionals and features both undergraduate and graduate student presentations. It includes a Graduate School & Career Expo Hall where students interact with 304 exhibitors representing colleges and universities across the nation. This year, 870 posters and oral presentations were delivered at the conference.

### 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, towards fostering 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 education and equity for 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.

### 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.

Specializing 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, oral history and community-based practices. She believes in using these artistic outlets 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 Angela's Pulse and the Laundromat Project. She received support for her work from companies like Dancing While Black, Pregones Theater, New Dance Alliance, New York Live Arts and 92Y Harkness Dance. Additionally, she received the BRIO award and CUNY Dance Initiative in 2019, and is currently BAAD!'s Muse Artist-in-Residence.

### 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 Tèchnica 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 with each student presenting their respective projects.

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** Naringrekar '20
- The City Stabile: A Framework Beyond the Streets, by Hana Georg '19
- A Resonance in Death: Envisioning the Future of Dying in an Urban System, by **Anna Speidel '19**

Félix Solaguren, president of the International Schools Prize jury, was impressed. "From the City College of New York, we see work from across the globe that draws out important theoretical dimensions for our field. The work offers alternative perspectives and new insights, and the projects work with social and environmental issues in new ways," he said.

### Engineering Junior 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 Civil 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



From left: Bilal Abdulrahman, Billy Davila, Shuoxin Liu, Ling Fang, and Jed Magracia.

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.

Dubbed 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 Abdulrahman; and undergraduates Billy Davila, Shuoxin Liu, Ling Fang and Jed Magracia. 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, CUNY, 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 pix2pix 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)."



### 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 an 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 CCNY faculty and staff for honing 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, '06, a partner in the Rhodium Group.

### Honors Student Ricardo **Polanco is TRB National** Fellow



Ricardo Polanco, an honors student majoring in civil engineering, is one of 24 Americans selected as Minority Student Fellows by the Washington, D.C.-based Transportation Research Board, a program unit of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

Born in Manhattan of Dominican immigrant parents, Polanco is the only Fellow from the East Coast north of Maryland. A senior, he is one of 15 undergraduate and nine graduate students in TRB's Class of 2022.

As a TRB Fellow, Polanco and his peers research and explore ideas and solutions to some of the nation's transportation problems from diverse perspectives-a primary goal of the fellowship program incepted in 2010.

Polanco's research focus is the Citi Bike network and bike share equity. He and the other Fellows presented their research at TRB's 2022 annual meeting and connected with TRB's network of professionals.

The TRB Fellowship adds to Polanco's academic honors. The Scarsdale, New York resident is also a NOAA-CESSRST EPP/MSI Fellow from the Grove School of Engineering.

### 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

Michael A. Cruz, a 2015 graduate of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, is one of 45 applicants nationwide awarded Charles B. Rangel International Affairs fellowships by the U.S. Department of State after a highly competitive process. Administered by Howard University, the Rangel program provides Fellows with up to \$95,000 in benefits to prepare for a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

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 Health and Human 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.



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.

### Oldest Engineering Honor Society Inducts Dorothy Schnabel '54

### Lucas Koehler Joins Foundation for City College as CFO and Senior Finance Director



The City College of New York welcomed Lucas Koehler as its first chief financial officer and senior finance director for the Foundation for City College, Inc.

"We are thrilled to welcome Lucas Koehler as our first-ever, 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's 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, alumni and partners."

As CFO of the Foundation for City College, Koehler reports to Mozeleski. He manages all Foundation assets (\$365 million), builds and directly oversees a team of approximately nine financial professionals, and serves as the Foundation's strategic administrative partner and its financial steward.

"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 Education 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. In addition, he 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 The City College, and public administration from New York University. Dr. Simone K. Tarver is a 2022 Crain'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 Crain'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 truly an honor," said Tarver. "This acknowledgement is as much about my contributions, 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 CCNY website, rebranded City College, and created advertising campaigns reaching international 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, Lattise, Louis Vuitton. Moet Hennessev and Swarovski, and was also an academic engagement consultant at Cortez Enterprises. She held faculty roles at The Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Robert Morris University and Middle Georgia State University. Tarver received her Doctor of Science in Information Systems and Communications from Robert Morris University as well as her master's degree and undergraduate degree.

### National Public Service Honor for Librarian William Gibbons



associate professor and curator of archives and special collections at the City College of New York, is a winner of this year's I Love My Librarian Award.

William C. Gibbons,

Recognized by the American Library Association for the care he brings to his local and campus communities, Gibbons was selected from more than 1,300 nominations from library users across the country.

"The face of the everyday person is where William Gibbons does his best work," his nominator wrote. "He gives his time, his expertise, and his skills to anyone who is lucky to encounter him at the library reference desk."

Gibbons and this year's nine other honorees received a \$5,000 cash prize, a \$750 donation to their library, and complimentary registration to ALA's LibLearnX. The virtual award ceremony took place during the ALA conference in January 2021.

He has worked to forge partnerships between CCNY and organizations across Harlem, including the New York Public Library's Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and the Harlem Documentary Association, to immerse students in the neighborhood's vibrant cultural identity.

Gibbons weaves sports and scholarship into unique educational opportunities, from his involvement with Harlem Little League Baseball to advising on the development of a museum exhibit exploring New York's basketball history.

Through the Black Male Initiative, a CUNY-wide student development initiative that seeks to support students' educational success from groups underrepresented in higher education, Gibbons helped forge paths for student participants to become future educators.

As his nominator noted, "His work with the Black Male Initiative made it possible for many male college students to find a voice in a world not equipped to embrace them."

### 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 to teach students 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.

"I am incredibly excited to join the team at the Zahn Innovation Center and return to work with students," said Bobko. "I look forward to providing opportunities for all CCNY students to develop great ideas, bring them into practice, and serve the local and global community."

Bringing his engineering education and industry skills to the Zahn Center, Bobko will be responsible for developing and managing collaborative relationships between stakeholders, and creating programs to provide students with the best opportunities for launching innovative entrepreneurial activities and ventures.

Bobko is a graduate of Princeton University and has a master's degree and Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His background as chief engineering officer at HyperloopTT and associate professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University brings his academic and startup experience together.

In his previous position, Bobko was responsible for developing technological plans, managing engineering projects, and leading collaborations and partnerships with other engineering companies. As a professor, he established an externally-funded research program focused on implementing more sustainable civil engineering materials.

"We are thrilled to welcome Chris to CCNY and the Zahn Center. Chris has found success in both academic and entrepreneurial fields. As such, Chris embodies both strands of the Zahn 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.

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



Daniel A. Keedy, assistant professor in the Division of Science, 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 CUNY Graduate Center, in addition to CCNY. His project is entitled "Illuminating Structural Motions that Underlie Allostery in Dynamic Phosphatase Enzymes." His research on protein structural flexibility, temperature-dependent X-ray crystallography, and allosteric regulation has led to over 15 publications in leading scientific journals and over 10 presentations at a variety of scientific meetings.

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 awardees leave their mark on the face of science and academia throughout their careers."

Cottrell Scholars, as their careers advance, become eligible to compete for several additional levels of funding through the Cottrell Plus Awards.

### Adjunct Mariposa Fernandez Wins \$25K Letras Boricua Mellon Fellowship



Adjunct Professor of Black Studies Mariposa Fernandez is among the initial cohort of 20 Puerto Rican writers awarded Letras Boricua Mellon fellowships by the Flamboyan

Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Each award includes a \$25,000 grant.

An award-winning poet, writer, educator and activist, Fernandez has been a CCNY 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 Africana and African American Studies Department and the Women Studies Department at Lehman College.

A first-of-its-kind fellowship, Letras Boricuas was created to identify, elevate, and amplify the voices of emerging and established Puerto Rican writers on the island and across the United States diaspora. "This is an unprecedented fellowship," she said. "I am overjoyed to be in the inaugural cohort, among such amazing Puerto Rican writers," said Fernandez.

Her plans for the fellowship's \$25,000 grant include publishing a full-length book of poems and a collection of stories. Fernandez' many influences include the pioneers of the Nuyorican and Black Arts Movement, including poets Pedro Pietri, Ntozake Shange, Sandra Maria Esteves, Tato Laviera, Louis Reyes Rivera, Cenen Moreno and others.

Fernandez believes that her work as a writer, scholar and activist go hand in hand. "In my teaching, I try to present the vastness of who we are to our students, to inspire them to write their own stories," she said. "But we 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 in Puerto Rico and the diaspora. "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."

### **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 Environment Assembly Bureau, has joined the City College of New York-based CUNY Remote Sensing Earth Systems 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 highimpact societal interactions," said Reza Khanbilvardi, 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."

Khanbilvardi 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 Khanbilvardi. "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 and environment. His research in North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Middle East covers issues such as water management, environmental policy, diplomacy and justice, energy systems, food security, climate change impacts and adaptation, sustainable development, green recovery and transboundary conflicts and negotiations.

In addition, he has been involved in global climate change negotiations and 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 Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists (EGU), the Walter Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (ASCE), and the Ambassador Award (AGU). Reuters profiled Madani in its 2021 Hot List of Climate Scientists.

He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis, held a tenured faculty position at Imperial College London, and has taught at several leading academic institutions around the world.

### Mikhal Dekel Named Distinguished Professor



Professor Mikhal 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 her "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 "Tehran Children," which follows the story of her father and a guarter million Polish Jews who survived the Holocaust and forced labor camps in the Soviet Union by fleeing to the Middle East and Central Asia. Retitled "In the East: How My Father and a Quarter Million Polish Jews Survived the Holocaust," the new edition of the book has nearly 100 more 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 Kinder von Teheran," 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 2005, was promoted to associate professor in 2010 and to full professor in 2015. She has served as the director of CCNY's Rifkind 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 Tony Liss 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. Kayser Professor of Chemical Engineering. He served as department chair from 2008-2013. 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 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 Liss. He has "shown great leadership, important strategic thinking about how best to deploy our scarce resources, and fresh ideas."

### Marta Gutman Appointed Dean 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 CUNY Graduate Center. Gutman is a prolific author and the 2021 recipient of the Catherine 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' goals."

### **Pioneering Chemical Engineer Teresa Bandosz** Earns CUNY Distinguished Professorship



Dr. Teresa J. Bandosz, a chemical engineer, chemist and internationally-renowned authority in nano-engineered carbon-based materials and composites, is The City College of New York's latest CUNY Distinguished Professor. The position is the highest academic honor that the City University of New York can offer its faculty and is approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees.

Distinguished Professors should have a national reputation as scholars, an acknowledged status as one of the leaders in their field of specialization, and a record of innovative, sustained, and influential research; or, in the case of the creative and performing arts, major contributions of works to the visual arts, music, theater, film, dance, or literature.

Affiliated with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in the Division of Science, Bandosz said this CUNY recognition would not have been possible "without the dedicated involvement of all my students, postdocs and collaborators, with whom I was lucky to work with."

"This is a timely and highly deserved title for Teresa, whose prolific scholarly contributions to the application of materials science to environmental chemistry, a highly multidisciplinary activity, has had influence around the world," said Stephen O'Brien, chair of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Bandosz's enormous work over the last 30 years has resulted in eight U.S. patents and more than 400 publications in peerreviewed journals. Her research interests include porous carbon for environmental and energy-related applications, graphene/ hydroxide composites for separation and energy harvesting, visible light photoactivity of carbonaceous materials, energy storage, and carbon dioxide sequestration and reduction, development of carbon-based sensors and oxygen reduction reaction catalysts.

Bandosz is recognized as one of the top researchers worldwide in the area of surface chemistry of porous carbons. She has unique expertise in the preparation of nanoporous carbons of desired absorption properties, and in the application of these materials for environmental cleanup, regeneration, and catalysis as well as their application in the development of alternative sources of energy and in energy storage. These topics are considered of paramount significance for solving important environmental and energy related problems.

She has received over \$10 million in continuous external funding since 1998 through more than 30 grants from the National Science Foundation, NATO, NASA, the EPA, ARO, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and others. Bandosz held visiting professorships at the University of Queensland, Australia; the Dalian Institute of Technology, China; the University of Orleans, France; the University of Malaga, Spain; Shinshu University, Japan; and the University of Adelaide, Australia. She is a Senior Fulbright Scholar, a Fellow of the American Carbon Society and a Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.



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HIGHLIGHTS & COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE

Senior Nicholas Karkut was named the 2022 CUNYAC Senior College Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. In addition, CCNY had three

The CCNY baseball program earned the 2021-22 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Team Academic Excellence Award.

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

student-athletes earned Honorable Mention recognition, with seniors Sardar Khanbilvardi, Michelle Hu, and Claudia Serna receiving

**Departmental GPA** 

honors.

boasting a 3.41 grade-point averge.

NABC Honors Court.

Studentathletes named to Fall CUNYAC Honor Roll

Student-athletes named to Winter/Spring CUNYÂC Honor Roll

of all studentathletes earned a 3.0 GPA or Higher

All-Conference Recipients

Major Award **Winners** CUNYAC

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."

- Eleven student-athletes were named to the 2021-22 Vice Chancellor's Honor Roll, honoring senior scholar-athletes with a gradepoint 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 semifinals of the CUNYAC Championship Tournaments.
- Women's Volleyball, Men's Basketball, and Women's Basketball advanced to the guarterfinals of the CUNYAC Championship Tournaments.
- Women's Fencing placed tenth at the EWFC Championships.

### 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.

### **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** 

### Mellon Foundation Hails MMUF Ph.D. Output



Top left: Isabel Estrada, director of the City College Fellowships Program, with some recent Mellon Mays Fellows at CCNY.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program is celebrating the "monumental milestone" of producing more than 1,000 Ph.D.s, with a pat on the back for The City College of New York for its input.

"Our data shows that in November the MMUF Program reached the monumental milestone of producing over 1,000 Ph.D.s during the program's 33-year history," Armando Bengochea, the Mellon Foundation's senior program officer for Higher Learning and director of the MMUF, said to Isabel Estrada, director of the City College Fellowships Program. "We want to acknowledge The City College of New York's MMUF Program for contributing to this extraordinary achievement that is advancing the mission of the MMUF Program and congratulate all MMUF Ph.D. recipients for their vision, hard work, and determination. We appreciate your dedication to this effort and wish you continued success in this endeavor."

According to Renee Philippi, administrative program director at CCNY, 16 Mellon Mays Fellows at the College completed the B.A. to Ph.D. track between 2001 and 2021, while 21 others are currently enrolled in doctoral programs.

CCNY's MMUF program has received more than \$2 million in funding from the Mellon Foundation. The program's goal is to help increase diversity in the faculty ranks of higher education by identifying and supporting exceptional undergraduates from traditionally underrepresented groups. The MMUF program is an exclusive nationwide program open to colleges and universities by invitation only.

Isabel Estrada proudly acknowledged the talent and resilience of the fellows, who continue to fulfill the mission of earning doctoral degrees despite the challenges of the covid pandemic. Students accepted into Ph.D. programs in the past two years includes Sophia Yip, Ph.D., English (Graduate Center, CUNY); Kiran Baldeo, Ph.D., History (Rutgers University); Josias Agustin-Mendez, Ph.D., History (Columbia University); Naajidah Correll, M.A./Ph.D., English (Michigan State University); and Lance Parker, Ph.D., History, (University of Hull, UK).

# Anniversary Kicks Off \$1B Fundraising Campaign



President Vincent Boudreau at the 16th annual Presidential Awards Gala in the Great Hall. Photo Credit: Eugene Chiu Photography.

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."





